

Big Desert

Management Plan

[Volume 3 of 3]

Step 3

Bureau of Land Management

Upper Snake River District

Range Department

Idaho Falls Field Office

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN - STEP 1
ACTIVITY OBJECTIVES

Name (MFP)

Big Desert

Activity

Wildlife

Objective Number

WL-1

Objective:

Maintain and enhance antelope habitat to support a 100 percent increase in the antelope herd by 1995.

{See WL 13.8 for water development.}

Rationale:

The PU contains yearlong habitat for a portion of the largest antelope herd in the State of Idaho. The Idaho State Game Commission has indicated that antelope populations should be increased. Through intensive habitat management, the public lands in this PU are capable of providing the habitat to accomplish this objective. Antelope hunting provides a source of income to local businesses as well as public recreation. Antelope provide many hours of observation value to the public, due to their habitat preference for open sagebrush occupied rangelands. Antelope add to the aesthetics of the PU and provide for a high quality human environment.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)	Big Desert
Activity	Wildlife
Overlay Reference	Step 1 WI-1.1 Step 3 WL 1.1

Recommendation:

Allocate forage to support present numbers of antelope as estimated below by season and grazing allotment. Provide sufficient forage to support a 100% increase in antelope numbers by 1995 through improved rangeland condition expected from intensive livestock management.

ANTELOPE NUMBERS, PRESENT POPULATION

<u>Allotment</u>	<u>Winter</u>	<u>Spring</u>	<u>Summer</u>	<u>Fall</u>
AEC Riverfield	0	10	10	10
Quaking Aspen	0	100	125	75
Sunset	0	15	15	10
Smith	0	10	5	5
Big Butte	50	25	75	50
Cedar Butte	30	10	10	15
Cinder Cone	0	5	5	5
Rock Corral	0	5	5	5
Cox's Well	0	10	10	10
Houghland	15	50	30	30
Springfield	75	35	20	20
Number 2 Well	20	20	20	20
East Butte	0	10	10	10
Moonshine	0	5	5	5
Carter	0	5	5	5
Katseanes	0	5	5	5
Nipples	0	10	10	10
Whitehead	0	10	10	10
Big Desert	200	125	140	140
Rudeen	25	25	25	25
TOTAL	415	490	540	465

Done

Support Needs

Range
Watershed

Rationale:

Idaho Fish and Game has identified the goal to increase the antelope population statewide. Insuring adequate forage to support present populations would provide consideration in grazing plans. Future population increases expected from water development and intensive livestock management will require additional forage to be allocated for antelope. Future reallocations should be based on updated antelope population estimates. Increased vegetative production expected from improved livestock management should provide for future antelope populations.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

Big Desert (5/3) R. McCarty

(Instructions on reverse)

Form 1600-21 (April 1975)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)

Big Desert

Activity

Wildlife

Overlay Reference

Step 1 WL 1.1 Step 3 WL 1.1

Multiple Use Analysis:

No conflicts identified.

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Accept Step 1 recommendation.

Reasons:

Forage production is not a limiting habitat factor for antelope in the Big Desert. Adequate non-competitive forage is available for a significant increase in populations. Water availability is the limiting factor expansion of range and numbers would occur if water were provided. A doubling of antelope population would most likely double the use made of private farmlands. It is not known if this would create a predator problem.

Multiple Use Decision:

Accept Multiple Use recommendation.

INSTRUCTIONS

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UNITED STATES
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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)

Big Desert

Activity

Wildlife

Overlay Reference

Step 1 W 1.2 Step 3WL 1.2

Recommendation:

Maintain the existing vegetative composition on 167,620 acres of good condition antelope habitat as outlined on overlay #1.

Rationale:

These areas are antelope fawning grounds and are currently in good vegetative condition for this purpose. These areas are crucial to antelope survival in the PU. Use of these areas has developed over several years because necessary habitat components are present. These areas need to be maintained in their present condition and not manipulated in any manner for the present. However, in the future some manipulation may be warranted, but not until intensive wildlife and range inventories have been undertaken.

Support:

Range, Operations and Watershed.

Multiple Use Analysis:

Conflicts with Range 1.1 A5h which proposes plow and seed 4,500 acres; 320 of this is in antelope fawning range. Range 1.1B4a propose spraying 4,400 acres; all of this is in antelope fawning range. R1.1F4e and R1.2E4h propose some 9,000 acres of burning within antelope fawning range. Watershed 3.4 says to reseed 12,800 acres within the antelope fawning area to reestablish watershed cover.

Idaho Fish and Game opposes spraying.

Multiple Use Recommendations:

Modify:

1. Within the Sunset allotment limit spraying to the acreage needed to reasonably restore grazing reductions (approximately 2,500 acres). Limit spraying to three-tip sagebrush invasion areas. Do not spray sites dominated by Wyoming sagebrush.
2. Do not plow and seed unless the area has low sagebrush density which does not provide good fawning cover. If this is the case include sagebrush in seeding mixture to improve antelope cover.
3. Work out actual treatment method, acreage and location with range and watershed.

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RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)

Big Desert

Activity

Wildlife

Overlay Reference

Step 1WL 1.2 Step 3 WL 1.2

Reasons:

Conflicts are difficult to resolve due to the crucial needs of wildlife, Range and Watershed on the same areas. Substantial reduction in live-stock stocking rate is proposed (35%). The sites proposed for spraying are old natural burn areas invaded by three-tip sagebrush, a sprouter which increases in burns. Spraying is the only effective control method.

The plowing and seeding proposal along the Big Lost River is an area of low production due to overuse near this water source. The area is not to be plowed if adequate fawning cover exists.

Range, Watershed, and Wildlife all recommend vegetative manipulation within the antelope fawning areas within the Springfield and Big Desert allotments. Actual treatment acreages, methods and areas should be determined on the ground by the resource activities involved.

