

## 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 that stream in this allotment surveyed for impacted redds? **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)? **See table below**
4. What was the date that livestock removed from the pasture with surveyed stream segment? **The herd was removed on August 31. There were some additional livestock observed in the unit until September 10 but none were observed after that date.**
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. **Browse use was exceeded on the Sawmill Creek section of the Cub Canyon unit (indicator was 25%, actual was 32%) and the Sawmill Creek section of the Horse Lake Unit (indicator was 25%, actual was 29%). There were livestock found in units outside of the authorized dates. They were reported to the permittees and removed. A Notice of Non-Compliance was issued for the issues stated above.**

Salmon-Challis NF Official: **Josh Edwards (range management specialist), Bart Gamett (fish biologist)**

Date: **March 7, 2014**

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**Table 1. Bull trout red survey summary.**

Stream	Date	Water Conditions	Downstream UTM (NAD83)	Upstream UTM (NAD83)	Redds Observed	Impacted Redds
Sawmill Creek	09/10/2013	low, clear	Zone 12, 308743 E, 4916801 N	Zone 12, 308469 E, 4917591 N	0	0
Timber Creek	09/10/2013	low, clear	Zone 12, 307013 E, 4921483 N	Zone 12, 306124 E, 4922163 N	13	0

**LITTLE LOST RIVER SUB-BASIN  
SAWMILL CANYON WATERSHED  
2013 END OF SEASON REPORT  
MILL CREEK ALLOTMENT – LOST RIVER RANGER DISTRICT, SALMON-  
CHALLIS NF**

TERM GRAZING PERMIT				AUTHORIZED USE				ACTUAL USE			
NO.	ON DATE	OFF DATE	H.M.	NO.	ON DATE	OFF DATE	H.M.	NO.	ON DATE	OFF DATE	H.M.
554	7/1	9/30	1676	554	8/15	9/25	765	554	8/15	9/25	765

Actual use was 46% of full permitted head months, and 100% of full permitted cattle.

**UNIT DATES AND UTILIZATION RESULTS:**

ACTUAL GRAZING SCHEDULE			ALLOWABLE INDICATORS	ACTUAL RESULTS	INDICATORS MET
UNIT NAME	ON DATE	OFF DATE	Stubble Ht./Alteration <sup>2</sup> / Woody Browse	Stubble Ht./Alteration <sup>2</sup> / Woody Browse	
Timber Creek- N. Spring S. Spring	8/15	8/31	4"/NA/25%	5"/NA/NA 4"/NA/22%	Yes Yes
Horse Lake- Spring Little Lost	9/1	9/25	4"/NA/NA 6"/NA/25%	5"/NA/NA 6"/NA/29%	Yes No
Cub Canyon	9/1	9/25	NA/25% Uplands 50%	32% Browse	No
Smithie Fork <sup>1</sup> #1 Upper #2 Lower	REST	REST	4"/15%/25%	REST	REST
Mill Creek Bear Creek	REST	REST	4"/20%/25%	REST	REST
Squaw Creek Warm Creek	REST	REST	4"/NA/25%	REST	REST

<sup>1</sup> In this unit, there are two DMA's upper and lower Smithie.

**Allotment Inspections:** Allotment inspections were conducted on the following dates: 5/31, 7/2, 7/9, 7/10, 8/7, 8/9, 8/12, 8/14, 8/19, 8/26, 8/29, 9/3, 9/5, 9/9, 9/10, 9/11, 9/17, 9/23, and 10/18. Allotment inspections included cattle location checks, contact with rider and permittees, and utilization monitoring.

**Information:** The Mill Creek permittee was not authorized to turn livestock onto the Mill Creek allotment until August 15, 45 days after the permitted date. The livestock for the Mill Creek permittee were authorized to graze on other Forest and BLM allotments located near the Mill Creek Allotment until the 2013 BiOp was completed. The Forest Service followed up with inspections whenever livestock were documented in locations outside of scheduled dates and made appropriate contact with permittees and range riders to get livestock promptly moved to the correct locations.

The precipitation for this area on the District was 101% of average for the 2013 Water Year (Oct 1- Sept. 30). The Water Year data showed to be right at the average and the precipitation during the active growing season (April-September) showed 123% of normal precipitation when compared to the average. Sawmill Canyon was an anomaly this season for precipitation. September had remarkable precipitation which didn't help much with forage production. The precipitation information for the Moonshine SNOTEL site is provided below. The totals for 2013 are compared to the average total precipitation for the water year by month for the Moonshine SNOTEL site from the NRCS National Water and Climate Center website for 1982-2013.

