

TWELVEMILE ALLOTMENT
ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN

REVIEWED BY: Wayne C Pond DATE: 4-30-10
Wayne Pond, Permittee

REVIEWED BY: Brandon Weinmann DATE: 4/30/2010
Brandon Weinmann, Rangeland Management Specialist

APPROVED BY: Fred L. Way DATE: 5/14/10
Fred L. Way, District Ranger

This Allotment Management Plan is hereby made part of the Term Grazing Permit Number 00192B-COL in accordance with Part 2 Item 8 (a) issued to Wayne C. or Susan M. Pond and signed by Michael Roney on September 09, 2003.

Twelvemile Allotment

Allotment Management Plan

Introduction

The Twelvemile Cattle & Horse (C&H) Allotment is located about 10 miles southeast of Colville, Washington. It currently encompasses an area of about 6,891 acres. The Twelvemile Allotment has most recently been managed according to the 1985 Allotment Management Plan and has been modified over time to account for changes.

This Allotment Management Plan (AMP) has been developed to implement the Chewelah Grazing Complex Decision Notice signed by Fred L. Way, District Ranger, on June, 1, 2009. Grazing on the allotment is in compliance with all standards and guides of the Colville National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (The Forest Plan), as amended by INFISH, as well as all other applicable policies, laws, and regulations.

Desired Future Conditions

The Colville National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan desired future condition for the Forest in ten years states that livestock grazing will be more intensively managed. Livestock use will stay within the established use rates. Permittee control will be at an adequate level and, overall, more intensive management systems will be employed. All allotments will emphasize riparian habitat protection and/or recovery.

Current Conditions and Site Specific Desired Future Conditions

Upland Habitat Types

Most of the allotment is timbered with major tree species being ponderosa pine, lodgepole pine, Douglas fir, grand fir, western red cedar, engleman spruce and western larch (see Appendix A of scientific names).

Principle forage species within the allotment include Idaho fescue, Bluebunch wheatgrass, Kentucky bluegrass, redtop, orchard grass, timothy and pinegrass. Shrubs found on the allotment that appears to furnish browse for livestock and wildlife are; redstem ceanothus, serviceberry, snowberry, ninebark and oceanspray (see Appendix A of scientific names).

Most livestock foraging areas in the allotment are found in homestead meadows and open canopy timber stands that provide transitory rangelands. Recent timber management activities in the North/East Twelvemile and West Twelvemile pastures have created valuable transitory rangelands that produce an abundance of forage for livestock and wildlife. The number of transitory rangeland acres is continually changing because of the amount of timber harvest and the amount of time that has passed since the timber harvest. Transitory rangelands have been seeded with palatable forage species, such as redtop, orchard grass, timothy and Kentucky bluegrass, which provide additional areas of forage production. The primary rangelands in this allotment are very productive areas and have a mix of native grasses, such as bluebunch wheatgrass and Idaho fescue, and native forbs.

Monitoring

Utilization information has been infrequently collected for the Twelvemile allotment. Below is a table of past utilization measures that have been collected for the allotment. Based in the Colville National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, utilization limits are 45% in forested areas and 55% in grasslands.

Year	Pasture					
	Homestead	N/E Twelvemile	W. Twelvemile	Monahan	Indian Cr.	Addy Basin
1971	5%	60%	80%			61%
1972	45%	48%	33%			
1973	15%	53%	16%			72%
1981					45%	50%
1984		30%		27%		
1994	52%	38%				
1995	49%	36%	54%			
2007	48%	50%	50%			

Monitoring will continue to occur at the existing Condition and Trends (C&T's) and more C&T's may be established to determine the condition and trend of the resource. Trend will be based on change of plant species composition and/or changes in ground cover. If it is found that a downward trend in vegetation conditions or soil conditions exists (change in species composition or ground cover), modifications to livestock or allotment management would occur. Adjustments may include but are not limited to changes in salt location, amount of riding, change in authorized numbers, season, and/or pasture rotation schedule.

Current Riparian Conditions

The only creek in the Twelvemile allotment with active cattle grazing observed is Twelvemile Creek, which is in the Moran Creek Watershed. Along this creek, meadows were created in lower gradient reaches of the stream. The clearing related to created meadows has removed barriers and vegetation, and provided access for cattle. The loss of vegetation weakens streambanks. The open areas also increase sunlight, thereby providing optimum conditions for grass and forbs which are desired forage for cattle.

