

WILDLIFE

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
STEP 1 - ACTIVITY RECOMMENDATION

Planning Unit Name MAGIC

Program Activity WILDLIFE

Activity Recommendation Area (*code*) Habitat Expansion (Mammals)

Activity Recommendation(s)

1. Establish and maintain a vegetative composition such that summer succulent forbs comprise between 15 to 25 percent of the vegetation on approximately 14,000 acres.

Rationale

1. Food habit studies show that forbs comprise more than 60% of the antelope's summer diet. Succulent summer forbs are lacking throughout most of the planning unit. Consequently the introduction or establishment of forbs could substantially expand antelope summer range.

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
STEP 1 - ACTIVITY RECOMMENDATION

Planning Unit Name MAGIC

Program Activity WILDLIFE

Activity Recommendation Area (code) Habitat Expansion

Activity Recommendation(s)	Rationale
1. Establish a 10- 15% density of summer succulent forbs over 14,085 acres. (Refer to Management Framework Plan Wildlife Step 1 Overlay.)	1. Sage grouse are presently concentrated around the spring and wet-meadow areas in late summer due to the lack of succulent forbs throughout the remainder of the planning unit. If a desirable density of forbs were established, sage grouse summer habitat would be expanded. In addition to the increased forage, the birds would be more dispersed, thus decreasing their vulnerability to hunters, predators, and disease.
2. In cooperation with Idaho Fish and Game Department, initiate the reintroduction of chukars in the Dinosaur Ridge and Clay Bank Hills areas.	2. Hunttable populations of chukars have been noted in past years, but present numbers are extremely low. The population appears to be at a point where it can no longer produce sufficient young to maintain present numbers. Reintroductions should be made to augment present bird numbers and provide the population with sufficient means to produce hunttable populations.
3. Initiate construction of goose nesting sites on Magic Reservoir in conjunction with the Idaho Fish and Game Department.	3. Food, water, and resting areas are in good supply, but due to the lack of nesting islands, promontories and isolated areas, good nesting sites are unavailable. The construction of nesting platforms and small islands would provide the necessary sites, thus increasing the number of geese produced on Magic Reservoir.

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
STEP 1 - ACTIVITY RECOMMENDATION

Planning Unit Name MAGIC

Program Activity WILDLIFE

Activity Recommendation Area (code) Habitat Improvement (Mammals)

Activity Recommendation(s)

Rationale

1. Increase the density of alfalfa such that it comprises 20- 25% of the vegetative composition on 1460 acres in the Magic Allotment.

1. Food habitat studies indicate that forbs comprise more than 60% of an antelope's summer diet. Alfalfa is a preferred forb which retains its summer succulence and is highly nutritious. Alfalfa presently is sparsely scattered throughout the flats in the Magic Allotment, and any increase in its density would significantly increase the antelope summer range.

2. Implement rest-rotation grazing systems in order to establish a diverse vegetative composition (15- 20% shrubs, 20- 25% forbs, and 55- 65% grasses) throughout the entire planning unit.

2. A good variety of vegetative species would provide succulent, highly nutritious forage for many small mammals such as rabbits, ground squirrels, rock chucks, etc., and also provide them with excellent cover. Improved habitat conditions for small herbivorous mammals will both directly and indirectly improve carnivorous animal habitat.

3. To insure that wildlife habitat needs are met, any and all land treatment projects should be coordinated with the wildlife program. Considerations to keep in mind for such projects are: forage requirements, availability, quality, succulence, and cover and water availability.

3. This is in accordance with 1603.12D3a, 12D4b, and 12D4c, Idaho Manual Supplement 6711.

4. Implement and coordinate to the fullest extent possible the Master Memorandum of Understanding between Idaho Fish and Game Department and the Bureau of Land Management.

4. Until the Bureau and Fish and Game Department can collect all the information necessary to intensively manage these animals and their habitat, an interim management program should be developed which will identify on a case-by-case basis the impacts of programs and projects which are to be implemented within the next several years.

