



File Code: 1950/2200  
Date: April 17, 2008

Dear Interested Party:

The Evanston-Mountain View Ranger District proposes to reauthorize grazing on 2 allotments on the Wasatch-Cache National Forest. Livestock grazing would be reauthorized using Forest Plan direction to meet or move toward the desired conditions identified in the Forest Plan. The allotments listed in the table below and shown on the enclosed map are scheduled for National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis.

Allotment	N.F Acres	Pvt. Land Acres	Livestock Number-Class	Grazing Season	Grazing System
Mill Creek	9,571	0	1400 - ewe/lamb	45 days	Deferred Rotation
Luke/Lym	3,505	160	1400 - ewe/lamb	17 days	Deferred Rotation

The following Forest Plan grazing standards and guidelines are a condition of the term grazing permits and are also included in the Annual Operating Instructions for each allotment. They are intended to maintain desired conditions or trend towards desired conditions.

**UTILIZATION STANDARDS**

(S24) As a tool to achieve desired conditions of the land, maximum forage utilization standards for vegetation types in satisfactory condition using traditional grazing systems (rest rotation, deferred rotation, season long) are as follows:

**Table S24: Percent utilization of key grass or grass like vegetation, by vegetation type, for rangelands in satisfactory condition.**

Vegetation Type	Condition	Percent Utilization Key Grass or Grass like
Upland and Aspen	Satisfactory	50
Crested Wheatgrass	Satisfactory	60
Riparian* Class I	Satisfactory	50
Riparian* Class II & III	Satisfactory	60

\*Riparian, away from greenline

(S25) As a tool to achieve desired conditions of riparian areas, maximum forage utilization standards (stubble height) for low to mid elevation *greenline* species in Class I, II, and III (see Forest Plan Appendix VII) riparian areas in satisfactory condition are as follows: (Key species being grazed include water sedge, Nebraska sedge, and/or wooly sedge.)



**Table S25. Greenline stubble height at the end of the growing season, by riparian class, for rangeland satisfactory condition.**

<b>Riparian Class</b>	<b>Condition</b>	<b>Greenline Stubble Height at End of Growing Season</b>
Riparian Class I	Satisfactory	No Less Than 5"
Riparian Class II	Satisfactory	No Less Than 4"
Riparian Class III	Satisfactory	No Less Than 3"

(G71) As a tool to achieve rehabilitation of upland, aspen, and riparian communities away from the greenline that are not meeting or moving toward objectives (i.e. in unsatisfactory condition), maximum allowed forage utilization will be 30-40 percent.

### **GREENLINE ECOLOGICAL STATUS**

(G7) Manage Class 1 Riparian Area Greenlines for 70% or more late-seral vegetation communities as described in Intermountain Region Integrated Riparian Evaluation Guide (USDA Forest Service, 1992). Manage Class 2 Riparian Area Greenlines for 60% or more late-seral vegetation communities. Manage Class 3 Riparian Area Greenlines for 40% or more late-seral vegetation communities.

### **GROUND COVER**

(S7) Allow management activities to result in no less than 85% of potential ground cover for each vegetation cover type. (See Forest Plan Appendix VII for potential ground cover values by cover type.)

I will determine whether or not the decision may be categorically excluded from further analysis following a review of specialist reports, biological evaluations/assessments, public comments, and other pertinent analyses. Based on an early review of monitoring data for these allotments, it appears current grazing management is meeting or moving towards desired conditions stated in the Forest Plan. If the allotments qualify for categorical exclusion, it is my intention to issue Decision Memos for these allotments under the authority granted the Forest Service by the U.S. Congress in Section 339 of the FY 2005 Consolidated Appropriations Act (P.L. 108-447). This legislation provides that certain decisions to authorize allotment grazing shall be categorically excluded (CE) from documentation in environmental assessments and environmental impact statements under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110-161), Section 421 extends the previous provision of Section 339 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2005 (Public Law 108-447) allowing the Forest Service to use categorical exclusions for certain grazing activities, but excludes use of this authority in federally designated wilderness areas.

The full text of Section 339 of the FY 2005 Consolidated Appropriations Act (P.L. 108-447) follows.

*SEC. 339. For fiscal years 2005 through 2007, a decision made by the Secretary of Agriculture to authorize grazing on an allotment shall be categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) if: (1) the decision continues current grazing management; (2) monitoring indicates that current grazing management is meeting, or satisfactorily moving toward, objectives in the land and resource management plan, as determined by the Secretary; and (3) the decision is consistent with agency policy concerning extraordinary circumstances. The total number of allotments that may be categorically excluded under this section may not exceed 900.*

If these allotments do not qualify for categorical exclusion, I will proceed with the appropriate level of analysis and decision.

Decisions issued under the authority of Section 339 of the FY 2005 Consolidated Appropriations Act are not appealable under 36 CFR 215. Permittees may appeal this decision under 36 CFR 251.

The public is invited to offer comment at this time. We would appreciate your comments by May 20, 2008. Comments should be addressed to:

Stephen M. Ryberg, District Ranger  
Evanston-Mountain View Ranger District  
Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest  
P.O. Box 1880  
Evanston, WY 83639

Or e-mail

[comments-intermtn-wasatch-cache-evanston-mtnview@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-intermtn-wasatch-cache-evanston-mtnview@fs.fed.us)

For further information concerning this proposal, please contact me at (307) 789-3194.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Stephen M. Ryberg*

STEPHEN M. RYBERG  
District Ranger