

A GRAZING MANAGEMENT SCHEME FOR WET MOUNTAIN MEADOW TYPES <sup>1/</sup>

Wet meadow type ranges like bunchgrass type ranges are selectively grazed by species and areas. Under continuous seasonal grazing this results in the destruction of the better forage species. A satisfactory grazing management scheme for meadow types, as for bunchgrass types, must provide for resting of the range in order to effect recovery of vigor of grazed plants and to permit establishment of reproduction. These measures are provided in the following grazing management scheme:

A. Three-pasture Grazing System for Meadow Types

Table I. Treatment of one pasture for three years

Year :	Treatment			
	No. :	Schedule		Purpose
1st	A :	Heavy <sup>2/</sup>	Rest :	Forage use and restoration of plant vigor
2nd	B :	Rest	Heavy :	Seed formation, trampling, and forage use
3rd	C :	Rest		Seedling establishment, restoration of plant vigor, build-up of litter and soil fertility
	:	:	:	:

← Season 4 months →

<sup>2/</sup> Definitions: Heavy use = 66% of entire forage crop  
 Rest = no use

Aver. seasonal forage use in three pastures { Total forage = 300%  
 { Total forage used = 132%  
 $\frac{132}{300} = 44\%$  aver. use of total available forage crop each year

<sup>1/</sup> This grazing management scheme was outlined in the office based on research experience in timber, sagebrush and meadow types in northeastern California. If it can be worked out without too much expense, testing of this scheme on an allotment basis would provide valuable information on the management of grazing on meadow types.

Table II. Rotation scheme for the three pastures during any one season

Pasture	Treatment
1	A
2	B
3	C

At the beginning of the grazing season place all livestock into the pasture receiving treatment A, then in mid-season shift all the animals into pasture 2.

Table III. Rotation scheme for the three pastures during three years

Year	Pasture		
	1	2	3
	Treatment		
1st	A	B	C
2nd	B	C	A
3rd	C	A	B

Less rest is provided for wet meadow types than bunchgrass types because the vegetation is better able to withstand grazing. Forty-four percent of the total available forage is removed each year compared with 33 percent for bunchgrass types.

In wet meadow species the grazed stubble remains green late in the season. Because of this the plants are able to manufacture food for maintenance. Under treatment A some restoration of plant vigor can be expected during the latter half of the grazing season in spite of heavy grazing during the first half. Further restoration of plant vigor may be expected during the rest period in the first half of the second season. In good seed years a good seed crop should be produced during the second season. Some of this seed will be trampled into the ground by the heavy grazing during the latter half of this season. Complete rest during the third year permits establishment of seedlings. The rotation is started over again with heavy grazing during the first half of the fourth year. Whereas heavy use in the fourth year may prove harmful to some seedlings, some will be benefitted by reduction of competition with older plants which will also be grazed.