

**Swan Basin Cattle & Horse Allotment's
2012 Annual Monitoring Report
for the
US Fish and Wildlife Service's 7/15/2010 Biological Opinion
(File # 114.0600, 14420-2010-F-0363)**

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?
Big Timber 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 8/30/2012. 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 two adult bull trout observed but there were no bull trout redds observed and therefore no bull trout redds were impacted. The GPS UTM starting location was Zone 12T, Easting 0308412, Northing 4935578. The GPS UTM stopping location was Zone 12T, Easting 0308952, Northing 4936448. 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 321 cow/calf pairs and 90 yearlings were in the Lower Timber Unit between 8/8 and 8/15. See attached Swan Basin 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 Swan Basin 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 Swan Basin 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 Big Timber Creek bull trout redd survey was reviewed and finalized by: Daniel A. Garcia - North Zone Districts Fishery Biologist (Salmon/Cobalt Ranger District)

Swan Basin C&H Allotment Annual Report, 2012

Leadore Ranger District North Zone Salmon-Challis National Forest

Livestock on the Allotment

Term Grazing Permit				2012 Authorized Use				2012 Actual Use			
No. & Permittee	On date	Off date	H.M.	No.	On date	Off date	H.M.	No.	On date	Off date	H.M.
Beyeler Ranches LLC 245 c/c	6/16	9/30	862	245 c/c	6/16	9/30	862	223c/c	6/18	8/17	447
Leadore Land Partners 90 c/c	6/16	9/30	317	90 yearling	6/16	9/30	317	90 yearling	6/18	8/17	180
Steve Johnson 100 c/c	6/16	9/30	352	100 c/c	6/16	9/30	352	98 c/c	6/18	8/17	201

Actual Use Rotation

Unit	Livestock Numbers	On Date	Off Date
Chandler Springs	321 c/c & 90 yearling	6/18	6/28
Middle Fork	321 c/c & 90 yearling	6/28	7/10
Upper Grove	321 c/c & 90 yearling	7/10	7/26
Upper Timber	321 c/c & 90 yearling	7/26	8/8
Lower Timber	321 c/c & 90 yearling	8/8	8/15
Ted Whitaker Riparian	321 c/c & 90 yearling	8/15	8/17
Lower Grove	Rested		

Compliance with Unit Schedule in AOI: Actual use was for 24 head less than authorized numbers. Due to the dry conditions the permittees removed livestock from the allotment 45 days early.

Unit moves complied with critical dates for cattle presence with spawning and incubating fish, per the Biological Assessment, USFWS 2010 Swan Basin Biological Opinion, and NMFS 2010 Swan Basin Concurrence Letter. 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 24 days.

Allotment inspections: Allotment inspections were conducted on the following dates: 6/12, 6/14, 7/3, 7/11, 7/23, 8/14, 8/15, and 9/12. 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.

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 below average for 2012. The precipitation information for the District is included in the table below. While this information is collected at the Leadore Ranger 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 3.29 inches lower 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. (inches) in 2012	0.2	1.1	1.03	0.5	0.9	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.4	6.05
Average Precip. (in.) from 1981-2010	0.3	0.3	0.53	0.9	1.6	1.6	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.4	0.5	9.34

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:

- Cleaned out the cattle guard between the Middle Fork unit and the Timber Creek BLM
- Cleaned out the cattle guard below stone reservoir

Recommendations or Reminders:

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. Communication with the Range Specialist is an important part of grazing management. Be sure to contact the Range Specialist should you have any concerns/problems.
4. Remember to record the number of days rode on your actual use form.
5. 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.

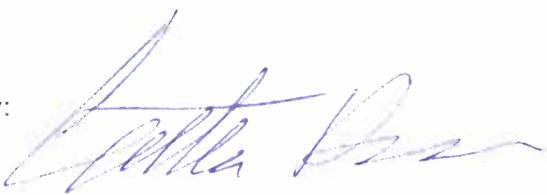
Sources

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.

National Climatic Data Center. 2012. Summary of Monthly Normals 1981-2010 (Station: Leadore Number 2, ID US). National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Asheville, North Carolina.
<http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/analysis/monthly-us-climate-reports>.

