

Manning Creek Allotment  
Final 2020 Range Monitoring Report

### Introduction

The Manning Creek Allotment is a cow/calf allotment with 257 cow/calf pairs permitted from June 15<sup>th</sup> through September 30<sup>th</sup>. Due to a private land exchange-of-use agreement, 307 cow/calf pairs were authorized in 2020. The allotment was stocked as follows:

| Number of cattle | Pasture                    | On date | Off date |
|------------------|----------------------------|---------|----------|
| 115 Pairs        | Smith Canyon               | 06/15   | 06/30    |
| 307 Pairs        | Little Table               | 07/01   | 07/15    |
| 307 Pairs        | Big Table-Big Flat         | 07/16   | 07/30    |
| 307 Pairs        | Windy Ridge-Manning Meadow | 07/31   | 09/03    |
|                  | Manning Creek              | Rested  |          |

### Monitoring Methodology

Monitoring cages (5X2 foot in size; 10 square feet total) were installed during the late fall 2019. After cattle was removed from the allotment in September Rick Oyler collected utilization data from four sites located in different units within the Manning Creek Allotment. Forage inside the cage (10 square feet) was cut and put in a Ziplock bag. Forage outside the cage from 10 square feet (collected at 10 different nearby random locations; each location being one square foot) was also cut and put in Ziploc bag. One square foot hoops were used to mark where to collect forage from. Each bag was then weighed and compared to determine percent utilization. The forage collected was cured so forage did not need to be dried first before weighing.

The Extensive Browse method and Stubble Height methods found in the 1996 Interagency Technical Reference (Utilization Studies and Residual Measurements) were also used.

| Site Name             | Unit Location   | Number of Hoops clipped | Inside Cage in Grams | Wildlife Exclosure | Outside Cage in Grams | 2020 |
|-----------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|------|
| Manning Above Private | Manning Meadows | 8                       | 24                   | 18                 | 12                    | 50%  |
| SE Barney Lake        | Manning Meadows | 8                       | 22                   |                    | 15                    | 32%  |
| Cold Springs          | Windy Ridge     | 8                       | 74                   |                    | 46                    | 38%  |
| Big Flat              | Big Flat        | 8                       | 21                   |                    | 15                    | 29%  |
| Big Table             | Big Table       |                         |                      |                    |                       |      |
| Big Table South       | Big Table       |                         |                      |                    |                       |      |

|                            |                |                         |  |  |  |                     |
|----------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|--|--|--|---------------------|
| Little Table Upper         | Little Table   |                         |  |  |  |                     |
| Little Table Riparian      | Little Table   |                         |  |  |  |                     |
| Below Manning Dam          | Manning Meadow | Extensive Browse Ocular |  |  |  | 23% Willows         |
| Manning Meadow (north end) | Manning Meadow | Stubble Height          |  |  |  | 6.64 inches (carex) |
| Below the Dam              | Manning Meadow | Stubble Height          |  |  |  | 4.56 inches (carex) |

## Discussion

The Manning Meadows Unit was grazed the heaviest: 50% average utilization. The Manning Meadows Unit did receive some unauthorized use from the Marysville Peak Allotment. The fence dividing the Manning Creek and Marysville allotments needs to be reconstructed, this is planned once the fire/fuel treatment work is completed in this area. The 2020 grazing season was extremely dry and cattle were rotated through the various grazing units ahead of the planned grazing schedule and removed from the allotment three weeks early. The two new exclosures that were constructed in the fall of 2019 were used to determine Livestock verses wildlife grazing pressure. The above data reveals the wildlife used 25% of the forage in this area and cattle used 25% of the forage for a total of 50% utilization.



**Figure 1:** Manning Creek Allotment, Manning Meadows Unit, Richfield Ranger District, Manning above Private utilization at exclosures. Picture is looking south. The left side of the photo was grazed by wildlife only and the right side of the phot was excluded from all grazing. There was 25% percent use inside the exclosure.





**Figure 2:** Manning Creek Allotment, Manning Meadows Unit, Richfield Ranger District, Manning above Private utilization at exclosures. Total utilization is 50%.



**Figure 3:** Manning Creek Allotment, Manning Meadows Unit, Richfield Ranger District, SE Barney Lake utilization monitoring site. Total utilization here is 32%.





**Figure 4:** Manning Creek Allotment, Manning Meadows Unit, Richfield Ranger District, SE Barney Lake utilization monitoring site. Total utilization here is 32%.



**Figure 5:** Manning Creek Allotment, Windy Ridge Unit, Richfield Ranger District, Cold Springs utilization monitoring site. Total utilization here is 38%.



