

**Little Eightmile Cattle & Horse Allotment's
2013 Annual Monitoring Report
for the
US Fish and Wildlife Service's 2/15/2011 Biological Opinion
(File # 114.0600, 14420-2011-F-0061)**

APPENDIX C

**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 the stream in this allotment surveyed for impacted redds?

There were no streams surveyed for bull trout redds in 2013 because in 2009 we tried to complete a bull trout redd survey on Little Eightmile Creek starting at the Forest boundary and found the riparian vegetation was so dense, both in access to the stream and once you were in the stream, that we could not successfully complete a 1000 meter bull trout redd survey. Because of the dense riparian and stream side vegetation there would have been a higher likelihood of the redd surveyors trampling bull trout redds than there are from livestock grazing. Because of the inability to physically look for bull trout redds in 2009 in Little Eightmile Creek, the fact that livestock are out of the Lower Unit every year before bull trout begin to spawn and livestock do not have access to spawning reaches of Little Eightmile Creek in the Upper South Unit we did not complete a 2013 redd survey. The unnamed tributary to Little Eightmile Creek was not surveyed because of logistics getting to the site and back in one day and the fact that livestock do not graze in this unit past the third week in July. The potential impact to bull trout redds in the unnamed tributary to Little Eightmile Creek would only occur when the livestock are being trailed home at one crossing location. The Forest will continue to evaluate the potential for livestock to trample bull trout redds at this crossing location in 2013 with photo monitoring of the crossing site and an assessment of the potential spawning habitat at this crossing.

2. What was the date of the survey, and what were the water conditions?

See answer to question #1.

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 answer to question #1.

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

See answer to question #1. See attached Little Eightmile C&H Allotment's 2013 End of the Year Report.

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

NO

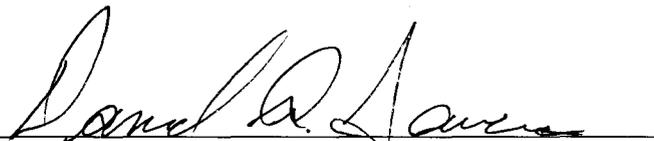
6. Were there any changes to the grazing management that differed from the proposed grazing management in the Forest's Biological Assessment? If yes, what were they?

Yes, due to lack of water and dry conditions on the allotment, the permittee moved livestock off the allotment 24 days early. See attached Little Eightmile C&H Allotment's 2013 End of the Year Report.

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.

There were no unexpected circumstances or events that resulted in impacts beyond what the forest anticipated in the 2010 Biological Assessment.

Salmon-Challis National Forest Official:



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

Date:

2/28/2014

Contact information:

Salmon/Cobalt Ranger District, 311 McPherson St South, Salmon, ID 83467
(208) 756-5237 or dgarcia@fs.fed.us

The attached Little Eightmile C&H Allotment's 2013 End of the Year Report was prepared by: Sara Norman – Rangeland Management Specialist (Leadore Ranger District) (208) 768-2505 or scnorman@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>.

LITTLE EIGHTMILE C&H ALLOTMENT

2013 END OF YEAR REPORT

Leadore Ranger District

North Zone Salmon-Challis National Forest Service

MANAGEMENT:

Permittee	Term Grazing Permit			2013 Authorized Use			Actual Use		
	Numbers	HM	Season	Numbers	HM	Season of Use	Numbers	HM	Season
Leadore Land Partners, L.L.P.	159 c/c	455	6/26-9/20	159 yearlings	455	6/26-9/20	150 yearlings	301	6/29-8/28

Unit Schedule

Unit	Number	Authorized Season of Use	Actual Season of Use	Head Months
Lower Unit	150 yearlings	6/26-7/10	6/29-7/10	59
Upper North	150 yearlings	7/11-8/11	7/11-8/3	118
Upper South	150 yearlings	8/12-9/12	8/4-8/28	123

Compliance with Unit Schedule in AOI: Actual use was for less than authorized numbers. Due to lack of water and dry conditions on the allotment, the permittee moved cattle off the allotment 24 days early. Unit moves complied with critical dates for cattle presence with spawning and incubating fish, per the Biological Assessment, USFWS 2010 Little Eightmile C&H Allotment Biological Opinion. Allotment moves were conducted by the permittee on or before schedule move dates.

Allotment Inspections: Allotment inspections were conducted on the following dates: 6/26, 7/24, 8/21, and 8/31. 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.

The permittee reported riding 15 days and using one ton of salt.

Compliance with Special Terms and Conditions Regarding Livestock Locations and Management Practices:

Reasonable and Prudent Measure#1 (USFWS): The whole of this report addresses this measure. During the 2013 grazing season, livestock were trailed off the Allotment on August 28th. Conservation measures #1, 2, 3, and 5 were followed during the 2013 grazing season. Conservation measure #4 was not followed; the permittee reported riding a total of 15 days and cattle were on the allotment 61 days.

