

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN - STEP 1  
ACTIVITY OBJECTIVES

Name: WL-1
Twin Falls
Activity: Wildlife - Big Game
Objective Number: WL-1

OBJECTIVE:

Improve and maintain terrestrial habitat for big game throughout the Planning Unit.

RATIONALE:

Basic Guidance (1602.13A) states that the Bureau, in deciding among alternative uses of available resources and among management alternatives, will utilize both physical and social data in evaluating the immediate and long-range impact of proposed actions on environmental quality and ecological balance and will strive to maintain and enhance environmental quality.

The Planning Area Analysis (PAA) indicates that by 1995 the demand for big game hunter days on public land in the Planning Unit will increase 81 percent from the current level. In 1995, it is estimated that the gross value of hunter days attributable to public land wildlife habitat in the Planning Unit for big game hunting will be \$91,731.80.

BLM's Wildlife Program Activity Policy Statement (1603.12D) describes in the following narratives, rationale for managing wildlife and their habitats.

1. Description of Program Activity. The Wildlife Program is primarily concerned with the protection and use of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fishes, and invertebrates through the enhancement and maintenance of their habitat components. The program activity is closely coordinated with State wildlife agencies.

2. Long-Term Objectives.

a. Maintain a maximum diversity of wildlife species in sufficient numbers to meet public demands. This will be accomplished by means of habitat management.

b. Sponsor or conduct the research, studies, and inventories necessary to insure adequate data for decision making relating to the maintenance of habitat expressed in a. above.

3. Major Principles and Standards.

a. Maintain cooperative relations with States, other Federal Agencies, public interest groups, and individuals interested in or responsible for wildlife use, protection, and habitat management.

b. The essential requirements of wildlife -- food, cover, and water -- will be maintained so as to provide optimum "edge effect" and interspersions of habitat components in important wildlife areas.

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN  
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)	Twin Falls
Activity	Wildlife - Big Game
Overlay Reference	Step 1 WL-1.1 Step 3

RECOMMENDATION:

Allocate the following AUM's to mule deer and pronghorn antelope during their seasons of use in 26 livestock grazing allotments for the present populations and as the populations increase to a 1990 level. See the attached AUM allocation tables.

SUPPORT:

Range - Allocation of AUM's to deer and antelope and a reduction in livestock numbers and/or use if a conflict arises.

Wildlife-Management of habitat to sustain optimum populations.

RATIONALE:

BLM and IDFG fully concur with the figures on the following table. See the letter from Region IV-IDFG, 1/9/81, in the Twin Falls Public Participation Plan. The Forest Service, Region IV-IDFG and Burley District BLM jointly concur that the deer herd associated with the forest in Game Management Unit #54 can be doubled by 1990 with proper management (Gary Will, Region IV-IDFG, 1/14/80, Personal Communication). This deer herd winters on public land.

Game Management Unit #54 in the Twin Falls MFP area is extremely popular for mule deer hunting. Approximately 28 percent of the mule deer habitat and 6 percent of the hunting days are attributable to public land in the Planning Unit. The Planning Area Analysis (PAA) shows an 81 percent increase in the number of hunter days from 1975 to 1995. BLM habitat includes 72 percent of the critical summer and winter range for Unit #54. Therefore, the population increase or decrease is directly proportional to management of these critical habitats. Improved fawn survival in conjunction with present harvest programs and other management efforts, should, under current management levels and habitat trends, provide for a steady rebuilding of mule deer numbers and harvest through 1990. Success rates, while initially lower, will, by 1985, improve over those currently existing.<sup>1</sup> The PAA shows that \$11,605.60 was spent in 1980 in the Planning Unit hunting mule deer on BLM land. This will increase to an estimated \$91,731.80 by 1995. Forage competition between antelope and other wildlife and/or domestic livestock does not appear to be a major pro-

<sup>1</sup> Idaho Department of Fish and Game. 1978. A PLAN FOR THE FUTURE MANAGEMENT OF IDAHO'S FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES. Volume I: GOAL'S, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES 1975-1990. IDFG. Boise, Idaho.

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN  
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)	Twin Falls
Activity	Wildlife - Big Game
Overlay Reference	Step WL-1.1 Step 3

RATIONALE (cont.):

blem. Nearly all of the land in the Planning Unit designated as habitat expansion and habitat improvement areas is public land, therefore, antelope would be a desirable species for which to manage.

Pronghorn antelope were not included in the Twin Falls Planning Area Analysis (PAA) due to insufficient data. Currently, the demand for antelope far exceeds the supply. Game Management Unit #47 will be closed to antelope hunting starting in 1981 due to low antelope numbers. Every effort should be made to build up the antelope herd so an allowable harvest will once again be available to the hunter. Region IV-IDFG fully supports an antelope transplant (Gary Will, 4-4-80, Personal Communication). Through management practices, antelope numbers will never exceed 150 animals over the total range. This would result in a density of 2 animals per section of public land in the designated antelope range. Hunter demand in the Planning Unit will increase in the future.

