

Biennial Monitoring of Active Cattle and/or Sheep Grazing Allotments/Leases - 2018 Within Primary Conservation Area (PCA) of the NCDE

The following tables provide the baseline information for cattle and/or sheep allotments within the Primary Conservation Area (PCA). Table 1 provides the baseline information as of 2014. **Blue bold** text in Table 1 identifies corrections to the 2014 baseline. Table 2 provides the baseline information as of 2018. **Black bold text with yellow highlight** in Table 2 identifies updates from 2014 baseline values (presented in Table 1), but these are not a change to the baseline. Any colors, highlights, or bolded text (other than the column headings) is explained for individual subunits after the tables.

In 2019, it was discovered that the NCDE Grizzly Bear Conservation Strategy and its glossary needed clarifications between Animal Unit Months (AUM) and Head Months (HM) and on what specific information will be tracked. In addition, Federal agencies use the word “allotment”, MT Dept of Natural Resources & Conservation (DNRC) and Blackfoot Tribe use the word “lease”, MT Dept. Fish, Wildlife & Parks use “cooperative land use agreements”, and Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) use “range units”. For the purposes of this reporting, “allotments/leases” will be used for all agencies. As it is difficult to go back in time and collect information, Table 1 has some missing information for 2014 that is provided in Table 2 for 2018, which is missing some information that will be provided in all future reports.

Table 1. Grazing Allotments/Leases for 2014.

Land Manager	# of Active Allotments / Leases ¹	Type	Acres of Allotments / Leases ²	# of Allotments / Leases with Active Permittees	AUMs ³	Additional Information
Flathead NF	3	Cattle	33,460	3	497	
Helena-Lewis & Clark NF	26	Cattle	185,296	24	9,847	Two active allotments do not have active permittees.
Helena-Lewis & Clark NF	1	Sheep	8,552	1	133	
Kootenai NF	3	Cattle	42,386	1	442	Two allotments have vacant permittees
Lolo NF	1	Cattle	2,040	1	35	
Glacier NP	0	na	0	0	0	GNP does not permit commercial livestock grazing allotments within the park boundary.
BLM ⁴	26	Cattle	20,499		1,942	Available data does not include the Arrastra allotment, acres, & AUMs.

Land Manager	# of Active Allotments / Leases ¹	Type	Acres of Allotments / Leases ²	# of Allotments / Leases with Active Permittees	AUMs ³	Additional Information
DNRC	na	Mostly Cattle	62,345	128	17,147	
MFWP	na	Cattle	22,363	5	na	
Flathead IR		Cattle or Horses	1,705			
Blackfoot IR						BIR is fully leased. Number of leases and acres are not available.

¹ – Number of allotments/leases that are not closed. Allotment/lease may or may not have an active permittee.

² – Acres for the entire allotment/lease, which may or may not include other land ownerships than the agency issuing the allotment/lease.

³ – Number of Animal Unit Months permitted for allotment/lease, whether or not the allotment/lease is in use or not.

⁴ – The 3 BLM Field Offices (Butte, Lewistown, and Missoula) will be split out in future reports.

Table 2. Grazing Allotments/Leases for 2018.

Land Manager	# of Allotments / Leases ¹	Type	Acres of Allotments / Leases ²	# of Allotments / Leases with Active Permittees	AUMs ³	Additional Information
Flathead NF	3	Cattle	33,460	3	497	
Helena-Lewis & Clark NF	25	Cattle	185,296	22	8,023	Three allotments are vacant; and three active allotments do not have active permittees.
Helena-Lewis & Clark NF	1	Sheep	8,552	1	119	
Kootenai NF	3	Cattle	42,386	1	442	Two allotments have vacant permittees
Lolo NF	1	Cattle	2,040	1	35	
Glacier NP	0	na	0	0	0	GNP does not permit commercial livestock grazing allotments within the park boundary.
BLM Butte FO	9	Cattle	4,967	7	375	Two active allotments do not have a current permittee.

Land Manager	# of Allotments / Leases ¹	Type	Acres of Allotments / Leases ²	# of Allotments / Leases with Active Permittees	AUMs ³	Additional Information
BLM Lewistown FO	17	Cattle	15,532	17	1,415	
BLM Missoula FO	1	Cattle	3,341	1	61	This allotment was missing from the 2014 report.
DNRC	na	Mostly Cattle	53,798	123	15,859	
MFWP	na	Cattle	14,967	4	2,153	Lease acres are approximate. One lease has a range for AUMs, used the maximum number.
Flathead IR ⁴		Cattle or Horses	1,705			
Blackfeet IR ⁴						BIR is fully leased. Number of leases and acres are not available.

¹ – Number of allotments/leases that could have a permittee.

² – Acres for the entire allotment/lease, which may or may not include other land ownerships than the agency issuing the allotment/lease.

³ – Number of Animal Unit Months permitted for allotment/lease, whether or not the allotment/lease is in use or not.

⁴ – Information is from 2014. It will be updated in future reports.

Helena-Lewis & Clark NF – In comparing 2014 to 2018, the same cattle allotments exist. There may have been confusion on counting active and inactive allotments and their AUMs. As of 2018, there are 26 allotments with 23 active cattle allotments and 3 vacant cattle allotments. The 3 vacant allotments may have a permittee in the future. Given that the direction applies to the number allotments and the acreage on the ground, neither of which change, the differences are an update only. For the one sheep allotment, per the USFS INFRA database, AUMs were 133 in 2014 and 119 in 2018. Per the direction, the allotment may increase to 133 AUMs in the future.

Kootenai NF – In 2014 and 2018, the sole allotment had the same AUMs per the USFS INFRA database. The original table in the NCDE Grizzly Bear Conservation Strategy had a different number. The change is correction.

Lolo NF – In 2014, there were 35 AUMs according to the INFRA reporting. The original table in the NCDE Conservation Strategy had 30 AUMs. As there is not standard or guideline on the number of cattle AUMs, this is an update only.

BLM – One allotment for the Missoula FO that is partly in the PCA existed in 2014 but was not included in the 2014 report. It is included in the 2018 report, which accounts for the increase in allotment acres. There is a change in the number of AUMs from 2014 to 2018. As there is not standard or guideline on the number of cattle AUMs, this is an update only.

DNRC – DNRC leases are fluid compared to federal allotments. The agency does not have a lease unless it is active. As a result, only the acres, number of leases, and AUMs will be provided for reports.

MFWP – MFWP has cooperative land use agreements. The agency does not have an agreement without an active cooperator. Further, AUMs are not used, but rather the cooperator’s “payment” is practices that do not degrade the land. As a result, only acres, number of agreements (referred to as leases in the tables), and possibly AUMs will be provided for reports.

Flathead IR – Information for the 2018 monitoring year was not provided. The information from 2014 is listed in the 2018 table.

Blackfeet IR – Information for the 2018 monitoring year was not provided. The information from 2014 is listed in the 2018 table.

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