

From: [LaMarr, Sarah](#)
To: [Torquemada, Richard](#)
Cc: [Shoemaker, Rebecca](#)
Subject: Re: livestock question (easy i think)
Date: Wednesday, February 13, 2013 2:16:32 PM

Like Missoula, the Butte and Lewistown Field Offices haven't had any known conflicts between cattle and grizzlies in the PCA. There are 23 cattle allotments (no sheep) with 1,942 aums on BLM lands in the PCA. Under the livestock grazing habitat standard of the draft conservation strategy, it states "grazing permits will include clauses allowing for the cancellation, suspension, or temporary cessation of activities if needed to resolve a grizzly conflict situation." This gives the BLM a way to address conflicts. We realize that this is reactionary instead of trying to prevent the conflict in the first place but it seems that it would be difficult to set numbers and timing to prevent conflicts with bears when no conflicts have been identified in the past.

In addition, as Rich pointed out, carcasses will be removed to prevent interactions between livestock and bears.

It seems that saying "stocking rates and timing will be set to minimize conflicts" could present some problems for the BLM.

What do you folks think about this wording?? This is what we already do.....

"Stocking rates and timing will be assessed during livestock grazing permit renewals to determine the effects of grazing to grizzly bear and bear habitats. Reductions in livestock numbers, and/or changes in timing or season of use could occur to reduce conflicts with bears or to improve bear habitat."

On Wed, Feb 13, 2013 at 1:11 PM, Torquemada, Richard <rtorquem@blm.gov> wrote:
Rebecca -

Without me digging through the CS version I have, how many cattle allotments does the BLM have within the PCA? I don't believe we have any in Missoula BLM, so would it be a moot point? Also, we have had no known/documented cattle depredation by grizzlies at least going back to pre-BO days, and sheep are the real problem (which I think we addressed?).

So, I don't feel a standard that says we would set/change stocking/timing to minimize conflicts is good management as a generic statement. We have a couple of stips now on all livestock leases north of I-90, dealing with notification of FWP and APHIS of any conflict, to determine the appropriate action; and for proper disposal of livestock carcasses to avoid attractants.

Left a message w/ Sarah and sending this response to her as well to see if this is the same for Butte and Lewistown.

RT

On Thu, Feb 7, 2013 at 12:24 PM, Shoemaker, Rebecca <rebecca.shoemaker@cfc.umt.edu> wrote:

Hi Rich,

Could I add the following language to the livestock standards for the PCA?

“stocking rates and timing will be set to minimize conflicts”

I don't think that's committing you to much more than what you'd do anyway...is it? It's something that was brought up in the agency review.

that's it. thanks!

rebecca

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