## Stocking Rate Calculations Worksheet

Stocking rate is the balance between forage supply and forage demand. For the Sage Ranch, we need to calculate both to determine if the current stocking rate is appropriate for the ranch. This worksheet (and the description of the ranch) will guide you through the process. We will start by calculating the forage supply for each pasture, then calculate the forage demand of the ranch, and finally, use those numbers to determine if our stocking rate is okay or if we need to change it (increase or decrease). Follow the step-by-step guide for the North-West Pasture and then do it for the Headquarters and Southside Pasture. To calculate forage demand you will need to know what types of animals are grazing, the size of the animals, and the grazing period (or number of days they spend on the ranch). The Sage Ranch has 180 cows that weigh on average 600 pounds. They graze EACH pasture for 1 months (or 30 days) .


Step 1: Calculate the total amount of forage (supply) in the pasture (multiple the size of pasture by how much forage it produces).
$\qquad$
$\qquad$ $\mathrm{bs} / \mathrm{ac}=$ $\qquad$ lbs of forage

Step 2: Calculate the forage supply for the livestock (multiple the forage calculated above by the proper use percentage).

$$
\overline{\text { available forage. }}
$$

bs of forage $X$ $\qquad$ \% = $\qquad$ lbs of

Step 3: Convert the forage supply to MUMs ( Remember that 1 HUM $=750 \mathrm{lbs}$ ).

- Size of pasture $\qquad$
$\qquad$ acres
- How much forage is produced:
- Proper use: $\mathrm{lbs} /$ acre of forage

Use the space below to calculate the available forage for the Headquarters Pasture


> - Size of pasture:
$\qquad$ acres

- How much forage is produced: lbs/acre of forage
- Proper use: $\qquad$
Use the space below to calculate the available forage for the Southside Pasture


## FORAGE DEMAND



Step 1: Calculate how much each cow will each per day (multiple the weight of one cow by the $\%$ of body weight it will eat in one day).
$\square \mathrm{lb} \operatorname{cow} \mathrm{X}$ $\qquad$ $\%=$ $\qquad$ lbs/day

Step 2: Calculate how many pounds of forage all the cows on the ranch will eat in one day (multiple the amount for one cow X number of cows on the ranch).
$\ldots \mathrm{lbs} /$ day X $\qquad$ cow $=$ $\qquad$ lbs
forage demand for one day.
Step 3: Calculate how much forage is needed for 90 days (multiple total forage needed by 90 days)

Ib s forage demand for one day $X \ldots$ days $=$
lbs total forage demand for the entire grazing period.

Step 4: Convert the forage demand to HUMs ( Remember that $1 \mathrm{AUM}=750 \mathrm{lbs}$ ).
_ lbs of forage demand / 750 lbs= $\qquad$ BUMs

| Total forage available for livestock grazing at the Sage Ranch (add together forage supply for each pasture) |
| :--- |
| Forage supply =__ | pounds, which is ___ MUMs

## Sage Ranch, Idaho



## North-West Pasture

Mix of bluebunch wheatgrass and crested wheatgrass. Produces about $1,100 \mathrm{lbs} /$ acre of forage with a proper use of 50\%

## Headquarters Pasture

Native bunchgrasses (60\%), Forbs (35\%), and native shrubs (5\%). Produces about 750 lbs /acre of forage with a proper use of $40 \%$

## Southside Pasture

Bunchgrasses (50\%), Forbs
(30\%), and native shrubs
(20\%). Produces about
$600 \mathrm{lbs} / \mathrm{acre}$ of forage with a proper use of $30 \%$

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## FORAGE DEMAND

To calculate forage demand, you will need the following numbers from the information provided:

- Number of cows at the ranch: _180
- Average weight of each cow: 600 lb
- \% of body weight eaten daily:__2.5\%
- Number of grazing days: ___90__days

Step 1: Calculate how much each cow will each per day (multiple the weight of one cow by the $\%$ of body weight it will eat in one day).
__600__lb cow X_2.5__\% = __15__|bs/day
Step 2: Calculate how many pounds of forage all the cows on the ranch will eat in one day (multiple the amount for one cow X number of cows on the ranch).
__15___|bs/day X_180_ cow = _ 2,700__ Ibs forage demand for one day.

Step 1: Calculate the total amount of forage (supply) in the pasture (multiple the size of pasture by how much forage it produces).
_280_ac X_1,100__ lbs/ac =_308,00___ Ibs of forage
Step 2: Calculate the forage supply for the livestock (multiple the forage calculated above by the proper use percentage).
__308,000__ Ibs of forage X _50_\% = __154,000 _ lbs of available forage.

Step 3: Convert the forage supply to AUMs ( Remember that 1 AUM $=750 \mathrm{lbs}$ ).
_154,000_ lbs of available forage $/ 750 \mathrm{lbs}=$ __205_AUMs

- Size of pasture: ___480___ acres
- How much forage is produced: $600 \quad \mathrm{lbs} / \mathrm{acre}$ of forage
- $\overline{\text { Proper use: __ } 30 \% ~}$

Use the space below to calculate the available forage for the Southside Pasture

## Answer:

480 acres $\times 600$ lbs $\times 30 \%=$
86,400 pounds OR 115 AUMs

240 acres $\times 750 \mathrm{lbs} \times 40 \%=$ 72,000 pounds OR 96 AUMs

- Size of pasture $\qquad$ 240 acres
- How much forage is produced: $750 \quad$ lbs/acre of forage
- Proper use: 40 \%

Use the space below to calculate the available forage for the Headquarters Pasture

## Answer:



Step 3: Calculate how much forage is needed for 90 days (multiple total forage needed by 90 days)
_ 2,700_ Ibs forage demand for one day X __90__days $=$ _243,000 lbs total forage demand for the entire grazing period.

Step 4: Convert the forage demand to AUMs ( Remember that 1 AUM $=750 \mathrm{lbs}$ ).
$243,000 \mathrm{lbs}$ of forage demand $/ 750 \mathrm{lbs}=\ldots 324 \_A U M s$ Ranch
Total forage demand at the Sage Ranch Forage demand $=\ldots \quad 243,000 \_$pounds, which is $\quad 324$


Total forage available for livestock grazing at the Sage Ranch (add together forage supply for each pasture) Forage supply =__312,400 pounds, which 416 AUMs

