

Summary of USFS Guidelines for Grazing Allotments And Rescission Schedule

The following briefly describes how national forests in California address water quality on grazed allotments:

USFS Guidance

National Direction

NEPA: Environmental Assessment, Environmental Impact Statement, or Categorical Exclusion

- Analysis for NEPA compliance specific to an allotment or group of allotments that is to be completed in compliance with all applicable laws, regulation and policies listed on the Rescissions Act Schedule¹ (see Table 1).

Rangeland Management Manual (FSM 2200)

- Sets objectives for protecting water resources and improving or maintaining environmental quality.
- Sets policy to implement and monitor measures to restore and enhance water quality.

Regional Direction

Range Management Handbook (FSH 2209.13)

- Sets procedures and standards for rangeland management decision-making, administering permits, and handling non-compliance issues.

Multi-regional Direction

Northwest Forest Plan Aquatic Conservation Strategy (“ACS”) and Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment Aquatic Management Strategy (AMS)

- Directives to “maintain and restore” water quality with all actions.

Individual National Forest Direction

Land and Resource Management Plans (“LRMPs”)

- Set Standards & Guidelines for Range Management.

¹ The Rescissions Act of 1995 (PL 104-19), Section 504 addresses allotment analysis, grazing permit issuance, and compliance with NEPA and other environmental laws. Term grazing permits which expire or are waived before the NEPA analysis and decision are completed must be issued on the same terms and conditions and for the full term of the waived or expired permits. Upon completion of the scheduled NEPA analysis and decision for the allotment, the terms and conditions of existing grazing permits may be modified or re-issued, if necessary to conform to such NEPA analysis.

The 2004 Interior Appropriations Act (PL 108-108), Section 325 provides that the USFS has the discretion to periodically update the allotment NEPA schedules and reprioritize which allotments will be done based on emerging environmental issues and available funding for allotment NEPA analyses.

- Set Goals & Objectives for water quality consistent with ACS or AMS.
- Allotment analyses must be in accordance with water quality goals and the Forest LRMP.
- Not all allotments have NEPA compliance completed (see Table 1).

USFS Water Quality Management Handbook (WQM):

Chapter 2. Best Management Practice, Range Management

Grazing Allotment Decision

USFS generally¹ makes project-level decisions to authorize grazing on one or more allotments based upon NEPA environmental analysis. The major focus of the NEPA-based decision document is on maintaining or achieving the desired land condition. The subsequent accompanying allotment management plan (AMP), grazing permit, and annual operating instructions (AOIs) all serve to implement the project-level decision to authorize grazing.

Subsequent modifications to grazing or related management activities may be made as long as those changes are within the scope of the NEPA-based project-level decision. An allotment may be renewed, but not significantly modified unless NEPA has been completed for that modification. An allotment may be “vacant” with no current permit, or “active” with a current permit to graze held by a permittee. An active allotment may be in “non-use” in any given year, in which case it will be either not grazed, or grazed with reduced numbers of animals.

Allotment Management Plan (AMP)

- An AMP contains the pertinent livestock management direction from the project-level NEPA-based decision and may refine that direction as deemed necessary to implement the decision.
- An AMP should be developed concurrently with the completion of the site-specific analysis and project-level decision. It becomes a part of the grazing permit.
- If an AMP currently exists, it should be revised to reflect new information from the most recent project-level decision. The grazing permit is then modified to include the revised AMP.

Grazing Permit

- A permit is issued to a permittee to authorize grazing of owned livestock on designated lands administered by the Forest.
- It includes a description of the range including a map of the grazing allotment(s) and specifies the number, kind, and class of livestock, period of use, and grazing allotment on which the livestock are permitted to graze. At most, a term grazing permit is for a renewable, 10-year term.
- It contains terms and conditions which outline permittee responsibilities for construction and maintenance of structural improvements or for range rehabilitation, as well as standards, guidelines, and other provisions that specify

requirements related to the management of vegetation, soil, water, and other resources affected by livestock grazing that may be found in the LRMP, AMP, AOIs, etc.

