

Yomba Shoshone Indian Reservation Livestock Grazing Management Plan

Purpose and Need:

The purpose of this document is to provide a 5-year (2010-2015) conservation plan for the proper management of rangeland resources on the Yomba Shoshone Indian Reservation (Reservation) in accordance with Federal and Tribal laws and policies. This plan will be reviewed and updated annually by the Yomba Shoshone Tribe (Tribe), Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), and Yomba Cattleman's Association (Association) and is designed to provide basic guidance and bench-marks for maintaining and/or improving the condition and productivity of the rangeland. The overall purpose of this conservation plan is to provide for:

- Healthier rangelands
 - Improved water, nutrient, and fire cycles
 - Improved plant community biodiversity and production
 - Healthier native vegetation and vegetative cover
 - Adequate forage reserves to ensure rangeland health during drought periods
- Healthier livestock with healthier calf crops
- Improved wildlife habitat and watershed conditions; protection of critical cultural and natural resources
- Sustainable management and operation by the Yomba Shoshone Tribe (Tribe) and Association that meet tribal land management objectives while providing a profitable operation for the individual Tribal rancher.

The major challenge facing the Tribe and being successful in carrying out an effective grazing management program, is improving rangeland utilization patterns throughout the Tribe's authorized grazing units. The Tribe maintains and manages rangelands within the exterior boundaries of the Reservation as well as grazing permits on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) administered federal lands. Guidelines within this grazing management plan are intended to assist the Tribe in improving the administration and coordination of their grazing management activities.

The second challenge is improving herd health and production. Herd management strategies need to be developed and implemented that increase the calving and weaning percentages. This also includes developing strategies to maximize the number and weaning weight of calves that are available for the individual Tribal rancher to market.

In 2008, the Natural Resources Conservation Service conducted a comprehensive vegetation inventory on the Reservation in cooperation with BIA and the Tribe. The purpose of this inventory was to collect present-day information concerning vegetation composition, production levels and plant community health for all lands suitable for grazing management activities. The final result of this inventory will be a formal grazing management plan, developed in consultation with the Tribe, Yomba Cattleman's Association, BLM, and USFS that incorporates required forage allocations, stocking rates

and seasons of use as prescribed by the Bureau of Indian Affairs in accordance with provisions contained in Chapter 25, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 166.305.

Land Use Area:

The Yomba Shoshone Indian Reservation consists of 4,718 acres located in central Nevada in the upper Reese River Valley. The reservation sits on rugged high desert terrain typical of central Nevada and is located between the Toiyabe and Shoshone mountain ranges. The Reservation was established by Presidential Proclamation on October 27, 1938 under the authority of Section 5 of the Indian Reorganization Act. The Reservation consists of land that was purchased by the United States from private ranchers in several transactions during 1937-1941. The Doyle Ranch was about 2,160 acres, the Bowler Ranch 1,560 acres, and the Derringer and Worthington Ranches were about 480 acres each.

The NRCS Soil and Range Inventory of 2008 delineated approximately 4620 grazeable acres within the exterior boundaries of the Reservation to be included in this management plan. The Tribe currently holds grazing permits on the Humbolt-Toiyabe National Forest (FS) totaling 182,587 acres. In addition, the Tribe currently holds grazing permits on public domain lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) 3,632 AUM's annually.

Forage Utilization Standards and Guidelines

Forage utilization levels have been established using the principles of sound range management and in accordance with 25CFR 166.305. The Tribe will allocate AUM's to the Association or tribal livestock permittees in accordance with Tribal policies and laws. Forage will be utilized in a manner that is consistent with good range management practices and the protection of plant community health, function and biodiversity. In addition:

- The permittee (s) is/are responsible for tracking and complying with forage use levels as prescribed by the Tribe, BIA, BLM, and USFS respectively. Additionally, the permittee is responsible for adhering to all permit regulations and specifications for all tribally and federally issued grazing permits.
- The permittee is responsible for following the conditions specified in the Tribal Grazing Ordinance.

