

## 2012 Morgan Creek-Prairie Basin Allotment NMFS Monitoring Report

**1. Overview of proposed action and actual management (e.g., livestock numbers, on-off dates for each Unit, etc.).**

The Morgan Creek- Prairie Basin Allotment is currently permitted for 1,225 cow/calf pairs and 51 horses from 6/1 to 10/31. It is managed under a three pasture rest rotation system, with each pasture receiving rest one in three years. Entry into the units is staggered such that entry occurs in a different unit every year.

Actual use for 2012 season displayed below.

Pasture	Number	Season of Use
Unit 2 Prairie Basin	683 cow/calf & 51 horses	06/15-08/15
Unit 2 Morgan Creek	683 cow/calf & 51 horses	08/15 – 8/25 trail through
Unit 1	683 cow/calf & 51 horses	08/15 – 8/25-10/15
Unit 3	0	Rest

**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.**

Implementation

Pasture	Indicator	Standard	2012 Results	Standard Met?	Date Monitored
Unit 1— Lick Creek	Greenline	>4”	5”	Yes	10/22/2012
	Bank Alteration	<15%	38%	No	
	Woody Browse	<30%	23.1%	Yes	
Unit 1— Trail Creek	Greenline	>5”	2.2”	No	10/22/2011
	Bank Alteration	<10%	45 %	No	
	Woody Browse	<30%	61.9 %	No	

Pasture	Indicator	Standard	2012 Results	Standard Met?	Date Monitored
Unit 1—Van Horn Creek	Greenline	>5"	4"	No	10/23/2012
	Bank Alteration	<10%	1%	Yes	
	Woody Browse	<30%	20.8%	Yes	
Unit 1- West Fork Morgan Creek	Greenline	>5"	5.4"	Yes	11/7/2012
	Bank Alteration	<10%	20%	No	
	Woody Browse	<30%	20.8% (+/- 10%)	Yes	
Unit 1- Little West Fork Morgan Creek	Greenline	>5"	5.2%	Yes	11/7/2012
	Bank Alteration	<10%	24%	No	
	Woody Browse	<30%	26.6%	Yes	
Unit 2 – Morgan Creek at Annie Rooney	Greenline	>6"	3"	No	10/16/2012
	Bank Alteration	<10%	55%	No	
	Woody Browse	<30%	57.5%	No	
Unit 2— Morgan Creek below Pig Creek	Greenline	>6%	5.1%	No	10/24/2012
	Bank Alteration	<10%	28%	No	
	Woody Browse	<30%	37.1%	No	
Unit 2 Prairie Basin—Blue Fork	Greenline	>4"	2.8"	No	10/1/2012
	Bank Alteration	<20%	45%	No	
	Woody Browse	<30%	628.%	No	
Unit 2 Prairie Basin— Lower Panther	Greenline	>4"	4.9"	Yes	10/1/2012
	Bank Alteration	<20%	24%	No	
	Woody Browse	<30%	20.1%	No	

Pasture	Indicator	Standard	2012 Results	Standard Met?	Date Monitored
Unit 3— Corral Creek	Greenline	>4"	8.5"	Yes	10/18/2012
	Bank Alteration	<20%	13 %	Yes	
	Woody Browse	<30%	52.3%	No	
Unit 3— Corral Creek at the Gov't trail	Greenline	>4"	7.7%	Yes	10/18/2012
	Bank Alteration	<20%	10%	Yes	
	Woody Browse	<30%	41.6%	No	

#### Effectiveness

No long term data was collected on the allotment in 2012.

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

On multiple occasions during the 2012 season, cows and horses were observed in Unit 3, a rested unit. The Morgan Creek permittees in the Morgan Creek Association and Clay Jones were mailed Notices of Non-Compliance for unauthorized use of Unit 3 and for excessive utilization throughout the allotment (See above results).

### **4. Brief review of Allotment management and compliance successes and failures.**

Success: The Morgan Creek Fence was constructed from Lick Creek to Van Horn Creek along the road. This will help to keep livestock out of Morgan Creek and the private land when they are grazing Unit 3. This was a cooperative project with materials provided by the Forest and labor provided by the permittees. The NRCS Equip Grant Program and the Forest Service provided the funding.

### **5. Any relevant information that becomes available regarding Snake River Basin steelhead or spring/summer Chinook salmon habitat trends and/or spawning and rearing locations that would modify the assumptions made in this Opinion or result in effects not considered.**

No additional information became available in 2012.

