



# Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

1400 So. 19th  
Bozeman, MT 59718

March 26, 1999

TO: ✓ Governor's Office, Julie Lapeyre, Room 204, State Capitol, POB 200801, Helena, MT 59620-0801  
Environmental Quality Council, Capitol Building, Room 106, POB 201704, Helena, MT 59620  
Dept. Environmental Quality, Metcalf Building, POB 200901, Helena, MT 59620-0901  
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
Director's Office  
Wildlife Division  
Lands Section  
FWP Commissioners  
Dennis Flath

MT Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office, POB 201202 Helena, MT 59620-1202

MT State Parks Association, POB 699, Billings, MT 59103

MT State Library, 1515 E. Sixth Ave., POB 201800, Helena, MT 59620

James Jensen, Montana Environmental Information Center, POB 1184, Helena, MT 59624

Janet Ellis, Montana Audubon Council, POB 595, Helena, MT 59624

George Ochenski, POB 689, Helena, MT 59624

Deer Lodge County Commissioners, 800 So. Main St., Anaconda, MT 59711

Butte-Silver Bow County Commissioners, 155 W. Granite, Butte, MT 59701-9256

Jerry DiMarco, POB 1571, Bozeman, MT 59771

Wildlife Federation, POB 1175, Helena, MT 59624

Wayne Hurst, POB 728, Libby, MT 59923

Glen Hockett, 745 Doane Road, Bozeman, MT 59715

Skyline Sportsman's Assoc., Box 173, Butte, MT 59701

Anaconda Sportsman's Club, #2 Cherry, Anaconda, MT 59711

Jack Atcheson, State Land Coalition, 3210 Ottawa St., Butte, MT 59701

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Enclosed is the environmental assessment that was prepared to continue an existing systematic livestock grazing system on **Mount Haggin Wildlife Management Area**. All of the pertinent or potential impacts of the project have been reviewed, discussed, and analyzed. Due to the minor nature and insignificant effects of the proposed action, this will be considered the final version of that environmental assessment. It is my decision to approve the grazing system as proposed.

Sincerely,

Stephen L. Lewis  
Regional Supervisor

Deer Lodge 15

3/29/99 - 61592

# MEPA/NEPA/HB495 CHECKLIST

## PART I. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

1. **Type of Proposed State Action**-Maintain systematic livestock grazing on the Mount Haggin Wildlife Management Area.

2. **Agency Authority for the Proposed Action**-An Environmental Assessment (EA) is required for all leases under the FWP Land Lease-Out Policy. Agency authority to initiate a lease is found in 87-1-303 MCA.

3. **Name of Project**-Mount Haggin Wildlife Management Area Grazing Program.

4. **Name, Address and Phone Number of Project Sponsor (if other than the agency)**

5. **If Applicable:**

Estimated Construction/Commencement Date \_\_

Estimated Completion Date \_\_

Current Status of Project Design (% complete) \_\_

6. **Location Affected by Proposed Action (county, range and township)**

Township 2 North Range 12 West sections 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,16,18

Township 2 North Range 13 West sections 12,13

Township 3 North Range 10 West sections 4,5,6,19,20,21

Township 3 North Range 11 West sections 9,14,15,16,20,21,22,23,24 26,27 28,29,31,32,33,34,35

Township 3 North Range 12 West sections 23,24,25,26,27,28,32,33,34,35,36

Township 4 North Range 11 West sections 24,25,26,35,36

Township 4 North Range 10 West sections 28,31,32,33

7. **Project Size: Estimate the number of acres that would be directly affected that are currently:**

(a) **Developed:**  
 residential ..... \_\_ acres  
 industrial ..... \_\_ acres

(b) **Open Space/Woodlands/  
 Recreation** ..... \_\_ acres

(c) **Wetlands/Riparian  
 Areas**  
 1. Main System.... 3490 acres  
 2. WH/ System..... 410 acres  
 3. Calif-Beaver..... 395 acres  
 4. Lower Beaver.... 25 acres  
 TOTAL ..... 4320 acres

