AS THE NATION'S PRINCIPAL CONSERVATION AGENCY, THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR HAS BASIC RESPONSIBILITIES FOR WATER, FISH, WILDLIFE, MINERAL, LAND, PARK AND RECREATIONAL RESOURCES. INDIAN AND TERRITORIAL AFFAIRS ARE OTHER MAJOR CONCERNS OF AMERICA'S 'DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES.'

THE DEPARTMENT WORKS TO ASSURE THE WISEST CHOICE IN MANAGING ALL OUR RESOURCES SO EACH WILL MAKE ITS FULL CONTRIBUTION TO A BETTER UNITED STATES —NOW AND IN THE FUTURE.

FOR MORE INFORMATION WRITE THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT:

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Winnemucca, Nevada 89445

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BATTLE MOUNTAIN DISTRICT
District Manager, BLM
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Battle Mountain, Nevada 89820

LAS VEGAS DISTRICT
District Manager, BLM
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ELKO DISTRICT
District Manager, BLM
2002 Idaho Street
Elko, Nevada 89801

NUMBER FOUR IN THE SERIES "PROGRESS THROUGH MANAGEMENT"
These plants grew within fifteen feet of each other. The one on the right came from an area under Rest Rotation Grazing. The plant on the left was just across the fence.
WHAT REST ROTATION IS

REST ROTATION GRASSING is a system of range management that uses livestock as a tool to ensure continuously productive rangelands. This system enhances wildlife habitat, helps stabilize watersheds, and upgrades the environmental quality and the aesthetic values of the land.

The key to rest rotation is the individual plant. Like most living things, a plant requires food, air, water, and sunshine. Rest rotation grazing provides the plant with these essential life needs. Plant vigor is restored, and ripening of seed and the establishment of new seedlings is assured. Most important, rest rotation grazing gives the plant a rest. With rest the plant has opportunity to make food, produce seed, and establish new plants.

Just as a farmer uses a plow to till his soil, a rest rotation grazing system uses livestock to plant the seeds of range plants. The seed is trampled into the ground to help assure germination and seedling growth. As well as planting seed, livestock prune plants while grazing and thus stimulate further plant growth.

Rangelands under a system of rest rotation grazing are noticeably healthier. The plants are larger and denser ground cover provides better soil protection. Rest rotation grazing ensures a sustained yield of natural resources, and land under rest rotation is better able to support a variety of multiple uses.

HOW REST ROTATION WORKS

FULL GRAZING: Provides maximum forage for livestock. Improves plant composition by using all forage plants.

GRAZING AFTER SEED RIPENS: Ungrazed plants gain vigor and produce seed more readily during the growing season. When the seed is ripe it is easily knocked to the ground, trampled in and planted by livestock. Grazing after seed ripens ensures establishment of new seedlings.

REST DURING ENTIRE GROWING SEASON: The rest pasture is the one grazed when seed was ripe the year before. Plants are protected from all livestock grazing during seedling establishment, and older plants gain vigor. This rest is essential for a healthy rangeland.