

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)
Bennett Hills-Timmerman Hil
Activity
Range Management
Overlay Reference
Step 1 No. 1 Step 3

TIMMERMAN HILLS SHEEP ALLOTMENT 0605

RECOMMENDATION

RATIONALE

RM 1, 2.1

Implement a grazing system by developing an AMP with at least the following minimum grazing formula:

Treatment	4/16	5/1	6/25	7/20	9/30	12/15
A						
B						
C	REST					
D						

This grazing formula is considered to be of minimum design to allow for improved range conditions and improved

production of quality and quantity of livestock forage.

It is also anticipated that two such systems should be implemented, one each for the

east side and west side. This should be done to allow for the flow from southeast to northwest of the sheep bands in the spring and back in the fall. (See T.H. URA, RM, Step 3, p 26-29 and Step 4, p 18-21).

Estimated potential increase in livestock forage is 1462 AUMs. (See T.H. URA, RM, Step 4 p. 2.)

MULTIPLE-USE ANALYSIS

Analysis of the other resource activity Step 1 recommendations reveals that intensive livestock management is a must to manipulate livestock to attain

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

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multiple use goals. The following Step 1 recommendations lend support to this recommendation for a minimum grazing system design: WL 5.1, 6.1, 6.4, 8.2, 8.3, 12.1, & R 2.1, 3.2, & W 1, 2, 1.3.

These recommendations relate the following constraints on the development of the grazing system and establish guidelines for allowable livestock grazing within that system:

1. Insure that no more than 60% of the herbaceous vegetation is utilized by livestock in any pasture and implement a grazing system to establish and maintain a diverse vegetative composition of 20 - 25% forbs, 55 - 65% grasses, and 15 - 20% shrubs.
2. Establish livestock grazing systems that will enhance the reproduction and forage availability of forbs.
3. Meet the physiological needs of herbaceous vegetation so that it will prosper and increase to the greatest ground cover the soils are capable of supporting.
4. Place increased emphasis on Watershed protection on NRL by improving overall range conditions.

There are three other recommendations in the Range Management, Timmerman Hills Sheep Allotment: RM 1, 2.2, R 2.3, & RM 1, 2.5 that will affect the final selection of the grazing system and the livestock operators. They are to establish stocking rates for both National Resource Lands and other lands within the allotment, and to combine this allotment with the Picabo Hills Cattle Allotment. See the

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Multiple-Use Analysis for these recommendations for the additional overview of the situation.

Multiple-Use Recommendation

Implement a grazing system with at least the minimum standards depicted in the above recommendation and allow for inclusion of items 1 through 4 in the Multiple-Use Analysis in the grazing system design and application.

Reasons

Deer winter range, sagegrouse strutting grounds, sage grouse wintering area, and antelope summer range fall within this allotment. It is necessary that intensive livestock management be implemented to preserve and improve these values and to improve range and watershed conditions.

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RECOMMENDATION

RATIONALE

RM 1, 2.2

Establish stocking rates on National Resource Lands within this allotment in accordance with the carrying capacity information as interpolated from soils and vegetative data to be gathered during the summer of 1976 and succeeding years.

The present carrying capacity of this allotment has been estimated to be 11 Ac/AUM (see T.H. URA, RM, Step 4 p. 2) while the active qualifications obligate the National Resource Lands at 8.4 Ac/AUM. The sheep operators in this allotment are presently activating only 40 to 60 percent of their spring grazing privileges and 20 to 40 percent of their fall privileges. The new stocking rates are also needed to determine conversion ratio for change in class of livestock from sheep to cattle.

In order to improve range conditions and to finally increase available AUMs, up-to-date stocking rate information is needed. (See T.H. URA, RM, Step 4 p. 21).

MULTIPLE-USE ANALYSIS

This recommendation is supported by recommendations made in the Watershed, Recreation and Wildlife Activities. If the above estimated carrying capacities

for this allotment are near correct, then there would be a moderate economic

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impact on the users through a reduction in qualification if this recommendation is implemented. Most, if not all, of any proposed reduction could be applied to privileges that are now carried in non-use status.

