



Range Facts

Little Snake Resource Management Plan

Little Snake Field Office

RANGE FACTS:

An **AUM (Animal Unit Month)** is the amount of forage an Animal Unit (AU) eats in one month.

An **Animal Unit** is defined as a 1,000 lb cow and calf (less than 3-4 months old). She will consume approximately 680 lbs of air dry forage.

Animal comparisons of AU's:

Yearling cattle (12-17 mos.) = .70 AU's

Sheep = .20 AU's

Mature horse = 1.25

Goat = .15 AU's

Mule deer = .20 AU's

Antelope = .20 AU's

Elk = .60 AU's

The current price of an AUM on federal lands is \$1.43.

We have approximately **286 permittee and lessees** in Moffat and Routt Counties. We have **348 allotments**.

Total permitted use is 146,572 AUMs (the total number of AUMs available for use).

Between 1999 and 2003 we licensed an **average of 83,647 AUMs** (the number of AUMs that were actually billed). The difference could be due to a number of factors: drought, current range conditions, wildlife use, fluctuations of livestock numbers due to sale of the ranch, etc.

Total AUMs permitted in Colorado is 644,216, from a total of 11 Field Offices. The Little Snake Field Office comprises **23%** of this total.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

What's the difference between a Grazing Permit and a Lease?

- "Permit" – section 3 (inside a grazing district)
- "Lease" – section 15 (outside a grazing district)
- The fees are distributed differently:

Section 3:

- 37.5% to US Treasury
- 12.5% to State (distributed according to state law)
- 50% to the Range Improvement fund



Section 15:

- 0 to US Treasury
- 50% to the County via the State
- 50% to the Range Improvement fund

How do you acquire a BLM Grazing Permit?

- Attached to the base property (usually adjacent)
- Can sell the permit w/ the property
- OR... Can transfer the permit to another base
- Current permit owner has preference on renewal
- May lease the base property to acquire the permit (vs. subleasing)

How do you lose a Permit?

- Violation of terms & conditions of the permit
- Decrease in public land acreage available for grazing
- Lands are disposed of or devoted to another purpose

A BRIEF HISTORY OF GRAZING IN THE BLM:

On June 28, 1934, Congress passed the Taylor Grazing Act.

It was passed in response to deteriorating range conditions in the west. The Act gave Congress the authority to establish grazing districts from vacant lands, "pending its final disposal".

Its purpose was to:

- Stop injury on the public lands by preventing overgrazing & soil erosion
- Provide for orderly use, improvement & development
- Stabilize the livestock industry

As part of the Act, the Taylor Grazing Service was formed. As part of its mission it **established grazing districts** (Colorado had 8); **Grazing Advisory Boards** were elected; a **portion of fees collected were returned** to grazing district for range improvements; and **grazing allotments** were established

In **1946** the Taylor Grazing Service was combined with the General Land Office to become the Bureau of Land Management.

In **1976** the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) was passed.

Key points of FLPMA:

- The public lands will be retained in Federal ownership
- Gave BLM a "multiple-use" mandate (no one resource or use of the public lands would be primary)
- Public participation and land-use planning were major tools provided for by FLPMA to assist BLM in management decisions.