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
STEP 1 - ACTIVITY RECOMMENDATION

Planning Unit Name	MAGIC
Program Activity	WILDLIFE
Activity Recommendation Area (code)	Habitat Improvement (Birds)

Activity Recommendation(s)

1. Exclude livestock and other non-compatible uses from spring and wet-meadow areas throughout the planning unit.
2. Exclude livestock and other non-compatible uses from Magic Reservoir, except at times when it is deemed such uses would prove beneficial for wildlife.
3. Establish vegetation such as tall wheatgrass, crested wheatgrass, alfalfa, etc.; in conjunction with existing brush along Magic Reservoir.

Rationale

1. Livestock presently congregate along the water source areas reducing the existing vegetation that is necessary to provide adequate forage for sage grouse broods.
2. Livestock presently congregate along Magic Reservoir reducing the existing vegetation that is necessary to provide adequate escape and nesting cover for shorebirds and waterfowl.
3. The introduction of such species will increase both quantity and quality of wildlife cover; thus providing additional nesting areas and increased survival of broods. In addition to improved waterfowl habitat, these seedings would also have a similarly beneficial impact on shorebirds.

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
STEP 1 - ACTIVITY RECOMMENDATION

Planning Unit Name

MAGIC

Program Activity

WILDLIFE

Activity Recommendation Area (*code*)

Habitat Maintenance (Mammals)

Activity Recommendation(s)

1. There should be no land treatment projects or land disposal actions proposed for the area defined as deer winter range.
2. Maintain and manage the deer migration routes leading in and out of the planning unit. Insure that these routes remain open for future populations.
3. Maintain sagebrush patches randomly throughout the planning unit in sufficient quantity to afford adequate antelope fawning and fawn cover.

Rationale

1. Due to topography and associated vegetative cover, suitable big game winter range is presently very restricted. Any additional degradation such as discussed would adversely impact the potential winter big game populations in the unit.
2. During the last ten years the trend counts indicate that between 500 and 1500 deer migrate through the planning unit to winter in adjacent planning units. If we are to maintain or enhance deer numbers these routes must remain open and available to the deer.
3. Studies indicate that antelope fawning sites normally occur within sagebrush patches. In addition antelope fawns will normally remain in these patches up until two weeks old. Consequently, if the previously discussed habitat expansion opportunities are realized sagebrush patches will be required in order to provide adequate fawn cover and fawning areas.

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STEP 1 - ACTIVITY RECOMMENDATION

Planning Unit Name

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Program Activity

WILDLIFE

Activity Recommendation Area (code)

Habitat Maintenance (Birds)

Activity Recommendation(s)

Rationale

1. Maintain existing sagebrush within a two-mile radius of sage grouse strutting grounds.

1. Sage grouse are almost ^{solely} slowly dependent upon sagebrush for nesting cover. Recent Idaho research shows that 90% of the nesting birds nest within 2 miles of the breeding ground. Guidelines for Habitat Protection in Sage Grouse Range states "the breeding complex (strutting grounds, nesting areas, etc.,) will be considered as all lands within a two-mile radius of an occupied strutting ground. Vegetative control within the breeding complex should not be undertaken within two miles of strutting grounds or on nesting or other special use areas.

2. Maintain existing goose nesting sites on Magic Reservoir.

2. The number of adequate goose nesting sites on Magic Reservoir is limited. In order to maintain present goose production such sites should be protected.

3. Maintain the sea gull nesting area on and adjacent to Gull Island.

3. Sea gull nesting is restricted to a very small area on Magic Reservoir. In order to maintain the sea gull populations in and adjacent to the reservoir, this area should be maintained in its present state.

4. Monitor the effects of public disturbance on nesting waterfowl and shorebirds. If such disturbance is identified as influencing the nesting behavior of these birds, steps should be undertaken to eliminate or reduce the disturbance.

