

**2015 Morgan Creek-Prairie Basin Creek Allotment  
USFWS Monitoring Report**

Prepared by Salmon Challis National Forest Range and Fisheries staff  
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**Annual Monitoring Report Form for actions covered under the U.S. Fish and Wildlife 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? Any?  
*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)?

**Table 1. Bull Trout Redd Survey Summary**

Stream	Date	Water Conditions	Downstream UTM (NAD83)	Upstream UTM (NAD83)	Redds Observed	Impacted Redds
L.F. Corral Creek	10/29/2015	low, clear	Zone 11, 719489 E, 4965044 N	Zone 11, 719249 E, 4965618 N	0	0
Corral Creek	10/29/2015	low, clear	Zone 11, 719146 E, 4964186 N	Zone 11, 719506 E, 4964953 N	0	0
Lick Creek	10/14/2015	low, clear	Zone 11, 714646 E, 4956871 N	Zone 11, 713949 E, 4957517 N	0	0
Lick Creek	10/21/2015	low, clear	Zone 11, 713149 E, 4958072 N	Zone 11, 712495 E, 4958535 N	0	0

4. What was the date that livestock were removed from the pasture with surveyed stream segment?

**Table 2. Pasture Rotation**

Unit	Number	On-Date	Off-Date
Unit 2 Morgan-Prairie (FS)	763 cow/calf	06/15	08/26
Unit 1(FS)	763 cow/calf	08/27	09/19
Unit 3 (FS)	Rest		

5. Did this number exceed the scale anticipated in section VII of the Biological Opinion?  
*No*

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?

*The Forest Service did not authorize any changes in grazing management that differed from that described in the biological assessment.*

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

#### Permitted Morgan Prairie Basin Livestock

*Livestock were to be moved to Unit 1 from Unit 2 (Prairie Basin), no later than August 14, 2015, to avoid potential impacts to spawning bull trout and Chinook salmon and bull trout and Chinook salmon redds within the areas of Unit 2 (Prairie Basin).*

*On August 23, 2015, an allotment inspection on the Unit 2 (Prairie Basin) found approximately 100 to 125 cow/calf pairs along Panther Creek, moving from Opal Creek to Morgan Creek Summit, and another ten to twelve cow/calf pairs on Opal Creek.*

*On August 24, 2015, another forty-eight cow/calf pairs were counted moving from Opal Creek to Morgan Creek Summit.*

*Livestock were found in the Unit 2 (Prairie Basin) on August 23 and 24, 2015, nine and ten days past the date (August 14, 2015) that all livestock were to be moved to Unit 1. Use standards in the 2015 annual operating instructions were exceeded in multiple units. On August 24, 2015 the Services were notified about this violation.*

*We met with the permittees on the Allotment in Unit 2 on August 24, 2015 to solve the immediate need of livestock removal from Unit 2, which was completed by August 26, 2015. We met again with the permittees on August 27, 2015 in the office to review all the terms and conditions of their AOI and to ensure there were no further violations.*

*Because of the non-compliance in 2015, the Morgan-Prairie Basin Allotment permittees were suspended 33% of season of use with a required off-date of September 15 during the 2016 and 2017 grazing seasons.*

#### Unauthorized Livestock

*The Morgan Creek-Prairie Basin Allotment permittees reported that several private fences were not maintained and private gates adjacent to Forest Service land were left open, which resulted in unauthorized cattle not belonging to the permittees entering Unit 1 in Van Horn Creek and Unit 3, which was scheduled for rest in 2015, in Corral Creek. The permittees said there were multiple occasions during the 2015 season that cows were observed in Unit 1 in the Van Horn Creek watershed. The permittees removed the unauthorized cattle from Unit 1 back to private land.*

*The permittees also reported that the owner of the unauthorized livestock trailed another herd of unauthorized cattle from private land in Moyer Basin through Forest Service lands along Corral Creek to private land. This trailing occurred sometime in mid-*

*September, but no specific dates were given by the permittees. Also the permittees reported feed was short at the private land in Corral Creek and the gates were left open for cows to access Forest Service lands.*