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**MANAGEMENT**

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN - STEP 1  
ACTIVITY OBJECTIVES

Name (MFP)

Big Desert

Activity

Fire Management

Objective Number

FM-1

Objective

Provide the Big Desert planning unit with adequate fire protection.

Rationale

Bureau Manual 9210 .06A states "the suppression of wildfires, whether caused by lightning or by human-related ignition sources, is given priority over normal Bureau activities, except those involved in safeguarding human life."

Big Desert 2/80 W. Casey

(Instructions on reverse)

Form 1600-20 (April 1975)

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN  
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)

Big Desert

Activity

Fire Management

Overlay Reference

Step 1 FM-1.3 Step 3 FM 1.1

Recommendation:

Continue to maintain a lookout facility on Big Southern Butte.

Rationale:

Big Southern Butte provides the Big Desert planning unit with excellent detection coverage.

Recommendation FM-1.1 is the same recommendation that was considered and approved in the Little Lost-Birch Creek MFP. Removal of the lookout would be contrary to the final decision on the Little Lost-Birch Creek MFP.

The Big Southern Butte Lookout provides primary detection for approximately 1.25 million acres of public land. It provides primary detection for the I.N.E.L.. It also provides detection for thousands of acres of state land which is contracted to the BLM for fire protection.

In the last five years the lookouts on Big Southern Butte have detected 26 fires which burned 5,740 acres. It is essential for the protection of the lands under the detection capability of Big Southern Lookout that the lookout be manned and maintained in its existing form.

Multiple Use Analysis:

Recreation R. 1.2D says to relocate communication equipment on Big Southern Butte except than needed for fire control.

VRM 2.3 says to remove Big Southern Butte Fire lookout.

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Accept step I. Continue to maintain the fire lookout on Big Southern Butte.

Reasons:

The radio facilities at the fire lookout include a repeater and base station. This is needed for fire control purposes as well as general communications between the district office and the field and between vehicles in the field. No additional impact is caused by this general communications. No additional equipment beyond fire needs are necessary for general communications.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

Big Desert 2/80 W. Casey

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Step 1 FM-1.3 Step 3 FM 1.1

VRM 2.3 rationale says removal of the fire lookout would place the Bureau in a better position to refuse the location of communication facilities on the Butte. This may be true, but the fact remains that the lookout and the communications equipment located there are vital to district operations and override any visual intrusion it may or may not create. Approval or disapproval of additional communication equipment will depend upon the merits of the proposal.

Multiple Use Decision:

Accept Multiple Use recommendation.

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**MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN**  
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)	Big Desert
Activity	Fire Management
Overlay Reference	Step 1 FM-1.4 Step 3 FM 1.2

Recommendation:

Assume fire management responsibility on all grazing lands administered by the Bureau within the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory.

Rationale:

The INEL has little expertise in the area of fire management planning, prescribed fire planning and rangeland fire suppression.

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Multiple Use Analysis:

DOE is not in favor of this recommendation.

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Reject this recommendation.

Reasons:

DOE has expanded their initial attack capability and plans to take first action on fires in the INEL. They may then call on BLM if they need help. They will also be available to assist in fire suppression on BLM land if we need them.

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Multiple Use Decision:

Accept Multiple Use recommendation.

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN  
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)

Big Desert

Activity

Fire Management

Overlay Reference

Step 1 FM 2 Step 3

Objective

Provide special suppression action on fires occurring in areas where suppression is difficult or values threatened are either very low or very high.

Rationale

Bureau Manual 9210.06D. States "In areas where controlling fires is extremely difficult or where the values threatened do not warrant the expense associated with usual suppression procedures. Managers may prepare advance plans for limited suppression actions for the approval of the State Director.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

Big Desert 2/80 W. Casey

(Instructions on reverse)

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN  
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)

Big Desert

Activity

Fire Management

Overlay Reference

Step 1 FM 2.1 Step 3 FM 2.1

Recommendation:

Limit fire suppression actions on:

Hell's Half Acre Lava flow  
Cedar Butte Lava flow  
Great Rift Lavas  
Big Southern Butte  
East Butte

Rationale:

Fires occurring at these locations are generally inaccessible, do not damage the resource and are not cost effective to suppress. Personal safety risk is high. Fire suppression damage is generally greater than the damage done by fire.

Multiple Use Analysis:

VRM 2.4 recommends that no heavy equipment be used in suppression of fires on China Cup, Big Southern Butte and Hell's Half Acre Lava flow.

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Modify the recommendation as follows: accept recommendation on Hell's Half Acre, Cedar Butte and Great Rift Lava flows. Provide full fire protection on Big Southern Butte and East Butte on any fires that may threaten fire lookout or communication facilities. Provide minimum suppression on non threatening fires. Heavy equipment will not be used.

Reasons:

Suppression actions must conform to Interim Management Policy for Areas Under Wilderness Review.

Low resource values on Lava flows: Natural resource values are also low on Big Southern Butte and East Butte but the fire lookout and communication facilities represent a high value at risk and special suppression activities are justified.

Multiple Use Decision:

Accept Multiple Use recommendaiton.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

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RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)

Big Desert

Activity

Fire Management

Overlay Reference

Step 1 FM 2.4 Step 3 FM 2.2

Recommendation:

Establish areas in the Big Desert where wildfires could be allowed to let burn if fire weather conditions warrant.

Rationale:

Much of the Big Desert has areas where watershed, range and wildlife values could be enhanced through burning.

Multiple Use Analysis:

No conflicts identified.

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Accept.

Reasons:

Prescribed burning is an accepted vegetation manipulation practice. Areas in the Big Desert which would benefit from burning could be identified, and if wildfires occurred under acceptable weather and prearranged conditions, they could be allowed to burn within prescribed conditions.

Multiple Use Decisions:

Accept Multiple Use Recommendation.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

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