

## **.47 Recreation**

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN - STEP 1  
ACTIVITY OBJECTIVES

Name (MFP)

Sonoma-Gerlach  
Activity

Recreation R-1  
Objective Number  
R-1

Objective: R-1

Provide as many recreation opportunities as possible without undue environmental degradation in the Sonoma-Gerlach Resource Area.

Rationale:

One of the major long-term objectives of the bureau is to provide a variety of outdoor recreation use opportunities on Bureau administered lands commensurate with public needs and resource potentials and consistent with a quality environment. (BLM Manual 8000.02).

It is the Bureau's policy to encourage orderly recreational use of the lands and resources under its jurisdiction in harmony with other uses and consistent with a quality environment. (BLM Manual 8000.06).

This objective follows the Bureau's objective and policy towards recreation. The population is increasing. More people are seeking to do more activities in more areas. Public lands will be used whether or not they are prepared to receive use. If preparations are made, degradation to the environment can be minimized or avoided.

MFP I

Recommendation: R 1.1

Establish reservoirs for water related recreation activities.

Rationale:

Water bodies are not a common phenomenon in Nevada. Their presence increases the number of recreation activities that can occur. It is a tenet of recreation theory that areas associated with water bodies are enjoyed more by recreationists than those areas that do not have any. Presently, locations where reservoirs can be situated are not known. Studies and research have to be conducted to find the proper site. Once the site is found, the reservoir would have to be built and water rights obtained.

Having new reservoirs would ease the population pressure on present water bodies.

Support:

Operations, Engineering, Water Rights, Lands, Fisheries, Nevada  
Department of Wildlife.

MFP II Multiple Use Recommendation

Reject the recommendation.

Reasons

No site specific areas have been recommended - without this specificity, an analysis is not possible. The recommendation is in effect asking for an inventory to identify potential site locations. No land use decision is required to perform an inventory. This can be accomplished in the normal AWP process.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION:

Accept the Area Manager's recommendation and rationale.

MFP III

Sonoma-Gerlach MFP III  
Recreation 1.2

As Currently Written:

Establish easily accessible locations for the viewing and interpreting of wild horses.

Change To:

The decision will remain as originally written.

Rationale:

The wild horse is closely entwined with the mystique of the "Old West." Opportunities should exist to enable the visitor to see them in a wild and free-roaming situation. This decision is not intended to set up sanctuaries but rather to provide access into areas where there is good populations of wild horses and where the visitor would have a high probability of viewing them.

Support for a wild horse viewing area near Winnemucca has been received from the local CRMP group and a rancher who runs livestock close to town in the checkerboard area. He has suggested that a small herd of horses be maintained close to town where visitors can easily view them. This kind of cooperative situation may exist elsewhere on the district and can be pursued with very little expenditure of public funds.

Person-Organizations That Have Protested This Decision:

Toiyabe Chapter, Sierra Club, Reno, Nevada.

Recommendation: R 1.2 ✓

MFP I

Establish easily accessible locations for the viewing and interpreting of wild horses.

Rationale:

The wild horse is closely entwined with the mystique of the "Old West." Opportunities should exist to enable the visitor to see them in a wild and free-roaming situation. Because the Diamond S Allotment (Button Point) is near Interstate 80 and a rest area, it has prime potential to attract visitors. Presently the allotment is fenced and has a small manageable herd of horses. The land would have to be blocked up since it is presently located in checkerboard lands. Interpretation could be incorporated into these areas. The present landowner has expressed an interest in establishing a land exchange.

Exact demand figures are not known but it is known that there is a demand to see the horses. This is evidenced by the number of letters sent to Congress to instigate the passage of the Wild Horse and Burro Act. The fact that the Bureau recognizes the close relationship between wild horses is shown by the directive to have the Adopt-A-Horse Program in the recreation division.

The average daily traffic count for Interstate 80 is 4000 vehicles a day. This would place the location for demand along the Interstate, rather in the back country, where there is little use. The Diamond S Allotment would fit this criterium exactly.

Support:

Wild Horse Specialist, Technical Services, Operations, Public Affairs.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION

Accept the recommendation and rationale. Specific sites will be determined at a later date.

MFP III

## MFP I

Recommendation: R 1.3

Maintain all waters in compliance with the Nevada Water Pollution Control Regulations and Section 208 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1972.

Rationale:

Much recreation occurs on or near water bodies. Polluted or contaminated water does much to detract from a good recreation experience. Also, there is a possibility that polluted water can cause a safety hazard. Malevolent bacteria can enter the body when people drink what was thought to be pure water, or it can enter through cuts in areas of the body that have come in contact with polluted water. Also, harmful metals can be present, especially downstream from a mine tailings dump. Noxious odors are occasionally associated with polluted waters and this can make people ill. For public safety, water quality should be kept as high as possible.

Support:

Watershed

## MFP II

Multiple Use Recommendation

Reject the recommendation.

Reasons

Recommendation is a restatement of Bureau policy, land use decision not required.

## MFP III

DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION:

Accept the Area Manager's recommendation and rationale. Make it a part of the District's standard operating procedures.

MFP I

Recommendation: R 1.4

Establish the right to use water for recreation purposes on public lands.

Rationale:

Water oriented recreation is one of the most favorite types of recreation enjoyed by the public. Presently anyone who has a different use (e.g. mining, agriculture) for the water can file for the rights. If granted by the State, the owner of the water can divert all or most of it and thus reduce the recreation opportunity. If the BLM has a development based on the presence of water, the money and time invested can be lost if the water is gone. Enough water to protect the investment should be obtained.

Support:

Water Rights

Multiple Use Recommendation

Combined with Multiple Use Recommendation for Watershed 2.1 - see that recommendation.

MFP II

MFP III

DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION:

Acquire or provide sufficient water on public lands through permit, adjudication or purchase processes as provided by Federal and State Water Law and/or other appropriate direction to support the uses of the public lands for wild horses, wildlife, aquatic habitat, livestock, and recreation.

MFP I

Recommendation: R 1.4

Establish the right to use water for recreation purposes on public lands.

Rationale:

Water oriented recreation is one of the most favorite types of recreation enjoyed by the public. Presently anyone who has a different use (e.g. mining, agriculture) for the water can file for the rights. If granted by the State, the owner of the water can divert all or most of it and thus reduce the recreation opportunity. If the BLM has a development based on the presence of water, the money and time invested can be lost if the water is gone. Enough water to protect the investment should be obtained.

Support:

Water Rights

Multiple Use Recommendation

Combined with Multiple Use Recommendation for Watershed 2.1 - see that recommendation.

MFP II

FP III

DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION:

Acquire or provide sufficient water on public lands through permit, adjudication or purchase processes as provided by Federal and State Water Law and/or other appropriate direction to support the uses of the public lands for wild horses, wildlife, aquatic habitat, livestock, and recreation.

MFP I Recommendation: R 1.5

Increase water oriented recreation by blocking up lands in the vicinity of Rye Patch Reservoir State Park with the intention of turning them over to Nevada State Parks under a suitable Recreation and Public Purpose application.

Rationale:

Public lands around Rye Patch Reservoir are very scattered. As they are presently situated, they are of little use to the recreationist, except as open space. The opportunity should be taken to consolidate these lands by exchange or other means. The land obtained should abut Rye Patch Reservoir State Park so that lands can be transferred to them under a R and PP permit. The Nevada Division of Parks already has facilities at the reservoir and it would be senseless to enter into competition against them. Water oriented recreation is one of the most popular types of recreation.

The possibility of the state obtaining the lands was discussed in the report "Rye Patch Reservoir, General Recreation Development Plan", prepared for the Nevada State Park System by SE&A Inc., Engineering and Planning, Sparks, Nevada, April, 1974.

Support:

Lands

Multiple Use Recommendation

Combined with Multiple Use Recommendation for Land 2.3 - see that recommendation.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION:

Reject the recommendation.

