Appendix C
DRAFT—Tripod Cattle and Horse Allotment Management Plan
Emmett Ranger District
Boise National Forest

Prepared by: __________________________ Date: __________
Rangeland Management Specialist

Reviewed by: __________________________ Date: __________
Permittee

This Allotment Management Plan implements direction established in the Boise National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) as amended in 2010, the XXXX Decision for the Tripod-Pine Creek Range Project, and the term grazing permit. This Allotment Management Plan is made part of your Term Grazing Permit in accordance with Section 8(a) Part 2 of that permit.

Approved by: __________________________ Date: __________
District Ranger
# Table of Contents

I. Introduction ................................................................................................................................................................. 1  
- Condition ................................................................................................................................................................. 1  
- Grazing Capacity and Capability ................................................................................................................................. 1  

II. Management Direction .................................................................................................................................................... 2  
- 1) Forest Plan Management Goals and Objectives .............................................................................................................. 2  
- Goals ............................................................................................................................................................................. 2  
- Objectives ...................................................................................................................................................................... 2  
- 2) Forest Plan Management Standards and Guidelines .................................................................................................... 2  
- 3) Forest Plan Management Area Direction ..................................................................................................................... 3  

III. OBJECTIVES ............................................................................................................................................................... 3  

IV. Allotment Management Requirements ......................................................................................................................... 6  
- Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines Related to Grazing: ................................................................................................. 6  
  - Applicable Range Standards ........................................................................................................................................... 6  
  - Applicable Range Guidelines ......................................................................................................................................... 6  
- Tripod Cattle and Horse Allotment Decision Notice Direction .......................................................................................... 7  
- Grazing Permit Terms and Conditions for Livestock Management ...................................................................................... 7  
- Design Features ................................................................................................................................................................ 7  
- Adaptive Management Strategy for Reforestation Units .................................................................................................. 9  

V. Livestock Grazing System .................................................................................................................................................. 11  

VI. Rangeland Improvements .............................................................................................................................................. 11  
- Existing Improvements .................................................................................................................................................... 11  
  - Permittee Responsibility for Maintenance of Structural Range Improvements ............................................................. 11  
  - Structural Range Improvement Maintenance Specifications .......................................................................................... 12  

VII. Monitoring and Effectiveness ........................................................................................................................................ 1  
- General Allotment Inspections—Short-term Monitoring ................................................................................................... 1  
- Upland Monitoring ............................................................................................................................................................ 2  
- Noxious Weed Monitoring ................................................................................................................................................ 2  

VIII. Modification Of This Allotment Management Plan ................................................................................................... 2  

IX. Literature Cited .............................................................................................................................................................. 3  

Appendix C-i
Table of Tables

Table C-1. Summary of the Tripod Cattle and Horse Allotment Capable Rangeland Acreage, Validated Grazing Capacity, and Permitted Grazing Capacity........................................... 1
Table C-2. Existing Condition and Desired Condition of Desirable and Introduced (D&I) Species Biomass Production per Acre........................................................................................................ 3
Table C-3. Ecological Status and Greenline Bank Stability Ratings........................................ 4
Table C-4. Summary of Riparian Data on the Tripod Cattle and Horse Allotment .................... 5
Table C-5. Adaptive Management Strategy for Reforestation Units in the Tripod Cattle and Horse Allotment .................................................................................................................. 10
Table C-6. Tripod Cattle and Horse Allotment Grazing Rotation........................................... 11
Table C-7. Structural Improvements on the Tripod Cattle and Horse Allotment........................ 12
Table C-8. Short Term Allotment Inspections ............................................................................ 1

Table of Figures

Figure C-1. Tripod Cattle and Horse Allotment Vicinity Map................................................. 4
Figure C-2. Tripod Cattle and Horse Allotment ..................................................................... 5
I. Introduction

The Tripod Cattle and Horse (C&H) Allotment is located in Gem and Valley Counties in T.11N. R.2E., sections 1, 12, 13, 23, 24, 25, & 26; T.11N. R.3E., sections 5, 6, 7, 8, 17, & 30; T.12N. R.2E., sections 24, 25, & 36; and T.12N. R.3E., sections 8, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 29, 30, 31, 32, & 36; on the Emmett Ranger District (RD). The allotment encompasses about 12,994 acres, consisting of approximately 11,681.5 acres of National Forest System (NFS) land and 1,312.5 acres under other ownership. This Allotment Management Plan (AMP) will only address management of the NFS lands; the Boise National Forest (Forest) administers grazing on the allotment.