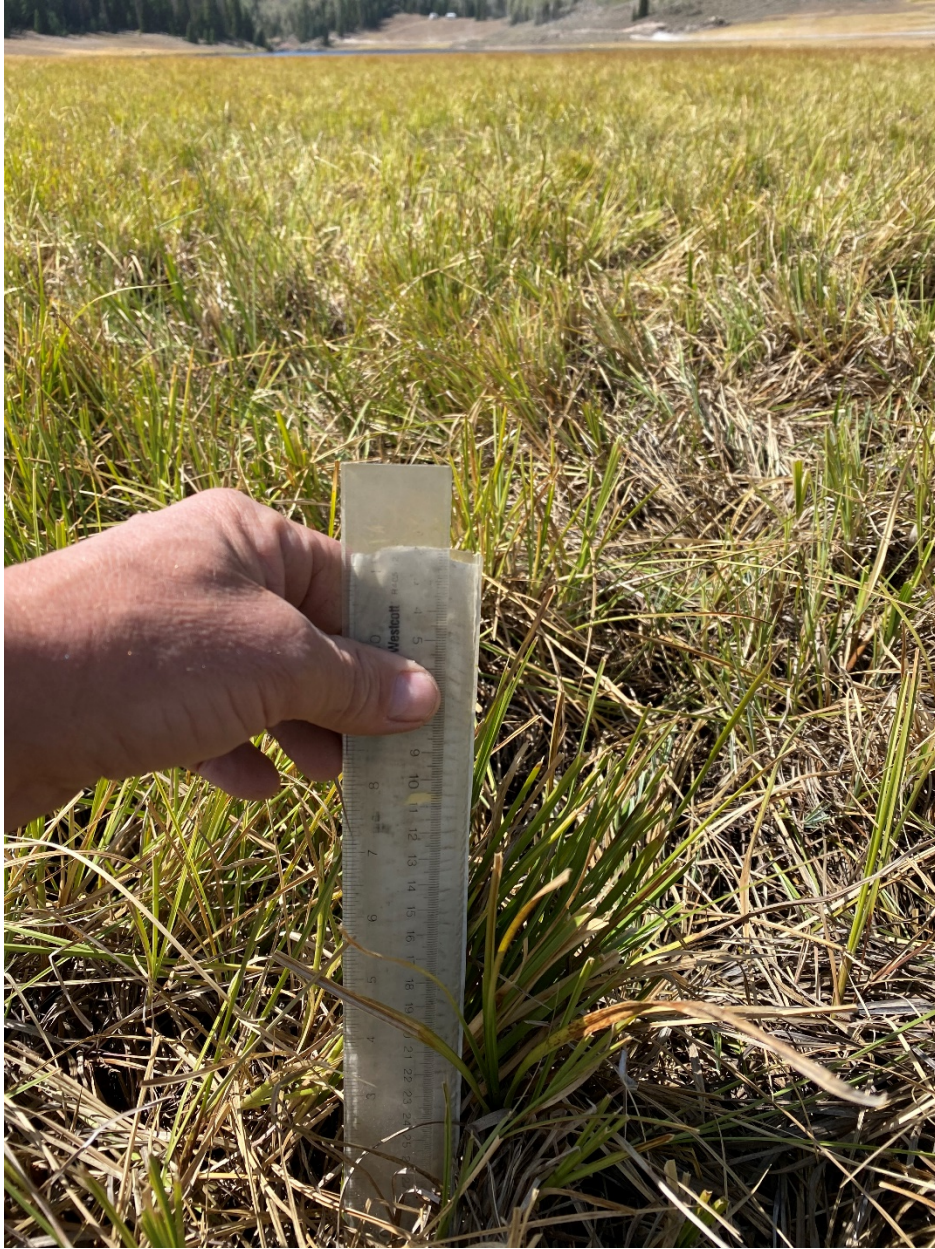


**Figure 6:** Manning Creek Allotment, Windy Ridge Unit, Richfield Ranger District, Cold Springs utilization monitoring site. Total utilization here is 38%.



**Figure 7:** Manning Creek Allotment, Big Flat Unit, Richfield Ranger District, Big Flat utilization monitoring site. Total utilization here is 29%.





**Figure 8:** Manning Creek Allotment, Manning Meadow Unit, Richfield Ranger District, Forage Stubble Height monitoring site north end of the reservoir. Total Stubble Height here is 6.64 inches.





**Figure 9:** Manning Creek Allotment, Manning Meadow Unit, Richfield Ranger District, Forage Stubble Height monitoring site north end of the reservoir. Total Stubble Height here is 6.64 inches.





**Figure 10:** Manning Creek Allotment, Manning Meadow Unit, Richfield Ranger District, Forage Stubble Height monitoring site Below the dam. Total Stubble Height here is 4.56 inches.





**Figure 11:** Manning Creek Allotment, Manning Meadow Unit, Richfield Ranger District, Forage Stubble Height monitoring site Below the dam. Total Stubble Height here is 4.56 inches.





**Figure 12:** Manning Creek Allotment, Manning Meadow Unit, Richfield Ranger District, Extensive Browse monitoring site Below the dam. Total Browse use here is 23% on Willows.

Rick Oyler

Rangeland Management Specialist

Fremont River/Richfield Ranger Districts

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