

Chapter 2 - Comparison of Alternatives

A. Alternatives to be Studied in Detail

1. Proposed Action:

1. Incorporate those portions of Kozy Kove, Sea Vista and Sur Sur Ranches outside of wilderness designation into adjacent management area 42 and those portions designated as wilderness by congress into management area 64 through a non-significant Forest Plan amendment. (P&N #1)
2. Gorda Allotment: Authorize grazing. Livestock may include cow/calf pairs, other mature cattle including bulls, and yearling cattle. (P&N Underlying)
 - a. Mill Creek Unit: The earliest on-date will be February 1 and the latest off-date will be June 30 to coincide season-of-use with maximum available water sources; the utilization standard will be an average of 1,200 pounds per acre at key areas and Animal Unit Months² (AUMs) will not exceed 230 to maintain sufficient soil cover, plant vigor, and abundance of desirable plants to impede the spread of French broom. (P&N #5,6)
 - b. Prewitt Unit: The earliest on-date will be February 1 and the latest off-date will be August 15 and AUMs will not exceed 450. To obtain uniform distribution and plant use, and maintain vigor and abundance of desirable plants across the unit as natural features and facilities will allow, construct a ¼ mile (approximate) barbed wire drift fence above Wild Cattle Canyon to partition Alms Ridge from Prewitt Ridge (Appendix H-3, map) creating two separate pastures and implement a 2-pasture rotation grazing system between Alms Ridge pasture and Prewitt Ridge pasture. (P&N #2,7)
 - c. Plaskett Unit: The earliest on-date will be February 1 and the latest off-date will be August 1 to coincide season-of-use with maximum available water sources; AUMs will not exceed 316. (P&N #8)
 - d. Pacific Valley Unit: To maintain sufficient soil cover and maintain vigor and abundance of desirable plants to impede the spread of Italian thistle; to encourage consumption by livestock of invasive weeds; to reduce the duration desirable forage is exposed to grazing, thus maintaining vigor: The earliest on-date will be March 1 and the latest off-date will be September 15; AUMs will not exceed 343; implement a 3-pasture deferred rotation system; utilization standard will be an average of 1,200 pounds per acre at key areas. (P&N #9)

South Pasture: Construct a new 100-foot long (approximate) drift

² Animal Unit Month is the amount of feed required to support one Animal Unit for one month. Animal Unit values: cow with calf = 1.32; mature cow = 1; mature bull = 1.5; yearling < 9 mo. = 7; yearling >9 mo. = 1. AU x 1,000 = monthly forage requirement (lbs air dry forage).

fence on the north side of Plaskett Creek to exclude cattle access to the creek and riparian zone (Appendix H-5, map). (P&N #10)

North Pasture: Relocate the stock corral approximately 300' to the north. Livestock crossing of Prewitt Creek will be deferred until May 1 and limited to four times per year with monitoring of the creek prior to and during crossings to ensure protection of fisheries. (P&N #10, 11)

3. Alder Creek Allotment: Authorize grazing providing for: Yearlong season of use; AUMs will not exceed 115. Authorized livestock may include mature or yearling horses or mules, cow/calf pairs, other mature cattle including bulls, and yearling cattle. (P&N Underlying, #2)
4. Salmon Creek Allotment: Authorize grazing providing for: Yearlong season of use; AUMs will not exceed 65. Authorized livestock may include mature or yearling horses or mules, cow/calf pairs, other mature cattle including bulls, and yearling cattle. (P&N Underlying)
5. Kozy Kove Ranch: Authorize grazing providing for: The earliest on-date would be December 15 and the latest off-date May 15; AUMs will not exceed 160. Permitted livestock may include cow/calf pairs, other mature cattle including bulls, and yearling cattle. Authorized grazing will be contained on the Kozy Kove ranch through management practices described in the LRMP (Range Resources Management D02). If monitoring indicates cattle are drifting into previously unauthorized portions of the Silver Peak Wilderness, construct a approximate 1/8 mile drift fence along the old Forest boundary line. (Appendix H-9, map) to prevent grazing in. (P&N Underlying, #3)
6. San Carpofooro Allotment: Incorporate the Sea Vista and Sur Sur Ranches onto the San Carpofooro allotment. Authorize grazing providing for: The earliest on-date will be November 1 and the latest off-date will be May 15; AUMs will not exceed 975; authorized livestock may include cow/calf pairs, other mature cattle including bulls, and yearling cattle. Dismantle the Dutra Camp enclosure fence and replace with a drift type fence that when combined with natural brush barriers will enlarge the campsite to enhance the recreational wilderness experience while continuing to prevent livestock entry. (P&N Underlying, #12)
7. Buckeye Allotment: No authorized grazing. Remove this allotment from the Los Padres National Forest grazing program through a non-significant Forest Plan amendment. (P&N Underlying, #14)
8. Twitchell Allotment: No authorized grazing. Remove this allotment, and associated structural improvements, from the Los Padres National Forest grazing program through a non-significant Forest Plan amendment. Implement effectiveness monitoring as described below after closing to assess habitat changes within the Research Natural Area. (P&N Underlying, #13)
9. Torre Canyon Allotment: No authorized grazing. Remove this allotment from the

Los Padres National Forest grazing program through a non-significant Forest Plan amendment. (P&N Underlying, #15)

Standard Management Requirements

Resource Protective Measures are incorporated into all action alternatives to protect and maintain a variety of natural resources. The measures utilized include BMPs to protect water quality; Riparian Conservation Strategy guidelines to protect sensitive riparian and aquatic habitats and species; retention of at least 1000 lbs/acre of residual dry matter to help maintain plant diversity, retain soil in place and reduce the potential for invasion of noxious non-native plant species; consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and following the Programmatic Agreement approved by SHPO to protect heritage resources; and following the terms and conditions provided in Biological Opinions received from the FWS or NOAA Fisheries pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, to protect proposed or listed threatened or endangered species. These Resource Protection Measures are displayed in Appendix B.

Monitoring and Adaptive Management involves identification of future management options that may be needed to adjust management actions to meet desired objectives as determined through monitoring. Monitoring used to evaluate whether the prescribed management is working and provide resource information necessary to evaluate and revise grazing strategies, if needed, through adaptive management is displayed in Appendix B.

