

**Deer – Iron Creek Cattle & Horse Allotment’s
2012 Annual Monitoring Report
for the
US Fish and Wildlife Service’s 6/28/2010 Biological Opinion**

(File # 114.0700, 14420-2010-F-0349)

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?

Iron 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 9/4/2012 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 were 5 adult bull trout observed but no bull trout redd observed and therefore no bull trout redds were impacted. The GPS UTM starting location was Zone 11T, Easting 0729476, Northing 4978053. The GPS UTM stopping location was Zone 11T, Easting 0730537, Northing 4978138.
See attached bull trout redd survey.

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

According to the Actual Use On/Off dates given to the Forest by the Permittee 330 cow/calf pairs were in the Peel Tree East Unit between 8/16 and 9/28. See attached Deer –Iron Creek C&H Allotment’s 2012 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?

There were no changes to the grazing management as described in the 2010 Biological Assessment. See attached Deer-Iron Creek C&H Allotment’s 2012 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: _____

2/28/2013

Contact Information:

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

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

The attached Deer-Iron Creek C&H Allotment's 2012 End of the Year Report was prepared by:

Concetta Brown - North Zone Rangeland Management Specialist (Leadore Ranger District)

(208) 768-2503 or concettabrown@fs.fed.us

Results of the Range Allotment's implementation and effectiveness monitoring will be available at the following website: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/sc/projects/range/index.html>.

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

Deer-Iron C&H Allotment Annual Report, 2012

Salmon Cobalt Ranger District North Zone Salmon-Challis National Forest

Livestock on the Allotment

| Term Grazing Permit | | | | 2012 Authorized Use | | | | 2012 Actual Use | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------|----------|------|---------------------|---------|----------|------|-----------------|---------|----------|------|
| Permittee & Permitted #'s | On date | Off date | H.M. | No. | On date | Off date | H.M. | No. | On date | Off date | H.M. |
| Janelle Phillips 321 c/c | 6/16 | 6/30 | 158 | 330c/c | 6/16 | 6/30 | 163 | 330c/c | 6/16 | 6/30 | 163 |
| Janelle Philips 421 c/c | 7/1 | 10/7 | 1370 | 330c/c | 7/1 | 10/7 | 1074 | 330c/c | 7/1 | 9/28 | 976 |

Actual Use Rotation

| Unit | Livestock Numbers | On Date | Off Date |
|----------------|-------------------|---------|----------|
| Degan | 330 c/c | 6/15 | 8/15 |
| South Fork | | 8/5 | 8/15 |
| Peel Tree East | | 8/16 | 9/28 |
| Peel Tree West | Rested | | |

*From 8/5-8/15 the cattle used the Degan Mountain and South Fork Units in conjunction. The 330 were distributed between the two units.

Compliance with Unit Schedule in AOI: The South Fork unit was used very little during the 2011 grazing season. Due to the minimal use the permittee was allowed to graze the unit this season during dates that did not interfere with spawning dates.

Unit moves complied with critical dates for cattle presence with spawning and incubating fish, per the Biological Assessment, USFWS 2010 Deer-Iron Biological Opinion. Allotment moves were conducted by the permittee on or before scheduled move dates. Back riding units was successfully completed.

The permittee recorded riding a total of 65 days and logging 6 hours of flight hours.

Allotment inspections: Allotment inspections were conducted on the following dates: 6/12, 8/21, and 10/3. Allotment inspections consist of a qualified employee working in range management visiting the allotment to monitor implementation of the AOI and/or the annual use indicators.

Compliance with special Terms and Conditions regarding livestock location and management practices:

RPM #1 The whole of this report addresses this term. Conservation measures were followed.

RPM #2 The whole of this report addresses this term. Conservation measures were followed.

Monitoring Data

For the 2012 grazing season, monitoring was completed at the Designated Monitoring Areas (DMAs) using Multiple Indicator Monitoring (MIM) technical reference (Burton, 2010). If the site did not meet the guidelines for establishment of a MIM, photos were taken and attached to this document. Upland monitoring was completed using the Landscape Appearance Method or Utilization Wheel. Utilization for the 2012 grazing season met the use standards and annual indicators in the AOI, BA, and BO.

