

Forest-wide Direction (Components): Revision Collaborative Input: RANGE (Suitability)

Response 5.29.13

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(04.11.13 hl)

Plan Components

Management of Livestock Grazing

Desired Condition:

Livestock grazing on the forest supports local economic sustainability. The Forest provides forage for 25,000 – 35,000 animal unit months (AUMs) of livestock grazing. Transitory forage on suitable forest lands is available for livestock grazing.

Objectives:

Treat invasive weeds (xxx acres/year) in areas suitable range with high potential for improved native forage production.

Standards

Guidelines

Other Management Direction

- Grazing Allotment Management Plans (AMP) should be completed and/or updated for all grazing allotments based on appropriate level of environmental analysis. Schedule for developing AMPs should coincide with the 1995 Rescissions Act schedule for allotment review. Allotment Management Plans should describe acceptable levels of livestock use or impacts within a pasture and thresholds which would indicate exceeding acceptable use levels, criteria for determining livestock entry into an allotment or pasture, and management strategies, such as pasture rotation, to secure long term rangeland health.

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- Annual Operating Instructions should be completed for each grazing allotment prior to authorized livestock entry date. Annual Operating Instructions should clearly articulate permittee responsibilities for annual livestock numbers, dates for livestock entry and removal, livestock movement within and between pastures, and range improvement maintenance.
- New range improvements (fences and water developments) constructed by either the permittee or the Forest Service should comply with standards described in FSH 2209.13. Maintenance responsibilities should be clearly described and assigned upon completion of new improvements.
- Active cattle allotments, and existing vacant cattle allotments identified by the Forests for retention in vacant status, are considered suitable for livestock grazing.

Definitions:

- Transitory forage; Transitory forage is produced on forested lands that are suitable for livestock grazing for a limited time following a complete or partial forest removal.
- Suitable range; Those areas where livestock grazing can be economically managed to be compatible with desired conditions and objectives.
- Grazing permittee; A person or entity authorized to graze livestock on national forest lands through the issuance of a Term Grazing Permit.
- Term Grazing Permit; One of four kinds of grazing permits issued by the USDA Forest Service with specific terms and conditions, and issued for a specific period of time, usually ten years.

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	05/18/2013 Component Input for Range (Suitability);		FS Response
	Desired Future Condition: Commonality	Commonality	
	Objectives: Commonality		
	Standards: Commonality		
	STD.Common.a Why no standards?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • X 2 	Standards and Guidelines are constraints on projects to ensure attainment of Desired Conditions for a specific resource Topic. For example, standards constraining livestock grazing to achieve riparian DC would be found in the Riparian Topic. No standards were identified to meet livestock grazing DC .
	Guidelines: Commonality		
	Suitability: Commonality		
	GENERAL: Have other areas available for grazing as substitute/alternate area for permittee displaced due to fire, T&E, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • X 2 	The decision to manage an area as an alternate allotment, or "swing allotment", would be made at the project level NEPA stage, such as the Eastside Allotment Management

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			Planning Project. The Eastside Project is currently on going. The proposed action does not identify a swing allotment.
Working Group Input			
	Desired Future Condition	Working Group	
	DFC.Oro1&Boi.a	Orofino 1 w/Boise Satellite	
	DFC.Oro2&MPLL.a Control timber canopy by increased timber harvest in grazing areas	Orofino 2 & MPLL	The IDT is currently considering an objective similar to this.
	DFC.Gvil1&2.a	Grangeville 1 & 2	
	DFC.KKL.a OK	Kamiah/Kooskia w/ Missoula Satellite	
	Objectives		
	OBJ.Oro1&Boi.a Suggestion: annual weed survey on all grazing allotments	Orofino 1 w/Boise Satellite	Invasive weed inventory is an important component of Integrated Pest Management. The Cooperative Weed Management Areas prioritize areas for weed detection and inventory (refer to invasive weed

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			discussion)
	OBJ.Oro2&MPLL.a	Orofino 2 & MPLL	
	OBJ.Gvll1&2.a	Grangeville 1 & 2	
	OBJ.KKL.a Add: Complete all AMPs within 10 years of Forest Plan being signed	Kamiah/Kooskia w/ Missoula Satellite	Agree. This is current law (1995 Rescission Act) and forest Service policy
	Standards		
	<p>STD.Oro1&Boi.a Q? are standards and guides in allotment management plans?</p> <p>STD.Oro1&Boi.b Is there going to be a standard re-sheep vs bighorn grazing; why is there nothing; is Suitability the driving factor</p>	Orofino 1 w/Boise Satellite	<p>Yes. Allotment Management Plans contain specific livestock grazing requirements, including any/all appropriate S&Gs from the Forest Plan.</p> <p>Yes. Suitability is the driving factor. Domestic sheep grazing is NOT suitable in bighorn sheep habitat.</p>
	STD.PMll&Oro2.a Group has questions about lack of standards; explain why Other Management Direction aren't outlined under Standards?	Orofino 2 & Potlatch, Moscow, Lapwai, Lewiston	See above "Standards Commonality"...
		Grangeville 1 & 2	
		Kamiah/Kooskia w/ Missoula Satellite	
	Guidelines		

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	GDL.Oro1&Boi.a	Orofino 1 w/Boise Satellite	
	GDL.Oro2&MPLL.a	Orofino 2 & MPLL	
	GDL.Gvll1&2.a	Grangeville 1	
	GDL.KKL.a	Kamiah/Kooskia w/ Missoula Satellite	
	Suitability		
		Orofino 1 w/Boise Satellite	
		Orofino 2 & Potlatch, Moscow, Lapwai, Lewiston	
		Grangeville 1&2	
		Kamiah/Kooskia w/ Missoula Satellite	
	COMMENTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q? Grazing on transitory; how come this isn't shown? • What about OG grazing? • Address: reserve allotments: that could serve if fire pushes a holder out for other alternate needs • Suggest- when fire goes through either allotment or timber—weed control conducted within the 1st year (growing season) to preserve grazing potential and project forest health 	Orofino 1 & Boise	1/ Grazing transitory range is included in DC. 2/ OG grazing ??? 3/ Reserve allotments, see above "Suitability Commonality" 4/ Weed control. See above "Orofino 1 w/Boise Satellite"
	COMMENTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other: explore new grazing allotments 	Grangeville 1&2	1/ & 2/ Identifying new allotments or opening

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify "open" allotments if current allotment becomes unavailable 		<p>areas to grazing that have closed to grazing can be done through project level NEPA. Project level NEPA would not only decided <u>if</u> and area would be open to grazing, but also <u>how</u> grazing would be conducted and administered.</p>