

Condition description tables for Range analysis.

Chubb Park C&H.

EXISTING CONDITION	DESIRED CONDITION
<p>Range Management: 6 pasture “rest- rotational” system. On date June 1, off date October 31. 33 cow/calf pairs permitted</p>	<p>Range Management: Recalculate carrying capacity and adjust stocking rate to meet desired conditions. 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>Salt Pass Pasture: Multiple age class stands of aspen with diverse and vigorous native grass and forb understories including Thurber fescue and Parry oatgrass. Diverse mix of native upland and riparian graminoids and forbs present in proportion to moisture availability including sedge, rush, tufted hairgrass, and cinquefoil. Mixed native grass and forb communities with vigor and a variety of vegetative structures including Arizona fescue, muhly, needleandthread, prairie junegrass, squirreltail, Thurber fescue and Parry oatgrass. 2005 mesic meadow photo point shows a good mix of vigorous riparian and upland grasses, sedges, forbs, and shrubs. Some small spots of Canada thistle present.</p> <p>Trout Creek Pass Pasture: Diverse mix of native upland and riparian graminoids and forbs present in proportion to moisture availability including sedge, rush, tufted hairgrass, and cinquefoil. Mixed native grass and forb communities with vigor and a variety of vegetative structures including Arizona fescue, muhly, needleandthread, prairie junegrass, squirreltail, Thurber fescue, and Parry oatgrass. Multiple age class stands of aspen with vigorous and diverse native grass and forb understories including Thurber fescue and Parry oatgrass. Some small spots of Canada thistle present.</p> <p>Goddard Pass Pasture: Mixed native grass and forb communities with vigor and a variety of vegetative structures including Arizona fescue, muhly, needle and thread, prairie junegrass and squirreltail.</p> <p>Upper Chubb Pasture: Diverse mix of native upland and riparian graminoids and forbs present in proportion to moisture availability including sedge, rush, tufted hairgrass, and cinquefoil. Mixed native grass and forb communities with vigor and a variety of vegetative structures including Arizona fescue, muhly, needle and thread, prairie junegrass and squirreltail.</p> <p>Lower Chubb Pasture: Diverse mix of native upland and riparian graminoids and forbs present in proportion to moisture availability including sedge, rush, tufted hairgrass, and cinquefoil. Mixed native grass and forb communities with vigor and a variety of vegetative structures including Arizona fescue, muhly, needleandthread, prairie junegrass and squirreltail. Some</p>	<p>Vegetation:</p> <p>Salt Pass 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. Pasture is moving toward or meeting DC.</p> <p>Trout Creek Pass 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. Pasture is meeting DC.</p> <p>Goddard Pass Pasture: Maintain, continue to move toward, or start moving toward community type desired conditions that are outlined in Table 1. Pasture is meeting DC.</p> <p>Upper Chubb Pasture: Maintain, continue to move toward, or start moving toward community type desired conditions that are outlined in Table 1. Pasture is moving toward or meeting DC.</p> <p>Lower Chubb 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. Pasture is moving toward or meeting DC.</p>

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<p>small spots of Canada thistle present.</p> <p>Newett Pasture: Mixed native grass and forb communities with vigor and a variety of vegetative structures including Arizona fescue, muhly, needle and thread, prairie junegrass and squirreltail. Pasture is meeting DC. Diverse mix of native upland and riparian graminoids and forbs present in proportion to moisture availability including sedge, rush, tufted hairgrass, and cinquefoil.</p>	<p>Newett Pasture: Maintain, continue to move toward, or start moving toward community type desired conditions that are outlined in Table 1. Pasture is moving toward or meeting DC.</p>
<p>Wildlife: Habitats – Upland Grassland/Shrubland, Riparian, and Forest Habitats</p> <p>T&E Species – Canada lynx and Gunnison prairie dog</p> <p>FSS Species – Northern leopard frog, black swift, Brewer’s sparrow, loggerhead shrike, Gunnison prairie dog, northern harrier, peregrine falcon, olive-sided flycatcher, three-toed woodpecker, flammulated owl, northern goshawk, fringed myotis, Townsend’s big-eared bat, American marten, common hog-nosed skunk, wolverine, and bighorn sheep</p> <p>Terrestrial MIS – Abert’s squirrel and elk</p> <p>Overall – State land which up a major portion of this allotment (approximately 15-20%). The majority of the allotment (primarily State lands) are riparian and upland grasslands, with Forest Service lands mainly forested areas to the north and west. Water historically was limited within the allotment; however, a new well and several miles of pipeline with several tanks were installed in 2007 along the western portion of the allotment to improve livestock distribution and increase water sources. Precipitation is very low, (ranging from 10-14 inches annually, depending on elevation and location), which affects wildlife habitats and the capability of the allotment to support livestock grazing. PFC condition of the benchmark in the Salt Pass Unit rated as functioning at risk. Some 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</p>	<p>Wildlife: T&E Species</p> <p>Canada Lynx:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Protect and maintain suitable lynx and snowshoe hare habitat conditions. ▪ Provide for native composition and structure of herbaceous and shrub plant communities. ▪ Provide for the development of snowshoe hare habitat in natural or created openings within lynx habitat. ▪ Maintain and restore habitat connectivity across forested landscapes. ▪ For willow, achieve mid seral or higher condition, to maximize cover and prey availability. Such areas that are currently in late seral condition should not be degraded. ▪ In aspen stands - ensure sprouting and sprout survival is sufficient to perpetuate long-term viability of aspen clones. ▪ See Riparian, Forested, Upland/Shrublands, and Alpine Habitats below for additional measures. <p>Gunnison Prairie Dog:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Protect and maintain suitable habitat conditions. ▪ See Upland/Shrublands Habitat below for additional measures. <p>FSS Species</p> <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</p> <p>Abert’s Squirrel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Encourage mature widely dispersed and interconnected ponderosa pine stands which sustain Abert’s squirrel populations where