Annual Operating Instructions (AOIs)

- a. AOIs address any resource protection issues that may have arisen since the issuance of a permit and communicate these instructions to the permittee.
- b. They are only issued if allotment NEPA is completed and must be in accordance with the allotment NEPA, the Forest LRMP, and the ACS/AMS.
- c. They specify those annual actions that are needed to implement the allotment NEPA-based decision. Being within the scope of the allotment NEPA decision, they are not required to undergo any additional site-specific environmental analysis.
- d. They set forth the following:
 - i. The maximum permissible grazing use authorized on the allotment for the current grazing season and should specify numbers and timing and duration of use.
 - ii. The planned sequence of grazing on the allotment, or the management prescriptions and monitoring that will be used to make changes.
 - iii. Structural and non-structural improvements to be constructed, reconstructed, or maintained and who is responsible for these activities.
 - iv. Allowable use or other standards to be applied and followed by the permittee to properly manage livestock.
 - v. Monitoring for the current season that may include, among other things, documentation demonstrating compliance with the terms and conditions in the grazing permit, AMP), and AOI. Where adaptive management prescriptions are being followed, this section of the AOI must provide details about those monitoring items and decision points needed to determine when a change is necessary and to guide the direction that those changes take.

Other Permit Administration

- e. Over time, administrative changes in grazing permit terms and conditions may be needed, based on changes in laws, regulations, policies, ESA consultation requirements, and LRMPs, as well as court decisions. In addition, monitoring results may point out the need for adjustments to achieve the established objectives. Such changes can include annual adjustments of numbers and dates for grazing, changes in grazing system or livestock numbers based on evaluation of monitoring results.
- f. If changes are based on current or previous-year monitoring results, the permittee may be required to: i) defer placing livestock on the allotment at the beginning of the use season or ii) remove them early if available forage has been consumed.
- g. Grazing permits may be totally or partially suspended or cancelled due to non-compliance with permit terms and conditions). Suspensions are the temporary withholding of some or all of a permit holder's grazing privileges. Cancellations are the permanent invalidation of some or all of a permit holder's grazing privileges. Suspensions and cancellations can apply to permitted livestock numbers, seasons of use, or grazing allotments.

- h. When allotment NEPA is not completed, mitigation of resource impairment issues is handled on a case by case basis, in accordance with the ACS/AMS and LRMP.

Compliance and effectiveness monitoring:

1. Allotment inspections: performed periodically to ensure stocking rates, season of use, allotment boundaries, and range improvement terms are being complied with.
2. Utilization monitoring: performed at a minimum at the end of the grazing season to ensure compliance with forage utilization limits and other requirements included in the terms and conditions of the permit.
3. Riparian (Greenline) monitoring: performed once every five years on selected sites and allotments in key areas to track the ecological trend of riparian vegetation and streambank stability. The long term goal Regionally is to identify additional sites as funding and resources allow based on identified needs.
4. Assessments of rangeland condition and trend: performed once every five years on selected allotments in key areas to track the ecological trend of upland and meadow vegetation. Currently there are over 900 permanent monitoring locations established on 17 National Forests in California.
5. BMP Evaluation Program: performed annually at one or more, randomly selected site on each forest to assess implementation and effectiveness of BMPs identified in the USFS WQMP. This monitoring assesses whether site-specific BMPs have been developed and implemented, as well as vegetation and riparian condition.

Examples of practices used to comply with the ACS/AMS, Forest LRMP and Allotment NEPA

1. Management of livestock numbers and season of use.
2. Use of drift fencing, fence enclosures, salt blocks, water developments, and herding to manage livestock distribution and forage utilization.
3. Prohibition on the use of salt blocks closer than ¼ mile from water.
4. Locating new and relocating existing animal handling structures (i.e. corrals) outside of riparian reserves if existing facilities are posing a risk to riparian objectives.
5. Use of spring developments and pipelines to reduce impacts to sensitive and impaired wetlands.
6. Other forest activities also address vegetation and watershed management (prescribed fire, fuels management, noxious weed control, habitat management, timber harvest, road management), with planning that includes the analysis of the cumulative effects of multiple activities.