Goals and Objectives:

The long-term management goals for forage resources include:

- 1) Improving the long-term health and composition of plant communities by at least 5% within the permitting period thereby benefiting livestock and wildlife grazing.
- 2) Over a 10 year period, maintain or reduce non-native species composition to less than 30% within range unit plant associations

- 3) Reduce the size and frequency of "sacrifice areas" within the unit through the installation and use of additional conservation measures, including but not limited to: watering facilities, fences, salting/mineral block sites; etc.
- 4) Implement an effective stocking rate and grazing rotation system based upon the vegetation inventory data collected in 2006 and 2007.
- 5) Through the improvement of plant community health, species biodiversity, and composition; improve the condition of breeding cows, increase calf production and weaning weights.

The management objectives of the Yomba Shoshone Tribe for of these rangelands include:

- 1) The development and maintenance of range improvements that aid in the proper management of vegetation resources (e.g. water developments, fences, corrals, etc.)
- 2) Improve range condition by improving pasture rotation and utilization.
- 3) Through the improvement of vegetation condition and health, increase stocking rates within a 5 year time frame.
- 4) Increase the annual calf crop of producers operating within this unit.
- 5) Improve the condition of breeding cows by increasing weaning weights.
- 6) Improve forage conditions on Tribal lands for livestock and wildlife thereby increasing income potentials for the Tribal ranchers from rangeland resources.
- 7) Implement and update this management plan annually as conditions change. Grazing permittees will participate, when requested, in the long-term planning and implementation efforts with the Tribe, BLM, USFS, and BIA natural resource managers.

Physical and Biological Resources Profile

The grazing areas utilized by the Tribal ranchers include:

1. BLM permit consisting of three (3) allotments

<u>Allotment</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Grazing Period</u>		<u>AUM's</u>
		<u>Begin</u>	<u>End</u>	
➤ Stewart Springs	155 head	3/01	4/30	311
	155 head	11/16	2/28	535
➤ Ione	345 head	3/01	5/31	1044
	345 head	11/16	2/28	1191
➤ Clear Creek	155 head	5/01	5/31	158
	155 head	9/01	11/16	392

2. USFS permit consisting of two (2) allotments

<u>Allotment</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Grazing Period</u>	
		<u>Begin</u>	<u>End</u>
➤ Paradise	150 head	6/01	9/30
➤ Ione & Illinois	300 head	6/01	9/30

Note: these allotments are grazed on alternate years during the summer grazing season.

3. Reservation

- Ranchers bring cattle back to the Reservation from May-June and October-November 15th. This allows for the cattle to be sorted, processed, and otherwise managed.
- Primary soil types: Refer to NRCS soil maps
- Primary plant species: Refer to 2008 NRCS Soil & Range Inventory
- Animals of Conservation Priority (i.e., ESA listed or State of Nevada listed) within the range units include:
 - Columbia spotted frog (*Rana luteiventris*) (species of concern)
 - Greater Sage- grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*) (candidate species)
 - Pygmy rabbit (*Brachylagus idahoensis*) (species of concern)
- Primary noxious weeds and/or invasive plants found in the unit are as follows:
 - Cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*)
 - Halogeton (*Halogenton glomeratus*)
 - Hoary cress (aka short white top) (*Cardaria draba*)
 - Perennial pepper weed (aka tall white top) (*Lepidium latifolium*)
 - Musk and bull thistle (*Carduus nutans* and *Cirsium vulgare*)
 - Russian knapweed (*Rhaponticum repens*)
 - Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*)
 - Wild iris (due to overgrazing of pastures) (*Iris spp.*)
- Water and spring developments:
 - Reservation
 1. Reese River
 2. Clear Creek
 3. Stewart Creek
 4. Water development on individual assignments

General Range Management

The following practices will assist permittees in the proper use of the vegetation resources within their range unit(s):

- Salt and Supplement Placement: Place salt or supplement at least 300 yards from water sources, roads, trails and recreation sites. Place salt in areas lightly grazed

to encourage an even distribution of utilization on the range. Salt will be removed from areas where maximum allowable use levels have been reached or at the end of the grazing season. Salt fed in loose form shall be contained in an approved receptacle that will keep it from spilling onto the ground.

