

**Cove Creek Cattle & Horse Allotment's
2014 Annual Monitoring Report
for the
US Fish and Wildlife Service's 7/27/2010 Biological Opinion
(File # 114.0600, 14420-2010-F-0375)**

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?

Big Timber Creek. See attached bull trout redd survey.

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

The survey date was 9/2/2014 and the water conditions were normal and clear.
See attached bull trout redd survey.

3. Which stream segment was surveyed and how many redds and impacted redds were found? (Please give GPS start and stop points for segments)?

There was one bull trout redd observed and no bull trout redds were impacted. The GPS UTM starting location was Zone 12T, Easting 0308675, Northing 4935821. The GPS UTM stopping location was Zone 12T, Easting 0309043, Northing 4936669. See attached bull trout redd survey. The stream segment surveyed was selected because of private land access issues in the lower Big Timber Creek stream reaches within the Cove Creek Allotment.

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

According to the Actual Use On/Off dates given to the Forest by the Permittee 5 cow/calf pairs were in the Cove Creek Unit between 9/29 and 10/28. See attached Cove Creek C&H Allotment's 2014 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?

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?

There were no changes to the grazing management as described in the 2010 Biological Assessment. See attached Cove Creek C&H Allotment's 2014 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.

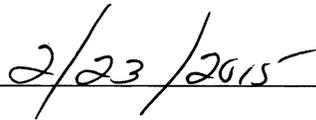
There were no unexpected circumstances or events that resulted in impacts beyond what the forest anticipated in the 2010 Biological Assessment.

Salmon-Challis National Forest Official: _____



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

Date: _____



Contact Information:

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

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

The attached Cove Creek C&H Allotment's 2014 End of the Year Report was prepared by:
Ingrid Drieling – Rangeland Management Specialist (Leadore Ranger District)
(208) 768-2516 or idrieling@fs.fed.us

Results of the Range Allotment's implementation and effectiveness monitoring will be available at the following website:

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/scnf/landmanagement/resourcemanagement/?cid=STELPRDB5308989>

The attached Big Timber Creek bull trout redd survey was reviewed and finalized by: Daniel A. Garcia - North Zone Districts Fishery Biologist (Salmon/Cobalt Ranger District)

COVE CREEK C&H ALLOTMENT

2014 END OF YEAR REPORT

Leadore Ranger District

North Zone Salmon-Challis National Forest

MANAGEMENT

Term Grazing Permit				Authorized Use			Actual Use		
Permittee	Numbers	Head Months	Season of use	Numbers	HM Head Months	Season of use	Numbers	Head Months	Season of use
James Whittaker	5 c/c	NTE 23	7/1-11/15	310 c/c: 5 c/c on FS 305 on Private	1402 23 FS/1379 Private	7/1-11/15	176 c/c 310 yr	458	7/7-8/24 9/29-10/28

*This allotment is an on/off permit and is 98% Private property and 2% USFS Land

Unit Schedule

Unit	Numbers	Authorized Season of Use	Head Months	Actual Season of Use	Head Months
Cove Creek	310 c/c: 5 c/c on FS 305 on Private	7/1-11/15	1402	7/7-8/24 9/29-10/28	458

Compliance with unit Schedule in AOI: Unit moves complied with critical dates for cattle presence with spawning and incubating fish, per the Biological Assessment, USFWS 2010 Cove Creek Biological Opinion, and NMFS 2010 Cove Creek Allotment Concurrence Letter. Moves were conducted by the permittee on or before scheduled move dates.

Allotment Inspections: Allotment inspections were conducted on the following dates: 7/9 and 11/6. 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.

Term and Condition 1 for Reasonable and Prudent Measure 2

- A meeting was held in 2011 with the permittee to discuss the feasibility of installing a fence that will preclude livestock from Entering Big Timber Creek at that time it was determined a fence was not needed. This will be revisited with the permittee in 2015.

MONITORING DATA

Annual Indicator Monitoring: For the 2014 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 2014 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.**

Long Term Monitoring: During the 2014 grazing season, long term riparian monitoring was completed using the MIM protocol (Burton 2012) in the Cove Creek C&H Allotment along Big Timber Creek.

