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BLM CARSON CITY DISTRICT RMP PLANNING FACT SHEET *Grazing*

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The BLM Carson City District (CCD) is developing the Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the Carson City District planning area. The Carson City RMP will provide detailed information about the current state of resources on public lands within the planning area, and set forth a plan of action for managing those resources for the next twenty or so years under the BLM's multiple use mandate.

The Carson City District manages livestock grazing portions of 12 counties within two states (Washoe, Storey, Carson City, Douglas, Lyon, Churchill, Mineral, and Nye counties within Nevada, and Sierra, Alpine, Plumas, and Lassen counties within California), and encompasses approximately five million acres of public land. Operators can use more than one allotment and an allotment can have more than one operator.

Within the planning area, there are 111 allotments and 52 permittees. The allotments vary in size from 120 to 512,449 public acres, with grazing allocations ranging from 29 to 11,410 AUMs in each allotment.



A total of 156,731 Animal Unit Months (AUMs) are currently permitted within the district with 6,222 suspended use AUMs. An AUM is the amount of forage necessary for the sustenance of one cow or its equivalent for a period of 1 month and is further defined by 1 cow, bull, steer, heifer, horse, burro, mule, 5 sheep, or 5 goats, over the age of 6 months.

Grazing permits are issued for a maximum of ten years and are reviewed prior to reissuance for conformance with management objectives and to ensure progress towards Resource Advisory Council (RAC) Standards and Guidelines (S&Gs). The RAC was developed to promote healthy rangeland and to balance multiple use on public lands. The Carson City District lies within the Sierra Front-Northwestern Great Basin RAC boundary.

The RAC developed standards and guidelines to ensure the BLM adheres to mandates requiring multiple use management. The following is a list of the Standards by the Sierra Front-Northwestern Great Basin RAC.

- Soils
- Riparian/Wetlands
- Water Quality
- Plant and Animal Habitat

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Of the 111 allotments, there are 67 permits, 35 of which have been renewed through an Environmental Assessment and Grazing Decision. These decisions have addressed conditions of the Allotment, and have resulted in a variety of outcomes, including; changes in season of use, reduction in AUMs, temporary suspension of AUMs due to drought, wildfire, and/or range improvement conditions, and modification of the terms and conditions for administration.

Rangeland Health Assessments will be completed for each allotment during the permit renewal process.

The following are examples of factors that could cause the need to change grazing management:

1. Inappropriate season of use.
2. Suitability for livestock grazing.
3. Availability and/or functionality of range improvement projects.

The following are examples of the kind of changes that could be made to the grazing management system:

1. Change in season of use.
2. Possible reduction in AUMs.
3. Temporary suspension of AUMs.
4. Prescriptive grazing measures.
5. Implementation of adaptive management.

The BLM would like your input...

What livestock grazing management practices are appropriate to maintain and/or restore properly functioning vegetative communities?

What criteria should BLM use to determine suitability for livestock grazing use?

What criteria should BLM use to determine areas that should not be available to livestock grazing?

How should vacant allotments be managed?

What criteria should be utilized to determine if additional forage is available to consider Temporary Non-Renewable (TNR) grazing above the preference and/or authorize temporary changes in use that are deemed outside the terms and conditions of the permit?

What criteria should BLM use to determine appropriate triggers and end-point indicators as terms and conditions of grazing permits?

How should BLM manage livestock grazing if invasive and/or noxious weeds are present?

How should BLM address allotment management that crosses field office boundaries?

Any other issues or concerns with livestock grazing?

**Comments can also be mailed
to:**

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**CCD Planning Webpage:
[http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/
fo/carson_city_field.html](http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/carson_city_field.html)**

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