The Tripod C&H Allotment is divided into four pastures: High Valley, Sage Hen, Tripod Meadows, and Gathering (Figure C-1). Livestock grazing on the allotment is under a 3-pasture deferred rotation grazing management system, or stuttered rotation. Under this system, one of two pastures, either the High Valley or Tripod Meadow pasture, is grazed for 2 consecutive years beginning in mid-June to allow for post seed-ripe seedling establishment in the last pasture of the rotation. After 2 years, the pasture that was grazed first is deferred from grazing until post seed-ripe. The Sage Hen pasture is always grazed second in rotation. The Gathering pasture is reserved for saddle/pack stock to facilitate herd management and gather cattle in the fall.

CONDITION

This allotment is being administered to the Boise National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) standards (USDA Forest Service 2010, p. III-46 to III-49), which have been established to achieve and/or maintain desired conditions. Forest Plan Standards contain direction for proper management of livestock grazing within the allotment area. This direction provides for a sustainable level of forage consistent with other resource management direction. This AMP is designed to maintain and/or improve resource conditions on the allotment.

GRAZING CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY

Analysis of the 2010 Range Environmental Analysis (REA) data, incorporating the Forest Plan requirements, identified a total of 6,840 acres of capable rangeland on NFS lands within the Tripod C & H Allotment. The tentative capacity analysis completed for 2010 on the Tripod C&H Allotment indicates that an estimated 2,006 head months (HMs) of forage are available on NFS land (Table C-1).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Capable Rangeland</th>
<th>6,848 acres</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Validated Grazing Capacity (Available Head Months)</td>
<td>2,006 HMs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permitted Grazing Capacity (Permitted Head Months)</td>
<td>870 HMs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table C-1. Summary of the Tripod Cattle and Horse Allotment Capable Rangeland Acreage, Validated Grazing Capacity, and Permitted Grazing Capacity
II. Management Direction

The Forest Plan identifies a multi-scale management direction. The Forest Plan describes 1) goals and objectives that are generally applied to all areas within the Forest and 2) standards and guidelines that are generally applied to all areas within the Forest and are allotment management requirements. Management Areas (MAs) describes management prescriptions for specific MAs within the National Forest. MAs also contain goals and objectives and standards and guidelines (allotment management requirements). MA prescriptions form the basis for developing project-level actions or proposals to help achieve Forest goals. The Tripod C&H Allotment is located in MAs 16 (Sage Hen Reservoir) and 17 (North Fork Payette River).

The following are applicable to the Tripod C&H Allotment.

1) FOREST PLAN MANAGEMENT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goals

- **RAGO01**—Provide for livestock forage within existing open allotments, in a manner that is consistent with other resource management direction and uses.
- **RAGO02**—Manage rangelands using controlled livestock grazing, range structural and non-structural improvements, vegetative and ground rehabilitation, fire and timber management in various combinations to meet desired conditions.
- **RAGO03**—Manage upland vegetation on suitable rangelands to maintain or restore hydrologic function and soil productivity of watersheds containing allotments.
- **RAGO04**—Manage herbaceous and shrub vegetation on suitable rangelands to meet resource objectives in an efficient manner.
- **RAGO05**—Manage livestock grazing within riparian areas to accommodate the maintenance or restoration of aquatic and riparian processes and functions.
- **RAGO06**—Coordinate livestock grazing to address conflicts with other resource uses in a manner that is consistent with Forest Plan management direction.

Objectives

- **RAOB01**—Coordinate the design, update and/or revision of AMPs with adjacent landowners to maximize opportunities and minimize potential conflicts in management.
- **RAOB02**—Coordinate livestock grazing with timber harvest and forest regeneration activities to capitalize in management opportunities, while minimizing activity conflicts to help meet Forest Plan Vegetation and Rangeland Resources goals.
- **RAOB03**—During fine-scale analyses where rangeland facilities are identified as a potential concern or problem contributing to degrading resource conditions with the analysis area, identify rangeland facilities that are degrading resource conditions and prioritize opportunities to mitigate their effects or to initiate restoration of resource conditions.

2) FOREST PLAN MANAGEMENT STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

Please see Allotment Management Requirements
3) **FOREST PLAN MANAGEMENT AREA DIRECTION**

The Tripod C&H Allotment is located in MA 16 (Sage Hen Reservoir) and MA 17 (North Fork Payette River). The management direction descriptions for rangeland resources in these MAs are described as objectives. The following objectives apply to these MAs:

1. Reduce or eliminate livestock/developed recreation conflicts, particularly around Sage Hen Reservoir (Objective 1651).