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

Terms and Conditions

- 1a. All conservation measures, monitoring, and adaptive management processes were implemented as described in the BA with the exceptions of item 3 above and 1b below.
- 1b. Streambank alterations, woody browse and greenline stubble height were exceeded. See implementation monitoring table above for results.
- 1c. Each unit with potential Snake River Basin steelhead contains at least one DMA in an area where the risk of cattle trampling of redds is highest.
- 1d. No streams with Snake River Basin steelhead incubation were used before July 7th.
- 1e. Permittees, especially the rider, were trained to implement the move triggers.
- 1f. Annual meetings were conducted with the permittees to discuss actions necessary to protect vulnerable spawning areas.
- 1g. Riding occurred at least five days a week.
- 1h. Rides took all practicable measures to keep cattle on established ford crossings during trailing.
- 1i. All maintenance of range improvements was completed.
- 1j. Turnout dates, move triggers, and end-point indicators were outlined in the AOI.
- 2a. DMAs were monitored annually in units utilized by livestock.
- 2b. The end of the year report has been made available to NMFS.

**7. Any management recommendations for subsequent years.**

Permittees will need to ride rested units, at least once a week should be checked, to ensure the strays are removed quickly. The problem with livestock having easy access to other units is private land fences are down on the ground in poor condition. One way to fix the problem is working with the landowners to have them rebuild their fences.

**Notice of non-Compliance was issued with a 25% suspension for the grazing seasons of 2013 and 2014. The suspension was for failing to follow management instructions.**

**PHOTOS**



**Main Corral Creek MIM site -end of season 10/18/2012**



**Main Corral Creek MIM site -end of season 10/18/2012**



**Adjacent wet meadow next to Corral Creek downstream half mile from MIM site- 10/18/2012**



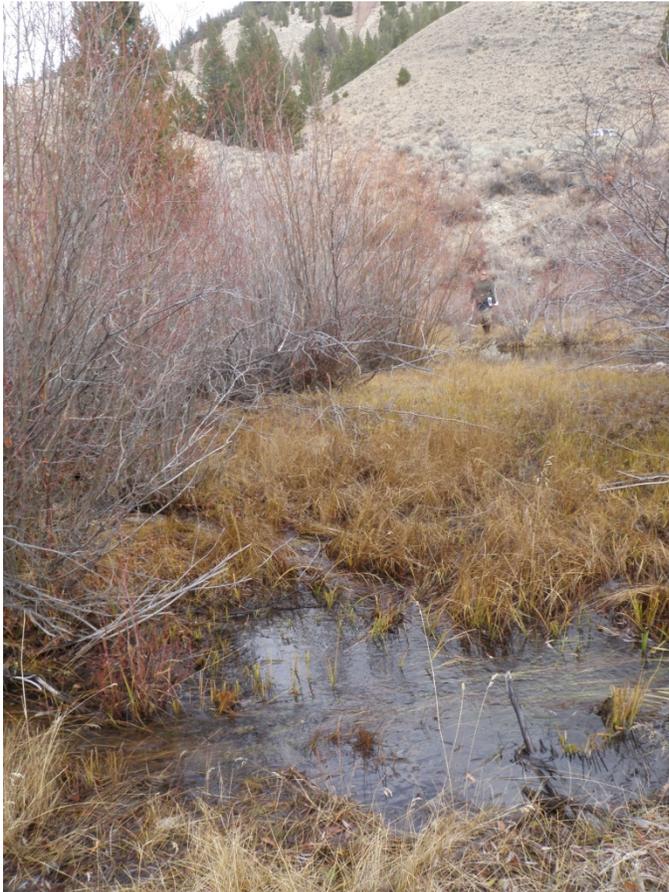
**North Fork of Cow Creek MIM site (Govt. Trail)- 10/18/2012**



**North Fork of Cow Creek MIM site (Govt. Trail)- 11/07/2012**



**Little West Fork MIM site- 11/07/2012**



**West Fork MIM site -11/07/2012**



**Lick Creek MIM site- 10/22/2012**



**Trail Creek MIM site- 10/22/2012**



**Morgan Creek (downstream from Annie Rooney)- 10/16/2012**



**Blue Fork of Silver Creek MIM site- 10/012012**



**Panther Creek- 10/01/2012**