Three main cattle concentration areas were identified along Twelvemile Creek and its tributaries. These include Homestead Meadow, North Twelvemile Meadow, and Graves Meadow. A spring enclosure in Homestead meadow was built a number of years ago. It has recovered. However there is still some pressure from cattle around the edges. The proposed meadow retention will increase the amount of forage available and draw the cattle away from the enclosure. North Twelvemile Meadow is a small meadow with a spring and stream. Cattle pressure is causing damage to the stream banks and spring. Water development and meadow retention in this meadow will act to draw livestock away from the stream banks and the spring so they can recover. Graves Meadow has roads on three sides and livestock cross the meadow and creek numerous times while

foraging. The proposed hardened crossing will help concentrate the cows to one crossing. The proposed West Twelvemile meadow retention will also provide upland forage to draw cattle away from the riparian areas.

Livestock Management

Permitted Numbers and Season

The term grazing permit will authorize a total of 30 cow/calf pairs with a season-of-use from June 1st to October 15th. Livestock use will not exceed 136 AUMs though seasonal adjustments in timing of use may occur. Depending on allotment conditions range readiness (drought, fire, saturated soil conditions, forage use, etc.), this season of use may be modified or shortened to avoid or reduce unwanted impacts to resources and to maintain consistency with Forest Plan management direction.

Management System

The proposed grazing schedule for the Twelvemile Allotment would be a deferred rotation grazing system where the Homestead Pasture would be grazed first, followed by the North/East Twelvemile Pasture and the West Twelvemile Pasture last for year 1. Year 2 would begin in North/East Twelvemile, proceed to West Twelvemile and end in Homestead. Year 3 would begin in West Twelvemile, proceed to Homestead and end in North/East Twelvemile. After year 3, the cycle would repeat. The approximate number of days each pasture would be grazed is as follows.

Proposed Reauthorization by pasture for Twelvemile Allotment	
Pasture	Approximate Days in pasture*
Homestead	25 days
North/East Twelvemile	67 days
West Twelvemile	45 days
Total days	137

Number of days may be less during years of low forage production.

Note that the Monahan, Indian Creek and Addy Basin pastures would remain part of the allotment, but would not be authorized for use at this time.

Annual operation instructions will be issued identifying specific management instructions for that year. This AOI would detail the seasons grazing schedule, maintenance responsibility, range development program, etc. This plan will become an amendment to this AMP and as such, a part of the Term Grazing Permit.

New Rangeland Improvement Projects

The Chewelah Grazing Complex EA and Decision Notice identified eight projects in the Twelvemile allotment that are needed to improve water quality, riparian habitat and livestock management. All these projects are within the Moran Watershed, but not all are structural rangeland improvement projects. Descriptions are listed below in the following table and in project notes that follow.