2. Evaluate and incorporate methods to help prevent weed establishment and spread from livestock grazing and activities in the Kennedy Creek Cottonwood-Pine, High Valley, and Shirts Creek subwatersheds. Consider changes in timing, intensity, duration, or frequency of livestock use; the location of salting; and restoration of watering sites (Objective 1652).

### III. OBJECTIVES

The following are management objectives specific to the Tripod C &H Allotment:

1. Maintain or improve desired conditions of upland and riparian areas set forth by the Forest Plan.

   The Forest Plan desired conditions for rangeland resources direct that there is a sustainable level of forage, consistent with other resource management direction, available for use through the Forest Service grazing permit system. Rangeland forage quality is maintained or improved in areas where vegetation management projects and range management actions occur. Riparian areas continue to be a focal point for providing vegetation diversity, landscape capability, soil productivity, wildlife habitat, proper stream channel function, and water quality important to sustaining beneficial uses. Riparian areas are functioning properly and/or have improving trends in vegetative composition, age class structure, and vigor. Upland range vegetation is contributing to proper hydrologic function. The composition and densities of shrubs, grasses, and forbs are variable and dynamic across the landscape.

The following indicators were used to analyze existing conditions as compared to desired conditions on the Tripod C & H Allotment: ground cover, biomass production, apparent trend, the assessment of riparian areas, and the evaluation of noxious weeds.

   a) Table C-2 compares existing conditions to desired conditions in Land Types on the Tripod C&H Allotment based on **ground cover, biomass production, and apparent trend analysis indicators**.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Study Number</th>
<th>Land Type</th>
<th>D&amp;I Production Existing Condition (pounds/acre)</th>
<th>D&amp;I Production Desired Condition (pounds/acre)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C-20</td>
<td>109b</td>
<td>897</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-1</td>
<td>101-3</td>
<td>1,286</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M-1</td>
<td>101-3</td>
<td>2,193</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: USDA Forest Service 2010
b) **Riparian**—Numerous multiple use activities are occurring on the Tripod C&H Allotment. These activities include but are not limited to camping in dispersed and developed campsites, off highway vehicle (OHV) use, use of roads, woodcutting, and livestock grazing. Each of these activities has impacts on the riparian vegetation resources associated with the allotment.

Little Sage Hen Basin is representative of riparian areas on the allotment that are subject to the multiple use activities described above and vulnerable to heavy livestock use; therefore, this site was analyzed for riparian studies purposes. The Little Sage Hen Creek site is characterized as a dry meadow type. Multiple Indicator Monitoring data collected in 2010 indicates riparian vegetation is at Potential Natural Community\(^1\) (PNC) (100) status, with a greenline bank stability rating of mid (5.7) (Table C-3).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Greenline Successional Status Rating</th>
<th>Greenline Bank Stability Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very Early</td>
<td>0–15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early</td>
<td>16–40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid</td>
<td>41–60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late</td>
<td>61–85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential Natural Community</td>
<td>86+</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table C-3. Ecological Status and Greenline Bank Stability Ratings

Source: Winward 2000

In 2010, stubble height was monitored on Little Sage Hen Creek and Tripod Creek, and averaged 9 and 10 inches respectively. Both stubble height averages meet Forest Plan standard RAST01, (USDA Forest Service 2010 p. III-47), leaving a minimum of 4 inches. Current grazing practices meet stubble height and forage utilization standards set in the Forest Plan. Given this status and observations of current grazing management, it is expected that continued proper management of grazing and other activities, as directed by the Forest Plan, should allow for the maintenance of PNC seral greenline successional status condition at the allotment scale.

Data for timbered riparian areas have not been collected on the Tripod C&H Allotment so data collected from the neighboring Pine Creek C&H Allotment were used for the analysis as a surrogate. The Pine Creek C&H Allotment is near the Tripod C&H Allotment and has similar vegetation types and stocking rates; therefore, the Pine Creek Multiple Indicator Monitoring (MIM) site is representative of timbered riparian areas on the Tripod C&H Allotment. MIM data collected in 2010 indicate riparian vegetation is at PNC (100) status, functioning as an ecosystem would within a naturally evolving landscape (Kauffman et al. 1995), with a greenline bank stability rating of high (6.5), having high buffering capabilities from the forces of moving water. In 2010, an average 9.6-inch stubble height was monitored on Pine Creek (Table C-4). The stubble height average meets Forest Plan standard RAST01 (USDA Forest Service 2010, p.III-47), leaving a minimum of 4 inches.

