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

2014 End-of-Season monitoring results on the Bear Lakes, Drum Hill, and Strohm allotments.

Allotment-Pasture-Key Area	Residual Greenline Stubble Height		Utilization		
	Allowable Use	Actual Use	Allowable Use		Actual Use
			Floodplain	Dry Meadow	
Bear Lakes- Mill Creek- Mill Creek	6"	4"*	45%	55%	29% UC
Bear Lakes- Corral Creek	6"	4"*	45%	55%	No Data
Bear Lakes- East River	6"	3"*	45%	55%	No Data
Bear Lakes- Round Pass- Newell Creek	6"	2"*	45%	55%	44% UC
Bear Lakes- Round Pass-Meyer Meadow	6"	1"*	45%	55%	No Data
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
Bear Lakes- Coffeepot-Coffeepot Creek	4"	7"	45%	55%	No Data
Bear Lakes-Long Hollow-Coffeepot Creek	6"	3"*	45%	55%	56% UC*
Drum Hill- East Drum	4"	No Data	45%	45%	No Data
Drum Hill- West Drum	4"	No Data	45%	45%	No Data
Strohm-Chewaucan River	4"	No Data	45%	45%	No Data

UC= utilization cage measured by weight; * = photos are not consistent with this measure of use

Bear Lakes Allotment

Mill Creek Pasture- Data were collected for both average residual greenline stubble height and utilization in Mill Creek Pasture at Mill Creek key area on September 30th. Average residual greenline stubble height was measured at four inches and utilization was measured by weight at 29%. 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 six inch allowable use standard than measurements suggested.

Corral Creek Pasture - Data were collected for average residual greenline stubble height in Corral Creek Pasture at Corral Creek key area on September 21st. An average residual greenline stubble height of four inches was measured. 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 six inch allowable use standard than measurements suggested.

East River Pasture- Data were collected for average residual greenline stubble height in the East River Pasture on September 29th, measuring 3 inches. 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 six inch allowable use standard than measurements suggested. The low measures may have been a result of unusually low water levels in the Chewaucan River associated with the drought that resulted in measurement in the wrong area.

Coffeepot Pasture- Measurements of residual greenline stubble height were collected at Coffeepot Creek on September 14th. Residual stubble height measured seven inches which are within allowable use levels for this pasture and are consistent with the Forest Plan.

Long Hollow Pasture- Measurements of residual greenline stubble height and utilization were collected at Coffeepot Creek on September 29th. Residual stubble height measured three inches and utilization by weight measured 56%. 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 six inch allowable use standard than measurements suggested. Also, the utilization cage is located in a forested portion of the meadow with needle cast evident. Forest Service range management personnel may consider moving this cage to an area with meadow vegetation or removing it.

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 whiles 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.

Drum Hill Allotment

East Drum Pasture- Data was not collected in this pasture in 2014.

West Drum Pasture- Data was not collected in this pasture in 2014.

Strohm Allotment

Data was not collected for the Strohm Allotment in 2014.

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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