Monitoring Results:

Actual Grazing Schedule		Allowable Standards			Actual Results				
Unit Name	Date Read	Riparian			Upland	Riparian			Upland
Chandler Springs	7/3	Stubble	Key ssp.	50%	50%	Stubble	Key ssp.	No riparian species present	2%
Middle Fork	7/23	Stubble	Key ssp.	50%	50%	Stubble	Key ssp.	Elk Sedge avg 8 in	8%
Lower Grove	n/a	Stubble	Key ssp.	50%	50%	Rested			n/a
Upper Grove	8/15	Stubble	Key ssp.	50%	50%	Stubble	Key ssp.	No riparian species present	11%
Upper Timber Unit- Big Timber Creek MIM M251	9/12	Browse	Willow ssp.	50%	50%	Browse	Willow ssp.	10%	0%
		Stubble	Hydric ssp.	4 in		Stubble	Hydric ssp.	CANE2 avg 9 in	
		Bank Alteration	N/A	20%		Bank Alteration	N/A	6%	
Lower Timber Unit- Big Timber Creek MIM M250	8/29	Browse	Willow ssp.	50%	50%	Browse	Willow ssp.	13.80%	1%
		Stubble	Hydric ssp.	4 in		Stubble	Hydric ssp.	CAREXRH avg 6 in	
		Bank Alteration	N/A	20%		Bank Alteration	N/A	5%	
Ted Whittaker Pasture	9/12	Stubble	Key ssp.	50%	n/a	Stubble	Key ssp.	7 in avg on CANE2	n/a

Prepared By: 

Concetta Brown
Rangeland Management Specialist

	PHOTO RECORD	Page 1 of 1
INTERMOUNTAIN REGION	SALMON-CHALLIS NATIONAL FOREST	Leadore RD
Date: 7/13/2012	Photographer: C. Brown	Allotment: Swan Basin C&H
Location: Chandler Springs Unit		
Subject: End of Year Monitoring		



Both of these photos were taken in the Chandler Springs unit on 7/13. Utilization was measure using a utilization wheel. Use on Idaho Fescue was found to be 2%.



	PHOTO RECORD	Page 1 of 2
INTERMOUNTAIN REGION	SALMON-CHALLIS NATIONAL FOREST	Leadore RD
Date: 7/23/2012	Photographer: S. Norman	Allotment: Swan Basin C&H
Location Middle Fork unit		
Subject: End of Year		

These photos were taken on 7/23 in the Middle Fork unit. Upland utilization was collected on Idaho fescue, the calculated utilization (using utilization gauge) was approximately 10%.



	PHOTO RECORD	Page 2 of 2
INTERMOUNTAIN REGION	SALMON-CHALLIS NATIONAL FOREST	Leadore RD
Date: 7/23/2012	Photographer: S. Norman	Allotment: Swan Basin C&H
Location Middle Fork unit		
Subject: End of Year		

Riparian survey conducted adjacent to the 172 road along the Middle Fork of Timber Creek, approximately 0.25 miles downstream from the Lower Timber Reservoir campground.



	PHOTO RECORD	Page 1 of 2
INTERMOUNTAIN REGION	SALMON-CHALLIS NATIONAL FOREST	Leadore RD
Date: 9/12/2012	Photographer: C. Brown	Allotment: Swan Basin C&H
Location: Ted Whittaker Riparian unit		
Subject: End of Year		

These photos were taken on 9/12 in the Ted Whittaker Riparian unit. This unit is used for a handful of days to gather cattle to take them home. The average stubble height for Nebraska Sedge was 7 inches.

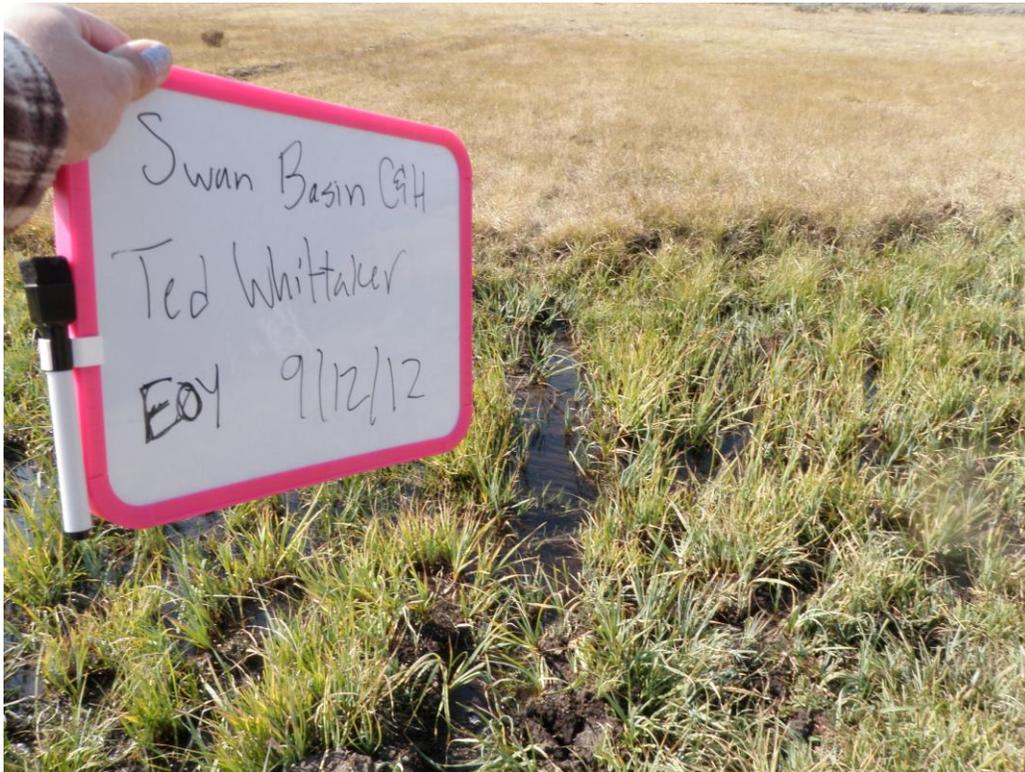


	PHOTO RECORD	Page 1 of 1
INTERMOUNTAIN REGION	SALMON-CHALLIS NATIONAL FOREST	Leadore RD
Date: 9/15/2012	Photographer: S. Norman	Allotment: Swan Basin C&H
Location: Upper Grove unit		
Subject: End of Year		

These photos were taken on 8/15 in the Upper Grove unit. Utilization was collected on Bluebunch wheatgrass. Calculated utilization (using utilization gauge) was approximately 10%.



Utilization was collected on Bluebunch wheatgrass. Calculated utilization (using utilization gauge) was approximately 10%.



	PHOTO RECORD	Page 1 of 6
INTERMOUNTAIN REGION	SALMON-CHALLIS NATIONAL FOREST	Leadore RD
Date: 8/29 and 9/12/ 2012	Photographer: C. Brown	Allotment: Swan Basin C&H
Location: Upper Timber Unit		
Subject: End of Year Monitoring		

The following photos are of the Big Timber Creek MIM 251 in the Upper Timber Creek unit which was read on 9/12 by Sara Norman.



Upstream (above) and downstream (below) photos taken at the reference post.



	PHOTO RECORD	Page 2 of 6
INTERMOUNTAIN REGION	SALMON-CHALLIS NATIONAL FOREST	Leadore RD
Date:8/29 and 9/12/ 2012	Photographer: C. Brown	Allotment: Swan Basin C&H
Location: Upper Timber Unit		
Subject: End of Year Monitoring		

Upstream marker (looking across). Analysis from MIM calculated average stubble height of hydric species as 4.8 inches, stream bank alteration as 5% and woody species use as 13.8%.



Upstream marker (looking upstream).



	PHOTO RECORD	Page 3 of 6
INTERMOUNTAIN REGION	SALMON-CHALLIS NATIONAL FOREST	Leadore RD
Date: 8/29 and 9/12/ 2012	Photographer: C. Brown	Allotment: Swan Basin C&H
Location: Upper Timber Unit		
Subject: End of Year Monitoring		

Upstream marker (looking across).



Upstream marker (looking upstream).



	PHOTO RECORD	Page 4 of 6
INTERMOUNTAIN REGION	SALMON-CHALLIS NATIONAL FOREST	Leadore RD
Date: 8/29 and 9/12/ 2012	Photographer: C. Brown	Allotment: Swan Basin C&H
Location: Upper Timber Unit		
Subject: End of Year Monitoring		

Downstream marker (looking upstream).



Downstream marker (looking across).