USFS Waiver

Figure 1. USFS Region 5 Grazing Allotments in California (Active and Vacant)

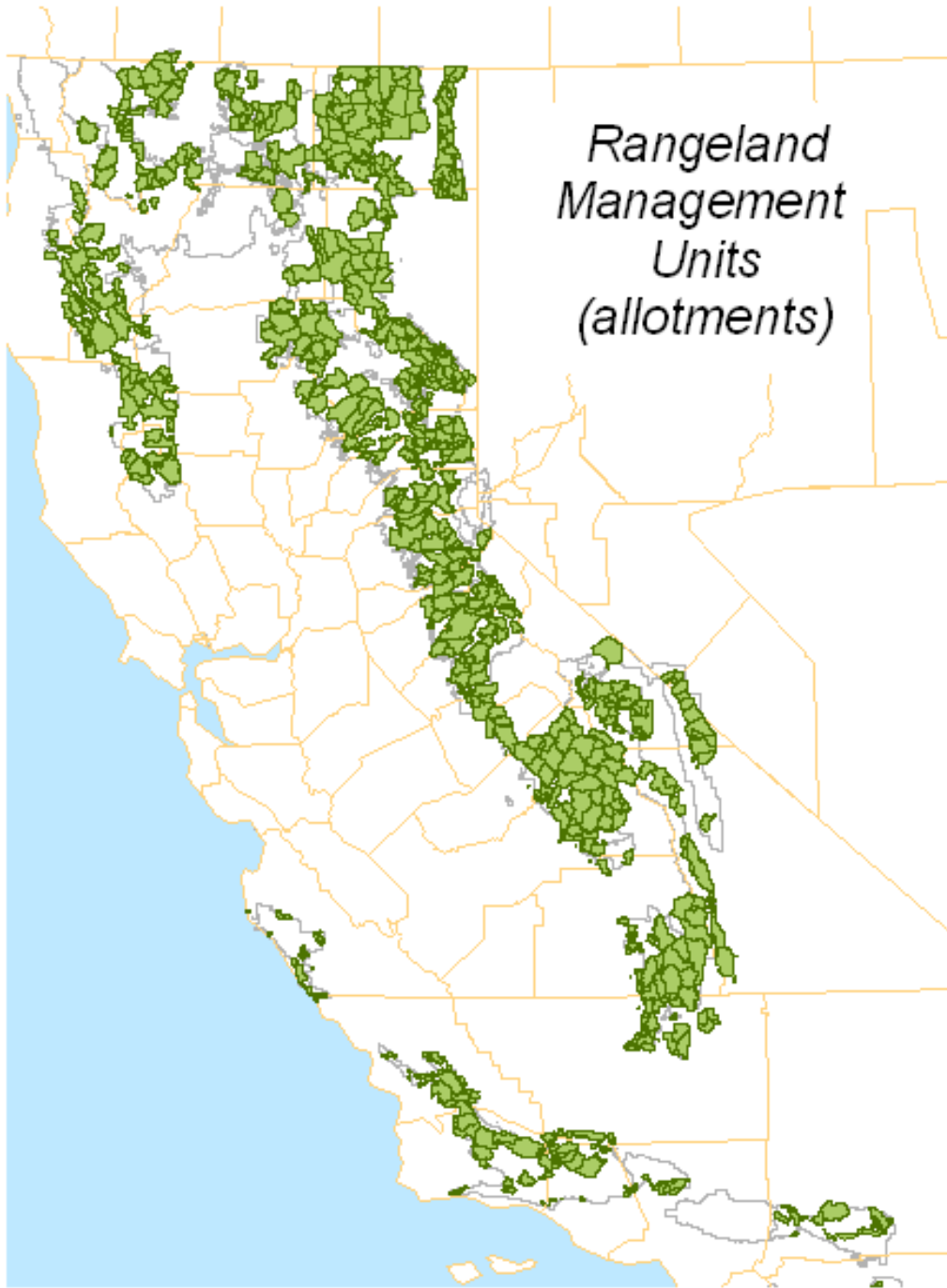


Table 1. Rescission Schedule for completion of NEPA documentation on grazing allotments (allotments without current NEPA completed).