- Riding and Herding: To improve livestock distribution and reduce resource damage we encourage the riders to breakup livestock concentrations and move them away from water or sensitive areas to areas with lighter use.
- Disposal of Dead Livestock: Dead livestock removal shall be the responsibility of the permittee. Carcasses shall be moved to a location greater than 300 feet of any water source, out of view of roads or trails, and away from areas of significant tribal use.
- Noxious Weeds: Assistance is needed in identifying new infestations of noxious weeds. Pay particular attention to areas where stock are concentrated such as loading/unloading areas, water developments, and salting areas. All non-pelletized hay, straw or mulch possessed, stored, or transported onto the Reservation, in individual bales or containers, should be tagged or marked as noxious weed free, or should have the original and current evidence of noxious weed free certification documentation present. All markings must meet the State and/or county standards for certification as noxious weed free. It is your responsibility to ensure that your livestock do not contribute to the transport of noxious weeds onto the allotment.

Range Trend and Utilization

There is limited historical use and condition/trend data for the Reservation. Utilization studies on the BLM and USFS allotments are maintained by the respective agencies. Scientifically accepted (BIA, NRCS, Society for Range Management) range monitoring protocols and procedures will be utilized to monitor range condition and trends through this plan. Transects monitoring utilization and condition/trend will be established and reviewed no less than once every 3 years.

The permittee may be asked to assist with annual vegetation monitoring and reporting activities. The simplest form of monitoring that could be established would include biological ground cover transects with established photo points. This method would allow for the annual monitoring of ground cover with documented photos to support increase/decrease preferred range production. This simple form of monitoring could be easily completed by the permittee with limited training by agency personnel, and annual monitoring documentation could be reviewed.

Grazing Potential With Proper Management

Native plant communities within the respective grazing units will respond positively to good range and livestock management practices. Timing of grazing is important in these arid ecosystems. Plants must be given time to recover and re-grow, after grazing, in order for hedged plants to retain their vigor. Additional fencing is not necessary if

livestock distribution can be improved with water development and salt placement or herding. Proper livestock rotation and pasture utilization throughout the entire pasture will lead to improved vegetation conditions and biodiversity within native plant communities.

Drought conditions have had an impact on the vitality of some of the grazing areas. This has been especially true on the units that are grazed in the winter. BLM noted that excess numbers of rabbits have had an impact on the white sage areas.

The protection and enhancement of riparian areas is also of great importance. This leads to the issue of providing livestock watering developments in areas located away from the creek bottoms and thereby allowing cattle to water without remaining in the riparian areas for an extended amount of time.

Vegetation Monitoring

Utilization measurements will be taken (see the *Nevada Rangeland Monitoring Handbook or Ranchers' Monitoring Guide* <http://www.ag.unr.edu/nsrm>) in designated key areas of the various pastures. Doing so will track when livestock need to be moved to ensure standards are met. The Tribe, BLM, USFS, and BIA will work with permittees to ensure that they understand the monitoring methods and will assist in determining key areas. You are encouraged to send your monitoring data to the Western Nevada Agency, Attn: Rangeland Management Specialist, to be kept in your permanent file.

Range Improvements

- All improvements will be maintained prior to livestock entering the allotment.
- If the allotment is in non-use status, the permittee(s) are still responsible for improvement maintenance.
- Improvements used in common will be maintained before any operator is scheduled to turn on.
- Please work with the Range Manager to develop a replacement schedule for large projects and troughs.
- Additional range improvements may be placed within the grazing unit to improve livestock movement and forage utilization. Funding for these projects may be available through the USDA-NRCS Environmental Quality Improvement Program (EQIP). Approvals for new improvements are required by the Tribe and the BIA prior to construction. Coordination between the NRCS, BIA, and Yomba Shoshone Tribe will be required on any EQIP funded programs in accordance with the National Memorandum of Understanding between BIA, NRCS, and FSA dated December 6, 2006.
- Temporary or removable range improvements must be approved by the Tribe prior to installation. Attachment #24 from the BIA handbook may be used to authorize the use and removal of these temporary improvements.

