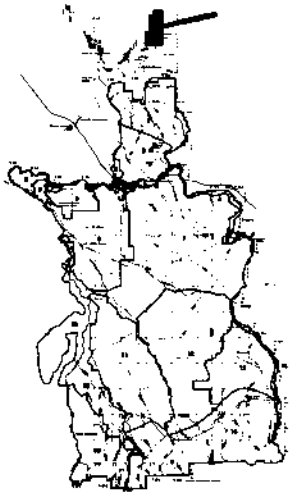


MUA-1 ANDERSON RANCH/BOISE RIVER

Description

The Anderson Ranch MUA is located 25 miles NE of the city of Mountain Home. The area contains 11,086 acres of public lands. It is mostly surrounded by land administered by the USFS (Boise National Forest). The dominant land form is steep south and west facing ridges between the Anderson Ranch Reservoir at the lower elevations (4200') and the National Forest boundary at the higher elevations (7000'). Vegetation is mountain big sagebrush with perennial bunchgrasses with areas of mixed mountain shrubs and Douglas fir. There are three grazing allotments in the MUA used mainly for trailing sheep owned by three permittees. No determination of ecological condition has been made.

The seven scattered parcels of public lands (720 acres), found along the South Fork of the Boise River, are bordered by USFS/Powersite Withdrawals and are important winter habitat for mule deer. The Boise River (S.F.) from Anderson Ranch Dam to Arrowrock Reservoir has scenic and recreational qualities which are recognized in existing State/Federal plans and studies for possible wild and scenic river designation.

The 10,366 acres of public lands around Anderson Ranch Reservoir are popular for scenic and outdoor recreation opportunities. The USFS manages camping and fishing access sites. BLM lands are important winter habitat for deer and elk, and support a high density of nesting and breeding habitat for bluegrouse, and contain 850 acres of commercial timber.

Objectives

Issue 406 AUMs of forage for livestock by the year 2005.

Maintain existing wintering habitat to support current levels of 250 mule deer and 100 elk. The current populations are 200 mule deer and 70 elk.

Protect the scenic and recreation values of the parcels along the Boise

River (S.F.) and public lands around the reservoir but under custodial type management.

Maintain the current condition of riparian habitat.

Make available 9,128 acres (82%) of the area for energy minerals exploration and development and 9,522 acres (86%) for nonenergy minerals.

Manage 142 acres of suitable commercial forest lands to maximize timber productivity; manage 465 acres of noncommercial forest land and 350 acres of unsuitable commercial forest land to maintain productivity through salvage and incidental harvest.

Multiple Use and Transfer Area Classes

Acreage classified -- 11,086 Moderate, 0 Intensive,
0 Limited, 0 Transfer

Actions

A) Forage Use Levels (AUMs)

406	Livestock Proposed	91	Elk
406	Livestock 20 year	54	Mule Deer
0	Wild Horses	0	Pronghorn
0	Bighorn Sheep		

B) Preliminary Wilderness Recommendation: Not Applicable (N/A) to this MUA.

C) Lands

1. Utility (overhead, surface, underground) avoidance/restricted area - none.

2. Closed to agricultural entry - 11,086 acres.

D) Motorized Vehicle Management (Acres)

6,586 open; 4,500 limited; 0 closed.

Type of limitation - Seasonal restrictions may be placed on over the snow vehicles on big game crucial winter range if Fish and Game determines harassment is occurring.

Areas closed - None

E) Minerals Management

9,128	acres open to entry for leaseables
+	acres limited on leaseables (Area & Type) - No occupancy within 500 feet of perennial or intermittent streams or edges of reservoirs.
1,564	acres withdrawn from locatable entry

F) Fire Management

Suppression - 11,086 acres full; 0 acres limited
Special actions - See Appendix F

G) Activity Plans - Timber Management Plan (TMP)

H) Proposed projects/actions for range, wildlife, cultural, fisheries, riparian: None proposed. There are no existing seedings to be maintained.

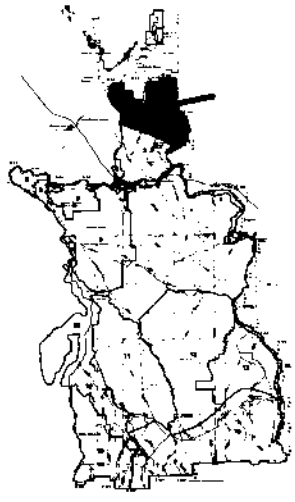
I) Special Designations: N/A

J) Other Special Actions (watershed, timber, etc.)

