

**Deer-Iron Creek Cattle & Horse Allotment's
2013 Annual Monitoring Report
for the
National Marine Fisheries Service's
9/24/2013 Biological Opinion**

(Refer to NMFS No: 2013/10252)

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 Idaho State Director, Habitat Conservation Division, National Marine Fisheries Service, **Attn: 2013/10252**, 10095 W Emerald St., Boise, ID 83704.

To implement RPM #2 (monitoring and reporting), the SCNF shall ensure that:

- a. Each Allotment Unit's DMA or key area is annually monitored to determine compliance with all identified annual use indicators in the proposed action. The report shall also identify any modifications to move-triggers or annual indicators that result from implementing the adaptive management strategy.

See attached Deer-Iron Creek C&H Allotment's 2013 End of the Year Report.

- b. All formal move-triggers are consistently applied across all Allotment Units for the term of the permit.

See attached Deer-Iron Creek C&H Allotment's 2013 End of the Year Report.

- c. An end-of-year report is available to NMFS by March 1 of each year. The following shall be included in the report:

- (1) Overview of proposed action and actual management (livestock numbers, on-off dates for each Unit, etc.).

See attached Deer-Iron Creek C&H Allotment's 2013 End of the Year Report.

- (2) Results from all implementation and effectiveness monitoring identified as part of the proposed action and this Opinion (term and condition 1), including required annual use indicator monitoring (i.e., stubble height, riparian shrub utilization, streambank alteration), photo point monitoring, seral condition, bank stability, water temperature, sediment, and W:D.

See attached Deer-Iron Creek C&H Allotment's 2013 End of the Year Report.

2013 Stream Temperature Data was collected on: Iron Creek 8.2, North Fork of Iron Creek 0.3, West Fork of Iron Creek 0.2 and South Fork of Iron Creek 0.4.

2013 Electrofishing Data was collected on: No data was collected within the Allotment.

2013 Watershed Programs Stream Sediment (Mean Percent Fines <0.25" at depth and Percent Bank Stability Monitoring, respectively, was collected on: No data was collected within the Allotment. Iron Creek 1A (16.1% & 98%), North Fork Iron Creek 1A (17.8% & 98%) and West Fork Iron Creek 1A (13.2% & 100%)

(3) Discussion of any unauthorized use and/or any maintenance issues related to fences or water developments.

See attached Deer-Iron Creek C&H Allotment's 2013 End of the Year Report.

(4) Brief review of Allotment compliance with established annual use indicators, terms and conditions from this Opinion including a discussion on specific successes and failures.

See attached Deer-Iron Creek C&H Allotment's 2013 End of the Year Report.

(5) Any relevant information that becomes available regarding Snake River Basin steelhead or Snake River spring/summer Chinook salmon habitat trends and/or spawning locations that would modify the assumptions made in this Opinion or result in effects not considered. NONE

(6) A clear description of compliance with the terms and conditions contained in this incidental take statement.

See attached Deer-Iron Creek C&H Allotment's 2013 End of the Year Report. There were no unexpected circumstances or events that resulted in impacts beyond what the forest anticipated.

(7) Any management recommendations for subsequent years.

See attached Deer-Iron Creek C&H Allotment's 2013 End of the Year Report.

Chinook salmon Redd Surveys

1. What was the name of the stream in this allotment surveyed for impacted redds?

There were no streams surveyed for Chinook salmon redds because livestock do not have access to any Chinook salmon spawning reaches.

2. 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.

There were no unexpected circumstances or events that resulted in impacts beyond what the forest anticipated in the 2013 Biological Assessment.

Salmon-Challis National Forest Official:



Daniel A. Garcia
Salmon-Challis National Forest
North Zone Districts Fishery Biologist

Date:

2/25/2014

Contact Information:

Salmon/Cobalt Ranger District, 311 McPherson St South, Salmon, ID 83467

(208) 756-5237 or dgarcia@fs.fed.us

The attached Deer-Iron Creek C&H Allotment's 2013 End of the Year Report was prepared by: Concetta Brown - North Zone Rangeland Management Specialist (Leadore Ranger District), (208) 768-2503 or concettabrown@fs.fed.us

Results of the Range Allotment's implementation and effectiveness monitoring will be available at the following website: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/sc/projects/range/index.html>.