Conservation Management Plans:

The BIA, in cooperation with the Tribe and the livestock producers, will develop a conservation management plan for each grazing unit for the 10 year grazing period.

These plans will conform to standards within the *Draft BIA National Range and Agriculture Procedural Handbook* and will comply with the provisions of the American Indian Agriculture Resources Management Act of 1993 (AIARMA).

Yomba Shoshone Tribe Grazing Ordinance:

All livestock management operations will be conducted in manner consistent with Tribal Grazing Ordinance. This Ordinance provides management goals and objectives, policy and management direction, range unit designations, grazing authorizations, class of livestock designations, dispute resolution procedures, disease management requirements, trespass/unauthorized use provisions and enforcement guidelines, and tribal law enforcement provisions for the sound management of the forage resources within designated range units.

Only livestock and livestock producers authorized through a grazing permit will be allowed to utilize forage resources under the terms and conditions of the Tribal Grazing Permit. Unauthorized uses will be investigated and dealt with in accordance with the Tribal law and order codes, provisions of the Tribal Grazing Ordinance, or through Federal trespass regulations contained within 25 CFR 166.800.

Compliance Investigations:

The Yomba Shoshone Tribe will have primary responsibility for annual compliance investigations on permit provisions. The BIA, in conjunction with the Tribe will conduct periodic investigations to ensure stocking rates, seasons of use, class of livestock authorized, etc. are in compliance with the terms of the existing grazing permits. The Range Manager may enter the range units at any reasonable time to conduct these inspections in order to protect the interests of the Tribe and ensure that the permittee is in compliance with the operating requirements of the permit (25CFR 166.701). Non-compliance issues will be documented and the permittee contacted in order to immediately correct identified deficiencies. Unresolved non-compliance issues will be dealt with in accordance with provisions contained with Tribal Grazing Ordinance or through provisions contained within 25CFR 166, Sub-Part H- Permit Violations.

Trespass:

Trespass is defined as any unauthorized occupancy, use of, or action on Indian agricultural lands. Trespass violations will be investigated to determine if they are accidental, willful, and/or incidental. Trespass violations will be dealt with promptly in accordance with Tribal trespass provisions contained in the Tribal Grazing Ordinance or through Federal Trespass Regulations contained within 25 CFR 166, Subpart I-Trespass.

Issues dealing with trespass on BLM or USFS allotments will be coordinated with the respective agency.

Animal Disease Control:

In accordance with applicable laws, permittees must vaccinate livestock, treat livestock exposed to or infected with contagious or infectious diseases, and restrict the movement

of exposed or infected livestock. Permittees are also required to participate in all tribal, state or federal animal disease control programs.

Class of Livestock Authorization:

All livestock authorized to graze upon or trail over restricted Indian land must be marked with a brand or mark issued and recorded by an appropriate state agency or Tribe, and filed with the Superintendent. The Yomba Shoshone Tribal Council shall designate the appropriate class of livestock to be grazed within each management unit. Cow/ calf pairs (CC) and Horses (H) shall be designated for each grazing unit and on each grazing permit. Grazing units that have mixed livestock classes shall be managed in such a way as not to exceed the allowable AUM's or authorized season of use for each unit.

Cultural Resources:

The impact of grazing on archeological sites is expected to be minimal. However, any land use or property development must consider the desires and values of the tribal people and the potential impacts on their cultural and heritage. The BIA, like all federal agencies, is required to follow all federal legislation, regulations, Executive Orders and guidelines regarding the protection and preservation of natural and cultural resources.