Rationale

Acquiring land for the purpose of disposal is a violation of Bureau policy.

MFP II

MFP III

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN  
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)

Sonoma-Gerlach

Activity

Recreation R 1.6

Overlay Reference

Step 1 1

Step 3

Recommendation: R 1.6

MFP 1

Provide recreation opportunities by writing and implementing recreation management plans for the areas listed below. These plans will stress but not be limited to the recreation activities listed after the area. They are prioritized in order of importance.

- Black Rock Desert - Sightseeing (scenic, geologic and historic)
- High Rock Lake/Summit Lake - Hunting (big game and upland game) and Sightseeing (scenic, botanic, zoologic, geologic and historic)
- Black Rock Range - Collecting (rocks and minerals) and Sightseeing (scenic, botanic and historic)
- Sonoma Range/Button Point - Collecting (rocks and minerals) Hunting (upland game and big game), Winter Sports, Sightseeing (zoologic and scenic)
- Stillwater Range - Sightseeing (scenic and geologic)
- Humboldt Range - Fishing, Collecting (rocks and minerals), Hunting (upland game), and Sightseeing (botanic, geologic, scenic and zoologic)
- East Range - Hunting (upland game) and Sightseeing (scenic, botanic and zoologic)
- Granite Range - Collecting (rocks and minerals), Hunting (big game and small game) and Sightseeing (zoologic, botanic, scenic and geologic)
- Trinity Range - Sightseeing (zoologic, geologic and scenic) and Collecting (rocks and minerals)
- Calico Mountains - Collecting (rocks and minerals) and Sightseeing (scenic, zoologic and geologic)
- Seven Troughs Range - Hunting (upland game), Collecting (rocks and minerals) and Sightseeing (scenic, zoologic and botanic)
- Mahogany Creek - Hunting (big game and upland game) and Sightseeing (scenic, botanic and geologic)
- Selenite Range - Sightseeing (scenic and geologic), Off-Road Vehicles, Collecting (rocks and minerals) and Hunting (upland game)
- Tobin Range - Hunting (upland game) and Sightseeing (scenic, botanic and zoologic)
- Vicinity of Rye Patch Reservoir and the Humboldt River - Boating, Fishing and Sightseeing (zoologic, scenic and botanic)
- West Humboldt Range - Collecting (rocks and minerals) and Sightseeing (botanic, geologic and zoologic)
- Humboldt Sink - Sightseeing (scenic) and Hunting (water-fowl and upland game)

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

R 1.6 (continued)

Mopung Hills - Sightseeing (scenic, zoologic and geologic)  
Hot Springs Mountain/Desert Peak - Hunting (upland game and waterfowl) and Sightseeing (scenic and botanic)  
Carson Sink - Hunting (waterfowl and upland game) and Sightseeing (botanic)  
Winnemucca Lake - Sightseeing (geologic and scenic)  
Lava Beds - Hunting (upland game) and Sightseeing (zoologic, botanic, scenic and geologic)  
Fox Range - Collecting (rocks and minerals) and Sightseeing (geologic and scenic)  
Buffalo Hills - Collecting (rocks and minerals) Hunting (upland game) and Sightseeing (botanic, scenic, geologic and zoologic)  
Buena Vista Valley - Sightseeing (zoologic)  
Sou Hills - Sightseeing (geologic and zoologic)  
Kamma Mountains - Sightseeing (zoologic and scenic)  
North Peak - Fishing and Sightseeing (scenic and zoologic)  
Truckee Range - Sightseeing (geologic)  
Nightingale Range - Sightseeing (geologic and zoologic)  
Shawave Range/Blue Wing Mountains - Sightseeing (scenic and zoologic)  
Granite Springs Valley/Copper Valley - Sightseeing (botanic)  
Smoke Creek Desert - Sightseeing (scenic)  
Lake Range - Collecting (rocks and minerals) and Sightseeing (geologic and scenic)  
San Emidio Desert - Off Road Vehicles  
Hog Ranch Hills - Collecting (rocks and minerals)  
Antelope Range - Hunting (upland game)  
Soldier Meadows - Sightseeing (geologic)

Rationale:

These areas were identified in the Unit Resource Analysis as either having present recreation activities or having prime potential for recreation. Plans should be made to maximize the potential these places offer. In order that any developments or actions in these areas proceed smoothly, Recreation Management Plans are required. These plans could outline proposed official designation and mineral withdrawal. They could also prevent damage to the resources by channeling people away from fragile areas to those areas that can handle more use. Due to funding and other considerations, it is not expected that all of these areas will receive plans but it is not known where the cutoff will be. The entire list is made to illustrate that all of these areas need a Recreation Management Plan.

Support:

Resource Specialists, Operations, Fire Management, Cadastral Survey, Road Maintenance

Multiple Use Recommendation

Use the suggested listing as a guide for future Recreation Management Plan's writing and implementation.

Recreation Management Plans (RMPs) would lead to the organized development of an area's recreational values.

Priorities should be established for RMP development, this listing (as shown in the MFP I Recommendation) should be considered as a guide for RMP priorities.

- Black Rock Desert - Sightseeing (scenic, geologic and historic)
- High Rock Lake/Summit Lake - Hunting (big game and upland game) and Sightseeing (scenic, botanic, zoologic, geologic and historic)
- Black Rock Range - Collecting (rocks and minerals) and Sightseeing (scenic, botanic and historic)
- Sonoma Range/Button Point - Collecting (rocks and minerals) Hunting (upland game and big game), Winter Sports, Sightseeing (zoologic and scenic)
- Stillwater Range - Sightseeing (scenic and geologic)
- Humboldt Range - Fishing, Collecting (rocks and minerals), Hunting (upland game), and Sightseeing (botanic, geologic, scenic and zoologic)
- East Range - Hunting (upland game) and Sightseeing (scenic, botanic and zoologic)
- Granite Range - Collecting (rocks and minerals), Hunting (big game and small game) and Sightseeing (zoologic, botanic, scenic and geologic)
- Trinity Range - Sightseeing (zoologic, geologic and scenic) and Collecting (rocks and minerals)
- Calico Mountains - Collecting (rocks and minerals) and Sightseeing (scenic, zoologic and geologic)
- Seven Troughs Range - Hunting (upland game), Collecting (rocks and minerals) and Sightseeing (scenic, zoologic and botanic)
- Mahogany Creek - Hunting (big game and upland game) and Sightseeing (scenic, botanic and geologic)
- Selenite Range - Sightseeing (scenic and geologic), Off-Road Vehicles, Collecting (rocks and minerals) and Hunting (upland game)
- Tobin Range - Hunting (upland game) and Sightseeing (scenic, botanic and zoologic)
- Vicinity of Rye Patch Reservoir and the Humboldt River - Boating, Fishing and Sightseeing (zoologic, scenic and botanic)
- West Humboldt Range - Collecting (rocks and minerals) and Sightseeing (botanic, geologic and zoologic)
- Humboldt Sink - Sightseeing (scenic) and Hunting (water-fowl and upland game)

Sonoma-Gerlach MFP III  
Recreation 1.6

As Currently Written:

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- Stillwater Range - Sightseeing (scenic and geologic)
- Humboldt Range - Fishing, Collecting (rocks and minerals), Hunting (upland game), and Sightseeing (botanic, geologic, scenic, and zoologic)
- East Range - Hunting (upland game) and Sightseeing (scenic, botanic, and zoologic)
- Granite Range - Collecting (rocks and minerals), Hunting (big game and small game), and Sightseeing (zoologic, botanic, scenic, and geologic)
- Trinity Range - Sightseeing (zoologic, geologic, and scenic) and Collecting (rocks and minerals)
- Calico Mountains - Collecting (rocks and minerals) and Sightseeing (scenic, zoologic, and geologic)
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Mopung Hills - Sightseeing (scenic, zoologic, and geologic)  
Hot Springs Mountain/Desert Peak - Hunting (upland game and waterfowl) and Sightseeing (scenic and botanic)  
Carson Sink - Hunting (waterfowl and upland game) and Sightseeing (botanic)  
Winnemucca Lake - Sightseeing (geologic and scenic)  
Lava Beds - Hunting (upland game) and Sightseeing (zoologic, botanic, scenic, and geologic)  
Fox Range - Collecting (rocks and minerals) and Sightseeing (geologic and scenic)  
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Buena Vista Valley - Sightseeing (zoologic)  
Sou Hills - Sightseeing (geologic and zoologic)  
Kamma Mountains - Sightseeing (zoologic and scenic)  
North Peak - Fishing and Sightseeing (scenic and zoologic)  
Truckee Range - Sightseeing (geologic)  
Nightingale Range - Sightseeing (geologic and zoologic)  
Shawave Range/Blue Wing Mountains - Sightseeing (scenic and zoologic)  
Granite Springs Valley/Copper Valley - Sightseeing (botanic)  
Smoke Creek Desert - Sightseeing (scenic)  
Lake Range - Collecting (rocks and minerals) and Sightseeing (geologic and scenic)  
San Emidio Desert - Off-road Vehicles  
Hog Ranch Hills - Collecting (rocks and minerals)  
Antelope Range - Hunting (upland game)  
Soldier Meadows - Sightseeing (geologic)

Change To:

Complete Recreation Management Plans on the following areas in the priority listed.

Special Recreation Areas:

Black Rock Desert

Extensive Recreation Areas:

Remainder of Sonoma-Gerlach Resource Area

Rationale:

The above change more closely follows the Bureau's most recent Recreation Management policy. All of the uses listed in the protests to this decision are extensive recreational uses and are allowed everywhere on the public lands.

The extent and type of recreation management on the public lands must be differentiated to respond both to identified public issues and management concerns and to the varied nature of existing recreation resources. The administrative delineation of extensive and special recreation management areas is required for this purpose.

- a. Extensive Recreation Management Areas. A majority of the public lands are managed as extensive recreation management areas where management actions to facilitate recreation use are limited primarily to providing basic information (including maps and signs) and access. Visitors in these areas are expected to rely primarily on their own equipment, knowledge, skills, and other resources in their recreational pursuits.
- b. Special Recreation Management Areas. In response to public issues or management concerns, a small proportion of the public lands may receive special or more intensive recreation management. Major investments in recreation facilities and visitor assistance are authorized in these areas for dealing with identified issues and concerns and subsequently defined management objectives. These objectives must be related to reducing resource damage, solving visitor health and safety problems, mitigating conflicts, or providing the public with scarce recreation opportunities that are unavailable without management.

Persons-Organizations That Have Protested This Decision:

Toiyabe Chapter, Sierra Club, Reno, Nevada.

Mopung Hills - Sightseeing (scenic, zoologic and geologic)  
Hot Springs Mountain/Desert Peak - Hunting (upland game and waterfowl) and Sightseeing (scenic and botanic)  
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San Emidio Desert - Off-road Vehicles  
Hog Ranch Hills - Collecting (rocks and minerals)  
Antelope Range - Hunting (upland game)  
Soldier Meadows - Sightseeing (geologic)

MFP III

DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION:

Accept the Area Manager's recommendation and rationale.

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN  
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)

Sonoma-Gerlach

Activity

Recreation 1.7

Overlay Reference

Step 1

Step 3

MFP 1

Recommendation: R 1.7

Prior to destruction of line shacks, miner's cabins and other isolated historical structures will be evaluated to determine which should be left intact and which should be destroyed. This evaluation will consider which sites have the historic, scenic or other esthetic qualities that make the structures appeal to a visitor's sense of beauty or sense of curiosity.

Rationale:

Many of the old mining camps have shacks that have taken on a pleasing weathered appearance. Many people associate them with the mystique of the "Old West." Since most were erected for mining or ranching purposes, they reflect spirit and direction of local economic development. It gives a number of people a pleasant surprise to come across these structures without notice. They can develop more fully the concept of Sightseeing - Scenery.

Not all of these old shacks have this quality. Some should be torn down and the land rehabilitated. This is why they will be evaluated on a case by case basis.

National policy, codified in the National Historic Preservation Act of 1976, the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 calls for preservation of historic sites including those of state and local significance.

Support:

Cultural Resources, Fire

Multiple Use Recommendation

Prior to destruction line shacks, miner's cabins and other isolated historical structures will be evaluated to determine which should be left intact and which should be destroyed. This evaluation will consider which sites have the historic, scenic or other aesthetic qualities that make the structures appeal to a visitor's sense of beauty or sense of curiosity.

Rationale

Although not required as a land use decision this recommendation would ensure that proper consideration of historical values be addressed prior to any building destruction action taken by the Bureau.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION:

Accept the Area Manager's recommendation and rationale.

Make a part of the district's standard operating procedures.

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN  
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)	
Sonoma-Gerlach	
Activity	
Recreation 1.8	
Overlay Reference	
Step 1	Step 3

Recommendation: R 1.8

Designate the following areas as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC).

Black Rock Desert Playa

Viewshed from the Applegate-Lassen Emigrant Trail from the Southern Pacific Railroad near Sulfur to the mouth of High Rock Canyon

The area around Star Peak which would include Star Cave and Star Peak and Star Windows

Lahontan Cutthroat Trout Natural area  
Karnak Ridge (pending further study)

Rationale:

These areas were listed in the URA III as being potential ACEC's. Complete description can be found in the Buffalo Hills Recreation URA on pages 42 to 44 and pages 46 and 47, in the Sonoma URA on pages 45 and 46 and in the Blue Wing URA on page 40.

All of the areas listed above met the criteria of relevance as defined in the regulations on ACEC's: An area "...within the public lands where special management attention is required.... to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources or other natural systems or processes....".

The Black Rock Desert is important because it is possibly a unique geologic feature, the largest playa of its kind in the United States, if not the world. It is unlike the Great Salt Lake Desert. It has been nominated as a National Natural Landmark. The area is critical because of conflicts with development interests, e.g. geothermal. It can be protected by the banning of any development on its perimeter and interior and prohibiting any competitions, exhibits, races or events on the playa.

The Applegate-Lassen Emigrant Trail is on the National Register of Historic Places. It is one of the few areas that shows exactly what the early pioneers saw on their trips west. Most of the other areas that still remain pristineness on other trails (the Oregon Trail, the Santa Fe Trail, etc.) are on private lands and are usually unavailable to the public. (Source: Trails for America).

Thus, this trail's importance is established. However, the trail is not the only important item. To protect the scenic integrity the viewshed has to be considered in conjunction with the on-the-ground location.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

R 1.8 (continued)

The area is critical due to developments that have been proposed in the area, most specifically those relating to geothermal. It can be protected by withdrawing from mineral entry the west slope of the Black Rock Range and the prohibition of any development within view of the trail from the point it crosses the Southern Pacific Railroad tracks to the point it leaves the district near the mouth of High Rock Canyon.

The area around Star Peak has limestone arches and a limestone cave. These are the only known examples of such geologic formations in the district. The presence of active mines in the area make it very possible that prospecting could occur in this area. Much damage could be done by one miner with a bulldozer. This meets the criterium of criticalness. The area can be protected by withdrawing it from mineral entry and removing the reason for prospecting.

Anytime the habitat of a rare and endangered species is threatened, that habitat is important and critical. Such is the case with the Lahontan Cutthroat Trout Natural Area. The area is presently protected by the absence of grazing and every legal method should be taken to maintain the naturalness of the area.

Karnak Ridge may be eligible to become an ACEC. Only its importance is in doubt. A mineral survey should be undertaken to determine if it is a rare form of rhyolite. The presence of several mines in the area and prospectors using bulldozers to work with could seriously damage the area. Thus, the area is critical. It can be protected by withdrawing from mineral entry the square mile of land it is in.

