



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



2014 End-of-Season monitoring results on the Brattain Butte and Paradise Creek allotments.

Allotment-Pasture-Key Area	Residual Greenline Stubble Height		Utilization		
	Allowable Use	Actual Use	Allowable Use		Actual Use
			Floodplain	Dry Meadow	
Brattain Butte	NA	No data	NA	55%	No data
Paradise Creek-Sprague RIP-Sprague	6"	2"*	45%	55%	50% UC
Paradise Creek- North Paradise-Crazy Creek	4"	5"	45%	55%	27% UC
Paradise Creek- South Paradise-Cold Creek	4"	4"	45%	55%	42% UC

UC = utilization cage measured by weight; NA= Not applicable; * = first measurement

Brattain Butte Allotment

This allotment was not assessed for end of season conditions or use in 2014. This allotment has four photo points used for ocular estimate of use.

Paradise Creek Allotment

Sprague RIP Pasture- Data was collected for both residual greenline stubble height and utilization on September 21st, and measured two inches and 50% utilization respectively. A field review of this area was completed with US Fish & Wildlife Service on October 21st and it was determined that the stubble height was greater than the six inch requirement when considering areas across the pasture along the greenline. This meets those allowable use levels in your permit and biological opinion.

North Paradise Pasture- Data was collected for both residual greenline stubble height and utilization on September 21st, and measured five inches and 27% utilization respectively. Both of these measurements are within allowable use levels for the pasture. Willow browse did not appear to be an issue this season.

South Paradise Pasture- Data was collected for both residual greenline stubble height and utilization on September 21st, and measured four inches and 42% utilization respectively. Both of these measurements are within allowable use levels for the pasture.

Summary:

The Brattain Butte Allotment was not assessed for utilization in 2014. The Paradise Allotment was assessed for utilization in all three pastures and at all six key areas. While one greenline site did not meet allowable use during the initial assessment, a second visit indicated that regrowth occurred and end of season residual stubble height was within allowable use. A review team including several Forest Service and US Fish and Wildlife Service personnel visited the Paradise

Allotment on October 21st and discussed ongoing and future fish habitat restoration projects and current grazing management. No concerns were brought forward during this site visit.

This use was heavier than in recent years, most likely due to prolonged drought, 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. Permittees are welcome and encouraged to participate in future Interagency Field Reviews on your allotments. 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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District Ranger

Date: 2-26-2015