

Tushar Grazing Allotments April 2007 – April 2009

Location: Fishlake National Forest, Utah

Background

Livestock grazing on public lands in the West has been commonplace since the Civil War era. The rules governing the practice have evolved over the years. In January 2007, the Fishlake National Forest issued a Record of Decision on an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for eight cattle allotments on the Tushar Range of the Beaver Ranger District. The decision was appealed by seven conservation organizations and referred to the Forest Service's Regional Standing Appeal Review Team for review.

However, before a decision was made on the appeal, the Beaver Ranger District and Appellants developed a Resolution Agreement. Appellants agreed to withdraw their appeal in exchange for a collaborative process with strong emphasis on monitoring and joint fact-finding. In May 2007, the Forest Service asked the U.S. Institute to provide support and guidance for the Tushar Allotments Collaboration. The Utah Farm Bureau and the Grand Canyon Trust offered to co-sponsor the Tushar Allotments Collaboration (for more information, see: <http://tushar.ecr.gov/>).



Highlights/Innovation

The use of a collaborative process to address appeals related to grazing allotments provided important opportunities for all parties to evaluate impacts of grazing on public lands.

Joint-fact finding and the review of monitoring data was extremely helpful in grounding all participants in resource management conditions, and in providing a foundation for a more effective, adaptive management approach.

The commitment of Forest Service staff – both leadership and scientific expertise – was a critical factor for project success.

Results and Accomplishments

Collaboration participants committed to jointly developing existing and desired conditions, and identifying management practices to be used in preparing the overall management plans for two of the eight cattle allotments: the Ten Mile Allotment and the Pinedale/Sulphurbeds C&H Allotment. They addressed natural resource conditions and livestock management on the two allotments, including but not limited to aspen and mountain mahogany recruitment on both allotments, and a plan for reestablishment of suitable habitat for beaver on at least one stream within the Pinedale/Sulphurbeds C&H Allotment. In April 2009, the Collaboration developed a set of consensus recommendations and issued a final report.

Credits

Co-Sponsors

Utah Farm Bureau
Grand Canyon Trust

Facilitator from National Roster of ECR Practitioners

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Facilitation

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