2. No Action:

Grazing permits would not be re-issued after the current permits expire [36 CFR 221.4 (a)(1)] and remain vacant pending further NEPA analysis. On the recently acquired properties no grazing would be authorized. Existing fences and corrals, with the exception of privately owned National Forest Boundary fences, would be removed when Forest Service funding is available. Existing developed springs will be retained for wildlife and recreation use.

3. Continuation of Current Permit:

Livestock grazing on the existing allotments will continue to be authorized under current management (Table 1) that includes all applicable standards and guidelines from the current Los Padres Land and Resource Management Plan and revised 2005 Land Management Plan, once implemented. No grazing would be authorized on the recently acquired ranch parcels. The vacant allotments will remain vacant in the LPNF grazing program. A subsequent NEPA decision would be necessary to stock the vacant allotments should the demand for forage change.

Standard Management Requirements

Resource Protective Measures are incorporated into all action alternatives to protect and maintain a variety of natural resources. The measures utilized include BMPs to protect water quality; Riparian Conservation Strategy guidelines to protect sensitive riparian and aquatic habitats and species; retention of at least 1000 lbs/acre of residual dry matter to help maintain plant diversity, retain soil in place and reduce the potential for invasion of noxious non-native plant species; consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO); following the Programmatic Agreement approved by SHPO to protect

heritage resources; and following the terms and conditions provided in Biological Opinions received from the FWS or NOAA Fisheries pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, to protect proposed or listed threatened or endangered species. These Resource Protection Measures are displayed in Appendix B.

Monitoring and Adaptive Management involves identification of future management options that may be needed to adjust management actions to meet or move towards desired objectives as determined through monitoring. Monitoring used to evaluate whether the prescribed management is working and provide resource information necessary to evaluate and revise grazing strategies, if needed, through adaptive management, is displayed in Appendix B.

Table 1. Summary of Current Management on Coastal Rangelands

| Allotment/ Unit | Permitted #s | AUMs | Season-of-use | Management |
|--|-----------------------------------|-------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| San Carpoforo | 118 yearling cattle | 708 | 11/1 – 4/30 | Season long herding system |
| Salmon Creek | 4 mature cows and/or horses | 65 | yearlong | Deferred rotation |
| Alder Creek | 5 horses/mules | 72 | yearlong | Season long |
| Gorda Mill Creek Unit | 25 cow/calf pairs | 181.5 | 4/1 – 8/15 | Two pasture season long |
| Gorda Prewitt Unit | 20 cow/calf pairs | 171.6 | 4/1 – 10/15 | Season long |
| Gorda Plaskett Unit | 30 cow/calf pairs | 257.4 | 4/1 – 10/15 | Season long |
| Gorda Pacific Valley Unit | 50 cow/calf pairs | 429 | 4/1 – 10/15 | Season long |
| Twitchell | 20 cow/calf pairs | 106 | 2/1 – 5/30 | Season long |
| Buckeye | Vacant | | | |
| Torre Canyon | Vacant | | | |

B. Alternatives Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Study

Responses to public scoping identified another eight alternatives that are included in the “Range of Alternatives” (Appendix I) considered in this analysis. Those alternatives and the reasons why each was eliminated from detailed study are presented below.

1) Combine the Salmon Creek and Buckeye Allotment into one Unit.

Because of low forage production in key livestock use areas, and the difficulty in distributing and controlling livestock, the Buckeye Allotment has been proposed for closing (P&N 14). There have been no specific needs or issues presented during this analysis, during scoping and two EA review periods, or requests for additional forage that necessitate combining the Salmon Creek and Buckeye Allotments.

2) No-grazing for a minimum of 10 years be considered and analyzed.

This alternative is in essence the No Action alternative (Alternative #2). No rationale for developing this as an additional alternative or incorporating it into an action alternative was presented, nor was a need identified during the analysis or review of public comments. There have been no specific issues identified that necessitate extended periods of rest across the allotments. The Interdisciplinary (ID) Team in preparing this analysis has determined that the proposed action would be consistent in meeting or moving toward desired conditions and meeting LRMP goals and objectives and therefore does not indicate the need for ceasing use for any extended period of time. This alternative would not meet our underlying need to provide available forage to qualified livestock operators from lands that are suitable for livestock grazing and maintain existing grazing opportunities (LRMP 1988).

3) Grazing fewer numbers than proposed.

The ID Team considered the prospect of reducing numbers by incorporating the adjustment of grazing fewer numbers into the Proposed Action through the Adaptive Management component (Alternative 1). No rationale for developing this as an additional alternative now was presented, nor was a need identified during the analysis or review of public comments. Our experience has shown that season of use and timing are the key components when making adjustments to meet our objectives.

4) Combine mandatory rest-rotation. This would prevent overgrazing of other areas.

The Forest Service Interdisciplinary (ID) Team incorporated periods of rest and season of use adjustments into the Proposed Action when developing the Adaptive Management component (Alternative 1). Overgrazing in general has not been identified as an issue during the analysis or from all the public comment opportunities provided on this project. The ID Team has promoted and developed rotational grazing systems wherever the landscape, non-wilderness status and facilities allow. The adjusted grazing seasons and rotational systems are incorporated into the Proposed Action and will correspond with the maximum available water and green forage periods allowing for proper distribution and utilization throughout the units. Where the need exists to impede the spread of noxious weeds (P&N 6), raising the standard for residual dry matter has been incorporated to further reduce grazing levels. In the one or two isolated places impacted by insufficient distribution (P&N 5,7,8), the current proposed action has provided actions to avoid or minimize such effects.

