

DECISION NOTICE
AND
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

FOREST PLAN AMENDMENT

STANDARD AND GUIDELINE

for

FOREST WIDE RANGE PROPER USE CRITERIA

MANTI-LA SAL NATIONAL FOREST
PRICE, UTAH

An Environmental Assessment (EA) that evaluates the proposal to amend the Forest Plan to include a standard and guideline for proper use criteria for managing the range resource is available for public review at the Supervisor's Office of the Manti-La Sal National Forest, Price, Utah and all Manti-La Sal Ranger District Offices.

The Chief of the Forest Service has instructed us to bring all of our grazing allotments and grazing permits into compliance with the Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan), December 1986, as soon as practical. To accomplish this the Chief has suggested; we modify Allotment Management Plans which are part of the grazing permit to include the Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines, and/or modify Part 3 of the grazing permit to include the Standards and Guidelines if no Allotment Management Plan exists.

"Proper Use Criteria" is defined in the Forest Service Handbook as the limiting factor or factors which will be measured on a particular site. It could be a percent of utilization of the forage, percent ground cover, percent soil disturbance or some other allowable measure which will record specific site conditions. In the Manti-LaSal National Forest Land and Resource Plan, the direction as shown in Chapter 3, page 24, under Range Resource Management (D02) Item 03, is "To manage livestock and wild herbivore forage by implementing proper use criteria as established in the Allotment Management Plan." The Forest Service Manual and other direction (Forest Plan) directs that this proper use criteria be determined by an Interdisciplinary Team. In the development of the Forest Plan, it was elected to let the Interdisciplinary Team establish the specific criteria on an allotment by allotment basis. This has worked well and is still a very valid approach as we can evaluate each allotment and adapt a criteria to best meet the future directions of the Forest Plan. This, however, does not provide any specific guidance for inclusion or adoption in Part 3 of the grazing permit as per the new direction from the Chief.

Therefore, it is my decision to amend the Forest Plan by selecting the Action Alternative and adopt the standard and guideline in the attached Proper Use Criteria. This is amended to page 3-24 D0203 as item (c). These Standards and Guidelines would allow us to keep the existing provision of establishing Proper Use Criteria on sites specific allotments, but would also provide for clarity and a uniform guideline for inclusions when applicable to Part 3 of the Grazing Permits. This conforms to the Chief's direction.

As this is a clarification and/or a refinement of Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines, I do not feel it is a significant amendment. I have determined through the environmental analysis that this is not a major Federal action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment; therefore, an environmental impact statement is not needed.

In reaching this decision, the following groups and/or agency's were contacted: Utah Wool Growers, Utah Cattlemens Association, Utah Wilderness Association, The Division of Wildlife Resource (both Springville and Price Regional Offices), Manti Wool Growers, The Utah Farm Bureau Federation (Regional Office) and individuals of various livestock associations.

These standards and guidelines, as applicable, may be implemented within 7 calendar days after this notice is published in the Sun Advocate, Price, Utah.

This decision is subject to administrative review pursuant to 36CFR 217. Any appeal of this decision must be fully consistent with 36CFR 217.9. The content of notice of appeal, including the reason for the appeal, must be filed with the Regional Forester, 324 25th Street, Ogden, Utah 84401, within forty five days of the date of publication in the Sun Advocate, Price, Utah 84501. A copy of this notice of appeal must be filed simultaneously with the Manti-La Sal National Forest, 599 West Price River Drive, Price, Utah 84501.

George A. Morris
George A. Morris
Forest Supervisor

9-26-90
Date

AT
ACTIVITIES

GENERAL
DIRECTION

STANDARDS &
GUIDELINES

CONTINUATION OF:
WILDLIFE AND
FISH COOPERATION
WITH OTHER
AGENCIES
(C12)

02 Consider wildlife transplants to suitable habitat when it is compatible with the management prescription for the unit(s) concerned.

