Deferred Grazing

Deferred grazing is the postponement of grazing by livestock on an area for a specified period of time during the growing season. Under this system, grazing begins after key plants have reached an advanced stage of development in their annual growth cycle. The growing season rest provided by this system promotes plant reproduction, establishment of new plants, or restoration of the vigor of old plants (American Society of Range Management 1964).

Seasonal Grazing

Seasonal grazing is use by livestock during one or more seasons of the year. Seasonal grazing occurs during the same season each year, and does not involve rotation or deferment. For our purposes, seasonal grazing also includes season-long grazing (livestock use throughout the growing season). The most common types of seasonal grazing in the planning area are spring-fall sheep grazing, spring-summer cattle grazing, and season-long cattle grazing.

Lands

Withdrawals

It is BLM policy to review all withdrawals on and classifications of public lands by October 20, 1991, and to eliminate all unnecessary withdrawals and classifications. Evaluation of the withdrawals and classifications will be made in conjunction with the land use planning process and will consider the following:

1. For what purpose were the lands withdrawn?

2. Is that purpose still being served?

3. Are the lands suitable for return to the public domain (e.g., not contaminated or "property" such as buildings).

The environmental assessment or planning process will be followed to consider alternative methods of meeting the withdrawal/classification objectives (e.g., rights-of-way, cooperative agreements).

Withdrawal/classification modifications and extensions must provide for maximum possible multiple uses, with particular emphasis upon mineral exploration and development.

Transfers

Lands disposal actions are, primarily, accomplished under sale, agricultural entry, exchange, and R&PP land laws. Miscellaneous transfers can also occur through Color of Title actions, airport conveyances, and State in lieu selections.

All disposals of public lands must be consistent with the planning requirements of FLPMA and must also be evaluated through the environmental assessment process. Public notice will be given on each disposal action and each action may be protested or appealed.

A primary consideration in all disposal actions is to provide protection for existing rights, access, and future anticipated needs. This protection is provided for through the issuance of rights-of-way to existing users or reservations to the Federal government in areas of anticipated need.

General considerations for the major types of disposal actions are discussed below.

Agricultural. Consideration for allowing the use of public lands for agricultural development generally falls into four steps. They are:

1. The lands must be identified for disposal through the land use planning process.

2. The lands must be physically suited for agricultural development (classification).

   a. They must be desert in character (e.g., they must be irrigated to grow an agricultural crop).

   b. They must contain a majority of Class III or better irrigable soils as established using SCS Land Capability Classification Standards (USDA, Soil Conservation Service 1961). Considerations made in the classifications include percentages of soil types, depth, slope, and erosion potential.

   c. Farmable acreage must be susceptible to irrigation.

3. Post Classification (Allowance or Rejection)

   a. An economic analysis must show a high likelihood that the lands can be farmed at a profit over a long term.

   b. Applicant must show a legal right to appropriate water including a permit to drill a well if part of the operation.

4. Compliance

   a. The entryman must show compliance with cultivation, fund expenditure, irrigation system development, publication requirements, and payment of required fees to obtain patent to the land.

Under Carey Act development, the Bureau's primary concerns are retention vs. disposal determination and physical suitability of the land. Application processing and feasibility study evaluations are the responsibility of the State of Idaho.

Exchanges. Before an exchange can be consummated, the BLM must determine that the public interest will be well served by making the exchange. Full consideration will be given to improved Federal land management and the needs of State and local publics through an evaluation of the needs for lands for economic development, community expansion, recreation areas, food, fiber, minerals, and wildlife. Another consideration is that lands must be equal in value, or, if not equal, a cash payment not exceeding 25 percent of the total value of Federal lands may be made by the appropriate party to equalize the values.