Multiple Use Decision:

1. Modify - Vegetation manipulation would be as proposed by range and presented as alternative 4 of the Big Desert EIS. The primary means of control will be through burning. Other methods will be considered at the time of project lay out if burning is not feasible. An EA will be written and routed on any changes from the EIS.
2. Accept
3. Accept

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

Form 1600-21 (April 1975)

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)	Big Desert
Activity	Wildlife
Overlay Reference	Step 1WL 1.3 Step 3 WL 1.3

Recommendation:

Convert 67,740 acres of shrubland to grass-forb-shrub composition by single chaining and controlled burning. Limit areas to no more than 1000 acre blocks with appropriate VRM standards and leave areas. The leave areas will be designed to provide the maximum amount of edge and will be reseeded with a mixture of grass, forbs and shrubs. (See WL 12.2 for suggested mixture)

COMPLETED PRESCRIBED BURNS
Spring field
No 2 well

Rationale:

Shrub cover is dense in this area and understory production is poor. Chaining is necessary for soil disturbance to provide seedbed preparation. Seed mixture should be applied before dragging the chain. Double chaining has a history of more complete kill on sagebrush but also it kills highly preferred forbs. Single chaining reduces the percentage of sagebrush killed and does less harm to beneficial and necessary forbs. Single chaining with a reseeded mixture of grasses and forbs would maximize antelope values. Control in blocks larger than 1000 acres can be detrimental to antelope when it creates a monoculture of vegetation. Antelope do best on a diversified habitat. Controlled burning will create a mosaic of habitat types and reduce the density of shrubs. This will make these areas more available and useable by antelope.

1986/87 SMITH/Sunset
1-19-87 J

Big Desert Wildlife-McCarty/McFarling 4/80

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(Instructions on reverse)

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RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)

Big Desert

Activity

Wildlife

Overlay Reference

Step 1 WL 1.3 Step 3 WL 1.3

Recommendation WL 1.3

Multiple Use Analysis:

Wildlife, Watershed and Range all propose vegetative manipulation projects.
The allotments involved are:

Rudeen
Big Desert
Springfield
No. 2 Well
Houghland

Cinder Cone
Big Butte
Quaking Aspen
Riverfield
AEC Riverfield

Exact locations and manipulation methods differ, however.

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Modify as follows:

Proceed with plans for vegetative manipulation. Determine exact locations, acreage and methods to be used through joint on-the-ground investigation involving wildlife, watershed and range specialists. Limit acreage manipulated to amount to achieve resource goals. Consider benefit/cost.

Reasons:

The needs for providing watershed cover, improving range condition and improving wildlife habitat override visual considerations. Treatment areas can be designed to reduce visual impact through aid of VRM specialist.

Multiple Use Decision:

Accept Multiple Use Recommendation.

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RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)

Big Desert

Activity

Wildlife

Overlay Reference

Step 1 WL 1.4 Step 3WL 1.4

Recommendation:

Do not allow plowing for vegetative manipulation.

Rationale:

Plowing adversely affects antelope habitat more than any other treatment method.

Support:

Range, Operations, and Watershed.

Multiple Use Analysis:

Conflicts with Range 1.1A5h seed 4,500 acres, 1.1D5a plow and seed 2,100 acres, 1.1F4d seed 3,000 acres, 1.1M5a plow and seed 600 acres, 1.1O 4a plow and seed 4,000 acres, 1.2C3a plow and seed 350 acres, 1.2D3a plow and seed 30 acres, 1.2E4f plow and seed 4,800 acres on stock driveway, 1.2G3a plow and seed 100 acres, also conflicts with Watershed W2.2 and 3.4

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Reject.

Reason:

Plowing will be done where conditions warrant such as poisonous plant control on stock driveway and other areas where species conversion and proper seed bed preparation is needed. Plowing significantly increases initial forb production as well as other species. Of the 19,480 acres proposed for plow and seed by range, much of the same area is also proposed for the same treatment by Watershed 4.4 which says to reseed poor condition range to establish watershed cover and improve condition.

This recommendation is supported by VRM 2.6 which says allow no plowing, brush control, spraying or chaining.

Multiple Use Decision:

Accept Multiple Use Recommendation.

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(Instructions on reverse)

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)

Big Desert

Activity

Wildlife

Overlay Reference

Step 1 WL 1.5 Step 3 WL 1.5

Recommendation:

Restrict livestock use of available forage to allow for 50% utilization by livestock. Deferred grazing systems are preferred to rest rotation grazing systems in antelope use areas.

Rationale:

This will allow for sufficient residual plant cover to protect the soil surface from erosion, promote percolation, maintain soil humus for seeding establishment and maintain plant vigor. Antelope will benefit from the light to moderately grazed areas by making use of the residual forbs and herbaceous cover. Rest rotation systems concentrate livestock in one or two pastures. This causes a reduction in available forbs and reduces the vigor of the plants. Both of these directly adversely affect the antelope. Concentration of livestock also affects fawning in that fawns can be separated from the does making the fawns more susceptible to predation.

Support:

Range and watershed.

Multiple Use Analysis:

Conflicts with Multiple Use Recommendation on Quaking Aspen (R 1.1 A) and Sunset (R 1.1 B) allotments which are changed to rest rotation grazing systems.

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Modify as follows:

1. Degree of utilization allowable will depend upon annual monitoring of condition, trend, species dynamics, actual use and grazing system used.
2. Quaking Aspen and Sunset allotments will have rest rotation grazing systems; the remaining 28 allotments will be seasonal or deferred systems.

Reasons:

Information gathered through annual monitoring and studies is more important in establishing desired utilization rates than is an arbitrarily established figure. AMP's will provide for wildlife habitat needs along with other

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Form 1600-21 (April 1975)

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RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)	Big Desert
Activity	Wildlife
Overlay Reference	Step 1 WL 1.5 Step 3 WL 1.5

multiple use goals. Grazing use levels will proceed in accordance with stocking rates established as a result of the 1979 SVIM inventory which provides the basis for proper forage allocation. Present utilization is very uneven in most allotments due to poor water distribution. AMP development should include provisions to improve distribution.

Multiple Use Decision:

Accept Multiple Use Recommendation.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

Form 1600-21 (April 1975)

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GPO 836-084

UNITED STATES
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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)	Big Desert
Activity	Wildlife
Overlay Reference	Step 1 WL 1.6 Step 3 WL 1.6

Recommendation:

Eliminate trailing of sheep through fawning areas for 15 days prior to and 15 days after the peak of fawning (approximately May 15 - June 15). Refer to overlay #3.

Rationale:

Sheep and antelope diets overlap to the extent that during this period of time they consume forage necessary for successful parturition and initial milk production for the does. This will also allow for undisturbed fawning and a higher percentage of fawns produced and a corresponding increase in fawn survival. Overcrowding of does on fawning grounds will also be eliminated allowing less stress on them and a corresponding birth success.

Support:

Range.

Multiple Use Analysis:

This conflicts with R 1.2E2 which sets a turn out date of April 10.

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Reject.