Pacific Southwest Region (Region 5)

NATIONAL FOREST	RANGER DISTRICT #	ALLOTMENT (RMU ID)	ALLOTMENT NAME (RMU NAME)	PLANNING PERIOD
CLEVELAND	53	25312	PINE HILLS	2013
	53	25327	SILL HILL	2013
	54	25414	EL CAPITAN	2013
	54	25432	MORENA	2013
ELDORADO	53	003OP	OLD PINO	2013
	56	006MO	NEILSEN	2013
	51	001BR	BEAR RIVER	2016
	53	003NP	NEVADA POINT	2016
INYO	51	00107	DEXTER CREEK S&G	2013
	51	00109	JUNE LAKE S&G	2013
	51	00112	MONO MILLS S&G	2013
	51	00120	MONO SAND FLAT C&H	2013
	54	00406	MONACHE C&H	2013
	54	00407	MULKEY C&H	2013
	54	00409	TEMPLETON	2013
	54	00412	WHITNEY	2013
	53	00303	BUTTERMILK C&H	2016
	53	00316	COYOTE C&H	2016
	53	00314	MCMURRY MEADOWS C&H	2016
	54	00408	OLANCHA C&H	2016
	53	00308	CROOKED CREEK C&H	2019
	53	00319	SHANNON CANYON C&H	2019
	53	00320	TABOOSE CREEK C&H	2019
	53	00325	WILFRED CREEK C&H	2019
	54	00401	ALABAMA HILLS	2019
	54	00402	ASH CREEK	2019
	54	00403	GEORGE CREEK	2019
	54	00405	MAZOURKA C&H	2019
54	00410	TUNAWEE	2019	
KLAMATH NATIONAL FOREST & GRASSLAND	51	00001	ASH CREEK	2013
	51	00004	EAST BEAVER	2013
	51	00005	HORN BROOK	2013
	55	00033	GRANITE FOX	2013
	55	00047	SOUTH FORK SALOON	2013
	57	00052	BRAY	2013
	57	00056	HAIGHT MOUNTAIN	2013
	57	00057	HORSETHIEF	2013
	57	00060	MOUNT HEBRON	2013
	51	00070	JOHNNY/SEIAD	2016
	51	00009	LAKE MOUNTAIN	2016
	55	00040	MIDDLE TOMPKINS	2016
	51	00011	SOUTH KLAMATH	2019
	54	00015	BIG FLAT	2019
	55	00041	MILL CREEK	2019

NATIONAL FOREST	RANGER DISTRICT #	ALLOTMENT (RMU ID)	ALLOTMENT NAME (RMU NAME)	PLANNING PERIOD
LASSEN	51	00012	CAMPBELL MOUNTAIN	2013
	51	00026	FEATHER RIVER	2013
	51	00036	MARTIN	2013
	53	00021	COYOTE SPRINGS	2013
	53	00024	DIXIE VALLEY	2013
	58	00020	COYOTE	2013
	58	00030	HARVEY VALLEY	2013
	58	00032	HOMER LAKE	2013
	51	00001	ANTELOPE	2016
	51	00018	CONE WARD SOUTH	2016
	53	00044	NORTH HOT SPRINGS	2016
	53	00059	WILLOW SPRINGS	2016
	51	00041	MURPHY HILL	2019
	LOS PADRES	51	1INDI	INDIANS
51		1UPMI	UPPER MILPITAS	2013
53		3BRMO	BRANCH MOUNTAIN	2013
53		3CHIM	CHIMINEAS	2013
53		3FICA	FISH CANYON	2013
53		3GIFF	GIFFORD	2013
53		3PICA	PINE CANYON	2013
53		3PORT	PORTER	2013
53		3ROCK	ROCKFRONT	2013
53		3SOFO	SOUTH FORK LA BREA	2013
53		3STCA	STEPHENS CANYON	2013
54		4HACA	HAPPY CANYON	2013
55		5PIRU	PIRU (55)	2013
55		5POHO	POT HOLES	2013
55		5TEME	TEMESCAL	2013
57		7ALIS	ALISO	2013
57		7BRCA	BRANCH CANYON	2013
57		7OZEN	OZENA	2013
57		7SABA	SANTA BARBARA-POTREROS	2013
57		7TINT	TINTA	2013
51		1ANAS	ANASTASIA	2016
51		1MICA	MILLER CANYON	2016
53		3AVEN	AVENALES	2016
53		3DOUG	DOUGLAS	2016
53		3HUAS	HUASNA	2016
53		3PILE	PILETAS	2016
53		3QUBE	QUEEN BEE	2016
53		3SALI	SALINAS	2016
53		3WICR	WILSON CREEK	2016
55		5COYO	COYOTE	2016
55		5RIWI	RICE-WILLS FB	2016
54		4CACH	CACHUMA	2019
55	5POSE	POTRERO SECO	2019	