	PHOTO RECORD	Page 5 of 6
INTERMOUNTAIN REGION	SALMON-CHALLIS NATIONAL FOREST	Leadore RD
Date:8/29 and 9/12/ 2012	Photographer: C. Brown	Allotment: Swan Basin C&H
Location: Upper Timber Unit		
Subject: End of Year Monitoring		

Downstream marker (looking downstream).



	PHOTO RECORD	Page 6 of 6
INTERMOUNTAIN REGION	SALMON-CHALLIS NATIONAL FOREST	Leadore RD
Date:8/29 and 9/12/ 2012	Photographer: C. Brown	Allotment: Swan Basin C&H
Location: Upper Timber Unit		
Subject: End of Year Monitoring		

The following 2 photos were taken by Concetta Brown on 9/12. Utilization was measured on Idaho Fescue and found to be at 1% use.

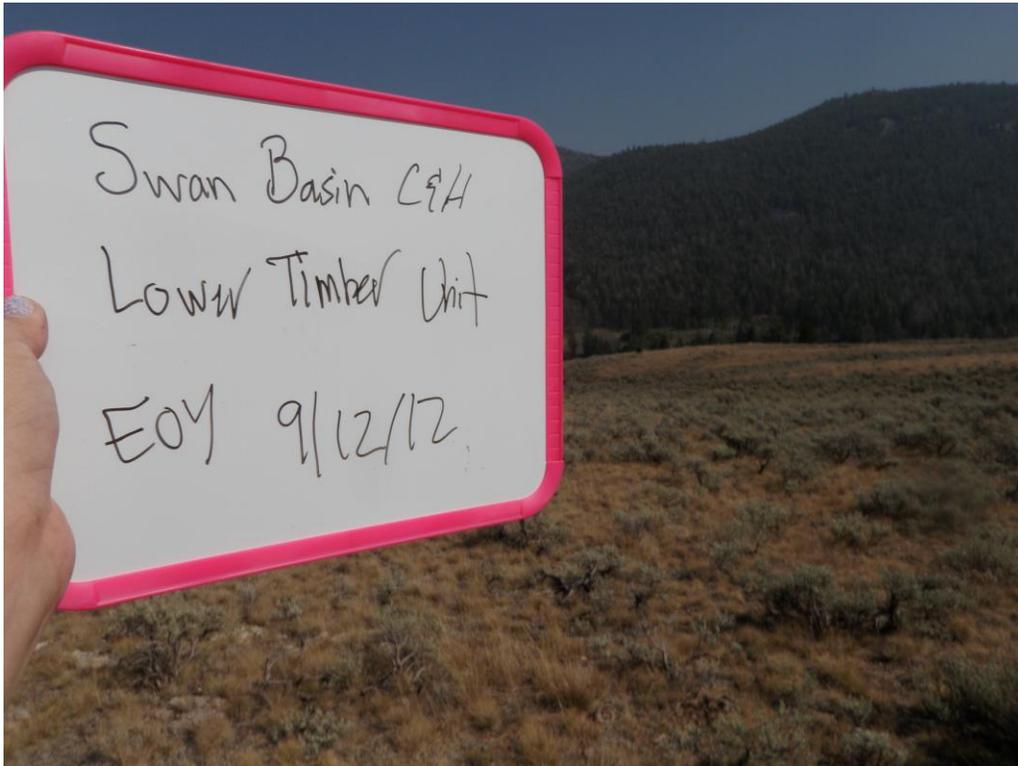


	PHOTO RECORD	Page 1 of 5
INTERMOUNTAIN REGION	SALMON-CHALLIS NATIONAL FOREST	Leadore RD
Date:9/ 12 and 10/10/2012	Photographer: C. Brown	Allotment: Swan Basin C&H
Location: Upper Timber Unit		
Subject: End of Year Monitoring		

The following photos are of the Big Timber Creek MIM 251 in the Upper Timber Creek unit which was read on 9/12.



Cross section photo taken at the beginning of the MIM.



	PHOTO RECORD	Page 2 of 5
INTERMOUNTAIN REGION	SALMON-CHALLIS NATIONAL FOREST	Leadore RD
Date:9/ 12 and 10/10/2012	Photographer: C. Brown	Allotment: Swan Basin C&H
Location: Upper Timber Unit		
Subject: End of Year Monitoring		

Upstream photo taken at beginning of the transect.



Downstream photo taken at the end of the transect.