Support:

Lands, Watershed, Cultural and Visual Resources, Wildlife, Minerals, Fire Management.

Multiple Use Recommendation

Designate the viewshed of the Applegate-Lassen Emigrant Trail as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC).

This area is described as follows:

- T. 33 N., R. 25 E., north of the Western Pacific Railroad
- T. 34 N., R. 24 E., east of the crest of hills on western margin of playa
- T. 34 N., R. 25 E., north of the Western Pacific Railroad
- T. 34 N., R. 26 E., north of the Western Pacific Railroad
- T. 34 N., R. 27 E., north of the Western Pacific Railroad
- T. 35 N., R. 24 E., east of the crest of the Calico Mountains
- T. 35 N., R. 25 E.; T. 35 N., R. 26 E.; T. 35 N., R. 27 E.; north of the Western Pacific Railroad
- T. 35-1/2 N., R. 25 E.; T. 35-1/2 N., R. 26 E.; T. 35-1/2 N., R. 27 E.; T. 36 N., R. 24 E.; east of the crest of the Calico Mountains
- T. 36 N., R. 25 E.; T. 36 N., R. 26 E.; west of the crest of the Black Rock Range
- T. 37 N., R. 24 E., east of the crest of the Calico Mountains
- T. 37 N., R. 25 E.; T. 37 N., R. 26 E.; west of the crest of the Black Rock Range
- T. 38 N., R. 24 E., east of the crest of the Calico Mountains
- T. 38 N., R. 25 E.; T. 38 N., R. 26 E.; west of the crest of the Black Rock Range
- T. 39 N., R. 24 E.; T. 39 N., R. 25 E.; T. 39 N., R. 26 E.; west of the crest of the Black Rock Range
- T. 40 N., R. 24 E.; T. 40 N., R. 25 E.

Rationale

The Applegate-Lassen Emigrant Trail is listed on the National Register of Historic Places with "integrity of setting" as one of its primary qualifying characteristics. Any lasting visual intrusion from the vantage point of the trail will adversely affect integrity of setting and should be avoided. If lasting intrusions will result from BLM actions, a lengthy review process prior to the action is required by 36 CFR 800. Boundaries established above are subjectively judged to be reasonable and sufficient.

Visual intrusions are not considered adverse impacts in the Blue Wing Planning Unit, because many modern intrusions already occur along that portion of the trail. Integrity of setting is not an issue south of the Western Pacific Railroad.

It is not felt that the other areas recommended for ACEC designation in this recommendation (Star Peak and Windows and Karnak Ridge) meet the requirements of importance or criticalness as required for an ACEC designation.

Multiple Use AnalysisComplement

WL 1.5, WLA 1.1, & WLA 1.2 -

- A. Designate the following areas as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs).
1. Mahogany Creek and its watershed which is enclosed in the Mahogany Creek National Area and Summer Camp Creek which is spawning habitat for the Lahontan Cutthroat Trout. Currently classified as threatened by the U.S.F.W.S.
  2. The Soldier Meadows Warm Springs which are habitat for the Soldier Meadows Desert Dace. (Proposed for threatened or endangered status.)

Cultural 1.2 - under a Cultural Resource Management Plan preserve integrity of setting of the entire Buffalo Hills Planning Unit portion of the Applegate-Lassen Emigrant Trail. Until such a plan has been approved avoid creating visual intrusions as seen from the trail in the following areas:

- T. 33 N., R. 25 E., north of the Western Pacific Railroad
- T. 34 N., R. 24 E., east of the crest of hills on western margin of playa
- T. 34 N., R. 25 E., north of the Western Pacific Railroad
- T. 34 N., R. 26 E., north of the Western Pacific Railroad
- T. 34 N., R. 27 E., north of the Western Pacific Railroad
- T. 35 N., R. 24 E., east of the crest of the Calico Mountains
- T. 35 N., R. 25 E.; T. 35 N., R. 26 E.; T. 35 N., R. 27 E.; north of the Western Pacific Railroad
- T. 35-1/2 N., R. 25 E.; T. 35-1/2 N., R. 26 E.; T. 35-1/2 N., R. 27 E.; T. 36 N., R. 24 E.; east of the crest of the Calico Mountains
- T. 36 N., R. 25 E.; T. 36 N., R. 26 E.; west of the crest of the Black Rock Range
- T. 37 N., R. 24 E., east of the crest of the Calico Mountains
- T. 37 N., R. 25 E.; T. 37 N., R. 26 E.; west of the crest of the Black Rock Range
- T. 38 N., R. 24 E., east of the crest of the Calico Mountains
- T. 38 N., R. 25 E.; T. 38 N., R. 26 E.; west of the crest of the Black Rock Range
- T. 39 N., R. 24 E.; T. 39 N., R. 25 E.; T. 39 N., R. 26 E.; west of the crest of the Black Rock Range
- T. 40 N., R. 24 E.; T. 40 N., R. 25 E.

Cultural 1.7 - designate the following areas as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern:

1. All sites rated S1 or S2.
2. All high probability areas identified on URA Overlay 1 for each of the three planning units.
3. The Applegate-Lassen Trail and environs as defined in Recommendation 1.2.

### Conflict

#### Minerals 5.2 -

1. Offer the following KGRAS for competitive leasing as soon as possible:

San Emidio

Parts of Trego - south of the Western Pacific Railroad Tracks

Fly Ranch

Gerlach - portions not on the Black Rock Playa

Gerlach Northeast - portions not on the Black Rock Playa

Brady Hazen

2. Offer the following KGRAS for competitive leasing with a phase of staged leasing stipulation. These areas are within the viewshed of the Applegate-Lassen Trail, therefore industry should be made aware that exploration or development that detracts from the integrity of setting of the Applegate-Lassen Trail would be allowed only under unusual circumstances.

Soldier Meadows - All

Double Hot Springs - All

Trego - that part north of the Western Pacific Railroad Tracks

Gerlach - portions of these KGRA that extend onto the Black Rock Playa

Gerlach Northeast - portions of these KGRAS that extend onto the Black Rock Playa

Fly Ranch Northeast - portions of these KGRAS that extend onto the Black Rock Playa

#### Minerals 5.5 -

Non-competitive, geothermal leases or those leases to be issued under the geothermal simultaneous filing system in the area identified below, shall be issued with a phased or staged leasing stipulation.

These areas are within the viewshed of the Applegate-Lassen Trail, therefore industry should be made aware that exploration or development that detracts from the integrity of setting of the Applegate-Lassen Trail would be allowed only under unusual circumstances.

- T. 33 N., R. 25 E., north of the Western Pacific Railroad  
T. 34 N., R. 24 E., east of the crest of hills on western margin of  
playa  
T. 34 N., R. 25 E., north of the Western Pacific Railroad  
T. 34 N., R. 26 E., north of the Western Pacific Railroad  
T. 34 N., R. 27 E., north of the Western Pacific Railroad  
T. 35 N., R. 24 E., east of the crest of the Calico Mountains  
T. 35 N., R. 25 E.; T. 35 N., R. 26 E.; T. 35 N., R. 27 E.; north of  
the Western Pacific Railroad  
T. 35-1/2 N., R. 25 E.; T. 35-1/2 N., R. 26 E.; T. 35-1/2 N.,  
R. 27 E.; T. 36 N., R. 24 E.; east of the crest of the Calico  
Mountains  
T. 36 N., R. 25 E.; T. 36 N., R. 26 E.; west of the crest of the Black  
Rock Range  
T. 37 N., R. 24 E., east of the crest of the Calico Mountains  
T. 37 N., R. 25 E.; T. 37 N., R. 26 E.; west of the crest of the Black  
Rock Range  
T. 38 N., R. 24 E., east of the crest of the Calico Mountains  
T. 38 N., R. 25 E.; T. 38 N., R. 26 E.; west of the crest of the Black  
Rock Range  
T. 39 N., R. 24 E.; T. 39 N., R. 25 E.; T. 39 N., R. 26 E.; west of  
the crest of the Black Rock Range  
T. 40 N., R. 24 E.; T. 40 N., R. 25 E.