---

\(^1\) Potential Natural Community is the biotic community that would become established if all successional sequences were completed without human interference, under the present environmental conditions (Winward, 2000).

*Appendix C-4*
Livestock management in this allotment has minimally affected the stream sections because of existing management practices, such as herding livestock away from riparian areas daily. However, these stream sections are susceptible to events associated with the activities mentioned above. It is likely that activities occurring on the allotment, without proper management, could potentially decrease the riparian ratings slightly below the current ratings or cause them to remain static. A greenline successional status rating of late seral and a greenline bank stability rating of mid is acceptable for the stream channels and types located within the allotments, as recommended by the Interdisciplinary Team (IDT).

c) **Noxious Weeds**—Noxious weed populations occur on the Tripod C&H Allotment, occurring mostly on roadsides and in dispersed recreational areas. These sites are surrounded by desirable plants and it is expected that with regular herbicide treatment these populations can be contained in the near future. Once managed, the environmental conditions are conducive for the desirable plants to fill in behind them and out-compete any new populations. These sites have been added to the district treatment schedule and will be monitored and treated annually under the Forest Noxious Weed Program. The North Zone noxious weed crew will continue to monitor and treat noxious weed populations in the area as part of the Forest’s Noxious Weed Program.

2. Maintain existing or proposed range improvements.

3. Sustain permitted HMs to the level of the current Term Grazing Permit.
   a) Short and long-term monitoring will be the basis for future permit or HM adjustments. Success in meeting this objective will be based on monitoring results relative to maintaining desired conditions and compliance with permit terms and Forest Plan direction.
   b) Effectiveness monitoring to determine if AMP direction is achieving the objectives
IV. Allotment Management Requirements

FOREST PLAN STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES RELATED TO GRAZING:

Standards and guidelines provide activity or project-specific direction. When implementing a project, the activity-relevant standards and guidelines establish the rule set for achieving desired conditions. In most cases, additional direction related to these Forest-wide standards and guides is given in the term grazing permit and Annual Operating Instructions (AOIs). The following standards and guides are applicable to the Tripod C&H Allotment:

Applicable Range Standards

- **RAST01**—Maximum forage utilization of representative areas within each pasture containing NFS lands will not exceed the values shown below at the end of the growing season. Variation in utilization standards in order to achieve specific vegetative management objectives shall occur with a site-specific or project-level decision according to direction in FSM 1922.5
  - Riparian Areas—Maximum 45 percent use or retain a minimum 4-inch stubble height of hydric greenline species whichever occurs first.
  - Upland Vegetative Cover Types—Maximum 30 percent use for early season or season-long pastures. Maximum 50 percent use for vegetative slow growth, after seed ripe conditions, or late season pastures.

- **RAST02**—Livestock trailing, bedding, watering, and other handling efforts shall be limited to those areas and times that maintain or allow for restoration of beneficial uses and native and desired non-native fish habitat.

- **RAST04**—Salt will not be prohibited in riparian conservation areas (RCAs). Sheep will be salted only at bed grounds. Salt will be placed in containers and moved with the sheep.

- **RAST09**—New, reconstructed, or replaced livestock water developments must provide access and escape to and from the water for all types of livestock.

- **NPST01**—Only certified noxious weed-free hay, straw, or feed is allowed on NFS lands.

- **REST04**—On all lands outside of designated travel ways, motorized use is prohibited, unless otherwise authorized.

Applicable Range Guidelines

- **RAGU01**—The following situations should be examined when determining grazing capacities for individual or groups of allotments during project-level decisions. These guidelines are based on the assumption that typical management practices are occurring or will occur (for example, a deferred rotation grazing system):
  a) Generally, areas where native, desirable introduced, or introduced palatable species site productivity is <200 pounds per acre should not be included in the allotment grazing base.
  b) Landtype Associations within Capability Groups 1–5 and 10. In areas where annual precipitation is ≥15 inches, the preferred course of action is to remove sites from the grazing base that have vegetation, litter, rock, and moss cover (ground cover) <60 percent. In areas where annual precipitation is <15 inches, the preferred course of action is to remove sites that have ground cover <40 percent.
c) Landtype Associations in Capability Group 6–9 (landtypes with a moderately high or high susceptibility to erosion). Generally, sites with soil depths <10–12 inches, and/or sites with slopes between 25 and 50 percent that have vegetation and litter cover <60 percent, and/or sites where slopes are <25 percent that have vegetation and litter cover ≤40 percent, should not be included in the allotment grazing base.

