

Appendix A --- Glossary

(A)

Actual Use: The Head Months actually grazed on a National Forest.

Allotment: Rangeland and /or forestland area designated for the use of a prescribed number and kind of livestock under a plan of management.

Allotment Management Plan: Long-term operating plan for a grazing allotment on public land, prepared in collaboration with a permittee and the appropriate agency.

Allowable Use: The degree of use estimated to be proper until proper use is known. A baseline utilization percentage established in a Forest Plan.

Animal Unit: Considered to be one mature cow of approximately 1,000 pounds, either dry or with calf up to six months of age, or their equivalent, based on a standardized amount of forage consumed (26 lbs/day).

Animal Unit Month: The amount of feed or forage required by an animal unit for one month.

Apparent Trend: An estimate of trend draws from the presence or absence of indicators noted or measured during a one-time observation. Conclusions drawn from such a method can be borne out or refuted only by making additional observations or measurements over time.

(B)

Bentonite: A natural clay deposit, which has high swelling capabilities when saturated; used to seal earthen stock ponds.

(C)

Canopy: (1) The vertical projection downward of the aerial portion of vegetation, usually expressed as a percent of the ground so occupied. (2) The aerial portion of the overstory vegetation.

Chaining: The use of a large ship-anchor chain pulled between two large crawler tractors to pull down or uproot brush.

Community: An assemblage of populations of plants and /or animals in a common spatial arrangement.

Competition: The interaction between organisms as a result of the removal of a common required resource from the environment. Resources may include water, nutrients, light, oxygen, carbon dioxide, food, and shelter.

Cover, Percentage: The area covered by the combined aerial or basal parts of plants and mulch expressed as a percent of the total area.

(D)

Decreaser: Plant species of the original or climax vegetation that will decrease in relative amount with continued overuse.

Deferment: Delay of livestock grazing on an area for an adequate period of time, to provide for plant reproduction, establishment of new plants, or the restoration of vigor in existing plants.

Deferred Grazing: The use of deferment in grazing management of a management unit.

Deferred-Rotation: Any grazing system that provides for a systematic rotation of deferment among pastures.

Density: (1) The number of individuals per unit area. It is not a measure of cover.

Desirable Plant Species: These are defined as species and percentage occurrence of the species common to pristine plant communities. They are usually good forage plants and generally are first to show adverse effects of excessive grazing use. The species are generally good soil binders, especially in natural mixtures of desirable species.

Desired Future Condition: The composition and structural characteristics of soil and plants on a site or an ecological unit, which meets forest plan or other management objectives.

Dry Meadow: A meadow dominated by grasses, which become moderately dry by mid-summer.

(E)

Ecological Status: The present state of vegetation of an ecological site in relation to the potential natural community for the site. Vegetation status is the expression of the relative degree to which the kinds, proportions, and amounts of plants in a community resemble that of

the potential natural community. Described in ecological terms, which are early seral, mid seral, and late seral.

Ecosystem: Organisms together with their abiotic environment, forming an interacting system, inhabiting an identifiable space.

Exotic: An organism or species that is not native to the region in which it is found.

(F)

Foliage: The green or live leaves of plants.

Forb: Any broad-leaved, herbaceous plant other than those in the Poaceae (grass) Cyperaceae (sedge) and Juncaceae (rush) families.

Frequency: The ratio between the number of sample units that contain a species and the total number of sample units.

(G)

Grazing season: (1) On public land, an established period for which grazing permits is issued. (2) The time interval when animals are allowed to utilize a certain area.

Grazing System: A specialization of grazing management, which defines the periods of grazing and non-grazing. Grazing system should consist of at least the following: the number of pastures; number of herds; length of grazing period; length of non-grazing periods for any given unit in the system. Examples are Deferred Rotation and Rest Rotation.

(H)

Habitat Type: The collective area that one plant association occupies or will come to occupy as succession advances. The habitat type is defined and described as succession advances. The habitat type is defined and described on the basis of the vegetation and its associated environment.

Head Month: Tenure of one herbivore on National Forest for a period of one month.

Herbaceous: Vegetation growth with little or no woody components, such as graminoids and forbs.

Herbage: (1) Herbs taken collectively. (2) Total aboveground biomass of herbaceous plants regardless of grazing preference or availability.

(I)

Increaser: Plant species of the original vegetation that increase in relative amount, at least for a time, under overuse.

Indicator Species: Species that indicate the presence of certain environmental conditions, seral stages, or previous treatment. Or, one or more plant species selected to indicate a certain level of grazing use.

Intermediate Species: These are also species common to the pristine plant community, but which are not as adversely affected by grazing use as are the “Desirables.” They may be less palatable to grazing animals or be more resistant to grazing use. As a result, they either hold their own in the stand or they may increase in proportion to other species or even replace the most desirable species that are lost or reduced as a result of selective grazing use.

Introduced Species: An organism or species that is not native to the region in which it is found.