03 Obtain a Memorandum of Understanding with the State(s) involved prior to allowing wildlife transplants.

RANGE RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT
(D02)

01 Within the rangeland capability, provide forage to sustain the dependent livestock industry.

02 Manage the range resource within its productive capabilities for grazing and browsing animal in harmony with other resources and activities to provide sustained yield and improvement of the forage resource. Encourage and coordinate other resource activities so as to maintain or enhance forage production.

03 Manage livestock and wild herbivores forage use by implementing proper use criteria as established in the Allotment Management Plan.

a. R-4 Supplement to FSM 2611.

a. FSM 2203.1 Item 1.

a. Place allotments under an approved management plan.

b. Use Interdisciplinary terms to establish proper use criteria (R-4 Supplement No. 59 to FSM 2214.11).

c. Unless specified elsewhere in the Forest plan or in an allotment management plan, the following Proper Use Criteria is applicable:

1) Cattle Allotments

1. Uplands

<u>Mgt System</u>	<u>Veg. Type</u>	<u>% Use of Key Species</u>
Season Long Use	ALL	40-55%
Deferred Rotation	ALL	45-60%
Rest Rotation	ALL	55-65%

2. Riparian Areas

Spring	50-60%
Summer	45-50%
Fall	30-40% or 4"-5" of stubble or regrowth

3. Soils

<u>% slope</u>	<u>% allowable soil disturbance</u>
0-25%	30%
25-40%	20%
41-or greater	10%

* Slopes over 40% are not suitable for cattle use

2) Sheep Allotments

1. Uplands

Use category

% use of key species

Light Use

0-25%

Moderate Use

26-45%

Heavy Use

greater than 46%

Moderate use is considered to be proper use.

2. Riparian Areas

Same as cattle allotments

3. Soil Disturbance

% slope	% allowable soil disturbance
0-25%	30%
26-40%	20%
41-60%	10%
61% or greater	5%

01 Provide structural and non-structural range improvements needed to maintain or improve range conditions as specified in allotment management plans.

RANGE
IMPROVEMENT AND
MAINTENANCE
(D03, 04, 05
AND 06)

02 Perpetuate non-commercial aspen communities as a forage source.

a. Complete project effectiveness analysis to determine investment priorities (FSH 2209.11).

b. Construct and maintain structural improvements in accordance with Forest Service stands (FSH 2209.23).

c. Where site-specific developments adversely affect long-term production or management, those authorized to conduct activities will be required to replace losses through appropriate mitigations.

GRAZING PERMIT - PART 3

(Reference FSM 2230)

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Formwork Number

Permit Number

Terms and Conditions

Management Practices. (List the specific management practices required of the permittee, such as calving, riding and movement of cattle, herding or bedding of sheep; or incorporate into the permit the specific allotment management plan or other document which outlines these practices in detail.)

Forest Wide Proper Use Criteria

Unless specified elsewhere in the Forest Plan or in an allotment management plan, the following Proper Use Criteria is applicable:

A. Cattle Allotments1. Uplands

<u>Mgt System</u>	<u>Veg. Type</u>	<u>% Use of Key Species</u>
Season Long Use	All	40-55%
Deferred Rotation	All	45-60%
Rest Rotation	All	55-65%

2. Riparian Areas

Spring	50-60%
Summer	45-50%
Fall	30-40% or 4"-5" of stubble or regrowth.

3. Soils

<u>% slope</u>	<u>% allowable soil disturbance</u>
0-25%	30%
25-40%	20%
*41- or greater	10%

* Slopes over 40% are usually not suitable for cattle use.

B. Sheep Allotments1. Uplands

<u>Use category</u>	<u>% use of key species</u>
Light Use	0-25%
Moderate Use	26-45%
Heavy Use	greater than 46%

Moderate use is considered to be proper use.

2. Riparian Areas

Same as cattle allotments

3. Soil Disturbance

<u>% slope</u>	<u>% allowable soil disturbance</u>
0-25%	30%
26-40%	20%
41-60%	10%
61% or greater	5%