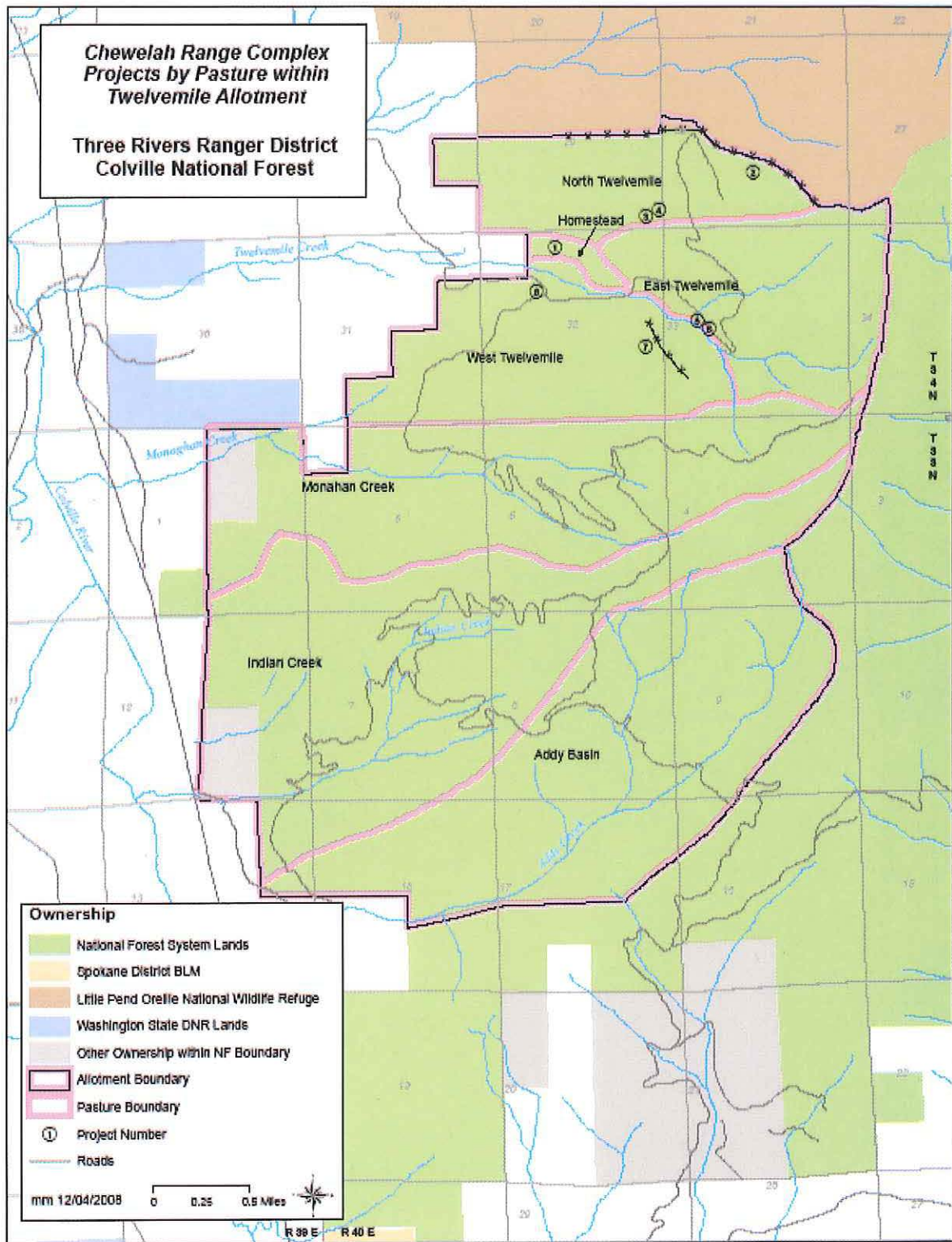
Project Number	Location	Moran Watershed	Treatment	Measure
<i>Homestead Pasture</i>				
1	Homestead Meadow	Twelvemile Creek	Meadow Retention	42 acres
<i>North/East Twelvemile Pasture</i>				
2	North/East Twelvemile Pasture	Twelvemile Creek	Boundary Fence Reconstruction	1.4 miles
3	North Twelvemile Meadow	Twelvemile Creek	Meadow Retention	6.6 acres
4	North Twelvemile Meadow	Twelvemile Creek	Water Development	1 trough
5	Graves Meadow	Twelvemile Creek	Meadow Retention	10 acres
6	Graves Meadow	Twelvemile Creek	Hardened Crossing	1 crossing
<i>West Twelvemile Pasture</i>				
7	Boundary between East and West Twelvemile	Twelvemile Creek	Division Fence Extension	0.4 miles
8	West Twelvemile Meadow	Twelvemile Creek	Meadow Retention	28 acres

Project Notes

1. Homestead Meadow Retention – Remove trees smaller than 8 inch DBH from the meadow to maintain upland foraging areas for livestock. Trees will be piled and burnt to reduce fuels.

