CLIFF RIDGE ALLOTMENT

ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN

REVIEWED BY: Larry Sweat **DATE:** 4-21-2010
Larry Sweat, **Permittee**

REVIEWED BY: Brandon Weinmann **DATE:** 4/21/10.
Brandon Weinmann, **Rangeland Management Specialist**

APPROVED BY: Fred L. Way **DATE:** 5/14/10 .
Fred L. Way, **District Ranger**

This Allotment Management Plan is hereby made part of the Term Grazing Permit Number 00192B-COL in accordance with Part 2 Item 8 (a) issued to Larry or Angela Sweat and signed by Janice K. Hays on December 11, 2003.

Cliff Ridge Allotment
Allotment Management Plan

Introduction
The Cliff Ridge Cattle & Horse (C&H) Allotment is located about 9 miles north of Chewelah, Washington. It currently encompasses an area of about 10,755 acres. The Cliff Ridge Allotment has most recently been managed according to the 1985 Allotment Management Plan and has been modified over time to account for changes.

This Allotment Management Plan (AMP) has been developed to implement the Chewelah Grazing Complex Decision Notice signed by Fred L. Way, District Ranger, on June, 1, 2009. Grazing on the allotment is in compliance with all standards and guides of the Colville National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (The Forest Plan), as amended by INFISH, as well as all other applicable policies, laws, and regulations.

Desired Future Conditions
The Colville National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan desired future condition for the Forest in ten years states that livestock grazing will be more intensively managed. Livestock use will stay within the established use rates. Permittee control will be at an adequate level and, overall, more intensive management systems will be employed. All allotments will emphasize riparian habitat protection and/or recovery.

Current Conditions and Site Specific Desired Future Conditions

Upland Habitat Types
Most of the allotment is timbered with major tree species being ponderosa pine, lodgepole pine, white pine, Douglas fir, grand fir, western red cedar, engleman spruce, western larch, western hemlock and subalpine fir (see Appendix A of scientific names).

Principle forage species within the allotment include Idaho fescue, Bluebunch wheatgrass, Kentucky bluegrass, redtop and pinegrass. Shrubs found on the allotment that appear to furnish browse for livestock and wildlife are; redstem ceanothus, serviceberry, snowberry, ninebark and oceanspray.

The primary rangelands in this allotment are located in the upper elevations of south facing slopes. They are areas dominated by herbaceous vegetation and are bordered by areas of mainly Douglas fir. These areas of the allotment are very productive and have a mix of native grasses, such as bluebunch wheatgrass and Idaho fescue, and native forbs. Of the 10,750 acres within this allotment 2,627 acres are considered to be primary rangelands. Secondary rangelands, which are slightly less desirable than primary rangelands and productive foraging areas, also exist in the allotment. There are 2,701 acres considered to be Secondary Rangelands. Transitory rangelands also exist in this allotment and are the result of past timber harvest and road construction activities. Transitory rangelands have been seeded with palatable forage species, such as redtop,

orchard grass, timothy and Kentucky bluegrass, which provide additional areas of forage production.

Monitoring

Utilization information has been infrequently collected for the South Fork Chewelah Creek allotment. Below is a table of past utilization measures that have been collected for the allotment. Based in the Colville National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, utilization limits are 45% in forested areas and 55% in grasslands.

Year	Pasture			
	S. Fork Chewelah Cr.	Bell	Dahlstrom	Bisbee
1973	66%	49%	29%	53%
1974		66%	55%	
1978		40%	60%	
1980	75%			
1983	50%	15%		
1984	65%	30%	55%	0%
1986	30%			
1987	30%	40%	40%	
1995	34%	0%	38%	2%
1997	35%	30%	40%	60%
1999		60%		
2007	46%	4%	44%	60%

Monitoring will continue to occur at the existing Condition and Trends (C&T's) and more C&T's may be established to determine the condition and trend of the resource. Trend will be based on change of plant species composition and/or changes in ground cover. If it is found that a downward trend in vegetation conditions or soil conditions exists (change in species composition or ground cover), modifications to livestock or allotment management would occur. Adjustments may include but are not limited to changes in salt location, amount of riding, change in authorized numbers, season, and/or pasture rotation schedule.

