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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
FINAL DECISIONS - STEP 3

Name (MFP)
Little Lost-Birch Creek
Activity
Range Management
Overlay Reference
Step 1 Step 3

Decision #1: Forage Allocation - RM-1.1, 1.2, 1.3

After existing wildlife forage needs are met allocate available forage to livestock. Proposed grazing use for the area is 27,800 AUMs for livestock (an overall 7 percent reduction in authorized use) and 10,453 AUMs for wildlife. After 15 years, about 14,000 additional AUMs should be available; 1,800 from vegetation manipulation and 12,200 from improved management.

The following table shows the livestock forage allocation by allotment:

LIVESTOCK GRAZING MANAGEMENT AND FORAGE ALLOCATION

Management Component	Allotment	Federal Land Acreage		Authorized Livestock AUMs	1977 Licensed Use (AUMs)	Proposed Level Livestock Use (AUMs) on Fed. Land	Approximate Season of Use	Approximate Number and Class of Livestock	Adjustments From Authorized Livestock Use on Fed. Land	
		Public Land	Withdrawal						AUMs	Percent
Forage Allocation	Bear Canyon	3,538		352	353	327	05/16 to 10/15	66c	-25	-7
	Bell Mountain	6,633		544	547	486	05/16 to 08/30	62c	-58	-11
	Bernice	22,687		919		919	05/01 to 06/15	300c	0	0
	Horse Creek	5,559		643	640	643	05/16 to 07/15	167c	0	0
	Cedarville	19,655		3,594	2,242	*3,767	05/01 to 07/15	723c	+173	+5
	Howe Peak	13,277	18,209	2,400	1,543	2,400	05/01 to 06/11	2,372s	0	0
	Mahogany Butte	34,935	17,516	1,810	1,679	1,810	05/01 to 06/30	1,200s	0	0
	Sinks		19,781	1,511	1,234	1,434	05/01 to 12/05	3,300s	0	0
	Wet Creek	6,806		602	603	602	05/16 to 07/15	205c	-77	-5
	Wigwam Butte	5,120	10,167	1,236		861	10/16 to 12/30	240c	0	0
	TOTALS		118,210	65,673	13,611	8,841	13,249	11/23 to 01/20	417c	375
Forage Allocation	Hawley Mt.	71,655		5,589	3,865	* 5,612	05/01 to 12/31	10h	+23	+ 1
	Jumpoff	14,677		760	753	562	05/01 to 11/30	25c		
	Spring Canyon	37,005		2,979	2,890	2,090	05/01 to 01/15	713c		
	Uncle Ike	27,872		903	904	903	05/01 to 08/20	120c	-198	-26
	Warm Springs	6,711		1,641	1,311	1,285	12/01 to 01/11	90c		
	Williams Creek	5,363		335	334	171	05/16 to 12/04	225c		
	TOTALS		163,283	0	12,207	10,057	10,623	05/16 to 06/30	535s	889
Forage Allocation	Briggs Canyon	14,691		720	395	697	05/16 to 06/30	400s		
	Burnt Canyon	5,713		290	281	* 505	10/01 to 01/22	145c		
	Cedar Point	1,274		132		92	05/01 to 06/30	145c	0	0
	Eight Mile Cyn.	1,684		225		51	11/16 to 01/30	202c		
	Kyle Canyon	711		70	70	43	05/16 to 10/15	257c	-356	-22
	Pass Creek	17,949		1,965	1,883	1,691	05/16 to 06/30	45c	-164	-49
	Sawmill Canyon	5,839		384	88	579	11/06 to 12/31	45c		
	Summit	3,216		270	270	270		68c		
TOTALS		51,077	0	4,056	2,987	3,928			-2,074	
RAND TOTALS		332,570	65,673	29,874	21,885	27,800				

Proposed livestock use on federal lands exceeds existing stocking rates on these allotments. This resulted from redistribution of livestock between allotments where the same permittee has a shortage of forage in one allotment and a forage surplus in another. Stocking levels would not exceed carrying capacity in any allotments. The connective lines in the second to last column show which allotments were mitigated through redistribution.

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Reasons:

About 1/3 of the area is currently considered in good or excellent range condition, 28 percent fair, 26 percent poor, and the balance seedings. Most of the area is in a stable or static trend. Range studies showed some allotments had a grazing capacity less than current levels of authorized grazing use while others showed grazing capacity in excess of authorized use. Deer, elk, and antelope use the area in fall and winter and sagegrouse are also dependent on the area for forage and cover. Limited water sources have led to livestock distribution problems and subsequent damage to some riparian vegetation.

This allocation of forage provides for wildlife needs and (coupled with grazing management systems and range improvements) will provide an estimated 14,000 additional AUMs after 15 years primarily through improved management. Forage allocation in conjunction with management systems allow some allotments to be combined so that reductions in grazing use are minimized. Fourteen of the original 31 allotments were combined into seven allotments for better administration. Most of the combinations will mitigate livestock reductions where one allotment has a forage surplus and another a shortage. The allocation (and management systems) will lead to increased vigor in forage plants and establishment of new forage plants. Over a 15 year period, available forage is expected to increase 37 percent and the following acreage changes in rangeland condition can be expected:

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
Existing	2,766	135,508	112,498	102,588
Future	69,306	142,078	76,282	52,194

(Additional data is contained in Little Lost-Birch Creek Rangeland Management Program Summary Report.)

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

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Decision #2: Management Systems - RM-1.1, 1.2, 1.3

Management systems will be implemented on each allotment to provide the needed forage and maintain or improve forage production.