Specific results are in table on page 4.

Other Information

Growing Season Conditions: Precipitation for the District was above average for 2012. The precipitation information for the District is included in the table below. While this information is collected at the Western Regional Climate Center Salmon KSRA weather station and is not specific to an allotment area, it gives an idea of the available moisture on the District. The precipitation for 2012 is compared to the average precipitation for Salmon. The annual precipitation was .18 inches higher this year in comparison to the average from 1967 to 2010.

| Month | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | Apr. | May | Jun. | Jul. | Aug. | Sep. | Oct. | Nov. | Dec. | Total |
|--------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| Precip. (in.) in 2012 | .21 | .91 | 1.45 | 1.05 | 1.46 | .46 | 1.09 | .07 | .09 | 1.16 | 1.02 | 1.06 | 10.03 |
| Average Precip. (in.) from 1967-2010 | .67 | .44 | .54 | .78 | 1.37 | 1.44 | .95 | .80 | .77 | .63 | .73 | .73 | 9.85 |

Permit Administration: No unauthorized livestock were found on the allotment during the 2012 grazing season.

Improvement Maintenance: Fence and trough maintenance was conducted by the permittee. The permittee reported additional maintenance on the following improvements:

- Three miles of fence in the Hat/Iron Saddle
- Four mile of fence fixed along the forest border in Upper Deer
- Half a mile of fence fixed in Corral Creek
- The trough in Upper Badger needed new pipe and fittings

Recommendations or Reminders:

1. Cattle movements between units need to be completed in a specific period. This means permittees need to provide additional riders on move dates and assist with back riding.
2. Riders need to move cattle that are congregating in riparian areas, boundary fence corners, and other problem areas into uplands for more uniform utilization of entire range.
3. Back ride to ensure cattle aren't drifting into previously used units. When leaving the Allotment, start earlier than off date and stagger to ensure complete removal of livestock in a timely manner.
4. Communication with the Range Specialist is an important part of grazing management. Be sure to contact the Range Specialist should you have and concerns/problems.
5. Remember to report the number of days you rode on your actual use form.
6. If you want to make adjustments to the rotation stated in your AOI you must contact your range specialist. All changes must be approved by the district ranger. You must give two weeks notice prior to any adjustments you wish to make to allow time for a decision.

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. 155 pp.

Western Regional Climate Center. 2012. RAWs USA Climate Archive, Salmon, Idaho, Monthly Summaries. Western Regional Climate Center, Reno, Nevada. <http://www.raws.dri.edu>.

Monitoring Results

| Actual Grazing Schedule | | Allowable Standards | | | Actual Results | | | | |
|---|-----------|----------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|--|----------------------|--------------------|--------|
| Unit Name & MIM | Date Read | Riparian | | | Upland | Riparian | | | Upland |
| South Fork Unit West Fork of Iron Creek MIM 262 | 8/21 | Greenline Stubble | <i>Hydric ssp.</i> | 4 in. or 50% | 50% | Greenline stubble | <i>Hydric ssp.</i> | AGGI2 11.2 in | 14% |
| | | Browse Use | Willow | 50% | | Browse Use | Willow | 9.8% | |
| | | Bank Alteration | n/a | 20% | | Bank Alteration | n/a | 3% | |
| South Fork Unit South Fork Iron Creek MIM M226 | 8/21 | Greenline stubble | <i>Hydric ssp.</i> | 6 in. or 30% | | Greenline stubble | <i>Hydric ssp.</i> | CANE2 7.3 in | |
| | | Bank Alteration | n/a | 15% | | Bank Alteration | n/a | 15% | |
| Degan Unit North Fork of Iron Creek MIM 215 | 8/21 | Greenline Stubble | <i>Hydric ssp.</i> | 4 in. or 50% | | 50% | Greenline stubble | <i>Hydric ssp.</i> | |
| | | Browse Use | Dogwood | 25% | Browse Use | | Dogwood | 10% | |
| | | Bank Alteration | n/a | 20% | Bank Alteration | | n/a | 5% | |
| Peel Tree East | 10/3 | Greenline Stubble | Riparian Grass ssp. | 50% | 50% | No riparian grass species were present for measurements | | | 4% |

