

## **JMH CAP Record of Decision**

### **JMH CAP FACTS Livestock Grazing**

#### **BACKGROUND:**

Grazing management objectives in the JMH CAP area are to maintain and/or improve forage production and ecological conditions for the benefit of livestock use while providing for other resource values. Achieving the Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands, or making significant progress toward achieving these standards is a top priority in the JMH CAP area.

These standards and guidelines address management practices at the grazing allotment management plan (AMP) and watershed levels and are intended to maintain desirable conditions or improve undesirable rangeland conditions within reasonable time frames. Allotment Management Plans, or other activity plans, for grazing allotments provide the necessary guidance to achieve grazing management objectives.

Livestock grazing is managed with a tool known as an animal unit month (AUM). An AUM is a standard measure of forage utilization. It is the amount of dry forage required to feed a mature beef cow and calf or five sheep for one month. Grazing permittees are encouraged to participate in monitoring activities. Range improvement projects, vegetation treatments, modifications to grazing plans, and other allotment management adjustments will be developed in coordination with grazing permittees and any other appropriate constituencies.

#### **SPECIFICS:**

- Fifteen livestock grazing allotments are in the JMH CAP area
- Nine of the allotments are entirely within the JMH CAP area
- Six allotment boundaries extend outside the area
- Ninety-two percent of the land in the allotments in JMH is public
- Five percent of the land allotments is state
- The remaining three percent of land in the allotments is privately owned
- The JMH CAP decisions only apply to lands under BLM management
- Permitted use is approximately 26,830 AUMs with approximately 12 percent sheep use (3,203 AUMs) and 88 percent cattle use (23,627 AUMs)
- In the past 5 years, permittees have used an average of 50 percent of the permitted use totals in the JMH CAP planning area
- Currently, twelve livestock operators hold grazing permits for use on allotments in the JMH CAP area. The BLM will consult, cooperate and communicate with these operators when implementing CAP decisions.