1. Recommend South Fork of the of Boise River for study under the National Wild and Scenic River System.

2. Develop timber sale plans.

3. Continue to work with USFS on boundary adjustment proposals to improve management of public lands.



MUA-2 UPPER BENNETT HILLS

Description

The Upper Bennett Hills area is bordered by the Bruneau R.A. (BLM) on the west, Boise NF (USFS) on the north and Shoshone District BLM on the east. The southern boundary is formed by the northernmost east west utility ROW (overhead), the southern boundary of the Hammett #1 and King Hill Canyon Allotment. This is generally the lower range of wintering mule deer. Elevation ranges from 3000-7000'. Dominant vegetation is mountain big sagebrush-brush and bluebunch wheatgrass changing into big sagebrush and cheatgrass with Sandberg bluegrass on the southern end. Also found are extensive pockets of low sagebrush-Sandberg bluegrass throughout MUA. The area is important elk and mule deer winter range, and all or portions of

ten grazing allotments are used primarily by cattle owned by 12 permittees. The area contains about 1,415 acres of commercial timber with a potential harvest of 1,000 MBF. Land ownership is 62,228 acres BLM, 11,663 acres state, and 37,383 acres private.

The MUA contains 23,815 acres of the King Hill WSA. An additional 5,494 acres of WSA land lies in the Shoshone District. King Hill, Little Canyon, Cold Springs, Camas, Ryegrass and Thorn Creek are important streams in the area. The current ecological condition, in acres, is as follows:

Excell.	Good	Fair	Poor	Burn	Seed	Spray	Water
0	2,496	6,433	50,047	3,252	0	0	0

Objectives

Consider for transfer 40 acres of public lands via sale (T1) and retain 62,188 acres of public lands in federal ownership.

Improve lands in poor ecological condition.

Issue 4,983 AUMs of forage for livestock by the year 2005.

Manage big game habitat to support 3,350 winter mule deer and 350 the rest of the year and 200 elk (existing populations are 3,350 mule deer and 125 elk).

Improve 10.6 miles of fisheries habitat and 6.7 miles of riparian habitat by the year 2005.

Designate 56,680 acres as the Bennett Hills Winter Recreation Area (SRMA).

Make available 62,228 acres (100%) for energy and 62,133 acres (99%) for nonenergy mineral exploration and development.

Manage 944 acres of suitable commercial forest lands to maximize timber productivity; manage 880 acres of noncommercial forest lands and 415 acres of unsuitable commercial forest land to maintain productivity through salvage and incidental harvest.

Multiple Use and Transfer Area Classes

Acreage classified -- 62,188 Moderate, 0 Intensive,
0 Limited, 40 Transfer

Actions

A) Forage Use Levels (AUMs)

3,785	Livestock Proposed	473	Elk
4,983	Livestock 20 year	670	Mule Deer
0	Wild Horses	0	Pronghorn
0	Bighorn Sheep		

B) Preliminary Wilderness Recommendation

0 acres recommended suitable -
23,815 acres recommended nonsuitable - (the 5,494 acres in the Shoshone District are also recommended nonsuitable)

C) Lands

1. Utility avoidance/restricted area - none

2. Closed to agricultural entry - 62,188 acres

D) Motorized Vehicle Management (Acres)

0 open; 62,228 limited; 0 closed.

Type of limitation - Seasonal, may be placed on over the snow vehicles on big game crucial winter range if F&G determines harassment is occurring.

Areas closed - None

E) Minerals Management

62,228 acres open to entry for leaseables
+ acres limited on leaseables (Area & Type)-No surface occupancy (seasonal) on deer winter range (12-1 through 4-30); & within 500 ft of perennial and intermittent streams or edges of reservoirs and King Hill WSA.
95 acres withdrawn from locatable entry - one site

F) Fire Management

Suppression - 62,228 acres full; 0 acres limited

Special actions - Special fire suppression techniques required in WSA (no mechanical equipment) & consider role of fire as natural process in Fire Plan. See Appendix F.