The Sonoma URAs (Recreation 45 to 46) discuss the Star Peak area for recommended ACEC designation.

Little or no data has been presented to indicate visitor use levels into this area. Geologically limestone caves and arches are not rare occurrences in the Great Basin geographic area. It is unlikely that mining activity will destroy the arches or the caves. The 3809 regulations will create the desired administrative tools to mitigate or avoid damage to this area by mining interests.

The Karnak Ridge area does not qualify as an ACEC. Data is insufficient at this point to determine if it is important.

The Lahontan Cutthroat Trout area has been recommended as an ACEC in Multiple Use Recommendation Wildlife 1.5.

R 1.8 (continued)

The area is critical due to developments that have been proposed in the area, most specifically those relating to geothermal. It can be protected by withdrawing from mineral entry the west slope of the Black Rock Range and the prohibition of any development within view of the trail from the point it crosses the Southern Pacific Railroad tracks to the point it leaves the district near the mouth of High Rock Canyon.

The area around Star Peak has limestone arches and a limestone cave. These are the only known examples of such geologic formations in the district. The presence of active mines in the area make it very possible that prospecting could occur in this area. Much damage could be done by one miner with a bulldozer. This meets the criterium of criticalness. The area can be protected by withdrawing it from mineral entry and removing the reason for prospecting.

Anytime the habitat of a rare and endangered species is threatened, that habitat is important and critical. Such is the case with the Lahontan Cutthroat Trout Natural Area. The area is presently protected by the absence of grazing and every legal method should be taken to maintain the naturalness of the area.

Karnak Ridge may be eligible to become an ACEC. Only its importance is in doubt. A mineral survey should be undertaken to determine if it is a rare form of rhyolite. The presence of several mines in the area and prospectors using bulldozers to work with could seriously damage the area. Thus, the area is critical. It can be protected by withdrawing from mineral entry the square mile of land it is in.

Support:

Lands, Watershed, Cultural and Visual Resources, Wildlife, Minerals, Fire Management.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION

Reject the recommendation.

MFP III

Recommendation: R 1.9

Establish further research for the following areas so that any interpretive program concerning these areas will have sufficient information to convey a message adequately. Also, maintain fire protection for these areas.

Karnak Ridge	Bolivia
George W. Lund Petrified Forest	Ohio
Seven Troughs Mining Town and District	Chafey
Rabbithole Mining Town and District	Dun Glen
Scossa-Maud's Well	Neptune City
Mazuma	Gem City
Winnemucca Lake	Barbersville
Farrell	Jacob's Well
Stonehouse-Wildcat	Santa Clara
Nightingale	Stevensville
Jessup	Vanderwater
Vernon	Foltz
Mirage	Rochester
Halfway House	Limerick
Torreytown	Packard
Arabia	Panama
Tunnel	Loring
Rosebud	Williamsburg
Sulfur	Buffalo Springs Station
Placeritas	Buffalo Meadows
Poker Brown	Leadville
Etna	Deep Hole Station
Fortymile Desert	U.S. Gypsum Mine
Brady Hot Springs	Opal Claim Area
Adelaide	Cottonwood Mining District
Humboldt Sink	Buffalo Springs Mining District
Goldbanks	Sunset Mining District
Kennedy	Box Canyon
Rye Patch Dam	Button Point Horse Viewing Area
Imlay Halfway House	Selenite Range
Lovelock Cave	Cottonwood Canyon
Leonard Rockshelter	Seven Troughs Area

R 1.9 (continued)

Rationale:

Not enough information is known about the above areas to adequately interpret them to the public. They were identified in the Recreation Information System inventory as having potential for interpretation. Now, research of these sites has to be conducted to discover why they were included in the inventory. This information will also be necessary if it is decided to interpret these areas.

Support:

Cultural Resources

Multiple Use Recommendation

Reject the recommendation.

Reasons

Land use (MFP) decision not required to implement this recommendation.

MFP 11

DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION:

Establish an interpretive program concerning these sites if evaluation proves that interpretation is warranted. Maintain fire protection for those areas that have significant values.

Karnak Ridge	Bolivia
George W. Lund Petrified Forest	Ohio
Seven Troughs Mining Town and District	Chafey
Rabbithole Mining Town and District	Dun Glen
Scossa-Maud's Well	Neptune City
Mazuma	Gem City
Winnemucca Lake	Barbersville
Farrell	Jacob's Well
Stonehouse-Wildcat	Santa Clara
Nightingale	Stevensville
Jessup	Vanderwater
Vernon	Foltz
Mirage	Rochester
Halfway House	Limerick
Torreytown	Packard
Arabia	Panama
Tunnel	Loring
Rosebud	Williamsburg
Sulfur	Buffalo Springs Station
Placeritas	Buffalo Meadows
Poker Brown	Leadville
Etna	Deep Hole Station
Fortymile Desert	U.S. Gypsum Mine
Brady Hot Springs	Opal Claim Area
Adelaide	Cottonwood Mining District
Humboldt Sink	Buffalo Springs Mining District
Goldbanks	Sunset Mining District
Kennedy	Box Canyon
Rye Patch Dam	Button Point Horse Viewing Area
Imlay Halfway House	Selenite Range
Lovelock Cave	Cottonwood Canyon
Leonard Rockshelter	Seven Troughs Area

MFP I

Recommendation: R 1.10

Establish an interpretative plan for the Sonoma-Gerlach Resource Area. This plan would not only incorporate interpretation of specific sites but also of the recreation activities that occur in the resource area.

Rationale:

The objectives of the Bureau's interpretation program are to (1) stimulate the curiosity and interest of the public land visitor in the natural and man made features of the public lands, (2) generate an appreciation of America's archeological, historic, cultural, aesthetic and natural heritage, and (3) inform the visitor of the recreation opportunities available to him. (BLM Manual 8362.02).

One of the Bureau's policies is to provide interpretative services in recreation areas through a recreation interpretative services program designed to stimulate the interest of the visitor in the public lands and resources. (BLM Manual 8362.06).

The general public has little idea of what resources are on public lands or of the Bureau's relationship to them. A program to inform the public and to interpret for them these relationships may lead to better protection of the resources. An overall plan is needed to avoid doing the interpretation in a piecemeal manner. The overall plan would be able to show relationships better. An interpretative plan is not an informative plan. Information identifies an object while interpretation shows the relationship between that object and others.

Support:

Technical Services, Public Affairs, and Resource Specialists

MFP III DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION:

Reject the recommendation.

Rationale

This is a duplication of Recreation 1.1 recommendation.

MFP II

Multiple Use Recommendation

Designate the following area as closed to ORVs:

George Lund Petrified Forest  
160 Ac. - T. 38 N., R. 23 E., Sec. 21, SE1/4

Designate the following areas as limited to ORV use:

<u>Area</u>	<u>Action</u>
Bighorn Sheep Habitat when sheep have been introduced into the areas:	Closed during the lambing season (February 1 to May 31)
Also see multiple use recommendation for Wildlife 1.24.	
Playa of the Black Rock Desert	Allow no vehicular use that would permanently detract from its natural character as determined by the authorized officer.

Rationale

George Lund Petrified Forest - to protect from or guard against collection of the fossilized wood. This area is currently fenced to exclude vehicles and this physical barrier should remain in place.

Bighorn Sheep Habitat - see the reasons under multiple use recommendation for Wildlife 1.24.

Playa of the Black Rock Desert - certain authorized actions involving vehicles may damage the natural setting of this unique area. In these situations, the authorization for use should be denied.

Competitive events that are temporary in nature and in which permanent disruption of the natural character of the playa may be mitigated will be allowed.