5) Should analyze an alternative with these features:

- 1) 3-year rest period; 1/3 stocking rate reduction.
- 2) 3-year rest-rotation cycle with maximum utilization of 30% in wet and normal years.
- 3) Specified post-grazing residual stubble height requirement during dry years.
- 4) Rigorous enforcement of restrictive stream bank disturbance

No rationale, issues or purpose and need were presented for developing these as additional alternatives or incorporating them into an action alternative, nor was a need identified during the analysis or review of public comments. The Forest Service Interdisciplinary (ID) Team incorporated periods of rest and season of use adjustments into the Proposed Action when developing the Adaptive Management component (Alternative 1). The LRMP standards and guidelines, best management practices (BMPs), utilization and monitoring guidelines and resource protective measures incorporated in to the Proposed Action, all apply regardless of whether the year is wet, normal or dry. To our knowledge, stubble height guidelines used for utilization monitoring have not been developed for the predominate forage species within the coastal rangelands. Under Alternative 1, we would follow the Riparian Conservation Strategy developed under PacFish and conduct Proper Functioning Condition assessments to protect riparian areas and monitor stream banks. Should additional restrictive measures become necessary, they would be developed under our BMP implementation and effectiveness evaluations as part of our Proposed Action, Monitoring and Adaptive Management component (Alternative 1). In addition, the revised Forest Plan (2005) will have additional standards and guidance that will be incorporated once the Plan is implemented.

The adjusted grazing seasons and rotational systems in the Proposed Action will correspond with the maximum available water and green forage allowing for proper distribution and utilization throughout the units. In addition, the proposed action implements specific seasons of use to reduce the time period desirable plants are exposed to grazing, allowing them to recover vigor, produce seed and establish new reproduction.

6) On the Salmon Creek Allotment, to seek to improve the health of native bunchgrasses, a rotational system that provides for spring rest is preferable to year-round grazing with no attempt at any rest period.

Field inspections reveal that the perennial grass populations are healthy and receiving light to no grazing. Bunch grasses on the allotment are flowering, setting seed, and able to store food reserves under current management. The Proposed Action allows the permittees to defer use between the two fenced pastures based on available forage and water, which promotes health and vigor of all desirable plant species.

7) At San Carpoforo Camp there is no fence or barrier to keep cattle out. Please incorporate existing fences and/or new ones to exclude the camp and riparian area from access by cattle.

Our observations have revealed little use by livestock at San Carpoforo Camp. There is nothing at San Carpoforo Camp that would attract livestock use. Occupancy of the camp by campers would deter use by livestock if they drifted through the area. The camp is located within the flood plain of sand, gravel and rock. There is little forage of value there and plenty of water in the surrounding hillsides. Livestock use in the vicinity of

San Carpoforo camp is generally transitory in nature i.e., they move through the area as they travel to or from primary grazing areas. We have prescribed monitoring and adaptive management in the Proposed Action (Alternative 1) should cattle occurrences become frequent or be shown to not meet or move towards desired conditions or objectives.

8) For those allotments (Alder Creek, Salmon Creek) for which year-round grazing are proposed, an alternative for seasonal grazing should be analyzed.

There have been no site-specific issues identified that necessitate seasonal grazing on the Alder Creek allotment. The carrying capacity on the allotment for moderate use is approximately three times higher than our proposed action (Appendix E). Field inspections show that the Alder Creek Allotment has supplementary forage production and distribution of use is consistent with our objectives, indicating that the stocking rate could be increased and still meet our moderate use guidelines (P&N 2).

On the Salmon Creek Allotment, the permittees defer use between two fenced pastures based on available forage and water. The amount of water and forage available relative to the numbers and utilization levels prescribed should keep these areas within desired condition. The proposed action incorporates monitoring at key areas. Should monitoring indicate that resource conditions are not meeting desired conditions or LRMP Standards and Guidelines on either of these two allotments, we will remove the livestock until conditions warrant their return.

C. Comparison of Alternatives

Table 2: Comparison of Alternatives with respect to elements of the Purpose and Need.

| Allotment/ Ranches | Purpose and Need | No Action / No Grazing | Proposed Action | Continue Current Permit |
|--|--|---|--|---|
| Kozy Kove, Sea Vista, Sur Sur | To incorporate into LRMP Mgt. Area | Ranches will not have LRMP direction and mgt. emphasis | Entire ranches will have specific LRMP direction and mgt. emphasis | Ranches will not have LRMP direction and mgt. emphasis |
| Kozy Kove, Sea Vista, Sur Sur | To determine suitability for grazing | No determination | Determine to be suitable | No determination |
| Kozy Kove | To provide preventive measures to keep livestock within ranch boundary | No need | Preventive measures provided | No need |
| All | To provide available forage to qualified livestock operators from coastal rangelands | No forage provided | Forage provided | Forage provided. +No forage provided on acquired properties |

| Allotment/ Ranches | Purpose and Need | No Action / No Grazing | Proposed Action | Continue Current Permit |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|--|--|
| Gorda- Mill Unit | To obtain uniform distribution/ utilization and maintain plant vigor. | No season of use. +Key forage species will recover vigor then taper off. | Season corresponds with maximum available water and green forage promoting uniform distribution and utilization. +Key forage species will maintain vigor. | Season corresponds with limited available water and green forage resulting in improper distribution and utilization. +Key forage species will decline somewhat. |
| | To maintain sufficient soil cover and plant vigor to impede spread of French broom | Bareground would remain mostly static or decrease somewhat. +Foliage density maintained. +RDM > 1200 lbs/ac. +French broom cover 1-5%. | Bareground would remain mostly static or decrease somewhat. +Foliage density maintained. +RDM > 1200 lbs/ac. +French broom cover 1-5%. | Bareground is expected to increase somewhat. +Foliage density decrease. +RDM > 1000 lbs/ac. +French broom cover 5-25%. |
| Gorda- Prewitt Unit | To obtain uniform distribution/ utilization. | No season of use. +Key forage species will recover vigor then taper off. | Proper distribution. +Key forage species will maintain vigor. | Improper distribution. +Key forage species will decline somewhat. |
| Gorda – Plaskett Unit | To adjust season to obtain uniform distribution/ utilization | No season of use. +Key forage species will recover vigor then taper off. | Season corresponds with maximum available water and green forage. +Key forage species will maintain vigor. | Season corresponds with limited available water and green forage. +Key forage species will decline somewhat. |

