

## Agricultural Plan Components and Related Grassland Plan Guidance

Grassland Plan Guidance	Agricultural Plan Component
<p>Manage agricultural activities to minimize soil erosion and protect soil fertility.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a protocol to sample percent soil organic matter on a regular basis that would allow staff to estimate trends and set the standards and refine the ratings that will define desired conditions. Because different types of agricultural management affect soil organic matter differently, the protocol will include system-wide sampling on each of the four types of agricultural land use on OSMP (annual cropping systems in dry lands, irrigated annual cropping systems, irrigated pasture/hayfield, grazing of native grasslands).</li> </ul>
<p>Manage agricultural activities to minimize soil erosion and protect soil fertility.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop an integrated measure of range quality that is easily repeatable and documented to assess grazing land soil stability, hydrologic function, as well as structural and functional resilience to disturbance. Set standards/refine ratings that will define desired conditions.</li> </ul>
<p>Enhance prescribed grazing program through improvement to fencing, livestock watering facilities, stocking rate and seasonal use adjustment, and the establishment of one or more grass banks (areas under lease that are not grazed - leaving them available to shift grazing there if conditions elsewhere determine such a shift would be beneficial).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analysis to identify and prioritize improvements to:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Fencing alignments to allow for rotational, deferred (rest rotation) and seasonal stocking systems.</li> <li>○ Livestock watering facilities/water resources to improve OSMP's flexibility in distributing livestock.</li> <li>○ Current stocking rates, timing and duration.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Analysis to determine how best to maintain or improve native grasslands through the grazing program.</li> <li>• Analysis to determine best location(s) for grass bank(s).</li> </ul>

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<p>Construct, repair, enhance and maintain irrigation delivery system.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analysis to prioritize improvements and maintenance. (<i>A significant amount of the maintenance to the water delivery systems has been deferred. The Grassland Plan estimated the cost at \$2 million before the flood of 2013.</i>)</li> <li>• Locate existing measuring devices that can quantify use, and identify and prioritize locations to install additional measuring devices.</li> <li>• Develop protocol for monitoring water use at key locations.</li> <li>• Determine how to avoid or minimize impacts from the maintenance and operation of the irrigation water delivery system to other resources.</li> <li>• Develop a ditch burning schedule to be integrated with the prescribed fire program.</li> <li>• Inventory the locations of junction boxes, assess their condition, and estimate the scope and timing of repairs or replacement.</li> </ul>
<p>Identify and obtain water rights needed to support irrigated agriculture</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analyze irrigation water requirements and availability.</li> <li>• Refine irrigation water models.</li> <li>• Analyze site conditions and water availability to identify lands where irrigation is not cost effective. (<i>Water rights associated with these properties may be useful for supplementing irrigation on higher quality sites, establishing in-stream flow programs.</i>)</li> </ul>
<p>Promote conservation of the Agricultural Operations Target by increasing awareness of agricultural values and conservation issues.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foster connections between the community and agricultural operations.</li> <li>• Establish connections between producers and local consumers/community. Analyze opportunities and barriers.</li> <li>• Examine the feasibility of establishing a meat marketing cooperative, or meat CSA. Examine the opportunities for creating direct sales in the existing marketplaces (e.g. farm stands, farmer’s markets).</li> </ul>
<p>Evaluate the suitability of alternative agricultural</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase diversified organic vegetable farming on OSMP</li> </ul>

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practices for OSMP lands.	<p>land.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct a best opportunity analysis to evaluate potential locations for alternative agricultural practices on OSMP.</li> <li>• Evaluate the suitability/feasibility of other alternative agricultural uses.</li> <li>• Examine the feasibility of establishing a meat marketing cooperative, or meat CSA. Examine the opportunities for creating direct sales in the existing marketplaces (e.g. farm stands, farmers' markets).</li> </ul>
Establish ten Class B Bobolink Management Areas and refrain from mowing each area until after bobolink fledging (July 15) one year out of three.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Determine which 10 of the class B candidates (from the Grassland Plan) would be best added to the Class B Management areas. Analysis will use recently collected hayfield bird monitoring data.</li> </ul>
Manage Ute ladies'-tresses orchid habitat with compatible grazing, haying and irrigation practices.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reiterate the Ute ladies'-tresses orchid strategies identified in the Grassland Plan.</li> <li>• Determine where management could be improved or established on new properties.</li> </ul>
Treat non-native (invasive or unwanted) plant species in the Grassland Planning Area using appropriate integrated pest management techniques.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop an IPM policy specific to OSMP agricultural lands to manage invasive species/pests on open space agricultural lands in a way that minimizes environmental impacts, increases productivity and minimizes the use of pesticides and herbicides.</li> </ul>