The Tripod C&H Allotment lies within the 30- to 45-inch precipitation zone. The NFS portion of the Tripod C&H Allotment lies in Land Capability Groups (LCGs) 2, 3, 5, and 6. All range identified as capable in the allotment during REA had an estimated production of over 200 pounds per acre. All sites in LCGs 2, 3, 5, and 6 had ground cover >60 percent. All of these parameters were used to determine capable range for the Tripod C&H Allotment, as defined in the Forest Plan.

TRIPOD CATTLE AND HORSE ALLOTMENT DECISION NOTICE DIRECTION
To be completed once decision has been made.

GRAZING PERMIT TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT
- The permittee on the Tripod C&H Allotment agrees to abide by all State Laws pertaining to livestock grazing in the State of Idaho.
- The permittee on the Tripod C&H Allotment will comply with the AOIs.

DESIGN FEATURES
In addition to the Forest Plan standards and guidelines designed to mitigate resource impacts, the IDT identified the following livestock management measures that will be applicable to the Proposed Action. These design features/permit administration activities have been incorporated to reduce or prevent undesirable effects resulting from proposed management activities.

Livestock management design features/permit administration activities specific to the Tripod C&H Allotment include

1. The Forest Service Representative administrating this permit will be notified at least 5 days in advance and given the date, time, and place where livestock will enter the allotment to allow for counting of livestock on the allotment.
2. The Forest Service will notify the permittee at least 2 weeks in advance of the scheduled turnout date, if spring conditions affect the range readiness for livestock grazing.
3. The Forest Service will have continued flexibility in allotment administration to allow for weather conditions, range readiness, forage utilization, and livestock needs. If at any time during the grazing season, the Forest Service determines that the allotment forage is completely utilized or that further grazing will damage resources, the permittee will be required to remove livestock early.
4. The permittee will be required to periodically monitor and document utilization during the grazing season. In addition, the permittee will rotate livestock to the next pasture on the rotation, as defined in the AOI, prior to maximum pasture utilization levels are met. If utilization limits are reached prior to scheduled off dates, cattle will be removed from the allotment early.
5. Maximum forage utilization of representative areas within each pasture will not exceed the values shown below at the end of the growing season. Those utilization levels are as follows (Forest Plan Standard RASTO1 [Forest Service 2010 p. III 47]):
   - Riparian Areas—Maximum 45 percent use or retain a minimum 4-inch stubble height of hydric greenline species whichever occurs first.
   - Upland Vegetative Cover Types—Maximum 30 percent use for early season or season-long pastures. Maximum 50 percent use for vegetative slow growth, after seed ripe conditions, or late season pastures.

6. The permittee will promptly notify the Forest Service if noxious weeds are observed in the allotment. The Forest Service will determine a treatment regime for noxious weeds in the allotment.

7. Salting will be used as a management tool to help minimize livestock use in the riparian areas and tree plantations, and to distribute livestock in a pasture. Salt will be placed in containers. Salting will not be allowed in or adjacent to tree plantations or adjacent to roads, trails and water sources. Salt will not be allowed within RCAs (Forest Plan Standard RASTO4 [Forest Plan 2010, p. III-47]).

8. Only certified noxious weed free hay, straw, feed, and mulch is allowed on NFS lands (Forest Plan Standard NPSTO1 [Forest Plan 2010, p. III-38]).

9. The permittee will be allowed to protect livestock from the immediate threat of predators. All other predator control must be conducted through proper channels by contacting Wildlife Services. Through a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS) and the Forest Service, Wildlife Services is responsible for control of predators. The permittee will work with their local Wildlife Services representative on depredation issues.

10. The Forest Service Motor Vehicle Use Travel Management Rule (36 CFR 261.13) is in place on the Emmett RD, which prohibits motorized use off-road/trail. Public motorized wheeled vehicle use is prohibited on all NFS lands except on routes that are designated for motorized use on the current Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM). The permittee will be allowed to use wheeled motorized vehicles on all NFS routes for administrative use within the allotment for livestock management purposes. This administrative use includes salting and herding of livestock, maintenance of range improvements, and forage utilization inspections. Any other motorized vehicle use for allotment management activities shall be approved in the AOs by the District Ranger and approved routes will be monitored by Forest Service personnel. Use of heavy equipment, such as bull dozers or backhoes will not be included in this authorization.

11. The permittee will be responsible for all annual maintenance of range improvements listed in the permit. All range improvements will be maintained prior to livestock entering a pasture.

