Marlinton Range Allotments
Decision Notice & Finding of No Significant Impact
September 2007

Introduction
This Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact (DN & FONSI) documents my decision regarding projects analyzed in the Marlinton Range Allotments Environmental Assessment (EA). The following pages describe the location of the Marlinton Range Allotments project area, my decision, the activities selected for implementation, reasons for my decision, the public involvement process used, alternatives considered, findings required by laws and regulations, information regarding opportunities to appeal, and persons to contact about the analysis.

Background
Administration of grazing permits and monitoring of grazing allotments by Monongahela National Forest personnel has indicated that, on the four selected grazing areas, changes could be made to livestock facilities and in the way livestock are being grazed to improve the management and resource conditions of these areas.

The Forest Service has been managing these open areas as range allotments for many years. Recent projects within the allotments are pond restoration in Day Run and Kramer, brush (hawthorne and multi-flora rose) cutting with a chainsaw in Kramer, mowing in Day Run, Kramer and Beale-Hacking, and annual fence maintenance (adding barbed wire and replacing posts) on all four allotments. Collectively, all four allotments need repair to the exterior fence lines, control of noxious weeds and hawthorne, restoration of water sources, liming, and fertilization.

Area Descriptions
The Day Run allotment is located on a mostly level ridgetop at approximately 4000 feet in elevation. Locust Knob and Big Spruce Knob surround the allotment and the head of Day Run is just below the allotment. The allotment can be accessed from FR 999. The allotment is 120 acres and contains two pastures, with two ponds in each of the pastures. Three of the four ponds are being used by the livestock as a water source. The fourth pond is not holding water and needs to be relocated. There is a large amount of small-sized hawthorne (up to 24 inches in height) throughout the allotment and other non-native invasive species such as multi-flora rose.

The Kramer allotment is 18 acres and a gently to moderately sloping allotment at an elevation of approximately 3000 feet. It is located near Tilda Fork, which is a small stream that drains into Stamping Creek. It has two livestock watering developments; a pond and water tank that is fed by an enclosed spring box. This allotment contains a large amount of multi-flora rose.

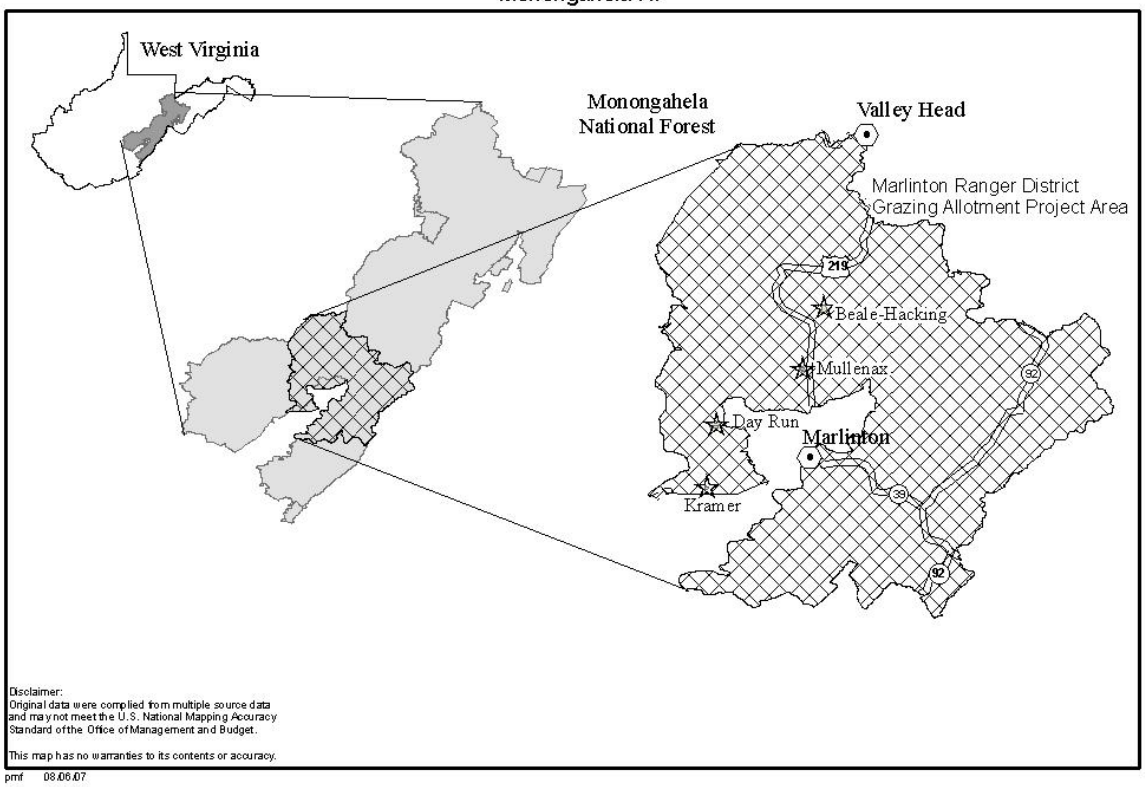
The Beale-Hacking allotment is 86 acres at approximately 4,100 feet in elevation. It is a gently sloping to level allotment. It is located on top of Buzzard Ridge off FR 1026. It contains three ponds and a water tank that is fed by a fenced spring box. The three ponds need to be cleaned out, dams repaired, and a drainage pipe installed in each. This allotment also contains a large amount of hawthorne.

