
9.0 RANGE

9.1 Interim Range Indicator 1. Use of Existing Grazing Tenure Area

9.1.1 Future Indicators:

Number of Animal Unit Months (AUM's) issued versus AUM carrying capacity, reported by Landscape Unit and by Range Unit.

9.1.2 Background:

The LRMP directed the:

- 1) development of target Animal Unit Months (AUM's) for the Bulkley Valley planning unit, and
- 2) evaluation of areas close to Bulkley Valley for range potential and range expansion.

Work towards completion of these activities continues. Additional to the Bulkley Valley planning unit, in 1998 Sinclair Creek and Goathorn Creek subunits were designated in their entirety as having high range potential. However, there remains the need to identify specific areas that are truly suitable for range expansion.

Potential range expansion areas on Crown land in Bulkley TSA include early seral plantations (which lose range potential through maturation), agricultural lease areas (which eventually convert to private land thus are lost to the Crown landbase) and deciduous seral types (which are available more permanently thus have high range potential). Work has been done to digitally map permanent deciduous seral sites and to derive a seral site series classification system.

An estimate of kg/ha forage production for Biogeoclimatic and new deciduous seral site series would make it possible to calculate a measure for total forage capability, thus enabling the completion of LRMP requirements. The derivation of this estimate remains a future priority. In the interim, the focus is placed on the forage capability of existing Bulkley grazing tenures.

9.1.3 Measure:

Animal Unit Months (AUM's) issued and allocated versus AUM's available, on existing grazing tenures.

9.1.4 Results and Discussion:

Figure 47 shows the location of range tenures currently administered by the Ministry of Forests, including grazing tenures. Table 24 provides baseline AUM allocation and estimated AUM availability figures for grazing tenures.

Table 24 – Baseline AUM Allocation, 2002

Maximum AUM's available on existing grazing tenures (estimated)	Total AUM Allocated (existing grazing tenures)	Total AUM issued (2002)	% use of maximum AUM's	% use of total AUM allocation
15000	7760	5260	35	68

An estimate of maximum AUM availability is provided because District Range doesn't automatically determine total forage capability for a tenure area unless the tenure holder is planning to graze a number of livestock that may be approaching capacity. Of the estimated total forage capability of 15,000 AUM's, only a portion is allocated.

AUM allocation is determined in reference to a range of criteria:

- if substantially less than the forage capacity of the grazing tenure, then AUM allocation is based on the actual number of head of livestock the licensee proposes to graze;
- if the number of head are close to or exceeding the forage capacity of the tenure, AUM allocation considers kg/ha forage measurements from permanent habitat monitoring plots. Only a portion (e.g. half to two-thirds) is considered available, to ensure that overgrazing is avoided;
- past licensee performance;
- input from the BV Cattlemen's Association.

The issued AUM figure is less than the total AUM allocation figure in Table 24 because some of the tenures are inactive.

In summary, data indicate relatively good use of total allocated AUM, and a use of maximum available AUM that is appropriate to AUM allocation criteria.

9.1.5 Data sources

- FTAS
- Levels 39, 45, 47 and 54 of BRANGE.DGN (located at L:\working\lim\data\exa\range\brange.dgn)
- Roads and major rivers, extracted from 1999 update forest cover (FC1) (Northwest Data Center, Bulkley District dataset)

Figure 47

Location of Range Tenure Areas

