



# USDA Forest Service Intermountain Region NATURAL RESOURCE PROGRAM



## Director of Natural Resources



**Elise Boeke** is the Director of Natural Resources for the Intermountain Region. Elise has a 27-year career of partnering in the management of both public and private lands. As a past employee of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service and now the U.S. Forest Service, her understanding of the need to share the stewardship of our natural resources comes from multiple perspectives. As the Deputy Director of Natural Resources and currently the Acting Planning Director, efforts to integrate our agency programs to support our forests and partners in shared stewardship of our forest lands and grasslands is a top priority.

## The Intermountain Region (R4) Natural Resources Program

The national forests and grasslands were established to protect the land, secure favorable waterflows, and provide a sustainable supply of goods and services. Managing the natural resources of the Nation's forests and grasslands requires the complex integration of resource assessments, management actions, and cooperative partnerships. The agency integrates environmental, social, and economic issues and values into its management decisions and actions while accounting for future as well as present needs.

An important part of the Forest Service mission is “protecting and managing the national forests and grasslands so they best demonstrate the sustainable multiple-use management concept.”

In other words, Intermountain Region is charged with managing natural resources in a way that best serves the multiple needs of a growing nation. The agency was established to ensure a renewable supply of timber and a steady source of clean water and minerals.

The Forest Service does not “own” the natural resources. Instead, the agency serves as caretaker for the real owners...the people of the United States.





## INTRODUCTION

Forest Management focuses on the biological, ecological, and economic characteristics of forests. The region is very progressive regarding restoration activities and timber sale work which encompasses several resource areas working together. This can include wildlife habitat, timber harvest (on a sustainable basis), water resources, and the restoration of forest resiliency. Within Forest Management resides the Silviculture, Pre-Sale, and Sale Administration programs. Lucky Peak Nursery is a multi-regional resource and is managed out of the Boise NF Supervisors Office.

## SILVICULTURE

There are a variety of silviculture systems utilized in Region 4. The projects' objective will help determine which to use for a given circumstance. Examples of silviculture systems are individual tree selection, seedtree, shelterwood, patch clear-cut, clear-cut, and group seed tree selection.

- **Reforestation:** The Region has reforested approximately 15,000 acres over the past five years. The planting of seedlings accounts for approximately 12,000 acres and natural regeneration was responsible on the remaining 3,000 acres of reforestation. The need to restore a forested ecosystem is driven by unplanned wildfire, insects and disease or other unplanned natural disturbances, as well as, after planned timber harvest. The primary tree species planted are ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, Engelmann spruce.
- **Stand Improvement (SI):** SI activities are treatments that improve the composition, structure, stand condition, forest health, and growth of both even-aged and uneven-aged stands. Activities may include treatment of vegetation that competes with desirable tree species, removal of diseased or dying trees, thinning (pre-commercial and commercial), and pruning. Acres treated over the last five years total 38,301, averaging 7,660 acres per year.
- **Lucky Peak Nursery (LPN):** Lucky Peak Nursery is where most if not all conifer seedlings are sown for R4 reforestation efforts. Lucky Peak also services the Southwest Region (R3). Cones collected by the region's forests are delivered to LPN for extraction, cleaning, and storage. LPN has the annual capacity to produce 4.5 million bare root trees and shrubs. The Nursery also has four climate-controlled greenhouses that are capable of producing 1.5 million containerized seedlings annually.



**PRE-SALE**

The pre-sale program applies NEPA decisions (and by default silviculture prescriptions) on the ground. This includes timber sale layout, logging systems, marking, and cruising timber, proposing temp road, skid trail, and landing locations, as well as timber appraisal. The amount of volume currently in the “gate” system is 367,210 CCF.

**SALE ADMINISTRATION**

Timber volume harvested over the past five years totals approximately 1,382,000 CCF, averaging 276,000 CCF/year. This volume was removed from 40,880 acres. The average volume removed per acre was 33.8 CCF (16.9 mbf). This average per acre is slightly higher than what the Region can typically expect to remove per acre which is around 24 CCF (12 mbf).

- **Timber Products:** Various forest products are produced from the timber harvested from R4 forests. Forest products include but not limited to livestock bedding, commercial firewood, post and poles, sawtimber, and house logs. Table 1 displays the amount of traditional versus non-traditional mills. Small operators and purchaser make up the majority of those that utilize timber put up for sale by the Intermountain Region.

**Intermountain Region Mills and Purchaser by State**

This table displays the number of traditional mills and non-traditional mills that utilize R4 timber resources.