12. The permittee will be required to document and provide to the Forest Service the actual use data and improvement maintenance activities for the allotment, annually.

13. The permittee is responsible to avoid livestock grazing in young reforestation units (i.e., plantations, located in the allotment) (Figure C-2). Methods that may be utilized include riding, taking non-use for resource protection, and the construction of temporary electric fences.
fences in the pasture(s) holding the reforestation units. To protect the reforestation units, the adaptive management strategy outlined below will be implemented. The Reforestation Adaptive Management Strategy is further described in Appendix B.

The proposed action includes continued monitoring of the allotment through grazing permit administration, which includes inspection compliance, utilization, in-season stubble height, end-of-season stubble height monitoring, and grazing response index.

**ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR REFORESTATION UNITS**

Table C-5 outlines the adaptive management strategy for reforestation units in the Tripod C&H Allotment. Potential adaptive management actions will include riding to push livestock out and away from units, non-use for resource protection, or construction of temporary electric fences in the pasture(s) holding the units for up to 5 years and seedlings have reached an average height of 2.5 feet. With the implementation of non-use in the pasture(s) affected, capable rangeland on this allotment will be reduced by 441 HMs to 429 HMs, which will reduce the grazing capacity or the season livestock could graze this allotment from the available 2,006 HMs. As the design features indicate, the allotment will continue to be monitored throughout the grazing season and if and when the Forest Plan grazing standards were met, livestock will be removed from the allotment regardless of the permitted HMs.
Table C-5. Adaptive Management Strategy for Reforestation Units in the Tripod Cattle and Horse Allotment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Livestock Disturbance Severity</th>
<th>Threshold/Trigger</th>
<th>Adaptive Management Action</th>
<th>Timing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td>If survival is documented at &lt;85%, and &gt;30% of the mortality can be attributed to livestock.</td>
<td>While livestock are present within the allotment and pasture(s) with reforestation units, permittee is required to employ a rider to either ensure livestock are not within reforestation units, and/or to push livestock from units. Rider will be required to ride the allotment at least 2 days/per week for reforestation unit protection.</td>
<td>Monitoring will generally be completed at the end of the grazing season as outlined by the monitoring plan. The adaptive management action will be put in place on the Annual Operating Instructions (AOIs) for the next grazing season. If seedling mortality, attributed to livestock grazing is observed within the reforestation units, during the grazing season, the permittee will be notified in writing of the observations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>If survival is documented at &lt;70%, and &gt;50% of the mortality can be attributed to livestock.</td>
<td>The permittee will be required to employ a full-time rider and who will camp onsite while livestock are on the allotment and pasture(s) with reforestation units to ensure that livestock are not within reforestation units and/or to push livestock from units.</td>
<td>Monitoring will be completed at the end of the grazing season as outlined by the monitoring plan. The adaptive management action will be put in place on the AOIs for the next grazing season. If seedling mortality attributed to livestock grazing is observed within the reforestation units, during the grazing season, the permittee will be notified in writing of the observations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>If survival is documented at &lt;40%, and &gt;70% of the mortality can be attributed to livestock.</td>
<td>The permittee will be required to take non-use for resource protection in the pasture(s) with reforestation units for up to 5 years and/or the seedlings have reached an average height of 2.5 feet.</td>
<td>Required non-use years for resource protection will not occur until after reforestation activities in the affected units have been completed or permittee will be required to annually install, maintain, and take down temporary electric fence around affected reforestation units. Temporary fence will be put in place and operational prior to the livestock turn-out date and will remain in place until the livestock are off the allotment. The temporary fence materials will be supplied by the Forest Service. The AOIs will outline the terms of the non-use for resource protection or temporary fence requirements. If seedling mortality attributed to livestock grazing is still being observed following implementation of this adaptive management action, a letter of non-compliance will be issued to the permittee.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


V. Livestock Grazing System

The term grazing permit for the Tripod C&H Allotment will authorize a maximum of 238 cow/calf pairs for a grazing season of June 1 to October 15 (849 HMs), annually. In addition, 6 saddle/pack animals (21 HMs) will be permitted on the allotment to facilitate livestock management activities. The saddle/pack animals are restricted to the Gathering pasture.

The total allotment size is approximately 12,994 acres consisting of approximately 11,681.5 acres of NFS lands and 1,312.5 acres under other ownership. The Forest Service will only administer the grazing activities on NFS land.

