

**San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area  
Resource Management Plan  
Watershed and Rangeland Management**

**Watershed Management:** Proper watershed function in the uplands is imperative to the proper functioning condition of the San Pedro River. A healthy cover of vegetation stabilizes the soil, increases infiltration of precipitation, slows surface runoff, prevents excessive erosion, provides clean water to adjacent streams, increases natural groundwater recharge and enhances the visual quality of public land.

**Resource Management Plan decisions specific to watershed management and issues:**

- Identify **desired future conditions** (including standards or goals under the Clean Water Act).
- **Identify watersheds or specific soils** that need special protection from the standpoint of human health concerns, ecosystem health, or other public uses.
- Identify **area-wide use restrictions** or other protective measures to meet water quality requirements.
- Identify measures to ensure water availability for multiple use management and functioning, health riparian and upland systems.

**Range and Rangeland Management:** The majority of the SPRNCA has been closed to grazing since 1989. There are four active allotments on the SPRNCA that total 6,521 acres.

**Resource Management Plan decisions specific to rangeland (upland) vegetation management:**

- **Identify desired future conditions for vegetation**, including the desired mix of vegetative types, structural stages, and landscape and watershed functions;
- Identify **areas of ecological importance** and designate priority plant species and habitats, including special status species and populations of plant species recognized as significant for at least one factor such as density, diversity, size, public interest, remnant character, or age.
- Identify the actions and area-wide use restrictions needed to achieve desired vegetative conditions.

**Resource Management Plan Decisions specific to livestock grazing:**

- **Identify lands available or not available for livestock grazing** considering the following factors:
  - Other uses for the land; terrain characteristics; soil, vegetation, and watershed characteristics; the presence of undesirable vegetation, and the presence of other resources that may require special management
- For lands available for livestock grazing, identify on an areawide basis both the **amount of existing forage available for livestock** (expressed in animal unit months) and the future anticipated amount of forage available for livestock with full implementation of the land use plan.
- Describe how these public lands will be managed to become as **productive as feasible for livestock grazing**.
  - Include a description of possible **grazing management practices** such as grazing systems, range improvements (including land treatments), changes in seasons of use and/or stocking rates.