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Glossary of range management terms

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Air-dry weight The weight of a substance (usually forage) after it has been allowed to dry to equilibrium with the atmosphere.

Animal-unit (AU) Defines forage consumption on the basis of one standard mature 1,000-pound cow, either dry or with calf up to 6 months of age; all other classes and kinds of animals can be related to this standard, e.g. a bull equals 1.25 AU, yearling steer equals 0.6 AU.

Animal-unit-day (AUD) The amount of air-dry forage required by one animal unit for one day (e.g. 26 pounds).

Animal-unit-month The amount of air-dry forage required by one animal unit for one month (e.g. 780 pounds).

Basal area The cross sectional area of the stem or stems of a plant or all plants in a stand, usually measured near soil surface.

Browse The part of leaf and twig growth on shrubs, woody vines and trees available for animal consumption.

Bunch grass A grass with a growth habit of a bunch, which lacks stolons or rhizomes.

Carrying capacity The maximum stocking rate possible to maintain or improve vegetation or related resources.

Cell A grazing arrangement comprised of numerous subdivisions (paddocks) with a central component to facilitate livestock management and movement (cell center). Normally used to facilitate controlled grazing.

Class of animal Description of age and/or sex-group for a particular kind of animal, e.g., cow, calf, yearling, ewe, fawn.

Climax The final or stable biotic community in a successional series that is self-perpetuating and in dynamic equilibrium with the prevailing climate and soils.

Complementary forage Short-term forage planted to enhance the management and productivity of a ranch.

Continuous grazing The grazing of a specific unit throughout a year or for that part of the year when grazing is feasible.

Cool-season plant A plant that generally makes the major portion of its growth during the late fall, winter and early spring.

Cover The area of ground covered by one or more plant species.

Decreaser Plant species of the original or climax plant community that decreases in abundance with continued heavy grazing.

Deferment Delay of livestock grazing on an area for an adequate period of time to provide for plant reproduction, establishment of new plants, or restoration of vigor of existing plants.

Deferred grazing The use of deferment in grazing management, but not in a systematic rotation.

Deferred-rotation A grazing system that provides for a systematic rotation of the deferment among pastures.

Desired plant community (DPC) A plant community that produces the kind, proportion and amount of vegetation necessary to meet or exceed the management objectives established for an ecological site.

Ecological site Land with a specific potential natural community and specific physical site characteristics that differ from other kinds of land in its ability to produce vegetation and to respond to management.

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Ecosystem Organisms that together with their abiotic environment form an interacting system and inhabit an identifiable space.

Forage Browse and herbage that are available to grazing animals for food or can be harvested for feeding.

Forage production The weight of forage produced within a designated period of time on a given area (e.g. pounds per acre).

Forb A non-woody plant with broad leaves and often colorful flowers.

Grass A plant with nondescript flowers and long, narrow leaves that have parallel veins. Stems are hollow or pithy in cross-section.

Grass-like plant A plant that resembles a grass but has stems that are solid in cross-section (e.g. rushes or sedges).

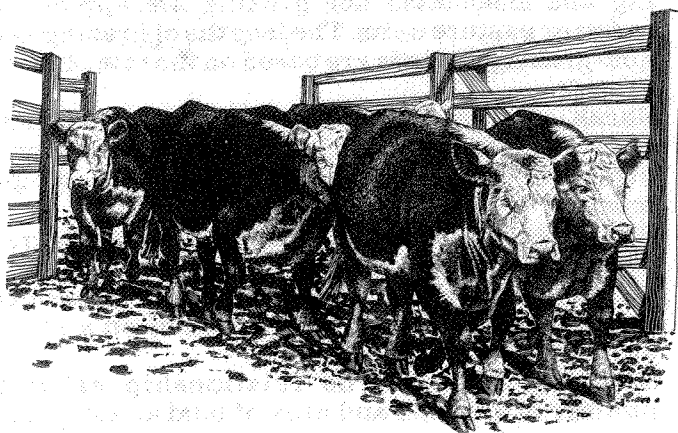
Grazing distribution Dispersion of livestock grazing within a management unit or area.

Grazing management The control of grazing and browsing animals to accomplish a desired result.

Grazing preference (1) Selection of certain plants, or plant parts, over others by grazing animals. (2) In the administration of public lands, a basis on which permits and licenses are issued for grazing use.

Grazing pressure An animal-to-forage relationship measured in terms of animal units per unit weight of forage at any given time.

Grazing system A special type of grazing management that defines the periods of grazing and non-grazing.



Habitat type The collective area that one plant community occupies or will come to occupy as succession advances to climax.

Half-shrub A perennial plant with a woody base whose annually produced stems die each year.

Herbage Total above-ground biomass of herbaceous plants regardless of grazing preference or availability.

Herbage allowance Weight of forage available per unit animal on the land at any given time.

Holistic Resource Management A practical, goal-oriented approach to ecosystem management that includes human, financial and biological resources

on farms, ranches, public and tribal lands, as well as national parks, vital water catchments and other areas. HRM is a management model that incorporates a holistic view of land, people and dollars.

Increaser Plant species of the original or climax plant community that increase in relative amount, at least for a time, under continued heavy grazing.



Indicator species Species that indicate the presence of certain environmental conditions, seral stages or previous treatment.