The Mullenax allotment is 43 acres in size, with the elevation ranging between 3,200 to 3,400 feet. It is located near Elk Mountain at the end of FR 832. Mullenax Run is a small stream that runs through the allotment. A large pond and the stream are used by the livestock as a water source. The allotment contains a substantial amount of hawthorne and multi-flora rose.

All grazing on the Monongahela National Forest is seasonal.

Marlinton Range Allotments
Location Map
Monongahela NF

Figure 1



Decision

I am the responsible official for the Marlinton Range Allotments analysis and am authorized to make this decision. Based on my review of the Marlinton Range Allotments EA, supporting information in the project file, and public comments received throughout the process, it is my decision to implement Alternative 2 (Proposed Action).

Activities Selected for Implementation

Seasonal grazing would continue on all four allotments. Day Run would continue to have a rotational grazing system. To protect and/or improve the grazing systems and associated resources on the allotments, the following activities are included in my decision:

- Continue to use livestock grazing as a vegetation management tool to maintain these areas in a relatively open, non-forested, herbaceous condition.

- Maintain/repair/reconstruct/replace all structural improvements, such as fences, corrals or watering facilities, as needed. Black locust within allotments may be cut to be used as fence posts.
- Use EPA registered and approved herbicides (glyphosate and triclopyr) according to label directions and supervised by a certified pesticide applicator to control hawthorne and noxious, non-native, invasive or poisonous brush and weeds. More than one application may be needed. Only individual basal spray treatments or spot applications would be made on an as needed basis.
- To improve soil productivity and vegetation types, apply lime and/or fertilizer to selected portions of these areas based on soil test results. Re-seed grasses and legumes, usually through frost seeding.
- Mow, chainsaw lop or use hand tools as needed to selectively control weed and brush invasion.
- Clean out three ponds in the **Beale-Hacking Allotment** using an excavator and/or backhoe and install pipe to an existing spring tank to deliver the water to the cattle.
- Fence will be installed around riparian areas to exclude cattle and a stream crossing ford will be re-hardened to provide cattle and equipment access from one pasture to another in the **Mullenax Allotment**.
- Abandon the pond that doesn't hold water in the **Day Run Allotment** and develop a new pond in another location of the allotment.
- Apply all mitigation measures and design criteria listed on pages 10-13 of this document.

Reasons for My Decision

I have chosen to implement Alternative 2 because, when compared to the other alternatives, Alternative 2 best meets management objectives, while protecting area resources (Forest Plan, pp. II-39 and II-40).

1. Continued grazing, as described in my decision, will efficiently manage the grazing allotments as open areas. This in turn will provide areas for forage, wildlife habitat, visual diversity, dispersed recreation, and fuel breaks.
2. The use of herbicide will minimize populations of non-native invasive species that would compete with threatened and endangered species (TES) like the running buffalo clover and any native species of grasses and forbs (EA, p. 54).
3. Applying lime and/or fertilizer and re-seeding with native grasses and forbs will help maintain or improve existing vegetative condition of the areas. Native plants and/or vegetation will benefit from the application of lime and fertilizer, by increasing the availability of nutrients (EA, p. 54). Also, the application of lime and fertilizer will help produce more forage within the allotments.
4. Constructing fence around steams and hardening water gaps in the fencing to allow cattle and equipment to access from one pasture to another will minimize impacts to stream banks and channels (EA, p. 23). Fencing streams and/or riparian areas will also protect riparian vegetation.

Public Involvement Process & Issues Identified

Chapter 2 of the Marlinton Range Allotments EA describe the process used to solicit and employ internal and public comments, the Proposed Action that was submitted to the public for review and comment, and alternatives considered for implementation. Opportunities to comment were provided prior to development of the proposed action, after development of the proposed action, and following identification of the issues and alternative development. The following is a summary.

1. This project was first announced in the Schedule of Proposed Actions in July 2007 and has remained in this publication since that date.
2. A scoping letter was mailed to people expressing interest in projects on the Marlinton Ranger District and range allotment permittees on the Marlinton Ranger District on April 27, 2007 (PF Section D). Comments received during the scoping period were supportive, welcoming the implementation of the proposed action. No public comments were received that opposed the proposed action (PA). However, based on internal discussions, the District Ranger instructed the interdisciplinary team (IDT) to develop another alternative that would analyze the affects of not herbicides to control non-native and invasive plant species. Thus, Alternative 3 (No Herbicide) was developed, which is discussed further in Chapter 2 of the EA document and in the following section of this document.
3. A Legal Notice was placed in *The Pocahontas Times* (newspaper of record for this decision) in August 9, 2007 announcing the formal 30-Day Comment Period for this project (PF, Section D, #5). The formal 30-Day Comment Period for this project started on August 10, 2007 and ended on September 7. The comments received during this period were supportive of the project activities. A proposal was suggested by one of the permittees to allow broadcast application of herbicides (using a farm tractor) and add another herbicide to the list.

Other Alternatives Considered for Implementation

In addition to the selected alternative, I considered two other alternatives to respond to internal concerns and public recommendations, regarding the Proposed Action. The following two alternatives were analyzed in detail:

Alternative 1 - No Action

Under the No Action Alternative, livestock grazing would discontinue in all four grazing allotments. The normal maintenance/repair of existing facilities, such as fences, gates and corrals would not continue. The areas would be allowed to naturally revert back to the forested landscape over time. As a result, the forest would move further away from achieving desired levels of open, grassy habitat for wildlife. The forest would also offer less summer grazing acreage to local farmers; resulting in reduced economic opportunities in the county.

Therefore, I did not select this alternative. I did not select this alternative because it would not fulfill the purpose and need for action of this project.

Alternative 3 – No Herbicide

Alternative 3 (No Herbicide) is basically the same as Alternative 2 (Selected Alternative) minus the use of herbicides to control non-native and invasive plant species in the grazing allotments.

Livestock grazing would continue in all four allotments. The normal maintenance/repair of existing facilities, such as fences, gates and corrals would continue. New facilities such as new interior fences to implement rotational grazing, or new watering facilities, would be constructed. Black locust trees within the allotments would be cut to repair and/or replace existing fence posts, along with other fence post materials. Lime and fertilizer would be applied to improve soil productivity and vegetation types. Mowing and mechanical hand treatment would be used to control non-native invasive plants.

The streams and/or riparian areas within the Mullenax Allotment would be fenced to protect riparian vegetation, stream banks, and channels. Also, water gap(s) in the fenced riparian areas of the Mullenax allotment would be hardened to provide access from one pasture to another for cattle and heavy equipment. The three ponds would be cleaned and a pipe would be installed onto an existing spring tank in the Beale-Hacking Allotment. One pond would be abandoned or relocated in the Day Run allotment.

I did not select this alternative because, in comparison to Alternative 2 (Selected Alternative). Alternative 3 would have been less likely to achieve management objectives. Control of non-native invasive species is much less efficient and effective if done by hand. Therefore, Alternative 3 would be more likely to result in continued or increased population of invasive species within the allotments, and higher likelihood of spread to adjacent lands.

Finding of No Significant Impact

After considering the environmental effects described in the Marlinton Range Allotments EA, I have determined that implementing Alternative 2, the proposed action, will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment (40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1508.27). Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement is not needed.

To determine significance, I considered both the context and the intensity of these actions.

Significance of an action is to be considered in several contexts such as society as a whole, the affected region, affected interests, and the locality, depending on the setting of the proposed projects. This DN/FONSI is for a set of projects that are site specific in nature and their effects were analyzed as such. Significance in this case is heavily based on the effects in the local area rather than the forest, state, nation, or world as a whole.

Intensity refers to the severity of the impact. I based my determination of intensity of impacts on the following (40 CFR 1508.27):

1. **Impacts that may be both beneficial and adverse.** As described in Chapter 3 of the EA, both beneficial and adverse impacts to the human environment may result:

   Some soil disturbance will occur as the projects are implemented over the next several years, particularly when new holes are dug/drilled for the fence post along the stream in the Mullenax allotment, during the maintenance of existing water holes/ponds, the abandonment/relocation of the pond in the Day Run allotment and the ford hardening in the Mullenax allotment. The effects are expected to be minimized through the application of the mitigation measures included in this decision.

   It is possible that some sediment may reach the streams during implementation of this project. The overall cumulative effects of this alternative on sedimentation are expected to be a reduction in chronic sediment (EA, pp. 16-26).

Impacts to wildlife vary by the species. These impacts are discussed in the EA (EA, pp. 29-50).

2. **The degree to which the proposed actions affect public health or safety.** Public health and safety will not be significantly affected by Alternative 2 projects. Public health is not expected to be adversely affected. As stated above, all Forest-wide standards and guidelines (including those related to public safety) will be followed.

3. **Unique characteristics of the geographic area.** There will be no significant impact on unique characteristics of the geographic area. Historic and cultural resources are discussed below and in the EA (EA, pp. 65-69). There are no coastal zones areas, research natural areas, state or national parks, conservation areas, mapped or known wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmlands or other ecologically critical areas adjacent to or present in any of the range allotments project area.

4. **The degree to which the effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be highly controversial.** Controversy in this context refers to cases where there is substantial dispute as to the size, nature, or effect of Federal action, rather than opposition to its adoption. None of the issues within the scope of this analysis are believed to be highly controversial within the scientific community.

5. **The degree to which the possible effects on the human environment are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks.** All of the range management related activities included in my decision have been ongoing in this area. The restrictions/mitigation measures and methods of application for herbicide, in this decision, are more conservative than those in the Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessments for Glyphosate and Triclopyr (PF, Sections N-1 and N-2). Thus, possible effects on the human environment are not highly uncertain nor do they involve unique or unknown risks. Also, mitigation measures that will be implemented as part of this decision has been implemented in various areas of the Forest, and, when applied properly, have been effective at minimizing adverse resource effects.

6. **The degree to which the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration.**

   Range management activities, as authorized by my decision, have been implemented on the same soil types and in the same watersheds in the past. No other actions are expected in the project area or the watershed that will cause selected projects to establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects (see Cumulative Effects sections throughout Chapter 3 of the Marlinton Range Allotments EA). All projects in Alternative 2 are within the scope of the Forest Plan and associated EIS (EA, pp. 3-1 and Forest Plan Consistency sections throughout Chapter 3).

7. **Whether the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts.**

   The "Scope of Analysis" sections throughout Chapter 3 of the EA identify the area and rationale used to assess the cumulative effects of various resources. The "Cumulative Effects" sections throughout Chapter 3 explain why no alternatives analyzed would have cumulatively significant impacts.

8. **The degree to which action may adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or may cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historic resources.**

   Surveys for heritage resources were conducted as part of the analysis (EA, pp. 65-69, PF, Section K), and records in Forest and Marlinton-White Sulphur District files). Using mitigation described on pages 68-69 and in the attachment to this decision, heritage resource sites will be avoided and are not expected to be impacted by Alternative 2 projects (EA, p. 65-69). The West Virginia Division of Culture and History concurs with these findings (PF, K-2).

9. **The degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.**

   As supported in the Marlinton Range Allotments Biological Assessment (EA, Appendix E), implementing Alternative 2 will have "no effect" on Virginia spiraea, shale barren rock cress, Bald Eagle, Cheat mountain salamander, or Virginia big-eared bat. There will be no effect on designated critical habitat for Virginia big-eared bat. Alternative 2 "may affect, not likely to adversely affect" West Virginia northern flying squirrel, Indiana bat, running buffalo clover, and small whorled pogonia.

   All alternatives will have no effects beyond those previously disclosed and addressed in the Forest Plan Revison Biological Assessment for Threatened and Endangered Species (USFS 2006) and the Programmatic Biological Opinion for the Monongahela National Forest 2006 Forest Plan Revision (USFWS 2006). The anticipated effects from the proposed project are similar to those anticipated in the programmatic BO (USFWS 2006). With regards to sensitive species, the Marlinton Range Allotments Biological Evaluation documents that implementing Alternative 2 will have "no impacts" or "may impact individuals but is not likely to cause a trend to federal listing or loss of viability" (EA, Appendix E, BE). Alternative 2 will not result in a loss of viability for any species or associated habitat within the Marlinton Range Allotments project area.

   The U.S. Department of Interior Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has been consulted regarding this project and concurs with the findings in the Marlinton Range Allotments BA and BE (EA, Appendix E, 9/26/2007 USFWS correspondence). Mitigation attached to this decision will be followed to help reduce the potential for adverse effects to threatened, endangered, and sensitive species. If any federally-listed endangered or threatened species are found during project design or implementation, activities within that area will cease until additional consultation with USFWS has been concluded.

10. **Whether the action threatens a violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment.**

    No Federal, State, or local laws (e.g. the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act, various heritage resource laws, Multiple Use Sustained Yield Act, Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, WV Best Management Practices, etc.) will be violated (EA, Chapter 3 and information in the project file).

Findings Required by Other Laws and Regulations

It is my finding that the actions described in this decision comply with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Endangered Species Act of 1972, the National Forest Management Act (NFMA) of 1976, and the NFMA implementation regulations in 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Section 219.

Forest Plan Consistency - Management activities are to be consistent with the Forest Plan [16 U.S.C. 1604 (i)]. The Forest Plan guides management activities [36 CFR 219.1(b)]. Pages 2-3 of the EA list the pertinent Forest Plan management area direction for the project areas. Resource Protection - The following 11 statements address resource protection requirements of NFMA (36 CFR 219.27 (a)):

1. The selected actions conserve soil and water resources and promotes the recovery and productivity of the four grazing allotments (EA, pgs. 12-26).

2. Within the scope of the project and consistent with the other resource values involved, activities will minimize risks from serious or long-lasting hazards from flood, wind, wildfire, erosion, and other natural physical forces (see Item #1 above).

3. The selected action will minimize hazards due to insects and disease by improving pasture conditions over the next 10 years through increased forage production, soil stability, and moisture-holding capacity on these grazing areas (EA, pgs, 12-26, 26-29). A slight increase in rangeland health, species composition, and residual cover is expected.

4. The selected action will protect streams, streambanks, shorelines, lakes, and wetlands (see Item #1 above).

5. The selected action will provide for and maintain a diversity of plant and animal communities by moving the project area toward the desired landscape (EA, pp. 29-65).

6. The selected action will maintain sufficient habitat for viable populations of existing native vertebrate species (EA, pgs. 48-49).

7. The Environmental Assessment assesses potential physical, biological, aesthetic, cultural, engineering, and economic impacts of the selected action and its consistency with multiple uses planned for the area.

8. The selected action prevents the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat for threatened and endangered species (EA, pg. 4; Biological Evaluation for "Adjustments to Management and Improvements on Four Grazing Areas"; Letter of September 26, 2007 from the US Fish and Wildlife Service).

9. There are no transportation or utility right-of-way corridors needed to accommodate the project.

10. There is no proposed new road construction for this project.

11. There will be no effect on applicable Federal, State, and local air quality standards.

Administrative Review and Appeal Opportunity

This decision is not subject to administrative appeal pursuant to Forest Service Regulations at 36 CFR 215 because no written or oral comments were submitted during the 30-day comment period (CFR 215.13). This decision will be published in the *Pocahontas Times*, which is the "Paper of Record" for this decision.

This decision is subject to Forest Service administrative appeal pursuant to 36 CFR 251 by the permittees. A written Notice of Appeal must be submitted within 45 days after the date the notice of this decision is published in the Pocahontas Times in Marlinton, WV. Send the Notice of Appeal to:USDA, Forest Service, Monongahela National Forest, ATTN: Clyde Thompson, Appeals Deciding Officer, 200 Sycamore Street, Elkins, WV 26241.

The Notice of Appeal may alternately be faxed to: Attn: Appeals Deciding Officer, (304) 637-0582, mailed electronically (in a format, pdf, txt, rft, or document compatible with Microsoft Office applications) to comments-eastern-monongahela-marlinton@fs.fed.us, or hand delivered between the hours of 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Appeals must meet the content requirements of 36 CFR 251.90

Implementation Date

This decision may be implemented on, but not before, five business days following publication in the *Pocahontas Times*. If an appeal is received, a stay may be requested by the appellant.

Responsible Official and Contact Person

For more information concerning this decision, contact O'Dell E. Tucker at voice/TTY at 304-799-4334 or by writing to the Marlinton Ranger Office, PO Box 210, Marlinton, WV, 24954. A copy of the Marlinton Range Allotments EA can be obtained from the Monongahela National Forest website at www.fs.fed.us/r9/mnf/ under "Forest Planning", by emailing comments-eastern-monongahela@fs.fed.us, writing or calling O'Dell Tucker at the address or phone number above, or by contacting Rondi Fischer at Marlinton District Office, using the same contact information above. Records that support the conclusions of the EA and that were used to make this decision are available for review at the Marlinton Ranger Office from 8 AM to 4:45 PM Monday through Friday.

/s/Rondi L. Fischer — September 28, 2007

Rondi L. Fischer
District Ranger

Date

Design Criteria (Forest Standards and Guidelines) and Mitigation Measures

Mitigation Measures

To reduce potential negative impacts or concerns of proposed work, the following mitigation measures have been developed. They would be applied to project implementation, as applicable.

1. Black locust trees needed for fence posts will be removed during the Indiana bat hibernation period from November 15 through March 31. Locust trees greater than 5" dbh will be visually inspected by the feller for potential wildlife features. Trees with loose, sloughing or deep fissured bark characteristics will not be cut. Trees with obvious cavities or large nests will not be cut. No snags will be cut and no isolated trees/snags standing within the allotments will be cut.
2. Bat hotels will be placed along range allotment perimeters approximately 6-10 ft high in appropriate habitat.
3. Waterholes maintained/constructed will be designed to maximize use by bats and other wildlife species.
4. For Alternative 2, the following mitigation measures would be used during herbicide applications:
    A. The herbicide would not be applied aerially. Only low volume backpack sprayers or sprayers mounted on trucks, ATV's, or trailers would be used.
    B. To reduce drift, spray equipment would be calibrated to emit a droplet size greater than 200 microns.
    C. Herbicide application would be under the supervision of a certified applicator.
    D. Areas treated would be signed to identify the material used and the date of application.
    E. To help keep track of plants treated and to reduce the chance that the same target plant would be treated more than once, one half ounce or less of Bullseye blue spray pattern indicator/colorant would be added per gallon of spray mixture.
    F. Spraying would not be done if winds exceed 10 mph, or if heavy rain is expected within 2 hours.
    G. To reduce exposing the applicator(s) to spray contact, a step stool/ladder would be used to apply the herbicide to the tops of vegetation over 10 feet high.
    H. All label directions would be followed.
    I. Applicators would wear a long sleeved shirt and long pants (both required by the label). Other protective equipment not required to be worn by the label, but which would be required to be worn by Forest Service employee(s) or contractor(s) applying herbicide include: boots, a hard hat with a plastic liner, rubber or nitrile gloves, and safety goggles or a face shield. Clean clothing would be worn everyday. Upon

coming home after work, applicators should shower and change clothes. Clean wash water, soap, and towels would be available for the crew. Eyewash bottles and a change of clothing would be available at the job site in the case of personal contamination. Applicators should wash their hands before eating, drinking, chewing gum, using tobacco, or using the toilet.

J. The herbicide should not be mixed, stored, or applied with galvanized steel or unlined steel (except stainless steel) containers or spray tanks.

K. Project areas would be monitored the same growing season after initial treatment to determine how effective the treatment has been. The areas would also be monitored the following growing season after initial treatment to determine if a 2nd (follow up) treatment is necessary.

Design Criteria (Forest Standards and Guidelines)

Range Resources

Forest Service Manual and Handbook direction for rangeland resources is in FSM 2200 - Range Management, and FSH 2209 - Range Management, and includes both Service-wide and Regional Office direction.

Type	**Number**	**Direction Description**
Livestock and Allotment Management		
Standard	RA04	Allotment management plans (AMPs) shall be prepared and maintained on grazing allotments commensurate with the planned intensity of management. Design AMPs to maintain or improve vegetation, soil, and water resources. AMPs shall be coordinated with livestock production systems in use on adjacent lands to achieve balanced and sound management. Seek permittee involvement in the preparation of AMPs.
Guideline	RA05	Existing special use pasture permits may be converted to grazing permits where the land area can be managed as a grazing allotment.
Guideline	RA06	Newly acquired lands that are suitable for livestock grazing may be converted to grazing allotments.
Guideline	RA07	Additional areas for livestock grazing may be developed based on management prescription emphasis, land capability, cost effectiveness, resource condition, the needs of other resources, and the demand for forage and grazing levels.
Guideline	RA08	Open areas within allotments should be maintained for visual, wildlife, recreational, and forage purposes. Grazing should be one means of accomplishing this purpose and should be used where practical and efficient. Efficiency refers to a relative comparison of alternative means to keep the land in an open condition, not necessarily the efficiencies of the grazing operation.
Guideline	RA09	If water availability allows, rotational grazing should be encouraged to: d) Allow regrowth of the most desirable forage species, e) Avoid overuse of the most desirable areas, and f) Distribute use more evenly over the allotments.
Guideline	RA10	Give preference for grazing opportunities to local, resident landowners. Use competitive bidding to select new permittees.
Range Improvements		

