

Biennial Monitoring of Active Cattle and/or Sheep Grazing Allotments/Leases - 2022 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 2020 (the last monitoring report). Table 2 provides the baseline information as of 2022. **Black bold text with yellow highlight** in Table 2 identifies updates/changes from 2020 values (presented in Table 1). Updates/changes are explained for individual agency/units after the tables.

For clarification purposes, 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 uses “cooperative land use agreements”, and Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) uses “range units”. For the purposes of this reporting, “allotments/leases” will be used for all agencies.

Table 1. Grazing Allotments/Leases for 2020.

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	26	Cattle	199,689	18	7,983	Three allotments are vacant; and five 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.
BLM Lewistown FO	17	Cattle	14,804	17	1,308	
BLM Missoula FO	1	Cattle	3,341	1	61	

Land Manager	# of Allotments / Leases ¹	Type	Acres of Allotments / Leases ²	# of Allotments / Leases with Active Permittees	AUMs ³	Additional Information
DNRC	na	Mostly Cattle	60,863	125	15,433	93.7% are cattle; 6.3% are sheep
MFWP	na	Cattle	14,967	4	1,762	Lease acres are approximate.
Flathead IR		Cattle or Horses	2,962			Updated information provided.
Blackfoot IR						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.

Table 2. Grazing Allotments/Leases for 2022.

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	26	Cattle	199,688	18	7,983	Five allotments are vacant and 3 allotments do not have active permittees. Updated information on acres for one allotment.
Helena-Lewis & Clark NF	1	Sheep	8,552	1	119	
Kootenai NF	3	Cattle	42,386	1	211	Updated information on AUMs
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	8	Cattle	4,967	7	378	One active allotment does not have a current permittee. One inactive allotment was combined into an active allotment.
BLM Lewistown FO	18	Cattle	15,532	18	1,415	In 2020, one allotment was split into two.

Land Manager	# of Allotments / Leases ¹	Type	Acres of Allotments / Leases ²	# of Allotments / Leases with Active Permittees	AUMs ³	Additional Information
BLM Missoula FO	1	Cattle	3,341	1	61	
DNRC	na	Mostly Cattle	53,482	124	15,615	More than 90% are cattle, rest are sheep.
MFWP	na	Cattle	14,080	2	1,728	Lease acres are approximate. Updated information.
Flathead IR	28	Cattle or Horses	2,984			Updated information.
Blackfeet IR						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.

Helena-Lewis & Clark NF – One allotment had updated acres information, so the total acres under allotments decreased by 1 acre. **The baseline is 26 allotments and 199,688 acres.** From 2020, two of the allotments with inactive permittees became vacant. Of the 26 active allotments, 5 are vacant and 3 do not have an active permittee, so there are still 18 allotments with active permittees. For the one sheep allotment, AUMs are 119 in 2020. Per the direction, the allotment may increase to 133 AUMs in the future as there were 133 AUMs in 2014.

Kootenai NF – The number of AUMs has decreased from 442 to 211. The one active allotment previously had two permittees, and currently only has one permittee, thus the decrease in AUMs. As there is not a standard or guideline on the number of cattle AUMs, this is an update only.

BLM Butte FO – One active allotment with an inactive permittee was absorbed into another active allotment, combining the acres and AUMs, a decrease in 1 allotment, but with combined total of acres and AUMs as the previous two allotments. **The baseline is 8 allotments and 4,967 acres.** The number of AUMs was incorrect in 2020, and should have been 378, and is still 378 in 2022.

BLM Lewistown FO – In the 2020 report, two mistakes occurred: 1) one allotment with two permittees was split between the two permittees with only one allotment being recorded, and 2) in reflecting that split, another allotment was inaccurately provided the wrong acres and AUMs. The 2020 monitoring should have had 18 allotments due to the split, and no change in acres, or AUMs. There is no decision space on the number of acres. **The baseline should have been and still is 18 allotments with 15,532 acres.**

DNRC – DNRC leases are fluid compared to federal allotments and the number will significantly vary over time. 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. DNRC provided the approximate percentage of cattle leases this year.

MFWP – MFWP has cooperative land use agreements. The agency does not have an agreement without an active cooperator. The cooperator’s “payment” is practices that do not degrade the land. The AUMs will vary over time. For 2022, with an in-depth look at the 4 listed agreements (leases) from 2020, there are only 2 cooperative land use agreements within the Primary Conservation Area (PCA). There was one agreement previously listed that it outside the PCA. Additionally, one lease was listed that no one is able to verify as existing and therefore has been dropped from the list. The acres, # of lease/agreements, and AUMs have been updated.

Flathead IR – CS&KT provided updated information. For 2022, there are 4.66 square miles (2,984 acres) on 18 “ag” leases that are grazed and 10 range units that are currently idle.

Monitoring report completed by:

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