Grazing Management

Grazing management addresses livestock and wild horses and burros. Livestock grazing is the most widespread type of land use across Greater Sage-Grouse habitat in the Great Basin. Improper livestock grazing may affect vegetation communities that are important to the sage-grouse lifecycle. Fencing constructed to manage livestock grazing can cause direct mortality to sage-grouse and fragmentation of habitat. The effects of livestock grazing on sage-grouse habitat depend upon the grazing management system, stocking levels, season of use, and utilization levels.

Issue: What measures will the BLM and Forest Service put in place to manage grazing to meet Greater Sage-Grouse habitat requirements?

Management Actions

Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E	Alternative F
· Maintain current management from 12 BLM and 2 Forest Service LUPs. · No Change in permitted AUMs · Manage Livestock to meet Standards and Guidelines for Rangeland Health or the Forest Service equivalent.	· Maintain 12,572,300 acres of PPMAs and 4,979,300 acres of PGMAs as open for all classes of livestock grazing. · Manage livestock grazing to meet Standards and Guidelines for Rangeland Health and in accordance with science based GRSG habitat guidelines. · Make changes to livestock grazing to comply with GRSG habitat guidelines. · Prioritize completion of rangeland health assessments (or the Forest Service equivalent) and processing grazing permits in PPMAs.	· Within allotments that overlap PPMAs (36,500,100 acres), close allotments to grazing and eliminate permitted Animal Unit Months (AUMs).	· Maintain 12,572,300 acres of PPMAs and 4,979,300 acres of PGMAs as open for all classes of livestock grazing. · Manage livestock grazing to meet Standards and Guidelines for Rangeland Health and in accordance with science based GRSG habitat objectives (Table 2-6) for percent sagebrush canopy cover, sagebrush height, percent grasses and forbs canopy cover and, grasses and forbs height.	· Continue to make mapped GRSG occupied habitat available for livestock grazing. · No Change in permitted AUMs · Manage livestock grazing to meet Standards and Guidelines for Rangeland Health improve forage for livestock, and enhance rangeland health. Consider the application of best management practices for the protection of GRSG.	· Reduce permitted AUMs by 25% and rest (close) 25 percent of allotments in GRSG occupied habitat to livestock grazing. · Reduce by 25% the appropriate management levels (AMLs) of established herd management areas (HMAs)/wild horse and burro territories (WHBTs) in PPMAs and PGMAs.

Photo Credit: F. A. Martin and BLM