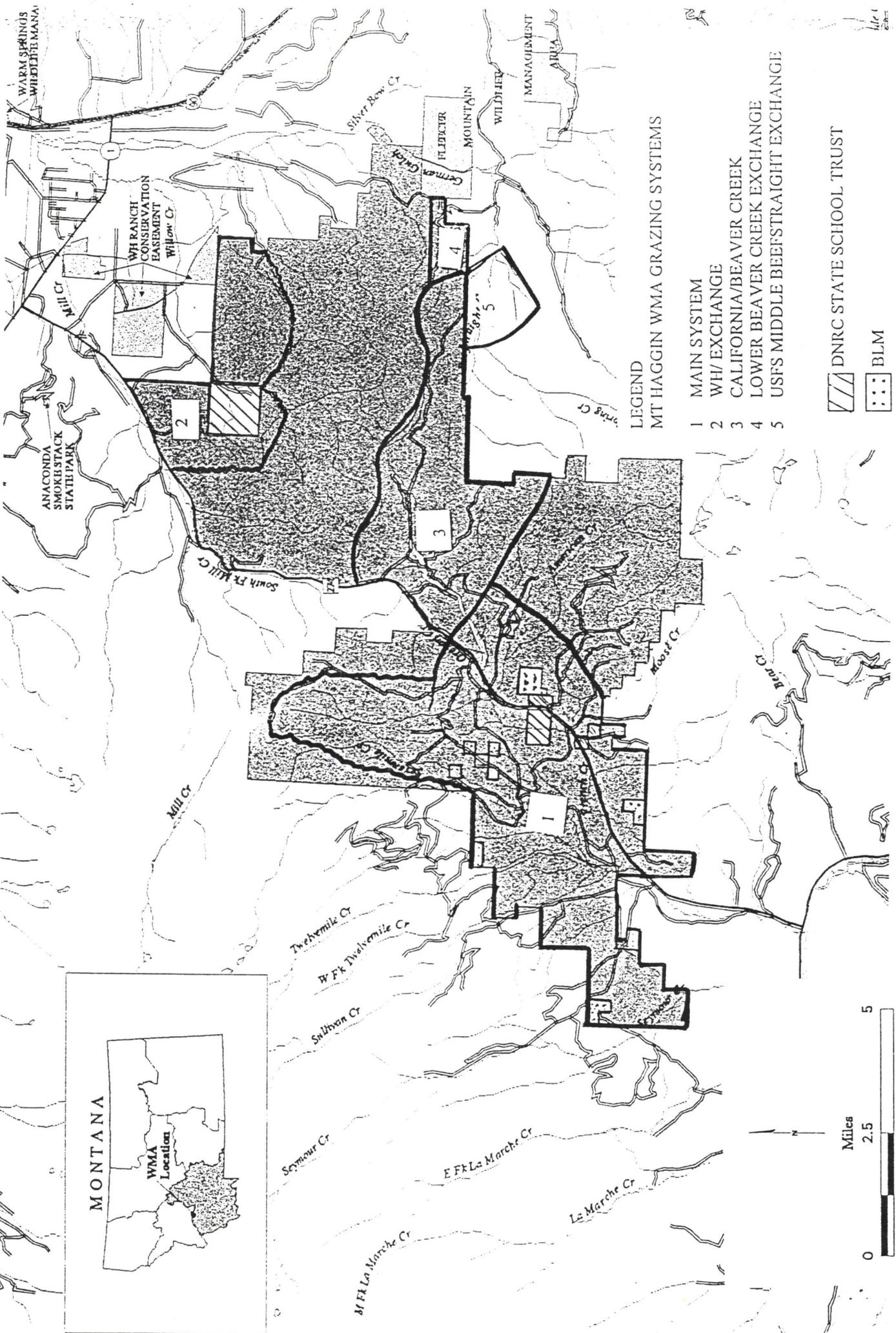
(d) **Floodplain** ..... \_\_ acres

(e) **Productive:**  
 irrigated cropland ..... \_\_ acres  
 dry cropland ..... \_\_ acres  
 forestry