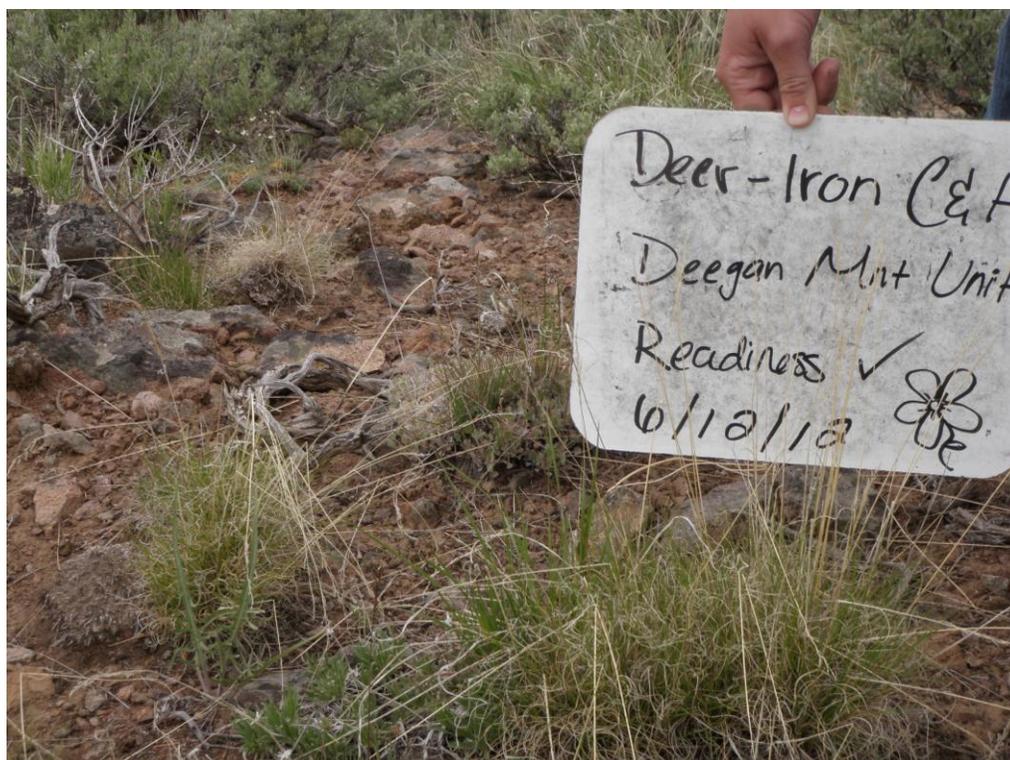
Prepared By:

Concetta Brown
Rangeland Management Specialist

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|---|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| | PHOTO RECORD | Page 1 of 8 |
| INTERMOUNTAIN REGION | SALMON-CHALLIS NATIONAL FOREST | Salmon-Cobalt RD |
| Date: 6/12 and 8/21 | Photographer: C. Brown | Allotment: Deer-Iron C&H |
| Location: Degan Mountain Unit | | |
| Subject: 2012 Range Readiness and End of Year | | |



Both of these photos were taken on 6/12 in the Degan Mountain unit to determine range readiness on Idaho Fescue prior to cattle coming into the unit.