NATIONAL FOREST	RANGER DISTRICT #	ALLOTMENT (RMU ID)	ALLOTMENT NAME (RMU NAME)	PLANNING PERIOD
LOS PADRES	57	7APAC	APACHE	2019
	57	7BACA	BALLINGER CANYON	2019
	57	7BURG	BURGES	2019
	57	7CACA	CASTLE CANYON	2019
	57	7COSP	COLD SPRING	2019
	57	7COWH	COWHEAD	2019
	57	7DRCA	DRY CANYON	2019
	57	7PIRU	PIRU (57)	2019
	57	7SAEM	SAN EMIGDIO	2019
	57	7SANT	SANTIAGO	2019
	57	7WEGI	WEGIS	2019
MENDOCINO	53	00006	PETERSON	2013
	53	00008	WEST LOG SPRINGS	2013
	53	00016	DOE PEAK	2016
	53	00025	OPEN RIDGE	2016
	53	00018	ALDER SPRINGS	2019
	53	00003	RILEY RIDGE	2019
	56	00004	ANTHONY	2019
MODOC	54	A5401	ASH VALLEY	2013
	54	A5422	DERNER	2013
	54	A5408	EGG LAKE	2013
	54	A5417	STONE COAL	2013
	55	A5508	AVANZINO	2013
	55	A5501	BEAVER DAM	2013
	55	A5504	EAST GRIZZLIE	2013
	55	A5506	HAPPY CAMP	2013
	56	A5606	GLASS MOUNTAIN	2013
	56	A5609	MT. DOME	2013
	56	A5610	MUD LAKE	2013
	56	A5613	TIMBER MOUNTAIN	2013
	56	A5614	TUCKER	2013
	54	A5402	BALLARD RIDGE	2016
	54	A5424	CANYON CREEK	2016
	54	A5404	CENTERVILLE	2016
	54	A5411	REFUGE 1-N	2016
	54	A5413	ROUND MOUNTAIN	2016
	54	A5419	WHITEHORSE	2016
	55	A5512	SURVEYOR'S VALLEY	2016
55	A5513	TIMBERED MOUNTAIN	2016	
SIX RIVERS	53	05301	BUG CREEK	2013
	53	05302	GROUSE MOUNTAIN	2013
	53	05305	MILL CREEK	2013
	53	05306	TRINITY SUMMIT	2013
	54	05401	BLUFORD CREEK	2016
	54	05407	NORRIS	2016
	54	05410	VAN DUZEN	2016

NATIONAL FOREST	RANGER DISTRICT #	ALLOTMENT (RMU ID)	ALLOTMENT NAME (RMU NAME)	PLANNING PERIOD
PLUMAS	01	05-01	ANTELOPE	2013
	01	01-11	GRIZZLY VALLEY	2013
	01	01-12	GRIZZLY VALLEY COMMUNITY	2013
	01	05-09	HALL	2013
	01	01-15	HUMBUG	2013
	01	05-20	RAMELLI	2013
	02	02-01	ANTELOPE LAKE	2013
	02	02-04	LONE ROCK	2013
	01	01-13	HORTON CANYON EAST	2016
	01	01-14	HORTON CANYON SOUTH	2016
	02	06-01	BEAR CREEK	2016
	02	04-01	BUCKS CREEK	2016
	03	03-01	FALL RIVER	2016
	01	01-02	BACHER	2019
	01	01-05	BULSON	2019
	01	05-03	CLARKS CREEK	2019
	01	01-10	DOTTA NECK	2019
	01	05-31	DOYLE	2019
	01	05-13	FERRIS FIELDS	2019
	01	05-07	FITCH CANYON	2019
	01	05-08	FRENCHMAN LAKE	2019
	01	05-30	MCKESICK PEAK	2019
	01	05-17	MERCER	2019
	01	01-22	MT. HASKELL	2019
01	01-19	RAMELLI RANCH	2019	
01	01-20	THOMPSON VALLEY	2019	
SAN BERNARDINO	55	12551	GARNER	2013
	55	12557	ROUSE	2013
	55	12553	WELLMAN	2013
	52	12537	RATTLESNAKE	2016
SEQUOIA	51	A1001	BUCK ROCK	2013
	51	A1006	DELILAH	2013
	51	A1005	SAMPSON	2013
	51	A1010	WHITE DEER	2013
	52	A3023	CAPINERO	2013
	52	A2021	LITTLE KERN	2013
	52	A3026	SUMMIT	2013
	54	A6050	A. BROWN	2013
	54	A6049	BARTOLAS	2013
	54	A4043	BRECKENRIDGE	2013
	54	A6051	CANNELL	2013
	54	A4036	COW FLAT	2013
	54	A6059	HEADQUARTERS	2013
	54	A4061	HOBBO RIDGE	2013
	54	A4041	PECHACHO	2013
54	A6060	POTATO PATCH	2013	

