

**Livestock Grazing Plan Amendment EIS  
Preliminary Alternatives - Dec. 2014**

**Summary Comparison of Preliminary Alternatives**

	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E
<b>Theme</b>	<b>No Action</b> - Continue current management direction. Livestock grazing continues at current permitted levels. Areas currently closed remain unavailable to grazing.	Discontinue livestock grazing on GSENM and Glen Canyon NRA with 2-year notification. Permits provided compensation for improvements. Areas in Kanab and Arizona Strip Field Offices remain available for grazing.	Emphasize restoring native species diversity. Livestock grazing managed to ensure little to no impact to resources. Changes in grazing systems (e.g. season of use, intensity, rotation) considered before implementing range improvements. Areas currently unavailable and unallotted remain unavailable. Additional areas identified as unavailable for grazing.	Recognizes historic and cultural importance of the livestock industry while emphasizing healthy landscapes to support multiple uses. Designed to be consistent with State and County ordinances and plans. Livestock management actively promotes rangeland health through adaptive management principles and innovative livestock practices. Some suspended AUMS and unavailable allotments returned to active use when range conditions improve.	Emphasizes sustainable use through livestock management designed to ensure rangeland health standards are achieved and land health is improved. Most areas unavailable remain unavailable; two areas would be made available. Some unallotted areas would be made unavailable.
<b>Area (acres) and AUMs Available for Grazing</b>					
<b>Total Available:</b>	2,102,900	67,800	1,935,400 <sup>1</sup>	2,137,000	2,068,500
Available (no restrictions):	2,088,300	67,800	1,920,100	2,122,400	2,032,400
Forage Reserve:	14,600	0	0	14,600	20,700
Trailing Only:	0	0	0	0	15,300
AUMs <sup>2</sup> :	106,202 (76,957 active/ 29,245 suspended)	3,125	~40,000 - 45,000	~106,000	~75,000
<b>Area (acres) Unavailable for Grazing</b>					
<b>Total Unavailable:</b>	139,400	2,174,400	306,900	105,400	173,800
<b>GCNRA unavailable:</b>	88,600 (Harveys Fear, Navajo Bench, Spencer Bench, Escalante River)	318,900	129,600 (Harveys Fear, Navajo Bench, Spencer Bench, Escalante River, Lake, Rock Creek Mudholes, Lower Warm Creek, Fortymile Ridge)	88,300 (Harveys Fear, Navajo Bench, Spencer Bench, Escalante River)	109,900 (Harveys Fear, Navajo Bench, Spencer Bench, Escalante River, Lake, Fortymile Ridge)

The BLM is an agency in the US Department of the Interior that manages approximately one-quarter billion acres – more than any other Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. Approximately 27 million acres of BLM administered lands make up the collection of National Conservation Lands, also known as the National Landscape Conservation System. These include BLM National Monuments, National Conservation Areas, Wilderness Areas, Wilderness Study Areas, and National Scenic and Historic Trails. The mission of the National Conservation Lands is to conserve, protect, and restore these nationally significant landscapes that are recognized for their outstanding cultural, ecological, and scientific values.