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| | PHOTO RECORD | Page 2 of 8 |
| INTERMOUNTAIN REGION | SALMON-CHALLIS NATIONAL FOREST | Salmon-Cobalt RD |
| Date: 6/12 and 8/21 | Photographer: C. Brown | Allotment: Deer-Iron C&H |
| Location: Degan Mountain Unit | | |
| Subject: 2012 Range Readiness and End of Year | | |



These two photos are of the reference t-post making the location of the North Fork of Iron Creek MIM 215



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| | PHOTO RECORD | Page 3 of 8 |
| INTERMOUNTAIN REGION | SALMON-CHALLIS NATIONAL FOREST | Salmon-Cobalt RD |
| Date: 6/12 and 8/21 | Photographer: C. Brown | Allotment: Deer-Iron C&H |
| Location: Degan Mountain Unit | | |
| Subject: 2012 Range Readiness and End of Year | | |

This photo was taken from the road behind the reference marker to show an overview of the area.



This is an old utilization cage that is near the reference marker.



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| | PHOTO RECORD | Page 4 of 8 |
| INTERMOUNTAIN REGION | SALMON-CHALLIS NATIONAL FOREST | Salmon-Cobalt RD |
| Date: 6/12 and 8/21 | Photographer: C. Brown | Allotment: Deer-Iron C&H |
| Location: Degan Mountain Unit | | |
| Subject: 2012 Range Readiness and End of Year | | |



These two photos give an idea what the vegetation is leading up to the MIM.



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| | PHOTO RECORD | Page 5 of 8 |
| INTERMOUNTAIN REGION | SALMON-CHALLIS NATIONAL FOREST | Salmon-Cobalt RD |
| Date: 6/12 and 8/21 | Photographer: C. Brown | Allotment: Deer-Iron C&H |
| Location: Degan Mountain Unit | | |
| Subject: 2012 Range Readiness and End of Year | | |

T-1 marking the beginning of the MIM.



Upstream photo taken at the beginning of the MIM.



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| | PHOTO RECORD | Page 6 of 8 |
| INTERMOUNTAIN REGION | SALMON-CHALLIS NATIONAL FOREST | Salmon-Cobalt RD |
| Date: 6/12 and 8/21 | Photographer: C. Brown | Allotment: Deer-Iron C&H |
| Location: Degan Mountain Unit | | |
| Subject: 2012 Range Readiness and End of Year | | |

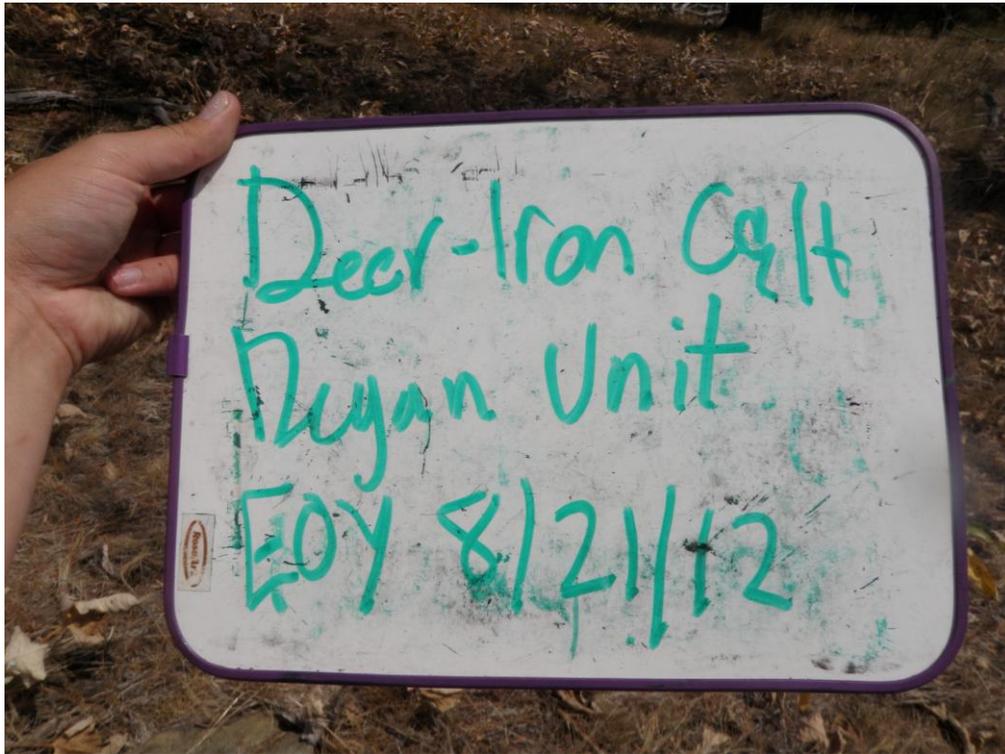
Downstream photo taken at the end of the MIM.



