



**FREMONT-WINEMA NATIONAL FOREST
Paisley & Lakeview Ranger Districts
2014 End-of-Season Monitoring Report**



2014 End-of-Season monitoring results on the Mill Flat & Swamp Creek Allotments.

Allotment-Pasture-Key Area	Residual Greenline Stubble Height		Utilization		
	Allowable Use	Actual	Allowable Use		Actual
			Floodplain	Dry Meadow	
Mill Flat-Coyote/ Dick's Creek	5"	2"*	45%	55%	40% OE
Mill Flat-Coyote/ Bob's Lake	5"	6"	45%	55%	43% UC*
Mill Flat-Fawn/ Crooked Creek- N. Fork Cox Creek	5"	4"*	45%	55%	30% OE
Mill Flat-Mill Flat- Willow Creek/Mill Flat Creek	4"	3"	45%	55%	44% UC
Swamp Creek-Moss Pass- Moss Creek	4"	4"	45%	55%	34% UC
Swamp Creek-Ben Young- Ben Young Creek	4"	2"	45%	55%	45%UC
Swamp Creek-Shoestring- Shoestring Creek	4"	4" OE	45%	55%	30% OE

UC = utilization cage measured by weight; OE = ocular estimation; * = measures not consistent with photos or field review

Mill Flat Allotment

Coyote & Bob's Lake Pastures- Data for these combined-use pastures were collected at both key areas on October 27th. Average residual greenline stubble height at Dick's Creek measured two inches which was not within the allowable use of five inches for these areas. However photos indicate that the greenline measure is not consistent with use across the pasture or key area and that stubble height was closer to the five inch allowable use standard than measurements suggested. Utilization cages were also measured at both sites, with 43% by weight at Bob's Lake and 40% utilization through ocular estimate at Dick's Creek. Both of these measures are within allowable use for this pasture.

Fawn & Crooked Creek Pastures- Data for these combined-use pastures were collected at Fawn Creek Spring on November 4th. Average residual greenline stubble height measured four inches which is not within the allowable use of five inches for this pasture. However photos indicate that the greenline measure is not consistent with use across the pasture or key area and that stubble height was closer to the five inch allowable use standard than measurements suggested. Utilization at Fawn Creek was ocularly estimated at 30% use which was within allowable use levels for the area. Be advised oxeye daisy, a noxious weed, was documented in this pasture in spring 2013.

Mill Flat Pasture- Residual greenline stubble height and utilization data was collected on October 27th at the Willow Creek Key Area along FSR 3625 and Mill Flat Creek Key Area and measured three inches and 44% use by weight. The residual stubble height exceeds allowable use while the utilization is within allowable use for pasture.

Swamp Creek Allotment

Moss Pass Pasture- End of season monitoring occurred on September 25th. Average residual greenline stubble height measured four inches and the utilization cage measured 34% use by weight, which are within the allowable use for the area.

Ben Young Pasture- Data was collected at the key area on Ben Young Creek on November 7th. Both residual greenline stubble height and utilization were within allowable use levels, measuring seven inches and 24% utilization respectively.

Shoestring Pasture- Shoestring Creek was assessed for use on October 14th, with utilization ocularly estimated at 30%. This utilization is within allowable use for the pasture.

Summary:

Both the Swamp Creek and Mill Flat allotments had initial end of season measures that did not meet all applicable Forest Plan Standards for livestock grazing management during the 2014 grazing season. However photos indicated that half of these measures are not consistent with use across the pastures or key areas. Additional training of seasonal employees may be needed to ensure that measurements are being collected in the correct locations and using the correct vegetation especially during drought years where the water's edge may not be the greenline. Review of all of the data by the rangeland management specialist for this and other allotments resulted in consistent trends for greenline measurement being lower than apparent in photos and through field review.

This use was heavier than in recent years, most likely due to prolonged drought and few off channel water developments on the Buck-Doe, Coleman Rim, Cox Flat, and Schuster allotments. Photos, inspection notes, phone conversation records and correspondence are filed as part of the permit case file and allotment files at the Paisley Ranger District.

Neighboring unauthorized livestock utilized portions of the Coyote Pasture late in the season due to fences not being maintained. Dick's Creek also experienced permitted livestock returning to this pasture throughout the grazing season as a result of neighboring allotments and private lands not adequately maintaining fences. This issue has been addressed through meetings with Collins and the Forest Service and we hope that this issue will be greatly reduced or remedied in 2015. Thank you for your diligence in managing your livestock through this process and please continue to communicate challenges or concerns you experience on your allotments with your rangeland management specialist in the future.

Recommendations:

Closer monitoring of allowable use should occur on the part of the permittee. Some monitoring areas may need assessed for appropriateness and relocated to areas more representative of the pasture or vegetation communities.

Regrowth of vegetation should not be relied upon to meet allowable use levels at the end of the growing season as there is no guarantee of regrowth, especially during prolonged drought conditions. It is the permittee's responsibility to monitor use levels and avoid exceeding allowable use levels by moving livestock as allowable use is being approached. Exceedance of any use levels in the 2015 grazing season could result in management changes such as shortened

season or reduced numbers to avoid resource concerns or prevent declines in long term condition and trend on your allotments.

Should drought conditions persist in the 2015 grazing season, I recommend reductions in numbers, season, or implementation of practices such as hauling water to allotments to reduce impacts and continue to meet allowable use levels in your permit and consultation documents.

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