Chapter 5

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Allotment Management Plan. A long term operating plan which is the implementing document for the decision made through the National Environmental Policy Act process that promotes progress toward desired future conditions.

Allowable Use. The degree of utilization considered desirable and attainable on various specific parts of an allotment considering the present nature and condition of the resource, management objectives, and level of management.

Animal Unit. Considered to be one mature dry cow of approximately 1000 pounds based upon an average daily forage consumption of 26 pounds dry matter per day. (Abbr. A.U.)

Animal Unit Month. (1) The amount of dry forage required by a 1000 pound dry cow for one month. Not synonymous with head month.

Apparent Trend. An estimate of trend drawn from the presence or absence of indicators noted or measured during a one-time observation. Conclusion drawn from such a method can be borne out or refuted only by making additional observations or measurements over time. Apparent trend is described in the same terms as measured trend except that when no trend is apparent it shall be described as "not apparent."

Browse. That part of shrubs, woody vines, and trees available for animal consumption from plants which are palatable to wildlife and/or domestic animals.

Canopy Cover. The percentage of ground covered by a vertical projection of the outermost perimeter of the natural spread of foliage of plants. Small openings within the canopy are included. The sum of canopy cover of several species may exceed 100 percent. (Syn. crown cover).

Carrying Capacity. The maximum number of animals that can be grazed on a land unit for a specific period of time without inducing damage to vegetation or related resources. It may vary from year-to-year on the same area due to fluctuating forage production. (Syn. grazing capacity.)

Class of Livestock. Age and/or sex group of a kind of livestock. (cf. class of animal.)

Community type. An aggregation of all plant communities distinguished by floristic and structural similarities in both overstory and undergrowth layers. A unit of vegetation within a classification.

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.

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Cover, Percent. The area covered by the combined aerial parts of plants and vegetative ground cover expressed as a percent of the total area.

Cover Type. The existing vegetation on an area.

Crucial Range. Habitat or range component which is the determining factor in a population's ability to maintain and reproduce itself at a certain level (theoretically at or above the WGFD population objective) over the long term. **W**inter and parturition ranges for elk, deer, moose, antelope, and bighorn sheep are included in BTNF Forest Plan designated crucial ranges.
As an example: The total crucial winter range for an elk herd unit should be available, relatively intact, and allow a population at the objective level to survive the winter in adequate body condition to maintain average reproductive rates 8 out of 10 years.

Critical Area. An area in need of special management consideration due to their unique characteristics or their unique sensitivity to disturbance. They are areas that do not currently meet desired future conditions for one or more resource area. Critical areas are different from key areas because they aren't intended to represent a larger area or to sensitive to changes in single management action. The causative factors may or may not be easy to identify. Generally, it is difficult or impossible to quantify the role that each causative factor plays in retarding attainment of desired future conditions.

Density. Numbers of individuals or stems per unit area. (Density does not equate to any kind of cover measurement.)

Desirable Plant Species. Species which contribute to the management objectives.

Desired Future Condition - Rangelands. The specific future condition of rangeland resources that meets management objectives as identified in the Forest Plan and Allotment Management Plan. Desired future condition of rangelands can be expressed in terms of ecological status of the vegetation; it could include species composition, diversity of habitats, or age classes of species; desired soil protection, including conditions of soil cover, erosion, compaction, and loss of soil productivity; in riparian areas, it includes conditions of streambank and channel stability, stream habitat, streamside vegetation, stream sedimentation, and water quality.

Desired Plant Community. A plant community which produces the kind, proportion, and amount of vegetation necessary for meeting or exceeding the Forest Land Management Plan or Allotment Management Plan plan objectives established for an ecological type(s). The desired plant community must be consistent with the type's capability to produce the desired vegetation through management, land treatment, or a combination of the two. The desired plant community must conserve to the extent practicable the long-term potential of the site to produce vegetation, and produce in the short-term those combinations of desired goods and services.

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Ecological Status. The degree of similarity between the existing vegetation (all components and their characteristics and existing soil conditions compared to the potential natural community and the desired soil condition on a site. Synonymous with successional status.

Ecological Type. A category of land having a unique combination of potential natural community, soil, landscape features, climate, and differing from other ecological types its ability to produce vegetation and respond to management. Lacking potential natural community vegetation, ecological types can be developed with a provisional potential natural community based upon the present plant community and abiotic environmental factors. Categories of ecological types include all sites that have this unique combination of components with the defined ranges of properties.