| Allotment/ Ranches | Purpose and Need | No Action / No Grazing | Proposed Action | Continue Current Permit |
|---|--|--|--|--|
| Gorda- Pacific Valley Unit | To maintain sufficient soil cover to impede spread of Italian thistle; to encourage consumption of weeds; to reduce duration of grazing on desirable forage. | RDM > 1200 lbs/ac. +Bareground would remain mostly static or decrease somewhat. +Propagation of weeds and other invasive plants will increase. | RDM > 1200 lbs/ac. +Bareground would remain mostly static or decrease somewhat. +Propagation of weeds reduced. | RDM > 1000 lbs/ac. +Bareground would remain mostly static. +Propagation of weeds will remain constant. |
| San Carpoforo | To maintain and protect resident and anadromous fisheries | Habitat managed for protection. | Habitat managed for protection. | Habitat managed for protection. |
| San Carpoforo | To protect cultural properties | Cultural properties protected | Cultural properties protected | Cultural properties protected |
| San Carpoforo | To modify Dutra camp enclosure to preserve Wilderness recreation values | Confined nature of campsite removed. | Confined nature of campsite modified. | Confined nature of campsite remains the same. |
| Twitchell | To comply with Cone Peak RNA direction and achieve proper distribution | RNA direction met for no new range structures. | RNA direction met for no new range structures. | RNA direction met for no new range structures. +Improper distribution |
| Buckeye | To decide status of vacant allotment | Allotment remains in LP grazing program as vacant. | Allotment removed from LP grazing program. | Allotment remains in LP grazing program as vacant. |
| Torre | To decide status of vacant allotment | Allotment remains in LP grazing program as vacant. | Allotment removed from LP grazing program. | Allotment remains in LP grazing program as vacant. |

Table 3. Comparison of effects on issues by allotments and alternatives.

| Mill Creek Unit Resource Elements (Issues) | No Acton/ No Grazing | Proposed Action | Continue Current Permit | Mitigation Measures |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| Soils | Erosion Hazard Rating (EHR) low. | EHR low to moderate. | EHR low to moderate. | RDM > 1,000 lbs/ac. at key areas. Proper distribution. |
| | Low susceptibility to compaction. | Low susceptibility to compaction. | Low susceptibility to compaction. | |
| Plant Diversity | Plant diversity increase then taper off. Primary influence – weather, fire. | Plant Diversity maintained. Primary influence – weather, herbivory, fire. | Plant Diversity decrease. Primary influence – weather, herbivory, fire. | RDM > 1,000 lbs/ac. Proper distribution. Season of use. Length of season and recovery period. |
| Watershed | Surface water not potable. | Surface water not potable. | Surface water not potable. | Proper distribution. BMPs and effectiveness monitoring. |
| | Beneficial Uses maintained. | Beneficial Uses maintained | Beneficial Uses maintained | RDM > 1,000 lbs/ac. Forest Riparian Conservation Strategy. PFC @ 5 years. LRMP standards and guidelines. |
| | Primary streams are in Proper Functioning Condition | Primary streams are in Proper Functioning Condition. | Primary streams are in Proper Functioning Condition. | |

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| Mill Creek Unit Resource Elements (Issues) | No Action/No Grazing | Proposed Action | Continue Current Permit | Mitigation Measures |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| Recreation/Wilderness | No effects on developed recreation trails or sites. | No effects on developed recreation trails or sites. | No effects on developed recreation trails or sites. | |
| | No effects on wilderness values. | No significant effects on wilderness values. | No significant effects on wilderness values. | |
| Social/Economics | Permittee economic loss. | Permittee economic stability. | Permittee economic stability. | |
| | Loss of grazing fees and traditional use. | Continuation of grazing fees and traditional use. | Continuation of grazing fees and traditional use. | |
| Cultural Resources | No effects from livestock grazing on sites identified as potentially at risk within Areas of Potential Effect. | No significant effects are expected on sites identified as potentially at risk within Areas of Potential Effect. | No significant effects are expected on sites identified as potentially at risk within Areas of Potential Effect. | LPNF Grazing- Heritage Resource Strategy. |
| T&E Species | No effect on SBB habitat. | May adversely affect 50 of 55,000 acres of SBB habitat. | May adversely affect 50 of 55,000 acres of SBB habitat. | B.O. Terms and conditions with USFWS. Season-of-Use. Proper distribution. RDM > 1,000 lbs/ac. Forest Riparian Conservation Strategy. PFC @ 5 years. LRMP standards and guidelines. |
| | No potential for direct effects to occupied steelhead streams. | Remote potential for direct effects to occupied steelhead streams. | Remote potential for direct effects to occupied steelhead streams. | |
| | No potential for indirect effects to occupied steelhead streams. | Low potential for indirect effects to occupied steelhead streams. | Moderate potential for indirect effects to occupied steelhead streams. | |

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| Prewitt Unit Resource Elements (Issues) | No Acton/ No Grazing | Proposed Action | Continue Current Permit | Mitigation Measures |
|---|---|--|--|--|
| Soils | Erosion Hazard Rating (EHR): low to moderate. | EHR low to moderate. | EHR low to moderate. | RDM > 1,000 lbs/ac. Proper distribution. Two-pasture rotation. |
| Plant Diversity | Moderate susceptibility to compaction within primary range. | Moderate susceptibility to compaction within primary range. | Moderate susceptibility to compaction within primary range. | Length of season and recovery period. |
| Watershed | Plant diversity increase then taper off. Primary influence – weather, fire. | Plant Diversity maintained. Primary influence – weather, herbivory, fire. | Plant Diversity decrease. Primary influence – weather, herbivory, fire. | RDM > 1,000 lbs/ac. Proper distribution. Two-pasture rotation. Season of use. Length of season and recovery period. |
| T&E Species | Surface water not potable. Beneficial Uses maintained. Primary streams Proper Functioning | Surface water not potable. Beneficial Uses maintained Primary streams Proper Functioning | Surface water not potable. Beneficial Uses maintained Primary streams Proper Functioning | BMPs and effectiveness monitoring. RDM > 1,000 lbs/ac. Forest Riparian Conservation Strategy. PFC assessment every 5 years. LRMP standards and guidelines. |
| T&E Species | No effect on SBB habitat. | No effect on SBB habitat. | No effect on SBB habitat | Season-of-Use. |
| T&E Species | No potential for direct effects to occupied steelhead streams. | No potential for direct effects to occupied steelhead streams. | No potential for direct effects to occupied steelhead streams. | Proper distribution. RDM > 1,000 lbs/ac. Forest Riparian Conservation Strategy. |
| T&E Species | No potential for indirect effects to occupied steelhead streams. | Low potential for indirect effects to occupied steelhead streams. | Low potential for indirect effects to occupied steelhead streams. | PFC @ 5 years. LRMP standards and guidelines. |