The allotment will be divided into four pastures: Sage Hen, High Valley, Tripod Meadows, and Gathering (Table C-6). Livestock grazing on the allotment is under a 3-pasture deferred rotation grazing management system, or stuttered rotation. Under this system, one of two pastures, either the High Valley or Tripod Meadow pasture, is grazed for 2 consecutive years beginning in mid-June to allow for post seed-ripe seedling establishment in the last pasture of the rotation. After 2 years, the pasture that was grazed first is deferred from grazing until post seed-ripe. The Sage Hen pasture is always grazed second in rotation. The Gathering pasture is reserved for saddle/pack stock to facilitate herd management and gather cattle in the fall.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tripod Meadow</td>
<td>High Valley</td>
<td>High Valley</td>
<td>Tripod Meadow</td>
<td>Tripod Meadow</td>
<td>High Valley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sage Hen</td>
<td>Sage Hen</td>
<td>Sage Hen</td>
<td>Sage Hen</td>
<td>Sage Hen</td>
<td>Sage Hen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Valley</td>
<td>Tripod Meadow</td>
<td>Tripod Meadow</td>
<td>High Valley</td>
<td>High Valley</td>
<td>Tripod Meadow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gathering</td>
<td>Gathering</td>
<td>Gathering</td>
<td>Gathering</td>
<td>Gathering</td>
<td>Gathering</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If allotment monitoring reveals this level of grazing exceeds standards, and the Forest Plan desired conditions cannot be maintained, the permittee will be required to remove livestock early. Meeting the end-of-season upland and riparian use standards will be the primary factors in achieving desired conditions.

VI. Rangeland Improvements

EXISTING IMPROVEMENTS

Permittee Responsibility for Maintenance of Structural Range Improvements

The grazing fee computation formula is partially based on the assumption that permittee will maintain the range improvements within their allotment boundary. Consequently, the permittee is responsible for maintaining all the structural range improvements located on the Tripod C&H Allotment. Maintenance means the timely repair or winterizing of management fences, stock water developments, corrals, or other livestock facilities to a condition adequate to perpetuate the life of the facility and to make it fully functional. If new improvements are needed or existing improvements need to be reconstructed, the Forest Service will normally provide materials for
proposed developments and the permittee agrees to provide labor for construction and or reconstruction.

Table C-7 exhibits the structural improvements on the Tripod C&H Allotment. This table could be updated periodically to reflect change. Figure C-2 illustrates the location of the structural improvements.

Table C-7. Structural Improvements on the Tripod Cattle and Horse Allotment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Range Improvement</th>
<th>Improvement Number</th>
<th>Length or Area (% Responsibility)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High Valley-Smiths Ferry Drift Fence</td>
<td>6016</td>
<td>1.0 miles (100)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tripod Drift Fence</td>
<td>6038</td>
<td>1.0 miles (100)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tripod Meadows Fence</td>
<td>6040</td>
<td>2.3 miles (100)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tripod Range Fence</td>
<td>6042</td>
<td>1.3 miles (100)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tripod Corrals</td>
<td>6249</td>
<td>About 0.5 acres (100)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tripod Lookout Trail Fence</td>
<td>6039</td>
<td>1.25 miles (50)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Valley-Sage Hen Pasture Division Fence</td>
<td>6041</td>
<td>1.8 miles (100)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gathering Pasture Fence</td>
<td>6249A</td>
<td>1.0 miles (100)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Structural Range Improvement Maintenance Specifications

Range Fences

- Splice and repair all broken wires in such a manner that fence tension can be maintained. Wire splices will be made with 12 gauge tie wire or with the type of wire used in the original construction. As needed, replace broken or rotten sections of log and pole fences.
- Replace broken or rotten posts and braces if needed to maintain fence integrity.
- Replacement posts must be treated with wood preservative.
- Straighten or replace bent or broken metal posts and connect wire onto posts with the appropriate type of fastener.
- Maintain fences to meet big game standards (bottom wire 16–18 inches above ground, top wire 40–42 inches above ground) on all fences initially constructed to this standard.
- Re-stretch wires when needed.
- Replace broken stays and missing staples.
- Avoid driving staples so deep they nick the wire and create a weak point that will eventually break.
- Close all gates before livestock enter a pasture and tie road gates open after livestock leave the pasture.
- Gate wire tension must be sufficient to prevent the gate from sagging. Use woods stays instead of metal stays, and attach a "Please Close Gate" sign supplied by the Forest Service. Make gate loops from smooth not barbed wire.
- Completely remove trees that fall on fences and repair the resulting damage.
VII. Monitoring and Effectiveness

The application and successful accomplishment of livestock grazing standards will maintain and improve existing rangeland and riparian conditions. Current vegetative conditions within the allotment are moving towards desired conditions and reflect healthy habitat for a variety of wildlife and aquatic species as well as stable and healthy soils.