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SEQUOIA	54	A6062	TAYLOR/LONG	2013
	51	A1002	HOIST	2016
	51	A1004	HORSE CORRAL	2016
	52	A3025	DRY MEADOW	2016
	52	A3024	DUNLAP	2016
	52	A3029	WHITE RIVER	2016
	54	A4005	BOREL PASTURE	2016
	54	A4037	DELONEGHA	2016
	54	A6055	FISH CREEK	2016
	54	A6058	JACKS CREEK	2016
	54	A6068	LAKE ISABELLA	2016
	54	A4040	OAK FLAT	2016
	54	A6057	SCODIE	2016
	54	A6054	SMITH CANYON	2016
	54	A4044	SYCAMORE	2016
	54	A4042	WAGY FLAT	2016
	51	A1003	CONVERSE	2019
	54	A6052	BEACH	2019
	54	A6056	BURNT COUNTRY	2019
	54	A6053	CHICO	2019
SHASTA-TRINITY	59	00593	EDDY CREEK	2013
	59	00595	MUMBO	2013
	59	00598	WEST PARKS CREEK	2013
	61	00612	BARTLE	2013
	61	00611	MCCLOUD/HAMBONE	2013
	61	00613	TOAD MTN	2013
	52	00531	ELTAPOM	2016
	52	00521	HAYFORK DIVIDE	2016
	54	00546	PRICE CK.	2016
	54	00542	SAILOR BAR	2016
	56	00562	BATTLE CANYON	2016
SIERRA	52	05320	HOT SPRINGS	2013
	52	05315	KAISER	2013
	52	05316	MOUNT TOM	2013
	51	05131	IRON CREEK	2016
	51	05528	MUGLER	2016
	52	05319	CASSIDY	2016
	52	05318	MONO	2016
	51	05529	SOUTH JACKASS	2019
	52	05317	BLASINGAME	2019
	52	05410	COLLINS	2019
	52	05408	DINKEY	2019
	52	05407	PATTERSON MOUNTAIN	2019
	52	05406	RODGERS RIDGE	2019