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| Prewitt Unit Resource Elements (Issues) | No Action/No Grazing | Proposed Action | Continue Current Permit | Mitigation Measures |
|---|--|---|---|---|
| Recreation/Wilderness | No effects on developed recreation trails or sites. No effects on wilderness values. | 3 ½ months of visual impacts along ½ mile segment of 7 ½-mile Prewitt Loop Trail. No effects on wilderness values. | Up to 6 ½ months of visual impacts along ½ mile segment of 7½- mile Prewitt Loop Trail. No effects on wilderness values. | Season-of-use. Two-pasture rotation. |
| Social/Economics | Permittee economic loss. Loss of grazing fees and traditional use. | Permittee economic stability. Continuation of grazing fees and traditional use. | Permittee economic stability. Continuation of grazing fees and traditional use. | |
| Cultural Resources | No effects from livestock grazing on sites identified as potentially at risk within Areas of Potential Effect. | No significant effects on sites identified as potentially at risk within Areas of Potential Effect. | No significant effects on sites identified as potentially at risk within Areas of Potential Effect. | LPNF Grazing- Heritage Resource Strategy. |

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| Plaskett Unit Resource Elements (Issues) | No Acton/ No Grazing | Proposed Action | Continue Current Permit | Mitigation Measures |
|--|---|--|--|--|
| Soils | Erosion Hazard Rating (EHR): low to moderate. | EHR low to moderate. | EHR low to moderate. | RDM > 1,000 lbs/ac. Proper distribution. Length of season and recovery period. |
| Plant Diversity | Moderate susceptibility to compaction within primary range. | Moderate susceptibility to compaction within primary range. | Moderate susceptibility to compaction within primary range. | RDM > 1,000 lbs/ac. Proper distribution. Two-pasture rotation. Season of use. Length of season and recovery period. |
| Watershed | Plant diversity increase then taper off. Primary influence – weather, fire. | Plant Diversity maintained. Primary influence – weather, herbivory, fire. | Plant Diversity decrease. Primary influence – weather, herbivory, fire. | RDM > 1,000 lbs/ac. Proper distribution. Two-pasture rotation. Season of use. Length of season and recovery period. |
| T&E Species | Surface water not potable. Beneficial Uses maintained. Primary streams Proper Functioning | Surface water not potable. Beneficial Uses maintained Primary streams Proper Functioning | Surface water not potable. Beneficial Uses maintained Primary streams Proper Functioning | BMPs and effectiveness monitoring. RDM > 1,000 lbs/ac. Forest Riparian Conservation Strategy. PFC assessment every 5 years. LRMP standards and guidelines. |
| T&E Species | No effect on SBB habitat. | No effect on SBB habitat. | No effect on SBB habitat | Season-of-Use. Proper distribution. |
| T&E Species | No potential for direct effects to occupied steelhead streams. | No potential for direct effects to occupied steelhead streams. | No potential for direct effects to occupied steelhead streams. | RDM > 1,000 lbs/ac. Forest Riparian Conservation Strategy. PFC @ 5 years. |
| T&E Species | No potential for indirect effects to occupied steelhead streams. | Low potential for indirect effects to occupied steelhead streams. | Low potential for indirect effects to occupied steelhead streams. | LRMP standards and guidelines. |

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| Plaskett Unit Resource Elements (Issues) | No Action/No Grazing | Proposed Action | Continue Current Permit | Mitigation Measures |
|---|--|---|---|---|
| Recreation/Wilderness | No effects on developed recreation trails or sites. No effects on wilderness values. | No effects on developed recreation trails or sites. No significant effects on wilderness values. | No effects on developed recreation trails or sites. No significant effects on wilderness values. | |
| Social/Economics | Permittee economic loss. Loss of grazing fees and traditional use. | Permittee economic stability. Continuation of grazing fees and traditional use. | Permittee economic stability. Continuation of grazing fees and traditional use. | |
| Cultural Resources | No effects from livestock grazing on sites identified as potentially at risk within Areas of Potential Effect. | No significant effects on sites identified as potentially at risk within Areas of Potential Effect. | No significant effects on sites identified as potentially at risk within Areas of Potential Effect. | LPNF Grazing- Heritage Resource Strategy. |

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| Pacific Valley Unit Resource Elements (Issues) | No Acton/ No Grazing | Proposed Action | Continue Current Permit | Mitigation Measures |
|--|---|--|--|---|
| Soils | Erosion Hazard Rating (EHR): low | EHR low. | EHR low. | RDM > 1,200 lbs/ac. Proper distribution. Three-pasture rotation. |
| Plant Diversity | Decrease in diversity. Italian thistle suppressed. Kikuyu grass and non-native bunchgrasses increase. | Plant Diversity maintained. Italian thistle, Kikuyu grass and non-native bunchgrasses suppressed. | Plant Diversity maintained. Italian thistle, Kikuyu grass and non-native bunchgrasses suppressed. | RDM > 1,200 lbs/ac. Proper distribution. Three-pasture rotation. Season of use. Length of season and recovery period. |
| Watershed | Surface water not potable. Beneficial Uses maintained. Primary streams Proper Functioning | Surface water not potable. Beneficial Uses maintained Primary streams Proper Functioning | Surface water not potable. Beneficial Uses maintained Primary streams Proper Functioning | BMPs and effectiveness monitoring. RDM > 1,000 lbs/ac. Forest Riparian Conservation Strategy. PFC assessment every 5 years. LRMP standards and guidelines. |
| T&E Species | No effect on SBB habitat. No potential for direct effects to occupied steelhead streams. No potential for indirect effects to occupied steelhead streams. | May adversely affect 15 of 55,000 acres of SBB habitat. No potential for direct effects to occupied steelhead streams. Low potential for indirect effects to occupied steelhead streams. | May adversely affect 15 of 55,000 acres of SBB habitat. No potential for direct effects to occupied steelhead streams. Low potential for indirect effects to occupied steelhead streams. | Terms & conditions with USFWS. Control @ Prewitt Creek. Plaskett Creek fence. Three-pasture rotation. RDM > 1,200 lbs/ac. Forest Riparian Conservation Strategy. PFC assessment- 5 years. LRMP standards and guidelines. |

