

**DRAFT**  
Subject to Field Testing

December, 1997

**FORAGE SUITABILITY GROUP - WESTERN OREGON**  
**SOMEWHAT EXCESSIVELY DRAINED**

**Number:** G005XY002OR

**MLRA:** A5 Siskiyou - Trinity Area

**Climate:** Average annual precipitation - Ranges 18.0 to 40 inches. Precipitation is low in summer but evenly distributed throughout the rest of the year. Average annual temperature - 7 to 13 degrees Centigrade. Average freeze-free-period - 120 to 180 days for Jackson County, and 140 to 170 days for Josephine County.

**Vegetation:** The native vegetation is generally an overstory of trees and an understory comprised of shrubs and grasses. Generally the following tree species occur: ponderosa pine, Pacific madrone, Douglas fir, and California black oak. The following plant may be found: whiteleaf manzanita, tall Oregon grape, and both annual and perennial grasses. Once cultivated for pasture or hay, the areas that have low level or no management, tend to show an increase in brush species such as rose, blackberry, and Scotch broom. Also tansy ragwort and St. Johnswort may increase on these same sites.

**Soil Suitability Group Description:**

**Soil Description:** These somewhat excessively drained soils are deep to very deep. They are generally formed in mixed alluvium and colluvium; derived from granitic rock, pumice and volcanic ash. Textures are predominantly coarse sandy loams and loamy sands. Rooting depth is more than 60 inches. In summer irrigation is needed for maximum production of most crops.

**Landscape position:** Found on alluvial fans, stream terraces, and toe slopes.

**Depth to seasonal water table:** More than 6 feet.

**Available Water Holding Capacity:** 4 to 6 inches

**pH range:** 5.6 - 6.5

**Frequency and duration of flooding:** Flooding does not occur on these soils.

**Frost heave potential:** None

**Degree of stoniness:** None

Trafficability parameters: None

Typical soils: See attached List

Adapted Forage Species List:

Grazing Use:

Tall Fescue	Festuca arundinacea
Orchardgrass	Dactylis glomerata
Alfalfa	Medicago sativa
Red Clover	Trifolium pratense
White Clover	Trifolium repens
Birdsfoot Trefoil	Lotus corniculatus

Machine Harvest:

Tall Fescue	Festuca Arundinacea
Orchardgrass	Dactylis glomerate
Red Clover	Trifolium pratense
White Clover	Trifolium repens
Alfalfa	Medicago sativa

Suggested seeding season: Spring or Fall

Production Estimates: Based on Animal Unit Months, and high level of management

Grazing Use:

Not irrigated - 2            Irrigated - 13 to 16

Machine Harvest:

Irrigated - 5 tons/acre/year

Growth Curve: Pasture & Hayland - High Level Management

Growth Curve Number: 05LXHN

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	5	15	20	25	15	5	0	0	10	5	0

Growth Curve Number: 05LXHI

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	10	25	25	15	10	5	0	5	5	0

Growth Curve: Pasture & Hayland - Medium Level Management

Growth Curve Number: 05LXMN

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	10	15	25	25	15	0	0	0	5	5	0

Growth Curve Number: 05LXMI

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	5	15	15	20	15	10	0	5	10	5	0

Growth Curve: Pasture & Hayland - Low Level Management

Growth Curve Number: 05LXLN

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	10	15	25	30	10	0	0	0	5	5	0

Growth Curve Number: 05LXLI

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	5	15	20	30	10	10	0	0	5	5	0

Management:

Limitations: Grazing when the soil is wet results in compaction of the surface layer, poor tilth, and excessive runoff. Grazing and machine use should be restricted when soils are saturated. Steepness of slope decrease livestock movement and also affects machine movement.

Vegetation Management: Move livestock by plant height. Move livestock onto a field when forage is at least 6 to 8 inches tall. Discontinue grazing when the average height of the pasture is down to 2 to 4 inches. Avoid grazing when soil is wet and before pasture stand is fully established. Remaining stubble height is the most important of these two measurements.

Season of use: To avoid damage to plants and compaction of wet soils in the winter months caused by animals, any livestock on pasture should be removed when the soils are saturated, which generally occurs for long periods between November and March.

Facilitating Practices:

Cross-fencing: Cross fencing will help achieve higher forage yields and more uniform grazing use through more intensive management.

Water developments: Water is critical to livestock gains and general health. Generally, the best source of water in a field is a trough with water piped from a well or a spring. If piped water is not available, allow only restricted access to rivers or streams. If livestock only have a small access area for watering, the amount of manure and sediment in the water will be minimized. Additionally, bank erosion problems will be minimized, and streamside vegetation will be protected, which will keep the water cooler.

Minerals: Salt should be provided in the field for livestock. The salt block or box should be up off the ground and under cover so it will not dissolve by rain or dew. Salt should be placed away from watering areas to reduce livestock concentration areas and encourage more uniform grazing.

Clipping and dragging: Clip and drag pasture that have slopes less than 20% as often as required to encourage uniform grazing and pasture vigor. Clipping and dragging is best done after each grazing period and a minimum of twice annually.

Fertilization: Take soil samples to determine nutrient levels. An application of nitrogen in the spring is generally necessary for forage production, but tests have show that two application one in fall and one in winter will optimize forage production. Fertilization will increase both the production and the nutritive value of the forage for livestock, but too much fertilizer can build up toxic level of certain minerals (such as nitrate and potassium) in forages.

Weed control: Weed control can be accomplished mechanically, chemically, biologically, or with a combination of these methods. The recommendations for chemicals can change, so it is always best to contact the local county extension office.

Hayland management: For maximum production and quality of forage, the grass should be cut just as the head emerges. The stubble height should be no lower than 2 to 3 inches. The best time to apply manure is just after harvest, because the nutrients can reach the soil more efficiently if excess foliage isn't in the way.

Reseeding: Reseeding should always be the last option. It is expensive, and takes a pasture out of production for most of a year. Additionally, the need to reseed is usually a symptom of a need to change livestock management practices. If management problems, or a change in stocking rate or season of use are not addressed first, newly seeded pastures will soon look like the ones they replaced. Species selection is very important. If the species is not adapted to the site, the best seedbed preparation in the world will not make the seeding successful. Generally, a mix of one grass species and one legume is recommended. This cuts down on patch grazing of grasses caused by palpability differences. If multiple species are desired, make sure that the species of grass all have approximately the same growth schedule. It is very important to keep the animals off of a new seeding until well established. Otherwise, the new seedlings probably will be damaged or killed, and the time an money invested in the seeding will be wasted.