1. Main System.....7438 acres  
 2. WH/ System..... 1935 acres  
 3. Calif-Beaver..... 3425 acres  
 4. Lower Beaver..... 575 acres  
 TOTAL.....13,373 acres

rangeland  
 1. Main System.....9013 acres  
 2. WH/ System..... 3065 acres  
 3. Calif-Beaver.....2115 acres  
 4. Lower Beaver..... .860 acres  
 TOTAL.....15,053 acres  
 other ..... \_\_ acres

# MOUNT HAGGIN



DNRC STATE SCHOOL TRUST

BLM

1/16/02

**9. Narrative Summary of the Proposed Action or Project including the Benefits and Purpose of the Proposed Action.**

The proposed action is to continue the systematic grazing programs on the Mount Haggin Wildlife Management Area (WMA). The Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) has in place four separate grazing programs totaling 32,746 acres of the WMA described as follows:

1) The original or the Main Grazing System occupies pastures in the south and west end of the WMA. It was fully implemented by 1984. FWP inherited a grazing lease with acquisition of the WMA in 1976. The lease was for 2000 cows on the entire WMA from June to November with no control or rest from grazing. By 1981 a grazing system was developed and fence construction began. By 1984 the system was fully operational. It is comprised of three pastures which constitute a complete rest rotation system (Hormay 1970) (Table 1). The total acreage of the grazing system is approximately 20,000 acres (pasture 1 is 6800 acres, pasture 2 is 5000 acres and pasture 3 is 8000 acres). It is scheduled for a maximum of 1000 animal units (4000 AUMs) at fair market price currently \$12.30/AUM. The size and configuration of the pastures are based on livestock grazing capacity and the three pastures are fenced accordingly. The fencing allows for control of livestock grazing while permitting access to wildlife.

Under the Main Grazing System, each pasture receives one of three grazing treatments annually. The treatments are:

- A treatment:** Available to livestock throughout the entire growing season (June 15 - August 15)
- B treatment:** Grazing by livestock only after seedripeness (August 15 - October 15)
- C treatment:** Rested from livestock grazing the entire season

Each year the system provides one-third of the system for grazing during the growing season while resting two-thirds of the grazing system for two full growing seasons. This rest from livestock grazing maintains maximum plant and root system vigor and allows seedling establishment on areas of bare soil. The intention is to allow for complete post-grazing recovery which provides maximum habitat maintenance.

**Table 1. Pasture grazing and rotation schedule for the Mt. Haggin WMA Grazing System. A=June to 15-seed ripe; b=seed ripe to October 15; C=rest from livestock grazing all season.**

PASTURE	YEAR		
	1998 2001	1999 2002	2000 2003
1	A	B	C
2	B	C	A
3	C	A	B

Three grazing systems have been developed on the north and east portions of the WMA. These grazing systems coordinate with USFS and private land to provide planned rest from grazing on winter ranges.

2) The WH/ Ranch exchange agreement provides grazing on 5410 acres of WMA in exchange for rest on adjacent private lands. Two pastures were developed on the WMA concurrent with the

purchase of a conservation easement with the WH/ Ranch in 1996. One pasture is grazed early each year from approximately April 15 to May 20 with up to 1000 animal units, while the other pasture receives complete rest. The system is intended to remove dead or decadent plant matter on winter range by grazing prior to the onset of rapid plant growth in the spring. The system also allows for systematic livestock grazing on the private conservation easement lands, which constitute important deer, elk and moose winter range.