DEER IRON C&H ALLOTMENT

2013 END OF YEAR REPORT

North Fork Ranger District

North Zone Salmon-Challis National Forest

MANAGEMENT

Term Grazing Permit				2013 Authorized Use			Actual Use		
Permittee	Numbers	HM	Season of use	Numbers	HM	Season of use	Numbers	HM	Season of use
Janelle Phillips	321 c/c	158	6/16-6/30	321 c/c	158	6/16-6/30	321 c/c	158	6/16-6/30
Janelle Phillips	421 c/c	1370	7/1-10/7	388 c/c	1263	7/1-10/7	388 c/c	1301	7/1-10/10

Unit Schedule

Unit	Numbers	Authorized Season of Use	Actual Season of Use	Head Months
Peel Tree (South of Lookout)	321 c/c	6/16-6/30	6/16-6/30	158
Peel Tree (South of Lookout)	388 c/c	7/1-7/8	7/1-7/10	128
South Fork	388 c/c	7/9-8/24	7/11-9/5	727
Peel Tree (North of Lookout)	388 c/c	8/25-10/7	9/6-10/10	446

Compliance with unit Schedule in AOI:

Unit moves complied with critical dates for cattle presence with spawning and incubating fish, per the Biological Assessment, NMFS 2013 Deer-Iron Biological Opinion and the USFWS 2013 Deer-Iron Biological Opinion. Back riding units was successfully completed. The 2013 NMFS Biological Assessment was not received until December 6, 2013. For the 2013 grazing season the requirements outlined in the NMFS 2010 Deer-Iron Biological Assessment were followed.

Authorized use was for 38 HM more than authorized, however is still within the permitted use.

The permittee reported riding the allotment a total of 88 days and 4 flight hours.

Allotment Inspections: Allotment inspections were conducted on the following dates: 6/5, 6/27, 7/1, 8/13, 8/16, 8/24, 8/27, and 10/21. Allotment inspections consist of a Range Specialist

and/or Range Technician visiting the allotment to check on location of livestock, improvement condition and/or monitor for annual indicators.

Compliance with special Terms and Conditions regarding livestock locations and management practices:

Term and Condition 1 for Reasonable and Prudent Measure 1

- The whole of this report addresses this term. Conservation measures were followed.

For the 2013 we were running under a 7d statement signed June 6, 2013. This allowed for ongoing actions to continue after initiation of consultation provided they are not in violation.

MONITORING DATA

Annual Indicator Monitoring: For the 2013 grazing season, monitoring was completed at Designate Monitoring Areas (DMAs) using the Multiple Indicator Monitoring (MIM) technical reference (Burton, 2012). Upland monitoring was completed using the Landscape Appearance Method or Height –Weight method (USDI, BLM 1996). Utilization for the 2013 grazing season met the use standards and annual indicators in the AOI, BA and BO. **PLEASE REFER TO THE ATTACHED TABLE AND PHOTOS FOR ANNUAL INDICATOR RESULTS.**

Improvement Monitoring: Inspections were conducted on the following improvements:

- Water development #5027 was dry, had no float, and no wildlife ramp. The enclosure and trough were in good condition.
- Water development #5310 was in working condition but had a rotten wooden wildlife ramp and no float.
- Water development #5220 needs the wooden wildlife ramp replaced with a metal one, has no overflow and the spring was dry.

Permit Administration: Unauthorized cattle were reported on the following dates:

- 8/11-A FS employee saw around 30 c/c pairs were seen north of the Sheephorn lookout outside of authorized dates. I spoke with the permittee and she said she would remove them that day. FS range seasonals visited the allotment on 8/13 and the livestock had been removed. The communication plan was implemented through Step B. Monitoring was completed to determine if grazing management was within the scope of consultation and the fish biologist was notified.

- 9/11- A FS employee saw a handful of cattle up the West Fork of Deer Iron Creek in the South Fork unit. A Range Specialist visited the allotment on 9/13 and saw no livestock in the unit. The communication plan was implemented through Step B. Monitoring was completed to determine if grazing management was within the scope of consultation and the fish biologist was notified.

OTHER INFORMATION

Growing Season Conditions: Precipitation for the District was far below normal for 2013. The precipitation information for the District is included in the table below. While this information was collected at the KSRA weather station in Salmon, Idaho and is not specific to an allotment area, it gives an idea of the available moisture on the District. The total precipitation for Salmon, Idaho in 2013 was 5.74 inches, compared to an average of 9.79 inches.