Reasons:

The grazing in the Big Desert allotment has been April 1 through June 30. Turn out date has been delayed until April ~~10~~ 15. Elimination of sheep trailing during May 15 to June 15 would only be possible by closure to livestock grazing. This is a critical period for lamb growth. Viability of a closure proceedings would be questionable. This situation has existed since before establishment of the Grazing Service in 1934. It is recognized the situation exists, but actual magnitude of the problem is unknown.

Multiple Use Decision:

Accept Multiple Use Recommendation.

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)	Big Desert
Activity	Wildlife
Overlay Reference	Step 1 WL 1.7 Step 3 WL 1.7

Recommendation:

Allow no surface occupancy for oil and gas exploration and development in antelope fawning areas as shown on overlay #3 from May 15 to June 30.

Rationale:

By restricting surface occupancy on these areas, does will not be disturbed during this crucial time. Does will then be able to care for their fawns and reduce the possibility of predation. This allows a greater fawn survival and an increase in population.

Support:

Minerals.

Multiple Use Analysis:

Conflicts with M 1.1 keep entire area open to leasable mineral development.

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Accept.

Reasons:

Restricting period of occupancy allows mineral exploration even though under constraint and provides for wildlife need at the same time.

Multiple Use Decision:

Reject Multiple Use Recommendation.

Reasons:

Oil and gas leasing and exploration potential is low. Due to the dispersed nature of O&G exploration, little antelope fawning disturbance is expected.

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN - STEP 1
ACTIVITY OBJECTIVES

Name (MFP)	Big Desert
Activity	Wildlife
Objective Number	WL 2

Objective:

Improve 281,600 acres of mule deer range through water development, vegetative treatment and by allowing no more than 50 percent utilization of available forage by livestock during the summer months to support an increased population of 100 percent over the present population by 1995.

Rationale:

The Idaho Fish and Game has a statewide objective to increase the mule deer population. Also, the habitat is capable of supporting the recommended numbers. See WL 13.8 for water development.

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)	Big Desert
Activity	Wildlife
Overlay Reference	Step 1 WL 2.1 Step 3 WL 2.1

Recommendation:

Allocate forage to support present numbers of mule deer as estimated below by season and grazing allotment. Provide sufficient forage to support a 100% increase in mule deer numbers by 1995 through improved rangeland condition expected from intensive livestock management.

<u>Allotment</u>	<u>Winter</u>	<u>Spring</u>	<u>Summer</u>	<u>Fall</u>
AEC Riverfield	10	5	5	5
Quaking Aspen	25	25	10	25
Sunset	10	5	5	5
Smith	15	5	5	5
Big Butte	50	25	25	25
Cedar Butte	15	10	5	10
Cinder Cone	15	5	5	5
Rock Corral	15	5	5	
Cox's Well	20	5	5	5
Houghland	30	10	5	5
Springfield	15	5	5	10
No. 2 Well	10	0	0	0
East Butte	5	5	5	5
Moonshine	15	5	5	5
Carter	5	5	5	5
Nipples	5	5	5	5
Whitehead	10	5	0	5
Big Desert	40	35	35	35
Rudeen	15	10	10	10
TOTAL	325	175	145	175

Done

Support Needs

Range
Watershed

Rationale:

Idaho Fish and Game has identified the goal to increase the mule deer population statewide. Insuring adequate forage to support present populations would provide consideration in grazing plans. Future population increases expected from water development and intensive livestock management will require additional forage to be allocated for mule deer. Future reallocations should be based on updated mule deer population estimates. Increased vegetative production expected from improved livestock management should provide for future mule deer populations.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Prepare a separate form for each Activity Objective.
2. Under a heading "Objective," enter a concise quantified statement of the specific activity objective.
3. Under a heading "Rationale," enter a detailed statement fully covering all the reasons necessary to justify the proposed action in the objective. Also describe all anticipated positive and negative impacts. (See BLM Manual section 1608 for additional instructions)

UNITED STATES
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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)

Big Desert

Activity

Wildlife

Overlay Reference

Step 1 WL 2.1 Step 3 WL 2.1

Multiple Use Analysis:

No conflicts identified.

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Accept.

Reasons:

Forage supply is not a limiting habitat factor for mule deer in the Big Desert. Adequate supply exists for doubling of deer population. Limiting factors are the almost total lack of cover, (sagebrush with a few juniper is the highest growing vegetation) and the scarcity of water.

Multiple Use Decision:

Accept Multiple Use Recommendation.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

Form 1600-21 (April 1975)

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RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)

Big Desert

Activity

Wildlife

Overlay Reference

Step 1 WL 2.2 Step 3WL 2.2

Recommendation:

Improve 30,720 acres of mule deer range through controlled burning (refer to overlay #1).

Rationale:

Mule deer favor a diversified habitat, and controlled burning can bring this about. Resprouts of bitterbrush and rabbitbrush following fire would provide high quality winter browse for deer. Improved forb cover and early green upgrass would be expected to provide spring and summer forage for resident deer.

Support:

Range, watershed, and fire.

Multiple Use Analysis:

No conflicts identified.

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Modify as follows:

1. Consolidate mule deer needs in burning proposed by range.
2. Burn additional areas shown to have mule deer values and where species diversity or quality can be improved. This would include areas capable of supporting bitterbrush and other desirable species. Limit acreage to reasonable amount recognizing that water and cover are limiting factors not forage.

Reasons:

Forage supply is not a limiting factor for mule deer in the Big Desert. The acreage proposed for treatment for providing additional mule deer habitat is excessive. Burning to improve quality on limited acreage is justified.

Multiple Use Decision:

Accept Multiple Use Recommendation.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)
Big Desert
Activity
Wildlife
Overlay Reference
Step 1 WL 2.3 Step 3 WL 2.3

Recommendation:

Confine livestock grazing to the period from May 1 to October 30 in mule deer habitat shown on URA 3 overlay #5.

Rationale:

Competition for forage would be reduced by manipulation of livestock season of use. Livestock summer use is concentrated on grasses. The major mule deer diet is forbs and shrubs. Livestock use of forbs is significant in early spring. Shrubs are used in late fall and winter. Forage quality and quantity for deer would be increased by restricting livestock use to the summer period when dietary overlap is insignificant under proper grazing management.

Support:

Range and watershed.

Multiple Use Analysis:

This conflicts with grazing seasons set on nearly all allotments. Average season is 4/1 to 7/15 with three allotments having use after 10/31.

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Reject.

Reasons:

Competition for forage between livestock and mule deer is insignificant in the Big Desert. Forage competition is not a factor in mule deer populations. Water and cover are the limiting factors.

Multiple Use Decision:

Accept Multiple Use Recommendation.