Mills	Traditional Lumber	Non-Traditional Lumber	Purchasers
Utah	4	13	15
Idaho	4	17	21
Wyoming	1	1	2
Nevada	3	1	4
<b>Total:</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>42</b>





# USDA Forest Service Intermountain Region RANGE FACT SHEET



## BACKGROUND

The Range and Wild Horse and Burro Program in the Intermountain Region is the largest in the Forest Service. Significant complexities exist around grazing permittee and State's rights, large economic contributions to local economies especially in rural areas and overlap with numerous species listed under the Endangered Species Act. These complexities conflict with lack of overall grazing administration personnel, the need for improved ecological conditions, and consistent litigation pressures.

## LIVESTOCK GRAZING PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- Approximately 770 million acres of rangelands in US: 43% managed by Federal Government, 12% by Forest Service. Nearly 99% of all National Forest System grazing occurs in the Western United States.
- Intermountain Region contains 32% of western public land grazing (largest grazing use of all FS Regions).
- Active Grazing Allotments occur on 21.1 million acres of NFS lands (includes all areas within allotment boundaries, not just rangelands). Approximately 69% of the total NFS acreage in the region are included in Active Grazing allotments classified as suitable for long term sustained grazing use.
- Grazing Allotment Status in R-4
  - Active Allotments – 1,669, Vacant Allotments – 94





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## PERMITTED GRAZING ON NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LANDS IN 2017

Areas	Permittees	Cattle	Horses	Sheep	Head Months <sup>1</sup>	% HMs on NFS lands
U.S.	5,725	1,233,917	5,424	851,864	8,238,429	--
Western U.S.	5,579	1,224,125	5,295	851,864	8,183,501	--
Intermountain Region	1,922	298,631	1,444	721,434	2,651,934	48%
Idaho	639	116,251	767	189,503	1,046,885	13%
Nevada	144	51,980	111	70,639	455,382	16%
Utah	730	99,992	98	188,644	896,649	11%
Wyoming	435	118,586	1,484	79,180	642,607	8%

<sup>1</sup> Head Month (HM). A month's use and occupancy by one adult animal, weaned or 6 months of age or older at the time of entering National Forest System lands; or will become 12 months of age during the permitted period of use. Billing unit for commercial grazing on National Forest System

Areas	No. Beef Cattle & Calves	Beef Income	No. of Sheep & Lambs	Sheep Income
U.S.	93,648,031	\$ 67,803,403,000	5,391,252	\$ 741,072,000
Idaho	2,435,137	\$ 1,673,066,000	250,000	\$ 38,913,000
Nevada	476,858	\$ 308,182,000	63,000	\$ 10,608,000
Utah	764,725	\$ 497,934,000	275,000	\$ 41,091,000
Wyoming	1,308,867	\$ 902,310,000	360,000	\$ 56,768,000



## WILD HORSE AND BURRO (WHB) PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- WHB Program includes approximately 83% of the entire Agency workload.
- The Intermountain Region manages livestock grazing within 14 WHB Territories included in Nevada and Utah.
  - Utah – 1 Territory (320 Horses).
- Nevada – 13 Territories.
  - Nevada – 13 Territories (5,647 Horses, 773 Burros).
- Shared WHB Coordinator between R5 & R6. Significant Cooperative Management between BLM and R-5.

## KEYSTONE RANGE PROGRAM FOCUS AREA/INITIATIVES

### Targeted Grazing Collaborative Partnership Initiative – 5 year Project

- Partnership Agreements with State Producers and University of Nevada-Reno, University of Idaho.
- Project implementation on the Humbolt-Toyabe and Caribou-Targhee (Curlew National Grassland) National Forests.





## KEYSTONE RANGE PROGRAM FOCUS AREA/INITIATIVES (CONTINUED)

### Utah Grazing Management Framework

- Collaborative Grazing Management Development between FS, UT Department of Agriculture, UT Public Land Policy Coordination Office, Congressional Aid, local County Commissioners and Sheriff's Department.
- Integrated management on Fishlake Forest, Manti-LaSal Forest, Dixie Forest.

### Utah/Nevada Inter-Agency Wild Horse and Burro Management Framework

- Partnership Management with BLM and affected Stakeholders.
- Scheduled Management Plans and Gathers.
- Inter-Regional Partnership with R-5.

### Regional Vacant Allotment Management Framework

- Vacant Allotment Priority Emphasis and Project Scheduling by State.
- Balance between Forage Reserves and Allotment grazing authorizations.