Permit Administration: No unauthorized livestock were found on the allotment outside of the authorized dates during the 2014 grazing season.

OTHER INFORMATION

Growing Season Conditions: Precipitation for the District was below normal for 2014. The precipitation information for the District is included in the table below. While this information is collected at the Leadore 2 weather station in Leadore, Idaho and is not specific to an allotment area, it gives an idea of the available moisture on the District.

Month	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Precipitation (in.) 2014	1.11	0.04	0.3	0.51	0.2	0.45	0.56	0.61	0.13	.54			3.91
Average Precipitation (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	8.06

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.

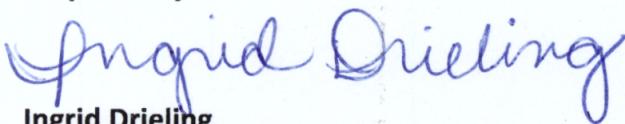
BLM/OC/ST-10/003+1737. U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, National Operations Center, Denver, CO. 155p.

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

NOAA National Climatic Data Centers. 201. "Monthly Climatological Summary (2014), Leadore Number 2, ID, US." Retrieved November 3, 2014. <www.ncdc.noaa.gov>

Western Regional Climate Center. 2014. "Monthly Climate Summary, Leadore 2, Idaho (105177)." Retrieved on November 3, 2014. <www.wrcc.dri.edu>

Prepared By:



Ingrid Drieling

Rangeland Management Specialist

2014 COVE CREEK C&H ALLOTMENT MONITORING DATA

Actual Grazing Schedule				Allowable Standards				Actual Results			
Unit Name	On Date	Off Date	Date Read	Riparian			Upland	Riparian			Upland
Cove Creek Unit – Cove Creek	7/7	10/28	7/9, 11/6	Greenline Stubble	Hydric spp.	6 in.	50%	Greenline Stubble	Carex spp.	10.9 in.	20.72%
				Bank Alteration	N/A	10%		Bank Alteration	N/A	0%	
				Browse Use	Willow	30%		Browse Use	Prominently Willow ssp.	12.2%	
					Alder	20%					

JNRIS entered. H. Messner 2015. 01. 13

Bull Trout Redd Survey Salmon-Challis National Forest (North Zone)

(last edited 8/11/2014)

Biological Opinion Name: Livestock Grazing on the Cove Creek Grazing

Biological Opinion Number: File # 114.0600 and 14420-2010-F-0375 Allotment

Stream Name: Big Timber Creek Survey Date: 9/2/14

Allotment Name: Cove Creek Unit Name: Cove Creek

Start Time: 11:30am Stop Time: 13:07 Number of Pictures Taken: _____

Stream Segment Length on GPS: 924m @ fence line

Estimated Stream Segment Length measured with GIS: _____

Site Directions: Hwy 28 S. to Leadore - West on Lee Cr Rd to Timber Cr Rd. #105 follow past Stone reservoir toward Big Timber Trailhead. Go (L) on Rd 015B thru wood gate. Take (R) after gate on #015 down toward stream. Take top spur to (R) near cr. (rough road). Park before fence -> Top is below fence line in stream.

Survey Crew: Slavin, Messner, Nathan Muscarella (YCC), Craig Kemping

(top) H₂O Temp: 44°F Air Temp: 56°F Elevation: 6975 ft

(bottom) H₂O Temp: 48°F Air Temp: 76°F Elevation: 6895 ft

Starting Location GPS (UTM): Zone 12T Easting 0308675 Northing 4935821

Degree Decimal: N: 44.55032° W: 113.40873°

Stopping Location GPS (UTM): Zone 12T Easting 0309043 Northing 4936669

Degree Decimal: N: 44.55805° W: 113.40442°

Number of Live Adult bull trout Observed: 2 (located on Redd)

Number of bull trout Redds Observed: 1

Number of bull trout Redds Observed that Livestock Trampled: 0

Comments: _____

Water: clear

No cattle in area

only small pockets of good spawning gravels



Comments continued:

Completed Redd: Degree Decimal: N: 44.55317° W: 113.40665°

Completed Redd: Degree Decimal: N: _____ W: _____

Completed Redd: Degree Decimal: N: _____ W: _____