FP III

DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION:

The Sonoma-Gerlach Resource Area is open to ORV use with the following exceptions:

Designate the following area as closed to ORVs:

George Lund Petrified Forest  
160 Ac. - T. 38 N., R. 23 E., Sec. 21, SE1/4

R 1.11

Designate the following area as limited to ORV use:

Playa of the Black Rock  
Desert

Allow no organized or competitive  
off-road vehicular use that would  
permanently detract from its natural  
character as determined by the  
authorized officer.

Limit off-road vehicle use during the lambing seasons (February 1 to May 31) in bighorn sheep use areas as reintroductions are made. Existing roads and trails in a hazardous condition may be closed temporarily or permanently on a case by case basis. Permanent closures will be coordinated with county government.

Rationale

George Lund Petrified Forest - to protect from or guard against collection of the fossilized wood. This area is currently fenced to exclude vehicles and this physical barrier should remain in place.

Playa of the Black Rock Desert - certain authorized actions involving vehicles may damage the natural setting of this unique area. In these situations, the authorization for use should be denied.

Competitive events that are temporary in nature and in which permanent disruption of the natural character of the playa can be mitigated will be allowed.

Recommendation: R 1.9

Establish further research for the following areas so that any interpretive program concerning these areas will have sufficient information to convey a message adequately. Also, maintain fire protection for these areas.

Karnak Ridge  
George W. Lund Petrified  
Forest  
Seven Troughs Mining Town  
and District  
Rabbithole Mining Town and  
District  
Scossa-Maud's Well  
Mazuma  
Winnemucca Lake  
Farrell  
Stonehouse-Wildcat  
Nightingale  
Jessup  
Vernon  
Mirage  
Halfway House  
Torreytown  
Arabia  
Tunnel  
Rosebud  
Sulfur  
Placeritas  
Poker Brown  
Etna  
Fortymile Desert  
Brady Hot Springs  
Adelaide  
Humboldt Sink  
Goldbanks  
Kennedy  
Rye Patch Dam  
Imlay Halfway House  
Lovelock Cave  
Leonard Rockshelter

Bolivia  
Ohio  
Chafey  
Dun Glen  
Neptune City  
Gem City  
Barbersville  
Jacob's Well  
Santa Clara  
Stevensville  
Vanderwater  
Foltz  
Rochester  
Limerick  
Packard  
Panama  
Loring  
Williamsburg  
Buffalo Springs Station  
Buffalo Meadows  
Leadville  
Deep Hole Station  
U.S. Gypsum Mine  
Opal Claim Area  
Cottonwood Mining District  
Buffalo Springs Mining  
District  
Sunset Mining District  
Box Canyon  
Button Point Horse Viewing  
Area  
Selenite Range  
Cottonwood Canyon  
Seven Troughs Area

R 1.9 (continued)

Rationale:

Not enough information is known about the above areas to adequately interpret them to the public. They were identified in the Recreation Information System inventory as having potential for interpretation. Now, research of these sites has to be conducted to discover why they were included in the inventory. This information will also be necessary if it is decided to interpret these areas.

Support:

Cultural Resources

Multiple Use Recommendation

Reject the recommendation.

Reasons

Land use (MFP) decision not required to implement this recommendation.

MFP 11

DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION:

Establish an interpretive program concerning these sites if evaluation proves that interpretation is warranted. Maintain fire protection for those areas that have significant values.

Karnak Ridge	Bolivia
George W. Lund Petrified Forest	Ohio
Seven Troughs Mining Town and District	Chafey
Rabbithole Mining Town and District	Dun Glen
Scossa-Maud's Well	Neptune City
Mazuma	Gem City
Winnemucca Lake	Barbersville
Farrell	Jacob's Well
Stonehouse-Wildcat	Santa Clara
Nightingale	Stevensville
Jessup	Vanderwater
Vernon	Foltz
Mirage	Rochester
Halfway House	Limerick
Torreytown	Packard
Arabia	Panama
Tunnel	Loring
Rosebud	Williamsburg
Sulfur	Buffalo Springs Station
Placeritas	Buffalo Meadows
Poker Brown	Leadville
Etna	Deep Hole Station
Fortymile Desert	U.S. Gypsum Mine
Brady Hot Springs	Opal Claim Area
Adelaide	Cottonwood Mining District
Humboldt Sink	Buffalo Springs Mining District
Goldbanks	Sunset Mining District
Kennedy	Box Canyon
Rye Patch Dam	Button Point Horse Viewing Area
Imlay Halfway House	Selenite Range
Lovelock Cave	Cottonwood Canyon
Leonard Rockshelter	Seven Troughs Area

MFP I

Recommendation: R 1.10

Establish an interpretative plan for the Sonoma-Gerlach Resource Area. This plan would not only incorporate interpretation of specific sites but also of the recreation activities that occur in the resource area.

Rationale:

The objectives of the Bureau's interpretation program are to (1) stimulate the curiosity and interest of the public land visitor in the natural and man made features of the public lands, (2) generate an appreciation of America's archeological, historic, cultural, aesthetic and natural heritage, and (3) inform the visitor of the recreation opportunities available to him. (BLM Manual 8362.02).

One of the Bureau's policies is to provide interpretative services in recreation areas through a recreation interpretative services program designed to stimulate the interest of the visitor in the public lands and resources. (BLM Manual 8362.06).

The general public has little idea of what resources are on public lands or of the Bureau's relationship to them. A program to inform the public and to interpret for them these relationships may lead to better protection of the resources. An overall plan is needed to avoid doing the interpretation in a piecemeal manner. The overall plan would be able to show relationships better. An interpretative plan is not an informative plan. Information identifies an object while interpretation shows the relationship between that object and others.

Support:

Technical Services, Public Affairs, and Resource Specialists

DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION:

Reject the recommendation.

Rationale

This is a duplication of Recreation 1.1 recommendation.

MFP III

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN  
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)	Sonoma-Gerlach	
Activity	Recreation 1.11	
Overlay Reference		
Step 1	1	Step 3

Recommendation: R 1.11 ✓

MFP I

Assign the following classifications:

Closed to ORVs - George W. Lund Petrified Forest  
Limited ORV Use - Playa of the Black Rock Desert

Rationale:

The George W. Lund Petrified forest has several large stumps of fossilized wood. While the wood is not of collectable quality, it does have high curiosity value. In the past people have hauled off an unknown number of pieces to use a decoration. Two fences were built around 160 acres of the "forest." The 160 acres were segregated from all forms of appropriation including the general mining laws, except for mineral leasing and material sales and the Recreation and Public Purpose Act. There should be no reason to have vehicles inside the boundary if the fence is down. The prohibition of ORVs would help protect the remaining stumps.

The Black Rock Playa makes an excellent road. Most of it is smoother than the roads that are on the perimeter of the desert. The larger part of it can give a person a sense of solitude and isolation. However, there are several areas that function as roads. An isolated vehicle cannot be seen beyond two miles. While the plume of dust that can be seen at a further event, the mind can rationalize this as a natural event, e.g. a dust devil. The majority of vehicles remain to the roads or ways created over the years, thus leaving large expanses for isolation and solitude. A large crowd of people for a competition or race would not be appropriate for the area.

Presently, the playa is heavily used at certain times of the year, most notably around Memorial Day. Visitors to the playa during these times talk about the detrimental effect these numbers of people cause. More people would be on the playa if competitions, events or exhibitions were conducted. This would have a disruptive effect on scenic values. This is why ORV use on the playa should be limited. While one event would not do great harm to the esthetics, a number of them would.

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)

Sonoma-Gerlach

Activity

Recreation 1.11

Overlay Reference

Step 1 1 Step 3

R 1.11 (continued)

Executive Order 11644 (as amended) excludes ORVs from certain portions of the public lands where their use has caused (or seems likely to cause) considerable environmental damage. Bureau regulations have interpreted this order as having the Bureau delineate all lands into three categories: open, limited and closed.

Support:

None.