3) The California/Beaver Creek system was created in 1989 in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service and Pegasus Gold Corporation. The creation of the Beal Mountain Mine removed a significant allotment pasture and jeopardized season-long, systematic grazing on U.S. Forest Service land in the German Gulch, Beefstraight and Beaver Creek drainages. Two pastures on the WMA (5935 acres) were created to allow the allotment to function as a true rest-rotation system between the FWP and U.S. Forest Service lands. Several miles of electric drop fence and jack leg were built, with financial assistance from Pegasus Gold Corporation, to allow for livestock control. WMA lands are grazed under a rest-rotation schedule by a maximum of 218 animal units during a mid- summer treatment (July 16-August 25), a late treatment (August 26-September 25) or a rest treatment. Grazing fees on WMA lands are assessed at fair market value, currently \$12.30/AUM. The system benefits wildlife by removing land ownership boundaries and conducting grazing over a large area, with large rest pastures available for the exclusive use of wildlife.

4) The Lower Beaver Creek exchange provides one WMA pasture for use within the U.S. Forest Service allotment in exchange for perpetual rest on the U.S. Forest Service Middle Beefstraight pasture. The exchange is directed under a ten-year agreement between agencies. The pasture is included with the California/Beaver Creek system, but fees are assessed at the prevailing federal rate. The Lower Beaver Creek pasture is grazed under a rest-rotation schedule by a maximum of 218 animal units during an early treatment (June 16-July 15), a seed treatment (September 26-October 10) or a rest treatment. Wildlife benefit from this exchange by having exclusive use of the Middle Beefstraight pasture, which is steep, isolated, and not conducive to livestock grazing.

The purpose of the proposed action is to maintain or improve soils and vegetation through systematic grazing. Benefits include: 1) maintenance of high-quality vegetation for wintering wildlife; 2) planned rest from grazing on adjacent U.S. Forest Service and private winter ranges; 3) demonstrate the compatibility of wildlife and domestic livestock grazing, and ; 4) economic benefits to local communities through viable wildlife-recreation and livestock grazing based economies.

**10. Listing of any other Local, State or Federal agency that has overlapping or additional jurisdiction.**

(a) Permits:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Permit</u>	<u>Date Filed/#</u>

(b) Funding:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Funding Amount</u>

© Other Overlapping or Additional Jurisdictional Responsibilities:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Type of Responsibility</u>
DNRC	960 acres of inholding
BLM	900 acres of inholding
USFS	Exchange Agreement

# PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

## PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

1. <u>LAND RESOURCES</u>  Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT <sup>α</sup>				Can Impact Be Mitigated <sup>α</sup>	Comment Index
	Unknown <sup>α</sup>	None	Minor <sup>α</sup>	Potentially Significant		
▶ a. Soil instability or changes in geologic substructure?		X				
b. Disruption, displacement, erosion, compaction, moisture loss, or over-covering of soil which would reduce productivity or fertility?			X		YES	1b
▶ c. Destruction, covering or modification of any unique geologic or physical features?		X				
d. Changes in siltation, deposition or erosion patterns that may modify the channel of a river or stream or the bed or shore of a lake?		X				
e. Exposure of people or property to earthquakes, landslides, ground failure, or other natural hazard?		X				
f. Other _____						

\* include an attachment with a narrative explanation describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

1b. Some minor disruption or displacement of soil will occur under the grazing system. Such disruption is minor because the WMA is not grazed during the growing season for 2 years following the growing season treatment or is grazed on every other year basis prior to the onset of rapid plant growth. Such treatments promote soil stability over time because they allow sufficient time for plants to recover growth, carbohydrate reserves and establish new seedlings. Early spring grazing, which takes place on winter range under the WH/ exchange agreement, has the added benefit of removing dead plant matter without affecting the current years plant growth. Fall treatments, in addition to providing rest on U.S. Forest Service winter range pastures have specific positive implications for seedling establishment through seed trampling (Hormay 1970).

## PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

2. <u>AIR</u>  Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT <sup>α</sup>				Can Impact Be Mitigated <sup>α</sup>	Comment Index
	Unknown <sup>α</sup>	None	Minor <sup>α</sup>	Potentially Significant		
▶ a. Emission of air pollutants or deterioration of ambient air quality? (also see 13 (c))		X				
b. Creation of objectionable odors?			X		YES	2b
c. Alteration of air movement, moisture, or temperature patterns or any change in climate, either locally or regionally?		X				
d. Adverse effects on vegetation, including crops, due to increased emissions of pollutants?		X				
e. ♦For P-R/D-J projects, will the project result in any discharge which will conflict with federal or state air quality regs? (Also see 2a)		X				
f. Other _____						

2b. Some short-lived objectionable odors would be created as a natural by-product of a livestock grazing operation. Such odors are short lived in the environment and mitigated by the large size of the pastures and relatively low density of livestock. All livestock are removed by the start of the general big game season.

**PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT**

3. <u>WATER</u>  Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT <sup>α</sup>				Can Impact Be Mitigated <sup>α</sup>	Comment Index
	Unknown <sup>α</sup>	None	Minor <sup>α</sup>	Potentially Significant		
▶ a. Discharge into surface water or any alteration of surface water quality including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity?		X				
b. Changes in drainage patterns or the rate and amount of surface runoff?		X				
c. Alteration of the course or magnitude of flood water or other flows?		X				
d. Changes in the amount of surface water in any water body or creation of a new water body?		X				
e. Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding?		X				
f. Changes in the quality of groundwater?		X				
g. Changes in the quantity of groundwater?		X				
h. Increase in risk of contamination of surface or groundwater?		X				
i. Effects on any existing water right or reservation?		X				
Effects on other water users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quality?		X				
k. Effects on other users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quantity?		X				
l. ♦♦For P-R/D-J, will the project affect a designated floodplain? (Also see 3c)		X				
m. ♦For P-R/D-J, will the project result in any discharge that will affect federal or state water quality regulations? (Also see 3a)		X				
n. Other: _____						

\* include an attachment with a narrative explanation describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Water Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

**PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT**

4. <u>VEGETATION</u>  Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT <sup>o</sup>				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown <sup>o</sup>	None	Minor <sup>o</sup>	Potentially Significant		
a. Changes in the diversity, productivity or abundance of plant species (including trees, shrubs, grass, crops, and aquatic plants)?			X		YES	4a
b. Alteration of a plant community?			X		YES	4a
c. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				
d. Reduction in acreage or productivity of any agricultural land?		X				
e. Establishment or spread of noxious weeds?		X				
f. ♦♦For P-R/D-J, will the project affect wetlands, or prime and unique farmland?		X				
g. Other: _____						

<sup>o</sup> include an attachment with a narrative explanation describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.  
 Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Vegetation Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

4a. Some changes in the vegetative community are expected under the grazing system. The WMA has an extensive history of season-long grazing that resulted in extensive plant retrogression and damage to both upland and riparian communities. Season-long grazing continued under FWP ownership in the area of the main grazing system as a condition of the sale, until a rest rotation system was designed and implemented in 1984. Under FWP management, all four livestock grazing systems are designed to allow plant succession towards a climax state. Monitoring since the inception of the grazing systems has documented increases in the distribution and vigor of willow (*Salix* spp.) and sedge (*Carex* spp.) species in riparian areas. Upland plant communities, where changes are expected to occur at a much slower rate, are also monitored by photo points and canopy coverage plots.

The WMA also has an extensive history of logging activity, dating back well over 100 years. The WMA and adjacent public and private lands were initially logged to meet demands for mine timbers and smelter fuel in Anaconda and Butte. In recent history the area was logged to supply local mills with timber. FWP inherited a 15 year logging contract as a condition of the sale, and this contract ended in the early 1990's with resulting extensive clear cutting and the removal of over 40 million board feet of timber. Conifer establishment into rangeland and reestablishment in existing cutting units will not have an impact in the short term on the WMA. Long term impacts (30-40 year) will likely include modifications to the grazing program in the California and Beaver Creek drainages as well as consideration of a timber management program. One hundred years of fire suppression in the area has also played a significant role in forming the vegetative landscape.

**PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT**

▶ 5. <u>FISH/WILDLIFE</u>	IMPACT <sup>2</sup>				Can Impact Be Mitigated <sup>3</sup>	Comment Index
	Unknown <sup>2</sup>	None	Minor <sup>2</sup>	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Deterioration of critical fish or wildlife habitat?		X				
b. Changes in the diversity or abundance of game animals or bird species?			X		YES	5b
c. Changes in the diversity or abundance of nongame species?		X				
d. Introduction of new species into an area?		X				
e. Creation of a barrier to the migration or movement of animals?		X				
f. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				
g. Increase in conditions that stress wildlife populations or limit abundance (including harassment, legal or illegal harvest or other human activity)?		X				
h. ♦♦For P-R/D-J, will the project be performed in any area in which T&E species are present, and will the project affect any T&E species or their habitat? (Also see 5f)			X		YES	5b
i. ♦For P-R/D-J, will the project introduce or export any species not presently or historically occurring in the receiving location? (Also see 5d)		X				
j. Other: _____						

<sup>2</sup> include an attachment with a narrative explanation describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.  
<sup>3</sup> Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Fish/Wildlife Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

The proposed action is intended to be positive for all wildlife. Grazing treatments are timed to leave high quality vegetation and large spaces that are attractive to wildlife during all seasons.  
 5h. Wolves are currently pioneering the area and are a source of potential conflict with livestock, although ample alternative prey exist. Grizzly bears are not known to exist in the area at this time, but could pioneer the area from the Lincoln/Scapegoat Wilderness to the north.

**HUMAN ENVIRONMENT**

6. <u>NOISE/ELECTRICAL EFFECTS</u>	IMPACT <sup>2</sup>				Can Impact Be Mitigated <sup>3</sup>	Comment Index
	Unknown <sup>2</sup>	None	Minor <sup>2</sup>	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Increases in existing noise levels?		X				
b. Exposure of people to serve or nuisance noise levels?		X				
c. Creation of electrostatic or electromagnetic effects that could be detrimental to human health or property?		X				
d. Interference with radio or television reception and operation?		X				
e.						

**HUMAN ENVIRONMENT**

7. <u>LAND USE</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT <sup>o</sup>				Can Impact Be Mitigated <sup>o</sup>	Comment Index
	Unknown <sup>o</sup>	None	Minor <sup>o</sup>	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of or interference with the productivity or profitability of the existing land use of an area?			X		YES	7a
b. Conflicted with a designated natural area or area of unusual scientific or educational importance?		X				
c. Conflict with any existing land use whose presence would constrain or potentially prohibit the proposed action?		X				
d. Adverse effects on or relocation of residences?		X				
e. Other: _____						

\* include an attachment with a narrative explanation describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

7a. The proposed grazing treatments should have a positive influence on the productivity and profitability of existing public and private land use in the area. Grazing the WMA in exchange for rest on adjacent public and private lands illustrates the compatibility of livestock production and wildlife-recreation based economies.

**HUMAN ENVIRONMENT**

8. <u>RISK/HEALTH HAZARDS</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT <sup>o</sup>				Can Impact Be Mitigated <sup>o</sup>	Comment Index
	Unknown <sup>o</sup>	None	Minor <sup>o</sup>	Potentially Significant		
a. Risk of an explosion or release of hazardous substances (including, but not limited to oil, pesticides, chemicals, or radiation) in the event of an accident or other forms of disruption?		X				
b. Affect an existing emergency response or emergency evacuation plan or create a need for a new plan?		X				
c. Creation of any human health hazard or potential hazard?		X				
d. ♦For P-R/D-J, will any chemical toxicants be used? (Also see 8a)			X		YES	8d
e. Other: _____						

\* include an attachment with a narrative explanation describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Risk/Health Hazards (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

8d. Chemical herbicides are used within the grazing system to control noxious weeds. Herbicide application is controlled by a separate regional weed control EA and all applicable state and federal laws.

