

III. GRAZING

A. GOALS

Grazing lands that are of good quality, relatively accessible, and close to farming areas and markets, such as are found in the management unit, are limited in Alaska. The main goals are:

1. Utilize and manage the grazing resources that exist in Hatcher Pass on a sustained yield basis as a permanent source of supplementing forage to augment on-farm hayland and cropland for the dairy and red meat industry in a manner which is compatible with the management intent for each subunit.
2. Preserve the integrity of the rangeland ecosystem.
3. Minimize domestic livestock and wildlife conflicts.

B. MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The management strategy for grazing is to keep the options open for utilization of the medium and high value rangelands as identified in the 1985-86 Soil Conservation Service range study to the extent grazing use is compatible with the management intent for each subunit. The guidelines in this plan detail what will be included in grazing operations plans (GOP) for lease or permit units. The main features are the incorporation of Soil Conservation Service stocking density recommendations, the annual monitoring of forage utilization and range condition, the use of fencing for range management, and the utilization of range research to improve productivity and minimize wildlife conflicts.