

Condition description tables for Range analysis.

Aspen Ridge C&H.

EXISTING CONDITION	DESIRED CONDITION
<p>Range Management: 7 pasture “rest-rotational” system. On date June 10, off date September 30. 255 cow/calf pairs permitted</p>	<p>Range Management: Keep dates, numbers and AUMs the same. Rotate grazing schedule on the pastures. Develop water and pipe to tanks in the uplands. Manage for better distribution of the cattle and utilization of the upland forage.</p>
<p>Vegetation:</p> <p>Coons Park Pasture: Areas with a mix of native and nonnative grass species, smooth brome and crested wheatgrass resulting from historical reseeding. 2004 data shows diversity, bare ground and litter levels to be less than other grassland sites. Some areas show higher amounts of fringed sage than historically monitored. Plant vigor and range conditions have shown improvement over the last two seasons with moisture regime. Parts of Cottonwood creek drainage are not meeting DC due to Canada Thistle and the need for better distribution and improvement of water sources. .</p> <p>Bassam Park Pasture: Areas of high to low species diversity, although low diversity areas show more than double the species diversity that was historically recorded. Data comparison between inside and outside of two enclosures sites show positive effects that management has had in this area. Bare ground, litter, and plant density levels are good and show improvement over historical data. Past thinning and Rx burning have increased understory vigor on the northern portion of the pasture and increased moisture over the last two seasons fostered very high vigor and production of native vegetation. Canada thistle present along FDR 187 adjacent to Bassam Ridge.</p> <p>Cow Gulch Pasture: Diverse mix of native upland and riparian graminoids and forbs in proportion to moisture availability, grassland sites have mixed native grass and forb communities. Multiple age classes of Aspen with healthy Thurber's fescue, Parry's oat grass, and forb understory. 2004 CF transect showed good species diversity, bare ground, and litter amounts.</p> <p>Bull Gulch Pasture: 2004 monitoring data showed good to excellent species diversity, abundant litter, and little bare ground across the grassland, riparian and mesic meadow sites. Aspen areas have healthy native grass and forb understory. Some spots along tributary to Bull Gulch have historically received heavy use and would benefit from improved water developments and better livestock distribution. These spots improved with management and moisture regime over the last two seasons.</p> <p>Calf Gulch Pasture: Diverse mix of native upland and riparian graminoids and forbs in proportion to moisture</p>	<p>Vegetation:</p> <p>Coons Park Pasture: Maintain, continue to move toward, or start moving toward community type desired conditions that are outlined in Table 1. Control or eradicate Canada Thistle in Cottonwood Creek. Manage for better livestock distribution by improving water development. Overall pasture slowly moving toward DC.</p> <p>Bassam Park Pasture: Maintain, continue to move toward, or start moving toward community type desired conditions that are outlined in Table 1. Control or eradicate Canada Thistle along FDR 187. Pasture is moving toward or meeting DC.</p> <p>Cow Gulch Pasture: Maintain, continue to move toward, or start moving toward community type desired conditions that are outlined in Table 1. Pasture is moving toward DC.</p> <p>Bull Gulch Pasture: Maintain, continue to move toward, or start moving toward community type desired conditions that are outlined in Table 1. Improve water developments in Bull Gulch to reduce livestock/wildlife impacts to riparian. Pasture is moving toward DC and meeting in some spots.</p> <p>Calf Gulch Pasture: Maintain, continue to move toward, or start moving toward community type desired</p>

