

Multiple-Use on Public Lands

The Umatilla National Forest is part of the USDA Forest Service and has a multiple use mission. Multiple-use includes a variety of uses such as timber harvest, livestock grazing, mining, and a variety of recreational uses such as mountain biking, hiking, camping and ATV riding. Sometimes these multiple-uses conflict with each other and the agency is committed to helping foster better understandings around the different uses in order to help minimize conflicts.

This brochure is intended to help provide information about grazing on the Umatilla National Forest and tips for interactions with livestock when recreating on the Forest. The next time you visit the Forest, we hope you enjoy the rare opportunity to view this unique part of the country's ranching heritage when you encounter grazing on the Forest.



About the Forest

The Umatilla National Forest covers 1.4 million acres of diverse landscapes and plant communities. The Forest has some mountainous terrain, but most of the Forest consists of V-shaped valleys separated by narrow ridges or plateaus.

Approximately 810,000 acres of the Forest (which is about 58% of the National Forest acres) are rangeland and grazeable forestland. Of these acres, 344,000 (less than 42 %) are suitable for livestock grazing in current active allotments. This comprises 25% of the total National Forest acreage. The Umatilla National Forest has 34 grazing permits total, including 30 cattle permits and 4 sheep permits.

Additional Resources

Forest website: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/umatilla>

f Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/UmatillaNF>

🐦 Twitter: @UmatillaNF

Umatilla National Forest Grazing Contacts

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United States Department of Agriculture

Permitted Livestock Grazing on the Umatilla National Forest

Information and safety tips for recreation users on cattle and sheep grazing activities on the Umatilla National Forest



Umatilla National Forest
72510 Coyote Rd.
Pendleton, OR 97801



Recreation and Grazing

The National Forests are the public's land and are available for multiple uses. These natural resources are treasures and in order to sustain them for future generations these Forests are managed as working landscapes. That means when you are out recreating on a National Forest, you may see a variety of management activities, including timber harvest, prescribed burning, grazing, noxious weed control and much more.

Grazing programs are managed, in partnership with the permittees, to provide for the long-term health of the environment; including forest and watershed ecosystems.

With that in mind, forest users may encounter livestock in the woods and can take some steps to safely share our National Forests with the animals while enjoying recreating on these treasured landscapes.



Livestock Protection Dogs

Livestock protection dogs are extremely important for reducing predator attacks on sheep. The dogs live with the sheep and are bred and trained to protect the flocks from predator attacks. These are working animals and their job is to protect the sheep by patrolling the perimeters of the grazing area and warding off predators.



The following guidelines will help you have a positive recreation experience and minimize the potential for conflicts when you are near a band of sheep:

DO...

- Keep your dog on a leash and never allow your dog to harrass the sheep
- If you come across sheep, watch for livestock protection dogs (usually a large white or tan dog)
- Remain calm if approached by a protection dog
- Bikers should stop and get off bike, putting the bike between you and the dog until well past the sheep
- If approached by a dog, tell the dog to "go back to the sheep"
- Keep your distance from the sheep and choose the least disruptive route around the sheep

DON'T...

- **Chase or harrass the sheep or dogs**
- Try to outrun the dogs
- Throw things at the dogs
- Make quick movements
- Feed the dogs
- Take a protection dog with you
- Attempt to befriend or pet the dog

Recreation Tips

Mountain biking/hiking

When out mountain biking or hiking in the Forest avoid rapidly approaching or startling livestock or protection dogs. Approach slowly. Give the animals opportunity to see or hear you approach and time to recognize the new "intruder".

Camping near livestock

If camping near a waterhole or small pond, a herd of sheep or cattle could be using the water as well. These are shared resources so please be aware and anticipate potential interactions. Additionally, pack out anything that you pack in.



Vehicles and livestock

If you come up on a cattle or sheep herd while driving on Forest Service roads please be patient, stay in your vehicle and do not wave or dangle your arms outside the vehicle. If you have a dog in your vehicle, make sure to keep the dog calm and quiet. Drive forward slowly, but do not bump the animals out of your way.

Hunting interactions

Know the areas where cattle or sheep may be grazing during hunting season. Avoid firing guns near a livestock herd and report any strays or missing livestock to the Forest Service.