RANGE

A VISION

The Forest rangelands are diverse, healthy grasslands, open forests and woodlands, shrub lands, and riparian areas. These renewable rangeland resources are managed for a variety of uses including recreation, wildlife, water, and proper grazing by domestic livestock.

This looks into the future, although some of it may be happening now. It is stated in the "present tense" as if it is already that way. This gives a feel of where we are heading. It paints a general picture with a broad brush.

MANAGEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- Evaluate effectiveness of management and determine need for improvement or to change management system.
- Adjust permitted numbers based on production utilization studies.
- Maintain improvements to achieve project life.
- Maintain wildhorse populations to levels outlined in management plans for the area.
- Provide forage to the extent benefits are commensurate with costs without impairing land productivity and within the constraints of social needs.
- Provide cooperation with other agencies and private range owners to validate range management systems to reduce impacts of livestock grazing.
- Provide an average annual permitted use of 120,000 AUM's.

This snaps a more detailed picture. It gives a feel of the intent, purpose, and goals. It is the framework for the standards and guidelines.

Setting The Stage

When grazing, we try to balance permitted use and grazing capacity in animal unit months (AUM's). An animal unit month is the quantity of forage required by a mature cow weighing 1,000 pounds or the equivalent for one month.

Grazing capacities may be adjusted by improving livestock management and forage production. On National Forest lands this is done on an allotment by allotment basis as opportunties to balance permitted use with capacities are apparent. Range analysis are conducted and evaluated to determine proper AUM stocking rates for adjusting permitted use with capacities.

Standards And Guidelines

PRODUCTION UTILIZATION STUDIES... Complete production utilization studies to evaluate effectiveness of management and determine need for improvement or to change current management system. Adjust permitted number based on Production Utilization Studies (P/U). Production Utilization Studies (P/U) by Allotment Management Intensity Level will be completed as needed:

C. Forest-wide Prescriptions

Level B Six P/U studies
Level C Twenty P/U studies
Level D One P/U study

RE-ANALYSIS... Complete range re-analysis and update implementation plans as revisions are needed: Levels B through D - 20, Level E - 1.

MAINTENANCE... Maintain structural and non-structural improvements to achieve project life. Permittees will maintain the structural improvement. Replacement of structural improvements will be planned in a 25-35 year cycle and will take priority over new structures if needed for prescribed manamagement intensity.

MANAGEMENT LEVELS... Manage allotments at levels B through D, except allotments managed at level A, for resource protection, will remain at A. Make the changes in the level of management as shown in Table 30.

Table Range-1. Number of grazing allotments changed from one management level to another, by *Ranger* District

Management Level	Canjilon	El Rito	Jicarilla	*Camino Real*	Tres Piedras	Questa
From Level B to C	1	0	2	0	3	0
From Level C to D	2	2	4	5	5	2
From Level D to E	0	0	0	0	1	0

WILDHORSE POPULATIONS... Remove excess wild horse populations to levels outlined in management Plans.

IMPROVEMENTS... Plan and accomplish structural and nonstructural improvement(s) needed to implement and maintain prescribed management intensity.

I N S E R T

"Allowable Use Guide" and "Grazing Management – Standards and Guidelines" (Amendment 11)

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Allowable Use Guide (Percent) By Range Condition And Management Strategy *

Range Condition **	Continuous Season-long Use	Defer 1 Year in 2	Defer 1 Year in 3	Defer 2 Years in 2	Rest 1 Year in 2	Rest 1 Year in 3	Rest 2 Years in 3	Rest Over 2 Years in 3
Very Poor	0	10	5	15	15	10	20	25
Poor		10	20	15	20	20	15	30 35
Fair	20	25	20	30	30	25	40	45
Good	30	35	35	35	35	35	45	50
Excellent	30	35	35	35	35	35	45	50

** Site-specific data may show that the numbers in this table are substantially high or low. These numbers are purposefully conservative to assure protection in the event that site-specific data is not available.*

*** Range Condition as evaluated and ranked by the Forest Service is a subjective expression of the status or health of the vegetation and soil relative to their combined potential to produce a sound and stable biotic community. Soundness and stability are evaluated relative to a standard that encompasses the composition, density, and vigor of the vegetation and physical characteristics of the soil.*

Piling of debris should be limited. When necessary, hand or grapple piling should be used to minimize soil compaction within piles and to minimize forest floor and herbaceous layer displacement and destruction.

Limit dozer use for piling or scattering of logging debris so that the forest floor and herbaceous layer is not displaced or destroyed.

Grazing Management

Standards

Forage use by grazing ungulates will be maintained at or above a condition which assures recovery and continued existence of threatened and endangered species.

Guidelines

Identify key ungulate forage monitoring areas. These key areas will normally be 1/4 to 1 mile from water, located on productive soils on level to intermediate slopes, and be readily accessible for grazing. Size of the key forage monitoring areas could be 20 to 500 acres. In some situations such as high mountain meadows with perennial streams, key areas may be closer than 1/4 mile from water and less than 20 acres. Within key forage monitoring areas, select appropriate key species to monitor average allowable use.

In consultation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, develop site-specific forage use levels. In the event that site-specific information is not available, average key species forage utilization in key forage monitoring areas by domestic livestock and wildlife should not exceed levels in the above table during the forage growing season.

The above table is based on composition and climatic conditions typical of sites below the Mogollon Rim. On sites with higher precipitation and vegetation similar to sites above the Mogollon Rim, allowable use for ranges in poor to excellent condition under deferment or rest strategies may be increased by 5%. The guidelines established in the above table are applicable only during the growing season for the identified key species within key areas. Allowable use for key forage species during the dormant season is not covered in the above table. These guidelines are to be applied in the absence of more specific guidelines currently established through site specific NEPA analysis for individual allotments.

Guidelines for allowable use for specific allotment(s) management or for grazing strategies not covered in the above table will vary on a site-specific basis when determined through the Integrated Resource Management (IRM) process.

Allowable use guidelines may be adjusted through the land management planning revision or amendment process. Guidelines established through this process to meet specific ecosystem objectives, will also employ the key species and key area concept and will be monitored in this manner.