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<p>availability, grassland sites have mixed native grass and forb communities, some areas showed signs of drought stress evident by higher % of bare ground and fringed sage in 2004 monitoring. Multiple age classes of Aspen with healthy Thurber's fescue, Parry's oatgrass, and forb understory. Some spots along Bull Gulch would benefit from improved water developments and better livestock distribution. Current dirt pits congregate livestock/wildlife in riparian areas for water.</p> <p>Aspen Ridge Pasture: Good species diversity and abundance of native upland and riparian graminoids and forbs in proportion to moisture availability. Vigorous vegetation and riparian characteristics evident throughout. Some sloughing and trampling occurring along areas in Bull Gulch. These areas would benefit from improved water developments. Current dirt pits congregate livestock/wildlife in riparian areas for water. Grassland sites have mixed native grass and forb communities, some areas showed signs of drought in 2004 monitoring, evident by higher % of bare ground and litter resulting form stress. Multiple age classes of Aspen with healthy Thurber fescue, Parry oatgrass, and forb understory.</p> <p>Herring Park Pasture: Elk winter range; no historic or recent data; most use occurs on private. Pasture is primarily uplands with ponderosa pine, sagebrush and Arizona fescue. Lower country is comprised of blue grama, prairie junegrass, squirreltail and needleandthread. Riparian area is Herring Creek which is mostly on private, with a small section crossing FS. Some of the further-out grasslands are unused or only slightly used due to lack of water. Good species diversity and mix of native vegetation</p>	<p>conditions that are outlined in Table 1. Improve water developments in Bull Gulch to reduce livestock/wildlife impacts to riparian area. Pasture is moving toward DC with some areas moving slower than others.</p> <p>Aspen Ridge Pasture: Maintain, continue to move toward, or start moving toward community type desired conditions that are outlined in Table 1. Improve water developments in Bull Gulch to reduce livestock/wildlife impacts to riparian area. Pasture is moving toward or meeting DC.</p> <p>Herring Park Pasture: Maintain, continue to move toward, or start moving toward community type desired conditions that are outlined in Table 1. Manage for improved livestock distribution and upland and grassland utilization by adding water developments. Pasture is moving toward DC.</p>
<p>Wildlife: Habitats – Upland Grassland/Shrubland, Riparian, and Forest Habitats</p> <p>T&E Species – MSO and Gunnison prairie dog</p> <p>FSS Species – Brewer’s sparrow, loggerhead shrike, Gunnison prairie dog, bighorn sheep, northern leopard frog, bald eagle, northern harrier, peregrine falcon, olive-sided flycatcher, Lewis’ woodpecker, three-toed woodpecker, boreal owl, flammulated owl, northern goshawk, fringed myotis, Townsend’s big-eared bat, hog-nosed skunk, and spotted bat</p> <p>Terrestrial MIS – Abert’s squirrel and elk</p> <p>Overall – livestock distribution is generally very limited to an extremely small portion of the allotment (approximately 15-25%). Use is very concentrated - primarily occurring in riparian areas and somewhat in closely adjacent/associated</p>	<p>Wildlife: T&E Species MSO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Attain good to excellent range/habitat conditions within potential nesting, roosting, and forage areas, and provide for their recruitment. <p>Gunnison Prairie Dog:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Protect and maintain suitable habitat conditions. <p>Bighorn Sheep:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Protect lambing areas during the spring (May 15 to June 30) from disturbance. ▪ Maintain in perpetuity temporal and spatial separation between domestic sheep/goats and native bighorn sheep. <p>Terrestrial MIS Abert’s Squirrel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Encourage mature widely dispersed and interconnected ponderosa pine stands which

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<p>habitats (aspen and other forested areas, upland grasslands/shrublands). Water sources are limited in many areas and most are located exclusively riparian areas. There are a large number of existing water developments, pits, ponds, and tanks in this allotment; however, a very high percentage of them are within riparian areas (many actually in stream channels) and are not functioning to disperse livestock out of riparian areas. Additionally, they are so numerous that they have had virtually no positive management effect on livestock distribution and use within the allotment which has resulted in severely degraded riparian habitat conditions in many areas of the allotment. Many other areas of the allotment receive very little or no livestock use. Plant species composition shifts from desirable (for wildlife) to less desirable species have been observed in many areas. Extensive watershed restoration projects (impoundments, plantings, seeding, terracing, etc) were completed within many areas of the allotment (in the 1940's-70's) have generally improved historically severely degraded habitat conditions. Water quality is likely degraded in some livestock concentration areas. Precipitation is very low (ranging from 12-16 inches annually, depending on elevation and location), which affects wildlife habitats and the capability of the allotment to support livestock grazing. Existing range developments (fences, stock tanks, pit, ponds, etc.) on the allotment generally lack wildlife escapement ramps/structures, and have not been constructed to be compatible with/for wildlife use. Poor to fair habitat conditions in some areas, good condition in others depending on livestock use and concentrations. Breeding/reproductive, cover/shelter, forage/prey, and dispersal/movement habitats for the below wildlife species/habitats have all been adversely impacted/degraded to varying degrees, primarily in riparian and associated forested and upland habitats.</p> <p>T&E Species – MSO (see Upland Grassland/Shrubland, Riparian, and Forest Habitats) and Gunnison prairie dog (see Upland Grassland/Shrubland) below.</p> <p>Upland Grassland/Shrubland Habitat – Approximately 28% of the allotment. Very little to no livestock use of much of these area. Good species diversity present in grasses and forbs, with a mosaic of vegetative structure in some areas. Decadent grasses increase with distance from riparian. High incidence of bare ground and litter</p>	<p>sustain Abert's squirrel populations where potential exists.</p> <p>Elk:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Maintain or improve habitat conditions for elk. ■ Maintain adequate forage and security cover year-round to allow CDOW to meet management objectives. ■ Maintain and provide for movement corridors for elk that do not act as barriers/restrict movement or cause mortalities from range developments. ■ Protect calving and other concentration areas. <p>All Habitats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Reduce/eliminate the presence of noxious weeds to the extent possible. <p>Forest Habitat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Maintain/create forests with diverse age structure, late successional communities, openings, snags and down woody debris across forested areas; vigorous understory of native grasses (e.g., grama, needle and thread, junegrass, Arizona fescue, mountain muhly, mutton grass) and forbs where light allows. ■ Perpetuate aspen communities with diverse age structure. Aspen areas shall include late successional communities, regeneration, openings, snags and down woody debris; vigorous and diverse native grass and forb understories shall be present. Protect aspen and other hardwood regeneration. <p>Riparian Habitat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Protect and maintain healthy riparian and wetland plant communities that provides and maintains and/or enhances suitable habitat conditions for riparian dependant species. Provide habitats for viable populations of wildlife species.