Multiple Use Analysis

Mule deer and pronghorn antelope numbers and forage demands by AUM's have been determined for each allotment by a cooperative effort of the Magic Resource Area wildlife biologist and Region IV of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. The basis of the information for mule deer are aerial surveys, winter counts, on the ground observations and demand projections to 1990. Carrying capacity data shows adequate forage overall by allotment to support present and projected deer demand. (Refer to WL-1.4 and WL-1.5 for detail.) Pronghorn antelope demand and carrying capacities were determined the same as were mule deer. There are sufficient AUM's to support present and projected antelope demand. (Refer to WL-1.7, WL-1.8 and WL-1.9 for detail.)

Data presented at a public meeting on March 31, 1980 in Twin Falls and on April 1, 1980 in Buhl for both present and projected mule deer and antelope AUM's by allotment was acceptable by other agencies and the public represented.

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN  
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)	Twin Falls
Activity	Wildlife
Overlay Reference	Step 1 WL-1.1 Step 3

(Decision)

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Reason:

Accept WL-1.1 -

Allocate the following forage to mule deer and pronghorn antelope for present numbers and allow increases to the projected AUM's.

A SVIM conducted in 1979 shows adequate forage overall by allotment for both present and projected mule deer and antelope numbers.

No.	Allotment	Mule Deer	
		Present 1980 AUMs	Projected 1990 AUMs
4024	J.E. Baker-Lost Creek	43	46
4031	Western Stockgrowers	1,544	2,977
4034	Point Ranch	120	204
4036	Moore-Lost Creek	5	5
4037	North Big Creek	20	23
4038	Kerr-Lost Creek	12	12
4039	Noh-White Rock	19	27
4040	Noh Sections	48	55
4041	Mule Creek-PVGA	72	96
4042	Horse Creek-PVGA	40	51
4043	Frahm-PVGA	39	39
4044	South Mule Creek	59	76
4059	Greene Private	19	30
4063	Soldier Creek	10	14
4072	Kinsey-Lost Creek	5	5
4092	South Big Creek	7	7
4096	Lemmon-Ring	15	19
4097	Cameron	50	50
4098	Schnell-Salmon Tract	28	35
4101	Maqic Common	54	76
4102	Sharp-Lost Creek	35	53
4108	Lost Creek-U2	110	148
4114	Squaw Joe	68	86
4119	Ridge	222	222
4128	Hot Creek	10	10

No.	Allotment	Pronghorn Antelope	
		Present 1980 AUMs	Projected 1990 AUMs
4034	Point Ranch	7	13
4035	Whiskey Creek	---	9
4038	Kerr-Lost Creek	---	6
4098	Schnell-Salmon Tract	---	4
4101	Maqic Common	---	7

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

Form BLM-21-AUG-1975

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN  
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (M/F/P)	Twin Falls
Activity	Wildlife - Big Game
Overlay Reference	Step WL-1.2 Step 3

RECOMMENDATION:

Permit oil and gas leasing, and vehicular traffic to existing roads and trails that have been established and/or used via actual management intent. Allow off-road vehicle use on present and future big game winter range areas from 5/1 to 10/31 and in fawning areas from 6/15 to 4/15 as they become identified.

SUPPORT:

- Minerals - Restriction of oil and gas leasing at critical times of the year.
- Recreation - Minimization and/or restriction of ORV use at critical times of the year.
- Wildlife - Designation of restricted areas and specific time frame.
- IDFG - Coordination with BLM in designation of restricted areas.

RATIONALE:

Mineral development and recreational uses have an adverse effect on big game during the winter months and the fawning season. Access roads have been developed over a period of years by ranchers, hunters, other recreational users and through BLM developments. Oil and gas leasing will bring about even more access roads. The existing roads already open up a wide area that has previously been fairly inaccessible. They create a situation where big game are quite vulnerable to human intrusion and harassment, especially during the winter months when they are already stressed because of adverse weather conditions. Stress during the fawning period could cause a population to decrease through die-offs from stress and loss of fawns.

There should be close coordination with IDFG. IDFG actively supports the preservation and protection of critical mule deer habitat through restricting and/or minimizing use on critical ranges at various times of the year.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Idaho Department of Fish and Game. 1978. A PLAN FOR THE FUTURE MANAGEMENT OF IDAHO'S FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES. Volume I: GOAL'S, OBJECTIVES, AND POLICIES 1975-1990. IDFG. Boise, Idaho.

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN  
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)

Twin Falls

Activity

Wildlife

Overlay Reference

Step 1 WL-1.2 Step 3

Multiple Use Analysis

This recommendation conflicts with minerals recommendations for minerals exploration and development throughout the Planning Unit in that exploration often requires off road travel. Conflicts with recreation center around ORV use at any time anywhere on the public lands. The recommendation calls for limiting all use to existing roads and trails and closing ORV use on deer from winter range 11/1 to 4/30 and fawning areas from 4/15 to 6/15. The current existing non restricted use has not been closely studied enough to actually determine affect of ORV use on the survival of mule deer.

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Modify the recommendation as follows:  
Allow oil and gas exploration and development activities and vehicle use on existing roads and trails on critical big game winter ranges from November 1 to April 30 and on deer fawning areas from April 15 to June 15. If future studies produce evidence that the herd populations are adversely affected an activity plan will be developed and implemented to manage the resource uses as determined to meet the wildlife needs.

Reason:

In order to prevent undue harassment and stress to mule deer, vehicular traffic should be restricted to existing roads and trails during critical times of the year. There is reason to suspect that harassment is occurring to a limited extent. There is no real evidence to show that it is a real problem to the deer herds at this time. This recommendation will be coordinated through M-2.1.

Support Needs:

Wildlife --  
Monitor mule deer activities to determine location and times of deer concentrations on winter range.

Alternatives Considered:

1. Accept WL-1.2.
2. Reject WL-1.2.
3. Leave entire area open.

Recreation --

Monitor ORV use to identify any problems resulting from open designations in the planning unit.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(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)

Twin Falls

Activity  
Wildlife

Overlay Reference

Step ~~WL~~-1.2 Step 3

Decision:

Modify the multiple-use recommendation, allow vehicular use, and oil and gas exploration without restriction except during:

1. November 15 to April 30 on big game critical winter range.
2. April 15 to June 15 on deer fawning areas.

During these periods, and in the applicable areas, vehicular travel will be restricted to existing roads and trails.

Rationale:

This action will allow unrestricted vehicular use all the time except the periods November 15 to April 30 on big game critical winter range and April 15 to June 15 on deer fawning range. These restrictions will protect the deer needs during these critical periods of their annual life cycles.

The restrictive date was modified to allow vehicle use to continue through the hunting season.

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN  
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (M/P)	Twin Falls
Activity	Wildlife - Big Game
Overlay Reference	Step 1WL-1.3 Step 3

RECOMMENDATION:

Improve mule deer and antelope habitat by making all existing and future livestock water available to these species. Lower existing livestock troughs in antelope range to allow antelope fawn use. Provide water even when livestock are not using the water systems. Provide water for exclusive use by big game. Install 12 big game guzzlers in the critical mule deer summer range and present and expansion antelope range. Construct a 30-inch high barbed wire antelope fence around the big game guzzlers.

SUPPORT:

- Range - Assistance in livestock trough modification and use of troughs by big game when livestock are not present.
- Operations - Modification of existing livestock troughs for use by big game. Construction and installation of big game guzzlers.
- Recreation - Assistance in layout to complement the landscape.

RATIONALE:

Before deer can be expected to permanently establish in an area, dependable water must be available. Guidelines outlined in BLM Technical Note T/N 305 should be followed.<sup>1</sup>

Pronghorn antelope densities are highest on well watered ranges. The availability of water every mile will improve habitat for an increasing herd. Antelope water at least once each day and often twice. Antelope cannot be re-established without permanent water sources. Free water can be very important to antelope during the summer and fall.<sup>2</sup>

The development of big game guzzlers would provide a permanent water supply for big game during the spring, summer and fall periods. These water developments will improve mule deer and antelope habitat and allow them to make better use of their range in the dry season. Protective fencing would prevent trampling damage or competition for use of water by livestock.

- 1 Wilson, L.O. 1977. GUIDELINES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DESIGN AND MODIFICATION OF LIVESTOCK WATERING DEVELOPMENTS TO FACILITATE SAFE USE BY WILDLIFE. Technical Note Number T/N 305. U.S. Department of the Interior. Bureau of Land Management. Denver Service Center. Denver, Colorado.
- 2 Sundstrom, C. 1968. WATER CONSUMPTION BY PRONGHORN ANTELOPE AND DISTRIBUTION RELATED TO WATER IN WYOMING'S RED DESERT. Antelope States Workshop Proceedings. 4:39-46.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN  
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)	Twin Falls
Activity	Wildlife - Big Game
Cover by Reference	
Step	WL-1.3 Step 3

RECOMMENDATION (cont.):

Wildlife - Layout and design of big game guzzler locations and live-stock trough modification areas in coordination with range and operations. Preparation of EA's.

Multiple Use Analysis

This recommendation does not conflict with any other activity recommendation. Increasing available water for big game will improve habitat conditions and provide water for other wildlife at the same time. Pipelines in existing and future antelope areas are operated and maintained by livestock operators. Leaving water in the pipeline after livestock have left would need to be coordinated with the users.

*(Decision)*

Multiple Use Recommendation:

Accept WL-1.3 with the following modifications -

As wells are shut down, troughs should be left full of water. Add wildlife facilities to systems if it is less expensive than altering existing facilities or will avoid creating a competitive conflict for water. Install big game guzzlers as described.

Reasons:

Providing water for big game animals will improve habitat conditions and provide benefits to other wildlife species.

Support Needs:

Wildlife -

Inventory existing water facilities and determine needed modifications. Coordinate with users in regards to leaving water in pipelines after livestock have left.

Operations -

Modify existing troughs as needed.  
Install big game guzzlers.

Alternatives Considered:

1. Reject WL-1.3.
2. Modify WL-1.3 to add guzzlers, and not leave water in existing systems.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

Instructions on reverse

Form 1600a-11 April 1977