Current Riparian Conditions

The Dry Creek Watershed is within the Addy Deer Pasture of the Cliff Ridge Allotment. None of the streams observed in this watershed were receiving cattle use. The majority of streams are steep to very steep and entrenched to deeply entrenched. Some stream reaches with gradients of 5% or less are moderately entrenched channels and are very stable. The Addy Deer Pasture has 5 miles of intermittent stream channels. Debris, in conjunction with roots of riparian vegetation, provides most of the stability to the sides of these channels. In some reaches, embedded boulders and cobbles provide additional bank stability. The streams running through the forested sections of Dry Creek Watershed receive little pressure, since the steep terrain and down logs provide barriers to cattle.

Livestock Management

Permitted Numbers and Season
The term grazing permit will authorize a total of 66 cow/calf pairs with a season-of-use from June 1st to September 30th. Livestock use will not exceed 265 AUMs though seasonal adjustments in timing of use may occur. Depending on allotment conditions range readiness (drought, fire, saturated soil conditions, forage use, etc.), this season of use may be modified or shortened to avoid or reduce unwanted impacts to resources and to maintain consistency with Forest Plan management direction.

Management System
The proposed grazing schedule for the Cliff Ridge Allotment would be a deferred rotation grazing system between the Addy/Deer Mountain Pasture and the Cliff Ridge Pasture. Grazing would begin in one pasture and move to the next during the grazing season. The starting pasture would alternate each year. The approximate pasture use periods for the allotment are listed in table (2.3).

Table 2.3 Proposed reauthorization by pasture for Cliff Ridge Allotment

Pasture	Approximate number of days*
Addy/Deer Mountain	46 days
Cliff Ridge	76 days
Total days	**122 days**

Number of days may be less during years of low forage production.

Annual operation instructions will be issued identifying specific management instructions for that year. This AOI would detail the seasons grazing schedule, maintenance responsibility, range development program, etc. This plan will become an amendment to this AMP and as such, a part of the Term Grazing Permit.

New Rangeland Improvement Projects

Ten projects were identified to support the proposed grazing reauthorization in the Cliff Ridge Allotment. These projects are needed to improve water quality, riparian habitat and livestock management. Not all are structural rangeland improvement projects. Descriptions are listed in table 2.4 and in project notes that follow.

Table 2.4 Proposed projects by location in Cliff Ridge Allotment

Project Number	Location	Creeks in N. Fork Chewelah Watershed	Treatment	Measure
Cliff Ridge Pasture				

1	Schluter Meadow	Bayley Creek	Meadow Retention	8.6 acres
2	Schluter Meadow	Bayley Creek	Water Development	1 trough
3	Hanley Meadow	Nofs Creek	Meadow Retention	3.1 acres
4	Hanley Meadow	Nofs Creek	Water Development	1 trough
Addy/Deer Mountain Pasture				
5	Leslie Meadow	Leslie Creek	Water Development	1 trough
6	Leslie Meadow	Leslie Creek	Meadow Retention	6.6 acres
7	Leslie Meadow	Leslie Creek	Meadow Rehabilitation	4 acres
8	Leslie Meadow	Leslie Creek	Boundary Fence Reinforcement	30 feet
9	Deer Mountain	Unnamed trib to N. Fork Chewelah Creek	Cattle Guard Relocation and Fence Construction	1 cattle guard 1.0 miles
10	Deer Mountain	Unnamed trib to N. Fork Chewelah Creek	Water Development	1 trough
11	Shelton Meadow	Unnamed trib to N. Fork Chewelah Creek	Meadow Retention	25 acres

Project Notes

1. Schluter Meadow Retention – Small trees would be removed from the south and west edges of the meadow. They would be used to armor the riparian areas near this meadow as needed, an area of about 0.1 acres.

2. Schluter Meadow Water development – The project includes construction of a post and pole type exclosure around the spring/pond in the meadow. A water trough would be placed in a dry portion of this meadow system with the source being a perennial portion of the unnamed stream that is located in the area.

3. Hanley Meadow Retention – No additional project notes.

4. Hanley Meadow Water Development –The water source for the trough would be Nofs Creek, which runs through Hanley meadow. The soil at the development would be armored.

5. Leslie Meadow Water Development – A trough would be placed at the northern end of the meadow. The source for supplying water to the trough would be either a perennial portion of Leslie Creek or a tributary of Leslie Creek. The soil at the development would be armored.

