

Special Ephemeral Rule

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(Livestock Grazing Ephemeral Range: Arizona, California, and Nevada).

In accordance with 43 CFR 4115.2-1 regarding special rules for grazing districts and pursuant to the receipt of recommendations of the State Directors for Arizona, California and Nevada and a factual showing of its necessity, a special rule for range designated as ephemeral is hereby approved.

Ephemeral (annual) ranges lie within the general southwest desert region extending primarily into southern Arizona, southern California, and southern Nevada and include portions of the Mohave, Sonoran, and Chihuahuan deserts. The region is characterized by desert type vegetation some of which may be classed as ephemeral only. Ephemeral range does not consistently produce forage, but periodically provides annual vegetation suitable for livestock grazing. In years of abundant moisture and other favorable climatic conditions a large amount of forage may be produced. Favorable years are highly unpredictable and the season is usually short lived. Ephemeral areas fall generally below the 3,200-foot contour and below the 8-inch precipitation isoline. A minor percentage of the total plant composition is made up of desirable perennial forage plants and potential to improve range condition and produce a dependable supply of forage by applying intensive management practices is lacking.

Because of the unique characteristics of ephemeral range the following special rule shall apply as follows:

- Applicable allotments or uses shall be formally designated by the District Manager as ephemeral range.
- An annual application by qualified licensees or permittees is not required unless grazing use is desired. On a year-to-year basis whenever forage exists or climatic conditions indicate the probability of an ephemeral forage crop, livestock grazing may be authorized upon application pursuant to any management requirements for the allotment.
- Use of base property (water base) during nonforage years is not feasible or economical and no use of base properties is required except during these periods when ephemeral forage is available and livestock grazing occurs.

Therefore:

- An annual application per 43 CFR 4115.2-1(c)(9), is not required unless grazing use is described.
- Grazing capacity per 43CFR 4115.2-1(c)(3) may be based on a reasonable potential for forage.
- Substantial use of grazing privileges per 43 CFR 4115(c)(10) is not required.
- A year round operation per 43 CFR 4115.2(c)(1) is not required.
- Substantial use of base property per 43 CFR 4115.2-1(c)(7) is not required.

This special rule shall immediately apply to the Phoenix, Safford, and Arizona Strip Districts in Arizona, the Bakersfield District in California, and the Las Vegas District in Nevada upon recommendation for adoption in that District by the respective District Advisory Board and concurrence by the State Director.

Criteria for Allotment Categorization

Table H-1. Criteria for Allotment Categorization

Criteria for Allotment Categorization	Categories		
	Maintain	Improve	Custodial
Resource Conditions	Meets Standard	No Meeting Standard	Not Applied
Resource Potential and Production	High Potential At Potential	High/Med Potential Not at Potential	Low Potential At Potential
Conflicts and/or Controversy	Some	High Conflicts and Controversy	None
Opportunities for positive economic return on public investment	Good	Good	Poor
Present Management Situation	Current Management is Satisfactory	Current Management is Non-Satisfactory	Management is not a factor

The assignment of all grazing allotments into a selective management category was made following established BLM program guidance. The three management categories are “Maintain,” “Improve,” and “Custodial.” Respective objectives are:

- Maintain current resource conditions.
- Improve current resource conditions.
- Manage existing resource values custodially.

The five standard criteria used by BLM in categorizing allotments are listed below.

1. Range condition.
2. Resource potential.
3. Resource use conflicts or controversy.
4. Opportunity for positive economic return on public investments.
5. Present management situation.

Allotments in the Improve Category exhibit vegetative and watershed conditions not meeting objectives and standards; potential resource production is high to moderate but production is below potential; use conflicts exist; and anticipated benefits from management changes would justify expenditure of public funds. Allotments in the Maintain Category exhibit vegetative and watershed conditions meeting objectives and standards; resource production is high and rangelands are producing near their potential; no critical use conflicts exist; existing management is maintaining objectives and standards, but some range developments could augment current management. Allotments in the Custodial Category exhibit vegetative and watershed conditions which may or may not meet objectives and standards; resource production potential is very low; few if any resource conflicts; and virtually no potential to respond to management changes.

Allotment categorization is used to establish priorities for distributing available funds and personnel during plan implementation to achieve cost-effective improvement of rangeland resources. Allotments may be moved from one category to another, as new information becomes available, resource conditions change, or management activities are implemented. Changes must be consistent with the category criteria, be supported by a document analysis showing the basis for the change, and must take an interdisciplinary approach and include public involvement.