The results of M215 are as follows: The average greenline stubble on Nebraska Sedge was 12.5 inches, woody browse on Dogwood was 10%, and bank alteration was at 5%.

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| | PHOTO RECORD | Page 7 of 8 |
| INTERMOUNTAIN REGION | SALMON-CHALLIS NATIONAL FOREST | Salmon-Cobalt RD |
| Date: 6/12 and 8/21 | Photographer: C. Brown | Allotment: Deer-Iron C&H |
| Location: Degan Mountain Unit | | |
| Subject: 2012 Range Readiness and End of Year | | |

The following photos were taken at the location where upland utilization in the Degan unit was measured using a utilization gauge. Utilization was determined to be 2 % on Idaho Fescue.



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| | PHOTO RECORD | Page 8 of 8 |
| INTERMOUNTAIN REGION | SALMON-CHALLIS NATIONAL FOREST | Salmon-Cobalt RD |
| Date: 6/12 and 8/21 | Photographer: C. Brown | Allotment: Deer-Iron C&H |
| Location: Degan Mountain Unit | | |
| Subject: 2012 Range Readiness and End of Year | | |



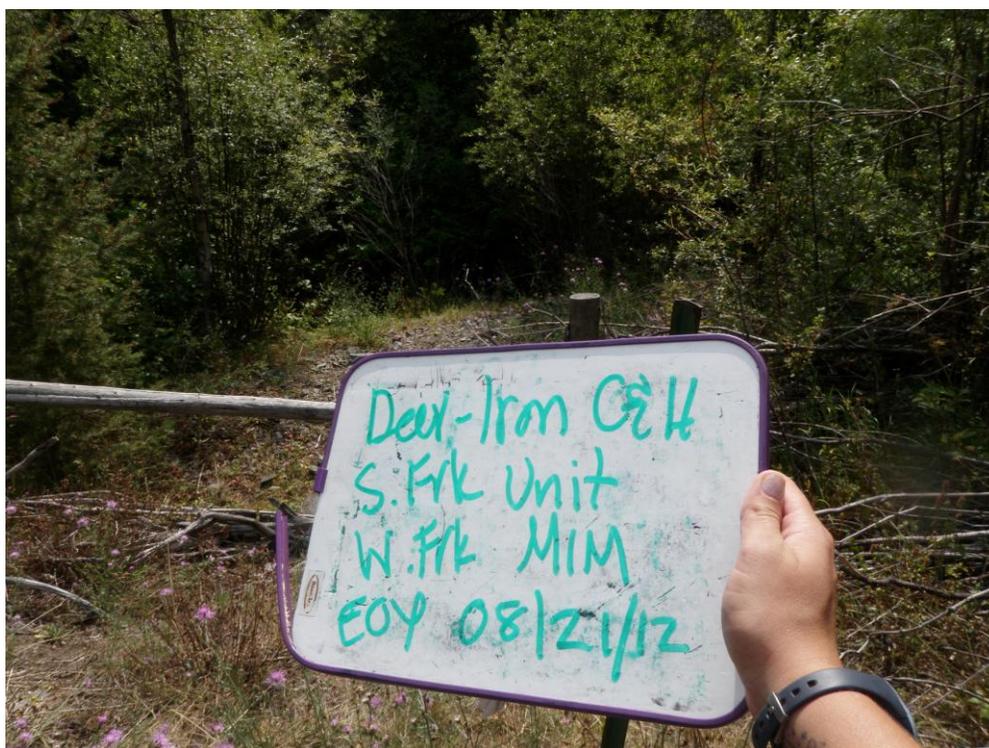
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| | PHOTO RECORD | Page 1 of 5 |
| INTERMOUNTAIN REGION | SALMON-CHALLIS NATIONAL FOREST | Salmon-Cobalt RD |
| Date: 8/21/2012 | Photographer: C. Brown | Allotment: Deer-Iron C&H |
| Location: South Fork Unit | | |
| Subject: End of Year Monitoring | | |

Upland utilization was determined in the South Fork unit using a utilization gauge.
Use was calculated at 14% on Bluebunch Wheatgrass.



