

Indicators of Grazing Intensity:

Grazing Intensity classes have been adapted from the Interagency Technical Reference 1734-3 "Utilization Studies and Residual Measurements" (1996), the Forest Service Region 3 Rangeland Analysis and Management Training Guide (June 1997), "Grazing Intensity Guidelines" by Jerry L. Holechek and Dee Galt (June 2000, Rangelands 22-3), and from the Forest Service Grazing Permit Administration Handbook: Region 3 Supplement to Chapter 90 (September 2007).

Light Grazing Intensity:

- Approximately equal to a maximum of 20% Utilization (grazing and trampling) of forage standing crop (current and previous years' growth) at the end of the growing season (November 15).
- The range appears practically undisturbed. Only good forage plants and areas show use.
- Areas greater than 1 mile from water show little use.
- There is no evidence of livestock trailing to forage.
- Good forage plants have abundant seed stalks (80% or more of stalks remain).
- Good forage plants are topped or slightly used.
- Young plants are little disturbed.
- No use of poor forage plants.

Conservative Grazing Intensity:

- Approximately equal to a maximum of 40% Utilization (grazing and trampling) of forage standing crop (current and previous years' growth) at the end of the growing season (November 15).
- Rangeland may be topped, skimmed, or grazed in patches.
- Areas greater than 1 mile from water show little use.
- There is no evidence of livestock trailing to forage.
- Good forage plants have abundant seed stalks (60-80% of stalks remain).
- 1/3 to 1/2 of good forage plants have been grazed in key areas.
- Most young plants are not damaged.
- Poor forage plants are not grazed at all.

Moderate Grazing Intensity:

- Approximately equal to a maximum of 50% Utilization (grazing and trampling) of forage standing crop (current and previous years' growth) at the end of the growing season (November 15).
- Most of the accessible range shows some use.
- Areas between 1 mile to 1 1/2 miles from water show some use.
- There is little evidence of livestock trailing to forage.
- Good forage plants have some seed stalks left (15-25% of stalks remain).
- About 1/2 to 2/3 of the good forage plants show some use.
- Some young plants show damage.
- Less than 10% of the poor forage plants are utilized.

Heavy Grazing Intensity:

- Approximately equal to a maximum of 60% Utilization (grazing and trampling) of forage standing crop (current and previous years' growth) at the end of the growing season (November 15).
- All of accessible range shows use.
- Grazing is noticeable in areas greater than 1.5 miles from water.
- There is evidence of livestock trailing to forage.
- Good forage plants don't have any seed stalks left.
- All the good forage plants are used.
- Many young plants show damage.
- 10-50% of the poor forage plants are utilized.

Severe Grazing Intensity:

- Greater than 60% Utilization (grazing and trampling) of forage standing crop (current and previous years' growth) at the end of the growing season (November 15).
- The rangeland has the appearance of complete search. It has a clipped or mown appearance (not much stubble height) and there are indicators of repeated coverage. In extreme cases, the remaining stubble of good forage grasses is grazed to the soil surface.
- Areas greater than 1.5 miles from water have little to no stubble height.
- Livestock trails to forage are very common.
- There is no evidence of reproduction or current seed stalks on any herbaceous species (good, fair, or poor forage plants). Shoots of rhizomatous grasses are missing.
- All herbaceous species are almost completely utilized. Shrubs are severely hedged.
- All young plants show damage or they are missing.
- More than 50% of the poor forage plants are utilized.

Grazing Intensity Monitoring and Recordkeeping:

All Permittees can estimate Grazing Intensity by observation in each pasture during the permitted Grazing Period. Definitions of grazing intensities and a form for data collection are included in this document.

Grazing Intensity should be estimated in key areas that are located at least ¼ mile away from water or salt/supplement stations. The Permittee may make estimates in several key areas within each pasture where livestock spend the most time. Make estimates on your key forage species, i.e. common palatable species.

All Permittees are encouraged to keep records of Grazing Use and Intensity in each pasture and submit them to their district grazing permit administrator in the middle and at the end of the permitted Grazing Period. Data to collect include:

- pasture name
- dates of actual use
- type and class of livestock
- number of livestock
- approximate location of key area
- Grazing Intensity class
- date of observation

Other notes may be recorded, such as precipitation records or observations. A form is included at the end of the AOI.

If you are not familiar with these methods of estimating Grazing Intensity, we will arrange for training on an individual or group basis.

GRAZING INTENSITY MONITORING RECORD

Allotment: _____ Pasture: _____

Data Collector: _____ Permittee: _____

Dates of Actual Use: _____

Type and Class of Livestock: _____

Number of Livestock: _____

KEY AREA NAME & LOCATION	MONITORING DATE	GRAZING INTENSITY CLASS
<i>Example – Kaibab Flat, ~½ mile NE of Empty Tank, NW ¼ of Section 28, 200' from Rd. 15</i>	<i>Example – June 5, 2007</i>	<i>Example – Moderate</i>

Grazing Intensity Choices: Light, Conservative, Moderate, Heavy, Severe

Precipitation Records:

Notes:

