

**Deer-Iron Creek Cattle & Horse Allotment's
2012 Annual Monitoring Report
for the
National Marine Fisheries Service's 9/9/2010 Biological
Opinion**

(Refer to NMFS No: 2010/01658)

**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 Idaho State Director, Habitat Conservation Division,
National Marine Fisheries Service, **Attn: 2010/01658**, 10095 W Emerald St., Boise, ID 83704.

To implement RPM #2 (monitoring and reporting), the SCNF shall ensure that:

- a. Each Allotment Unit's DMA or key area is annually monitored to determine compliance with all identified annual use indicators in the proposed action. The report shall also identify any modifications to move-triggers or annual indicators that result from implementing the adaptive management strategy.
See attached Deer-Iron Creek C&H Allotment's 2012 End of the Year Report.
- b. All move-triggers are consistently applied across all Allotment Units for the term of the permit.
See attached Deer-Iron Creek C&H Allotment's 2012 End of the Year Report.
- c. An end-of-year report is available to NMFS by March 1 of each year. The following shall be included in the report:
 - (1) Overview of proposed action and actual management (livestock numbers, on-off dates for each Unit, etc.).
See attached Deer-Iron Creek C&H Allotment's 2012 End of the Year Report.
 - (2) Results from all implementation and effectiveness monitoring identified as part of the proposed action and this Opinion (term and condition 1), including required annual use indicator monitoring (i.e., stubble height, riparian shrub utilization, streambank alteration), photo point monitoring, seral condition, bank stability, water temperature, sediment, and W:D.
See attached Deer-Iron Creek C&H Allotment's 2012 End of the Year Report.
2012 Stream Temperature Data was collected on: Iron Creek 8.2, North Fork of Iron Creek 0.3, West Fork of Iron Creek 0.2 and South Fork of Iron Creek 0.4.
2012 Electrofishing Data was collected on: No data was collected within the Allotment.

2012 Watershed Programs Stream Sediment and Bank Stability Monitoring was collected on: No data was collected within the Allotment.

(3) Discussion of any unauthorized use and/or any maintenance issues related to fences or water developments.

See attached Deer-Iron Creek C&H Allotment's 2012 End of the Year Report.

(4) Brief review of Allotment compliance with established annual use indicators, terms and conditions from this Opinion including a discussion on specific successes and failures.

See attached Deer-Iron Creek C&H Allotment's 2012 End of the Year Report.

(5) Any relevant information that becomes available regarding Snake River Basin steelhead or Snake River spring/summer Chinook salmon habitat trends and/or spawning locations that would modify the assumptions made in this Opinion or result in effects not considered. NONE

(6) A clear description of compliance with the terms and conditions contained in this incidental take statement.

See attached Deer-Iron Creek C&H Allotment's 2012 End of the Year Report.

There were no unexpected circumstances or events that resulted in impacts beyond what the forest anticipated.

(7) Any management recommendations for subsequent years.

See attached Deer-Iron Creek C&H Allotment's 2012 End of the Year Report.

Chinook salmon Redd Surveys

1. What was the name of the stream in this allotment surveyed for impacted redds?

There were no streams surveyed for Chinook salmon redds because livestock do not have access to any Chinook salmon spawning reaches.

2. 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>.

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

	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.

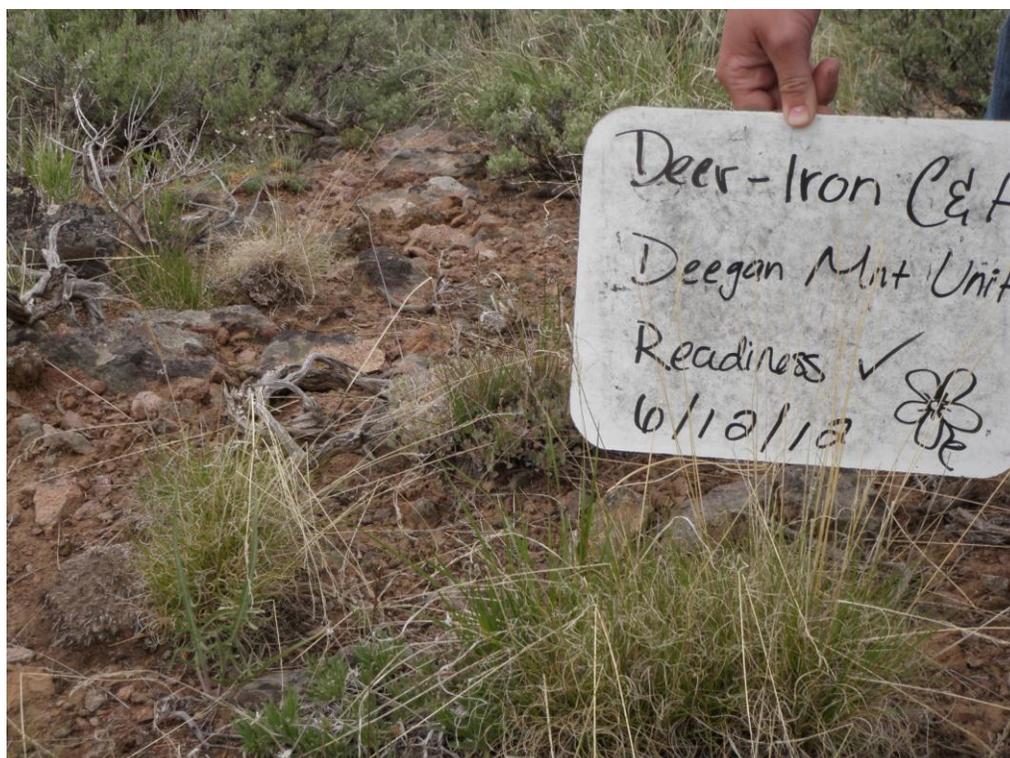


	PHOTO RECORD	Page 2 of 8
INTERMOUNTAIN REGION	SALMON-CHALLIS NATIONAL FOREST	Salmon-Cobalt RD
Date: 6/12 and 8/21	Photographer: C. Brown	Allotment: Deer-Iron C&H
Location: Degan Mountain Unit		
Subject: 2012 Range Readiness and End of Year		



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



	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.



	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.



	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.



	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%.

	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.

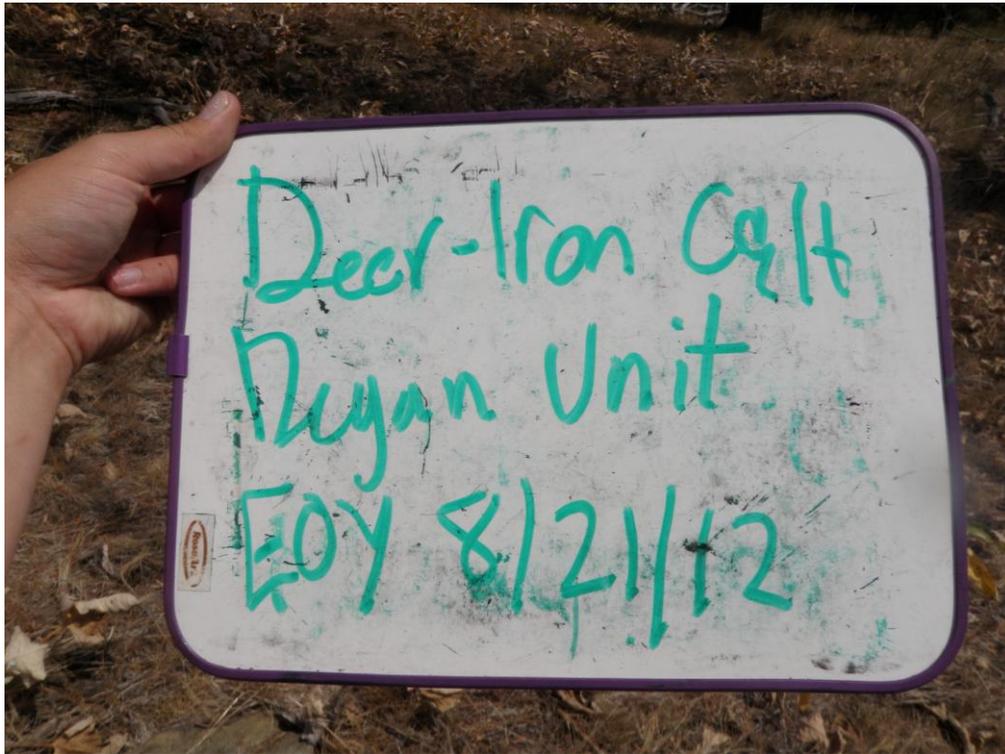


	PHOTO RECORD	Page 8 of 8
INTERMOUNTAIN REGION	SALMON-CHALLIS NATIONAL FOREST	Salmon-Cobalt RD
Date: 6/12 and 8/21	Photographer: C. Brown	Allotment: Deer-Iron C&H
Location: Degan Mountain Unit		
Subject: 2012 Range Readiness and End of Year		



	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.



	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.

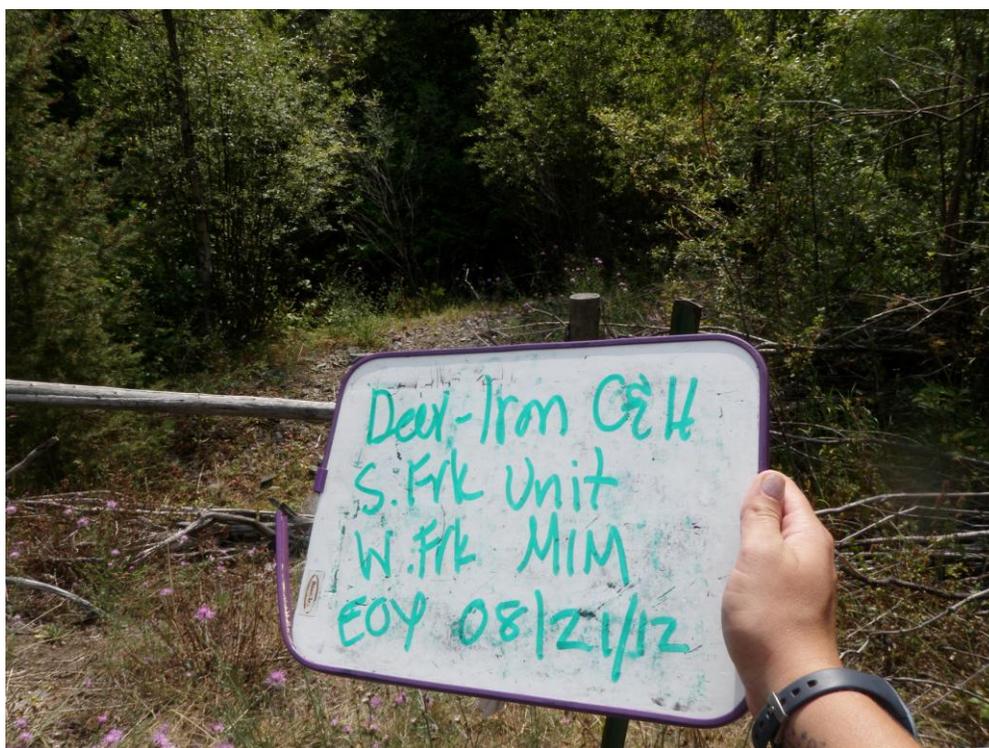
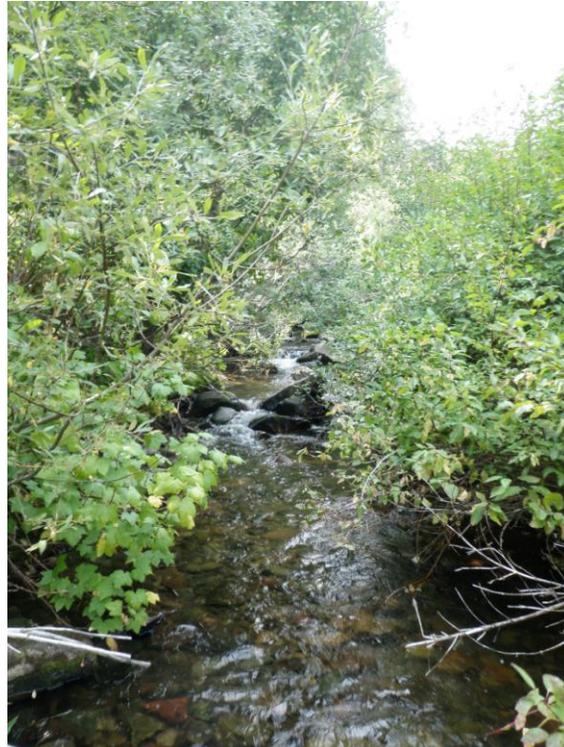


	PHOTO RECORD	Page 3 of 5
INTERMOUNTAIN REGION	SALMON-CHALLIS NATIONAL FOREST	Salmon-Cobalt RD
Date: 8/21/2012	Photographer: C. Brown	Allotment: Deer-Iron C&H
Location: South Fork Unit		
Subject: End of Year Monitoring		

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%.

	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.

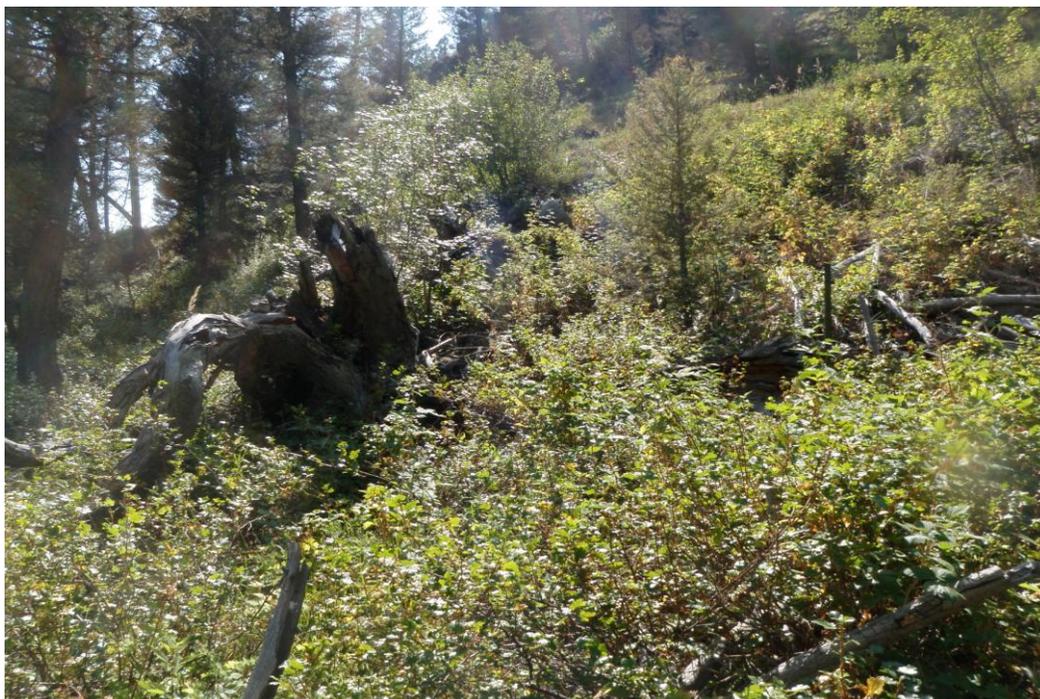
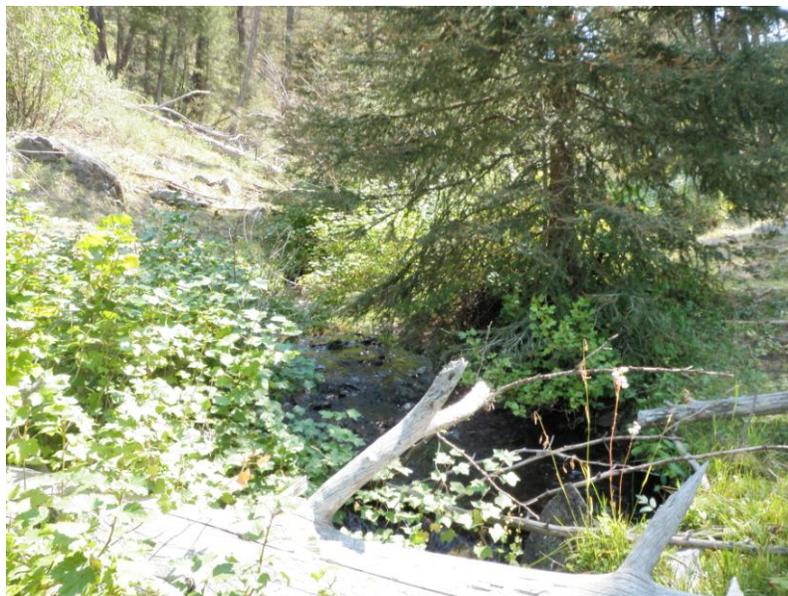


	PHOTO RECORD	Page 5 of 5
INTERMOUNTAIN REGION	SALMON-CHALLIS NATIONAL FOREST	Salmon-Cobalt RD
Date: 8/21/2012	Photographer: C. Brown	Allotment: Deer-Iron C&H
Location: South Fork Unit		
Subject: End of Year Monitoring		

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%.

	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%.