Forest Service Manual and Handbook direction for rangeland resources is in FSM 2200 - Range Management, and FSH 2209 - Range Management, and includes both Service-wide and Regional Office direction.		
Type	**Number**	**Direction Description**
Standard	RA12	Stream access points shall be selected for streambank and channel stability. Stabilization of the access points shall be accomplished if needed. When monitoring indicates that streambank stability is not being maintained, perennial or intermittent streams shall be fenced from livestock, and alternative crossings shall be designated.
Standard	RA13	A minimum 25-foot buffer strip shall be maintained between watercourses, both permanent and intermittent, and applications of lime or fertilizer.
Standard	RA14	Soil amendments may be added to grazing areas only after soil analysis or indicator plants demonstrate a need. Types and rates of application shall be determined through a soil analysis.
Standard	RA15	Corrals, loading chutes, water troughs, and other similar livestock facilities shall be located on well-drained ground and on soils that can withstand the degree of use planned. Gravel may be applied to harden or armor areas of heavy use.
Standard	RA16	Walk-through gates, stiles, or other devices shall be installed in fences that bisect system trails.
Standard	RA17	Hawthorne management shall be addressed in AMPs for allotments where hawthorne occurs, using Integrated Resource Management or other appropriate procedures. Hawthorne stands shall be inventoried within grazing allotments to establish baseline conditions for management planning and treatments.
Guideline	RA18	Bog, seep, or spring areas within or adjacent to allotments may be used to provide water to livestock watering facilities and should be protected by fencing.
Guideline	RA19	Favor introduction of legumes into pastures over nitrogen fertilizer application.
Guideline	RA20	Revegetation activities should use a variety of native species and maintain or improve vegetative diversity. Monoculture conditions should be avoided.
Guideline	RA21	Supplements (minerals, salt, etc.) should be provided in moveable feeders and used to improve livestock distribution and use over the allotment as needed.
See also Soil and Water Goal SW01, Fire Management Goal FM06, Vegetation Goals VE01 and VE19, Soil and Water Standards SW24 and SW41, Vegetation Standards VE13, VE22, VE23; TEP Species Standard TE34, Heritage Resources Standards HR05 and HR06, Soil and Water Guidelines SW56, SW57, and SW58; TEP Species Guideline TE82, Wildlife and Fish Guideline WF15, Heritage Resources Guideline HR12.		

Management Prescription (Forest Standards and Guidelines)

Management Prescription 3.0 – Vegetation Diversity

Management Direction for 3.0 – Vegetation Diversity Emphasis		
Type	**Number**	**Direction Description**
2200 – Range		
Standard	3003	Management of open areas within allotments shall be primarily for livestock grazing. Intensive management for livestock grazing may occur.

Management Prescription 4.1 - Spruce and Spruce-Hardwood Ecosystem Management

Management Direction for 4.1 - Spruce and Spruce-Hardwood Ecosystem Management		
Type	**Number**	**Direction Description**
2200 - Range		
Standard	4112	Grazing allotments shall be fenced, including division fences to allow rotational grazing. Barbed or electric fences are allowed, but wooden rail fences are preferred. Woven wire shall not be used in new fences.
Guideline	4113	Ponds, water troughs, pipes, salt boxes, gravelling around troughs and similar developments may be used, but landscaping materials and locations should be chosen to blend in with the natural environment.

Management Prescription 6.1 - Wildlife Habitat Emphasis

Management Direction for 6.1 – Wildlife Habitat Emphasis		
Type	**Number**	**Direction Description**
2200 – Range		
Standard	6112	Grazing allotments shall be fenced, including division fences to allow rotational grazing. Barbed or electric fences are allowed, but wooden rail fences are preferred. Woven wire shall not be used in new fences.
Standard	6113	Planting non-native forage plants is prohibited without a project-level analysis.
Guideline	6114	Ponds, water troughs, pipes, salt boxes, gravelling around troughs and similar developments may be used, but landscaping materials and location should be chosen to blend in with the natural environment.
Guideline	6115	Mowing practices should judiciously leave clumps of shrubs, shrubs along stream courses and wet areas, along woodland borders, steep slopes, rocky or rough areas, and sites needed for diversity and edge effect.