

Allotment Categories

Use the existing Selective Management Categories: Improve (I), Maintain (M), Custodial (C)) as the foundation for designating allotment categories. The Selective Management Category process was initiated in 1982 and was used primarily to establish priorities for investing in range improvements. Criteria for the original designations can be found in Handbook 1740-1, Appendix 1, pages 3 and 4, and in Illustration 3. This Attachment describes criteria in addition to those found in Handbook 1740-1 that are to be used to designate allotments as Category I, M, or C. Upon receipt of this IM, offices must review the existing allotment category designations (I, M, or C) using the original criteria and the additional criteria contained in this Attachment. Assign a new category as appropriate and record the category designation in RAS.

Assigning allotments to one of the three categories in accordance with this Instruction Memorandum is intended to help field offices determine priorities for focusing staff and fiscal resources when processing grazing permits and leases.

Category I: Allotments where current livestock grazing management or level of use on public land is, or is expected to be, a significant causal factor in the non-achievement of land health standards, or where a change in mandatory terms and conditions in the grazing authorization is or may be necessary. When identifying Category I allotments, review condition of critical habitat, conflicts with sage-grouse, and whether projects have been proposed specifically for implementing the Healthy Lands Initiative.

Category M: Allotments where land health standards are met or where livestock grazing on public land is not a significant causal factor for not meeting the standards and current livestock management is in conformance with guidelines developed by the State Directors in consultation with Resource Advisory Councils. Allotments where an evaluation of land health standards has not been completed, but existing monitoring data indicates that resource conditions are satisfactory.

Category C: Allotments where public lands produce less than 10 percent of the forage in the allotment or are less than 10 percent of the land area. An allotment should generally not be designated Category C if the public land in the allotment contains: 1) critical habitat for a threatened or endangered species, 2) wetlands negatively affected by livestock grazing.