

Objectives for Resumption for Livestock and Wild Horse Grazing

The following objectives will be used to determine when livestock or wild horse grazing can resume. Objectives apply to drill and aerial seeding, and natural recovery with and without herbicide treatment. All treatment-specific objectives must be met before grazing can resume at the end of the growing season. Objectives will be monitored at the pasture-scale. Monitoring for these objectives will begin in year one and continue for the five years of the project. Although monitoring will occur the first year after treatment, the efforts will be observational to provide a baseline of post-fire vegetative condition and/or treatment progress. Non-attainment of the objective by the second growing season post-treatment will likely result in rest the following year with monitoring efforts continuing to determine if objectives will be met.

If grazing resumption objectives are not met it is likely that treatment objectives are not being met. The BLM will determine if follow-up treatments are needed. Objectives for treatment success may be re-evaluated upon re-treatment and additional closure periods will be determined. Subsequent closure periods for these areas will be addressed through a revised closure document.

Drill Seeding

Monitoring would occur in random, representative sites throughout drill seeded areas.

The drill seeded areas would be available for grazing two growing seasons after the seeding and when the following objectives are met:

1. Foliar cover of large statured perennial grasses (excluding Sandberg bluegrass) is an average of greater than or equal to 20%.
2. Density of large stature perennial grasses (excluding Sandberg bluegrass) is an average of greater than or equal to 3 plants per m².
3. Basal diameter of large statured **seeded** grasses (bluebunch wheatgrass, Snake River wheatgrass, Siberian wheatgrass, and/or crested wheatgrass) has a median value of greater than or equal to 3 inches, excluding Sherman big bluegrass and thickspike wheatgrass.
4. A qualitative assessment of the fitness and vigor of native and seeded perennial plant species determines those species to be established. The assessment would include at a minimum the following factors:
 - Seed head and seed production
 - Root mass, and lateral and vertical growth
 - Precipitation during germination and growing season

Aerial Grass Seeding

Monitoring of aerial grass seedings for grazing resumption would occur in areas that have the most potential to be affected by livestock and/or wild horses.

The aerial grass seeding would be available for grazing two growing seasons after the seeding and when the following objectives are met:

1. Foliar cover of large statured perennial grasses (excluding Sandberg bluegrass) is an average of greater than or equal to 20%.
2. Basal diameter of large statured perennial grasses (excluding Sandberg bluegrass) has a median value of greater than or equal to 3 inches.
3. A qualitative assessment of the fitness and vigor of native and seeded perennial plant species determines those species to be established and/or recovering. The assessment would include at a minimum the following factors:
 - Seed head and seed production
 - Root mass, and lateral and vertical growth
 - Precipitation during germination and growing season

Natural Recovery

Natural Recovery is defined as an area where no aerial or drill seeding of grasses has occurred, or is planned, and may include herbicide treatments.

Natural recovery areas would be available for grazing two growing seasons after the fire and when the following objectives have been met:

1. Foliar cover of large statured perennial grasses (excluding Sandberg bluegrass) is an average of greater than or equal to 20%.
2. Basal diameter of large statured perennial grasses (excluding Sandberg bluegrass) has a median value of greater than or equal to 4 inches.
3. A qualitative assessment of the fitness and vigor of native perennial plant species would be evaluated and would include at a minimum the following:
 - Seed head and seed production
 - Root mass, and lateral and vertical growth
 - Precipitation during germination and growing season

Other Treatments

Other treatments that have occurred, or are planned, include: hand seeding, D7 research plots, dozer-line seeding, chaining, and seeding of sagebrush, bitterbrush, and forbs.

These areas would be available for grazing two growing seasons after the fire and do not have treatment objectives.