Future restoration or conservation management efforts, infrastructure development or placement will be conducted in accordance with provisions contained within the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and Yomba Shoshone Tribal Law and policies. Cultural resources include everything from sites, structures and objects, to plants and animals that are traditional foods and medicines to Native people, as well as properties of special significance known as Traditional Cultural Properties (TCP's). The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended, coupled with its promulgating regulation 36CFR800, is the nucleus of historic preservation law and governs the majority of the proposed actions that would occur. Section 106 of the NHPA requires federal agencies to identify and evaluate the significance of sites for all undertakings and to avoid or mitigate in some way the effects of the undertaking on the resource. This conservation plan presumes that for each future conservation management action proposed there would be a complete CR compliance review at the applicable level prior to implementation of any proposed undertaking.

Two laws which come into play in proposed management actions are: The Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) and Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA). ARPA of 1979, as amended, defines and protects archaeological resources through inventory and public education and establishes a permit system for authorized investigation of resources as well as a penalty system for violation of the permit system. The latter is the mechanism by which the federal agencies protect sites from vandalism. This law has been, and would continue to be, instrumental in protecting the resources within the Yomba Shoshone Indian Reservation.

It is the intent of this plan is to actively consult with the Yomba Shoshone Tribe for all developmental actions within these range units. Two Executive Orders EO 13007 (Sacred Sites) and EO 13175 (Tribal Consultation and Coordination) as well as NHPA, NEPA and ARPA, have specific references for coordination and consultation requirements.

Wildland Fire:

Future wildland fires may require pasture deferment and native plant seeding activities to protect the biological integrity of these lands. Post fire rehabilitation evaluation and emergency stabilization and rehabilitation efforts will be conducted immediately following wildland fire events that impact areas greater than 500 acres in size. The BIA will work cooperatively with the Yomba Shoshone Tribe in the development of an Emergency Stabilization or Rehabilitation plan to address fire effects and restoration needs utilizing the provisions of the Department of the Interior Burned Area Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation (BAER) program.

BASIC ELEMENTS OF LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT

Livestock Management Practices:

The livestock operations are primarily a cow-calf enterprise consisting of approximately 500 cattle, with mother cows capable of producing a calf each year. Steer calves are held until the fall when they are shipped to market. Heifer calves are retained at a 30% rate in order to replace old, sick, or undesirable mother cows, and the rest are shipped to market. Herd bulls are held in a separate pasture until breeding season; then are turned in with the main cow herd for breeding.

Livestock will be vaccinated annually according to livestock industry standards i.e. Blackleg, Brucellosis, etc. Bulls will be tested annually for Trichomoniasis, and when deemed to be tested positive for such disease, such bulls will be culled according to industry standards.

Dehorning and Branding

Horn removal usually begins during the fall round up and continues into spring. Branding of all stock will be done in accordance with Tribal Grazing Ordinance and state brand laws and will comply with BIA grazing permit stipulations.

Culling

The type of animal targeted for culling are the old or dry cows (8-10 years), steers, seven year old bulls, animals in poor health (bad eyes, teeth, feet, etc.), and wild cattle on the range. During drought the permittee is strongly encouraged to cull more animals than usual due to lack of forage and water, and to prevent the loss of income.

Breeding/Calving Season

An ideal herd should have a 1:25 bull to cow ratio to ensure the potential for each cow to reproduce. Breeding season, for this permittee, begins in May and bulls are pulled generally by October or November.

Improving Calf Production

Analyze opportunities to improve livestock management with the goal of increasing calving percentages based on exposure of females to bulls. Cow-calf production is an outcome of the congregation of cattle during the breeding season and maximization of exposure of cows to bulls during the breeding season. The changing of calving dates is optimized by increasing grasses for calves and putting bulls out one month later. An example would be to manage calving seasons and corresponding breeding seasons to maximize forage conditions. Another management option would be to have concentrate bulls with cows for 45 days in the pastures from June 1 through July 15 to calve in April which yield higher calf crop and increases profitability.