6. Leslie Meadow Retention – Meadow retention would occur in the south and west portions of this meadow, including west of County Road 3647. Windrows created with the removed trees would be used to protect the sensitive blue-eyed grass population and the stream banks of Leslie Creek. Brush placement is not expected to exceed 0.3 acres.

7. Leslie Meadow Rehabilitation – This project would consist of ripping the meadow to decrease soil compaction and increase infiltration and site productivity. The area would be reseeded with a seed mix to be determined by the Forest Botanist and Forest Range Specialist. The rehabilitated area would be temporarily excluded with an electric fence for a minimum of one growing season to allow for the establishment of seeded vegetation. The blue-eyed grass site, which is near the area proposed for the rehabilitation would be flagged and avoided.

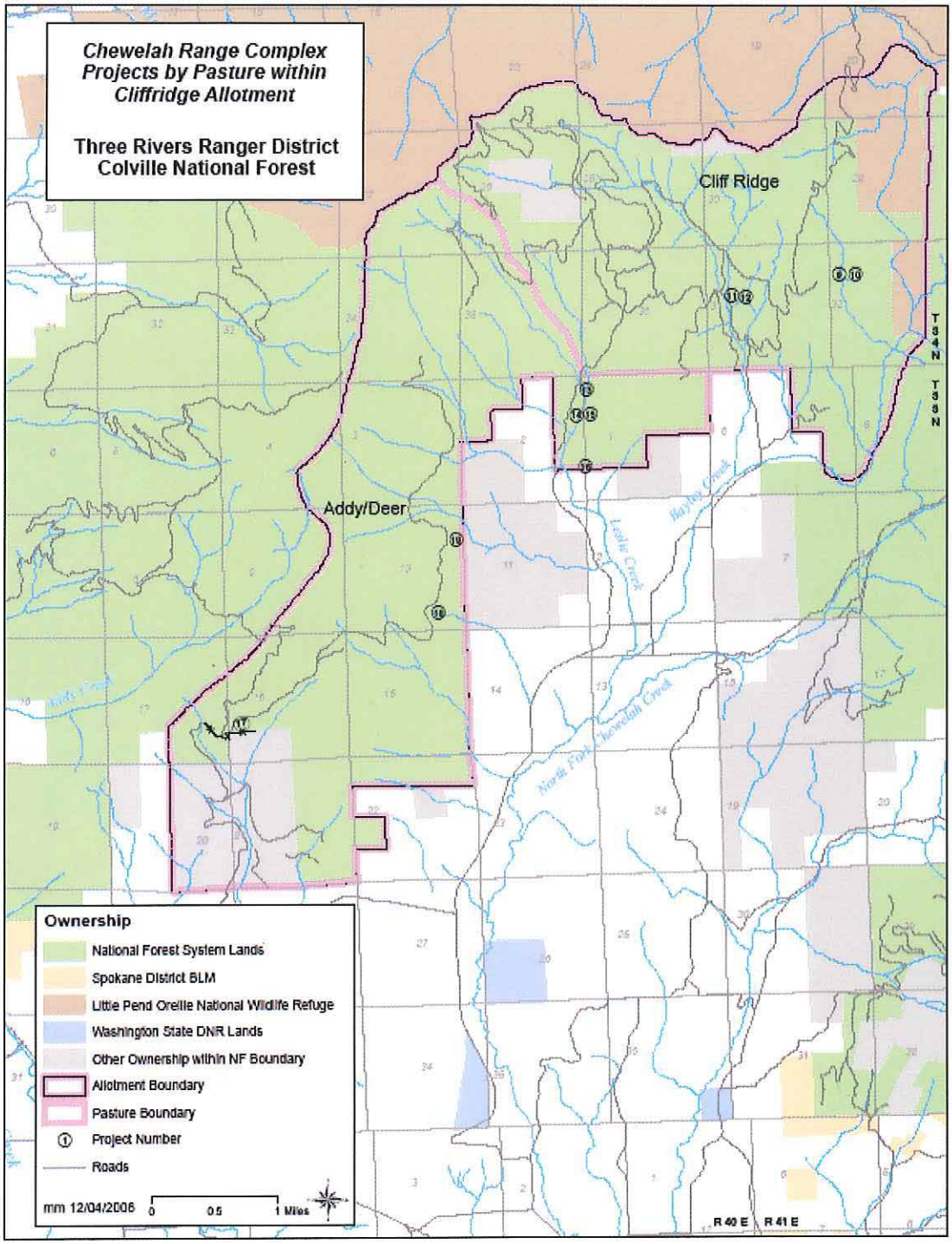
8. Leslie Meadow Boundary Fence Reinforcement – Reinforce a location on the Forest Service boundary south of Leslie Meadow where a former logging trail, non-system road, is allowing livestock to leave the allotment and access private land.