INSTRUCTIONS

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)	Big Desert
Activity	Wildlife
Overlay Reference	Step 1 WL 3.1 Step 3WL 3.1

Recommendation:

Maintain the current predator control program in the unit.

Rationale:

This program is providing recreational use of wildlife and other benefits to range and recreation are being achieved.

Support:

Range

Multiple Use Analysis:

No conflicts identified.

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Accept.

Reasons:

Present system seems to remain viable.

Multiple Use Decision:

Accept Multiple Use Recommendation.

INSTRUCTIONS

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN - STEP 1
ACTIVITY OBJECTIVES

Name (MFP)	Big Desert
Activity	Wildlife
Objective Number	WL 3

Objective:

Maintain the current population levels of furbearers in the unit.

See WL 10.3 and 10.4 for recommendations on retention of Omitted Lands and isolated tracts in public ownership.

Rationale:

These lands are important wildlife habitat and should be retained for wildlife use. Furbearers provide some economic relief for trappers in this area and provide an aesthetically pleasing additon to the environment.

Omitted Lands
HMP Done

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Prepare a separate form for each Activity Recommendation.
2. Code each recommendation to the specific objective for which it was prepared; i.e., Wildlife objective 1, Recommendation 3 would be W/L 1.3; Lands objective 4, Recommendation 2 would be L 4.2 etc.
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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN - STEP 1
ACTIVITY OBJECTIVES

Name (MFP)

Big Desert

Activity

Wildlife

Objective Number

WL 4

Objective:

Maintain and enhance sage grouse habitat to support an increase in the sage grouse population of 28 percent by 1990. This is to be accomplished through water development, vegetation manipulation and harassment reduction. See WL 13.8 for water development.

Rationale:

Sage grouse is the second most popular species for hunters in the Big Desert PU. The Idaho State Game Commission has indicated a desire to increase the population of sage grouse in the State of Idaho. The habitat is capable of carrying the proposed increase.

Water Developments
have been installed in
17 locations & 5 well systems
implemented to provide seasonal
water 8/83

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Prepare a separate form for each Activity Objective.
2. Under a heading "Objective," enter a concise quantified statement of the specific activity objective.
3. Under a heading "Rationale," enter a detailed statement fully covering all the reasons necessary to justify the proposed action in the objective. Also describe all anticipated positive and negative impacts. (See BLM Manual section 1608 for additional instructions)

UNITED STATES
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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)	Big Desert
Activity	Wildlife
Overlay Reference	Step 1 WL 4.1 Step 3 WL 4.1

Recommendation:

No vegetation manipulation projects will be undertaken within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of strutting grounds. (shown on overlay #1).

Rationale:

The grouse have developed their use of these areas over several years, and, therefore, these areas must contain the habitat components that make these areas more desirable than others. These areas are essential to the survival of the sage grouse population in the PU. There is increasing evidence that the strutting ground is the center of yearlong social activities by sage grouse. The Western States Sage Grouse Committee has recommended that no control be allowed with 2 miles of strutting grounds. A buffer of $\frac{1}{4}$ mile should provide cover to strutting grouse during the day. Brush control would be beneficial to grouse if properly done outside the $\frac{1}{4}$ mile buffer area as recommended later.

Support:

Range, Operations and watershed.

Multiple Use Analysis:

No conflicts identified.

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Accept.

Reasons:

This is a standard operating procedure - Vegetative manipulation projects will conform to recommendations of the Sage Grouse Symposium and IM ID 80-30 requiring consultation with Idaho Fish and Game.

Multiple Use Decision:

Accept Multiple Use Recommendation.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Prepare a separate form for each Activity Objective.
2. Under a heading "Objective," enter a concise quantified statement of the specific activity objective.
3. Under a heading "Rationale," enter a detailed statement fully covering all the reasons necessary to justify the proposed action in the objective. Also describe all anticipated positive and negative impacts. (See BLM Manual section 1608 for additional instructions)

UNITED STATES
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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)
Big Desert
Activity
Wildlife
Overlay Reference
Step 1 WL 4.5 Step 3 WL 4.2

Recommendation:

No vegetation control will be allowed within 100 yards on either side of water sources or intermittent stream courses.

Rationale:

This recommendation would provide sufficient cover areas necessary for unhindered sage grouse use of the water sources. These cover areas will provide protection for broods from predators and allow a greater survival of birds and allow the population to increase.

Support:

Range, Watershed, Operations and VRM.

Multiple Use Analysis:

No conflicts identified.

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Modify as follows: Do not allow vegetation control within 100 yards of water sources. Vegetation control will be allowed along intermittent stream courses.

Reasons:

The Big Desert being an old lava flow does not have a well defined drainage pattern. Drainage is internal and very few intermittent streams exist. The few in existence do not provide any special habitat.

Multiple Use Decision:

Accept Multiple Use Recommendation.

INSTRUCTIONS

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)
Big Desert

Activity
Wildlife

Overlay Reference
Step 1 WL 4.6 Step 3WL 4.3

Recommendation:

Maintain through proper grazing practices a mixture of grasses, forbs and sagebrush of 25/25/50 percent. Deferred grazing systems would be better than rest rotation system in sage grouse habitats.

Rationale:

Good habitat for grouse can be achieved through proper grazing practices. Deferred grazing should allow for more early growth of forbs and cool season grasses. This increases food availability and cover for brood of sage grouse.

Support:

Range and watershed.

Multiple Use Analysis:

No conflicts identified.

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Modify as follows:

1. Wildlife input to AMP's should include consideration of species diversity.
2. One of the 30 allotments in the Big Desert will have rest rotation grazing systems.

Reasons:

While the vegetative species diversity goal of 25/25/50 may be desirable, it is probably impossible to achieve; a close approximation is all that could be expected. See RM 1.1 A and B for justification on grazing systems.

Multiple Use Decision:

Accept Multiple Use Recommendation.

INSTRUCTIONS

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)

Big Desert

Activity

Wildlife

Overlay Reference

Step 1 WL 4.7 Step 3 WL 4.4

Recommendation:

Allow no sheep trailing through the common sheep allotment from March 15 to June 15.

Rationale:

Concentrated livestock use on sage grouse nesting and brood rearing areas during the nesting season can result in nest desertion. Nest desertion would result in lower brood production. Livestock grazing systems designed to concentrate use on sage grouse nesting and brood rearing areas before June 15th would be adverse to sage grouse production.

Support:

Range.

Multiple Use Analysis:

Conflicts with R 1.2E. Grazing season in the Big Desert allotment is 4-10/6-30.