# PLAN CHANGE NO. -

Plan Name Sonoma-Gerlach MFP Area Sonoma-Gerlach

Page \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter Recreation

Heading MFP Rec 1.11

Component Recreation

(Describe exactly what is to be deleted, added, rewritten, etc.)

## CHANGE :

Add to the list of areas closed to ORV use as follows: All WSAs will be managed to limit off-road vehicle use to existing ways and trails

(Describe exact rationale for above change, to include reference material i.e. EA, FMP, IM.)

## REASON :

This change is necessary to bring the plan into conformance with I.M. NV-91-040 WSA Interim Management Policy - Off-Road Vehicles/ Land Use Plan Maintenance.

- Requires Plan Amendment  
 Conforms with existing Plan

### SIGNATURE AS APPROPRIATE :

Initiator Gerald Stork Date 28 July 92

Program Leader [Signature] Date 20 August 92

Area Plan/Environ Coord Gerald Stork Date \_\_\_\_\_

Area Manager [Signature] Date Aug. 21, 1992

District Manager [Signature] Date 8/21/92

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN - STEP 1  
ACTIVITY OBJECTIVES

Name (MFP)

Sonoma-Gerlach

Activity

Recreation

Objective Number

R-2

Objective: R-2

Ensure access to recreation areas for the public.

Rationale:

It is senseless to promote or develop recreation areas if they cannot be reached. Barriers to recreation areas may not only be physical (e.g. bad roads) but also legal (crossing private lands).

A policy of the Bureau is to promote public access to public lands as part of the outdoor area of the United States and cooperate with other Federal agencies, State and local governments, and private organizations in establishing and maintaining access. (BLM Manual 8351.2)

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN  
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)

Sonoma-Gerlach

Activity

Recreation 2.1

Overlay Reference

Step 1

1

Step 3

Recommendation: R 2.1

MFP I

Retain public lands in identified recreation areas of Class A and B quality with the exception of those lands immediately adjacent to Rye Patch Reservoir.

Rationale:

Class A and B quality areas are the better recreation areas in the resource area. Disposal of public lands here could lead to a loss of recreation opportunities. Private landowners could restrict access or even destroy the resource that is the source of the recreation. Steps should be taken to prevent any such loss.

There are no demand figures but recreation users are historically noted to increase as the population increases.

The Federal Land Policy and Management gave direction and policy in managing the lands. In section 102 (a) it states "Congress declares it is the policy of the United States that the public lands be retained in Federal ownership, unless...it is determined that disposal of a particular parcel will serve the national interest;" and "the public lands be managed in a manner...that will provide for outdoor recreation".

Support:

Lands

Sonoma-Gerlach MFP III  
Recreation 1.11

As Currently Written:

The Sonoma-Gerlach Resource Area is open to ORV use with the following exceptions:

Designate the following area as closed to ORVs:

George Lund Petrified Forest  
160 Acres - T. 38 N., R. 23 E., Sec. 21, SE1/4

Designate the following area as limited to ORV use:

Playa of the Black Rock Desert      Allow no organized or competitive off-road vehicular use that would permanently detract from its natural character as determined by the authorized officer.

Limit off-road vehicle use during the lambing season (February 1 to May 31) in bighorn sheep use areas as reintroductions are made. Existing roads and trail in a hazardous condition may be closed temporarily or permanently on a case by case basis. Permanent closures will be coordinated with county government.

Change To:

The decision will remain as originally written.

Rationale:

George Lund Petrified Forest - to protect from or guard against collection of the fossilized wood. This area is currently fenced to exclude vehicles and this physical barrier should remain in place.

Playa of the Black Rock Desert - certain proposed actions involving vehicles may damage the natural setting of this unique area. In these situations, the authorization for use should be denied.

Competitive events that are temporary in nature and in which permanent disruption of the natural character of the playa can be mitigated will be allowed.

It would be impossible to enforce a decision limiting the use of off-road vehicles to existing roads and trails in areas as large as this resource area. The Sonoma-Gerlach Resource Area encompasses approximately 4.5 million acres of public land.

An environmental assessment is being prepared at the district which will analyze the impact of implementing this decision. The need for an environmental impact statement will be addressed in that assessment.

Persons-Organizations That Have Protested This Decision:

Toiyabe Chapter, Sierra Club, Reno, Nevada.

MFP II

R 2.1

Multiple Use Recommendation

Prior to disposal of public lands, the recreational value of the proposed parcel should be analyzed. Those parcels determined to have high recreation value should not be disposed of unless to other public ownership under suitable recreation and public purposes disposals.

Rationale

Basic reinstatement of Bureau policy. Land use decision not really required to implement this recommendation.

MFP III DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION:

Accept the Area Manager's recommendation and rationale. Make it a part of the District's standard operating procedures.

## MFP I

Recommendation: R 2.2

Retain those lands that provide access to the Humboldt River and those lands that adjoin the river but have no vehicular access.

Rationale:

There are only two places in the resource area where people can use public lands to gain access to the Humboldt River. The river is very important for recreation (hunting, fishing, and water sports). If these two pieces are disposed of (they are located on the checkerboard lands), then public access to the river can be cutoff. It may be possible to develop those areas where public lands intersect the river.

Public lands also adjoin the river in a few locations where legal access does not exist. Those lands should also be retained pending a time when access is acquired or until the lands can be used by people floating the river. They could make good resting areas for the river users.

Support:

Lands

Multiple Use Recommendation

This recommendation is addressed in Range Management Multiple Use Recommendation 3.1 - see that recommendation and reasons.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION:

MFP III Accept the MFP I recommendation and rationale.

Sonoma-Gerlach MFP III  
Recreation 2.3

As Currently Written:

Cooperate in the establishment of the National Desert Trail through the district. This cooperation will primarily be in the form of:

1. Helping locate the trail on the ground and on maps.
2. Helping publicize and protect the trail.
3. Retaining the public land on which the trail is located or insuring easements for public access prior to disposal of public parcels.

Change To:

Cooperate in the establishment of the Desert Trail through the district. This cooperation will primarily be in the form of:

1. Helping locate the trail on the ground and on maps.
2. Providing information and protecting the trail.
3. Retaining the public land on which the trail is located or insuring easements for public access prior to disposal of public parcels.

Rationale:

Although believed to have been rejected by the National Park Service (the final report has never been released by the Secretary's Office), the Nevada Division of State Parks and several volunteer organizations have pushed the concept of a desert trail that would run from the Mexican border to the Canadian border. This conforms to the administration's policy of encouraging local and volunteer groups to undertake such operations.

Such a trail would not consist of extensive on-the-ground improvements. Rather, for the greater part, the trail would consist of a several mile corridor with broad, general directions to aid in covering the route. To protect certain sensitive areas because of fragile resources, it may become necessary to physically establish a trail on the ground.

It would not be the Bureau's task to do the work associated with establishing such a trail. Instead, the Bureau would cooperate with the state and the volunteer groups. Primarily by sharing our knowledge of the trail route and doing whatever else we could within reason to protect and enhance the trail.

Persons-Organizations That Have Protested This Decision:

Larry J. Garside, University of Nevada-Reno, Reno, Nevada.

Recreation  
MFP I  
DESERT TRAILS

Recommendation 2.3

Cooperate with state agencies and private organizations in the establishment of a National Desert Trail. Cooperation would include helping to establish the trail corridor, erecting marker cairns, granting of a right-of-way and, where feasible, aiding in the construction of the trail.

Rationale:

Although believed to have been rejected by the National Park Service (the final report has never been released by the Secretary's Office.), the Nevada Division of Parks and several volunteer organizations have pushed the concept of a National Desert Trail that would run from the Mexican border to the Canadian border. This conforms to the administration's policy of encouraging local and volunteer groups to undertake such operations. Although only a very few would be expected to complete the entire trail at one time, it is expected that the mystique of a "National Trail" would bring people from close population centers for day or weekend hikes. Some people may want to hike the entire trail in short time periods but spread it out over a period of several years.

