

# 6.3

## BLM BATTLE MOUNTAIN DISTRICT OFFICE RMP PLANNING FACT SHEET *Livestock Grazing*

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The BLM Battle Mountain District Office (BMDO) is revising the Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the BMDO planning area. The BMDO RMP will provide detailed information about the current state of resources on public lands within the planning area, and set forth a plan of action for managing those resources for the next twenty or so years under the BLM's dual mandate of *multiple use* and *sustained yield*.

The Battle Mountain District manages livestock grazing within Lander, Eureka, Nye and Esmeralda Counties, covering approximately 10.5 million acres of public land. There are 85 allotments and 74 operators. Operators can use more than one allotment and an allotment can have more than one operator.

A total of 372,811 Animal Unit Months (AUMs) are currently permitted within the district. An AUM is the amount of forage necessary for the sustenance of one cow or its equivalent for a period of 1 month and is further defined by 1 cow, bull, steer, heifer, horse, burro, mule, 5 sheep, or 5 goats, over the age of 6 months.

Grazing permits are issued for a maximum of ten years and are reviewed prior to reissuance for conformance with management objectives and to ensure progress towards Resource Advisory Council (RAC) Standards and Guidelines (S&Gs).

RACs were developed to promote healthy rangeland and to balance multiple use on public lands. The Battle Mountain District lies within two RAC boundaries; the Northeastern Great Basin Area and the Mojave-Southern Great Basin Area.

These councils developed S&Gs to ensure the BLM adheres to mandates requiring multiple use management. The following is a list of the Standards by RAC.



### Northeastern Great Basin Area RAC

1. Upland Sites
2. Riparian and Wetland Sites
3. Habitat
4. Cultural Resources
5. Healthy Wild Horse and Burro Populations

### Mohave-Southern Great Basin Area RAC

1. Soils
2. Ecosystem Components
3. Habitat and Biota
4. Wild Horses and Burros

Of the 85 allotments, 45 have had Rangeland Health Evaluations and multiple use decisions and 15 have been renewed through an Environmental Assessment and Grazing Decision. These decisions have resulted in changes in season of

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use, reduction in AUMs, temporary suspension of AUMs due to drought, wildfire, and/or range improvement conditions, and modification of the terms and conditions for administration.

It is anticipated that over the next five years that Rangeland Health Assessments will be completed for those allotments which have not had a formal evaluation. It is also anticipated that re-evaluations will be completed on other allotments to determine if current management objectives and goals are resulting in progress towards the RAC S&Gs.

The following are examples of factors that could cause the need to change grazing management:

1. Inappropriate season of use.
2. Suitability for livestock grazing.
3. Availability and/or functionality of range improvement projects.

The following are examples of the kind of changes that could be made to the grazing management system:

1. Change in season of use.
2. Possible reduction in AUMs.
3. Temporary suspension of AUMs.
4. Prescriptive grazing measures.
5. Implementation of adaptive management.

**Mail comments to:**

Battle Mountain RMP  
c/o Christopher Worthington  
Bureau of Land Management  
Battle Mountain District Office  
50 Bastian Road  
Battle Mountain, NV 89820

**The BLM would like your input...**

1. What livestock grazing management practices are appropriate to maintain and/or restore properly functioning vegetative communities?
2. What criteria should BLM use to determine suitability for livestock grazing use?
3. What criteria should BLM use to determine areas that should not be available to livestock grazing?
4. How should vacant allotments be managed?
5. What criteria should be utilized to determine if additional forage is available to consider Temporary Non-Renewable (TNR) grazing above the preference and/or authorize temporary changes in use that are deemed outside the terms and conditions of the permit?
6. What criteria should BLM use to convert sheep AUMs to cattle AUMs and cattle AUMs to sheep AUMs?
7. What criteria should BLM use to determine appropriate triggers and end-point indicators as terms and conditions of grazing permits?
8. How should BLM manage livestock grazing if invasive and/or noxious weeds are present?
9. How should BLM address allotment management that crosses field office boundaries?
10. Any other issues or concerns with livestock grazing?

**Email comments to:**

[BattleMountainRMP@blm.gov](mailto:BattleMountainRMP@blm.gov)

**BMDO Planning Webpage:**

[www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/battle\\_mountain\\_field/blm\\_information/rmp.com](http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/battle_mountain_field/blm_information/rmp.com)