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<p>in many areas. Species composition shifts from desirable native species (for wildlife) to less desirable species in many areas. Noxious weeds present in some areas (Canada thistle, shepherd's purse). Limited extent of upland shrub. Good growth and regeneration of upland shrub species. Some encroachment of trees into grasslands occurring. Native grasses and forbs interspersed. Overall fair to good habitat condition depending on location and use.</p> <p>Riparian Habitat – Approximately 3% of the allotment. Most of the livestock use and impacts are within these areas. High incidence of streambank trampling, pedestaling, areas of active headcutting, and eroding banks caused by high concentrations of livestock within narrow riparian corridors in many areas. Trampling of vegetation by livestock has been documented in some areas. Riparian and adjacent upland graminoids present, but decreasing with a high incidence of forbs and Kentucky bluegrass. Evidence of species shift from bunchgrass to forb species and less desirable species in many areas. Fringed sage has encroached in some areas. Noxious weeds present in limited areas (Canada thistle). Some benches early to mid-seral with high incidence of forbs. Lack of existing or regenerating willow/woody species vegetation where they are to be expected in many areas. Mid and late seral woody species lacking in many areas as well. Willows/hardwoods are hedged and mushroomed in many areas where they are present. Encroachment of upland species into riparian areas in many areas indicate lowering of water tables. High incidence of bare ground in many areas due to concentrated livestock use. Water quality may be degraded in some livestock concentration areas. Benchmarks in Coons Park and Calf Gulch rated at functioning-at-risk, downward trend; Bull Gulch also rated at functioning-at-risk, downward trend. Overall poor to fair habitat conditions depending on location and use.</p> <p>Forested Habitat – Approximately 69% of the allotment. Very little to no livestock use of much of these areas except where adjacent to riparian areas where regeneration of aspen and hardwoods is being impacted in some areas. Many sites have CCC plantations of ponderosa pine. Ponderosa pine largely infested by MPB in some areas. Bunchgrass understory is increasing as tree canopy cover is reduced due to insect infestations, timber harvesting, and prescribed burning. Tree density fairly high in some areas. Many areas are dead or</p>	

