



Ironwood Forest National Monument Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement



LIVESTOCK GRAZING

Draft - Glossary of Terms

Activity Plan: A detailed and specific plan for managing a single resource program or plan element undertaken as needed to implement the more general resource management plan decisions. An activity plan is prepared for specific areas to reach specific resource management objectives within stated timeframes.

Alien Species: With respect to a particular ecosystem, any species, including its seeds, eggs, spores, or other biological material capable of propagating the species, that is not native to that ecosystem.

Allotment (range): A designated area of land available for livestock grazing upon which a specified number and kind of livestock may be grazed under management of an authorized agency. An allotment generally consists of Federal rangelands, but may include intermingled parcels of private, State, or Federal lands. BLM and the Forest Service stipulate the number of livestock and season of use for each allotment.

Allotment Management Plan (AMP): A written program of livestock grazing management including supportive measures, if required. An AMP is designed to attain specific management goals in a grazing allotment and is prepared cooperatively with the permittee(s) or lessee(s). An AMP establishes the seasons of use, the number of livestock to be permitted on rangelands, and the rangeland improvements needed.

Animal Unit: A unit of measure for rangeland livestock equivalent to one mature cow or five sheep or five goats, all over 6 months of age. An animal unit is based on average daily forage consumption of 26 pounds of dry matter per day.

Animal Unit Month (AUM): The amount of forage needed to sustain one cow, five sheep, or five goats for a month. A full AUM's fee is charged for each month of grazing by adult animals if the grazing animal (1) is weaned, (2) is 6 months old or older when entering public land, or (3) will become 12 months old during the period of use. For fee purposes, an AUM is the amount of forage used by five weaned or adult sheep or goats or one cow, bull, steer, heifer, horse, or mule. The term AUM is commonly used in three ways: (1) stocking rate as in X acres per AUM, (b) forage allocation as in X AUM's in allotment A, and (3) utilization as in X AUMs consumed from Unit B.

Annual Plant: A plant that completes its life cycle and dies in 1 year or less.

Bare Ground: All land surface not covered by vegetation, rock, or litter.

Base Property: Land or water sources on a ranch that are owned by or under long-term control of the operator.

Base Property Leases: On BLM-administered lands, the long-term lease of base property.

Best Management Practices (BMPs): Management activities or methods that are implemented as to typical operation, construction, or maintenance efforts that help to protect environmental resources by avoiding or minimizing impacts of an action.

Biodiversity: The variety of life and its processes, and the interrelationships within and among various levels of ecological organization.

Browse: Leaf and twig growth of shrubs, woody vines, trees, cacti, and other non-herbaceous vegetation available for animal consumption.

Carrying Capacity: The maximum stocking rate possible without damaging vegetation or related resources. Carrying capacity may vary from year to year on the same area due to fluctuating forage production.

Class of Livestock: Description of age or sex group for a particular kind of livestock, such as cow, bull, calf, yearling, ewe, ram or lamb.

Climax Vegetation: The final vegetation community and highest ecological development of a plant community that emerges after a series of successive vegetation stages. The climax community perpetuates itself indefinitely unless disturbed by outside forces.

Cow-Calf Operation: A livestock operation in which a base breeding herd of mother cows and bulls is maintained. The cows produce a calf crop each year, and the operation keeps some heifer calves from each calf crop for breeding herd replacements. The rest of the calf crop is sold between the ages of 6 and 12 months along with old or nonproductive cows and bulls.

Community: The living part of an ecosystem. Communities change with succession, thereby forming distinctive ecological units both in time and space. The plant community and the animal community together form the biotic community. Size is not implied (i.e., organisms associated with a decaying log or organisms within an entire forest each represent communities).

Composition: The proportions of various plant species in relation to the total on a given area. It may be expressed in terms of cover, density, weight, etc.

Corridor: A wide strip of land within which a proposed linear facility (e.g., pipeline, transmission line) could be located. A corridor may also be a strip of land that is set-aside for conservation purposes, particularly to provide wildlife an area of use to move between patches of habitat.

