

APPENDIX K

ALLOTMENT CATEGORIZATION

Selective Management Criteria by Category

Individual allotments were categorized based on interviews with permittees, field evaluation by BLM personnel, and identified resource use conflicts. The following criteria were considered during the allotment categorization.

These criteria were used as general guidelines, and as such, may not be totally representative of an entire individual allotment. The categorization is a dynamic process and if conflicts are identified in M category allotments, they may receive management attention through other resource activity planning (such as wildlife habitat management), or if needed, the category may be changed to I. Funding may be provided for M or C allotment improvements as priorities allow.

Maintenance Category (M)

Present range condition is satisfactory.

Allotments have moderate or high resource production potential and are producing near their potential (or trend is moving in that direction).

Present management is considered satisfactory.

Riparian areas are under satisfactory management and are not in a declining trend.

No serious conflicts exist with regard to current uses of resource.

Potential may exist for positive economic returns on public investments.

Improve Category (I)

Present range condition is unsatisfactory or in a declining trend.

Allotments have moderate to high resource production potential but are producing at low to moderate levels.

Present management is considered unsatisfactory.

Riparian areas are presently in a declining trend and management is unsatisfactory.

Serious resource use conflicts may exist and controversy is at a high level.

Potential for high return on public investment exists.

Custodial Category (C)

Present range condition is variable.

Allotments have relatively low resource production potential and are presently producing at or near their potential.

Present management appears satisfactory or is the only logical practice under existing resource conditions.

Riparian areas are either not present, or are not in a declining condition.

Limited resource conflicts and (or) controversy presently exist.

Potential for returns on public investment is low.

Selective Management Criteria by Situation

Range Condition

A professional judgment criteria used when there is a lack of ecological range site data. A subjective rating of what the area is now producing as compared to its potential.

Resource Potential

A professional judgment criteria used to determine the allotment's potential (capability) to improve. This criteria is based on the potential that exists for increased forage production, either naturally or artificially.

High Potential – I Moderate Potential – M Low Potential - C or M

Present Management Situation

A rating of allotments based on present range management practices.

Allotment is receiving satisfactory management - M or C

Allotment is receiving unsatisfactory management - I

Riparian Areas

A judgment of whether or not riparian vegetation is declining, static, or in an upward trend.

Declining trend - I

Static or upward trend - M or C

Resource Use Conflicts and(or) Controversy

Critical wildlife habitat areas, Wilderness Study Areas, ACECs, mining or oil and gas, and other conflicts that may exist.

Low level of conflict/controversy - M or C

High level of conflict/controversy - I

Economic Investment Potential

The potential for a positive economic return on investments.

High - I

May exist - M

Low - C

Ranking of Allotments in the Improve Category

The allotments in the improve category were ranked in priority order based upon professional judgment and problems and(or) conflicts.