G) Activity Plans -

RAMP for Bennett Hills Winter Recreation Area SRMA; TMP; Fire Plan; AMPs for Allotments 1033, 1037, 1038, 1039, 1101, 1130.

H) Proposed projects/actions for range, wildlife, cultural, fisheries, riparian (see J 4 below)

Activity	Seedings Maintained	Vegetation Manipulation (acres)					
		Livestock			Wildlife		
		Brush Control	Brush Control & Seeding	Seeding Only	Interseed or Reseed	Replace to Native Vegetation	Rehabilitate Existing Burns
Range	0	640		640			
Wildlife							
Terrestrial					200	3,000	400
Aquatic							
Riparian							

Activity	Development (# or miles)			
	Water		Land	
	Reservoirs or Wells	Pipelines	Fencing	Signs
Range			5	
Wildlife				
Terrestrial				
Aquatic			gap	
Riparian			gap	

I) Special Designations

Area	Type of Designation	Acres/Miles
Bennett Hills Winter Rec Area	SRMA	56,680

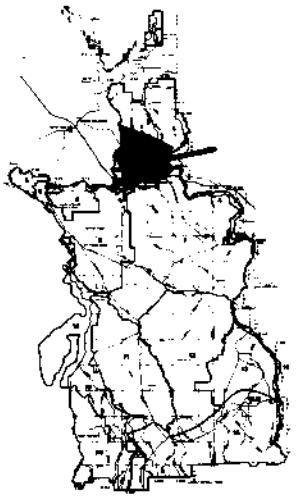
J) Other Special Actions (watershed, timber, etc.)

1. Change seasons of use on allotments that have greater than 50% of use made in the spring to 50% fall use.

2. Develop timber sales plans.

3. To resolve forage conflicts between livestock and wildlife (mule deer and elk), livestock season-of-use would be adjusted so that approximately 50% of the livestock use occurs during the spring period and 50% occurs during the fall.

4. In the King Hill WSA, the following development is recommended if Congress does not establish this area as wilderness: 2,200 acres of brush control, 1,010 acres of seeding and 2 spring developments. A final decision on the management of these Wilderness Study Areas is being deferred until after Congress decides to designate them as wilderness or releases them for other multiple use management. The above level of project development will also be addressed in the final Jarbidge Wilderness EIS.



MUA-3 LOWER BENNETT

Description

The Lower Bennett area consists of 49,791 acres of public lands, 2,404 acres of state lands and 24,068 acres of private lands. It is bordered on the north by MUA-2, on the south by the Snake River and the boundaries of the Bruneau R.A. and the Bennett Hills R.A. (Shoshone District) on the west and east respectively. Elevation ranges from 2900-4000'. Vegetation is primarily big sagebrush-cheatgrass-Sandberg bluegrass in poor condition with several large crested wheatgrass seedings. The terrain is predominantly low rolling foothills and flatlands. The area includes all or portions of 12 grazing allotments used primarily by cattle owned by 17 users. Some 142,194 acres of public land have been applied for through the DLE/CA process. A number of utility lines (gas and power) are dispersed through a 10-12 mile wide NW to SE corridor. The city of Glenns Ferry is located, in part, along the southern portion of the area, and portions of the Oregon National Historic Trail and the North Alternate of the Oregon Trail cross the area from SE to NW. Wintering mule deer, antelope, pheasants and sage grouse are found in the MUA. The current ecological condition, in acres, is:

Excell.	Good	Fair	Poor	Burn	Seed	Spray	Water
0	0	0	29,728	8,588	11,204	0	270

Objectives

Consider for transfer from federal ownership 380 acres through sale (T1); 558 acres for exchange (T3), and 5,683 acres of suitable agricultural land for potential DLE/CA development (T4). Retain 43,170 acres of public lands in federal ownership.

Continue soil stabilization practices on areas receiving critical erosion damage.

Maintain existing range vegetative improvements.

Improve land in poor ecological condition.

Issue 8,152 AUMs of forage for livestock by the year 2005.

Manage big game habitat to support 350 mule deer in winter and 75 mule deer yearlong and 25 antelope. Improve sage grouse nesting and brood rearing habitat by 2005. Existing populations are 300 mule deer in winter, 60 yearlong and 0 antelope.