Cumulative Impacts: An impact on the environment, which results from the incremental impact of the proposed action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions. Cumulative impacts are evaluated as part of the EIS, and may include consideration of additive or interactive effects regardless of what agency or person undertakes the other actions. Cumulative impacts occur when there are multiple infringements on the same values.

Decision Area: Public land (BLM-administered) and private split-estate (i.e., private surface acreage overlying Federally owned minerals) within the Planning Area are referred to in this document as BLM's Decision Area.

Desired Future Condition (DFC): Desired outcome of land use planning in terms of specific goals, standards, and objectives for resource management and protection.

Desired Plant Community (DPC): The plant community that has been determined through a land use or management plan to best meet the plan's objectives for a site. A real, documented plant community that embodies the resource attributes needed for the present or potential use of an area, the desired plant community is consistent with the site's capability to produce the required resource attributes through natural succession, management intervention, or a combination of both.

Ecological Site: A distinctive kind of rangeland that differs from other kinds of rangeland in its ability to produce a characteristic natural plant community.

Ecological Status: The present state of vegetation and soil protection 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 kind, proportions, and amounts of plants in a community resemble that of the potential natural community.

Ecological Succession: An ecosystem's gradual evolution to a stable state. If, through the ability of its populations and elements, an ecosystem can absorb changes, it tends to persist and become stable over time.

Ecosystem: The biotic community together with soil, air, water, and sunlight form an ecosystem.

Environmental Assessment (EA): A concise public document for which a federal agency is responsible. An EA serves (1) to briefly provide enough evidence and analysis for determining whether to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) or a finding of no significant impact (FONSI); and to aid an agency's compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act when no EIS is needed; and (3) to facilitate preparation of an EIS when one is needed.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS): An analytical document that portrays potential impacts on the human environment of a particular course of action and its possible alternatives. Required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), an EIS is prepared for use by decision makers to assess the environmental consequences of a potential decision.

Ephemeral Range: A rangeland that does not consistently produce enough forage to sustain a livestock operation but may briefly produce unusual volumes of forage to accommodate livestock grazing.

Erosion: The wearing away of the land surface (soil, gravel, rock) by running water, wind, ice, or similar forces.

Forage: All browse and herbaceous growth available and acceptable to grazing animals or that may be harvested for feeding purposes. Forage includes pasture, rangelands, and crop aftermath. Feed includes forage, hay and grains.

Forb: A herbaceous plant that is not a grass, sedge, or bush.

Goal: The desired state or condition that a resource management policy or program is designed to achieve. Broader and less specific than objectives, goals are usually not measurable and may not have specific dates by which they must be reached. Objectives are developed by first understanding one's goals.

Grazing: Consumption of native forage from rangelands or pastures by livestock or wildlife.

Grazing Allotment: An area where one or more livestock operators graze their livestock. An allotment generally consists of federal land but may include parcels of private or state-owned land.

Grazing Allotment Categories: All grazing allotments are categorized for management purposes into three groups with the following objectives, (1) to **maintain** the current resource conditions, (2) to **improve** the current resource conditions, and (3) the **custodial** management of the existing resource values.

Grazing District: An administrative unit of BLM-managed rangelands established by the Secretary of the Interior under the Taylor Grazing Act of 1934. Grazing units are not the same as BLM administrative districts.

Grazing Fee: A charge, usually on a monthly basis, for grazing a specific kind of livestock.

Grazing Fee Year: For fee collection purposes, from March 1 through the last day in February of the following year.

Grazing Lease: A document authorizing use of the public lands outside of an established grazing district. Grazing leases specify all authorized use including livestock grazing, suspended use, and conservation use. Leases specify the total number of AUM's apportioned, the area authorized for grazing use, or both.