	PHOTO RECORD	Page 3 of 5
INTERMOUNTAIN REGION	SALMON-CHALLIS NATIONAL FOREST	Leadore RD
Date:9/ 12 and 10/10/2012	Photographer: C. Brown	Allotment: Swan Basin C&H
Location: Upper Timber Unit		
Subject: End of Year Monitoring		

Cross section photo taken at the end of the transect.



The following photos were taken in the Upper Timber unit on 10/10. I saw no sign of livestock use and did not complete any utilization monitoring.

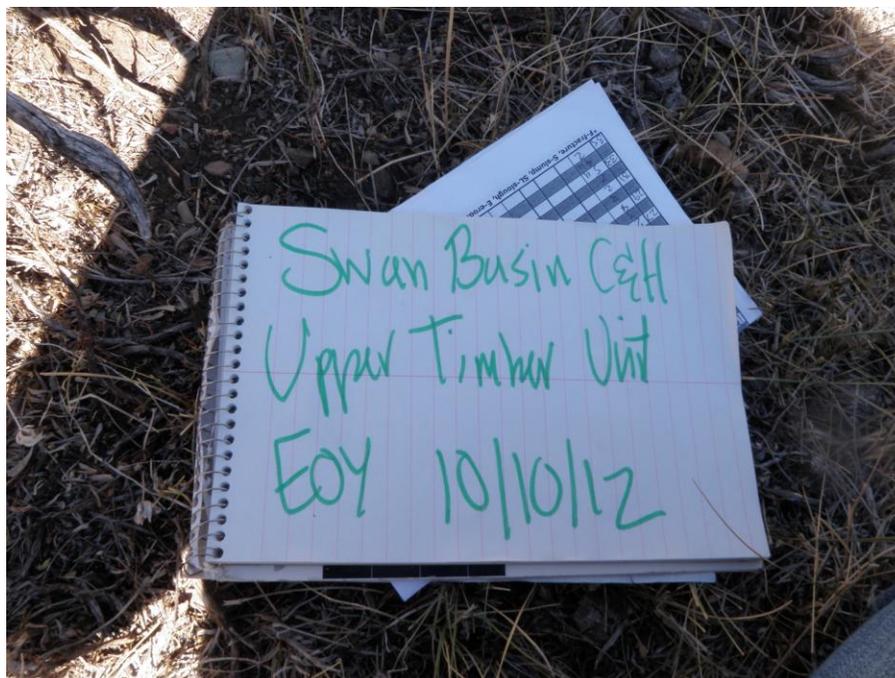


	PHOTO RECORD	Page 4 of 5
INTERMOUNTAIN REGION	SALMON-CHALLIS NATIONAL FOREST	Leadore RD
Date:9/ 12 and 10/10/2012	Photographer: C. Brown	Allotment: Swan Basin C&H
Location: Upper Timber Unit		
Subject: End of Year Monitoring		



Biological Opinion Name: Livestock Grazing on the Swan Basin Allotment

Biological Opinion Number: 14420-2010-F-0363

Stream Name: Big Timber Creek Date: 8-30-12

Allotment Name: Swan Basin Unit Name: Lower Timber Creek

Start Time: 10:45 Stop Time: 12:11 Number of Pictures Taken: 2

Stream Segment Length on GPS: 1.02 km

Estimated Stream Segment Length measured with GIS: 1238 meters

Site Directions: Highway 28 S. to leadoff, take Lee Crk Rd. to Big Timber Rd. turn off (105) keep going till Road 015B, take 015B through a wood gate, take a right, Go until you hit creek, Survey starts Below fence line

Survey Crew: B. Slavin, D. Downing, B. Layton, E. Frederick

(top) H₂O Temp: 44°F Air Temp: 67°F Elevation: 7028 Ft

(bottom) H₂O Temp: 47°F Air Temp: 75°F Elevation: 6934 Ft

Starting Location GPS (UTM): Zone 12T Easting 0308412 Northing 4935578

Degree Decimal: N: 44.54807° W: 113.41194°

Stopping Location GPS (UTM): Zone 12T Easting 0308952 Northing 4936448

Degree Decimal: N: 44.55603° W: 113.40547°

Number of Live Adult bull trout Observed: 2

Number of bull trout Redds Observed: 0

Number of bull trout Redds Observed that Livestock Trampled: 0

Comments: Cows have been in unit - no cattle observed.

only small pockets of good spreading gravels.

water conditions were normal and clear