

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 that stream in this allotment surveyed for impacted redds?
Timber Creek
2. What was the date of the survey, and what were the water conditions?
September 5th, 2012
3. Which stream segment was surveyed and how many redds and impacted redds were found?
(Please give GPS start and stop points for segments)?
Start Point: Zone 12, 307103E, 4921328N (NAD 27)
End Point: Zone 12, 306195E, 4921939N (NAD 27)
2 redds observed, 0 redds impacted
4. What was the date that livestock removed from the pasture with surveyed stream segment?
August 31st, 2012
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?
Yes, Warm Creek was grazed in the Squaw Creek Unit. Horse Lake Unit on the Little Lost River had a 27% browse use with a 25% standard. Mill Creek Unit on Mill Creek had a 35% browse use with a 25% standard
7. Were there any unexpected circumstances or events that resulted in impacts beyond those anticipated in the Forest's in the Biological Assessment or the Service's Biological Opinion? If yes, please describe.
Yes, Warm Creek in the Squaw Creek Unit received 92% browse use with a 25% standard and a 2" stubble height with a 4" standard.

Salmon-Challis NF Official: Bart Gamett and Josh Edwards

Date: January 23, 2013

Contact Information: (208)588-3400

**LITTLE LOST RIVER SUB-BASIN
SAWMILL CANYON WATERSHED
2012 END OF SEASON REPORT**

MILL CREEK ALLOTMENT – LOST RIVER RANGER DISTRICT, SALMON-CHALLIS NF

TERM GRAZING PERMIT				AUTHORIZED USE				ACTUAL USE			
NO.	ON DATE	OFF DATE	H.M.	NO.	ON DATE	OFF DATE	H.M.	NO.	ON DATE	OFF DATE	H.M.
554	7/1	9/30	1676	554	7/1	9/30	1676	550	7/5	9/30	1591

Actual use was 95% of full permitted head months, and 99% of full permitted cattle.

UNIT DATES AND UTILIZATION RESULTS:

ACTUAL GRAZING SCHEDULE			ALLOWABLE STDS	ACTUAL RESULTS	STANDARDS MET
UNIT NAME	ON DATE	OFF DATE	Stubble Ht./Alteration ² /Woody Browse	Stubble Ht./Alteration ² /Woody Browse	
Cub Canyon	7/5	7/12	4"/Na/25% Uplands 50%	No Data	No Data
Horse Lake- Spring Little Lost	7/13	7/24	4"/Na/Na 6"/Na/25%	4" occular 6"/Na/27%	Yes Yes
Smithie Fork ¹ #1 Upper #2 Lower	7/25	8/12	4"/Na/25% 4"/Na/25%	4"/22%/17% 4"/30%/17%	Yes Yes
Timber Creek- N. Spring	8/13	8/31	4"/Na/25%	4"	Yes
Mill Creek Bear Creek	9/1	9/15	4"/Na/25% 4"/Na/25%	4"/ 35%/35% 4"/25%/25%	No- Browse Yes
Squaw Creek Warm Creek ³	9/16	9/30	4"/Na/25% 4"/Na/25%	4"/28%/23% 2"/74%/92%	Yes No- StHt, Browse

¹ In this unit, there are two DMA's upper and lower Smithie.

² A bank alteration and stability data is being analyzed at this time. Bank stability and bank alteration has been monitored for a period of three years beginning in 2009 on existing designated monitoring areas. If bank stability is below 90% at any site in 2012, a bank alteration standard will be implemented for that site in the 2013 grazing season that is lower than the average bank alteration observed during 2010, 2011, and 2012.

³ These allowable use standards have not been formally set but are in line with management on the rest of the allotment.

Allotment Inspections: Allotment inspections were conducted on the following dates: 7/19, 7/24, 8/6, 8/21, 9/25, 10/9, 10/10, 10/15, and 11/1. Allotment inspections included cattle location checks, contact with rider and permittees, and utilization monitoring.

Information: The precipitation for this area on the District was 83% of average for the 2012 Water Year (Oct 1- Sept. 30). Although the water year information does not appear to be terribly low the active growing season (April-September) shows 52% of normal precipitation when compared to the average. This resulted in low forage production across the allotment with plants losing their nutritional value early. The precipitation information for the Moonshine SNOTEL site is provided below. The totals for 2012 are compared to the average total precipitation for the

water year by month for the Moonshine SNOTEL site from the NRCS National Water and Climate Center website for 1982-2012.