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<p>dying resulting in higher numbers of snags/logs. Mixed conifer stands are mature, some evidence of mortality. Understory of down logs, forbs and grasses present, a mosaic of understory grasses vary from vigorous to decadent. Browse of aspen/hardwood saplings evident adjacent to riparian areas. Evidence of disease, die-off, and poor growth of aspen in some areas. Forested habitats expanding into adjacent grasslands in some areas. Overall fair to good habitat condition depending on location and use.</p>	
<p>Fisheries: The allotment does not contain any fish bearing or perennial or streams. Mollusks: Presence of Rocky Mountain capshell snail or suitable habitat on the allotment is unknown. Aquatic invertebrates: Suitable habitat for <i>O. susanae</i> (large springs) does not exist on the allotment.</p>	<p>All aquatic species: Riparian ecosystems meet or move towards at least an upper mid-seral stage. Riparian plant communities are healthy and self-perpetuating. State and Federal water quality standards met. Stream channels and still water-body shorelines are stable and well vegetated with appropriate species. Suitable riparian habitat exists for viable populations of wildlife, fish and terrestrial and aquatic invertebrates.</p>
<p>Hydrology:</p> <p>Cottonwood Creek (Coons Park and Bassam Park Units; includes Coons Park benchmark):</p> <p>Site visited on August 9, 2004. One mile of Cottonwood Creek east of FSR 185 was surveyed. Crew reported, 'Stream has a little water in a few places from weak springs. Surrounding soil is silty, making it difficult for vegetation to grow on the banks of the creek. The riparian area is limited to the stream bed and cinquefoil has moved into the area. In some areas pedestaling is occurring. There is one big head cut (5 ft) that is somewhat protected by shale, but is forming a hole. Above this head cut, the vegetation in the riparian area changes to dryer plants. Also, there are three other head cuts that are not protected at all. The only willows are in small groups at weak springs. Most of the riparian area consists of grasses with a few rushes.' Crew rated as functional-at-risk.</p> <p>Site visited on August 10, 2004. A little over one mile of Cottonwood Creek west of FSR 185 was surveyed. Crew reported, 'Stream has a little water in a few places from weak springs. The only water below the two stock dams comes from Little Bull Gulch, from which the water is quickly used. Surrounding soil is silty, making it difficult for vegetation to grow on the banks of the creek. The riparian area is limited to the stream bed and cinquefoil has moved into the area. In some areas</p>	<p>Hydrology:</p> <p>Cottonwood Creek:</p> <p>Reduce the percentage of bare ground in the upland and improve upland conditions overall. Increase the mesic, herbaceous and browse (woody) species in the gully bottom of Cottonwood Creek. Consider developing additional upland watering sites from springs in the upper portion of Bassam Park. The proposed redevelopment of stock pit 366 will help. If possible relocate the stock pits out of the riparian bottom. Increase the vegetative cover and reduce the percent of bare ground on the gully side slopes. Stabilize headcuts, and establish vegetation on gully side slopes if possible. Treat Canada thistle.</p> <p>Bull Gulch</p> <p>Reduce the percentage of bare ground in the upland and improve upland conditions overall. Increase the browse (woody) species throughout Bull Gulch. Reduce the number of stock pits in the riparian in all units. The proposed redevelopment of some of these stock pits may help. Reduce the amount of hoof shear and pedestaling. Stabilize headcuts, and establish vegetation on gully side slopes if possible. Treat Canada thistle.</p> <p>Water Developments:</p> <p>Existing unchanged: 30 pits</p>

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<p>pedestaling is occurring. Several side drainages have head cuts. One side drainage is adding sediment that is now used as a livestock trail, particularly for horses. The two stock dams are drying up and are boggy. There is Canadian thistle around the two ponds.’ Crew rated as functional-at-risk.</p> <p>Coons Park benchmark visited July 18, 2005. Crew reported, ‘Gully side slopes (bank) are sparse with vegetation and extremely dry and highly erosive, very few willows, looks poor, too much sage brush and upland grasses in riparian area.’ Crew rated as functional-at-risk, downward trend.</p> <p>Hydrologist agrees with the functional-at-risk rating for the portions of Cottonwood Creek surveyed. Overall, there is too much bare ground in the uplands, and lots of sediment is being transported into the drainage from precipitation events. Several headcuts and areas of pedestaling were observed. Much of the gully side slopes are bare. However there are pockets of willows and areas where current riparian vegetation in the gully bottom is trapping sediment which is a good thing. Stock pit 365 and another unnamed pit are located in the riparian corridor.</p> <p>Bull Gulch (Bull Gulch, Calf Gulch and Aspen Ridge Units; includes Bull Gulch and Calf Gulch benchmarks)</p> <p>Site visited August 2, 2004. One and one-half miles of Bull Gulch east of FSR 186 were surveyed. Crew reported, ‘This Gulch was mostly dry with a few wet areas from weak springs. At the top of this reach there are pedestals and headcuts (#85). There are also several bare banks that erode during high flows (#88,99,704,&706). Cattle also use these as scratching areas, adding to the erosion and adding sediment to the drainage. The stream has incised in one area as well (#90). Picture 92 shows an 8ft head cut that is now protected by rocks, but is undercutting the side bank. There is not good plant diversity in the riparian areas. The willows that are there are struggling from the drought. A side drainage has a 4.5 ft head cut where an old road crossed it (#13). Crew rated at functional-at-risk.</p> <p>Site visited August 9, 2004. Two miles of Bull Gulch west of FSR 186 were surveyed. Crew reported, ‘Most of this stretch of Bull Gulch is</p>	<p>4 tank</p> <p>Existing redeveloped: 22 pits to be redeveloped and each piped to one tank (however 2 pipelines to tank 44 and 2 pipelines to tank 45; therefore only 21 new tanks added here).</p> <p>Proposed: 3 sources, each piped to 1 tank</p> <p>Summary: 80 developed watering sites on NFS (if redeveloped pits are fenced, then cattle would have access to 58 developed watering sites). 5.9 miles of pipeline constructed.</p>