4. With the ever increasing public use of Magic Reservoir there is an increased possibility that public use could adversely affect waterfowl and shorebird nesting success. The greatest potential impact involves nesting geese. Geese will normally nest in the open and depend upon their size and senses to protect their nests while most other birds try concealing their nest in protective vegetation. During most years it is felt that the breeding and incubation period is over prior to the opening of the fishing season. However, during extremely late springs it is possible that geese and other waterfowl would still be nesting during the opening of the fishing season. If it is determined that nesting continues into the fishing season more than just occasionally, it should then be determined what impacts the fishing public has on nesting birds.

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STEP 1 - ACTIVITY RECOMMENDATION

Planning Unit Name

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Program Activity

WILDLIFE

Activity Recommendation Area (code)

Habitat Maintenance (Birds)

Activity Recommendation(s)

5. Inventory the planning unit to determine if there is winter sage grouse use. If winter use is identified, adequate sagebrush should be maintained within these use areas.

Rationale

5. Recent research indicates that sage grouse males normally winter within close proximity to their strutting grounds. Since there have been eight grounds identified in or within close proximity to the unit it would appear that sage grouse either winter in the unit or adjacent to it. The winter diet of sage grouse is comprised almost entirely of sagebrush.

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
STEP 1 - ACTIVITY RECOMMENDATION

Planning Unit Name	MAGIC
Program Activity	WILDLIFE
Activity Recommendation Area (code)	Habitat Maintenance (Fish)

Activity Recommendation(s)	Rationale
<p>Investigate the opportunity to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Maintain a 2- 3 second foot of water flow in the Richfield Canal during the nonirrigating months.2. Maintain a minimum of 60,000 acre feet of water in Magic Reservoir throughout the year.3. Establish and maintain a water flow through both channels in the Big Wood River located below the Richfield Canal Diversion.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. A continuous flow of water throughout the winter in the Richfield Canal would enable the canal to support a year around fishery. Presently, the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, during short water years, has to shock and salvage the fish in the canal. They in turn have to replant the canal in the spring. If a continuous flow were maintained the canal could become a self-sustaining fishery.2. Fingerling trout loss rates are extremely high when the water level in Magic drops below 60,000 acre feet. Planted fingerlings normally appear in the fishery at age class II and III fish. Consequently, when these fingerlings are lost the fishing potential over the next one to two years in Magic is substantially reduced.3. Indications are (economic supplement) that fishing license sales will double by 1980. Additional habitat will be required to produce more fish for the increased number of fishermen. Presently the water is diverted into only one river channel. If the diversion were removed, water would flow through both channels thus creating an additional quarter mile of good fish habitat.

MFP STEP 1

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
STEP 2 - MULTIPLE USE RECOMMENDATIONS AND SUPPORTING ANALYSIS

Planning Unit Name

MAGIC

Activity Wildlife

Multiple Use Recommendation(s)

Analysis

HABITAT EXPANSION (BIRD & MAMMALS)

1. Establish and maintain a vegetative composition such that summer succulent forbs comprise between 10 to 15 percent of the vegetation on approximately 14,000 acres. Refer to the Wildlife MFP Step 2 overlay for exact area.

1. Since the MFP Step one number one Habitat Expansion recommendation for both birds and mammals are virtually the same they have been combined into a single recommendation and accepted from MFP Step 1.

HABITAT IMPROVEMENT (MAMMALS)

1. Investigate the opportunities to increase the density of alfalfa such that it comprises 20 - 25% of the vegetative composition on 1460 acres in the Magic Allotment.

1. The wording of this recommendation has been changed from "Increase the density..." to "Investigate the opportunities to increase...". The question has arisen concerning whether or not the density of alfalfa can actually be increased under present practices. Consequently, prior to the initiation of a major undertaking, studies on a small scale should be started to determine how much if any the density of alfalfa can be increased within the Magic Allotment.

2. Implement rest-rotation grazing systems in order to establish a diverse vegetative composition (15 - 20% shrubs, 20 - 25% forbs, and 55 - 65% grasses) throughout the entire planning unit.

2. Accepted from MFP Step 1

3. To insure that wildlife habitat needs are met, any and all land treatment projects should be coordinated with the wildlife program. Considerations to keep in mind for such projects are: forage requirements, availability, quality, succulence, and cover and water availability.