Grazing Permit: An authorization that allows grazing on public lands. Permits specify the class of livestock allowed on a designated area during specified seasons each year. There are two types of permits: **preference** (10-year) and **temporary nonrenewable** (1 year).

Grazing Permit Value: BLM allocated animal unit months may be transferred from one operator to another. The dollar value given by one operator (buyer) to induce a present permit holder (seller) to transfer his permit is known as the "permit value" of an animal unit month. This "permit value" may have a significant bearing on the rancher's capital value.

Grazing Preference: The total number (active and suspended nonuse) of animal unit months of livestock grazing on public land apportioned and attached to base property owned or controlled by a permittee.

Grazing Season: On federal lands, an established period for which grazing permits or leases are issued.

Grazing System: A systematic sequence of grazing use and nonuse of an allotment (pasture or management unit) to meet multiple use goals by improving the quality and amount of vegetation.

Guidelines: Management approaches, methods, and practices that are intended to achieve a standard. Guidelines: (1) typically identify and prescribe methods of influencing or controlling specific public land uses; (2) are developed and applied consistent with the desired condition and within site capability; and (3) may be adjusted over time.

Hydrologic Cycle: The circuit of water movement from the atmosphere to the earth and its return to the atmosphere through various stages or processes, such as precipitation, interception, runoff, infiltration, percolation, storage, evaporation and transpiration.

Infiltration: The downward entry of water into soil or other material.

Interdisciplinary Team: A team of varied land use and resource specialists formed to provide a coordinated, integrated information base for overall land use planning and management.

Invasive Species: A species that is not native to an ecosystem whose introduction does or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health.

Key Species: (1) Species that, because of their importance, must be considered in a management program; or (2) forage species whose use shows the degree of use of associated species.

Landform: A discernible natural landscape, that exists as a result of geological activity, such as a plateau, plain, basin, or mountain.

Land Use Plan: Any document developed to define the kinds of use, goals and objectives, management practices and activities that will be allowed to occur on an individual or group of parcels of land.

Landscape: An aggregate of different but interacting landforms, sometimes united by a cultural attribute (e.g. a mosaic of farmland, including tilled fields, woodlots, stock ponds, swales, and fencerows). Landscape ecology generally operates at a scale of at least many hectares or, more often, several square kilometers.

Lease: An authorization or contract by which one party (lessor) conveys the use of property, such as real estate, to another (lessee) in return for rental payments. In addition to rental payments, lessees also pay royalties (a percentage of value) to the lessor from resource production.

Litter: The uppermost layer of organic debris on the soil surface, essentially the freshly fallen or slightly decomposed vegetative material.

Management Actions/Practices: Actions or practices that improve or maintain basic soil and vegetation resources. Rangeland practices typically consist of watershed treatments (planting, seeding, burning, rest, vegetation manipulation, grazing management) in an attempt to establish desired vegetation species or communities.

Multiple Use: Multiple use as defined by the Multiple Use – Sustained Yield Act 1960 means, (1) the management of all the various renewable surface resources so that they are used in the combination that will best meet the needs of the American people, (2) making the most judicious use of the land for some or all of these resources or related services over areas large enough to provide sufficient latitude for periodic adjustments in use to conform to changing needs and conditions, (3) that some land will be used for less than all of the resources, and (4) and harmonious and coordinated management of the various resources, each with the other, without impairment of the productivity of the land, with consideration being given to the relative values of the various resources, and not necessarily the combination of uses that will be given the greatest dollar return or the greatest unit output.

Native Species: With respect to a particular ecosystem, a species that, other than as a result of an introduction, historically occurred or currently occurs in that ecosystem.

Nonfunctional: Riparian-wetland areas are considered to be in nonfunctioning condition when they don't provide adequate vegetation, landform, or large woody debris to dissipate stream energy associated with high flows and thus are not reducing erosion, improving water quality, or other normal characteristics of riparian areas. The absence of certain physical attributes (such as an absent flood plain where one should be) are indicators of nonfunctioning conditions.

