CASPER DRAFT
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN AND
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

APPENDIX S

Guidelines for Yearling Conversion

Appendix S
Guidelines for Yearling Conversion

Casper Field Office Policy Statement on Yearling Conversion

The use of conversion factors may be authorized when resource conditions and range management considerations warrant their use.

Yearling use and conversion within the Casper Field Office will function within the following framework.

1. Yearling cattle may be run in same period of use and in the same numbers as customarily licensed for cow/calf pairs without special approval.
2. Livestock management facilities (fences and water must be adequate as determined through the development of an environmental assessment and/or allotment management plan) for the proposed season of use and livestock numbers.
3. Conversions of less than 1:1 may be denied if proposed yearling use would result in a greater than customary percentage of the use being licensed during the growing season.
4. Conversion factors of less than 1:1 will be based on a pre agreed to factor of .75 or the mid-weight of the yearlings for the period of time they are controlled by the applicant. This mid-weight will be determined as shown on Attachment 1. If the management situation and conditions warrant the average daily gain in the second and subsequent years may be calculated using the previous year's weight tickets. The calculation of the conversion factors will be the responsibility of the authorized officer and is not subject to negotiation by the lessee. It is the responsibility of the grazing operator to supply all weight tickets necessary to calculate the conversion factor or the conversion will be denied.
5. All yearling applications must be supported by current proof of control of the livestock to be grazed such as bill of sale, cattle lease, or management agreement. This must be in conformance with 43 CFR 4130.7.
6. The allotment must be operated under an Allotment Management Plan (AMP), Coordinated Resource Management Plan (CRMP), Management Agreement or similar document. A monitoring plan will be in place to determine if adjustments to either the AMP or the conversion factor are required.
7. An environmental assessment (EA) will be done for all allotments where yearling conversions are requested. The EA will address any land use plan decisions for the allotment, the conversion from a cow/calf operation to a yearling operation, the impact to the vegetation, wildlife, watershed, or other resource values as a result of a change in foraging habits and numbers of animals.
8. Other Policy Considerations:
    a. The term of the yearling conversion must be for more than a 3 year period.
    b. If a grazing lease or permit is transferred the yearling conversion will be allowed to remain in place under the same conditions.
    c. No yearling conversions will be allowed for replacement heifers if run in common with cow-calf pairs.
    d. No sheep yearling conversions will be allowed.
    e. The full fee shall be charged for each animal unit month of authorized grazing use in accordance with 43 CFR 4130.8-1(c).

9. Required Terms and Conditions of Permit/Lease:

   a. The AMP, CRMP, Management Agreement or similar document guiding management of the grazing allotment will be made part of the lease/permit.

   b. Any future monitoring which indicates that yearling use is resulting in resource damage or over use of the vegetation will require that the yearling conversion be reviewed by the authorized officer.

   c. The yearling conversion may be terminated at any time at the discretion of the BLM after consultation with the grazing lessee.

Determination of Yearling Conversion Factor

1. The beginning weight for yearling cattle must be determined prior to turning the animals into the allotment. This must be supported by certified weight tickets. The date for the weight tickets may be for any date, two (2) weeks prior to turning yearlings into the allotment.

2. The mid-weight will be determined by using the following formula:

$$\frac{\text{In weight} + (\text{Days} \times 2 \text{ pounds})}{2} = \text{Mid-weight}$$

   * Days refers to the total number of days yearling cattle are in the allotment

   * 2 pounds is the assumed daily weight gain. This figure is administrative and is nonnegotiable, unless average daily gain can be calculated from actual certified weight tickets supplied by the lessee showing the turn in and take out weights of the yearling cattle.

   * Mid-weight will be rounded up to the nearest 50-pound increment.

3. The conversion factors are shown Table S-1.

Table S-1. Conversion Factors

Mid-Weight	Factor
500	.60
600	.70
700	.75
800	.85
900	1.00
550	.65
650	.72
750	.80
850	.90

The conversion factors were established based on data and formula from Kearl (1978).

Reference

Kearl, W. Gordon. 1978. Mountain Valley Ranching in Wyoming. Department of Agriculture Economics University Wyoming AE 78-13 p. 24.