9. Deer Mountain Cattle guard and Fence – This project would consist of moving an existing cattle guard on the 953500 road to a location near its junction with the 9535090 road. Approximately 0.5 miles of fence would be constructed on either side of the cattle guard (for a total of 1.0 miles) to create an effective, physical, southern boundary for the pasture and allotment.

10. Deer Mountain Water Development –The source would be a spring just east of the 9535090 road in the southeast corner of section 10, T. 33 N., R. 40 E. The purpose for this development is to encourage livestock use in this area thereby more evenly distributing use across the allotment. The soil at the development would be armored.

11. Shelton Meadow Retention - No additional project notes.

Proposed Projects in the Cliff Ridge Allotment.



Allotment Management

In order to achieve desired conditions and to be in compliance with the Forest Plan, the Cliff Ridge Allotment Decision Notice, Biological Assessments/Opinions, and other laws and policies, the following requirements are to be followed and may be modified over time to be compliant/consistent with changes in or additional laws and policies:

General Management

1) It is the permittee's responsibility to conduct scheduled livestock moves, provide field inspections to assure compliance with the term grazing permit, the AMP, or other instructions, assure livestock are in the appropriate location, and track utilization. All livestock will be moved to the next pasture in rotation or removed from the allotment by the scheduled move date or before management standards (such as proper utilization, stubble height or bank trampling standards) are exceeded.

2) Range Readiness and Turn On: Livestock entry on to the allotment or into a specific unit will not be permitted until such time as plant species are ready to graze and soils are dry enough to withstand grazing. See appendix B for the range readiness indicators.

3) Pasture Move Dates: Actual move dates will be determined, to the extent practical, by on the ground inspection. The permittee will plan on having the pasture move completed by the scheduled date or by the time that the allowable use level is reached, whichever comes first. Livestock movement between pastures will not take more than five days.

4) It is the permittees responsibility to maintain a current knowledge of the status of the allotment with regard to utilization levels, and either plan on moving early if needed or request an extension. Livestock remaining on the pasture after the scheduled off date or beyond the period in which the permittee was instructed to move these livestock the permittee may be billed for excess use at the unauthorized use and/or action may be taken against the term grazing permit. If the permittee believes that the additional time in the pasture is justified, the Forest Officer must be notified at least 10 days in advance to permit an adequate inspection and determination. Approval will be obtained in writing prior to extensions and may be denied for reasons other than resource concerns.

5) Allotment Exit: The off date is October 15th. Livestock may be required to move off the allotment early if utilization standards are met or if an event occurs that causes the Forest Service to require the permittee to move off early.

6) Livestock: Livestock will be only cow/calf pairs. Any deviation in use will need approval in advance by the District Ranger (example: yearlings). Any deviation in use must be requested by the permittee on the Annual Application so that the billing for that season can be prepared accordingly. Total numbers must be at

least 90% of those permitted, unless non-use is requested and approved in advance. Any livestock found on the allotment that are not owned by the permittee are to be reported to the Forest Service immediately. Excess use by the permittee or unauthorized use by others is subject to administrative or civil action.

7) Non-use in Part or in Whole: Unless non-use is applied for in writing and approved in writing in advance, the permittee must place 90% or more of the permitted numbers on the allotment. Non-use applies only to numbers and not to seasons. Approval of non use is not automatic. Personal convenience non-use cannot be authorized more than three consecutive years or four years in a ten year period. If personal convenience non-use is taken, a permit cannot be waived based on sale of permitted livestock.