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<p>associated forested and upland habitats.</p> <p>T&E Species – Canada lynx (see Upland Grassland/Shrubland, Riparian, and Forest Habitats) and Gunnison prairie dog (see Upland Grassland/Shrubland Habitat) below.</p> <p>Upland Grassland/Shrubland Habitat – Approximately 28% of this allotment. Generally good species diversity present in grasses and forbs but lacking vigor and low overall cover/productivity in some areas. Bare ground was higher than expected. Fair to poor vegetation cover of native species present with non-native species present (Canada & musk thistle) in some areas. Mature shrub community composed of mountain mahogany, rubber rabbitbrush, mountain sagebrush, and currant. Good growth and regeneration of mid-late seral shrub species in some areas. Native grasses and forbs interspersed in some areas. Litter is generally lacking throughout. Mountain mahogany hedged in some areas. Shrubby cinquefoil die off occurring. Overall, poor to fair habitat conditions, depending on location and use.</p> <p>Riparian Habitat – Approximately 3% of this allotment (not including other ownerships). State owned lands have poor vegetation cover, composition, structure, and soil stability (general condition is poor). Willow vegetation lacking in middle and lower reaches. Hedging of willows (where present) and little regeneration observed. Little to no mid-late seral stage willows present. Forest Service land has generally good vegetation cover with native riparian species present with some non-native species present (Canada & musk thistle, pennycress, smooth brome, Kentucky bluegrass). Recent willow dieback possibly due to drought. Some hedging of willows in the upper portion of the allotment. Some pedestaling, hummocking, and bare ground. Species composition dominated by tufted hairgrass. Poor to good habitat condition depending on location and use.</p> <p>Forest Habitat – Approximately 66% of this allotment. Aspen stands have a good age diversity, good understory of down logs, with native forbs and grasses present, but grasses largely decadent. Conifer encroachment in some areas. On Forest Service land MPB infestation of ponderosa pine resulting in considerable mortality. Bunchgrass understory is increasing as canopy cover is reduced from die-off, timber harvesting, and prescribed burning. As a result of mortality, in untreated</p>	<p>potential exists.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ See Forested Habitat for additional measures. <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. ▪ See Riparian, Forested, Upland/Shrublands, and Alpine Habitats for additional measures. <p>All Habitats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reduce/eliminate the presence of noxious weeds to the extent possible. <p>Alpine Habitat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Protect and maintain healthy alpine plant communities with a diverse mix of desirable native grass, forb and shrub communities, and minimal ground disturbance that provide suitable habitat conditions for alpine species. ▪ Where developed soils exist, ground cover is 80% or greater. ▪ Protect and maintain suitable habitat conditions in alpine and subalpine use areas (primarily willow carrs and riparian areas) to maintain or achieve mid seral or higher conditions to provide cover and forage for these species. <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>Upland Grassland/Shrubland Habitat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Protect and maintain healthy upland grassland and shrubland plant communities that provides and maintains and/or enhances suitable habitat