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| | PHOTO RECORD | Page 2 of 5 |
| INTERMOUNTAIN REGION | SALMON-CHALLIS NATIONAL FOREST | Salmon-Cobalt RD |
| Date: 8/21/2012 | Photographer: C. Brown | Allotment: Deer-Iron C&H |
| Location: South Fork Unit | | |
| Subject: End of Year Monitoring | | |

This photo and the one above show the reference post for the West Fork of Iron Creek MIM 262 in the South Fork unit. This transect lies in what used to be an old exclosure. The creek is heavily armored by woody vegetation.

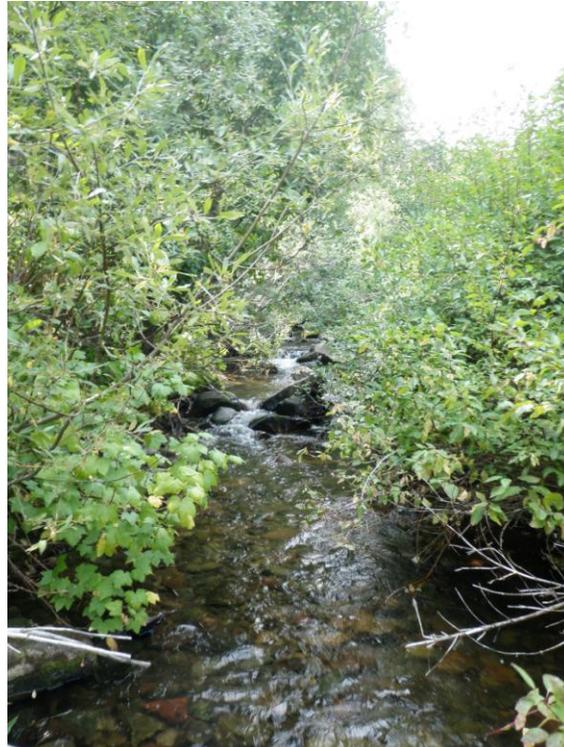


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| | PHOTO RECORD | Page 3 of 5 |
| INTERMOUNTAIN REGION | SALMON-CHALLIS NATIONAL FOREST | Salmon-Cobalt RD |
| Date: 8/21/2012 | Photographer: C. Brown | Allotment: Deer-Iron C&H |
| Location: South Fork Unit | | |
| Subject: End of Year Monitoring | | |

Photo looking downstream at the beginning of the transect.



Photo looking upstream at the end of the transect.



The results for MIM 262 are as follows: An average stubble height of 11.2 inches on Redtop, the browse use was 9.8% on willow species and bank alteration was at 3%.

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| | PHOTO RECORD | Page 4 of 5 |
| INTERMOUNTAIN REGION | SALMON-CHALLIS NATIONAL FOREST | Salmon-Cobalt RD |
| Date: 8/21/2012 | Photographer: C. Brown | Allotment: Deer-Iron C&H |
| Location: South Fork Unit | | |
| Subject: End of Year Monitoring | | |

The following photos are of the South Fork of Iron Creek MIM 226 in the South Fork unit.



These photo is of the reference post making the beginning of the MIM. The post is to the right of the marker board in the upper corner.