8) Salting: All salt will be placed away from key areas and available water. Salt will be placed in areas where livestock use is usually light. In no case will salt be placed closer than 1/4 mile to streams or other wetlands without prior approval. Salt should be placed in areas such as old road beds or bare rock sites which are not visible from open roads. Salt will not be placed within tree plantations where the smallest trees are less than 3 feet tall. Salting will not be located within 100 meters of any known heritage resource site.

9) Riding and Herding: Depending on the pasture, the permittee should plan on spending as much time as necessary in moving the livestock away from the meadows, riparian areas and other key areas. This is entirely to the benefit of the permittee as reaching of the allowable use standard on key areas before the scheduled move date will result in early livestock removal from a unit or off of the Forest. Actual use records are required by permittees at end of season.

10) Dead livestock located on Forest Service administered lands and within 300 feet from any water source or designated roads, trails, or recreation sites will promptly removed and properly disposed by the permittee.

Invasive Species

11) Noxious Weed: The Forest Service is committed to aggressive control and eradication of new noxious weed infestations. This commitment must be shared with all those who participate on land management activities on National Forest System lands for weed control to be effective. The Forest Service is requesting permittee cooperation in the following standards to prevent the introduction and spread of noxious weeds:

- Locations of infestations shall be discussed with the permittee during Annual Operating meetings to prevent spread of these sites.
- The permittee should inform the Forest Service of infestations on the allotment.
- Vehicles used in managing livestock on the allotment shall be cleaned of any weed transporting material such as hay, mud, or seeds.

- All hay used on USFS land shall be certified noxious weed free.

Cultural Resources

12) Archaeological surveys will be conducted before any ground is disturbed through the implementation of this plan, and if sites are encountered, site specific mitigation may be developed. Projects in this plan that would need to be reviewed prior to work beginning include:
    - New trough installation
    - Meadow retention with hand-piling and burning of slash
    - Hardened crossing installation
    - Cattle guard installations
    - Decompacting road surfaces (e.g. ripping)

13) The permittee shall notify the Forest Service immediately by telephone and with written confirmation, the discover of human remains of funerary objects, sacred objects of cultural patrimony pursuant to regulation Section 10.4(b), of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act.

Implementation Monitoring

1) Monitoring Implementation Standards

Allowable Use – The following forage allocation is designed to meet the Colville National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (The Forest Plan) Range Goals. The forage allocation listed is the maximum allowable utilization on the allotment in any specific area regardless of grazer. Maximum utilization levels listed here are consistent with Forest Plan standards and guidelines and applicable Biological Assessments or Biological Opinions. The prescribed utilization levels were developed to address specific resource objectives for the allotment and are expressed as percent utilization and/or stubble height. If applied stubble height standards are different form applied percent utilization standards the more restrictive standard will be applied. Percent utilization measurements are taken as a point in time.

	Maximum annual utilization (percent) 2/					
	Forest		Grassland		Shrublands	
Range Resource Level (FSH 2209,21 R6)	Satisfactory Condition 3/	Unsatisfactory Condition 4/	Satisfactory Condition 3/	Unsatisfactory Condition 4/	Satisfactory Condition 3/	Unsatisfactory Condition 4/
C – Livestock managed to achieve full utilization of allocated forage. Management systems designed to obtain distribution and maintain plant vigor include fencing and water development.	45	0-35	55	0-35	45	0-30

There are currently no areas classified as unsatisfactory. If future monitoring indicates that unsatisfactory situation exists, the location will be mapped, appropriate standards applied and permittee notified as to management changes.

2) General Allotment Monitoring
Forest Service Range Staff will visit the allotment as needed throughout the grazing season to monitor for compliance with grazing permit terms and conditions (i.e., improvements, maintenance, adherence to Forest Service issued written instruction, etc.).

A) Utilization monitoring indicates the amount of forage that remains to be harvested. Utilization of the available forage resource will look at both upland and meadow grass to determine the levels of use. Allotments will be administered based on the Colville National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan. Utilization limits are 45% in forested areas and 55% in grasslands. Landscape appearance forms are used to collect information from strategic locations and homestead meadows on the Forest Service allotments. Forest Service Range Staff compile utilization levels based on a height to weight curve of specific grass species. This is done by running transects across the landscape in different locations.

B) Compliance monitoring will insure proper management and authorized use. Permitted allotments are periodically inspected during the grazing season to look for the specific number, kind, class of livestock, period of use and rotation of pastures. Range improvements will also be inspected for routine maintenance and proper function.