Sales. Sales of public lands can be made upon consideration of the following criteria:

1. Such parcel, because of its location or other characteristics, is difficult and uneconomic to manage as part of the public lands, and is not suitable for management by another Federal department or agency; or

2. Such parcel was acquired for a specific purpose and is no longer required for that or any other Federal purpose; or

3. Disposal of such parcel will serve important public objectives, including but not limited to, expansion of communities and economic development which cannot be achieved prudently or feasibly on land other than public land and which outweigh other public objectives and values. These include, but are not limited to, wildlife, grazing, recreation, and scenic values which would be served by maintaining such parcel in Federal ownership.

Sales may be made through (1) competitive bidding, (2) modified competitive bidding wherein some individual(s) may be given the opportunity to match the high bid, and (3) direct sale wherein the tract is sold at fair market value to a predetermined buyer. All sales must be made at no less than fair market value as determined by the approved procedure, generally an official appraisal.

Land Use Authorizations

Land use permits under Section 302 of FLPMA should be used as an interim management measure for resolving unauthorized use problems prior to a final land use/status determination, and for one time use of short duration. Leases may be used as a longer term (5 to 10 years) interim management tool, particularly where future disposal or dedication to another particular land use is contemplated. The latter may allow for agricultural use on a site that may be needed in the future for communication purposes, materials source, or community expansion needs.

Cooperative agreements must be used with other Federal entities for uses which are not appropriately covered by a right-of-way or a withdrawal. Flood control and aquifer recharge areas may be most appropriately covered by cooperative agreements.

Airport leases are considered only when a definite need has been shown, supported by a specific development and management plan, and a showing of financial capability to carry out the project.

Each action would require a site-specific examination. An environmental assessment would be prepared on the proposal with special emphasis placed upon identification and mitigation of adverse effects upon resource values such as threatened, endangered, or sensitive species, cultural resources wetland/ riparian zones, and flood plains.

Unauthorized Use

It is BLM policy to identify, abate, and prevent unauthorized use of public lands. Trespass settlement is geared to recover at least fair market value for the unauthorized use and to require rehabilitation of the land and resources damaged by the unauthorized action. Settlements may be made through administrative action or through civil or criminal court proceedings.

Cultural Resources

The Bureau of Land Management is required to identify, evaluate, and protect cultural resources on public lands under its jurisdiction and to ensure the Bureau-initiated or Bureau-authorized actions do not inadvertently harm or destroy non-federal cultural resources. These requirements are mandated by the Antiquities Act of 1906, the Reservoir Salvage Act of 1960 as amended by P.L. 933-191, the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, Executive Order 11593 (1971), the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979, and Section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976.

Prior to commencement of any Bureau-initiated or authorized action, which involves surface disturbing activities, sale or transfer from Federal management, the BLM will conduct or cause to be conducted, a Class III (intensive) inventory as specified in BLM Manual Section 8111.4, supplementing previous surveys to locate, identify, and evaluate cultural resource properties in the affected areas. If properties that may be eligible for the National Register are discovered, the BLM will consult with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and forward the documentation to the Keeper of the National Register to obtain a determination of eligibility in accordance with 36 CFR Part 63.

Cultural resource values discovered in a proposed work area will be protected by adhering to the following methods.

1. Redesigning or relocating the project.

2. Salvaging, through scientific methods, the cultural resource values pursuant to the SHPO agreement.

3. Should the site be determined to be of significant value; eligible for or on the National Register of Historic Places; and/or the above mentioned methods are not considered adequate, the project will be abandoned.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION PLAN

Monitoring and evaluation will be conducted to determine whether the RMP decisions are being implemented, whether the objectives of the RMP are being accomplished, and whether the RMP continues to be consistent with related plans. If a variation warranting management concern is found, the reasons for the variation will be examined and corrective actions will be taken as appropriate.