**HUMAN ENVIRONMENT**

9. <u>COMMUNITY IMPACT</u>  Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT <sup>o</sup>				Can Impact Be Mitigated <sup>o</sup>	Comment Index
	Unknown <sup>o</sup>	None	Minor <sup>o</sup>	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of the location, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population of an area?		X				
b. Alteration of the social structure of a community?		X				
c. Alteration of the level or distribution of employment or community or personal income?		X				
d. Changes in industrial or commercial activity?		X				
e. Increased traffic hazards or effects on existing transportation facilities or patterns of movement of people and goods?		X				
f. Other: _____						

\* include an attachment with a narrative explanation describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluation.  
Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Community Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

**HUMAN ENVIRONMENT**

10. <u>PUBLIC SERVICES/TAXES/UTILITIES</u>  Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT <sup>o</sup>				Can Impact Be Mitigated <sup>o</sup>	Comment Index
	Unknown <sup>o</sup>	None	Minor <sup>o</sup>	Potentially Significant		
a. Will the proposed action have an effect upon or result in a need for new or altered governmental services in any of the following areas: fire or police protection, schools, parks/recreational facilities, roads or other public maintenance, water supply, sewer or septic systems, solid waste disposal, health, or other governmental services? If any, specify:		X				
b. Will the proposed action have an effect upon the local or state tax base and revenues?			X		YES	10b
c. Will the proposed action result in a need for new facilities or substantial alterations of any of the following utilities: electric power, natural gas, other fuel supply or distribution systems, or communications?		X				
d. Will the proposed action result in increased used of any energy source?		X				
▶ e. Define projected revenue sources			X		YES	10d
▶ f. Define projected maintenance costs.			X		YES	10f
g. Other: _____						

\* include an attachment with a narrative explanation describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluation.  
Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Public Services/Taxes/Utilities (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

10b. The proposed action should have a positive impact on state and local tax revenues by maintaining a viable livestock industry and wildlife-recreation based economy in the area.

10d. Projected revenue sources include fair market compensation, currently \$12.30/AUM for the Main and California/Beaver Creek leases, up to a combined 4410 AUM. Indirect compensation includes increased landowner tolerance for wintering wildlife, maintenance of winter range/open space through a viable livestock operation and associated hunting opportunity on adjacent private lands.

10f. Maintenance costs for the grazing system are split between WMA boundary fence, pasture division fence interior to the WMA and special projects like cattle guards. Boundary fence against other ownership would be the department's responsibility with or without a grazing program and constitute the majority of fence on the project. All costs vary between years and with need as some fence wears past its useful life. Currently, the department is investing substantial amounts (35 to 75 thousand dollars annually) in fence maintenance and replacement. This follows several years of minimal maintenance (\$5000) conducted internally by department personnel. Cooperation with federal agencies for materials has lowered the departments burden in recent years as the BLM and U.S. Forest Service have provided up to 6 miles of fence material and the department has furnished labor through a contract with Montana State Prison.

**HUMAN ENVIRONMENT**

▶ 11. <u>AESTHETICS/RECREATION</u>	IMPACT <sup>o</sup>				Can Impact Be Mitigated <sup>o</sup>	Comment Index
	Unknown <sup>o</sup>	None	Minor <sup>o</sup>	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Alteration of any scenic vista or creation of an aesthetically offensive site or effect that is open to public view?		X				
b. Alteration of the aesthetic character of a community or neighborhood?		X				
▶ c. Alteration of the quality or quantity of recreational/tourism opportunities and settings? (Attach Tourism Report)			X		YES	11c
d. ♦♦For P-R/D-J, will any designated or proposed wild or scenic rivers, trails or wilderness areas be impacted? (Also see 11a, 11c)		X				
e. Other: _____						

\* include an attachment with a narrative explanation describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluation.