Maintain the current condition of stream habitat and improve 2.2 miles of riparian habitat by 2005.

Protect and manage all remaining ruts and trail features of the Oregon Trail, the Sugar Bowl, Glenns Ferry and McGinnis Ranch Paleontologic sites and develop interpretive marker program for the Oregon Trail.

Make available 49,631 acres (99+%) of the area for energy leasing exploration and development and 42,511 acres (86%) for nonenergy minerals. Maintain 40 acres as a material use site.

Multiple Use and Transfer Area Classes

Acreage classified -- 43,170 Moderate, 0 Intensive, 0 Limited, 6,621 Transfer

Actions

A) Forage Use Levels (AUMs)

6,689	Livestock Proposed	0	Elk
8,152	Livestock 20 year	70	Mule Deer
0	Wild Horses	4	Pronghorn
0	Bighorn Sheep		

B) Preliminary Wilderness Recommendation - N/A

C) Lands

1. Utility avoidance/restricted area - three paleontologic areas (Sugar Bowl, Glenns Ferry, & McGinnis Ranch) & Oregon Trail Ruts (7,200 acres/22.5 miles) to overhead & surface disturbance and underground utilities.

2. Closed to agricultural entry - 43,086 acres; Oregon Trail & 3 paleontologic areas (consisting of 38 sites).

D) Motorized Vehicle Management (Acres)

42,591 open; 7,200 limited; 0 closed.

Type of limitation - Oregon Trail to designated Road and Trails (7,200 acres/22.5 miles)
Areas closed - None

E) Minerals Management

49,631 acres open to entry for leaseables

7,200+ acres limited on leaseables (Area & Type)-No surface occupancy on Oregon Trail corridor; Sugar Bowl; Glenns Ferry and McGinnis Ranch Paleontologic sites. No surface occupancy within 500 ft of stream banks of perennial or intermittent streams or edges of reservoirs.

7,280 acres withdrawn from locatable entry (Area) - Oregon Trail (7,200 acres/22.5 miles), seek withdrawal; and other (80 acres).

F) Fire Management

Suppression - 49,791 acres full; 0 acres limited
Special actions - No mechanical equipment (wheeled) on Oregon Trail or 3 paleontologic sites; no fire lines (mechanized) across Trail segments or paleontologic sites.

G) Activity Plans -

Cultural & RAMP-Oregon Trail; Fire Mgt.; AMPs for Allotments 1033, 1034, 1036, 1124, 1129, 1130

H) Proposed projects/actions for range, wildlife, cultural, fisheries, riparian

		Vegetation Manipulation (acres)					
		Livestock			Wildlife		
Activity	Seedings Maintained	Brush Control	Brush Control & Seeding	Seeding Only	Interseed or Reseed	Replace to Native Vegetation	Rehabilitate Existing Burns
Range	11,204	4,640		6,600			
Wildlife							
Terrestrial					300		100
Aquatic							
Cultural							

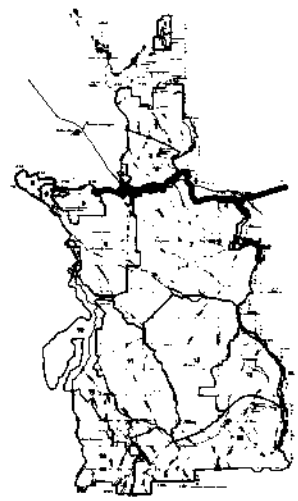
	Development (# or miles)			
	Water		Land	
Activity	Reservoirs or Wells	Pipelines	Fencing	Signs
Range			8	
Wildlife				
Terrestrial				
Aquatic			gap	
Cultural				+

I) Special Designations

Area	Type of Designation	Acres/Miles
Oregon Trail	Nat'l Historic Trail & Nat'l Register, SRMA	7,200/22.5

J) Other Special Actions (watershed, timber, etc.)

1) Improve sage grouse brood rearing habitat (removal of sagebrush in small irregular areas and reseed) where canopy cover exceeds 20%.