Such a trail would normally not consist of extensive ground improvements. Rather, for the greater part, the trail would consist of a several mile corridor with broad, general directions to aid in covering the route. To protect specific areas because of fragile resources, it may become necessary to physically establish a trail on the ground to avoid sensitive spots.

It would not be the Bureau's task to do all of the work associated with establishing such a trail. Instead, the Bureau would work with the state and the volunteer groups to make it a joint project.

Support:

Operations, Lands.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION:

Cooperate in the establishment of the Natural Desert Trail through the district. This cooperation will primarily be in the form of:

1. Helping locate the trail on the ground and on maps.
2. Helping publicize and protect the trail.
3. Retaining the public land on which the trail is located or insuring easements for public access prior to disposal of public parcels.

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN - STEP 1  
ACTIVITY OBJECTIVES

Name (MFP)

Sonoma-Gerlach

Activity

Recreation

Objective Number

R-3

Objective: R-3

Protect and enhance the visual resource of the Sonoma-Gerlach Resource Area.

Rationale:

Predicted gains in recreational visitation, as well as in other land uses, point to the urgency of protecting the scenic resource now rather than waiting for "later." The preservation of these values will enhance the quality of life for succeeding generations. It is also Bureau policy to manage the visual resource.

Recommendation: R 3%1

Allow no action to degrade the Visual Resources as listed in the following classes:

Class I

- Lahontan Cutthroat Trout Natural Area

Class II

- A portion of the Lava Beds
- Vicinity around community of Gerlach
- Portions of the Hot Springs Mountains
- Portions of the Mopung Hills
- Granite Range
- North end of Smoke Creek Desert
- A portion of the Calico Mountains
- High Rock Lake - Fly Canyon Complex
- West side of Black Rock Range
- Black Rock Desert
- From Mote Siding to the eastern edge of the Sonoma-Gerlach Resource Area
- Along Interstate 80 from slightly south of Button Point to slightly south of Golconda
- North quarter of the East Range
- Unionville Canyon
- Humboldt Sink
- Rye Patch Reservoir
- West side of the Humboldt Range

Class III

- Razorback Mountains
- Selenite Range
- Portion east of Gerlach
- Portion of the Trinity Range
- Three-quarters of the East Range
- Portions of the West Humboldt Range
- Various portions within view of Interstate 80 that are not already in Class II
- Entrance to Buena Vista Canyon
- Portions within view of State Highway 34 from Fernley to Gerlach
- Portions of the Smoke Creek Desert
- Portions of Squaw Valley
- Sonoma Range

R 3.1 (continued)

Class IV

-The rest of the Sonoma-Gerlach Resource Area

Exact locations for these areas must be obtained from the Recreation MFP Overlay No. 2 for each planning unit.

Rationale:

Minimum management objectives have been established for areas which have been identified as visual management units through a six step process identified in BLM Manual 8400. Each VRM class describes a different degree of modification allowed in the basic elements of the landscape.

Class I provides primarily for natural ecological changes such as may be found in wilderness or natural area. Presently, the only area that falls in this category is the Lahontan Cutthroat Trout Natural Area.

Class II - Changes in any of the basic elements (form, line, color and texture) caused by a management activity should not be evident in the characteristic landscape. A contrast may be seen but should not attract attention.

Class III - Contrasts to the basic elements (form, line, color and texture) caused by a management activity may be evident and begin to attract attention in the characteristic landscape. However, the changes should remain subordinate to the existing characteristic landscape.

Class IV - Contrasts may attract attention and be a dominant feature of the landscape in terms of scale; however, the change should repeat the basic elements (form, line, color, texture) inherent in the characteristic landscape.

Support:

Resource Specialists, Operations, Fire

Multiple Use Recommendation

Reject the recommendation.

Reasons

Land use decision not required to implement Bureau policy. All proposed authorized uses in the various visual classes must consider the visual impact of propose actions in the Environmental Analysis.

MFP II

DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION:

Identify and manage the following areas in the VRM classes listed.

Class I

- Lahontan Cutthroat Trout Natural Area

Class II

- Vicinity around community of Gerlach
- Portions of the Hot Springs Mountains
- Portions of the Mopung Hills
- Granite Range
- North end of Smoke Creek Desert
- A portion of the Calico Mountains
- High Rock Lake - Fly Canyon Complex
- West side of Black Rock Range
- Black Rock Desert
- From Mote Siding to the eastern edge of the Sonoma-Gerlach Resource Area
- Along Interstate 80 from slightly south of Button Point to slightly south of Golconda
- North quarter of the East Range
- Unionville Canyon
- Humboldt Sink
- Rye Patch Reservoir
- West side of the Humboldt Range

Class III

- Razorback Mountains
- Selenite Range
- Portion east of Gerlach
- Portion of the Trinity Range
- Three-quarters of the East Range
- Portions of the West Humboldt Range
- Various portions within view of Interstate 80 that are not already in Class II
- Entrance to Buena Vista Canyon
- Portions within view of State Highway 34 from Fernley to Gerlach
- Portions of the Smoke Creek Desert
- Portions of Squaw Valley
- Sonoma Range

Class IV

- The rest of the Sonoma-Gerlach Resource Area

Manage these areas according to the visual guidelines for each class.

MFP I

Recommendation: R 3.2

Maintain the scenic integrity of the Black Rock Playa by the prohibition of any development on the playa and by the prohibition of any major developments that can be seen from the playa. Since the word "major" is a relative one, the decision between major and minor would have to be made by the Sonoma-Gerlach Area Manager.

Rationale:

The Black Rock Playa is an area of high visual importance. It allows vast scenic vistas. Unbroken stretches extend for nearly 28 miles. In the Recreation Information System Inventory a majority of the raters stated that the area has an "A" (outstanding) scenic value. According to VRM procedures in the BLM Manual, this automatically places it in the Class II category which states that changes in the landscape should not be evident. Since the playa is such an unbroken barren landscape, any change would be evident.

The playa cannot be considered by itself. An important and integral part of the view is the backdrop of the mountains. Each part of the scenery would be incomplete without the other.

It would be unrealistic to ban all developments, since this would also mean road improvements, signs (directional and interpretational), water developments, range improvements, etc. The emphasis of this recommendation is to bar major intrusions, such as those connected with geothermal activities. Granting a permit or lease to drill connotes granting permission to develop if the resource is developed. The playa has been nominated as a National Natural Landmark. In order to preserve this naturalness, active steps must be taken to protect the view.

Support:

None.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION:

Reject the recommendation and rationale.

Rationale

The guidelines for managing the Black Rock have been set in the Geothermal, Cultural, and other activities. Integrity can be maintained through normal Bureau management procedures.

MFP III

MFP I

Recommendation: R 3.3

Maintain the scenic integrity of the Applegate-Lassen Emigrant Trail by withdrawing the west slope of the Black Rock Range from mineral entry and the prohibition of any development within view of the trail from the point it crosses the Southern Pacific Railroad tracks to the point it leaves the district near the mouth of High Rock Canyon.

Rationale:

That part of the Applegate-Lassen Emigrant Trail that passes through the Buffalo Hills Planning Unit is the last place in the country where most of the view that the early emigrants saw is the same today. In other areas the pioneer trails are now superhighways or a few meters are fenced off showing where the early travelers went. This is the last long piece of trail that remains fairly intact. It has national significance since it is on the National Register of Historic Places.

The west slope of the Black Rock Range has some potential for geothermal development. The presence of powerlines, paved roads, cooling towers and steam plumes would be highly inappropriate. Also, the sight of developments from the trail would not convey the feeling of following in the pioneer's footsteps.

The east slope of the Calico Range is further away from the trail than the Black Rock Range. It would be more difficult to see any developments. Also, some operations could be located out of view in the canyons. Withdrawal from mineral entry would not be necessary for this area.

Support:

Lands

DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION

Reject the recommendation.

MFP III