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| Pacific Valley Unit Resource Elements (Issues) | No Action/No Grazing | Proposed Action | Continue Current Permit | Mitigation Measures |
|--|---|--|--|---|
| Recreation/Wilderness | <p>No effects on developed recreation trails or sites.</p> <p>Vegetation obstructing access to coastal terrace.</p> | <p>Limited (~30-days) potential for conflict with pedestrian access to Sand Dollar Beach.</p> <p>Unobstructed access to coastal terrace.</p> | <p>Season long (7 ½ months) potential for conflict with pedestrian access to Sand Dollar Beach.</p> <p>Unobstructed access to coastal terrace.</p> | <p>Season-of-Use.</p> <p>Gated pastures to control when Sand Dollar unit is grazed.</p> <p>No water in Sand Dollar Unit (Plaskett Creek fenced), which limits time cattle graze.</p> <p>Three-pasture rotation.</p> |
| Social/Economics | <p>Permittee economic loss.</p> <p>Loss of grazing fees and traditional use.</p> | <p>Permittee economic stability.</p> <p>Continuation of grazing fees and traditional use.</p> | <p>Permittee economic stability.</p> <p>Continuation of grazing fees and traditional use.</p> | |
| Cultural Resources | <p>No effects from livestock grazing on sites identified as potentially at risk within Areas of Potential Effect.</p> | <p>No significant effects on sites identified as potentially at risk within Areas of Potential Effect.</p> | <p>No significant effects on sites identified as potentially at risk within Areas of Potential Effect.</p> | <p>Relocation of corrals.</p> <p>LPNF Grazing- Heritage Resource Strategy.</p> |

Chapter 2 – Comparison of Alternatives

| Alder Creek Resource Elements (Issues) | No Acton/ No Grazing | Proposed Action | Continue Current Permit | Mitigation Measures |
|--|--|---|---|--|
| Soils | Erosion Hazard Rating (EHR): low | EHR low to moderate. | EHR low to moderate. | RDM > 1,000 lbs/ac. Proper distribution. |
| Plant Diversity | Plant diversity increase then taper off. Primary influence – weather, fire. | Plant Diversity maintained. Primary influence – weather, herbivory, fire. | Plant Diversity maintained. Primary influence – weather, herbivory, fire. | RDM > 1,000 lbs/ac. Proper distribution. |
| Watershed | Surface water not potable. | Surface water not potable. | Surface water not potable. | BMPs and effectiveness monitoring. |
| | Beneficial Uses maintained. | Beneficial Uses maintained | Beneficial Uses maintained | RDM > 1,000 lbs/ac. |
| | Primary streams Proper Functioning | Primary streams Proper Functioning | Primary streams Proper Functioning | Forest Riparian Conservation Strategy. PFC assessment every 5 years. LRMP standards and guidelines. |
| T&E Species | No effect on SBB habitat. | May adversely affect 18 of 55,000 acres of SBB habitat. | May adversely affect 18 of 55,000 acres of SBB habitat. | Terms and conditions with USFWS. |
| | No potential for direct effects to occupied steelhead streams. | No potential for direct effects to occupied steelhead streams. | No potential for direct effects to occupied steelhead streams. | Proper distribution. RDM > 1,000 lbs/ac. |
| | No potential for indirect effects to occupied steelhead streams. | Low potential for indirect effects to occupied steelhead streams. | Low potential for indirect effects to occupied steelhead streams. | Forest Riparian Conservation Strategy. LRMP standards and guidelines. |
| Cultural Resources | No effects from livestock grazing on sites identified as potentially at risk within Areas of Potential Effect. | No significant effects on sites identified as potentially at risk within Areas of Potential Effect. | No significant effects on sites identified as potentially at risk within Areas of Potential Effect. | LPNF Grazing- Heritage Resource Strategy. |

Chapter 2 – Comparison of Alternatives

| Alder Creek Resource Elements (Issues) | No Action/No Grazing | Proposed Action | Continue Current Permit | Mitigation Measures |
|--|---|--|--|---------------------|
| Recreation/Wilderness | No effects on developed recreation trails or sites. | No effects on developed recreation trails or sites. | No effects on developed recreation trails or sites. | |
| Social/Economics | Permittee economic loss. Loss of grazing fees and traditional use. | Permittee economic stability. Continuation of grazing fees and traditional use. | Permittee economic stability. Continuation of grazing fees and traditional use. | |

Chapter 2 – Comparison of Alternatives

| Salmon Creek Resource Elements (Issues) | No Acton/ No Grazing | Proposed Action | Continue Current Permit | Mitigation Measures |
|---|---|--|--|--|
| Soils | Erosion Hazard Rating (EHR): low to moderate. | EHR low to moderate. | EHR low to moderate. | RDM > 1,000 lbs/ac. Proper distribution. Two-pasture deferred use. |
| Plant Diversity | Plant diversity increase then taper off. Primary influence – weather, fire. | Plant Diversity maintained. Primary influence – weather, herbivory, fire. | Plant Diversity maintained. Primary influence – weather, herbivory, fire. | RDM > 1,000 lbs/ac. Proper distribution. Length of time each pasture grazed and recovery period. |
| Watershed | Surface water not potable. Beneficial Uses maintained. Primary streams Proper Functioning | Surface water not potable. Beneficial Uses maintained Primary streams Proper Functioning | Surface water not potable. Beneficial Uses maintained Primary streams Proper Functioning | BMPs and effectiveness monitoring. RDM > 1,000 lbs/ac. Forest Riparian Conservation Strategy. PFC assessment every 5 years. LRMP standards and guidelines. |
| T&E Species | No effect on SBB habitat. No potential for direct effects to occupied steelhead streams. No potential for indirect effects to occupied steelhead streams. | May adversely affect 18 of 55,000 acres of SBB habitat. No potential for direct effects to occupied steelhead streams. Low potential for indirect effects to occupied steelhead streams. | May adversely affect 18 of 55,000 acres of SBB habitat. No potential for direct effects to occupied steelhead streams. Low potential for indirect effects to occupied steelhead streams. | Terms and conditions with USFWS. Proper distribution. RDM > 1,000 lbs/ac. Forest Riparian Conservation Strategy. LRMP standards and guidelines. |

