

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Intermountain
Region

Uinta- Wasatch-Cache
National Forest

August 2009



Franklin Basin Cattle Allotment

Environmental Assessment



**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
FRANKLIN BASIN CATTLE ALLOTMENT**

Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest
Logan Ranger District
Cache County, Utah
August 2009

Lead Agency:

USDA Forest Service
Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest
Logan Ranger District
1500 East Highway 89
Logan, Utah 84321

Responsible Official:

Jennefer Parker
Logan Ranger District
1500 East Highway 89
Logan, Utah 84321
(435) 755-3620

For Further Information Contact:

Evelyn Sibbernsen, Environmental Coordinator
Logan Ranger District
1500 East Highway 89
Logan, Utah 84321
(435) 755-3620

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202)-720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202)-720-5964 (voice or TDD).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Table of Contents

Chapter 1	Purpose and Need	Page
1.1	Introduction	1-1
1.2	Background and History	1-2
1.3	Proposed Action	1-2
1.4	Purpose and Need	1-3
1.5	Forest Service Guidance	1-5
1.6	Desired Conditions	1-10
1.7	Decision to be Made	1-11
1.8	Public Involvement	1-11
1.8.1	Scoping	1-11
1.8.2	Issues	1-11
1.8.3	Other Disclosures	1-13
1.8.3.1	Private Lands	1-13
1.8.3.2	Heritage Resources	1-14
1.8.3.3	Rare Plants	1-15
1.8.3.4	Noxious Weeds	1-16
1.9	Permits and Authorizations	1-20
Chapter 2	Alternatives	
2.1	Introduction	2-1
2.2	Formulation of Alternatives	2-1
2.3	Alternatives Considered and Eliminated from Detailed Analysis	2-1
2.4	Alternatives Considered in Detail	2-3
2.4.1	Proposed Action	2-4
2.4.2	No Action (No Grazing)	2-11
2.4.3	Current Management	2-11
2.5	Mitigation and Management Requirements	2-11
2.6	Monitoring Activities Common to All Action Alternatives	2-15
2.7	Comparison of Alternatives	2-18
2.8	Comparison of Effects	2-19
Chapter 3	Affected Environment and Environmental Effects	
3.1	Introduction	3-1
3.1.1	List of Past, Present, and Reasonably Foreseeable Future Actions	3-1
3.2	Aquatic Resources	3-3
3.3	Rangeland Resources	3-15
3.4	Recreation	3-29
3.5	Soil	3-39
3.6	Water	3-47
3.7	Wildlife	3-59

Chapter 4 Response to Comments

4.0 Response to Comments

4-1

REFERENCES

APPENDICES

Appendix A	Land Ownership Map
Appendix B	Forest Service Guidance
Appendix C	Aquatics Map
Appendix D	Aquatics Photos
Appendix E	Capability Map and Areas of Concern
Appendix F	Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) Map
Appendix G	WC VEG Map
Appendix H	Franklin Basin Rangeland Vegetation Map
Appendix I	Tony Grove-Franklin Basin Elk Habitat Map
Appendix J	Franklin Basin Elk Patch Map
Appendix K	Tony Grove-Franklin Basin Moose Habitat Map
Appendix L	Tony Grove-Franklin Basin Lynx Habitat Map