Implementation monitoring (short term) is used to determine if plans, projects, actions, and activities are implemented as designed, which includes short-term and annual monitoring such as vegetation utilization, residual stubble height, browsing of woody species, streambank disturbance, performing allotment inspections, and checking for permit, AMP, and AOI compliance.

Effectiveness monitoring (long term) is used to determine if grazing management is effective in meeting the intent of the stated objectives, standards, and guidelines, which includes condition/trend monitoring of uplands (e.g., photo points and nested frequency) and monitoring of streambanks and riparian vegetation (combination of greenline stability, greenline successional status, streambank stability, streambank cover, and photo-points). Monitoring results will be used to determine if management practices need to be adapted.

The key riparian area has previously been identified and annual grazing use indicators will continue to be monitored.

**GENERAL ALLOTMENT INSPECTIONS—SHORT-TERM MONITORING**

Allotment inspections will be conducted annually to ensure and document that Forest Plan standards, terms and conditions of the grazing permit, AMP objectives, and the AOI are being followed and met. These observations will be used to adjust AOIs and determine and adjust proper carrying capacity. Allotment inspections will generally include the evaluations listed in Table C-8.

**Table C-8. Short Term Allotment Inspections**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Inspection</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Livestock Distribution</td>
<td>Periodic inspections may be conducted throughout the grazing season.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Range Improvement</td>
<td>Inspections for improvement maintenance will be conducted in conjunction with other inspections.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) Compliance</td>
<td>Inspections for AOI compliance will occur at least once during the grazing season.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upland Use (utilization)</td>
<td>Periodic inspections may be conducted throughout the grazing season.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riparian Stubble Height</td>
<td>Stubble h. will be conducted in conjunction with upland use inspections.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grazing Response Index</td>
<td>Grazing Response Index will be conducted annually.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Actual livestock grazing use will be documented annually in the 2210 allotment file. The dates and numbers of livestock entering and leaving each unit (actual use) are part of the permittees reporting requirement.
UPLAND MONITORING

Upland condition and trend studies are forms of long term monitoring and help answer the following questions:

- Is compliance with proper use criteria and other management requirements effective in maintaining or improving upland and riparian ecological conditions?
- Is a change needed in management to become effective?

The following upland monitoring protocols may be used to help answer the above mentioned questions. Currently, there are long term upland monitoring sites located within the Tripod C&H Allotment. REA studies that were conducted in 2010 may be revisited in the future. Photo points in conjunction with utilization monitoring were also established in 2010. These photo points will be monitored annually along with utilization measurements. If it is determined that photo points are not sufficient to track upland vegetation trend, additional Nested Frequency Plots could be established on the allotment.

NOXIOUS WEED MONITORING

Known noxious weed populations occur on the Tripod C&H Allotment, occurring mostly on roadsides and in dispersed recreational areas. Infestations will be treated annually until they are controlled. Treatments will be evaluated for effectiveness each year. Treatments will be documented annually in the noxious weed databases.

VIII. Modification Of This Allotment Management Plan

This AMP provides management direction for the grazing permittee on the Tripod C&H Allotment. The direction in this AMP may be modified as appropriate based on the results of both annual and long-term monitoring. As long as these modifications are consistent with the Tripod Cattle and Horse Allotment Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact (Decision) issued in September 2012 and the associated National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis, additional NEPA analyses may not be needed (FSH 1909.15, Section 18). AOIs will be used to direct annual implementation of this AMP. AOIs may include variations in direction from this AMP for short-term situations including drought, seasonal climatic variations, wild fire, insect or disease outbreaks, changes in base ranch operations, results from the previous year monitoring. Where these situations are short term in nature, they will be dealt with through the AOI only. If these situations warrant long-term changes, the AMP will be modified as appropriate following appropriate analysis and documentation.

---

2 Trend is defined as the directional change in kind, proportion and/or amount of plant species, or soil characteristics. The direction of trend is based on whether the changes in vegetation and soil conditions are desirable or undesirable for specified management objectives. Trend in desired vegetation conditions is described as “meeting”, “moving toward” or “not meeting”.

Appendix C-2
IX. Literature Cited


Figure C-1. Tripod Cattle and Horse Allotment Vicinity Map