

End of Season Monitoring Report 2025

Fishlake National Forest

Richfield Ranger District

Niotche Allotment

Prepared by: Chantel Anderson, Rangeland Management Specialist

Date: 2/5/2026

Utilization Protocol

Sampling end of season utilization was collected through the ArcGIS-Survey123 application. Additionally, photo points were collected as part of the end of season monitoring effort at each site. All employees were trained on the protocol prior to data being collected to reduce observer error and increase the precision of measurements.

Monitoring Methodology

Monitoring followed the Key Species Method protocol outlined in the following reference: Utilization Studies and Residual Measurements Interagency Technical Reference 1999.

Key Species Method

Utilization levels are based on an ocular estimate of the amount of forage removed by weight on individual key species and observations are recorded in one of seven utilization classes. This method was used in the Niotche Allotment to estimate the browse and herbaceous utilization.

Table 1: Niotche Allotment Utilization Averages

Site	Utilization Average (%)	Exceeded Standards (Y or N)	80% Confidence Interval
Gates Lake	40.8	N	3.0
Mt Terrill	10.2	N	1.2

*Standards were met in all pastures on the allotment.

Riparian Monitoring

Stubble Height Protocol

Sampling end of season stubble height data was collected through the ArcGIS-Survey123 application. 36 measurements per site were taken using the line step protocol. Additionally, photo points were collected as part of the end of season monitoring effort at each site. All employees were trained on the protocol prior to data being collected to reduce observer error and increase the precision of measurements.

Niotche Allotment has a 4A Riparian Management Area.

Table 3: Riparian Stubble Height

Site	Stubble Height	Exceeded Standards (Y or N)	80% Confidence Interval
Niotche-Salina Reservoir	7	N	0.6

*Stubble height standards were met.

Livestock Management

Table 2: Niotche Allotment Grazing Schedule - Season 6/25-10/10

Pasture	Dates	Number of Livestock
Lower Range	Approx. 58 days	734 c/c
Upper Range	Approx. 50 days	734 c/c



Range Monitoring Report

Fishlake | Richfield

NIOTCHE CREEK - 04016

Monitoring Date: November 5, 2025

Employees Present:

Oyler

Drought Indicator: No

NIOTCHE CREEK PASTURE - 001

Site or Key Area Name: Gates Lake area Trend plot 33-13A

Predominant Landform: UPLANDS

Measurement Units: inches

Monitoring Date: November 5, 2025

Monitoring Time: POST-GRAZING SEASON

Reason for Monitoring: AMPEstimated use dates: June 25, 2025 to August 18, 2025

Estimated Use Days: 55

Kind and/or Class of Animals: Cow Calf, Yearling

Cow Calf Pairs: 500 AUM: 904.1

Yearlings: 234 AUM:296.2

Total AUM: 1,200

Type of Monitoring: Herbaceous Removal

Monitoring Method: **Key Species**

Plant Species: **All Perrenial Grass Species**

Species 1 Percent Utilization: 40.8

Max Allowable Use: 60

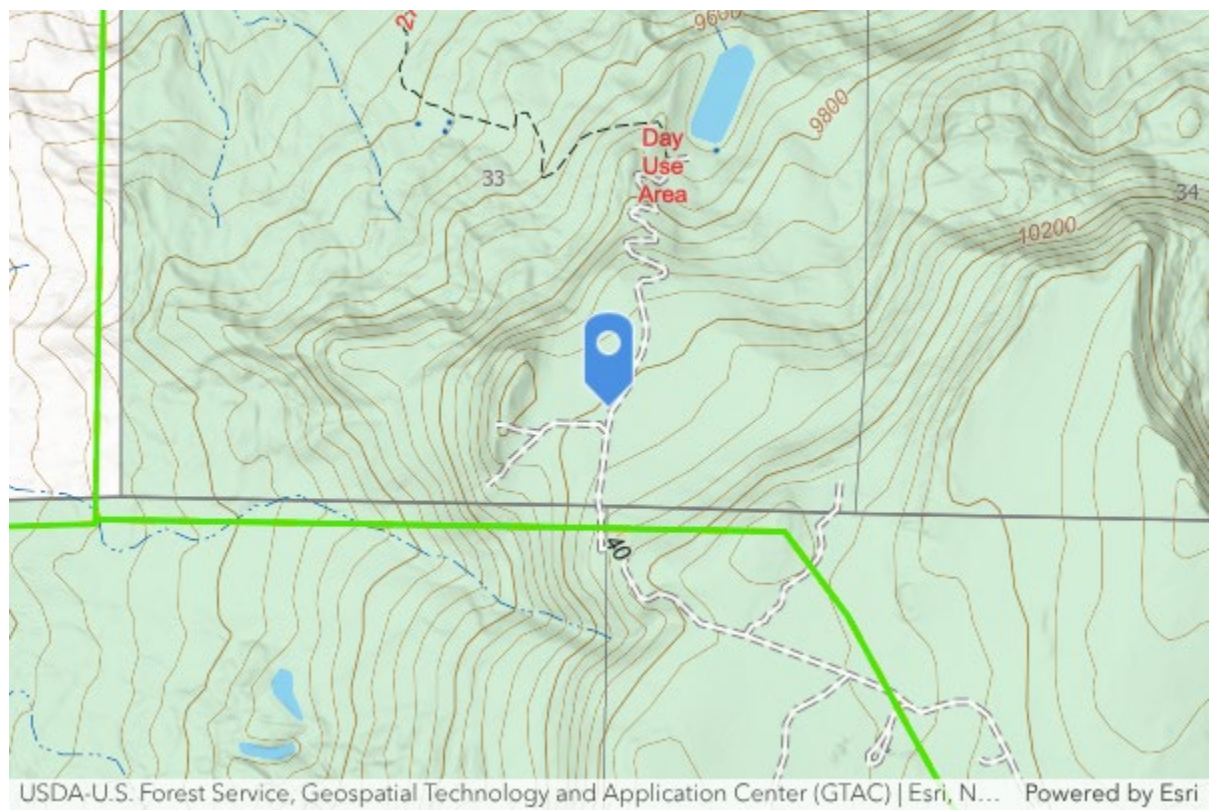
Within Guidelines?Yes



Closeup of vegetation



General view looking north



12S 440255E 4290441N 38.76065600480124, -111.6876424784263

Is the Standard Met? Yes

Is follow-up needed for compliance? No



Range Monitoring Report

Fishlake | Richfield

NIOTCHE CREEK - 04016

Monitoring Date: November 5, 2025

Employees Present:

Oyler

Drought Indicator: No

NIOTCHE CREEK PASTURE - 001

Site or Key Area Name: Mt Terrill Trend plot 44-11B

Predominant Landform: RIDGETOP

Measurement Units: inches

Monitoring Date: November 5, 2025

Monitoring Time: POST-GRAZING SEASON

Reason for Monitoring: AMPEstimated use dates: August 19, 2025 to October 10, 2025