Ecological Unit. The mapping unit developed for an ecological type or types designed to meet management objectives. A riparian ecological unit is a mapping unit developed for riparian ecological type or types. This unit often includes a complex of small and intricately associated riparian communities. In some cases, the ecologcial unit may be described without describing the individual ecological types that make up the unit.

Endangered Species. Any species listed in the Federal Register, which is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range other than a species of the class insecta determined by the Secretary to constitute a pest whose protection under the provisions of the act would present an overwhelming and overriding risk to man.

Forage. All browse and herbaceous foods that are available to grazing animals. It may be grazed or harvested for feeding.

Frequency. A quantitative expression of the presence or absence of individuals of a species in a population.

Forb. Any herbaceous plant other than those in the Gramineae (or Poaceae), Cyperaceae, and Juncacea families.

Grass. A member of the family Gramineae (Poaceae).

Grasslike Plant. A plant of the Cyperaceae or Juncaceae families which vegetatively resembles a true grass of the Gramineae family.

Grazing System. A specialization of grazing management which defines systematically recurring periods of grazing and deferment for two or more pastures or management units. (cf. deferred grazing, intermittent grazing, deferred-rotation grazing, and short-duration grazing.)

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Green Line. The first perennial vegetation from the water's edge. Riparian areas that are in high seral status with stable stream banks will exhibit a continuous line of vegetation at the bankfull discharge level. Rocky stream types may have a significant amount of rock causing breaks in the vegetation. This rock is considered part of the green line. Other breaks may occur in the first perennial band of vegetation (watercourses or bare ground). The amounts of these (perennial vegetation, rock, and bare ground) should be recorded.

Ground Cover. The percentage of material, other than bare ground, covering the land surface. It may include live vegetation, standing dead vegetation, litter, cobble, gravel, stones greater than ¾ of an inch and bedrock. Ground cover plus bare ground would total 100 percent.

Head Month. A month's use and occupancy of range by one animal over 6 months of age with disregard for offspring and daily feed or forage requirements. (Abbr H.M.) Not synonymous with animal unit month.

Herb. Any flowering plant except those developing persistent woody stems above ground.

Indicator Species. (1) Species that indicate the presence of certain environmental conditions, seral stages, and/or previous treatment. (2) One or more plant or animal species selected to indicate a certain level of use.

Interdisciplinary Team. A group of individuals from different resource disciplines assembled to solve a problem or perform a task. The team is assembled out of recognition that no one scientific discipline is sufficiently broad to adequately solve the problem. The members of the team proceed to solution with frequent interaction so that each discipline may provide insights to any stage of the problem and disciplines may combine to provide new solutions. This is different from a multidisciplinary team where each specialist is assigned a portion of the problem and their partial solutions are linked together at the end to provide the final solution.

Key Area. A relatively small portion of rangeland which because of its location, grazing or browsing value, and/or use, serves as a monitoring and evaluation site. (A key area guides the general management of the entire area of which it is a part, and will reflect the overall acceptability of current grazing management over the range.)

Key Species. (1) Forage species whose use serves as an indicator to the degree of use of associated species. (2) Those species which must, because of their importance, be considered in the management program.

Landform. Any physical, recognizable form or feature of the earth's surface having a characteristic shape and produced by natural causes.

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

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Monitoring. The orderly collection, analysis, and interpretation of resource data to evaluate progress toward meeting management objectives.

Objective. A clear and quantifiable statement of planned results to be achieved within a stated time period. Something aimed at or striven for within a predetermined time period. An objective must: be achievable, be measurable, have a stated time period for completion, be quantifiable, be clear, and its results must be described.

Overstory. The upper canopy or canopies of plants. Usually refers to tress, tall shrubs, and vines.

Palatability. The degree of attractiveness of a plant to animals as forage.

Percent Use. The percentage of current year's forage production that is consumed or destroyed by grazing animals. May refer to a single species or to the vegetation as a whole.

Phenology. The study of periodic biological phenomenon, such as flowering, seeding, and so forth, especially as related to climate.

Photopoint. An identified point from which photographs are taken at periodic intervals. Syn., camera point.

Plant Community. An assemblage of populations of plants in a common spatial arrangement.