NATIONAL FOREST	RANGER DISTRICT #	ALLOTMENT (RMU ID)	ALLOTMENT NAME (RMU NAME)	PLANNING PERIOD	
STANISLAUS	51	R5101	DEER CREEK	2013	
	51	R5103	HUNTER CREEK	2013	
	51	R5104	JUPITER	2013	
	52	R5201	BEAR VALLEY	2013	
	52	R5204	MATTLEY	2013	
	52	R5207	PRATHER	2013	
	52	R5210	STANISLAUS MEADOW	2013	
	53	R5301	BELL MEADOW-BEAR LAKE	2013	
	53	R5304	HERRING CREEK	2013	
	53	R5306	LONG VALLEY - EAGLE MEADOW	2013	
	52	R5202	HIGHLAND LAKES	2016	
	52	R5206	PACIFIC VALLEY	2016	
	53	R5302	CLARK FORK	2016	
	53	R5303	COOPER	2016	
	53	R5305	KENNEDY LAKE	2016	
	53	R5211	WHEATS	2016	
	54	R5410	ROSASCO	2016	
	51	R5102	DUCKWALL	2019	
	51	R5106	RUSHING	2019	
	52	R5203	LOWER BLUE	2019	
	52	R5205	MOKELUMNE	2019	
	52	R5208	SHOTGUN	2019	
	52	R5209	SOUTHGROVE-SMOOTHWIRE	2019	
	54	R5401	BONDS	2019	
	54	R5402	BOWER CAVE	2019	
	54	R5403	BULL CREEK	2019	
	TAHOE	53	00007	CANYON CREEK	2013
		53	00026	MIDDLE YUBA	2013
54		00027	MOSQUITO	2013	
56		00005	BICKFORD	2013	
56		00021	INDEPENDENCE	2013	
56		00045	WEBBER LAKE	2013	
53		00001	AMERICAN HILL	2016	
53		00020	HOWARD CREEK	2016	
53		00037	SADDLEBACK	2016	
53		00046	WILLOW CREEK	2016	
56		00016	HARDING POINT	2016	
53		00031	OREGON CREEK	2019	
56		00018	HAYPRESS	2019	
56		00030	NICHOLS CANYON	2019	
LAKE TAHOE BASIN	53	LTB02	COLD CREEK	2013	
	53	LTB03	TROUT CREEK	2013	
	53	LTB04	MEISS	2013	

Intermountain Region (Region 4)

NATIONAL FOREST	RANGER DISTRICT #	ALLOTMENT (RMU ID)	ALLOTMENT NAME (RMU NAME)	PLANNING PERIOD
HUMBOLDT-TOIYABE	02	20200	BUCKEYE C&H	2016
	02	20229	BURCHAM S&G	2016
	02	20230	CAMERON CANYON S&G	2016
	02	20231	COTTONWOOD S&G	2016
	02	20233	DUNDERBERG S&G	2016
	02	20202	EAGLE CREEK C&H	2016
	02	20203	FRYINGPAN-MURPHY CR. C&H	2016
	02	20234	GREEN CREEK S&G	2016
	02	20204	HUNEWILL C&H	2016
	02	20261	LARKIN LAKE C&H	2013
	02	20208	LITTLE WALKER C&H	2016
	02	20210	MASONIC C&H	2013
	02	20211	MILL CANYON S&G	2016
	02	20212	MOUNT JACKSON C&H	2016
	02	20235	NORTH SWAUGER S&G	2016
	02	20237	POISON CREEK S&G	2016
	02	20238	RICKEY S&G	2016
	02	20219	SARDINE C&H	2016
	02	20241	SILVER CREEK S&G	2016
	02	20242	SOUTH SWAUGER S&G	2016
	02	20245	SUMMERS MEADOW S&G	2016
	02	20246	TAMARACK S&G	2016
	02	20223	VIRGINIA CREEK C&H	2016
	01	10100	BAGLEY VALLEY C&H	2013
	01	10109	DUMONT C&H	2013
	01	10105	COTTONWOOD C&H	2013
	01	10103	BULL CANYON C&H	2013
	01	10120	WOLF CREEK C&H	2013
	01	10151	SILVER KING C&H	2013
	01	10125	LEVIATHAN S&G	2013
	01	10117	MURRAY CANYON C&H	2013
	01	10102	BARBER C&H	2013
	01	10118	NOBLE CANYON C&H	2016
	01	10108	DRESSLER/PLEASANT VALLEY C&H	2016
	01	10106	CHARITY C&H	2016
	01	10116	FREDRICKSBURG C&H	2016
01	10115	MILLBERRY C&H	2016	
01	10113	HOPE VALLEY C&H	2016	
01	10101	BAMERT C&H	2016	
01	10110	ELLEDGE C&H	2016	
01	10122	CAMPBELL-LOOPE S&G	2016	

Pacific Northwest Region (Region 6)

NATIONAL FOREST	RANGER DISTRICT #	ALLOTMENT (RMU ID)	ALLOTMENT NAME (RMU NAME)	PLANNING PERIOD
ROGUE-SISKIYOU	20	00R01	BEAVER SILVER	2013
	20	00R03	CARBERRY CREEK	2013
	20	00R04	ELLIOTT CREEK	2013
	20	00R06	UPPER BIG APPLGATE	2013

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