

GRAZING ADVISORY BOARD FACT SHEET

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1. Function

The function of a grazing advisory board would be to offer advice and make recommendations concerning the development of allotment management plans and the utilization of range betterment funds.

A. Allotment Management Plans

Grazing permittee involvement in the development of allotment management plans is essential. The plans, when approved, become part of ten year term grazing permits. The plans do not allocate land to livestock grazing, but specify the conditions for grazing specific allotments.

Important considerations in plan development to both permittees and land managers are as follows:

1. Range management objectives for the allotments.
2. Coordination requirements for livestock management in relation to other resource values and objectives. Examples of these include timber, watershed, wildlife, recreation and wilderness values. These requirements generally limit livestock grazing or management alternatives.
3. A clear history of grazing on the allotments. This should provide a picture of past use, management changes and impacts of resource activities upon the allotments and their management.
4. Importance of the allotments to the permittees. This includes how the allotments are used in relationship to base property from a forage and livestock management standpoint.
5. Range resource data collected for the allotments. This includes annual readiness/utilization inspections, suitable acres by type, range condition and apparent trend by type, long term trends, and percent capacity by type.
6. Current grazing capacities and potential capacities of the allotments from range resource data. This must include information on animal numbers, class of livestock & season of use.
7. The grazing systems to be used on the allotments to attain the allotment objectives.
8. Range evaluation standards for determining utilization, range readiness and long term trend.
9.
 - a. Range improvements existing and planned for the allotments.
 - b. Scheduled maintenance for existing improvements and responsibilities for maintenance.

10. a. The allotment maps with correct boundaries improvement locations and grazing units.
- b. The vegetation types and range condition maps showing actual suitable and non-suitable range delineations.

B. Range Betterments Funds

In addition to range development which is accomplished through funds from the rangeland management budget line item, Granger Thye Act, and deposited or nondeposited cooperative funds, range development may also be accomplished through use of range betterment funds. These funds are to be used in range improvement programs to arrest range deterioration and improve forage conditions which benefit wildlife, livestock production and watershed protection. One-half of the available funds will be expended on the National Forest where collected. The remaining one-half of the funds will be allocated within the Region for range rehabilitation, protection and improvement.

2. Establishment

The Sierra National Forest has sufficient acres of land subject to commercial livestock grazing to qualify for establishment of a grazing advisory board. Upon being properly petitioned by a simple majority (more than 50 percent) of grazing permittees on the Sierra National Forest, the Forest Supervisor will request the Chief, Forest Service, through the Regional Forester, to initiate action to establish the board.

3. Membership

Grazing advisory board membership will consist of Forest grazing permittees elected by Forest grazing permittees.

4. Elections

The Forest Supervisor of the Sierra National Forest will prescribe and oversee the manner in which permittees are nominated and board members are elected. Board members will be elected to terms not to exceed 2 years.

5. Meetings

The Forest Supervisor will call at least one meeting each year, and call additional meetings as needed to meet permittee and Forest Service needs. Each meeting will be conducted in accordance with an agenda approved by the Forest Supervisor and in the presence of a Forest Officer.

6. Termination

Grazing advisory boards established under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 shall continue until December 31, 1985, unless terminated earlier. The Forest Supervisor may withdraw recognition of the board if a majority of permittees request that it be dissolved, or the board becomes inactive and does not meet at least once each calendar year.