



2015 Challis Creek Allotment

USFWS Monitoring Report

Annual Monitoring Report Form for Actions covered under the Service's Biological Opinion for Grazing on Allotments Managed by the Salmon-Challis National Forest.

Please submit annually by **March 1** to the Supervisor of the Service's Eastern Idaho Field Office:

4425 Burley Dr., Suite A, Chubbuck, Idaho 83202
Telephone (208)237-6975.

Please include name and contact information in case additional information is needed.

- 1. What was the name of that stream in this allotment surveyed for impacted redds?**
See table below.
- 2. What was the date of the survey, and what were the water conditions?**
See table below.
- 3. Which stream segment was surveyed and how many redds and impacted redds were found? (Please give GPS start and stop points for segments)?**
See table below.
- 4. What was the date that livestock were removed from the pasture with surveyed stream segment?**

Cattle were removed from the Mosquito Flat Unit on August 27, 2015.

- 5. Did this number exceed the scale anticipated in section VII of the Biological Opinion?**

Cattle grazed the Mosquito Flat Unit from July 27 until August 27, 2015, which the 2015 annual operating instructions authorized cattle to be in this unit as late as September 1, 2015. However, cattle also grazed Mosquito Flat Unit from August 1 through September 1 in 2014, and the 2014 annual operating instructions also authorized cattle to be in this unit as late as September 1, 2014. Table 2 referenced by Section VII of the Biological Opinion anticipated grazing after August 1 only every other year. Because of the Lodgepole fire in 2013, the district ranger approved grazing in this unit for a second consecutive year, however, we did not detect any Bull Trout redds being trampled by cattle.

- 6. Were there any changes to the grazing management that differed from the proposed grazing management in the Forest's Biological Assessment? If yes, what were they?**

During the summer of 2013, the Lodgepole Fire burned through a significant portion of the Challis Creek Allotment which affected all four units within the allotment. The fire burned much of the Jeffs Flat North Unit and the Jeffs Flat South Unit, the northern half of Mosquito Flat Unit, and areas along the northern boundary of the Slab Barn Unit. Consequently, the Jeffs Flat North and Jeffs Flat South Units were rested from grazing in 2014 and 2015 with the result that the



authorized grazing rotation for both 2014 and 2015 was the Slab Barn Unit from June 15 to July 31 followed by the Mosquito Flat Unit from August 1 to September 1. The proposed grazing management in the Biological Opinion and Biological Assessment identifies a rest-rotation system in which the Mosquito Flat Unit is grazed after August 15 only every other year. Because of the Lodgepole fire in 2013, the district ranger approved grazing in this unit for a second consecutive year, however, we did not detect any Bull Trout redds being trampled by cattle.

Grazing for 2015 was reduced by decreasing authorized livestock numbers of one permittee from 175 cow/calf pairs to 125 cow/calf and by reducing the scheduled allotment off-date from September 14 to September 1. This permittee actually turned out eighty-eight cow/calf pairs, twenty-two cows (without calves), and two bulls, and he moved cattle off the allotment on August 27 instead of September 1. The other permittee took non-use of fifty-one cow/calf pairs.

7. Were there any unexpected circumstances or events that resulted in impacts beyond those anticipated in the Forest's Biological Assessment or the Service's Biological Opinion? If yes, please describe.

No.

Salmon-Challis NF Official: Brianna Goehring, Range Management Specialist
Bart Gamett, Fish Biologist

Date: February 16, 2016

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Table 1. Bull Trout redd survey summary.

Stream	Date	Water Conditions	Downstream UTM (NAD83)	Upstream UTM (NAD83)	Redds Observed	Impacted Redds
Challis Creek	09/14/2015	low, clear	Zone 11, 701612 E, 4930948 N	Zone 11, 700722 E, 4931034 N	2	0