3) Stream Channel Morphology Monitoring
Permanent hydrology cross-section sites will be established to evaluate the effects and determine trends of adaptive management on the stream channel.

Improvements

There are a total of three structural range improvements proposed for construction on the Twelvemile allotment, which include two fences and one water development. Maintenance responsibilities for these improvements, once constructed, will be assigned to the permittee through term permit modification or reissuance.

Maintenance responsibilities are shown on individual term grazing permits. Permittees will maintain all range improvements to Forest Service standards. All assigned improvements are to be maintained annually whether grazing occurs or not. Maintenance of the exterior fences must be completed prior to the turn on of either the Twelvemile livestock or the adjacent permittee(s). Interior fences must be maintained prior to turn-on into the affected unit unless otherwise specified in the AOI.

Water developments must be maintained prior to turn-on into the affected unit.

Improvements that have met their planned life expectancy shall be scheduled for replacement under a permit modification. Scheduling may be dependent upon funding, timing, and the ability to obtain the appropriate clearances. See Appendix A for a complete list of improvements and the maintenance schedule.

APPENDIX A: MAINTENANCE RESPONSIBILITY AND SCHEDULE

NUMBER	NAME	TYPE	CONDITION RATING	MAINTENANCE RESPONSIBILITY
070001	NOFS CK	FENCE	SATISFACTORY	NATIONAL FOREST (NF)
070002	CLIFF RIDGE	FENCE	POOR	NATIONAL FOREST (NF)
070003	LESLIE CK	FENCE	SATISFACTORY	NATIONAL FOREST (NF)

APPENDIX B: RANGE READINESS

RANGE READINESS INDICATORS

Record of Range Readiness Checks

Allotment _____ Forest _____ Name of Observer _____

Observation Location (Vegetation type, zone or elevation, area) _____

Date	Species or Indicator	Vegetation Development Stage (Record plant height and development stage)	Soil Condition (Firm, Soft, Muddy)
Conclusions and recommendations:			

Note: Record key species or as many indicator plants as needed. Sheet may serve for several checks in one year or checks in several years.

Indicators of Range Readiness

Grasses		
Wheatgrass	**Agropyron app.**	**About 6 inches in height**
Green Fescue	**Festuca viridula**	**Leaves 5 inches in height, seed heads showing**
Idaho Fescus	**Festuca idahoensis**	**Leaves about 3 inches in height, seed heads showing**
Prairie Junegrass	**Koeleria cristata**	**Leaves about 3 inches in height, seed heads showing**
Sandberg bluegrass	**Poa secunda**	**Plants maturing, seed heads conspicucus**
Pinegrass	**Calamagrostis**	**Foliage 3-4 inches in height**
Tufted hairgrass	**Deschampsis cespitosa**	**4 inches or more in height, heads conspicucus**
Grasslike		
Elk sedge	**Carex geyeri**	**Leaves 3 inches in height**
Forbs		
Western yarrow	**Achillea lanulosa**	**Flower stocks beginning to show**
Arrowleaf balsamroot	**Balsamorhiza app.**	**Leafage about ½ developed**
Geranium	**Geranium app.**	**Leafage about 4 inches high, flower in bloom**
Groundsel	**Senecio app.**	**Leafage ¾ mature**
Dandelion	**Taraxacum officinale**	**Leafage developed, full bloom**
Shrubs		
Serviceberry	**Amelanchier app.**	**Part of blossoms out**
Antelope bitterbrush	**Purshia tridentate**	**Flower buds conspicuously swollen**
Snowberry	**Symphoricorpus app.**	**7 to 8 pairs of leaves unfolded from each bud**

Soils

Normally dry sites should be fairly dry and firm. Wet meadows, unless lightly stocked, should have most of the area dry enough to carry stock without breaking the sod and destroying the cover. Both soil and forage indicators must be considered in determining range readiness.

Indicators of Range Not Ready to Use

When in Flower		Soils
Spring Beauty	**Claytonia**	**Soils are wet, loose and subject to excessive compaction or damage from trampling**
Lambtongue favclily	**Erythronium**	
Fritillary	**Fritillaria**	
Waterleaf	**Hydrophyllum**	
Sagebrush buttercup	**Ranunculus**	