Potential Natural Community (PNC). The biotic community that would become established on an ecological type if all successional sequences were completed without interference by man under the present environmental conditions. Natural disturbances, such as drought, floods, wildfire, grazing by native fauna, insects, and disease, are inherent in its development. The PNC may include acclimatized or naturalized non-native species.

Prescription. A written direction for corrective or beneficial action.

Proper Functioning Condition. The state of an ecological site where vegetation and soil cover are sufficient to keep soil/watershed physical components intact to provide for long-term sustainability and recoverability.

Proper Use Criteria. The limiting factor or factors which will be measured on a particular site. It could be percent utilization of forage, impact on other resources or uses, or any other measurable factor on a particular site.

Range Analysis. Systematic acquisition and evaluation of rangeland resources data needed for planning allotment management and overall land management.

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Range Inspection. A field inspection of rangeland to determine if the Forest Plan Standards and Guides, the Allotment Management Plan Goals and Objectives, and the Grazing Permit requirements are being met and followed.

Range Site. Synonymous with ecological site when applied to rangeland.

Rangeland. All land-producing or capable-of-producing native forage for grazing and browsing animals, and lands that have been revegetated naturally or artificially to provide a forage cover that is managed like native vegetation. It includes all grasslands, shrublands, and those forest lands which will continually or periodically, naturally or through management, support an understory of herbaceous or shrubby vegetation that provides forage for grazing or browsing animals.

Rangeland Condition. The state of vegetation, soil cover, and soils in relation to a standard or ideal for a particular ecological type. (See satisfactory rangeland and unsatisfactory rangeland condition.)

Research Natural Area. Part of a national network of reserved areas that include protected areas representative of the full array of North American ecosystems; biological communities, habitats, phenomena, and geological and hydrological formations and conditions.

Resource Value. The value of an ecosystem for a particular use or benefit on an ecological type. This value may be expressed as the value amount or as a relative rating, when compared to the maximum value for an ecological type.

Riparian Area. Geographically delineable areas with distinctive resource values and characteristics that are comprised of the aquatic and riparian ecosystems. Riparian areas may be associated with lakes, reservoirs, estuaries, potholes, springs, bogs, wet meadows, muskegs, and ephemeral, intermittent, or perennial streams.

Riparian Community Type. A repeating, classified, defined, and recognizable assemblage of riparian plant species.

Riparian Complex. A repeating, classified, defined, and recognizable assemblage of riparian community types.

Riparian Ecosystem. A transition between the aquatic ecosystem and the adjacent terrestrial ecosystem and is identified by soil characteristics and distinctive vegetation communities that require full or unbound water.

Rotation Grazing. A grazing scheme where animals are moved from one grazing unit in the same group of grazing units to another without regard to specific graze-rest periods or levels of plant defoliation.

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Satisfactory Condition. When the desired future rangeland condition is being met or short term objectives are being achieved to move the rangeland toward the desired future condition.

Season-long grazing. A grazing scheme where animals are allowed to remain in one grazing unit for the entire permitted season.

Sensitive Species. Those plants and animals identified by the Regional Forester for which population viability is a concern, as evidenced by 1) a significant current or predicted downward trends in population numbers or density, or 2) a significant current or predicted downward trends in habitat capability that would reduce a species' existing distribution.

Seral Stage. The relatively transitory communities which develop under ecological succession. (synonymous with seral communities).

Shrub. A plant that has persistent, woody stems and a relatively low growth habit, and that generally produces several basal shoots instead of a single bole. It differs from a tree by its low stature and nonarborescent form.

Succession, Plant. The process of vegetational development whereby area becomes successively occupied by different plant communities of higher ecological order.

Species 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, and so on.

Subnivean. Situated or living under the snow

Threatened Species. Any species listed in the Federal Register which is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

Trend. The direction of change in a plant community, ecological type, or an attribute as observed over time. The change in direction could be in ecological status; resource value rating; or a vegetative, ground cover, or soil feature over time. Most of the time trend should be described as "meeting", "moving toward", or "not meeting" a desired plant community. Trends in resource value ratings for several uses on the same site at a given time may be in different directions. There is also no necessary correlation between trends in resource value ratings or desired plant community and trend in ecological status.

Unsatisfactory Rangeland Condition. Unsatisfactory rangeland condition is when the desired future rangeland condition is not being met and short term objectives are not being achieved to move the rangeland toward the desired future condition. (cf. satisfactory range condition.)

Vigor. 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.

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