

Possible/Suggested Responses to the 2013 Provincial Orals Question

What was asked (in bold)...

The livestock producers want to present a sustainable rangeland management plan for the use of these lands for cattle and sheep production. Your team has been hired as consultants to help them develop a management plan that, among other things, attempts to satisfy all of the stakeholders in the region while ensuring conservation of the local ecology. Your plan must include the following specific considerations:

1. A list of all the resources in the proposed rangeland area.

- Acceptable answers include: forage/ grass/ feed for animals, timber or wood, sand/ gravel/ rock, water, wildlife and/or fish, archaeological/ cultural/ historical resources, road for access by users, plants for wild harvest or traditional uses, area for recreation, area for education/ research, soil, others as appropriate
- Unacceptable answers include: oil, gas, salt, coal, limestone or other valuable rock, cropland, and infrastructure other than the road and gravel pit

2. Your plan for managing the rangeland, including the:

a. carrying capacity (AUM) and the maximum number of cow/calf pairs that can be kept on the area for the grazing season (4.5 months)

- Carrying Capacity: Any number in the range of 2245 to 2481 AUM
- Number of cow/calf pairs: Any number in the range of 384 to 424 pairs

b. management practices to be used,

- grazing system – mandatory
- livestock watering system – mandatory
- others that can be included:
 - exclusion of certain ecological communities, strategy salt/mineral/water trough placement, fencing sensitive areas, areas of risk or cultural areas, weed prevention/management practices, security, others as appropriate
- justification for answers

c. infrastructure (e.g., livestock water sources and fences) that needs to be developed in order to support the plan.

- Fence lines – mandatory
- Water supply – mandatory
- Others that can be included:
 - Texas gates or other special gates for security, corrals, washing station for equipment entering the property, hydro (power) for water well, sew access roads, others as appropriate
- Justification for answers

3. Your plan to address:

a. land use conflicts,

- Could Include: peer or public review of management plan, communication to prevent conflicts, terms of reference/charter for the community pasture, access for cultural, recreational and industrial users, others as appropriate

b. health of rangeland and riparian areas,

- Could Include: health or condition assessment, scientific and technical advice/input/support, peer or public review of management plan, exclude grazing and public from critical or damaged areas, balanced supply and demand of forage, manage livestock distribution, delay grazing during sensitive periods, provide rest from grazing during the growing season, others as appropriate

c. preservation of biodiversity,

- Could Include: health assessments and wildlife surveys, scientific and technical advice/input/support, peer or public review of management plan, exclude grazing and public from critical or damaged areas, balanced supply and demand of forage, manage livestock distribution, delay grazing during sensitive periods, provide rest from grazing during the growing season, others as appropriate

d. wildlife interaction,

- Could Include: peer or public review of management plan, scientific and technical advice/input/support, health assessments and wildlife surveys, exclude grazing and public from critical or damaged areas, balanced supply and demand of forage, manage livestock distribution, delay grazing during sensitive periods, provide rest from grazing during the growing season, guard animals (stock dogs, donkeys, llamas/alpacas), management of livestock carcasses, avoid calving during grazing period on pasture, discriminating removal of problematic individuals from predator population, compensate for lost or injured livestock or damage, others as appropriate

e. soil erosion

- Could Include: balanced supply and demand of forage, manage livestock distribution, delay grazing during sensitive periods, provide rest from grazing during the growing season, erosion blankets/mats or weed-free straw/hay layer, physical structures or vegetation plantings to control speed of water, encourage vegetation growth using sound grazing practices, designated trails for ATV and vehicular traffic, plant and/or keep shelterbelts, others as appropriate

4. Your strategy for the assessment and monitoring of the rangeland.

- Assessments: range condition assessment, range health assessment, wildlife surveys, breeding bird counts, riparian health assessment, aquatic health assessment, aquatic surveys, water quality monitoring, others as appropriate
- Explanations: provide detail or rationale for each assessment
- Timelines: discussion of timelines for assessment

5. Your proposal for how the livestock producers should involve the interest groups and range users who would be affected by the rangeland management plan.

- List of interest groups and range users can include: First Nations, Recreational users (e.g. bird watchers, hikers), local fishers, trappers and hunters, industrial interests, municipal, provincial and federal government, NGOs and ENGOs (non-government and environmental non-government organizations), others as appropriate
- Proposed actions can include : engage public prior to plan, post draft plan and allow time for comments, include stakeholder representatives on team, involve stakeholders periodic review, invite stakeholders to perform assessments, invite stakeholder to plan occasional public events, media publication of rangeland activities, others as appropriate
- Explanations: provide and explanation of the proposed actions