Resource	Component	Location	Technique	Unit of Measure	Frequency	Variation From RMP Warranting Management Concern	Annual Cost
RMP Decisions	Implementation of the RMP	Planning Area Wide	Managers and Specialists interviews and file searches	Various	5-year intervals	Any indication that decisions are not being implemented, objectives are not being met, or the RMP is no longer consistent with related plans. If conditions have changed and affect the entire plan or major portions, a revision may be necessary.	$ 3,000
	Accomplishment of RMP Objectives	Planning Area Wide			5-year intervals		
	Consistency with Related Plans	Planning Area Wide	Review of Related Plans		Ongoing		
Fire Management	Wildfires	Planning Area Wide	Fire Reports	Number of fires Acres burned	Annually following fire season	5 percent increase in number of fires or average acres burned over a ten-year period.	$ 500
Wildlife	Bliss Rapids Snail	Box Canyon	Census snails	Number of snails	Annually	Any decrease in the number of snails.	$ 500
	Ferruginious Hawk	Natural and artificial nest sites	Observe sites during breeding season	Number of occupied sites	Annually	Any loss of occupied sites	$ 175
	Swainson's Hawk	Natural and artificial nest sites	Observe sites during breeding season	Number of occupied sites	Annually	Any loss of occupied sites	$ 175
	Burrowing Owl	Selected natural and artificial nest sites	Observe sites during breeding season	Number of occupied sites	Annually	10 percent loss of occupied sites	$ 450
	Shoshone Sculpin	Box Canyon/ Blueheart Springs	Observe site	Amount of water and sedimentation	Annually	Any decrease in water or increase in sedimentation	$ 200
			Census sculpin 1/	Number of sculpin	Every 3 years or as needed	Any decrease in number of sculpin	$ 500
	Ring-Necked Pheasant	Selected Isolated Tracts	Nest searches	Number of nests	Annually	20 percent decrease	2/ $ 2,100
			Transects	Number of birds	4 times yearly	20 percent decrease	2/
	Gray Partridge	Selected Isolated Tracts	Transects	Number of birds	4 times yearly	20 percent decrease	2/
	Sage Grouse	Selected trend leks	Observe leks during breeding season	Number of males	Annually	Any decrease below 1982 population levels	$ 350
		Nesting and wintering habitat	Analysis of fire reports	Acres of brush loss	Every 3 years or as needed	More acres of brush burned than planned for brush control	$ 300
			Frequency	Frequency of key forbs		20 percent decrease in key species.	
			Extensive browse method	Browse age and form class		20 percent increase in unsatisfactory browse	
	Pronghorn	Winter range	Aerial census	Number of animals	Annually	15 percent decrease	$ 0 3/
		Summer range	Aerial census	Number of animals	Annually	30 percent decrease	$ 0 3/
		Key winter range	Analysis of fire reports	Acres of brush loss	Every 3 years or as needed	More acres of brush burned than planned for brush control	$ 300
			Frequency	Frequency of key forbs		20 percent decrease in key species.	
			Extensive browse method	Browse age and form class		20 percent increase in unsatisfactory browse	

MONITORING AND EVALUATION PLAN (Cont.)

Resource	Component	Location	Technique	Unit of Measure	Frequency	Variation From RMP Warranting Management Concern	Annual Cost
Wildlife (Cont.)	Mule Deer	Winter range Summer range Key winter range	Aerial census Transects Analysis of fire reports Frequency Extensive browse method	Number of animals Number of animals Acres of brush loss Frequency of key forbs Browse age and form class	Annually 4 times yearly Every 3 years or as needed	15 percent decrease 50 percent decrease More acres of brush burned than planned for brush control 20 percent decrease in key species. 20 percent increase in unsatisfactory browse	$ 0 3/ $ 0 2/ $ 300
	Hybrid Trout	Vineyard Creek	Water samples	Sedimentation	Annually	Any other than a decrease below 100 ppm in return flow	$ 200
	Non-Game Species	Selected Isolated Tracts	Transects	Number of birds	4 times yearly	50 percent decrease	$ 0 3/
		8 habitat sites	Transects	Number of birds	Annually	50 percent decrease	$ 200

1/ These projections could change if there is an unexpected and drastic change in the water supply or other habitat values important to sculpin.
2/ One monitoring study evaluates all of these species. The $2,100 cost for ring-necked pheasant also covers many other species.
3/ This information is obtained from the Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