2. North Twelvemile Boundary Fence – The proposed action is to reconstruct approximately 1.4 miles of barbed wire fence near the boundary between the Colville National Forest and the Little Pend Oreille National Wildlife Refuge in order to keep Forest Service permitted livestock from drifting off of the allotment. Construction-type equipment would be used to remove non-merchantable vegetation like shrubs along the fence location. Equipment may include a tracked excavator with mowing or masticating attachment.
3. North Twelvemile Meadow Retention - Remove trees smaller than 8 inch DBH from the meadow to maintain upland foraging areas for livestock. Trees will be piled and burnt to reduce fuels. This project would include a small amount of conifer removal from aspen stands at the upper end of the meadow. Conifer removal would consist of cutting small coniferous trees (non-merchantable size, generally smaller than 4 inches diameter at breast height) that are encroaching into aspen stands. The excess woody material will be left in place to deter livestock and wild ungulates from eating small aspen trees.
4. North Twelvemile Water Development water source would be the spring fed stream that runs through the meadow.
5. Graves Meadow Retention – Remove trees smaller than 8 inch DBH from the meadow to maintain upland foraging areas for livestock. Trees will be piled and burnt to reduce fuels. Cut trees would be used to armor stream banks of Twelvemile Creek. These brush barriers are expected not to exceed about 0.3 acres.
6. Graves Meadow Hardened Crossing - Located on Twelvemile Creek in Graves Meadow where an existing livestock crossing is located.
7. Boundary between East and West Twelvemile – Extend the existing Twelvemile division fence between East and West Twelvemile pastures. This fence construction would allow the deferred rotation grazing system to be implemented by creating a physical boundary that would limit livestock movement. The existing fence is inadequate due to Forest Service timber sales which removed natural barriers.
8. West Twelvemile Meadow Retention - Remove trees smaller than 8 inch DBH from the meadow to maintain upland foraging areas for livestock. Pole sized trees would be removed and used as material for the construction of exclosures throughout the project area.

Proposed Projects in the Twelvemile Allotment.



Allotment Management

In order to achieve desired conditions and to be in compliance with the Forest Plan, the Twelvemile Allotment Decision Notice, Biological Assessments/Opinions, and other laws and policies, the following requirements are to be followed and may be modified over time to be compliant/consistent with changes in or additional laws and policies:

General Management

- 1) It is the permittee's responsibility to conduct scheduled livestock moves, provide field inspections to assure compliance with the term grazing permit, the AMP, or other instructions, assure livestock are in the appropriate location, and track utilization. All livestock will be moved to the next pasture in rotation or removed from the allotment by the scheduled move date or before management standards (such as proper utilization, stubble height or bank trampling standards) are exceeded.
- 2) Range Readiness and Turn On: Livestock entry on to the allotment or into a specific unit will not be permitted until such time as plant species are ready to graze and soils are dry enough to withstand grazing. See appendix B for the range readiness indicators.
- 3) Pasture Move Dates: Actual move dates will be determined, to the extent practical, by on the ground inspection. The permittee will plan on having the pasture move completed by the scheduled date or by the time that the allowable use level is reached, whichever comes first. Livestock movement between pastures will not take more than five days.
- 4) It is the permittees responsibility to maintain a current knowledge of the status of the allotment with regard to utilization levels, and either plan on moving early if needed or request an extension. Livestock remaining on the pasture after the scheduled off date or beyond the period in which the permittee was instructed to move these livestock the permittee may be billed for excess use at the unauthorized use and/or action may be taken against the term grazing permit. If the permittee believes that the additional time in the pasture is justified, the Forest Officer must be notified at least 10 days in advance to permit an adequate inspection and determination. Approval will be obtained in writing prior to extensions and may be denied for reasons other than resource concerns.
- 5) Allotment Exit: The off date is October 15th. Livestock may be required to move off the allotment early if utilization standards are met or if an event occurs that causes the Forest Service to require the permittee to move off early.
- 6) Livestock: Livestock will be only cow/calf pairs. Any deviation in use will need approval in advance by the District Ranger (example: yearlings). Any deviation in use must be requested by the permittee on the Annual Application so that the billing for that season can be prepared accordingly. Total numbers must be at

- least 90% of those permitted, unless non-use is requested and approved in advance. Any livestock found on the allotment that are not owned by the permittee are to be reported to the Forest Service immediately. Excess use by the permittee or unauthorized use by others is subject to administrative or civil action.
- 7) Nonuse in Part or in Whole: Unless non use is applied for in writing and approved in writing in advance, the permittee must place 90% or more of the permitted numbers on the allotment. Non-use applies only to numbers and not to seasons. Approval of non use is not automatic. Personal convenience non use cannot be authorized more than three consecutive years or four years in a ten year period. If personal convenience non-use is taken, a permit cannot be waived based on sale of permitted livestock.
 - 8) Salting: All salt will be placed away from key areas and available water. Salt will be placed in areas where livestock use is usually light. In no case will salt be placed closer than 1/4 mile to streams or other wetlands without prior approval. Salt should be placed in areas such as old road beds or bare rock sites which are not visible from open roads. Salt will not be placed within tree plantations where the smallest trees are less than 3 feet tall. Salting will not be located within 100 meters of any known heritage resource site.
 - 9) Riding and Herding: Depending on the pasture, the permittee should plan on spending as much time as necessary in moving the livestock away from the meadows, riparian areas and other key areas. This is entirely to the benefit of the permittee as reaching of the allowable use standard on key areas before the scheduled move date will result in early livestock removal from a unit or off of the Forest. Actual use records are required by permittees at end of season.
 - 10) Dead livestock located on Forest Service administered lands and within 300 feet from any water source or designated roads, trails, or recreation sites will promptly removed and properly disposed by the permittee.