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Reject.

Reasons:

The only method possible to eliminate this conflict would be closure to livestock grazing. This would only allow a 2 week grazing season between 6-16 and 6-30. This is not practical nor justified. The present situation has existed since prior to 1934 and sage grouse populations are high. Increased populations could best be promoted by developing additional water.

Multiple Use Decision:

Accept Multiple Use Recommendation.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

Form 1600-21 (April 1975)

INSTRUCTIONS

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)

Big Desert

Activity

Wildlife

Overlay Reference

Step 1 WL 4.8 Step 3 WL 4.5

Recommendation:

Restrict mineral exploration and surface occupancy in strutting areas to the period of the year when strutting does occur, about February 1 to April 15 and on nesting areas from April 1 to June 15. (Refer to overlay #3)

Rationale:

This will reduce probability of disruption of sage grouse breeding and nesting to increase the probability of nest success and brood survival.

Support:

Minerals.

Multiple Use Analysis:

Conflicts with minerals M 1.1 which says all lands should remain open for mineral development.

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Accept.

Reasons:

Restriction of occupancy period does not prevent exploration yet provides for sage grouse needs.

Multiple Use Decision:

Reject Multiple Use Recommendation.

Reasons:

Oil and Gas leasing and exploration potential is low. Due to the dispersed nature of Oil and Gas exploration little sage grouse strutting and nesting disturbance is expected.

INSTRUCTIONS

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UNITED STATES
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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)
Big Desert

Activity
Wildlife

Overlay Reference
Step 1 WL 5, 6, 7, 8, Step 3 WL 5.1

Recommendation:

Plant wind breaks consisting of at least four species adjacent to agricultural lands to protect chucker broods and adult birds near feeding areas. These species could consist of lodgepole pine, pinon pine, Russian olive and some persistent fruit bearing shrub such as squaw apple, buffaloberry or serviceberry. Areas to be planted will not be less than 1 acre in size and fenced to exclude livestock.

Revision
needed

Rationale:

Cover is limited near agricultural areas. Increased cover would result in higher brood success for pheasants, huns, and other upland and non-game species. This would result in increased population levels over the long term. The introduction of trees and shrubs would improve vertical diversity in these areas and provide a food source above the snow.

Support:

Range, Lands, Operations.

Multiple Use Analysis:

Conflicts with VRM 2.5 and WL 10.1 - revegetation projects should be only native or indigenous species.

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Modify - Make trial plantings - two selected areas to determine success.

Reasons:

This would be nice to have, but does not appear practical. The species suggest are not suited to the Big Desert area and will need to select better adapted species.

Multiple Use Decision:

Accept Multiple Use Recommendation.

INSTRUCTIONS

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)

Big Desert

Activity

Wildlife

Overlay Reference

Step 1 WL 5 Step 3

Objective:

Improve upland game bird habitat by developing water, maintaining existing cover in unique habitats and by cover plantings. Increase populations as shown below by 1990.

Mourning Dove	20%
Chuckar	20%
Hungarian Partridge	15%
Pheasant	50%

Develop water sources to benefit all wildlife species.

Rationale:

Population increase goals are established by Idaho Fish and Game Dept.

17 water sources
developed, 5 well systems
improved 8/83

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

Form 1600-21 (April 1975)

INSTRUCTIONS

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GPO 836-084

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)	Big Desert
Activity	Wildlife
Overlay Reference	Step 1 WL 8.1 Step 3 WL 5.2

Recommendation:

Allow no vegetation control within one-half mile of agricultural lands.

Rationale:

Restriction of vegetative control will allow cover to grow up and provide for more nest and brood cover. This will increase the number of poults that will survive, thereby increasing the population of pheasants.

Support:

Range, Watershed, Operations.

Multiple Use Analysis:

No conflicts identified.

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Modify as follows: allow vegetative control where annuals or poisonous plants dominate.

Reasons:

Vegetative control is necessary on sites invaded by poisonous or low value annual vegetation. These sites should be treated in most cases regardless of location.

Multiple Use Decision:

Accept Multiple Use Recommendation.

INSTRUCTIONS

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GPO 836-084

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)	Big Desert
Activity	Wildlife
Overlay Reference	Step 1 WL 13.7 Step 3 WL 5.3

Recommendation:

Develop wildlife water sources throughout the unit to enhance existing habitat, improve habitat and allow for expansion of wildlife into previously unused areas. These developments will include a fenced area of not less than one acre to provide cover for small game species.

Rationale:

Permanent water sources are lacking in certain portions of the planning unit and are a major factor in proper distribution and utilization of habitat by certain wildlife species. These developments will benefit all wildlife species in the unit including antelope, mule deer, sage grouse, chukar, dove, Hungarian partridge and rabbits. The protected areas will enhance brood habitat which will be extremely beneficial to the area's gallinaceous birds. Spring sources and seep areas should be excluded from livestock grazing because of the damage incurred from stock concentrating on succulent vegetation in these areas. Cover requirements and food for upland and big game are reduced and often times sacrifice areas are created as a result of these concentrations.

Multiple Use Analysis:

No conflicts identified.

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Accept.

Develop a priority listing of water developments for planning and programming purposes.

17 developed
5 well systems improved
8/83

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

Form 1600-21 (April 1975)

INSTRUCTIONS

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)

Big Desert

Activity

Wildlife

Overlay Reference

Step 1 WL 13.7 Step 3 WL 5.3

Reasons:

Lack of water is the limiting habitat factor in the Big Desert. Installation of guzzlers and other water developments will allow wildlife to establish residency in areas where natural water dries up and forces relocation. It will also aid in expanding the range of most species. This is probably the most important factor in meeting the goals of increasing populations of all wildlife species in the Big Desert.

Multiple Use Decision:

Accept Multiple Use Recommendation.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

Form 1600-21 (April 1975)

INSTRUCTIONS

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN - STEP 1
ACTIVITY OBJECTIVES

Name (MFP)	Big Desert
Activity	Wildlife
Objective Number	WL 6

Objective:

Enhance waterfowl production areas to support an increase in the local duck production by 20 percent and local goose production by 35 percent by 1990. See WL 13.4 for Omitted Lands.