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<p>areas there is a higher number of snags/logs that in recent past. Ponderosa pine on State lands (on western portion) have largely been unaffected by MPB, but have also been thinned and have a higher live tree component, understory of bunch grasses, but few snags/logs. Lodgepole is limited in occurrence and appears healthy. Mixed conifer stands have had past spruce budworm activity as resulted in mortality in the western portion of allotment. The habitat is in fair to good condition depending on location and use.</p>	<p>conditions for these species. Riparian Habitat 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</p>
<p>Fisheries: The allotment does not contain any fish bearing or streams. Mollusks: Presence of Rocky Mountain capshell snail or suitable habitat on the allotment is unknown. Aquatic invertebrates: <i>Ochrotrichia susanae</i> (Caddis fly): <i>O. susanae</i> is only known from two locations world wide, one from Trout Creek Spring in the Chubb Park allotment. <i>O. susanae</i> is only known from this habitat “type” (Flint and Herrmann, 1976) and extensive surveys have been conducted (R2 Sensitive species evaluation form, 2007). Because the habitat type is very limited and not known to occur within other grazing allotments, it’s doubtful that other populations exist or would be impacted by livestock grazing.</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: Salt Pass Unit: Salt Pass Unit benchmark. Site visited July 7, 2005. Per crew, ‘area shows a lot of wear. Upland grass present in streambed.’ Grade control (in-channel rock structure, part of the CCC effort described in range report) structures noted in several places. Lower part of benchmark contains more water. Bank erosion, hoof shear and bluegrass noted in several places. Stock pit 305 is present here as well. Some different size and age class of willows present; they looked stressed (some likely due to drought) and hedged. Crew evaluated as functional-at-risk with a downward trend. ID team felt it wasn’t in a downward trend, therefore left trend as not apparent. Hydrologist concurs with ‘at-risk’ rating. Eroded bank on outside of channel indicates instability and obviously could be more stable. Water Developments: Existing:</p>	<p>Hydrology: Salt Pass Unit: Allow for more recruitment of woody species and control grazing to provide for a more stable channel. Consider fencing out the lower part of the benchmark to facilitate recovery. Also consider alternate water sources (particularly for stock pit 305) in this headwater pasture of Trout Creek and locate water sites on suitable or hardened site(s) along open park\forest contact in uplands. If not feasible, then at a suitable site near the outer edge of the valley floor\ side slope contact. While the channel has made recovery from past disturbances, there is room and a need to improve the function and stability of the channel here. Water Developments: Existing unchanged: 5 pits 1 tank</p>

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<p>5 pits 1 tank</p>	<p>Existing redeveloped: None</p> <p>Proposed: 6 seeps each piped to 1 tank</p> <p>Summary: 12 developed watering sites on NFS 0.7 miles of pipeline constructed</p>
<p>Soils: In the area of the benchmark (soils 110F and 425M), there are areas of sparse vegetation with visible soil erosion and active pedestaling.</p> <p>Soils found in the key areas and benchmark include 110F, 425M, and 445M. Soil type 110F, Cryaborolls – Cryaquolls association is found in valley bottoms and have an effective rooting depth greater than 60 inches. Soil type 425M, Parkview - Bushvalley families complex, is located on montane, south facing upland plains, fans, pediments, and hills. The effective rooting depth of Bushvalley is less than 20 inches while the effective rooting depth of Parkview is greater than 20 inches. 445M, Redfeather - Leadville, moderately deep families, is found on montane, dry mountains and mesas. The effective rooting depth of Redfeather is less than 20 inches while the effective rooting depth of Leadville is greater than 20 inches.</p>	<p>Soils: Greater vegetative cover in areas with sparse vegetation. Maintaining and enhancing the potential natural plant community can reduce the erosion hazard and maintain sustained multiple use.</p> <p>Stabilized soils in and near riparian areas with a decrease in pedestaling and exposed soil. Revegetating Cryaquolls soil with riparian vegetation requires maintaining a high water table. Buffer zones are required on adjacent map units to minimize impacts to wetlands. Management activities adjacent to subalpine valleys can impact these wetland areas and require special considerations. Trampling by cattle can cause soil surface compaction and rutting in wet areas.</p>
<p>Recreation: Recreation use is low to moderate with the main activities including hunting, disperse camping, horseback riding, mountain biking, OHV use, and scenic drives. Developed recreation facilities include the Midland Trail and the trailhead at the east end of the trail near the junction of State Hwy. 285 and NFS Road 311. The Midland Trail follows roads in this allotment. This allotment lies in the Fourmile Travel Management area.</p>	<p>Recreation: Maintain compatible use with 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.</p>
<p>Forestry: Majority of the ponderosa pine forests has been infected with the mountain pine beetles, resulting in heavy mortality throughout the allotment. Upland bunch grasses have increased in quantity and quality due to the decrease of overstory trees. Salvage timber sales and thinnings are occurring throughout the allotment reducing stand stocking levels, reducing the fuel loadings, and removing slash barriers that are affecting cattle movements in these upland forest grasslands.</p>	<p>Forestry: Maintain a healthy, mixed-conifer forest community of ponderosa 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,</p>

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Understory forage conditions are expanding from the openness of the forest and are in good condition. Prescribed burning projects are planned (+5years) throughout the allotment that will benefit the quality of the understory vegetation while also reducing the fuel loadings.	mutton grass) and forbs throughout these forest communities. Minimize the encroachment of conifers onto the grassland types.