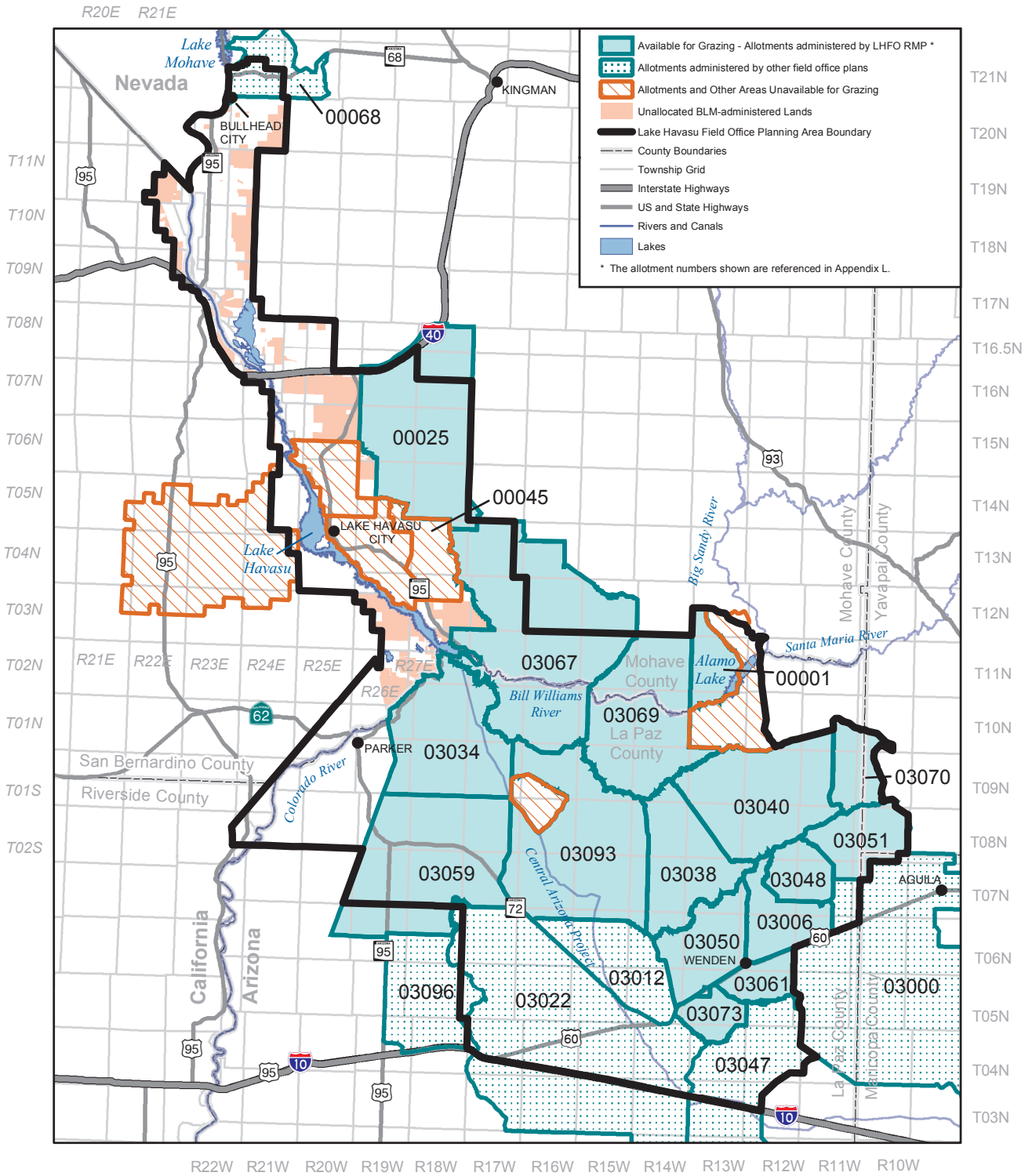
Table H-2. Grazing Allotments
(see Map 19 in the Approved RMP)

No.	Allotment Name	Approved RMP	
		Available	Unavailable
00001	Alamo Crossing	19,508	0
03006	Babcock	22,649	0
00025	Crossman Peak	108,599	0
03034	Ganado	86,800	0
03038	Hancock	36,113	0
03040	Harcuvar	80,737	0
00045	Havasus Heights S	0	27,042
03048	Lamberson	24,710	0
03050	Leidig	33,582	0

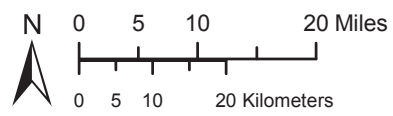
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(see Map 19 in the Approved RMP)

No.	Allotment Name	Approved RMP	
		Available	Unavailable
03051	Loma Linda	32,951	0
03093	Muse	106,488	14,712
03059	Nine Mile	109,239	480
03061	Orosco	15,761	0
03067	Planet	186,045	0
03069	Primrose	97,298	0
03073	Salome	10,008	0
03070	Wagner	24,321	0
	Other FO Admin	213,731	1,697
	TOTALS	1,208,540	43,931

Map 19 Grazing Management



LAKE HAVASU FIELD OFFICE
 Record of Decision /
 Approved Resource Management Plan



The Bureau of Land Management makes no warranties, implied or expressed, with respect to information shown on this map.

