

Livestock Grazing Plan Amendment EIS

FACT SHEET: Livestock Grazing



The BLM administers public land livestock grazing in accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, the Taylor Grazing Act of 1934, the Public Rangelands Improvement Act of 1978, and other authorities. Today, the BLM's overall objective in managing livestock grazing on public rangelands is to ensure the long-term health and productivity of these lands.

To achieve desired conditions, the BLM uses rangeland health standards and guidelines. The Utah BLM Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Management were developed in the 1990s. Standards describe specific conditions indicative of land health, such as the presence of stream bank vegetation and adequate canopy and ground cover. Guidelines are the management techniques designed to achieve or maintain healthy public lands, as defined by the standards.

To administer livestock grazing, the BLM identifies grazing allotments (an area of land where one or more individuals graze livestock) and issues livestock grazing permits/leases. Permittees/Lesseees or Operators hold grazing permits or leases, which are licenses for use of public lands for grazing. Permits generally cover a 10-year period. The

amount of use authorized in a grazing permit or lease is measured in animal unit months, or AUMs. An AUM is the amount of forage needed to sustain 1 cow and her calf, 1 horse, 5 sheep, or 5 goats for 1 month. Due to differences in forage availability, the number of acres needed to provide one AUM can and does vary. The price that permittees/leasees pay on an annual basis is determined per AUM and set by Congress each year.



The amount of grazing that takes place each year can be affected by such factors as drought, wildfire, and market conditions.

BLM land use plan-level decisions for livestock grazing involve identifying lands available or not available for livestock grazing. For lands available for livestock grazing, the BLM identifies both the amount of existing forage available for livestock (in AUMs) and the future anticipated amounts of forage available for livestock on an area-wide basis. In the land use plan, the BLM includes a description of possible grazing management practices (e.g., grazing systems, range improvements, seasons of use, and stocking rates) and identifies guidelines and criteria for future allotment-specific adjustments in livestock grazing.

The BLM is an agency in the US Department of the Interior that manages approximately a 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**



Livestock Grazing (continued)

LIVESTOCK GRAZING IN GSENM

Within GSENM, there are 79 active livestock grazing allotments. Within these allotments, 76,457 AUMs of active use livestock grazing are authorized. There are currently 16 areas that have been identified as unavailable for livestock grazing. Currently, 91 permittees are authorized to graze cattle and horses in the planning area.

Most livestock grazing within GSENM is guided by land use plan-level decisions established in four management framework plans that were approved in 1981. A few plan amendments related to livestock grazing were completed in 1999.

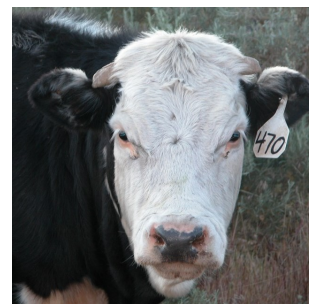
LIVESTOCK GRAZING IN GCNRA

When the Glen Canyon area was designated as a national recreation area in 1972, the enabling legislation authorized livestock grazing. Glen Canyon National Recreation Area (GCNRA) is managed by the National Park Service (NPS). Grazing within GCNRA is managed jointly by the NPS and the

BLM. The BLM administers 19 grazing allotments totaling more than 300,000 acres. The BLM administration integrates NPS stewardship responsibilities that protect the values and purposes of GCNRA. GCNRA values

include the vegetation, soil, water quality, wildlife, cultural, paleontological, scenic, and recreational resources that make up the scenic, scientific, and historic features that define the outdoor recreational use and enjoyment of GCNRA.

In GCNRA, the total acres-per-AUM ranges from 17 acres in Upper Cattle Allotment to 193 acres in Rock Creek-Mudholes Allotment. Because portions of most allotments have cliffs, slickrock, and other areas that cannot be grazed, the grazable acres per AUM are generally lower than the reported acres. Most grazing in GCNRA occurs during the cool winter months between November and May.



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

**Please submit your comments by
January 13, 2013.**

You can email, fax, or mail your comments.

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