MUA-4 SNAKE RIVER RIPARIAN

Description

The Snake River Riparian area occupies the lowland river corridor from Indian Cove on the west to the confluence of Salmon Falls Creek on the east. The northern boundary is the Union Pacific railroad line and the south boundary is near the 3000' elevation contour on the bluff near Salmon Falls Creek, and near the 2700' contour line at Indian Cove. The 51 mile long corridor contains important wildlife habitat for waterfowl, upland game, furbearers, nongame birds and raptors, and mule deer. It also contains the best known habitat for white sturgeon above Hells Canyon and habitat for other game and nongame fish. The islands provide important waterfowl nesting habitat. The area includes portions of two grazing allotments in which the vegetation is primarily big sagebrush-cheatgrass in poor condition. There are remnant areas of Indian ricegrass, Thurber needlegrass and inland saltgrass. Grazing use in this MUA is mainly by cattle owned by ten users. The area contains 9,068 acres of BLM, 152 acres of state and 9,419 acres of private land, used primarily for agriculture. The city of Glenns Ferry is located in part of this area. The Oregon National Historic Trail crosses the area at Three Island Crossing State Park about 1 1/2 miles west of Glenns Ferry. The current ecological condition, in acres, is:

Excell.	Good	Fair	Poor	Burn	Seed	Spray	Water
0	0	0	8,083	113	499	0	0

Objectives

Consider for transfer from federal ownership 40 acres of public land through sale (T1), 118 acre through sale or exchange (T2) and make available 182 acres of land for potential DLE/CA development (T4). Retain 8,728 acres of public land.

Improve lands in poor ecological condition.

Maintain existing vegetative improvements.

Issue 378 AUMs of forage for livestock by the year 2005.

Manage big game habitat to support 75 mule deer. Existing populations is 50 mule deer.

Protect and manage the Oregon National Historic Trail to preserve all remaining ruts and trail features (3.6 miles), and three major paleontologic areas consisting of about 75 sites and develop an interpretative marker program for the Oregon Trail.

Protect the aquatic habitat of sensitive and candidate species in the Snake River below Lower Salmon Falls Dam.

Maintain 34 miles of riparian habitat along public lands in current condition.

Make available 6,090 (67%) of the area for energy minerals exploration and development and 7,278 acres (80%) for nonenergy minerals.

Manage 65 acres for material use sites.

Multiple Use and Transfer Area Classes

Acreage classified -- 0 Moderate, 0 Intensive,
8,728 Limited, 340 Transfer

Actions

A) Forage Use Levels (AUMs)

378	Livestock Proposed	0	Elk
378	Livestock 20 year	24	Mule Deer
0	Wild Horses	0	Pronghorn
0	Bighorn Sheep		

B) Preliminary Wilderness Recommendation - N/A

C) Lands

1. Utility avoidance area - Paleontologic sites at Glenns Ferry and Pasadena Valley (surface and underground); Sand Point and all rutted segments of Oregon Trail (overhead, surface and underground).

2. Closed to agricultural entry - 8,728 acres

D) Motorized Vehicle Management (Acres)

7,481 open; 1,587 limited; 0 closed.

Type of Limitation - ORV use to designated roads and trails (Sand Point Paleontologic).

Areas closed -

E) Minerals Management

6,090 acres open to entry for leaseables

1,587 acres limited on leaseables (Area & Type)-No surface occupancy on Oregon Trail, Paleontologic sites & within 500 ft of stream banks of perennial or intermittent streams or edges of reservoirs.

1,790 acres withdrawn from locatable entry (Area)-Paleontologic sites at Sand Point (435 acres) & Oregon Trail (1,152 acres); 203 acres other.

F) Fire Management

Suppression - 9,068 acres full; 0 acres limited

Special actions: No mechanized equipment (wheeled) and no fire lines across Oregon Trail segments or the 3 paleontologic sites found in the area.

G) Activity Plans

Cultural and RAMP for Oregon Trail; Fire Mgt. Plan; Paleontologic Mgt. Plan-Sand Point; Snake River Wildlife Tracts HMP.

H) Proposed projects/actions for range, wildlife, cultural, fisheries, riparian

		Vegetation Manipulation (acres)					
		Livestock			Wildlife		
Activity	Seedings Maintained	Brush Control	Brush Control & Seeding	Seeding Only	Interseed or Reseed	Replace to Native Vegetation	Rehabilitate Existing Burns
Range	499						
Cultural							

	Development (# or miles)			
	Water		Land	
Activity	Reservoirs or Wells	Pipelines	Fencing	Signs
Range				
Cultural				+