Noxious Weeds: Plant species that have been legally designated as unwanted or undesirable. This includes national, state, and county or local designations. According to the Federal Noxious Weed Law, native plant species are not designated "noxious." Native plant species that may be of a management concern, such as poisonous plants or desert shrub and sub-shrub species, are not considered priorities for noxious weed work or funding.

Nutrient Cycle: The process of use, release and reuse of elements by plants and animals through uptake by incorporation into and decomposition of organisms. Elements involved in nutrient cycling remain in the vicinity of the earth's surface.

Objectives: The planned results to be achieved within a stated time period. Objectives are subordinate to goals, more narrow in scope, and shorter in range. Objectives must specify time periods for completion, and products or achievements that are measurable.

Permeability: The ease with which gases, liquids (water), or plant roots penetrate or pass through a bulk mass of soil or a layer of soil. Since different soil horizons vary in permeability, the particular horizon under question should be designated.

Permit: Permits are one of three forms of a land use authorization (the others are leases and easements). Permits are short-term, revocable authorizations to use public lands for specific purposes that involve either little or no land improvement, construction, or investment that can be amortized within the term of the permit. A permit conveys no possessory interest. The permit is renewable at the discretion of the authorized officer and may be revoked in accordance with its terms and applicable regulations.

Permitted Livestock Use: The forage allocated by, or under the guidance of, an applicable land use plan for livestock grazing in an allotment under a permit or lease and is expressed in animal unit months (AUMs).

Perennial Plant: A plant that has a life cycle of 3 or more years.

Plant Pedestaling: A condition where the soil has eroded from around individual plants or other objects such as small rocks, leaving them on small pedestals of soil, sometimes as a result of frost heaving.

Potential Natural Communities (PNC): The stable biotic community that would become established on an ecological site if all successional stages were completed without human interference under present environmental conditions.

Preference: Grazing preference or preference means a superior or priority position against others for the purpose of receiving a grazing permit or lease. This priority is attached to base property owned or controlled by the permittee or lessee.

Properly Functioning: Riparian-wetland areas are properly functioning when adequate vegetation, landform, or large woody debris is present to dissipate stream energy associated with high waterflows, thereby reducing erosion and improving water quality; filtering sediment, capturing bedload, aiding floodplain development; improving floodwater retention and groundwater recharge; developing root masses that stabilize streambanks against cutting action; developing diverse ponding and channel characteristics to provide the habitat and the water depth, duration, and temperature necessary for fish production, waterfowl breeding, and other uses; and supporting greater biodiversity. The functioning condition of riparian-wetland areas is influenced by geomorphic features, soil, water, and vegetation. Uplands function properly when the existing vegetation and ground cover maintain soil conditions capable of sustaining natural biotic communities. The functioning condition of uplands is influenced by geographic features, soil, water, and vegetation.

Range Condition: The current productivity of a rangeland relative to what it could naturally produce.

Range Improvement: An authorized physical modification or treatment designed to improve production of forage; change vegetation composition; control patterns of use; provide water; stabilize soil and water conditions; restore, protect and improve the condition of rangeland ecosystems to benefit livestock, wild horses, burros, fish and wildlife. The term includes, but is not limited to, structures, treatment projects, and use of mechanical devices or modifications achieved through mechanical means.

Range Improvement Permit: BLM's authorization to build a rangeland improvement project on public land, synonymous with the Forest Service term permit modification.

Rangeland: A type of land on which the native vegetation, climax or natural potential consists predominately of grasses, grass-like plants, forbs, or shrubs. Rangeland includes lands re-vegetated naturally or artificially to provide a plant cover that is managed like native vegetation. Rangelands may consist of natural grasslands, savannas, shrub lands, most deserts, tundra, alpine communities, coastal marshes, and wet meadows.

Rangeland Studies: Any study methods accepted by the authorized officer for collecting data on actual use, utilization, climatic conditions, other special events, and trend to determine if management objectives are being met.