**NATIONAL  
CONSERVATION  
LANDS**

	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E
<b>Grazing Practices</b>					
<i>Nonstructural Range Improvements GSENM (i.e. seedings)</i>	Maintain and/or restore with native and nonnative species consistent with MMP.	Restore with native species consistent with MMP.	Maintain and/or restore with native species.	Maintain and/or restore with native and nonnative species; allow new seedings using native and nonnative plants.	Maintain and/or restore with native and nonnative species.
<i>Nonstructural Range Improvements Glen Canyon</i>	Nonstructural range improvements and land treatments are not appropriate on NRA. Management-ignited fires will only be allowed for special circumstances, such as to control potentially new invasive exotic species.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Ecological restoration using native species may be approved by the NPS on a site-specific basis. No mechanical treatments.	Same as Alternative D.
<i>Nonstructural Range Improvements GSENM Treatments</i>	Follow MMP.	Same as Alternative A.	Passive restoration and non-chemical methods will be the first priority for preventing the introduction, establishment, and/or spread of noxious weeds and/or non-native, invasive plant species.	Allow a variety of vegetation restoration methods including mechanical, chemical, biological, and prescribed fires.	Allow the appropriate treatment method for the site, including aerial treatment. Not all methods are appropriate for all site types.
	Livestock grazing after native seedings are established will be modified to ensure the survival of the native plants. The livestock exclusion period required to allow establishment of seeded native species and recovery of surviving plants after a wildfire may be more than 2 years. Site evaluation will be required to determine when the native seedings should be grazed again and the effectiveness of the current or new grazing system on the persistence of native plants.	N/A	GSENM: Livestock grazing after native seeding restoration will be modified to ensure the survival of the native plants. Post-treatment, suspend livestock grazing for at least 2 growing seasons or until the majority of native plant species in the area have seeded, whichever is longer. Site evaluation will be required to determine when the native seedings should be grazed again and the effectiveness of the current or new grazing system on the persistence of native plants.	Same as Alternative E.	After disturbance, modify livestock grazing practices until seedings are established in order to promote the survival of plants. Generally, areas will be rested from livestock grazing for two growing seasons or until site objectives are met. Site evaluation will be required to determine when objectives for the seedings are met and grazing can be resumed.

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<p><i>Structural Range Improvements: General</i></p> <p><i>(includes, but not limited to, fences, cattle guards, corrals, and cabins)</i></p>	<p>Authorize structural range improvements outlined in the MFPs within constraints of the MMP.</p>	<p>Evaluate structural range improvements associated with livestock grazing for utility, historical significance, or other purposes and remove unless needed to meet objectives for natural and cultural resources.</p>	<p>Authorize structural range improvements within constraints of the MMP.</p>	<p>Authorize structural range improvements.</p> <p>Maintain structural range improvements so that forage reserves will be ready for use when needed.</p>	<p>Authorize structural range improvements.</p>
<p><i>Structural Range Improvements: Glen Canyon</i></p>	<p>New line shacks (i.e. cabins) are not appropriate in Glen Canyon.</p>		<p>Same as Alternative A.</p>	<p>New line shacks would be considered within Glen Canyon outside of proposed wilderness areas. Proposals would be evaluated on a case-by-case basis via an appropriate NEPA and NHPA process.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative D.</p>
<p><i>Structural Range Improvements GSENM Water</i></p> <p><i>(includes pipelines, troughs, detention and retention ponds, drainage ditches)</i></p>	<p>Water developments can be used as a management tool throughout the Monument for the following purposes: better distribution of livestock when deemed to have an overall beneficial effect on Monument resources, including water sources or riparian areas, or to restore or manage native species or populations. They can be done only when a NEPA analysis determines this tool to be the best means of achieving the above objectives and only when the water development would not dewater streams or springs. Developments will not be permitted to increase overall livestock numbers. Maintenance of existing development can continue, but may require NEPA analysis and must be consistent with objectives of this Plan.</p>		<p>Where water developments are necessary for livestock grazing and protection of Monument values, such developments will be fenced and will protect associated wetland/riparian resources. On/off valves will ensure that water remains in its natural course/site at all times livestock are not present in the allotment/pasture.</p>	<p>Authorize water developments for the following purposes: better distribution of livestock when deemed to have an overall beneficial effect on Monument resources, including water sources or riparian areas, or to restore or manage native species or populations. They can be done only as a means of achieving MMP objectives and only when the water development would not dewater streams or springs. Exceptions would be allowed on a temporary basis such as to fill troughs or storage tanks.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative D.</p>