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<p>open meadows with grasses, sedges, rushes, and no willows or alders. There is significant pedestaling occurring in this region as well (Pic.#05,07,12,&13). All of the spring areas have been trampled down and used as wallows. Cattle should be moved out of the middle pasture because grass is getting short in the riparian area. There are several banks with 1 ft straight drop offs and then slope down with no vegetation for 5 ft (#10). Head cutting is occurring in two areas (#06&21). The stock ponds are muddy with most of them holding very little water (#08,09,11,14,&18). Pedestaling is common around ponds. Salamanders and a gardner snake were found in one pond.’ Crew rated as functional-at-risk.</p> <p>Site visit of Bull Gulch unit benchmark by crew on July 27, 2005. They rated as functional-at-risk with downward trend. Site visit of Calf Gulch unit benchmark on July 20, 2005. They rated as functional-at-risk, downward trend.</p> <p>Hydrologist agrees with the functional-at-risk rating for the portions of Bull Gulch surveyed. This gulch has over 20 pits located in the riparian.</p> <p>Water Developments:</p> <p>Existing: 51 pits 4 tank 1 spring-pipe-tank at Elk Mountain Ranch</p>	
<p>Soils: Aspen Ridge Unit: Key area ARCAK1: associated soil type 110F, Cryoborolls Cryaquolls association soils are found in valley bottoms and have an effective rooting depth greater than 60 inches</p> <p>Bassam Unit: Key area ARBPK1: associated soil type 592F, Nathrop - Cheadle families complex, found on dry upland plains and valleys. Nathrop soils have an effective rooting depth greater than 20 inches, while Cheadle soils have an effective rooting depth less than 20 inches.</p> <p>Bull Gulch Unit: Key area ARBGK1& Benchmark: Bank</p>	<p>Soils:</p> <p>Reduce amount of bank trampling, bank erosion, and pedestaling. Decrease percentage of bare soil to less than 20% of pasture area for effected areas. Decrease percentage of compacted and churned soil in and near streams and ponds in benchmark areas to less than 20% of areas involved for each effected pasture.</p> <p>Bull Gulch Unit: Key area ARBGK1& Benchmark: associated soil type 110F, Revegetating these soils with riparian vegetation will require maintenance of a high water table. Buffer zones may be required on adjacent map units to minimize impacts to wetlands.</p>

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<p>trampling/erosion, pedestaling, bare soil, compacted and churned soil in and near streams and ponds in benchmark area. associated soil type 110F, Cryoborolls Cryaquolls association soils are found in valley bottoms and have an effective rooting depth greater than 60 inches</p> <p>Calf Gulch Unit: Key area ARCAK1& Benchmark: Bank trampling/erosion, pedestaling, bare soil, compacted and churned soil in and near streams and ponds in benchmark area. associated soil type 110F, Cryoborolls Cryaquolls association soils are found in valley bottoms and have an effective rooting depth greater than 60 inches. associated soil type 780M, Herbman family, found on upland plains, hills, and mountains with an effective rooting depth of less than 20 inches. Key area ARCAK2: associated soil type 110F, See above.</p> <p>Coons Park Unit: Key area ARCPK1 & Benchmark: Bank trampling/erosion, pedestaling, bare soil, compacted and churned soil near streams and streambanks. Some areas of bare soil in upland areas close to riparian benchmark area. associated soil type 592F, see above. Key area ARCPK2: associated soil type 780M, Herbman family, found on upland plains, hills, and mountains with an effective rooting depth of less than 20 inches. Drought tolerant plants have the greatest chance for success on this soil.</p> <p>Cow Gulch Unit: Key area ARCOK1: associated soil type 781M, Guffey - Herbman families complex, found in mountainous areas where granitic rocks predominate. Guffey soils have an effective rooting depth greater than 20 inches, while Herbman soils have an effective rooting depth less than 20 inches.</p> <p>Herring Park Unit: Key area ARHPK1: associated soil type 233M, Ess - Bushvalley families complex, found on mountains, mesas, and pediments. Ess soils have an effective rooting depth greater than 20 inches. Bushvalley soils have an effective rooting depth less than 20 inches.</p>	<p>associated soil type 780M, Herbman family. Using drought tolerant plants have the greatest chance for success on this soil.</p> <p>Coons Park Unit: Key area ARCPK1 & Benchmark: associated soil type 592F, Nathrop - Cheadle families complex. Mya need to mulch or perform similar treatment to protect the soil from erosion, help conserve soil moisture, and protect emerging plant seedlings. Key area ARCPK2: associated soil type 780M, Herbman family. Using drought tolerant plants will have the greatest chance for success on this soil.</p> <p>Cow Gulch Unit: Key area ARCOK1: associated soil type 781M, Guffey - Herbman families complex. Trees may be slow to return after a disturbance. Planting grasses and forbs have the best chance of success. Mulch or similar treatment will protect the soil from erosion, help conserve soil moisture, and protect emerging plant seedlings.</p>