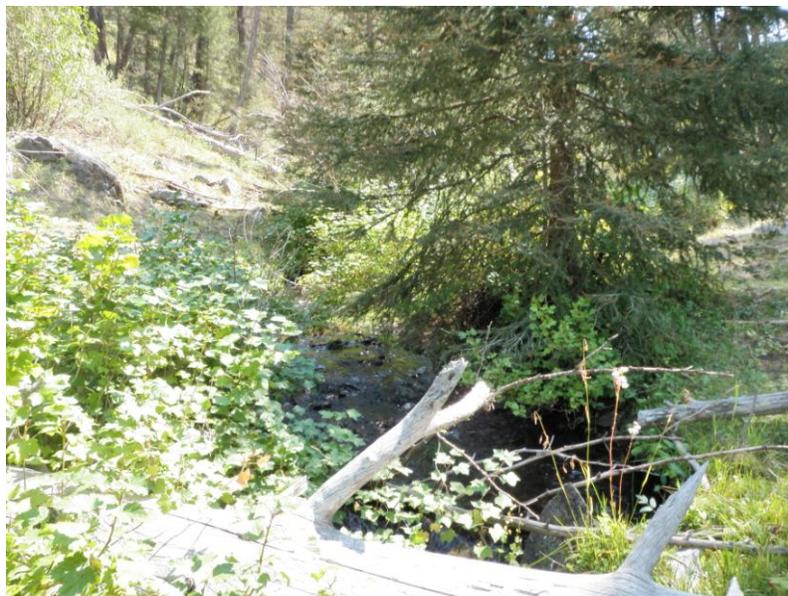


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| | PHOTO RECORD | Page 5 of 5 |
| INTERMOUNTAIN REGION | SALMON-CHALLIS NATIONAL FOREST | Salmon-Cobalt RD |
| Date: 8/21/2012 | Photographer: C. Brown | Allotment: Deer-Iron C&H |
| Location: South Fork Unit | | |
| Subject: End of Year Monitoring | | |

Cross Section photo taken at beginning of transect.



Upstream photo taken at beginning of MIM.



Results for this MIM are as follows: An average stubble height of 7.3 inches on Nebraska Sedge and a bank alteration measurement of 15%.

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| | PHOTO RECORD | Page 1 of 1 |
| INTERMOUNTAIN REGION | SALMON-CHALLIS NATIONAL FOREST | Salmon-Challis RD |
| Date:10/03/2012 | Photographer: S. Norman | Allotment: Deer-Iron C&H |
| Location: Peel Tree East unit | | |
| Subject: End of Year Monitoring | | |



Photo taken along the 083 road, approximately 1 mile east from the unit boundary with the Peel Tree West Unit. No sign of cattle still in the unit, even through 10/3 is before the off date of 10/7.



Utilization was collected on Bluebunch wheatgrass, and calculated using a utilization gauge at 4%.

Biological Opinion Name: Livestock Grazing on Deer-Iron Grazing Allotment

Biological Opinion Number: 14420-2010-F-0349

Stream Name: Iron Creek

Date: 4/8/2012

Allotment Name: Deer-Iron Creek

Unit Name: Peel Tree East

Start Time: 1415

Stop Time: 1520

Number of Pictures Taken: _____

Stream Segment Length on GPS: 1000m

Estimated Stream Segment Length measured with GIS: 1075 meters

Site Directions: Take Iron Creek Road, ≈ 1 mi downstream from South Fork confluence

Survey Crew: B. Slavin, B. Leyya, E. Fredrickson, D. Downing

(top) H₂O Temp: 51°F Air Temp: 76° Elevation: 5497ft

(bottom) H₂O Temp: 52°F Air Temp: 78 Elevation: 5327ft

Starting Location GPS (UTM): Zone 11T Easting 0729476 Northing 4978053

Degree Decimal: N: 44.91889° W: 114.09253

Stopping Location GPS (UTM): Zone 11T Easting 0730537 Northing 4978138

Degree Decimal: N: 44.91931° W: 114.07907°

Number of Live Adult bull trout Observed: 5

Number of bull trout Redds Observed: 0

Number of bull trout Redds Observed that Livestock Trampled: 0

Comments: No livestock sign in transect, hard area to access, some thick willows

12 unknown species, 5 were less than 90mm

water conditions were normal and clear