| Salmon Creek Resource Elements (Issues) | No Action/No Grazing | Proposed Action | Continue Current Permit | Mitigation Measures |
|--|--|--|--|---|
| Recreation/Wilderness | No effects on developed recreations trails or sites. No effects on wilderness values. | Slight potential for visual impacts on private property portion of Buckeye Trail; ~1/4 mile. No effects on wilderness values. | Slight potential for visual impacts on private property portion of Buckeye Trail; ~1/4 mile. No effects on wilderness values. | Two-pasture deferred use. |
| Social/Economics | Permittee economic loss. Loss of grazing fees and traditional use. | Permittee economic stability. Continuation of grazing fees to County and traditional use. | Permittee economic stability. Continuation of grazing fees to County and traditional use. | |
| Cultural Resources | No effects from livestock grazing on sites identified as potentially at risk within Areas of Potential Effect. | No significant effects on sites identified as potentially at risk within Areas of Potential Effect. | No significant effects on sites identified as potentially at risk within Areas of Potential Effect. | LPNF Grazing- Heritage Resource Strategy. |

Chapter 2 – Comparison of Alternatives

| Kozy Kove Resource Elements (Issues) | No Acton/ No Grazing | Proposed Action | Continue Current Permit | Mitigation Measures |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|-------------------------|--|
| Soils | Erosion Hazard Rating (EHR): low. Moderate susceptibility to compaction on primary range. | EHR low. Moderate susceptibility to compaction on primary range. | | RDM > 1,000 lbs/ac. Proper distribution. Length of season and recovery period. |
| Plant Diversity | Plant diversity remains static. Primary influence – weather, fire. | Plant diversity remains static. Primary influence – weather, fire. | | RDM > 1,000 lbs/ac. Proper distribution. Length of season and recovery period. |
| Watershed | Surface water not potable. Beneficial Uses maintained. Primary streams Proper Functioning. | Surface water not potable. Beneficial Uses maintained Primary streams Proper Functioning. | | BMPs and effectiveness monitoring. RDM > 1,000 lbs/ac. Forest Riparian Conservation Strategy. PFC assessment every 5 years. LRMP standards and guidelines. |
| T&E Species | No effect on SBB habitat. No potential for direct or indirect effects to occupied steelhead streams. | May adversely affect 3 of 55,000 acres of SBB habitat. No potential for direct or indirect effects to occupied steelhead streams. | | Terms and conditions with USFWS. Proper distribution. RDM > 1,000 lbs/ac. Forest Riparian Conservation Strategy. LRMP S&Gs.. |

| Kozy Kove Resource Elements (Issues) | No Action/No Grazing | Proposed Action | Continue Current Permit | Mitigation Measures |
|---|--|---|-------------------------|--|
| Recreation/Wilderness | No effects on developed recreation trails or sites. No effects on wilderness values. | No effects on developed recreation trails or sites. No significant effects on wilderness values. | | Contingency fence to prevent unauthorized grazing in wilderness. |
| Social/Economics | No local livestock operation economic opportunity. No grazing fees. Loss of traditional use. | Local livestock operation economic opportunity. Additional grazing fees. Continuation of traditional use. | | Term Grazing Permit. |
| Cultural Resources | No effects from livestock grazing on sites identified as potentially at risk within Areas of Potential Effect. | No effects on sites identified as potentially at risk within Areas of Potential Effect. | | LPNF Grazing- Heritage Resource Strategy. |

Chapter 2 – Comparison of Alternatives

| San Carpoforo Allotment with Sea Vista & Sur Sur Ranches Resource Elements (Issues) | No Acton/ No Grazing | Proposed Action | Continue Current Permit | Mitigation Measures |
|---|--|--|--|---|
| Soils | Erosion Hazard Rating (EHR): low to moderate. | EHR low to moderate. | EHR low to moderate. | RDM > 1,000 lbs/ac. Proper distribution. Length of season and recovery period. |
| | Moderate to high susceptibility for compaction on primary and secondary range of San Carpoforo allotment. | Moderate to high susceptibility for compaction on primary and secondary range of San Carpoforo allotment. | Moderate to high susceptibility for compaction on primary and secondary range on San Carpoforo allotment. | Addition of Sea Vista & Sur Sur ranches increase primary range by 20%. Monitoring. |
| | Low to moderate susceptibility for compaction on primary and secondary range on Sea Vista and Sur Sur Ranches. | Low to moderate susceptibility for compaction on primary and secondary range on Sea Vista and Sur Sur Ranches. | Low to moderate susceptibility for compaction on primary and secondary range on Sea Vista and Sur Sur Ranches. | |
| Plant Diversity | Plant diversity increase then taper off. Primary influence – weather, fire. | Plant Diversity maintained. Primary influence – weather, herbivory, fire. | Plant Diversity maintained. Primary influence – weather, herbivory, fire. | RDM > 1,000 lbs/ac. Proper distribution. Length of season and recovery period. |
| Watershed | Surface water not potable. | Surface water not potable. | Surface water not potable. | BMPs and effectiveness monitoring. |
| | Beneficial Uses maintained. | Beneficial Uses maintained | Beneficial Uses maintained | RDM > 1,000 lbs/ac. |
| | Primary streams Proper Functioning | Primary streams Proper Functioning | Primary streams Proper Functioning | Forest Riparian Conservation Strategy. PFC assessment every 5 years. LRMP standards and guidelines. |