See also the analysis for Recommendation, Picabo Cattle Allotment, RM 1, 2.4 for possible alternative to a reduction in active privileges.

Multiple-Use Recommendations

Reasons

This recommendation should be accepted to determine proper carrying Capacity for this allotment.

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RECOMMENDATION

RATIONALE

RM 2.3

Obtain information on present carry-
ing capacity on all State and private
lands offered for exchange of use.

Stocking rates should be based on present
carrying capacity as stated in W.O. Inst.
Memo 74-397, "stocking rates for exchange
of use agreements and percent use author-
izations must be based on forage inven-
tories. Exchange of use agreements that
would work to the detriment of the Dis-
trict program should be rejected". The
Bureau's range survey for this unit has
been lost and there is no current record
for this allotment. The State Department
of Public Lands has recently re-surveyed
most of their lands and the BLM may recog-
nize the State's new carrying capacity
on State lands offered for exchange of use.

MULTIPLE USE ANALYSIS

The carrying capacity data on these State and private lands needs to be updated
so that the exchange-of-use licenses can be based on current information. There
is no conflict with other resources on obtaining this data. If the carrying
capacity of these lands in AUMs are adjusted downward, it would have an economic
impact on the people controlling these lands. They would have to accept the new

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carrying capacities or fence these lands out of the allotment.

Multiple-Use Recommendations

Accept the recommendations as stated above and adjust the exchange-of-use licenses accordingly.

Reasons

If the offered lands are overstocked it puts additional grazing pressure on NRLs.

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RECOMMENDATIONRATIONALE

RM 2.4

Allow change in class of livestock from sheep to cattle after the AMP has been approved and the needed management facilities have been installed. (See T.H. URA, RM, Step 4, p 19 and 20).

The past trend in requests to change class of livestock from sheep to cattle is expected to continue, and in fact several such inquiries have been made concerning this allotment. Allowing such changes would support the cattle industry's increased need for forage in the amount of up to about 5,000 AUMs in the allotment.

MULTIPLE-USE ANALYSIS

There is not any direct conflict with this recommendation and those made by the other resource specialists. There would be an economic benefit to the cattle industry in additional AUMs if this recommendation is accepted. The negative impact on the present sheep operators might be the additional costs of needed improvements to control cattle in the allotment. The positive impact for at least some of the licensees would be the additional market for excess AUMs or the benefit of flexibility in being able to run cattle in this allotment. It is anticipated that some of the sheep operators would be against allowing the conversion on any basis as it might reduce what they consider to be the desired quality of sheep feed in the allotment.

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The cost of investments by both the Government and the users would be more costly if a conversion from sheep to cattle were allowed. The difference would be in the amount of needed fences and water developments for season-long use with cattle.

Multiple-Use RecommendationsReason

Accept the above recommendations with the added stipulation that the ratio of sheep to cattle would be based on information gathered in recommendation RM 1, 2.2 for this allotment.

The economic analysis for this area and the proposed benefits discussed above indicate that NRL should be managed to accommodate grazing by cattle and sheep.

Alternatives

Allow grazing by sheep only to keep range improvement costs down.

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RECOMMENDATIONRATIONALE

RM 2.5

Combine this allotment with the Picabo Cattle Allotment (0601) and implement one AMP with two grazing systems.

Combining these two allotment would have the following advantages:

1. Fewer livestock management facilities would be required (fences & water developments).
2. One AMP with two grazing systems could be implemented with no reduction in active use from last year's active use. (See T.H. URA, RM, Step 4 p 19).
3. The grazing system could be designed to allow for change in class of livestock for a grazing season of 6/25 to 9/30. (See T.H. URA, RM, Step 4 p 19 & 20).
4. The objectives of improved range conditions and increased production of livestock forage could be obtained in a shorter time frame by combining allotments that could be accomplished by keeping them separate.

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See the Multiple-Use Analysis for Picabo Cattle Allotment (RM 1, 2.4) which applies to this recommendation.

If these two allotments were combined, it would be important that the management facilities be programmed as soon as possible to accomodate cattle in the combined grazing systems so that protection and improvement of the resources could be attained.