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<p>Recreation: Recreation use is low to moderate. Primary uses include hunting in the late summer and fall, sightseeing especially in the fall when aspens are changing colors. The Coons Park Unit includes the east side of the Browns Canyon Wilderness proposal. The only developed recreation site is Bassam Cabin which is an old Forest Service Guard Station that is rented out to the public. The Elk Mountain Ranch, a private dude ranch, is located in the Cow Gulch Unit and provides horseback rides on the adjacent NFS land under a permit from the FS. The ranch has been operating as a dude ranch for decades and is well suited with the adjacent cattle grazing. The administrative site is fence off so no conflicts with cattle exist. Moving cattle from one pasture to the next during hunting season may change where wildlife prefer to be and where hunters expected to find them. The Coons Park, Bassam, and portion of the Cow Gulch Units are within the Fourmile Travel Management area. An ATV ramp is scheduled to be installed to replace the gate at the east end of NFS Trail 1434. Most of the fences crossing NFS roads have cattleguards. Conflicts with cattle are very minimal.</p>	<p>Recreation: Maintain compatible use of campers and cattle where campers are minimally affected by cattle’s waste and trampling, and campers are not blocking cattle paths. Recreationist are well informed they are sharing the land with cattle, and when to keep gates closed and open, depending on whether cattle are in the pastures. Range improvements do not conflict with recreation use, i.e. placing water improvements in highly desirable campsites and trails. No new facilities should be developed in the proposed wilderness. Range permittees should limit motorized use of non system routes when working on range improvements so as not to encourage other OHV use on the non-system routes.</p>
<p>Forestry: Majority of the ponderosa pine forests has been infected with the mountain pine beetles, and the Douglas-fir forest have been affected by defoliation from the spruce budworm resulting in heavy mortality of both ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir trees throughout the allotment. Aspen forests are mature and most aspen stands are being encroached with a dense, sub-alpine fir understory. Some evidence of aspen diseases and die-off on the southern portion of the allotment. Lodgepole pine forests are mature and currently are only showing isolated infestations of the mountain pine beetles. Upland bunch grasses have increased in quantity and quality due to the decrease of overstory trees. Salvage timber sales, firewood gathering and thinnings have occurred on some of the operable forests in the allotment reducing stand stocking levels, reducing the fuel loadings, and removing slash barriers that are affecting cattle movements in these upland forest grasslands. Understory forage conditions are expanding from the openness of the forest and are in good condition. Several prescribed burning projects have occurred and others are planned (+5years) throughout the allotment that will benefit the quality of the understory vegetation while also reducing the fuel loadings.</p>	<p>Forestry: Maintain a healthy, mixed-conifer forest community of ponderosa pine, lodgepole pine, Douglas-fir and aspen with a dispersed age structure, openings, snags and down woody debris across these forested areas. Improve forest health conditions throughout. Perpetuate aspen communities with diverse age structures including late successional communities, regeneration, and openings. Maintain a vigorous understory of native grasses (grama, needle and thread, junegrass, Arizona fescue, mountain muhly, mutton grass) and forbs throughout these forest communities. Minimize the encroachment of conifers onto the grassland types.</p>

