

# APPENDIX G

## GRAZING SYSTEMS

### REST-ROTATION GRAZING

Under a rest-rotation grazing system, grazing is deferred on various parts of an allotment during succeeding years, and the deferred parts are allowed complete rest for one or more years (Society for Range Management 1974). The allotment is divided into pastures, usually with comparable grazing capacities. Each pasture is systematically grazed and rested so that livestock production and other resource values are provided for, while the vegetation cover is simultaneously maintained or improved. This practice provides greater protection of the soil resource against wind and water erosion (USDA, FS 1965; Hormay 1970; USDA, FS 1972; Ratliff and Reppert 1974).

Any of several rest-rotation grazing systems may be used, depending upon the objectives for the allotment and the number of pastures.

### DEFERRED ROTATION GRAZING

Deferred rotation is the discontinuance of grazing on different parts of an allotment in succeeding years. This allows each pasture to rest successively during the growing season to permit seed production, establishment of seedlings, and restoration of plant vigor (Society for Range Management 1974). One or more pastures are grazed during the spring, while the remaining one or more pastures are rested until after seed ripening of key species, and then grazed. Deferred rotation grazing differs from rest-rotation grazing in that no yearlong rest is provided.

### DEFERRED GRAZING

Deferred grazing is the discontinuance of grazing by livestock on an area for a specified period of time during the growing season. Under this system, grazing would begin after key plants have reached an advanced stage of development in their annual growth cycle. The growing season rest provided by this system promotes plant reproduction, establishment of new plants, or restoration of the vigor of old plants (American Society of Range Management 1964).

### ALTERNATE GRAZING

Alternate grazing is grazing by livestock every other season, with the area being rested in the alternate year. Stoddard, Smith, and Box (1975) describe the system:

"Rotation grazing, or alternate grazing, involves subdividing the range into units and grazing one range unit, then another, in regular succession. The rotation system of grazing is based upon the assumption that animals in large numbers make more uniform use of the forage, and that a rest from grazing is beneficial to the plant, even though it must support a greater number of animals in the shorter time during which it is grazed. Certainly, proper rotation grazing results in more uniform utilization. Large number of animals in small units are forced to spread over the entire area and to use the available forage more uniformly. Trampling is reduced because animals are held on small areas where feed is more abundant, and hence less travel is necessary."

### SHORT-DURATION, HIGH-INTENSITY GRAZING

High-intensity grazing permits short-duration grazing with the stocking rate higher than what would be considered normal. The purpose of this type of system is to obtain uniform use of all plants, desirable and undesirable alike, and to prevent regrazing on regrowth of the most desirable plants. This system allows desirable plants to compete for nutrients on an equal basis with less desirable plants.