



United States Department of Agriculture

Management Direction for Domestic Sheep Grazing within BHS Range on the OWNF



Forest
Service

Okanogan-Wenatchee
National Forest



Management direction for grazing on National Forests comes from:

- Law: (MUSYA, NFMA) Develop and administer natural resources for multiple uses and include all resources in our planning efforts
- Regulations: (36 CFR) instruct us to protect range resources, permit and regulate grazing, and designate allotments
- Policy:
 - FSM 2200
 - FSH 2209.13 – Grazing Permit Administration Handbook
- Land Resource Management Plan (LRMP)
 - suitability
 - Standards and Guidelines
 - Wenatchee National Forest LRMP & Okanogan National Forest LRMP





Wenatchee Land and Resource Management Plan (1990)

- **Range:** planning and inventory, non-structural improvements, administration and management, noxious farm weeds, maximum annual utilization
- **Big Game Management:** Standard and Guide # 6, *prevent introduction of disease(s) from livestock into resident herds of Bighorn sheep by identifying potential problem areas, and developing a plan to mitigate the identified problems.*





Okanogan Land and Resource Management Plan (1989)

- **Range:** AUMs, structural improvements, maximum annual utilization
- **Bighorn sheep** – desired condition is habitat to promote bighorn sheep
- Specific guidance in regards to use of the **Mt. Hull** area: grazing of domestic sheep is considered incompatible
 - *MA-11-1B: domestic sheep grazing shall not occur*





Existing Grazing Allotments

- 103 designated allotments
- 68 have active permits
- 9 are designated as active domestic sheep/Goat allotments
- most of these 103 allotments are considered suitable for all classes of livestock grazing under current Forest Plans.
- The proposed plan amendments would provide Forest-wide Standards for the grazing of domestic sheep within the range of Bighorn sheep.





Current Management

The Forest Service coordinates with the permittee and representatives from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to address the risk of contact between domestic sheep and bighorn sheep. This includes:

- Sharing information of current bighorn sheep locations,
- re-routing of domestic sheep in response to bighorn sheep presence,
- Reducing number of domestic sheep grazed,
- and active monitoring to reduce straying of domestic sheep.





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Proposed action and next steps...



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Wenatchee, WA



Grazing objectives...(FSM 2200)

- To manage range vegetation to protect basic soil and water resources, provide for ecological diversity, improve or maintain environmental quality, and meet public needs for interrelated resource uses.
- To integrate management of range vegetation with other resource programs to achieve multiple use objectives contained in Forest land and resource management plans.
- To provide for livestock forage, wildlife food and habitat, outdoor recreation, and other resource values dependent on range vegetation.
- To contribute to the economic and social well being of people by providing opportunities for economic diversity and by promoting stability for communities that depend on range resources for their livelihood.
- To provide expertise on range ecology, botany, and management of grazing animals.