Introduced species A species that is not a part of the original fauna or flora of a specific area (i.e. exotic).

Invader Plant species that were absent or present in low numbers in undisturbed portions of the original vegetation of a specific range site and will invade or increase after disturbance.

Key area A relatively small portion of a pasture or management unit selected for its location, use or grazing value as a monitoring point for grazing use. It is assumed that key areas will reflect the overall acceptability of current grazing management over the pasture or unit as a whole.

Key species Forage species of sufficient abundance, palatability and sensitivity to use as an indicator of degree of use of associated species.

Kind of animal An animal species or species group such as sheep, cattle, goats, deer, horses, elk, antelope, etc.

Life-form Characteristic form or appearance of a species at maturity, e.g., tree, shrub, herb, etc.

Monitoring The orderly collection, analysis and interpretation of resource data to evaluate progress toward meeting management objectives.

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Multiple use Use of range for more than one purpose, i.e., livestock grazing, recreation, wild-life production, watershed and timber production.

Native species A species that is a part of the original fauna or flora of the area in question.

Overgrazing Continued heavy grazing that exceeds the recovery capacity of the plant community and creates a deteriorated range.

Overstocking Placing a number of animals on a given area that will result in overuse if continued to the end of the planned grazing period.

Overuse Utilizing an excessive amount of the current year's growth that, if continued, will result in range deterioration.

Paddock One of the subdivisions or subunits of the entire pasture unit.

Palatability The relish with which a particular species or plant part is consumed by an animal.

Pasture A grazing area enclosed and separated from other areas by fences or other barriers.

Phenology The study of recurrent periodic biological phenomena such as flowering and seeding, especially as related to climate.

Plant community An assemblage of plants that occur together at any point in time, while denoting no particular ecological status.

Plant succession The process of vegetational development in which an area becomes successively occupied by different plant communities of higher ecological order.

Plant vigor Plant health; relates to the relative robustness of a plant compared to other individuals of the same species.

Potential natural community (PNC) The biotic community that would become established on an ecological site if all successional sequences were completed without interferences by man under the present environmental conditions; may include acclimatized or naturalized non-native species.

Pure live seed (PLS) Purity and germination of seed expressed in percent; calculated as $PLS = \% \text{ germination} \times \% \text{ purity} + 100$.

Range Any land that supports vegetation suitable for grazing including rangeland, grazable woodland and shrubland.

Range condition The "health" of the range as compared to some standard at a point in time. The standard can be defined in ecological terms or in terms of a particular use. In the ecological determination, the degree of departure from climax determines condition.

Range improvement Any practice designed to improve range condition or facilitate more efficient utilization of the range.

Range management A distinct discipline founded on ecological principles that deals with the use of rangelands and range resources for a variety of purposes.

Range readiness The defined stage of plant growth at which grazing may begin under a specific management plan without permanent damage to vegetation or soil.

Range site For management purposes, subdivisions of rangeland with similar soils, climate and climax plant communities. Two or more identical range sites that are spatially separated should respond in a similar manner to the same kind of management.

Range trend The change in range condition over time.

Rangeland Land where native vegetation consists predominantly of grasses, grass-like plants, forbs or shrubs.

Rest Leaving an area ungrazed, thereby foregoing grazing of one forage crop.

Rest period A period in which no grazing occurs as part of a grazing management system.

Rest-rotation A grazing management scheme in which rest periods for individual pastures, paddocks or grazing units are incorporated into a grazing rotation.

Riparian zone The banks and adjacent areas of water bodies, water courses, seeps and springs that provide a more moist habitat than that of contiguous flood plains and uplands.

Rotation grazing A grazing scheme where animals are moved from one grazing unit in the same group of grazing units to another without regard to specific graze: rest periods or levels of plant defoliation.

Selective grazing The grazing of certain plant species, individual plants or plant parts on the range to the exclusion of others.

Short duration grazing Grazing management whereby relatively short periods (days) of grazing and associated non-grazing are applied to range or pasture units. The lengths of grazing and non-grazing periods are based on the rate of plant growth.

Shrub A plant that has persistent, woody stems, a relatively low growth habit, and generally produces several basal shoots instead of a single trunk.

Sod grasses Stoloniferous or rhizomatous grasses that form a turf.

Species composition The proportions of various plant species in relation to the total on a given area.

Stocking density The relationship between number of animals and area of land at any given time.



Stocking rate The number of specific kinds and classes of animals that graze or utilize a unit of land for a specified time period.

Substitution ratio Number of animals or animal-units of one kind or class that can be substituted for another kind or class to meet a specified management objective.

Suitability The adaptability of an area to grazing by livestock or wildlife.

Transitory range Forested lands suitable for grazing for a limited time following complete or partial forest removal.

Understocking Placing a number of animals on a given area that will result in underuse at the end of the planned grazing period.

Utilization The proportion of the current year's forage production consumed or destroyed by grazing animals.

Warm-season plant A plant that makes most or all its growth during late spring, summer or early fall and usually is dormant in winter.

Weed A plant that grows where it is unwanted.

These definitions were taken with some modification and condensation and with permission from *A Glossary of Terms Used in Range Management*, published by the Society for Range Management. The glossary is available for \$5.00 from the Society for Range Management, 1839 York St., Denver, CO 80206.