

Cape Horn Allotment Annual Report 2012

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

Grazing on this allotment involves grazing up to 2,050 ewe/lamb pairs divided into two bands under a seven pasture deferred rotation grazing system with grazing occurring anytime between June 20 and October 1. The allotment consists of the Dry Creek, Upper Marsh Creek, Valley Creek, Knapp Creek, Beaver Creek, Swamp Creek, and Vader Creek units. Entry into units rotates every other year so that no pasture is grazed at the same time each year (with the exception of Dry Creek, which is grazed first every year, and Vader Creek, which is always the last pasture used).

Actual use for 2012 is described below.

Pasture	Number	Season of Use
Dry Creek- Upper Marsh Creek (Band 1)	600 (ewes and lambs)	6/25-8/15
Dry Creek- Upper Marsh Creek (Band 2)	475 (ewes and lambs)	7/7- 8/15
(Dry Creek and private)	1075	420 shipped out 8/15
(Dry Creek and private)	655-(Dry band)	shipped out 8-15-10/5

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: (Much of the units were within the closure area due to the Halstead fire. People and sheep were not allowed to enter some units).

- Dry Creek Unit: Creek is dry at the end of the season; no monitoring was completed in 2012.
- Vader Creek Unit: Creek was not grazed and not monitored in 2012 due to fire activity.
- Beaver Creek Unit: Creek was not grazed and not monitored in 2012 due to fire activity.
- Knapp Creek Unit: Creek was not grazed in 2012 due to fire activity. See photos below.
- Valley Creek Unit: Creek was monitored using ocular estimates; average stubble height was estimated at greater than 18 inches at the greenline. See photos below.
- Swamp Creek Unit: Creek was not grazed and not monitored in 2012 due to fire activity.
- Upper Marsh Creek Unit: Creek was monitored using ocular estimates; average stubble height was estimated at 12-18 inches on the greenline. See photos below.

Long Term (Effectiveness)

No long term monitoring completed in 2012.

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

Sheep were observed in the Marsh Creek Fish Conservation Area on August 15th, downstream of the Knapp Creek Bridge in area closed to grazing, but were gone by the 16th. Photos indicated that there was presence on both sides of the stream in the riparian zone. See photos below.

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

The Halstead and Banner fires closed Valley Creek, Knapp Creek, Beaver Creek, and Vader Creek Units. The closing of these units required a change in the rotation but not allowing sheep to utilize the units, but all grazing standards were met. The sheep grazing in the enclosure for protection and spawning of Chinook, bull trout, and steelhead was the failure of the year.

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 new information available. The intrusion into the Marsh Creek Fish Protection Unit, during spawning Chinook salmon would possibly modify assumptions. This can be mitigated if the permittee communicates the annual operating instructions ensures the herders understands that sheep are to be not herded into the Marsh Creek Fish Protection Unit at any time during the grazing season.

6. Conservation measures

All utilization standards were met in 2012. However, there was an intrusion into the Marsh Creek Fish Protection Unit, during spawning Chinook salmon.

7. Any management recommendations for subsequent years.

Rebuild Marsh Creek fence enclosure, repair Asher Creek sheep corrals and replace Knapp Creek Bridge. The permittee needs to communicate the annual operating instructions effectively to the herders so they understand that sheep are to be not herded into the Marsh Creek Fish Protection Unit at any time during the grazing season.

PHOTOS

MARSH CREEK 2012



Marsh Creek Sheep Creek intrusion with spawning Chinook salmon (top left) present on 8-16-2012.





Marsh Creek at monitoring marker, 11/1/2012. Grass is matted down due to heavy, early season snowfall a few days before.

KNAPP CREEK 2012

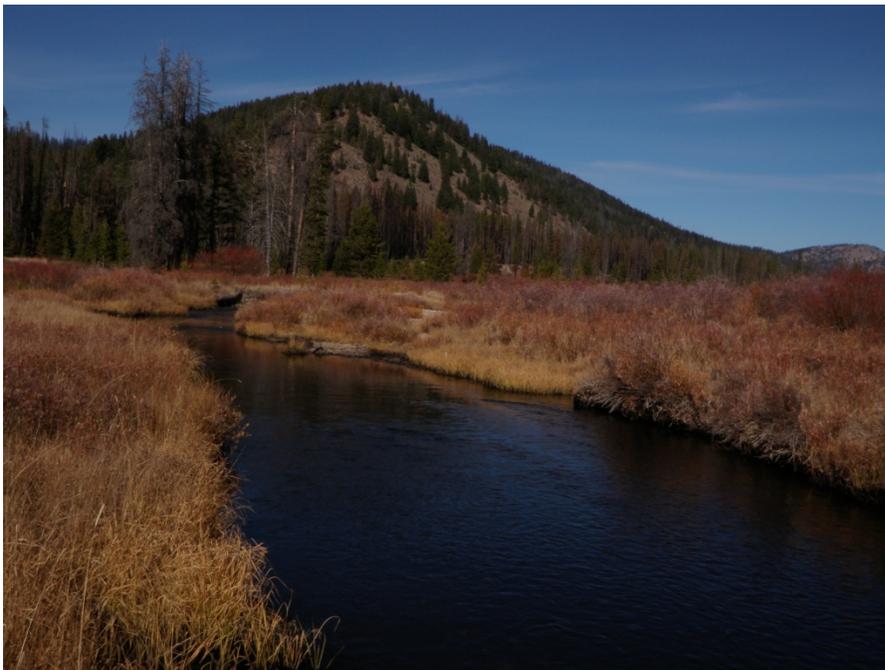


Knapp Creek at monitoring site, 10/18/2012.



Knapp Creek upstream from monitoring site, 10/18/2012.
Note fresh burn on right bank.

VALLEY CREEK 2012



Valley Creek upstream from monitoring site, 10/18/2012.



Creek greenline at monitoring site, 10/18/2012.
Valley

Marsh Creek upstream of monitoring site, 11/1/2012. Grass is matted down from the 8 inches of snow that fell a few days before.