



File Code: 2210

Date: July 22, 2004

Dear Interested or Affected Persons:

The Fremont-Winema National Forests (F-WNF) are beginning the environmental analysis process for evaluating Allotment Management Plans on 8 grazing allotments in the Upper Sycan River watershed. Although each allotment will have specific management objectives, the overall objectives for all allotments will be similar. Grazing will be managed to maintain or enhance effective ground cover, plant species composition, and riparian system function and values.

The allotments are Paradise Creek, Withers, Currier Camp, Sycan, Riverbeds, Foster Butte, Winter Rim, and Silver Dollar. The analysis area is located north and west of Paisley, Oregon and includes approximately 298,000 acres of National Forest System lands administered by the Paisley, Silver Lake, Bly and Chiloquin Ranger Districts. Of this total acreage, roughly 270,000 acres are capable of being grazed by livestock as defined in the Fremont Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP). The project area is mostly within the Sycan River watershed, with a small portion of the Paradise Creek Allotment in the North Fork Sprague watershed. The Brattain Pasture of the Paradise Creek Allotment is in the Chewaucan watershed.

Specifically the F-WNF proposes to authorize grazing at the current stocking level and season of use (dates may be adjusted to reflect annual variations in range conditions) as described in Table 1. Utilization standards that address allowable levels at key monitoring locations in each allotment/pasture are included.

**TABLE 1: UPPER SYCAN ALLOTMENTS/PROPOSED ACTION**

ALLOTMENT NAME/Ranger District	PERMITTED NUMBER/KIND of LIVESTOCK	SEASON	ALLOWABLE USE LEVEL (%)
Foster Butte/Silver Lake	1717 Cattle	5/1-9/1	45-55%
Long Creek/Bly	119 Cattle	5/20 -6/21	45%
Winter Rim/Silver Lake	282 cattle	6/25-9/24	45-50%
Sycan/Paisley	660 cattle	5/1-8/15	40-50%
Currier Camp/Paisley	688 cattle	6/1 - 9/30	45-55%
Paradise Creek/Paisley	409 cattle	7/1-9/30	45-55%
Paradise Creek/Brattain Butte	500 cattle	6/1-7/1	45-55%
Withers/Paisley	81 cattle	6/22 - 8/6	45-50%
Riverbeds/Paisley	152 cattle	6/1-9/30	50%
Silver Dollar/Chiloquin	300 cattle	6/1-9/10	45-50%%



Authorization of grazing will be implemented with grazing permits and Allotment Management Plans. These plans will direct decided grazing strategies, improvements, allowable use levels and monitoring.

**Purpose and Need.** The purpose of this proposed action is to authorize livestock grazing in a manner that is consistent with the Fremont Land and Resource Management Plan. Authorization is needed on these allotment(s) because:

- The Rescission Act of 1995 (Public Law 104-19) required each National Forest to establish and adhere to a schedule for completing NEPA analysis and decisions on all grazing allotments within a 15 year period. It is now time to complete the NEPA analysis and decisions for these allotments.
- Where consistent with other multiple use goals and objectives, there is Congressional intent to allow grazing on suitable lands. (Multiple Use Sustained Yield Act of 1960, Wilderness Act of 1964, Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resource Act of 1974, Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, National Forest Management Act of 1976, FSM 2202.1).
- It is Forest Service policy to make forage available to qualified livestock operators, from lands suitable for grazing, consistent with management plans (FSM 2203.1);
- By regulation, forage producing lands will be managed for grazing where consistent with land management plans (36 CFR 222.2(c)).
- It is Forest Service policy to continue contributing to the economic and social well being of people by providing opportunities for economic diversity and by promoting stability for communities that depend on range resources for their livelihood (FSM 2202.1(4)).

There are several needs that will be addressed in this analysis, including:

- The need for sustained production of palatable forage. (Forest Plan pp. 13, 49, 65, 75, 119, 120, 125).
- The need for riparian vegetation (including Aspen communities) that is moving toward or is at mid-to-late successional stages and providing for needs of sensitive and other riparian dependent species (Forest Plan pp. 50, 65, 76, 78).
- The need for adjacent upland vegetation that is moving toward or is at mid-to-late seral stages, and therefore contains moderate to high resource values (Forest Plan pp. 13, 75);
- The need for protection of significant heritage resources. (Forest Plan pp. 51, 92);

- The need for compliance with state requirements in accordance with the Clean Water Act for protection of waters of the State of Oregon (Oregon Administrative Rules, Chapter 340-341) (Forest Plan p. 88);
- The need for soil productivity that is maintained or improving (Forest Plan p. 80);
- The need for compliance with Biological Opinions for listed fish and wildlife.
- The need for consistency with the Sycan and North Fork Sprague Wild and Scenic River Management Plans.

Please take this opportunity to express any comments or concerns you have regarding this proposal. Comments should be addressed to the Forest Range Staff at the Paisley Ranger District, P.O. Box 67, Paisley, OR, 97636. Comments will also be accepted by visiting the Ranger Station, or by calling Mike Nevill at (541) 943-4442. You may also comment electronically by sending an e-mail to the following address: [comments-pacificnorthwest-fremont-paisley@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-pacificnorthwest-fremont-paisley@fs.fed.us). Please return your comments by August 15, 2004.

Sincerely,

/s/ Karen Shimamoto  
KAREN SHIMAMOTO  
Forest Supervisor