Multiple-Use Recommendations

Accept the above recommendation if the proposed benefits can be realized in the development of the AMP for the combined area.

Reasons

Because of several factors, such as land patterns in Picabo Allotment, improvements needed to accomodate cattle in the Timmerman Hills Sheep Allotment and possible user disagreement to the proposal, a firm or final decision to combine these allotments should not be made at this date.

Alternative

Do not combine the two allotments.
Keep them separate and develop individual AMPs for each allotment.

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RECOMMENDATION

RATIONALE

RM 2.6

Construct fences to allow for implementation of the proposed grazing system

Presently this allotment is fenced only on the north and south boundaries. It is estimated that about 30 miles of fence will be needed to implement the proposed grazing system. Both Highways 93 and 26 would need to be fenced, plus the interior pasture fences. No fences are shown at this time on the Range Management Overlay because location has not yet been determined. Plans for the fences will be developed with the writing of the AMP.

MULTIPLE-USE ANALYSIS

All fences proposed and existing have conflicts with some of the recreation (R 8.3) and wildlife (WL 5.3) activity recommendations, but are also recognized as a necessary evil to accomplish livestock manipulation to implement intensive livestock management which will help to accomplish many of the range management, watershed, wildlife, and recreation activity recommendations.

All new fences should be constructed to specifications presented in the 1737 Fencing Manual. The fences should be located so as to blend in with the natural environment as much as possible. Gates and/or cattleguards should be located on roads and trails and/or at least every mile in gentle terrain and at least every one-half mile in

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rough terrain to accomodate the public use of the National Resource Lands.

Multiple Use Recommendations

Reasons

Construct new fences to allow for implementation of the proposed grazing system. Specifications for fence construction will be in accordance with the above analysis.

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RECOMMENDATIONRATIONALE

RM 2.7

Develop dependable water in order to provide for proper utilization and distribution.

There needs to be additional water developed to facilitate the implementation of an intensive grazing system. It is known there is a lack of water on the allotment, especially when cattle use will be allowed. Plans for these additional waters will be developed with the development of the AMP and as needed for the implementation and operation of the grazing system. Any water to be developed should be for season long use to facilitate livestock manipulation within the proposed grazing system for the duration of the grazing season.

MULTIPLE-USE ANALYSIS

The recommendation conflicts with WL 6.2 which recommends to exclude livestock from spring and wet-meadow areas. This conflict should be mitigated by fencing out identified spring areas on a project by project basis after developing the water and piping it to a trough for livestock use. The wet-meadows should be identified as to the specific site needs after intensive livestock management has been implemented to see if this need can be satisfied through the manipulation of livestock within

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the grazing system.

The development of dependable water supports the recommendation to implement an intensive grazing system on this allotment and benefits would accrue to both livestock and wildlife.

Multiple Use Recommendations

Reasons

Develop dependable water as indicated in the AMP and correlate the project design to mitigate as much as possible with wildlife needs.

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RECOMMENDATION

RATIONALE

RM 1, 2.8

Treat 42,881 acres of brush to release the forage species. This could be accomplished with a combination of spraying, chaining, or burning.

This treatment is needed to improve the quality and quantity of forage for the present active qualifications and present grazing season. This treatment will produce an additional 1,200 AUMs of forage over the estimated present carrying capacity which combined with management will produce an additional 2,662 AUMs. The 1200 AUMs would be realized in 6 to 8 years after treatment (see also Timmerman Hills URA, RM, Step 4 p 2).

MULTIPLE-USE ANALYSIS

This recommendation for 42,800 acres is reduced and the remaining areas are supported and/or constrained by other accepted resource activity recommendations to point that total acres of brush control are unknown at this time. See the Range Management Step II Overlay for location of and type of constraints on brush control projects within this allotment. See also the General and Specific Guidelines for Brush Control that are contained in Appendix I of this section.

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Multiple-Use Recommendation

Reasons

Selectively control sagebrush to increase livestock forage, improve watershed conditions, and improve species composition for sage grouse breed rearing within the accepted guidelines (RM Appendix I) for sagebrush control.

The Wildlife, Watershed, and Range Management programs can be enhanced by doing selective sagebrush control projects.