Veterinarian Services

Cows and calves are vaccinated during the spring round-up and during branding. All permittees shall abide by the health regulations stated in the Grazing Ordinance.

Workshops and Training

The BIA will continue to foster partnerships with other agencies, Universities and subject matter experts to bring workshops and field days on drought, juniper control, livestock health, marketing, and other topics to tribal members.

FUTURE RECOMMENDATIONS

Rangeland Health Improvements

- Communicate with BLM to address the cold season issues and explore possibility of modifying grazing rotations such as making accommodations for cold weather issues.
- Communicate the trespass issues with sheep to BLM and to make sure BLM enforces trespass to keep sheep out of cattle areas. YCA would like to specifically address this year in the next 10-year grazing permit.
- Communicate with the FS on the importance of maintaining boundary fence lines in order to comply with grazing permit and avoid trespass.
- The importance of monitoring and controlling invasive plants (e.g. noxious weeds) has been recognized by the Tribe and YCA. In 2010, the Tribe will be developing a Tribal Weed Management Plan, increase monitoring and inventory activities, and coordinating with the YCA on monitoring of grazing lands.
- Explore alternatives in management and rotations to reduce the impact of sacrifice areas.

- For the 2012 BLM grazing permit renewal, request an increase in AUMs (if available) to increase stocking rates and resolve the conflict between the permit renewal and range review periods.
- Submit permit requests or applications to Forest Service and BLM when new allotments, specifically Tierney Creek, Cloverdale, and Indian Valley, are available. The additional grazing allotments will increase the protection of the river corridor by relieving the pressure on the adjacent pastures.
- Explore livestock water source developments that have minimal impacts on the riparian areas of the Upper Reese River to eliminate water hauling. This will require working with the federal agencies and the State Water Engineer to develop wells.
 - Investigate opportunities to fund developments from Natural Resources Conservation Service Farm Bill Programs. Also look at ways to fund the cost share or matching requirements to qualify for Farm Bill Programs.
- Analyze grazing management to protect riparian areas (e.g. short term, controlled higher intensity grazing instead of long term, and uncontrolled grazing) and seek opportunities to obtain funding for fencing, gates, livestock water development, and other grazing management structures.

RESOLUTION NO. YT-08-2010

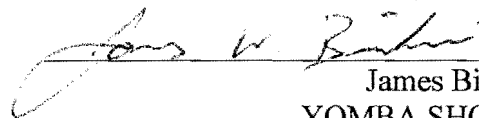
RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BODY
OF THE
YOMBA SHOSHONE TRIBE

- WHEREAS: The Yomba Shoshone Tribe is organized under the provisions of the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934 (Stat. 984) as amended, to exercise certain rights of home rule and be responsible for the general welfare of its membership; and
- WHEREAS: The Yomba Shoshone Tribe has the responsibility to manage the natural resources of the Yomba Indian Reservation and will continue to become more actively involved in the management of their range resources, on and off reservation lands, to achieve tribal objectives of balancing the needs of the Tribal Members with enhancing the productivity and sustainability of the range and water resources with multiple-use conservation practices; and
- WHEREAS: The "Yomba Shoshone Tribe Grazing Management Plan" outlines best management practices and recommendations for the short and long-term management of range resources and livestock health for the overall protection of the natural resources belonging or afforded to the Yomba Shoshone Tribe and enhancing the ranching livelihood of the Tribal Membership.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT: That, the Yomba Shoshone Tribe, adopts the attached "Yomba Shoshone Tribe Grazing Management Plan" which shall undergo review and/or revision every five (5) years, as appropriate.

CERTIFICATION

It is hereby certified that the Yomba Shoshone Tribal Council is the governing body of the Yomba Shoshone Tribe of Nevada and is composed of six members of whom 6, constituting a quorum were present at a duly held meeting on the 14th day of May 2010 and that the foregoing resolution was adopted by affirmative voter of 5 for; 0 against; 0 abstentions, Chairman presiding and not voting.



James Birchim, Chairman
YOMBA SHOSHONE TRIBE