Month	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Precip. (in.) in 2013	0.57	0.03	0.18	0.41	1.54	1.19	0.51	0.51	0.8	0.0	-	-	5.74
Average Precip. (in.) from 1967-2013	0.66	0.42	0.55	0.78	1.36	1.42	0.95	0.78	0.76	0.65	0.72	0.74	9.79

Recommendations for Future Management:

- Communication with the Range Specialist is an important part of grazing management. If you need to change the dates listed in your AOI you need to contact your Rangeland Specialist for those changes to be authorized. This season there were slight changes in the date units were used which I was not informed of at the time. If you enter a unit later you must contact your Range Specialist for the change can be authorized and documented.
- Cattle movements between units need to be completed in a specific period. This means permittees need to provide additional riders on move dates and assist with back riding.
- Riders need to move cattle that are congregating in riparian areas, boundary fence corners, and other problem areas into uplands for more uniform utilization of entire range.

- Back ride to ensure cattle aren't drifting into previously used units. When leaving the Allotment, start earlier than off date and stagger to ensure complete removal of livestock in a timely manner

Sources

Burton, T.A., S.J. Smith, and E.R. Cowley. 2011. Riparian area management: Multiple indicator monitoring (MIM) of stream channels and streamside vegetation. Technical Reference 1737-23. BLM/OC/ST-10/003+1737. U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, National Operations Center, Denver, CO. 155p.

NOAA National Climatic Data Centers. 2013. "Monthly Climatological Summary (2013), Salmon KSRA, ID, US." Retrieved Nov. 8th, 2013. <www.ncdc.noaa.gov>

USDI, BLM. 1996. Utilization Studies and Residual Measurements, BLM Interagency Technical Reference, BLM/RS/ST-96/004+1730. 135p.

Western Regional Climate Center. 2013. "Monthly Climate Summary, Salmon KSRA, Idaho (108080)." Retrieved on Nov. 26th, 2013. <www.wrcc.dri.edu>

Prepared By:

 12/17/13

Concetta Brown

Rangeland Management Specialist

Monitoring Results on Deer Iron C&H Allotment

Actual Grazing Schedule				Allowable Standards			Actual Results				
Unit	On Date	Off Date	Date Read	Riparian			Upland	Riparian			Upland
South Fork Unit West Fork of Iron Creek MIM 262	7/9	8/24	8/27	Greenline Stubble	<i>Hydric ssp.</i>	4 in. or 50%	50%	Greenline stubble	<i>Hydric ssp.</i>	7.7 in	12.86%
				Browse Use	Willow	50%		Browse Use	Willow	13.1%	
				Bank Alteration	n/a	20%		Bank Alteration	n/a	9%	
South Fork Unit South Fork Iron Creek MIM M226	8/27	Greenline stubble	<i>Hydric ssp.</i>	6 in. or 30%	Greenline stubble	<i>Hydric ssp.</i>		6in			
		Bank Alteration	n/a	15%	Bank Alteration	n/a		13%			
Peel Tree North	9/6	10/10	10/21	Greenline Stubble	Riparian Grass ssp.	50%		50%	No riparian grass species were present for measurements		
Peel Tree South	6/16	7/10	7/8	Greenline Stubble	Riparian Grass ssp.	50%	50%	No riparian grass species were present for measurements			9.1%

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INTERMOUNTAIN REGION	SALMON-CHALLIS NATIONAL FOREST	Salmon-Cobalt RD
2013 End of Year		Allotment: Deer Iron C&H



Peel Tree North Range Readiness: Looking East 6/05/2013



Peel Tree North Range Readiness: 6/05/2013

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INTERMOUNTAIN REGION	SALMON-CHALLIS NATIONAL FOREST	Salmon-Cobalt RD
2013 End of Year		Allotment: Deer Iron C&H



West Fork MIM 243 07/01/2013



Peel Tree South EOY Utilization 8/28/2013

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INTERMOUNTAIN REGION	SALMON-CHALLIS NATIONAL FOREST	Salmon-Cobalt RD
2013 End of Year		Allotment: Deer Iron C&H



Peel Tree North Utilization 7/08/2013



South Fork M226 Looking Upstream 6/27/2013

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INTERMOUNTAIN REGION	SALMON-CHALLIS NATIONAL FOREST	Salmon-Cobalt RD
2013 End of Year		Allotment: Deer Iron C&H



West Fork M262 Looking upstream 7/01/2013



West Fork M262 Looking downstream from upper end 7/01/2013

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INTERMOUNTAIN REGION	SALMON-CHALLIS NATIONAL FOREST	Salmon-Cobalt RD
2013 End of Year		Allotment: Deer Iron C&H