
Big Timber Ranger District News Release



For Immediate Release

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Revisions Proposed for Allotment Management Plan in Crazy Mountains

The Forest Service is proposing to revise the Allotment Management Plan ("AMP") for the "Crazy Allotment", located in the southeastern portion of the Crazy Mountains, approximately 15 miles northwest of Big Timber, Montana.

The Big Timber District of the Gallatin National Forest manages the allotment. The Forest Plan (1987) set standards to allow for grazing that maintains or improves the forage resource. Current stocking levels, along with declining range conditions, show that the current AMP is not meeting those Forest Plan standards. Given this situation, the Forest Service is proposing, in an Environmental Assessment (EA), to reduce the number of permitted cattle to meet Forest Plan standards.

Landownership within the 8,430-acre Crazy Allotment consists of intermingled sections of National Forest System (NFS) land and private land. Currently, 403 cow/calf pairs are permitted on this allotment from 7/1 - 9/15 annually. There are no internal fences separating ownership in this area. As a result, the allotment is managed under the "On/Off" grazing provisions that allows grazing of NFS land intermingled with private land, provided the permittee meets the grazing standards set for the NFS lands.

In the next 5 years, if the proposed reduction in cattle numbers, along with the proposed riparian and upland grazing utilization standards, does not maintain or improve the forage resource, then the permittee could install new fencing to remove private lands from the allotment.



Highway 10 East, PO Box 1130, Big Timber, MT 59011-1130
<http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/gallatin>

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The EA for the Crazy Allotment is available for 30-day public comment through September 21, 2005. The EA is available on the web at fs.fed.us/r1/gallatin, or by contacting the Big Timber District at 406-932-5155. Comments can be sent to Sally Orr at sorr@fs.fed.us or to Big Timber Ranger District, P.O. Box 1130, Big Timber, MT 59011.

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