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Aesthetics/Recreation (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

11c. The proposed action will have a positive effect on the quality and quantity of recreation in the area. Vegetation on the WMA and private lands are enhanced through grazing treatments for the benefit of wildlife and the recreating public.

**HUMAN ENVIRONMENT**

12. <u>CULTURAL/HISTORICAL RESOURCES</u>	IMPACT <sup>o</sup>				Can Impact Be Mitigated <sup>o</sup>	Comment Index
	Unknown <sup>o</sup>	None	Minor <sup>o</sup>	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
▶ a. Destruction or alteration of any site, structure or object of prehistoric historic, or paleontological importance?		X				
b. Physical change that would affect unique cultural values?		X				
c. Effects on existing religious or sacred uses of a site or area?		X				
d. ♦♦For P-R/D-J, will the project affect historic or cultural resources? Attach SHPO letter of clearance. (Also see 12.a)		X				
e. Other: _____						

\* include an attachment with a narrative explanation describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluation.

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Cultural/Historical Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

**HUMAN ENVIRONMENT**

13. SUMMARY EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE	IMPACT <sup>o</sup>				Can Impact Be Mitigated <sup>o</sup>	Comment Index
	Unknown <sup>o</sup>	None	Minor <sup>o</sup>	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action, considered as a whole:						
a. Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (A project or program may result in impacts on two or more separate resources which create a significant effect when considered together or in total.)		X				
b. Involve potential risks or adverse effects which are uncertain but extremely hazardous if they were to occur?		X				
c. Potentially conflict with the substantive requirements of any local, state, or federal law, regulation, standard or formal plan?		X				
d. Establish a precedent or likelihood that future actions with significant environmental impacts will be proposed?		X				
e. Generate substantial debate or controversy about the nature of the impacts that would be created?		X				
f. ♦For P-R/D-J, is the project expected to have organized opposition or generate substantial public controversy? (Also see 13e)		X				
g. ♦♦For P-R/D-J, list any federal or state permits required.		N/A				

\* include an attachment with a narrative explanation describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

2. Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the no action alternative) to the proposed action whenever alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider and a discussion of how the alternatives would be implemented:

No Action Alternative. This alternative would mean no livestock would be allowed to utilize the WMA. This would eliminate the use exchange agreement thereby lowering tolerance for wintering wildlife on adjacent private lands. Game damage complaints would likely increase and the carrying capacity of the winter range would likely be lowered. U.S. Forest Service winter range pastures would not receive current levels of rest thereby diminishing winter range values and AUMs could be reduced as a result. This would translate to increased hunting opportunity in the short term but lower elk populations and decreased hunting opportunity in the long term.

3. Evaluation and listing of mitigation, stipulation, or other control measures enforceable by the agency or another government agency:

None

4. Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this EA, is an EIS required? YES / NO If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this proposed action:

No, an EA is the appropriate level of analysis. The above EA finds impacts that are minor and mitigated through the application of systematic grazing treatments. Overall, the proposed action is intended to be positive for wildlife.

5. Describe the level of public involvement for this project if any and, given the complexity and the seriousness of the environmental issues associated with the proposed action, is the level of public involvement appropriate under the circumstances?

The WMA has been the subject of numerous tours for many private individuals and agency personnel as an example of a wildlife summer range that is grazed successfully by livestock without degradation to the wildlife habitat. As the other grazing programs were implemented, they have been included in the tour demonstrations. The WH/ Coordinated Program includes the wildlife winter range portion of the WMA offering the opportunity to view the results of two types of grazing systems which benefit wildlife habitat, recreation and the local economy.

6. Duration of comment period if any:

None

7. Name, title, address and phone number of the Person(s) Responsible for Preparing the EA:

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#### LITERATURE CITED

Hormay, A.L. 1970. Principles of rest-rotation grazing and multiple land use management. U.S. Forest Service Training Text No.4. (2200), U.S. Government Printing Office, 1970 0-385-0056. 25 pp.