MONITORING DATA:

Annual Indicator Monitoring: For the 2013 grazing season, riparian monitoring was completed at the Designated Monitoring Areas (DMAs) using the Multiple Indicator Monitoring (MIM) technical reference (Burton 2012). Upland monitoring was completed using the Landscape Appearance or Height-Weight Method (USDI, BLM 1995). Only one of the DMA sites in the Lower unit (M268) was surveyed in 2013. On July 24th SCNF range technicians went to the second DMA (M267), they did not believe the site was a representative of livestock use on the allotment. Both DMA sites are located along Little Eightmile Creek within a mile of each other. In 2013, a DMA site was not established in the Upper South Unit because a suitable location was not located.

Improvement Monitoring: On August 31st, the North/South Division fence (#4037) was inspected. The fence was not in functioning condition and down in three locations. The day SCNF Range Technicians were there, the permittee was working on the fence and noted that it was in working condition before cattle were turned on the allotment. Due to the lack of water in the Upper North unit, cattle pushed through the fence to the Upper South unit.

Permit Administration: On August 21st, livestock were seen in both the Upper North unit and the Upper South unit. The permittee had riders on the allotment on August 21st; they were in the process of moving livestock back into the Upper South unit, the permitted unit. Due to the drought conditions, water sources in the Upper South unit were dry, and livestock moved back in to the Upper North Unit. On August 28th, the permittee moved cattle off the allotment, due to the lack of water.

OTHER INFORMATION

Growing season Conditions: Precipitation for the district was well below average for 2013 (NOAA National Climatic Data Centers 2013). The precipitation information for the District is included in the table below. While this information is collected at the Leadore Ranger Station, Leadore, Idaho, and is not specific to an allotment area, it gives an idea of the available moisture on the District.

Leadore Weather

Month	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Precip. (inches) in 2013	0.3	0.04	0.02	0.01	0.59	0.27	0.83	0.13	1.59	0.38	0.05	Not Available*	4.21
Average Precip. (in.) from 1965-2013	0.34	0.21	0.43	0.68	1.34	1.27	0.77	0.69	0.85	0.61	0.44	0.43	8.05

*Precipitation for the month of December is not yet available.

Improvement Maintenance: The permittee spent two days with a crew of 5 working on the unit fence between the Upper South and Upper North Units (#4037). Dedication

Recommendations for Future Management: During drought years water in the Upper South unit can be extremely limited. During the 2014 AOI meeting, the possibility of developing other water sources or changing the rotation needs to be discussed.

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), Leadore 2, 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, Leadore 2, Idaho (105177)." Retrieved on Nov. 26th, 2013. <www.wrcc.dri.edu>

Prepared by:



Sara Norman

Range Management Specialist

December 8th, 2013

Resource Conditions and Monitoring Results on Little 8 Mile C&H Allotment:

Actual Grazing Schedule			Allowable Standards				Actual Results				
Unit Name	On Date	Off Date	Date Read	Riparian			Upland	Riparian			Upland
Upper South Unit-Upper Little 8mile Creek (to be established 2013)	8/12	9/28	8/31	Greenline Stubble	Hydric Spp.	4 in.	50%	Greenline Stubble	Hydric Spp.	No Data ¹	8%
			This site was not established in 2013	Bank Alteration	N/A	20%		Bank Alteration	N/A	No Data ¹	
			Browse Use	Willow	50%	Browse Use		Willow	23%		
Lower Unit-Upper Little 8Mile Creek (M268)	6/26	7/10	7/24	Greenline Stubble	Carex Spp.	6 in.	50%	Greenline Stubble	Carex Spp.	8 in.	13%
				Bank Alteration	N/A	10%		Bank Alteration	N/A	10%	
				Browse Use	Willow	30%		Browse Use	Willow	23%	
Lower Unit-Upper Little 8Mile Creek (M267)	6/26	7/10	8/21	Greenline Stubble	Carex Spp.	4 in.	50%	Greenline Stubble	Carex Spp.	No Data ²	
				Bank Alteration	N/A	20%		Bank Alteration	N/A	No data ²	
Upper North Unit	7/11	8/3	8/31	Utilization	Hydric spp.	50%	50%	Utilization	Hydric spp.	No Suitable Location	8%

¹In 2013 a DMA was not established by and ID team in the Upper South unit.

²On August 21st, 2013, SCNF went to the DMA site; they did not feel the site was representative of conditions on the allotment. The site will be visited in 2014 and moved or surveyed accordingly.

	Photo Record	Page 1 of 3
Intermountain Region	Salmon-Challis NF North Zone	District: Leadore
2013 End of Year Report	Observer: Range Employees	Allotment: Little Eightmile C&H Allotment
All Pastures with Completed Utilization, LUM, and MIM Sites		
Subject: EOY Photo Records for Little Eightmile C&H Allotment		



Lower Unit LUM 8/21/13



Lower Unit LUM 8/21/13

	Photo Record	Page 2 of 3
Intermountain Region	Salmon-Challis NF North Zone	District: Leadore
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Subject: EOY Photo Records for Little Eightmile C&H Allotment		



Upper North Upland Utilization 8/21/13



Lower Unit Upland 8/21/13

	Photo Record	Page 3 of 3
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Upper South Upland 8/21/13