Month	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Total
2013 Precip. (in inches)	1.8	1.6	3.6	1.5	0.7	1.1	0.7	3.0	1.6	1.9	1.4	4.1	23.0
2013 % of Average	120	80	144	65	37	46	32	125	67	173	140	342	101%
Average Precip. 1982-2013	1.5	2.0	2.5	2.3	1.9	2.4	2.2	2.4	2.4	1.1	1.0	1.2	22.8

**Utilization:** Indicators were not met for browse use on the Little Lost River portion of the Cub Canyon Unit, it was a 32% instead of the 25% indicator value. Browse use along the Little Lost River portion of the Horse Lake Unit was 29% instead of the 25% indicator value. The Squaw Creek, Mill Creek and Smithie Fork units were rested this year.

A browse standard of 25% is included in your permit and should be watched carefully. Woody browse by livestock on willows, aspen, and riparian shrubs is an important consideration especially in dry years. Generally speaking, cattle began to shift to woody browse species as the four inch stubble height on grasses and sedges was met which could be used as an indicator for riders/ permittees to move cattle in the future. Using this tool to adjust movement dates could avoid overuse or missing end of season standards for herbaceous and woody species in these riparian areas during years of low precipitation.

**Compliance with Unit Schedule and Project Maintenance:** A Notice of Non-Compliance was issued to the permittees on the Mill Creek Allotment this year for failure to keep cattle within the scheduled units during scheduled time periods.

There were issues with livestock being found on the allotment before they were authorized to graze and specialists visited the allotment to assess the impacts of this. There were also issues with cattle being in units at times outside of the scheduled dates.

**The following actions and timeframes for accomplishment are required of you to remedy the non-compliance:**

1. In 2014, all livestock are to be kept in the scheduled pasture and on the allotment according to the 2013 BA and 2014 AOI or direction from myself or a rangeland management specialist as adjustments are made throughout the season.

These actions are required through the end of the 2014 grazing season. **Failure to comply with these actions within the prescribed timeframes may result in the initiation of permit suspension or cancellation procedures.**

The fisheries crew was in the Timber Creek area monitoring bull trout redds on September 10<sup>th</sup> and observed 13 redds with no observed impacts to the redds.

It is the Forest's responsibility to maintain the Forest Service Administrative pasture fence at the beginning of the season, and the permittee's responsibility to keep it maintained throughout the grazing season. The administrative fences were maintained prior to cattle going onto the allotment this

**Summary:** End of season indicators were met in most units except the Little Lost area of Horse Lake (29% browse use instead of 25%) and Little Lost area of Cub Canyon (32% browse use instead of 25%). Warm Creek will be fenced to be excluded from livestock grazing in order to reduce the impacts on ¼ mile of the stream. Riding and back riding continues to be the key factor in following the grazing management plan and meeting end of season stubble height standards. All move dates this season were as planned. Gathering this allotment can be a challenge with the timbered country so allow the necessary time to get the units cleaned.

**Recommendations or Reminders:**

1. The NEPA process has been started to build the fence at Warm Creek and livestock will not graze the Squaw Creek Unit until that fence is built.
2. Utilization on the Little Lost River in the Horse Lake Unit should be watched closely so that the 6" stubble height and 25% browse use is not exceeded. This will require more focused riding to keep the cattle off of the stream while grazing other parts of the unit.
3. Browse Use across the allotment should be watched closely so that the 25% use indicator is not exceeded.
4. There is a bank alteration indicator for the 2014 season on the Mill Creek Unit, 20%, for Mill Creek and Bear Creek. The Smithie Fork Unit will also have a bank alteration indicator and it will be 15%. This will help to improve streambank stability in these units.
5. Cattle movements between units need to be completed on the specified date to reduce the potential impacts to bull trout spawning. Smithie Fork cannot be

- grazed after August 15<sup>th</sup> and Timber Creek cannot be grazed after August 31<sup>st</sup> in order to avoid grazing conflicts with spawning.
6. Riders need to move cattle that are congregating in riparian areas, boundary fence corners and other problem areas into uplands to reduce grazing impacts to those areas.
  7. Back ride to ensure cattle do not drift 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.
  8. Look at the possibility of upgrading water developments in Cub Canyon and Squaw Creek Units on existing stock ponds.
  9. If livestock are found in the Fairview Administrative pasture promptly remove them.
  10. Prepare for another hot and dry season. The precipitation from this winter will prove insignificant to forage production if we do not get any moisture during the spring and active growing season. In preparing, thoughts of running fewer cattle, less time in each unit and lighter use will reduce the chances of long lasting impacts to the forage species on the allotment. Although this allotment seems to be near average for precipitation the southernmost, lower elevation units (Cub Canyon and Squaw Creek) are drier than the upper units on the allotment and should be watched for drought conditions.