Livestock Forage	Trend	All "I" and "M" allotments; "C" allotments as needed	Frequency 1/, cover, and photographs	Percent frequency of key species; ground cover in percent	3-year intervals or one grazing cycle for rest-rotation systems	Change to downward trend	$ 4,250
	Utilization	All "I" and "M" allotments 2/, "C" allotments as needed	Key forage plant method (Tech. Report 4400-3) and mapping of utilization classes	Percent utilization of forage removed	Annually	Utilization greater than 60 percent on key species	$10,600
	Actual Use	All allotments	Actual use submitted by livestock operators; livestock counts and compliance checks	AUMs	Annually	Consider with temperature and precipitation to help determine why utilization is at monitored level	$3,650
	Condition	All allotments	Range condition guide outlined in National Range Handbook	Percent composition (determined by air-dry wight) compared to expected climax composition	10-year intervals	Decline one condition class	$ 4,590
	Climate	All allotments	National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration reports	Inches of precipitation and degrees Farenheit	Monthly during growing season Summarize Annually	Consider with actual use to help determine why utilization is at monitored level	$ 600

1/ Existing photo trend plots will be converted to frequency on "I" allotments if significant conflicts exist. The original plots will be retained for periodic reading and photographing. Photo trend plots will be maintained in "M" allotments.
2/ Utilization will not be done on "M" allotments with sheep grazing only.

Wilderness	Quality of Wilderness Values	WSAs Designated	Photo inventory	Number of human-caused impacts	Annually	Any adverse impact on wilderness values	$ 6,000
	Visitor Use	WSAs Designated	Permits, on-site registration, observation, and interviews	Visitor days	Annually	Increase of 10 percent or more over projected use in the Wilderness Management Plan	$ 6,000
Natural History	Condition of Cave Resources	Areas of Geological Interest	Photo Inventory	Number of impacts	Once every 5 years	Any new incidences of collecting or vandalism in any cave	$ 1,000
Cultural Resources	Condition of Cultural Resources	Cultural Resource Management Plan areas	Patrol and observation	Number of impacts on sites	3 to 5 trips annually	Any adverse impact to sites	$ 3,000
		The remainder of the planning area	Patrol and observation	Number of impacts on sites	3 to 5 trips per year	Any adverse impact to sites	$ 3,000

MONITORING AND EVALUATION PLAN (Cont.)

Resource	Component	Location	Technique	Unit of Measure	Frequency	Variation From RMP Warranting Management Concern	Annual Cost
Recreation	ORV	Cedar Fields and Snake River Rim Cedar Fields and Snake River Rim	Observation Observation and photography	Visitor Use Days Number of trails	Bi-weekly April thru November Bi-weekly April thru November	10 percent difference from projected levels 10 percent difference from ORV designations	$ 1,250
	River Floating	Murtaugh	Observation traffic counters visitor registration	Visitor Use Days	Weekly in season April thru June	25 percent difference from anticipated levels	$ 1,250
	All recreation activities for which VUDs have been calculated	Planning Area	Use Fish & Game, Idaho Parks & Recreation, and BLM baseline data with methodology to calculate VUDs	Visitor Use Days	5-year intervals	25 percent difference from anticipated levels	$ 250
Fishing, Nature Study, Hiking	Visitor Use Days	Box Canyon, Vineyard Creek	Observation	Visitor Use Days	2 times each year June and October	If impacts are incompatible with management plan	None: part of regular use supervision
Soil	Cover/Erosion	Cedar Fields SRMA and the following grazing allotments: Antelope, Camp III, Common, Dinky, Goose Lake, Gunnery, Hunt, Kimama, Lagoon, Pocket, Poison Lake, Poleline, South Gooding, Star Lake West, Tunupa, Wendell Cattle, Wildhorse	Photo reconnaissance survey, point step transects as needed	Percent ground cover, acres affected	3 to 5 year intervals	An increase of 10 percent in average erosion rates, new sandblow areas, or water erosion areas	$ 2,500