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<i>Structural Range Improvements: Water – Glen Canyon</i>	<p>All water developments must consider the needs of wildlife and recreation and will not be constructed, maintained, or utilized in such a way as to preclude the access to that source by wildlife or recreation users.</p> <p>When grazing permits are canceled or modified for other than public purposes, existing range improvements will be evaluated for abandonment or removal. Removal may be completed by the benefitting party, owner, or agency.</p>	Evaluate structural range improvements associated with livestock grazing for utility, historical significance, or other purposes and removed unless needed to meet objectives for natural and cultural resources.	New water developments would be considered within Glen Canyon outside of the proposed wilderness area. Proposals would be evaluated on a case-by-case basis via an appropriate NEPA & NHPA process.	Same as alternative C.	Same as alternative C.
<i>Season of Use GSENM</i>	Manage season of use to meet land health standards.	N/A	<p>Adaptively manage season of use, duration, and stocking rate (AUMs) of livestock grazing to ensure that Goals and Objectives are met.</p> <p>At a minimum, there will be 6 weeks between the beginning of seasonal use of a particular allotment or pasture one year and when the season of use begins the following year when grazing occurs during growing season. If this is not possible in a particular area, the area will be rested every other year.</p> <p>During winter grazing, use rest rotation and do not graze an area more than 2 out of 3 years.</p>	<p>Adaptively manage season of use, duration, distribution, and stocking rate (AUMs) to meet land health standards.</p> <p>Allow flexibility in permit for season of use (i.e. manage for conditions rather than calendar dates).</p>	Adaptively manage season of use, duration, distribution, and stocking rate (AUMs) to meet land health standards.
<i>Season of Use Glen Canyon</i>	Follow Glen Canyon Grazing Management Plan (1999) – see spring grazing seasons.	N/A	Adaptively manage season of use, duration, and stocking rate (AUMs) of livestock grazing to ensure that NPS Goals and Objectives are met.	<p>Adaptively manage season of use, duration, and stocking rate (AUMs) to meet Glen Canyon resource objectives as defined by the NPS Grazing Plan.</p> <p>Allow flexibility in permit for season of use (i.e. manage for conditions rather than calendar dates).</p>	Same as Alternative C.

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<i>Riders</i>	Riders are an available tool but no specific action is identified.	N/A	Where allotments are not meeting or moving toward objectives, a rider will present 5 out of every 7 days throughout the season of use.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
<b>Voluntary Relinquishment</b>	Comply with BLM policy for voluntary relinquishment (currently Instruction Memorandum No. 2013-184). The Authorized Officer may take one or more of the following actions:  Issue a grazing permit to a different applicant.  Stock with livestock from another allotment with unmet resource objectives.  Combine with an adjacent allotment that has unmet resource objectives.  Consider use of the allotment as a forage reserve (i.e. continue livestock grazing but do not recognize an individual with preference to the forage).  Amend or revise the land use plan to allocate forage to uses other than livestock grazing.				
	Follow current policy.	N/A	Preference would be for amending the MMP to allocate forage for a different purpose.	Preference would be for one of the following:  Issue a grazing permit to a different applicant.  Stock with livestock from another allotment with unmet resource objectives.  Combine with an adjacent allotment that has unmet resource objectives.	Follow current policy.
<b>Biological Soil Crust</b>	Prior to any ground disturbing activity, the potential effects on biological soil crusts will be considered and steps taken to avoid impacts on their function,, health, and distribution.  Follow Glen Canyon Grazing Management Plan.	Same as Alternative A.	Biological soil crusts are protected from trampling and other physical disturbance within at least 60 percent of their predicted available habitat within GSENM; and 80 percent within Glen Canyon NRA.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.