The grazing systems to be implemented are: rest-rotation, 163,283 acres; deferred rotation, 183,883 acres; and seasonal, 51,077 acres.

Basic livestock management components for each allotment are shown in the table in Range Management Decision #1. Allotment management plans will be developed for all allotments over the next 3 years. Supportive activities are outlined in the range improvements table in Range Management Decision #3.

Reasons:

Implementation of this program will bring livestock stocking rates in line with the grazing capacity of the range and will disperse livestock grazing pressure. New water developments will increase existing watering sources and promote more effective management through a more extensive distribution of livestock over the allotments. Rangeland conditions will improve because the grazing systems are designed to meet the growth requirements of forage plants.

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Decision #3: Rangeland Improvements

Construct the projects needed to implement the grazing program and to achieve objectives of the grazing management plans. The needed projects are listed in the following table:

Attach additional sheets, if needed

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PROPOSED RANGE IMPROVEMENTS AND VEGETATIVE MANIPULATION

Allotment	Fences		Spring Developments		Water Pipelines		Water Troughs		Reservoirs		Vegetative Manipulation		Storage Tanks	
	Miles	Acres Dist.	No.	Acres Dist.	Miles	Acres Dist.	No.	Acres Dist.	No.	Acres Dist.	Treatment Method	Acres	No.	Acres Dist.
Deferred Rotation:														
Bear Canyon	0.5	1.0	1.0	0.5										
Bell Mountain					2.0	2.4	2.0	0.2						
Bernice	13.0	26.0			8.0	9.6	3.0	0.3						
Cedarville	3.5	7.0			3.5	4.2	1.0	0.1						
Horse Creek					1.0	1.2	2.0	0.2						
Howe Peak											Control Brush Burn	7,000c		
Mahogany Butte					7.0	8.4	3.0	0.3	4.0	2.0				
Sinks	10.5	21.0												
Wet Creek							2.0	0.2						
Wigwam Butte	5.5	11.0												
Rest Rotation:														
Hawley Mountain	33.5*	67.0			8.0	9.6	7.0	0.4						
Jumpoff					1.5	1.8	1.0	0.1			Interseed Drill	4,000a*		
Pass Creek	1.0**	2.0			2.5	3.0	2.0	0.1			Rotobeat & Interseed	4,500d		
Spring Canyon	6.0	12.0			15.0	18.0	6.0	0.6			Rotobeat & Interseed	4,500a		
Uncle Ike	10.8	21.6	1.0	0.5	10.0	12.0	6.0	0.6						
Warm Springs			1.0	0.5	1.5	1.8	1.0 ³	0.1			Rotobeat & Interseed	1,000b		
Williams Creek	3.0	6.0			2.5	3.0	3.0	0.3			Rotobeat & Interseed	500a		
Seasonal:														
Briggs Canyon	4.5	9.0			6.0	7.2	2.0		1.0	0.5	Interseed Drill	1,500a	1.0	1.0
Burnt Canyon														
Cedar Point	1.5	3.0												
Eight Mile Canyon														
Kyle Canyon					2.5	3.0	4.0	0.4	1.0	0.5				
Sawmill					1.5	1.8								
Summit					72.5	87.0	45.0	3.9	6.0	3.0				
TOTALS	93.3	186.6	3.0	1.5	72.5	87.0	45.0	3.9	6.0	3.0		23,000	1.0	1.0

- a. New Land Treatment
- b. Maintain Existing Treatment
- c. Includes 2,000 acres of maintaining existing treatment and 5,000 acres of new land treatment
- d. Includes 1,500 acres of maintaining existing treatment and 3,000 acres of new land treatment

*These miles of fence reflect range projects only. Table 1-3 includes fencing for wildlife and aquatic purposes. All fences will be constructed to allow antelope passage by having a smooth bottom wire at least 16" from the ground. Existing BLM fences are being modified to meet antelope passage requirements.

*Modified to 800 acres. See RM-3.9 Jumpoff Allotment

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Reasons:

Range improvements are required to ensure success of the grazing management program for the unit. Rest rotation and deferred rotation management systems will use existing fences to maximum advantage along with combinations of existing allotments. However, new fences, water developments, and vegetation manipulation are needed to make the management systems work. Range improvements will be located and designed to minimize or eliminate conflicts with other resource uses.

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Decision #4: Monitoring

Grazing management systems will be monitored to insure that objectives of the systems are being met.

Reasons:

Monitoring and resource studies will be conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of the range management program and gather pertinent data. Some monitoring was initiated in 1979. Effects of the various management practices on vegetation, wildlife habitat, watershed conditions, and the aquatic environment will all be monitored by the following processes:

a. Livestock and Vegetation

Actual use records will be maintained. Range use supervision will be intensified to ensure that livestock numbers and seasons of use comply with the BLM authorization. Forage utilization checks will be made to measure the intensity of grazing. Range conditions and trend studies will be initiated. Climatological data will be gathered for use in analyzing the range studies.

b. Terrestrial Wildlife

Habitat condition and trend studies will be conducted periodically using the Cole method to determine the effects of the grazing management on big game winter ranges. Browse age, form class and utilization will be evaluated. Annual studies will also be made to better define the actual use areas of each big game species in wintering, fawning or calving areas.

c. Water Quality and Aquatic Life

Water quality studies will be conducted annually in cooperation with USGS to measure temperature, oxygen, hardness, phosphates, flow, etc. Fish habitat monitoring studies will occur annually to determine bank cover and stability, pool classes, bottom material, turbidity, fish populations, etc. Small protective enclosures will be constructed to document changes due to implementation of the proposed grazing system.

See: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)