Month	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Total
2012 Precip. (in inches)	3.4	1.1	1.3	2.0	1.4	4.4	1.5	1.8	1.0	0.6	0.0	0.4	18.9
2012 % of Average	227%	55%	52%	87%	74%	183%	68%	75%	42%	55%	0%	36%	83%
Average Precip. 1982-2012	1.5	2.0	2.5	2.3	1.9	2.4	2.2	2.4	2.4	1.1	1.0	1.1	22.8

Utilization: Standards were met everywhere but the browse use on Mill Creek (35% browse instead of 25%) and Warm Creek which missed all indicators and will be fenced from livestock in the future. Utilization was evenly distributed across the allotment with the exception of the fence corner on Warm Creek. Riparian utilization was moderate on sedges and grasses. Continue to move cattle away from high concentrated use areas adjacent to roads and streams.

A browse standard of 25% is included in your permit and should be watched carefully in the future. While this standard has not been focused on by range specialists in the past because minimal use of woody browse by livestock was observed, browse on willows, aspen, and riparian shrubs is an important consideration especially in dry years. Generally speaking, cattle began to shift to woody browse species as the four inch stubble height on grasses and sedges was met which could be used as an indicator for riders/ permittees to move cattle in the future. Using this tool to adjust movement dates could avoid overuse or missing end of season standards for herbaceous and woody species in these riparian areas during years of low precipitation.

Compliance with Unit Schedule and Project Maintenance: The unit schedule was followed according to the Annual Operating Instructions. The fisheries crew was in the Timber Creek area monitoring bull trout redds on September 5th and observed 2 redds and did not observe any impacts to the redds in the Timber Creek unit.

It is the Forest's responsibility to maintain the FS Administrative pasture fence at the beginning of the season, and the permittee's responsibility to keep it maintained throughout the grazing season. The administrative fences were not maintained prior to cattle going onto the allotment this year but after the cattle were found inside the administrative pastures the Forest Service sent a crew to maintain the fences. The cattle were promptly removed by the permittee after the downed portion of the fences were repaired. The Administrative pastures are not for use by livestock permitted on the Mill Creek Allotment. This is written into the 1995 Mill Creek Allotment Management Plan. This instance was not due to any non-compliance on the permittees part.

Summary: End of season indicators were met in most units except the Little Lost area of Horse Lake (27% browse use instead of 25% which is statistically negligible), Mill Creek in the Mill Creek Unit (35% browse use instead of 25%) and Warm Creek (2" stubble height instead of 4" and 92% browse instead of 25%). Warm Creek will be fenced to be excluded from livestock grazing in order to reduce the impacts caused by a corner fence on ¼ mile of the stream. Riding and back riding continues to be the key factor in following the grazing management plan and meeting end of season stubble height standards. All move dates this season were as planned.

Gathering this allotment can be a challenge with the timbered country so allow the necessary time to get the units cleaned.

Recommendations or Reminders:

1. Construct a gate above Warm Creek to enter and leave the allotment. A fence will be constructed to eliminate livestock access to the stream.
2. Utilization on the Little Lost River in the Horse Lake Unit should be watched closely so that the 6" stubble height and 25% browse use is not exceeded. This will require more focused riding to keep the cattle off of the stream while grazing other parts of the unit.
3. Cattle movements between units need to be completed on the specified date to reduce the potential impacts to bull trout spawning. Smithie Fork cannot be grazed after August 15th and Timber Creek cannot be grazed after August 31st in order to avoid grazing conflicts with spawning.
4. Riders need to move cattle that are congregating in riparian areas, boundary fence corners and other problem areas into uplands to reduce grazing impacts to those areas.
5. 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.
6. Look at the possibility of upgrading water developments in Cub Canyon and Squaw Creek Units on existing stock ponds.
7. If livestock are found in the Fairview Administrative pasture promptly remove them.
8. Prepare for another hot and dry season. The precipitation from this winter will prove insignificant to forage production if we do not get any moisture during the spring and active growing season. In preparing, thoughts of running fewer cattle, less time in each unit and lighter use will reduce the chances of long lasting impacts to the forage species on the allotment.