Rationale:

This is in keeping with the Idaho Fish and Game objectives to increase waterfowl production in the state. The public lands can increase the enjoyment of the public by increasing the waterfowl production.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Prepare a separate form for each Activity Recommendation.
2. Code each recommendation to the specific objective for which it was prepared; i.e., Wildlife objective 1, Recommendation 3 would be W/L 1.3; Lands objective 4, Recommendation 2 would be L 4.2 etc.
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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)	Big Desert
Activity	Wildlife
Overlay Reference	Step 1 WL 9.2 Step 3 WL 6.2

Recommendation:

Islands that are overgrown with willows and rank vegetation should be burned to facilitate waterfowl use. (Refer to fisheries overlay)

Rationale:

Rank vegetation precludes waterfowl use because they cannot get through it. Burning will reduce this vegetation and allow for increased nesting. Care should be taken to leave enough vegetation to provide cover for the birds and brood.

Support:

Fire management, Range.

Multiple Use Analysis:

No conflicts identified.

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Accept.

Reasons:

Vegetation is too dense to be an ideal nesting and brood rearing area.

Multiple Use Decision:

Reject the Multiple Use Recommendation.

Manipulate the vegetative resource through regulation of grazing use.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Prepare a separate form for each Activity Objective.
2. Under a heading "Objective," enter a concise quantified statement of the specific activity objective.
3. Under a heading "Rationale," enter a detailed statement fully covering all the reasons necessary to justify the proposed action in the objective. Also describe all anticipated positive and negative impacts. (See BLM Manual section 1608 for additional instructions)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)	Big Desert
Activity	Wildlife
Overlay Reference	Step 1 WL 9.3 Step 3 WL 6.3

Recommendation:

Goose nesting platforms should be placed on some islands to provide artificial nesting areas to increase nesting success. (Refer to fisheries overlay)

Rationale:

These nesting platforms will allow for increased nest success, and thereby increase the number of geese produced by reducing predation on eggs.

Support:

YACC and Operations.

Multiple Use Analysis:

No conflicts identified.

Supported by Idaho Fish and Game Dept. and U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Accept.

Reasons:

This has been shown to be an aid to goose production.

Multiple Use Decision:

Accept Multiple Use Recommendation.

17 goose nests installed 4/83
12 more to be installed fall 83
29

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Prepare a separate form for each Activity Recommendation.
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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)	Big Desert
Activity	Wildlife
Overlay Reference	Step 1 WL 13.4 Step 3 WL 10.3

Recommendation:

Protect and enhance riparian and aquatic habitat areas of the Snake River Omitted Lands.

HMP Done - 1982

Rationale:

The value of these lands for wildlife is indisputable and a comprehensive HMP would allow better management for all species associated with these lands. Idaho Fish and Game and U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service have expressed high interest in the management of the omitted lands to maximize wildlife values, especially waterfowl. The omitted lands are currently under withdrawal application by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to be designated as a Waterfowl Management Area. A cooperatively developed HMP could lead to Sikes Act funding to improve this area's habitat value to wildlife.

Support:

Range, Operations, Lands, Minerals and Recreation.

Multiple Use Analysis:

This recommendation is supported by WLA and is strongly endorsed by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Idaho Fish and Game.

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Accept the recommendations. Develop a HMP if need is shown.

Reasons:

While the omitted lands are managed under multiple use principles, it is recognized their highest value is for wildlife habitat, primarily waterfowl nesting. U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service personnel would consider retraction of their withdrawal application on these lands dependant upon the direction of BLM's management plan for the area. (See RM 3.1 for range management proposals).

Multiple Use Decision:

Accept Multiple Use Recommendation.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Prepare a separate form for each Activity Recommendation.
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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN - STEP 1
ACTIVITY OBJECTIVES

Name (MFP)	Big Desert
Activity	Wildlife
Objective Number	WL 7

Objective:

Maintain raptor nesting and hunting habitat in their present condition (MFP step 1 overlay #1). See WL 14 for unique habitat.

Rationale:

Raptors are important indicators of environmental contamination as their food consists of primary and secondary consumers which may concentrate some pollutants (Raptors of the I.N.E.L. site, Craig 1977). Birds of prey have significant aesthetic, observation, educational and scientific values. Raptors can exert a significant influence on control of small prey species.

Idaho State Game Commission has identified the goal to develop programs to maintain or increase raptor numbers in Idaho. Raptors are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and are subject to federal law and state regulation. At a later date, some vegetation manipulation might be useful to enhance these areas.

INSTRUCTIONS

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GPO 836-084

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)

Big Desert

Activity

Wildlife

Overlay Reference

Step 1 WL 9.1 Step 3 WL 6.1

Recommendation:

Restrict grazing on the Omitted Lands to the period between June 15th and October 1st at a rate that will not exceed 50 percent of available forage as determined in the 1979 survey of the Omitted Lands.

Rationale:

Wildlife values on these lands are extremely high but livestock grazing on an over obligated basis reduces this value. By restricting livestock use and reducing allowable AUM's to the range indicated, wildlife values will increase on these areas. Adherence to the 50 percent available forage rule of thumb would provide nesting and loafing cover to waterfowl. Restricting grazing to the period of June 15th to October 1st would reduce conflict during the nesting period and winter period and would result in higher waterfowl production.

Support:

Range.

Multiple Use Analysis:

Conflicts with RM 3.1 which calls for authorizing grazing use of the Omitted Lands. Idaho Fish and Game Department has stated (Dale Jensen) that a heavy livestock rate would benefit waterfowl nesting and brood rearing.

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Modify - Authorize livestock grazing during seasons and at stocking rates listed under RM 3.1 for the Omitted Lands.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

Form 1600-21 (April 1975)

INSTRUCTIONS

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)	Big Desert
Activity	Wildlife
Overlay Reference	Step 1 WL 9.1 Step 3 WL 6.1

Reasons:

Seasons and stocking rates have been reduced from past use. Idaho Fish and Game has indicated that livestock grazing is not detrimental to waterfowl nesting and brood rearing.

Multiple Use Decision:

Accept Multiple Use Recommendation.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

Form 1600-21 (April 1975)

INSTRUCTIONS

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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)
Big Desert

Activity
Wildlife

Overlay Reference
Step 1 WL 10.1 Step 3 7.1

Recommendation:

Maintain 17,600 acres of juniper woodlands for raptor nesting and hunting habitat by allowing no habitat alterations through vegetative manipulation which would result in reduction of vegetative diversity or elimination of the sagebrush aspect within three and one-half miles of the identified potential raptor nest site (refer to MFP Overlay). Minimize human disturbance within 1 mile of potential nest sites during nesting season (February 1 - July 1)

Rationale:

Some species of raptors show very little flexibility or adaptability in utilizing a diversity of nesting sites or habitats. Prey abundance and an appropriate nesting site are both key factors in determining the suitability of an area for nesting. The following table shows the average hunting territory distance from the nest as determined at the Birds of Prey Study Area.

