



**FREMONT-WINEMA NATIONAL FOREST
Paisley Ranger District
2014 End-of-Season Monitoring Report**



2014 End-of-Season monitoring results on Bear Lakes allotment.

Pasture-Key Area	Residual Greenline Stubble Height		Utilization		
	Allowable Use	Actual Use	Allowable Use		Actual Use
			Floodplain	Dry Meadow	
Bear Lakes- Round Pass- Newell Creek	6"	2"*	45%	55%	44% UC
Bear Lakes- Bear- Bear Creek	4"	5"	45%	45%	46% UC
Bear Lakes- Bald Butte- Head of Sycan	4"	3"*	45%	45%	59%*UC
Bear Lakes- Bald Butte- North Fork Sprague	4"	5"	45%	45%	43% UC
Bear Lakes- Lakes- Hartman Meadow	4"	5"	45%	45%	38% UC

UC= utilization cage by weight; * photos indicate that use is not at this level across the key area/pasture

Bear Lakes Allotment

Round Pass Pasture- Data were collected for both average residual greenline stubble height and utilization in the Round Pass Pasture at Newell Creek and Meyer Meadow Key Areas on October 14th. Newell Creek measured two inches and 44% utilization by weight. Average residual greenline stubble height was an average of 1 inch at Meyer Meadow Spring on October 14th. However photos indicate that these measures are not consistent with use across the pasture or key area.

Bear Pasture- Data were collected for both average residual greenline stubble height and utilization in Bear Pasture on September 30th, measuring five inches and 46% utilization by weight. Both measurements are within allowable use levels in this pasture or the error of the measurement protocol.

Bald Butte Pasture- Data for this pasture was collected at both the North Fork Sprague and Head of Sycan key areas on October 16th and 29th. Average residual greenline stubble height measured five inches on the Sprague River and three inches at the Head of Sycan. Utilization was 59% at the Head of Sycan and 43% on the North Fork of the Sprague River measured by weight. Some measurements are within allowable use levels in this pasture while others have photos that indicate that the measurements are not consistent with use across the pasture or key area. Based on photos, this pasture met both the residual stubble height and utilization standards in the AMP.

Lakes Pasture- Measurements of residual greenline stubble height and utilization were collected at Hartman Meadow on September 21st. Residual stubble height measured five inches and utilization by weight measured 38%. Both measurements are within allowable use levels for this pasture and are consistent with the Forest Plan.

Summary:

The Bear Lakes Allotment was assessed for utilization in all nine pastures and at all eleven key areas. Measurements of residual greenline stubble height at seven sites did not meet allowable use during initial assessments however photos indicated that 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 in the Bear Lakes Allotment, but all allowable use levels within the Forest Plan and consultation documents were met. 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.

Recommendations:

At this time there are no changes needed to these allotments. Some monitoring areas may need assessed for appropriateness and relocated to areas more representative of the pasture or vegetation communities. Permittees are welcome and encouraged to participate in future Interagency Field Reviews on your allotments associated with consultation for listed fish species. These generally occur at the end of the grazing season and allotments visited vary by year.

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.

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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