Invaders: Plant species that were absent or present in very small amounts in undisturbed portion of the original vegetation of a specific range site and will invade following disturbance or continued overuse.

(K)

Key Area: A portion of range, which, because of its location, grazing, or browsing value, and or use serves as an indicative sample of range conditions, trend, or degree of use seasonally. (A key area guides the general management of the entire area of which it is a part.)

Key species: Forage species whose use serves as an indicator to the degree of use of associated species. Or, those species which must, because of their importance, be considered in the management program.

(L)

Least Desirable Species: These are the poorer species in a type or community. They may consist of ruderals (Webster—a plant growing in poor land), invaders, and species that are usually taprooted and persist in dominant proportions after a long period of continuous heavy grazing use. They may be unpalatable or have very low palatability to grazing animals. The plants in this group as a rule have poor soil binding qualities and as a consequence heavy soil erosion may be occurring on the site.

Level 1 Team: For the Sawtooth National Forest, the Level 1 Team is comprised of biologists and botanists from the Forest Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Idaho Department of Fish & Game. It is their role to assist the Forest Service so that programs and activities are designed to minimize adverse impacts to listed species and to facilitate efficient Endangered Species Act - Section 7 consultation.

(M)

Moderate Grazing: A comparative term which indicates that the stocking rate of a pasture is between the rates of other pastures. Often erroneously used to mean proper use, heavy and light grazing.

Multiple Uses: Use of range for more than one purpose, grazing of livestock, wildlife production, recreation, watershed and timber production. Not necessarily the combination of uses that will yield the highest economic return or greatest unit output.

(N)

Native Species: Species that are a part of the original fauna or flora of an area.

Noxious Weed: A plant species that is undesirable because it conflicts, restricts, or otherwise causes problems under management objectives. Not to be confused with species declared noxious by laws concerned with plants that are weedy in cultivated crops and on range.

(O)

Obligation: The number of Head Months outlined on Term Grazing Permits.

On/Off Grazing Allotment: An allotment that has a minimal portion of its land area in National Forest. It can include private, state, and federally owned land.

Overgrazing: Continued heavy grazing that exceeds the recovery capacity of the community and creates a deteriorated range.

(P)

Plant Community: An assemblage of plants living and interacting together in a specific location.

Plant Vigor: Plant health.

Proper Functioning Condition: Ecosystems at any temporal or spatial scale are in a properly functioning condition when they are dynamic and resilient to perturbations to structure, composition, and processes of their biological or physical components.

Proper Stocking: Placing a number of animals on a given area that will result in proper use at the end of the planned grazing period. Continued proper stocking will lead to proper grazing.

Proper use: Utilization standards established with limiting factors, such as impacts on other resources or their uses, that is measurable on a site.

(R)

Range Analysis: Systematic acquisition and evaluation of rangeland resource data needed for planning allotment management and overall land management. It consist of two basic parts: (1) an inventory of the resource, and (2) a narrative evaluation of the resource data, range management alternatives, and other information key to management of the grazing area.

Range Improvement: (1) Any structure or excavation to facilitate management of range or livestock. (2) Any practice designed to improve range condition.

Rest: Leaving an area ungrazed, thereby foregoing grazing of a forage crop. Normally, rest implies absence of grazing for a full growing season.

Rest Rotation: A grazing-management scheme in which rest periods for individual pastures, paddocks, or grazing units, generally for the full growing season, are incorporated into a grazing rotation.

(S)

Salting: (1) Providing salt as a mineral supplement for animals. (2) Placing salt on the range in such a manner as to improve distribution of livestock grazing.

Season-Long Grazing: Grazing takes place through out the growing season.

Seral Stages: The developmental stages of an ecological succession.

Stable: The condition of little or no perceived change in plant communities that are in relative equilibrium with existing environmental conditions; describes persistent but not necessarily culminating stages (climax) in plant succession. Implies a high degree of resilience to minor perturbations.

Succession: The natural progressive replacement of plant communities on a site, which leads to the potential natural plant community.

Summer Range: Range that is grazed during the summer months.

(T)

Tentative Grazing Capacity: An estimated grazing capacity based on the initial range allotment analysis inventory but not verified under actual grazing conditions.

Trend: The direction of change in ecological status or resource value ratings observed over time.

(U)

Use: (1) The proportion of current year's forage production that is consumed or destroyed by grazing animals. May refer either to a single species or to the vegetation as a whole, degree of use. (2) Utilization of range for a purpose such as grazing, bedding, shelter, trailing, watering, watershed, recreation, forestry, etc.

Utilization: Use.

(V)

Vigor: Relates to the relative robustness of a plant in comparison to other individuals of the same species. It is reflected primarily by the size of a plant and its parts in relation to its age and the environment in which it is growing, plant vigor.

(W)

Wet Meadow: A meadow where the surface remains wet or moist throughout the growing season, usually characterized by sedges and rushes.

Winter Range: Range that is grazed during the winter months.