Estimated Use Days: 53

Kind and/or Class of Animals: Yearling, Cow Calf

Cow Calf Pairs: 500Yearlings: 234 AUM:285.4

Total AUM: 285

Type of Monitoring: Herbaceous Removal

Monitoring Method: **Key Species**

Plant Species: **All Perennial Grass Species**

Species 1 Percent Utilization: 10.2

Max Allowable Use: 60

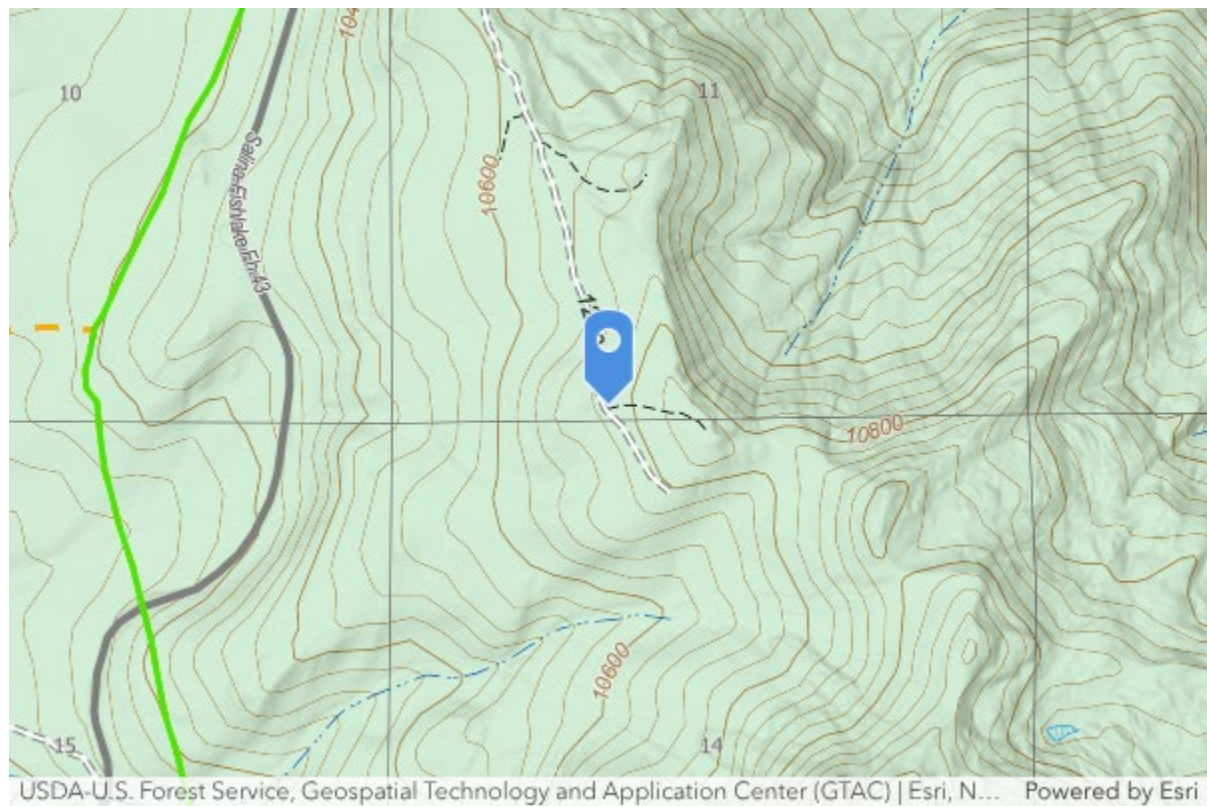
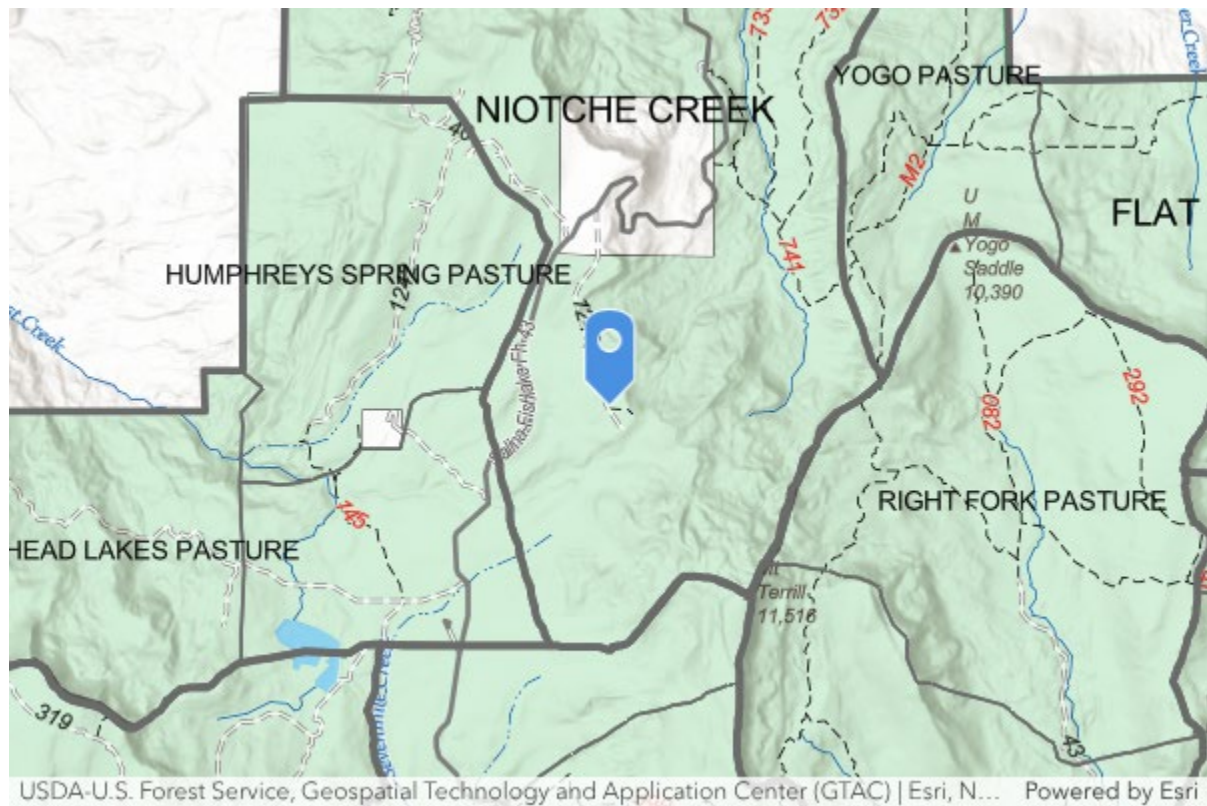
Within Guidelines?Yes



