

Challis Creek Allotment Annual Report 2012

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

The permitted numbers on the Challis Creek Allotment is 226 cow/calf pairs (691 head months). There are two permittees that use the allotment; one is permitted to graze 175 cow/calf pairs and the other is permitted to graze 51 cow/calf pairs. The Challis Creek Allotment management plan is a rest rotation grazing system with grazing occurring anytime between June 15 and September 14. The allotment consists of the Jeff's Flat North, Mosquito Flat, Jeff's Flat South, and Slab Barn units. This grazing system will result in each unit being rested every other year.

Actual use for 2012 is described below.

Unit	Number	Season
Jeff's Flat South	131 cow/calf	6/15-7/15
Slab Barn	131 cow/calf	7/16-9/14
Jeff's Flat North	0	Rest
Mosquito	0	Rest

- 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

Both the Jeff's Flat North and Mosquito Flat Units were rested in 2012. Mosquito Flat saw no use, while some incursion happened into Jeff's Flat North as a result of gates not being maintained. No adverse effects were documented, however. End of the year monitoring results for Challis Creek in Jeff's Flat North Unit are shown below. Ocular monitoring occurred on Challis Creek in the Mosquito Flat unit, where no grazing occurred. Both the Slab Barn Unit and the Jeff's Flat South Unit in the Challis Creek Allotment are dry pastures, thus have no ESA streams.

Unit	Indicator	Standard	2012 Results	Standard Met?	Date Monitored
Jeff's Flat North (rested 2012)	Greenline	> 4"	8.5"	Yes	10/15/2012
	Bank Alteration	< 20%	1.0%		
	Woody Browse	< 30%	19.5%		
Mosquito	Ocular monitoring only in 2012. See photos below.				

Flat	
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Effectiveness

No long term monitoring completed in 2011.

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

The rotation was largely followed, though problems with troughs sent cows looking for water in Slab Barn when they were supposed to be in Jeff's Flat South and fencing issues and lack of gate maintenance allowed a few head of cows to show up in Jeff's Flat North, which was rested in 2012. Cows did not appear in the Mosquito Pasture, also rested in 2012; but made one appearance on the Garden Creek allotment and on Mill Creek, an issue believed to be linked to the fencing issues around the private Keefer place. While attempts were made to address observed problems, not all of the scheduled improvements were able to be verified.

3. 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.

Success: Annual use indicators were met in all pastures that were monitored.

Failure: The permittee had difficulty effectively herding his cattle. Stray cattle were frequently located in the wrong pasture at the wrong time. Cows also made their way to Mill Creek on the Garden Creek allotment again in 2012.

4. 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

5. Conservation measures

All conservation measures were achieved in 2012 with the exceptions as noted.

6. Any management recommendations for subsequent years.

Permit administration is addressing the inconsistent maintenance of range structures. Trough maintenance and gate maintenance, as well as cleaning out the cattleguard between Jeff's Flat South and Slab Barn would contribute to cows remaining in the appropriate pastures during the allotted season. A long term solution of the Keefer

private land allowing trespass of cows into the Garden Creek allotment needs to be developed.

PHOTOS

Mosquito Flat Pasture:



Photos taken on 9-27-2012 near the MIM site on upper Challis Creek above Mosquito Flat reservoir. No sign of use by cattle in 2012.

Jeff's Flat North Pasture:



Challis Creek in Jeff's Flat North pasture upstream view from monitoring site, 10/15/2012.



Challis Creek on Jeff's Flat North at the monitoring site, 10/15/2012.