<u>Species</u>	<u>Distance</u>
Golden Eagle	3 ½ miles
Red Tailed Hawk	1 ½ miles
Ferruginous Hawk	1 ½ miles
Swainson's Hawk	1 ½ miles

Support:

Range, Watershed.

Combined with 10.2 and 10.3

Multiple Analysis:

No conflicts identified.

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Accept

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

INSTRUCTIONS

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UNITED STATES
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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)

Big Desert

Activity

Wildlife

Overlay Reference

Step 1 WL 10.1 Step 3 7.1

Reasons:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service raptor specialist indicated that value of this juniper woodland for raptor nesting was not high, but was used as a hunting area. Probably of more value to songbirds. However, no conflicts were identified nor anticipated.

Multiple Use Decision:

Accept Multiple Use Recommendation.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

Form 1600-21 (April 1975)

INSTRUCTIONS

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN - STEP 1
ACTIVITY OBJECTIVES

Name (MFP)	Big Desert
Activity	Wildlife
Objective Number	WL 8

Objective:

Maintain existing populations of sensitive species by prohibiting vegetation manipulation projects until inventories are completed on proposed sites.

Rationale:

Sensitive species are by definition not officially listed as endangered but which are undergoing a status review. They are animals whose populations are consistently small and widely dispersed or whose ranges are restricted to a few localities, such that any appreciable reduction in numbers, habitat availability, or habitat condition might lead toward extinction. They are also animals whose numbers are declining so rapidly that official listing may become necessary. Declines may be the cause of destruction, modification, or curtailment of the species' habitat or range.

Big Desert Wildlife-McCarty/McFarling 4/80

INSTRUCTIONS

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UNITED STATES
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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)

Big Desert

Activity

Wildlife

Overlay Reference

Step 1 WL 11.1 Step 3 WL 8.1

Recommendation:

Improve 36,000 acres of hunting/wildlife habitat for bald eagles as shown on overlay #1 by reducing the amount of dense sagebrush through burning and 15,000 acres by single chaining. Formal consultation with U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service is required.

Rationale:

Bald eagles habitat could be improved by making more animals available for eagles to hunt. These manipulations must be designed to provide the maximum amount of edge and, if necessary, reseeded with native species of grasses, forbs and shrubs.

Support:

Range, Lands, Minerals and VRM.

Multiple Use Analysis:

U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service raptor specialist made statement that this would not necessarily benefit the Bald Eagle.

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Reject.

Reason:

Questionable benefits. U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service raptor specialist in Boise indicated Bald Eagles obtain most of their food from the water.

Multiple Use Decision:

Accept Multiple Use Recommendation.

INSTRUCTIONS

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UNITED STATES
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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN - STEP 1
ACTIVITY OBJECTIVES

Name (MFP)	Big Desert
Activity	Wildlife
Objective Number	WL 9

Objective:

Improve winter hunting habitat for bald eagles by reducing the over-story canopy of brush to allow better access to small mammals. Maintain bald eagle habitat by screening activities that could have an adverse effect on the birds such as mineral exploration, powerline construction, dewatering of streams and rivers, and cutting of roost trees. All projects within the bald eagle habitat shown on overlay #3 must be cleared through formal consultation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Rationale:

Bald eagles are officially listed as an endangered species. Efforts to improve or maintain existing habitat could result in increased population levels. If populations increase enough, the bald eagle could be removed from the Endangered Species List. The Endangered Species Act of 1973 specifies that formal consultation be made with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service before any project is done within an endangered species habitat, that may or may not effect the species.

INSTRUCTIONS

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)

Big Desert

Activity

Wildlife

Overlay Reference

Step 1 WL 12. Step 3 9.1

Recommendation:

Allow no surface occupancy in the bald eagle wintering area shown on overlay #3 for oil and gas exploration and development from November 1 through April 1.

Rationale:

This is an important area for this endangered species and protection of their hunting areas is necessary for the enhancement of this species in this area.

Support:

Minerals and Lands.

Multiple Use Analysis:

Conflicts with M 1.1 which says keep entire planning unit open to mineral development.

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Reject.

Reasons:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service raptor specialist claims the oil and gas exploration would not be detrimental to wintering bald eagles on their hunting range due to the dispersed nature of oil and gas exploration activity.

Multiple Use Decision:

Accept Multiple Use Recommendation.

INSTRUCTIONS

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UNITED STATES
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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN - STEP 1
ACTIVITY OBJECTIVES

Name (MFP)

Big Desert

Activity

Wildlife

Objective Number

WL 10

Objective:

Enhance wildlife species habitat through the development of management plans and water sources; maintaining all omitted lands and isolated tracts in public ownership; and to the degree possible by reseeding all disturbed areas with a mixture of native grasses, forbs and shrubs.

Rationale:

Upland game and non-game contribute considerable aesthetic value to the planning unit through observation, photography, educational and scientific study. Upland game hunting provides a source of income to local businesses as well as thousands of public recreation man-hours. Predator - prey relationships are dependent upon proper management of upland game and non-game species. Carnivorous mammals and raptors require upland game and non-game population maintenance to insure adequate food availability maintenance of habitat diversity and insurance of adequate cover and forage is necessary to provide habitat requirements to upland game and non-game wildlife species.

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UNITED STATES
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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)
Big Desert
Activity
Wildlife
Overlay Reference
Step 1 WL 13.2 Step 3 WL 10.1

Recommendation:

Vegetative control projects, prescribed burns and reclamation of fires to the degree possible, will be reseeded with a mixture of native grasses, forbs, and shrubs. Seedlings should be protected from livestock grazing for 2 growing seasons to allow for establishment of the plants.

Rationale:

A diversity of plants is more beneficial for wildlife species and by planting a seed mixture more benefits can be accrued than from a monoculture of one species. A suggested mixture would be as follows.

Russian wildrye (<u>Elymus junceus</u>)	1 lb/acre
Siberian wheatgrass (<u>Agropyron sibericum</u>)	2 "
Indian Rice grass (<u>Oryzopsis hymenoides</u>)	1 "
Gooseberry leaf globemallow (<u>Sphaeraea grossulariaefolia</u>)	1 "
Small burnet (<u>Sanguisorba minor</u>)	1 "
Winter fat (<u>Eurotia lanata</u>)	1 "
Fourwing Saltbush (<u>Atriplex canescens</u>)	1 "
Total	8 lb/acre

Support:

Range, Operations, Lands, Minerals and VRM.