Closeup of vegetation



General view looking south



12S 442321E 4286962N 38.729442306514805, -111.6635702062169



Range Monitoring Report

Fishlake | Richfield

NIOTCHE CREEK - 04016

Monitoring Date: November 5, 2025

Employees Present:

Oyler

Drought Indicator: No

NIOTCHE CREEK PASTURE - 001

Site or Key Area Name: Salina Reservoir Trend plot 33-12

Predominant Landform: RIPARIAN

Measurement Units: inches

Monitoring Date: November 5, 2025

Monitoring Time: POST-GRAZING SEASON

Reason for Monitoring: AMPEstimated use dates: June 25, 2025 to August 18, 2025

Estimated Use Days: 55

Kind and/or Class of Animals: Cow Calf, Yearling

Cow Calf Pairs: 500 AUM: 904.1

Yearlings: 234 AUM:296.2

Total AUM: 1,200

Type of Monitoring: Residual Measurements

Monitoring Method: **Stubble Height**

Plant Species: **All Species Counted Together**

Average Stubble Height (All Species): 7

Minimum Stubble Height Guideline: 4

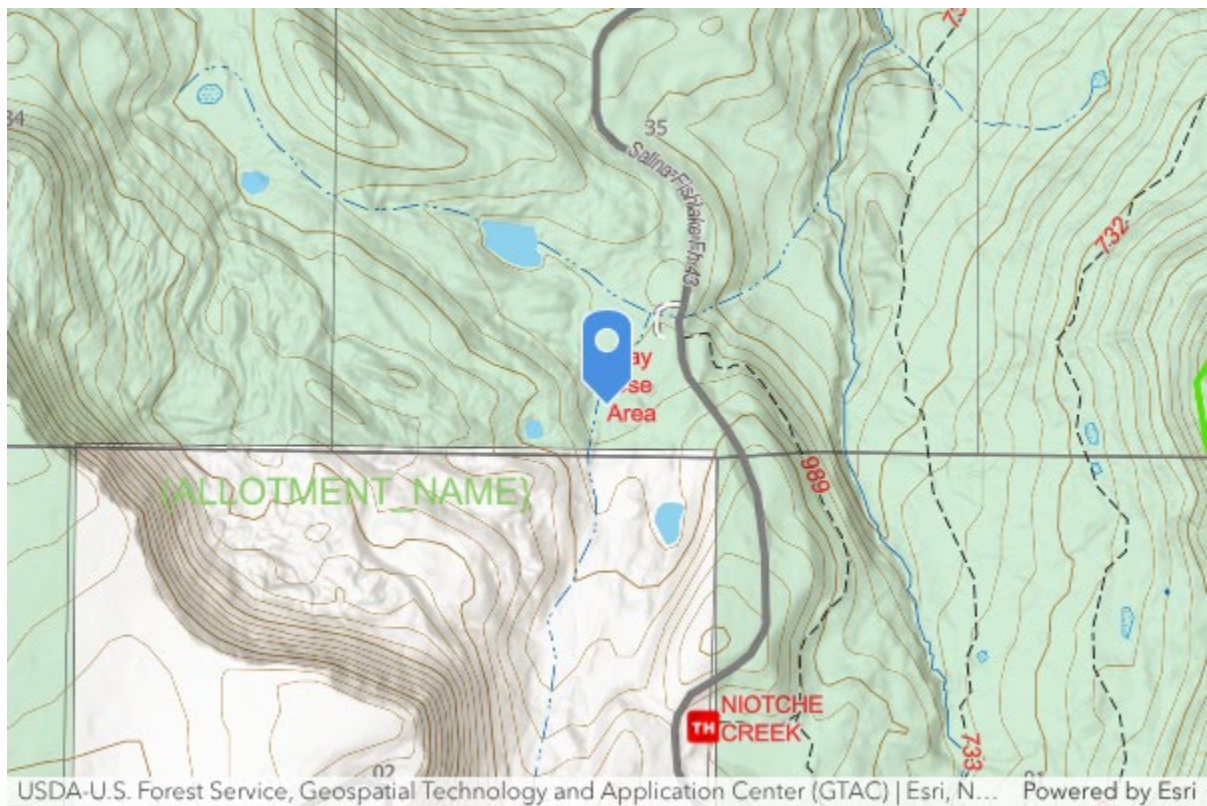
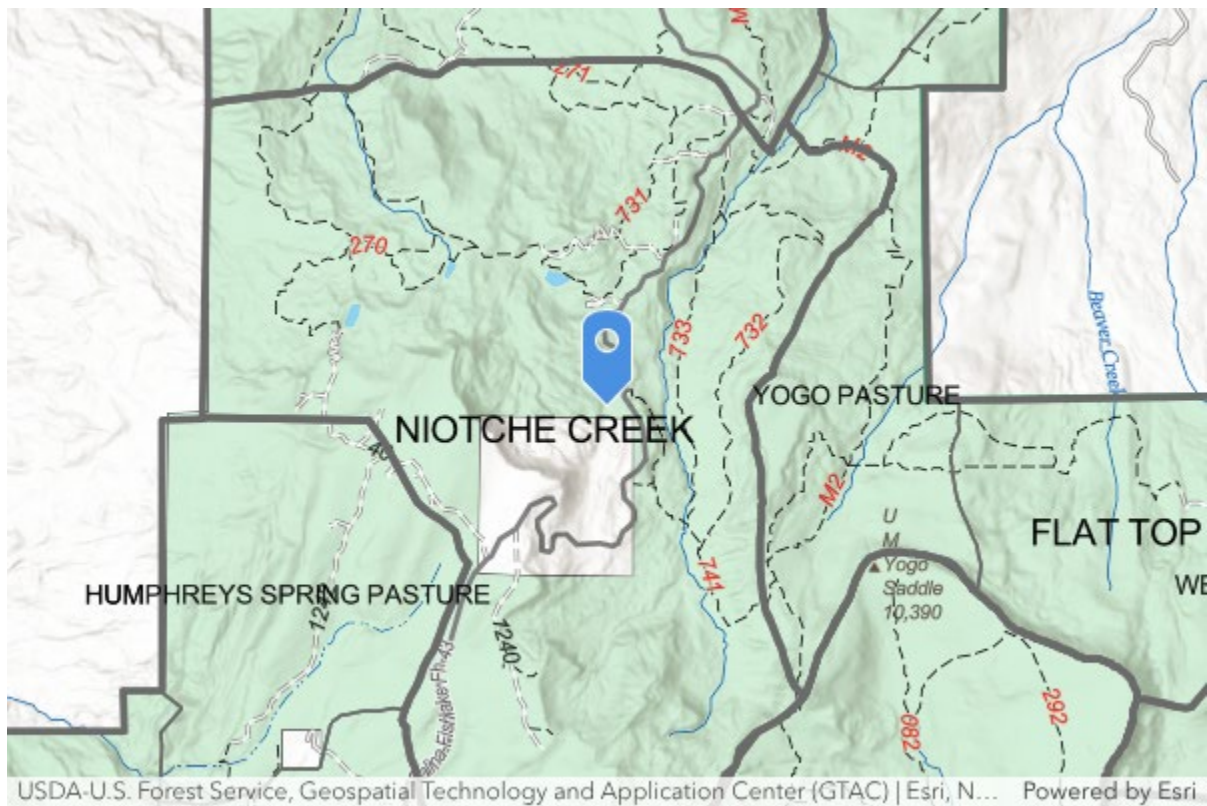
Within Guidelines?Yes



General view looking down stream



Closeup view of vegetation



12S 443158E 4290243N 38.75906328606866, -111.65421919161612

Is the Standard Met? Yes

Is follow-up needed for compliance? No