

Attachment C

Paiute Canyon Allotment Management Plan 2015

This Allotment Management Plan (AMP) defines the number of permitted animal month units (AUMs) that can be utilized by livestock (active AUMs) and the livestock season of use. The AMP also defines flexibility in operations. The AMP must be followed unless modified and approved by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in advance.

For administrative purposes, the number of cattle scheduled on this permit is 300; however, during the term of the permit and pursuant to the goal and objectives below, the BLM may authorize higher or lower numbers than 300 during the permitted use period of June 1 to March 31, provided that forage removal for the entire Allotment does not exceed 3,000 AUMs annually. The target utilization for the Allotment will be 40 percent under average climatic conditions. As of 2015, the Allotment is currently in drought conditions and the utilization target will be 35 percent in accordance with the 2013 Drought EA until average conditions return.

Goal 1: Increase the establishment and retention of deep rooted perennial bunch grasses.

Objective 1: Livestock grazing operations shall be conducted so that growing season forage utilization of deep rooted perennial bunch grasses does not exceed 40 percent on key species under average climatic conditions and does not exceed 35 percent on key species in drought conditions.

Objective 2: Rest one high elevation pasture from livestock grazing each year.

Goal 2: Increase the amount of time between fires and reduce fire size through vegetation management

Objective 1: Work with the fire program and the permittee on strategies to provide fuel breaks and reduce fuel loads.

Objective 2: Use dormant season grazing with targets up to 60 % utilization and employ protein supplements to reduce the density of weedy species especially cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) (Schmelzer 2009).

Goal 3: The RAC Standards & Guidelines for Rangeland Health (Sierra Front-Northwestern Great Basin Area) are written to accomplish four fundamentals of rangeland health insofar as they are affected by livestock grazing practices. One of these fundamentals is that “Watersheds are properly functioning”. To that end,

insofar as proper functioning condition of riparian areas are affected by livestock grazing practices, livestock practices will be modified using the flexibility under this AMP.

Objective 1: Evaluate the impact of the new season of use which removes grazing during the growing season on the riparian areas

Objective 2: Evaluate the impact of the new reduction in AUMs from 4,200 to 3,000 on the riparian areas

Objective 3: Evaluate the resting of one high elevation pasture every four years on the riparian areas

Objective 4: If these evaluations show that there are reaches where livestock use is a limiting factor to reaching potential proper functioning condition protect those areas through physical barriers and herding and evaluate changes to the grazing rotation.

Monitoring

Monitoring of progress toward achieving objectives will include the following:

1. Evaluation of long term monitoring plots (BLM 2014); and
2. Applicable methodologies which may include Cover, Density, Production, Structure and Composition monitoring in accordance with Interagency Technical Reference 1734-4 Sampling Vegetation Attributes (BLM 1999).

Monitoring frequency will be determined by ecological condition including the likelihood of vegetative change based on factors including precipitation levels, presence of invasive/increaser species, wildland urban interface impacts and wildfire.

Initial Grazing Plan

AUMs

In current (2015) drought condition, levels of perennial grass production support a total of 1,900 AUMs during the season of use at a 35 percent utilization rate as described below. This number of AUMs will initially be authorized as active AUMs for livestock use. The remaining 1,100 AUMs will be temporarily suspended.

Season of Use

The grazing season of use will initially be July 1 to March 31 and can be adjusted as described in the Flexibility of Operations section.

Pasture Rotation

The initial Pasture Rotation is shown below. It rotates use so that pastures are not grazed at the same time each year and one high elevation pasture is rested each year. Dates listed are target dates and may be adjusted 15 days in either direction based on range readiness. Changes will be documented in the Annual Operating Plan for each year.

Initial Use Year 1

Pasture	Number of Livestock	Grazing Period Start	Grazing Period End
Dogskin	210	7/1	8/10
Fall	210	8/11	8/31
Tule Peak	210	9/1	10/1
Incandescent Rocks		Rest	
Warm Springs/Hungry Valley ¹	210	10/2	1/10
Shovel Springs	210	1/11	3/31

Initial Use Year 2

Pasture	Number of Livestock	Grazing Period Start	Grazing Period End
Fall	210	7/1	7/21
Tule Peak		Rest	
Incandescent Rocks	210	7/22	8/15
Dogskin	210	8/16	9/27
Shovel Springs	210	9/28	12/17
Warm Springs/Hungry Valley ²	210	12/18	3/31

Initial Use Year 3

Pasture	Number of Livestock	Grazing Period Start	Grazing Period End
Incandescent Rocks	210	7/1	7/25
Fall	210	7/26	8/17
Tule Peak	210	8/18	9/19
Dogskin		Rest	
Warm Springs/Hungry Valley ¹	210	9/20	1/4
Shovel Springs	210	1/5	3/31

¹ Grazing will start in the north end of WS/HV and finish in the south end.

² Grazing will start in the south end of WS/HV and finish in the north end.

Flexibility in Operations

The BLM may modify pasture use dates and forage removed by livestock in the typical grazing schedule to reduce urban interface conflicts or conflicts with use by other BLM programs, reduce fuel loads, improve vegetative conditions or adapt to variability in resource conditions. Conditions which may require adaptation of the typical schedule include but are not limited to drought, fire, weed infestations or above average cheatgrass production.

Flexibility in livestock operations would be considered when modifications would benefit vegetative resources. An example of flexibility in livestock operations would be utilizing livestock to improve the effectiveness of herbicide treatments by grazing meadows in the fall when soils are dry to remove palatable vegetation prior to applying herbicide to weed species.

AUMs

Suspended AUMs may be reactivated by BLM if livestock are being used to achieve vegetation management goals and objectives, otherwise these AUMs will remain suspended until monitoring of deep rooted perennial bunchgrasses supports an increase in AUMs up to the permitted level. Under current (2015) drought conditions, levels of perennial grass production support a total of 1,900 AUMs at 35% utilization. If monitoring of deep rooted perennial bunchgrasses supports an increase, AUMs may gradually be raised to the permitted number of 3,000.

Season of Use

The season of use defined in the AMP may be temporarily modified by the BLM to achieve resource objectives.

Livestock use during the permitted portion of the growing season (June 1 – June 30) may be gradually restored if monitoring documents establishment and retention of deep rooted perennial bunchgrasses.

Pasture Rotation

During pasture moves, the livestock operator may have a courtesy period of 10 days (5 days before and 5 days after the target move date) when cattle being moved may be in either pasture.

The initial Pasture Rotation may be changed to respond to changes within the Allotment driven by factors including but not limited to precipitation levels, presence of invasive/increaser species, wildland urban interface impacts and wildfire.

Documentation of Changes

If modifications are agreed to by the BLM and the permittee, deviations from the typical schedule would be documented and authorized by BLM through an Annual Operating Plan. If modifications are not mutually agreed to or the typical schedule needs to be changed for improved long term management BLM will issue a grazing decision. Any flexibility in the grazing schedule will adhere to the permit

terms and conditions. Any long term changes to AUMs, pasture rotation or season of use will be documented and added to this AMP as an Addendum.

REFERENCES

1. Bureau of Land Management (BLM). 2014. *Paiute Canyon Grazing Allotment Evaluation 2000-2013*. Carson City District Office, Carson City, Nevada. April.
2. Bureau of Land Management (BLM). 1999. Sampling Vegetation Attributes: Interagency Technical Reference 1734-4.
3. Schmelzer, Lee, "Reducing Fuel Load of Key Cheatgrass (*Bromus Tectorum*) Dominated Range Sites by the Use of Fall Cattle Grazing." MA Thesis. University of Nevada, Reno, 2009.