Restoration/Reclamation/Revegetation: These terms are often used synonymously in error. Below are definitions as they are used in this process.

Restore/Restoration: The process of returning an ecosystem as closely as possible to the pre-disturbance condition and function. The restoration process re-establishes the general structure, function, and dynamic behavior of the ecosystem as defined at a specific point in time.

Reclaim/Reclamation: Reclamation aims at recreating the functions and processes of a naturally stable ecosystem with the understanding that it will be quite different from the condition prior to disturbance. In some instances, the term is also used for the act of adapting wild or natural resources to serve a utilitarian purpose such as converting riparian habitats to agriculture (e.g., Bureau of Reclamation).

Revegetate: The replacement of vegetation into a disturbed area with little or no concern for ecological conditions or functions.

Rill Erosion: Removal of soil by running water forming shallow channels that can be smoothed out by normal cultivation.

Riparian: Areas of wetland transition between permanently saturated wetlands and upland areas. These areas exhibit vegetation or physical characteristics reflective of permanent surface or subsurface water influence.

Season of Use: The time during which livestock grazing is permitted on a given range area, as specified in the grazing permit.

Section 3 Lands: Public lands within a grazing district administered by BLM under Section 3 of the Taylor Grazing Act of 1934. BLM authorized livestock grazing on these lands by issuing permits to permittees. Section 3 lands make up the vast majority of BLM-administered lands.

Section 15 Lands: Public lands outside a grazing district administered by BLM under Section 15 of the Taylor Grazing Act of 1934. BLM authorizes livestock grazing on these lands by issuing licenses to licensees. Section 15 lands tend to be more isolated parcels that are harder to manage than Section 3 lands.

Seral: Pertaining to the successional stages of biotic communities.

Seral (Successional) Community: One of a series of biotic communities that follow one another in time on any given ecological site.

Special Status Species: Plant or animal species listed as threatened, endangered, candidate, or sensitive by Federal or State governments.

Stakeholders: Defined as, but not limited to, State, tribal, and local government agencies, academic institutions, the scientific community, nongovernmental entities including environmental, agricultural, and conservation organizations, trade groups, commercial interests, and private landowners.

Standards: Goals for the desired condition of the biological and physical components and characteristics of rangelands. Standards (1) are measurable and attainable; and (2) comply with various Federal and State statutes, policies, and directives applicable to BLM Rangelands.

Stocking Rate: The number of specific kinds and classes of animals grazing or using a unit of land for specified time. Not the same as carrying capacity.

Structural Diversity: The diversity of the composition, abundance, spacing, and other attributes of plants in a community.

Sustained Use (Production): The continuation of livestock grazing at a uniform level while maintaining a healthy desired plant community.

Sustained Yield: The continuation of a healthy desired plant community.

Terms and Conditions: Stipulations contained in livestock grazing permits and leases as determined by the authorized officer to be appropriate to achieve management and resource condition objectives for the public lands and other lands administered by BLM and to achieve standards for rangeland health and ensure conformance with guidelines for grazing administration.

Trend: The direction of change over time, either toward or away from desired management objectives.

Utilization: Utilization is defined as the percent of current annual production which is removed as a result of grazing as depicted in the equation $Biomass\ Removed / Biomass\ Produced * 100 = \% Utilization$.

Uplands: Land at a higher elevation than the alluvial plain or low stream terrace; all lands outside the riparian-wetland and aquatic zones.

Wetlands: Permanently wet or intermittently water-covered areas, such as swamps, marshes, bogs, potholes, swales, and glades.

Year-Long Grazing: Continuous grazing for a calendar year.

Water Based Allotments: An allotment with a permit based on the ownership of livestock water sources instead of land, with grazing use dependent upon each source.

Weed: A nonnative plant that disrupts or has the potential to disrupt or alter the natural ecosystem function, composition, and diversity of the site it occupies. Its presence deteriorates the health of the site, it makes efficient use of natural resources difficult, and it may interfere with management objectives for that site.