Chapter 2 – Comparison of Alternatives

| San Carpoforo Allotment with Sea Vista & Sur Sur Ranches Resource Elements (Issues) | No Action/No Grazing | Proposed Action | Continue Current Permit | Mitigation Measures |
|---|--|---|---|---|
| Recreation/Wilderness | <p>No effects on developed recreation trails or sites.</p> <p>No effects on wilderness values.</p> | <p>Potential impacts within vicinity of Dutra Trail and four camps.</p> <p>No significant effects on wilderness values.</p> | <p>Potential impacts within vicinity of Dutra Trail and four camps.</p> <p>No significant effects on wilderness values.</p> | <p>Season-of-use.</p> <p>Length of season and recovery period.</p> <p>Proper distribution.</p> <p>Addition of Sea Vista & Sur Sur Ranches increases allotment acreage by 60%.</p> |
| Social/Economics | <p>Permittee economic loss.</p> <p>No local livestock operation economic opportunity.</p> <p>Loss of grazing fees and traditional use.</p> | <p>Permittee economic stability.</p> <p>Local livestock operation economic opportunity.</p> <p>Additional grazing fees.</p> <p>Continuation of traditional use.</p> | <p>Permittee economic stability.</p> <p>Continuation of grazing fees and traditional use.</p> | <p>Term Grazing Permit.</p> |
| Cultural Resources | <p>No effects from livestock grazing on sites identified as potentially at risk within Areas of Potential Effect.</p> | <p>No significant effects on sites identified as potentially at risk within Areas of Potential Effect.</p> | <p>No significant effects on sites identified as potentially at risk within Areas of Potential Effect.</p> | <p>LPNF Grazing- Heritage Resource Strategy.</p> |
| T&E Species | <p>No effect on SBB habitat.</p> <p>No potential for direct effects to occupied steelhead streams.</p> <p>No potential for indirect effects to occupied steelhead streams.</p> | <p>May adversely affect 77 of 55,000 acres of SBB habitat.</p> <p>No potential for direct effects to occupied steelhead streams.</p> <p>Low potential for indirect effects to occupied steelhead streams.</p> | <p>No effect on SBB habitat.</p> <p>No potential for direct effects to occupied steelhead streams.</p> <p>Low potential for indirect effects to occupied steelhead streams.</p> | <p>Terms & Conds -USFWS.</p> <p>Proper distribution.</p> <p>RDM > 1,000 lbs/ac.</p> <p>Forest Riparian Conservation Strategy.</p> <p>LRMP Standards and Guidelines.</p> <p>Low stocking rates.</p> |

Chapter 2 – Comparison of Alternatives

| Twitchell Allotment Resource Elements (Issues) | No Acton/ No Grazing | Proposed Action | Continue Current Permit | Mitigation Measures |
|--|--|---|---|--|
| Soils | Erosion Hazard Rating (EHR): low to moderate. | EHR low to moderate. | EHR low to moderate. | RDM > 1,000 lbs/ac. Proper distribution. |
| Plant Diversity | Plant diversity remains static. Primary influence – weather, fire. | Plant Diversity maintained. Primary influence – weather, herbivory, fire. | Plant Diversity maintained. Primary influence – weather, herbivory, fire. | RDM > 1,000 lbs/ac. Proper distribution. |
| Watershed | Surface water not potable. | Surface water not potable. | Surface water not potable. | BMPs and effectiveness monitoring. |
| | Beneficial Uses maintained. | Beneficial Uses maintained | Beneficial Uses maintained | RDM > 1,000 lbs/ac. |
| | Primary streams Proper Functioning | Primary streams Proper Functioning | Primary streams Proper Functioning | Forest Riparian Conservation Strategy. PFC assessment every 5 years. LRMP standards and guidelines. |
| T&E Species | No effect on SBB habitat. | Unknown acres of SBB habitat accessible. | Unknown acres of SBB habitat accessible. | Terms and conditions with USFWS. |
| | No potential for direct effects to occupied steelhead streams. | No potential for direct effects to occupied steelhead streams. | No potential for direct effects to occupied steelhead streams. | Proper distribution. RDM > 1,000 lbs/ac. |
| | No potential for indirect effects to occupied steelhead streams. | Low potential for indirect effects to occupied steelhead streams. | Low potential for indirect effects to occupied steelhead streams. | Forest Riparian Conservation Strategy. LRMP standards and guidelines. |
| Cultural Resources | No effects from livestock grazing on sites identified as potentially at risk within Areas of Potential Effect. | No significant effects on sites identified as potentially at risk within Areas of Potential Effect. | No significant effects on sites identified as potentially at risk within Areas of Potential Effect. | LPNF Grazing- Heritage Resource Strategy. |

| Twitchell Allotment Resource Elements (Issues) | No Action/No Grazing | Proposed Action | Continue Current Permit | Mitigation Measures |
|--|---|---|--|---|
| Recreation/Wilderness | No effects on developed recreation trails or sites. Beneficial effect on Cone Peak RNA emphasis. No effects on wilderness values. | No effects on developed recreation trails or sites. Beneficial effect on Cone Peak RNA emphasis. No effects on wilderness values. | Potential impacts within vicinity of Gamboa and Sone Rdige trails, and two camps. Conflict with Cone Peak RNA emphasis. No significant effects on wilderness values. | Season-of-use. Length of season and recovery period. Proper distribution. |
| Social/Economics | Permittee economic loss. Loss of grazing fees and traditional use. | Permittee economic loss. Loss of grazing fees and traditional use. | Permittee economic stability. Continuation of grazing fees and traditional use. | |

Chapter 2 – Comparison of Alternatives

| Torre Canyon and Buckeye Allotment Resource Elements (Issues) | No Acton/ No Grazing | Proposed Action | Continue Current Permit | Mitigation Measures |
|---|--|--|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Soils | Erosion Hazard Rating (EHR): low to moderate. | EHR low to moderate. | | |
| Plant Diversity | Plant diversity remains static. Primary influence – weather, fire. | Plant diversity remains static. Primary influence – weather, fire. | | |
| Watershed | Surface water not potable. Beneficial Uses maintained. | Surface water not potable. Beneficial Uses maintained | | |
| T&E Species | Primary streams Proper Functioning. No effect on SBB habitat. No potential for direct or indirect effects to occupied steelhead streams. | Primary streams Proper Functioning. No effect on SBB habitat. No potential for direct or indirect effects to occupied steelhead streams. | | |
| Cultural Resources | No effects from livestock grazing on sites identified as potentially at risk within Areas of Potential Effect. | No effects on sites identified as potentially at risk within Areas of Potential Effect. | | |