3. Accepted from MFP Step 1

4. Implement and coordinate to the fullest extent possible the Master Memorandum of Understanding between Idaho Fish and Game Department and the Bureau of Land Management.

4. Accepted from MFP Step 1

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
STEP 2 - MULTIPLE USE RECOMMENDATIONS AND SUPPORTING ANALYSIS

Planning Unit Name MAGIC

Activity Wildlife

Multiple Use Recommendation(s)
HABITAT MAINTENANCE (MAMMALS)

Analysis

1. There should be no land treatment projects or land disposal actions proposed for the area defined as deer winter range.

1. Accepted from MFP Step 1

2. Maintain and manage the deer migration routes leading in and out of the planning unit. Insure that these routes remain open for future populations.

2. Several Watershed recommendations (EP-1, EP-2, EP-3, ER-1, ER-3, ES-2) propose the removal of sagebrush within the area identified as important deer migration routes. It is recognized that removal of all the sagebrush cover could cause serious impacts on deer migrational patterns. Consequently the Watershed recommendations have been modified to strive for a 50 percent reduction in sagebrush and the leave areas will be oriented generally with the long axis parallel to the migration routes.

3. Maintain sagebrush patches randomly throughout the planning unit in sufficient quantity to afford adequate antelope fawning and fawn cover.

3. Accepted from MFP Step 3

HABITAT EXPANSION (BIRDS)

1. In cooperation with Idaho Fish and Game Department, initiate the reintroduction of chukars in the Dinosaur Ridge and Clay Bank Hills areas

1. Accepted from MFP Step 1

2. Initiate construction of goose nesting sites on Magic Reservoir in conjunction with the Idaho Fish & Game Dept.

2. Accepted from MFP Step 1

HABITAT IMPROVEMENT (BIRDS)

1. Exclude livestock and other non-compatable uses from the spring and wet meadow areas identified on the MFP Step Two (2) Wildlife overlay

1. This recommendation has been accepted from MFP Step 1 with the understanding that adequate livestock water will be provided.

2. Exclude livestock and other non-compatible uses from those portions of Magic Reservoir identified on the MFP Step 2 Wildlife overlay.

2. This recommendation has been reworded slightly from the original MFP Step 1 recommendations due to a conflict with Livestock recommendation T E. Instead of

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
STEP 2 - MULTIPLE USE RECOMMENDATIONS AND SUPPORTING ANALYSIS

Planning Unit Name

MAGIC

Activity Wildlife

Multiple Use Recommendation(s)

Analysis

3. Establish vegetation such as tall wheatgrass, crested wheatgrass, alfalfa etc., in conjunction with existing brush along Magic Reservoir.

3. Accepted from MFP Step 1

excluding livestock on the entire reservoir, specific, critical areas are identified. Included is an understanding that adequate livestock water will be provided.

HABITAT MAINTENANCE (BIRDS)

1. All sagebrush control projects that lie within a two mile radius of sage grouse strutting grounds will be designed such that they will not have any adverse impacts on nesting grouse.

1. This recommendation has been modified due to the conflicts with Watershed recommendations ES-2 #2,3, ER-1, ER-2 & EP-2 and livestock forage recommendations II-B.

Instead of maintaining all sagebrush within a two mile radius of sage grouse strutting grounds, it will be possible to remove some brush so long as it does not adversely affect present or future populations of grouse.

2. Maintain existing goose nesting sites on Magic Reservoir.

2. Accepted from Step 1 MFP

3. Maintain the sea gull nesting area on and adjacent to Gull Island.

3. Accepted from Step 1 MFP

4. Monitor the effects of public disturbance on nesting waterfowl and shorebirds. If such disturbance is identified as influencing the nesting behavior of these birds, steps should be undertaken to eliminate or reduce the disturbance.

4. Accepted from Step 1 MFP

5. Inventory the planning unit to determine if there is winter sage grouse use. If winter use is identified, adequate sagebrush should be maintained within these use areas.

5. Accepted from Step 1 MFP

HABITAT MAINTENANCE (FISH)

Investigate the opportunity to:

STEP 2