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<b>Science</b>	Follow MMP.	Follow MMP; no opportunities to study active grazing. There could be research associated with the effects of not grazing. The unavailable lands could act as reference areas for similar ecological sites.	Use science and research to gain an understanding of the impacts of livestock grazing in the decision area, of the potential for movement of grazed areas toward reference conditions if ungrazed, and to distinguish climate impacts from livestock grazing impacts.	GSENM will serve as a laboratory to research innovative grazing techniques. Use science and research as a means to achieve land health standards.	GSENM will serve as a laboratory to research innovative grazing techniques and a diversity of grazing practices. Use science and research as a means to achieve land health standards.
			Emphasize the use of large ungrazed reference areas to provide reference states.	Allow experimental use of electric fences, other fence design, season of use, supplement/salt placement, water developments, and/or vegetation treatments including prescribed fire.	Encourage innovation and experimentation. Allow experimentation of grazing techniques and grazing practices on all lands available for livestock grazing.
			Monitor ungrazed reference areas to see how they act under the management conditions of the decision area absent livestock grazing. Monitor reference areas established under this alternative to see how they move towards a reference state.	If ungrazed reference areas are established, do not exceed 0.5 percent in any allotment or 0.5 percent within GSENM. Allotments or pastures identified as unavailable for livestock grazing do not count toward the 0.5 percent cap within GSENM.	Use ungrazed reference areas to help distinguish climate impacts from livestock grazing impacts.
<b>GSENM Objects and Values</b>	Manage livestock grazing in a manner that protects the objects and values of the Proclamation. Follow MMP and BLM policy.	Eliminate impacts from grazing.	Manage livestock grazing in a manner that protects the objects and values of the Proclamation. Reduce impacts from grazing through reduced grazing.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
			When voluntarily relinquished or otherwise retired, allotments or pastures with Monument objects that are not compatible with or are impacted by livestock grazing (e.g., biological soil crust, riparian areas, declining native plant or wildlife species) may be put into non-use.		
<b>Glen Canyon NRA Values &amp; Purposes</b>	Manage livestock grazing in a manner that protects the values and purposes of Glen Canyon; including soil, vegetation, wildlife, special status species, cultural resources, water, paleontology, recreation, and scenic resources.	Eliminate impacts from grazing.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.

<b>Paleontology</b>	Follow MMP and Glen Canyon Grazing Management Plan.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
<b>Scenic resources</b>	Follow MMP and Glen Canyon Grazing Management Plan.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
<b>Cultural resources</b>	Follow MMP and Glen Canyon Grazing Management Plan.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
<b>Recreation GSENM</b>	Follow MMP. No change to level of conflicts.	Livestock grazing would be discontinued in GSENM.	Follow MMP. Reduce some conflicts through reduced grazing and allocating areas near the Gulch, Buckskin Gulch, and Paria-Hackberry as unavailable for livestock grazing.	Allow fencing, hiker mazes, or other methods to reduce conflicts. Fence day use areas. Give preference to livestock in Outback and Primitive Zones; give preference to recreation in Frontcountry and Passage Zones.	Follow MMP. Reduce some conflicts through changes in season of use at the Gulch and Buckskin Gulch. Allow fencing, hiker mazes, or other methods to reduce conflicts. Fence campgrounds, day use areas, picnic areas if needed to reduce conflicts.
	Installation of signs is allowed as needed for resource protection or public safety.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
<b>Recreation Glen Canyon NRA</b>	Protect recreation resources and the visitor experience (enjoyment and use) by reducing or mitigation recreation/livestock conflicts.	Livestock grazing would be discontinued on 318,900 acres of Glen Canyon NRA.	Same as Alternative A.  Reduce conflicts by finishing fencing of Escalante River side canyons and excluding livestock from Lower Warm Creek.	Same as Alternative A.  Reduce conflicts by finishing fencing of Escalante River side canyons.  Allow fencing, hiker mazes, or other methods to reduce livestock/recreation conflicts.	Same as Alternative D.

<sup>1</sup>Alternative C includes an objective to establish a variety of ungrazed reference areas across 20 percent of the decision area; over time the acres unavailable will increase to an estimated 451,300 acres while available acres would be reduced to an estimated 1,805,300 acres.

<sup>2</sup>AUM estimates may vary from these figures.



For more information, please visit the GSENM Livestock Grazing Plan Amendment Webpage: <http://blm.gov/pgld>

**Please submit your comments by January 20, 2015.**

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised that your entire comment, including personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

You can email, fax, or mail your comments.

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