INSTRUCTIONS

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)	Big Desert
Activity	Wildlife
Overlay Reference	Step 1 WL 13.2 Step 3 WL 10.1

Multiple Use Analysis:

Supported by VRM 2.5 which say to use indigenous species in rehabilitation and reseeding projects.

Conflicts with the species list provided in this recommendation. Several are exotics.

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Modify:

Plant native and ^{introduced} indigenous species if they are available and are adaptable to the site. Specific species to be planted and rates of seeding should be developed on a site specific basis to insure the best chance of success.

Reasons:

Many indigenous species are very expensive due to limited seed supply. They also have low seed viability and low seeding vigor, making establishment marginal. There is no problem in having a representative percentage of indigenous species in seed mixtures, but hybrids and introduced (Agcr) are essential to success.

The value of vegetative species diversity is recognized and all revegetation projects should have a seed mixture of grasses, forbs and shrubs. Two growing season deferment from grazing for seeding establishment is standard operating procedure.

Multiple Use Decision:

Accept Multiple Use Recommendation.

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)

Big Desert

Activity

Wildlife

Overlay Reference

Step 1 WL 13. Step 3 WL 10.2

Recommendation:

Water will be maintained in all livestock watering facilities from the period of May 1 to October 15.

Rationale:

Free water in the desert is the limiting factor for habitat for all wildlife species. Wildlife becomes used to a water source while livestock are present in the area but are then left "high and dry" when the livestock leave and the water is shut off. Maintaining this water source for wildlife will enhance existing use areas and allow for population expansion through greater survival of young.

Support:

Range and Operations.

Multiple Use Analysis:

No conflicting recommendations identified.

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Modify as follows:

1. Make water available to wildlife on all livestock watering facilities.
2. Work with ranchers and Idaho Fish and Game to provide needed water. September 1 to 15 is the latest water will be available due to freezing problem.

Reasons:

BLM does not have full control of this situation. Pumping facilities are often removed by ranchers after the grazing season to prevent theft and vandalism; this may be as early as July 1. The procedure has been to leave storage tanks full at wells when pumping equipment is removed. The water is then controlled by float valve at wildlife watering facilities. This has resulted in freezing damage to pipes and valves. BLM and the rancher must replace. In order to prevent the freezing damage, the tanks are being drained when pumping equipment is removed. Idaho Fish and Game has volunteered to drain storage tanks before freezing to alleviate this problem.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)

Big Desert

Activity

Wildlife

Overlay Reference

Step 1 WL 13.3 Step 3 WL 10.2

Multiple Use Decision:

Accept Multiple Use Recommendation.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

Form 1600-21 (April 1975)

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)

Big Desert

Activity

Wildlife

Overlay Reference

Step 1 WL 13.5 Step 3 WL 10.4

Recommendation:

Maintain all isolated tracts of public land in the public ownership.

Rationale:

The significance of these areas may not be evident at present but in the future with increased agricultural development, human population expansion, and further degradation of surrounding lands these areas may become the only areas remaining for wildlife habitat. As such they should be managed today for tomorrow's uses. According to Idaho Fish and Game, 50 to 100 hunter days per acre are currently spent on the isolated tracts. Pheasant populations of 9-15 birds per acre are dependent on cover provided in these areas. Estimates of Hungarian partridges are 3 - 5/acre, jackrabbits 10 - 15/acre, cottontailed rabbits 5/acre. A special pheasant stamp is required in Idaho to provide funds for improving pheasant habitat and isolated tracts have already been identified as important upland game areas in the Burley, Boise, and Shoshone Districts. Sikes Act funding has been used in these districts to provide access to hunters and improve upland game habitat. These areas are presently receiving heavy hunter use and disposal could result in public furor. Idaho Fish and Game has expressed the desire to retain these lands in public ownership to insure perpetuation of this valuable resource to hunters and sportsmen.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

Form 1600-21 (April 1975)

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UNITED STATES
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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)

Big Desert

Activity

Wildlife

Overlay Reference

Step WL 13.5 Step 3 WL 10.4

Multiple Use Analysis:

Conflicts with L 6.1 which says dispose of isolated tracts which are difficult to manage. U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service said the isolated tracts must be over 40 acres in size to have significance for wildlife habitat. Idaho Fish and Game (Pocatello) said even tracts of 40 acres have significant value as pheasant habitat.

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Modify as follows:

Retain isolated tracts that have wildlife or other resource values. If these values are not evident or anticipated, dispose of the tracts. Consider private exchange as a first priority disposal method.

Reasons:

Some of these tracts have been abused and now only support annual vegetation. Some have no public access and are used as dumps, farmed or other trespass uses. Some of these may have no resource values and should be disposed of. Disposal or retention decisions on specific tracts is deferred because resource values are not fully known on these lands.

Multiple Use Decision:

Accept Multiple Use Recommendation.

INSTRUCTIONS

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)

Big Desert

Activity

Wildlife

Overlay Reference

Step 1 WL 13.6 Step 3 WL 10.5

Recommendation:

Provide for the habitat requirement of all wildlife species particularly antelope and sage grouse.

Rationale:

There is a need to enhance the wildlife values on the public lands and provide a vehicle to allow projects and vegetative manipulations for wildlife benefits.

Support:

Range, Watershed, Lands and Minerals.

Multiple Use Analysis:

No conflicts identified.

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Modify the recommendation:

Do not develop a comprehensive HMP for this area beyond planning for providing wildlife water.

Develop a priority listing of water developments for construction and planning.

Multiple Use Decision:

Accept Multiple Use Recommendation.

INSTRUCTIONS

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

R

Name (MFP)	Big Desert
Activity	Wildlife
Overlay Reference	Step 1 WL 13.8 Step 3WL 10.6

Recommendation:

Do not exceed 50 percent utilization of livestock forage species to insure upland game and non-game wildlife species food and cover requirements are provided.

Rationale:

Allocation of forage for upland and non-game wildlife species would vary annually due to the cyclic nature of these species. Adhering to 50 percent proper use of all forage species would help provide food and cover requirements to these animals during most periods of these cycles.

Support:

Range and Watershed.

Multiple Use Analysis:

No Conflicts.

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Reject

Reasons:

Forage allocations while not receiving a specific amount for upland game and non-game wildlife provide for these species in the forage not allocated to livestock and Big Game. Forage production is not a limiting factor for upland game and non-game. There may be a lack of the ideal mixture of food species for them however.

Multiple Use Decision:

Accept Multiple Use Recommendation.

INSTRUCTIONS

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