Invasive Species

- 11) Noxious Weed: The Forest Service is committed to aggressive control and eradication of new noxious weed infestations. This commitment must be shared with all those who participate on land management activities on National Forest System lands for weed control to be effective. The Forest Service is requesting permittee cooperation in the following standards to prevent the introduction and spread of noxious weeds:
 - Locations of infestations shall be discussed with the permittee during Annual Operating meetings to prevent spread of these sites.
 - The permittee should inform the Forest Service of infestations on the allotment.
 - Vehicles used in managing livestock on the allotment shall be cleaned of any weed transporting material such as hay, mud, or seeds.

- All hay used on USFS land shall be certified noxious weed free.

Cultural Resources

12) Archaeological surveys will be conducted before any ground is disturbed through the implementation of this plan, and if sites are encountered, site specific mitigation may be developed. Projects in this plan that would need to be reviewed prior to work beginning include:

- New trough installation
- Meadow retention with hand-piling and burning of slash
- Hardened crossing installation

13) The permittee shall notify the Forest Service immediately by telephone and with written confirmation, the discover of human remains of funerary objects, sacred objects of cultural patrimony pursuant to regulation Section 10.4(b), of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act.

Implementation Monitoring

1) Monitoring Implementation Standards

Allowable Use – The following forage allocation is designed to meet the Colville National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (The Forest Plan) Range Goals. The forage allocation listed is the maximum allowable utilization on the allotment in any specific area. Maximum utilization levels listed here are consistent with Forest Plan standards and guidelines and applicable Biological Assessments or Biological Opinions. The prescribed utilization levels were developed to address specific resource objectives for the allotment and are expressed as percent utilization. Percent utilization measurements are taken as a point in time.

	Maximum annual utilization (percent) 2/					
	Forest		Grassland		Shrublands	
Range Resource Level (FSH 2209,21 R6)	Satisfactory Condition 3/	Unsatisfactory Condition 4/	Satisfactory Condition 3/	Unsatisfactory Condition 4/	Satisfactory Condition 3/	Unsatisfactory Condition 4/
C – Livestock managed to achieve full utilization of allocated forage. Management systems designed to obtain distribution and maintain plant vigor include fencing and water development.	45	0-35	55	0-35	45	0-30

There are currently no areas classified as unsatisfactory. If future monitoring indicates that unsatisfactory situation exists, the location will be mapped, appropriate standards applied and permittee notified as to management changes.

2) General Allotment Monitoring

Forest Service Range Staff will visit the allotment as needed throughout the grazing season to monitor for compliance with grazing permit terms and conditions (i.e., improvements, maintenance, adherence to Forest Service issued written instruction, etc.).

- A) Utilization monitoring indicates the amount of forage that remains to be harvested. Utilization of the available forage resource will look at both upland and meadow grass to determine the levels of use. Allotments will be administered based on the Colville National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan. Utilization limits are 45% in forested areas and 55% in grasslands. Landscape appearance forms are used to collect information from strategic locations and homestead meadows on the Forest Service allotments. Forest Service Range Staff compile utilization levels based on a height to weight curve of specific grass species. This is done by running transects across the landscape in different locations.
- B) Compliance monitoring will insure proper management and use. Permitted allotments are periodically inspected during the grazing season to look for the specific number, kind, class of livestock, period of use and rotation of pastures. Range improvements will also be inspected for routine maintenance and proper function.
- C) A Riparian Implementation Monitoring Plot (PIBO) is located on Twelvemile Creek and will be read two out of every five years. This monitoring looks at four indicators to evaluate current livestock management practices and the effects associated with riparian habitat. Greenline-to-greenline channel width, residual stubble height, woody species use and streambank alteration are assessed to determine long term trend. Condition of the stream channels and riparian vegetation are monitored to achieve the desired management objectives. This plot is located in Graves Meadow on the North/East Pasture.

3) Stream Channel Morphology Monitoring

Permanent hydrology cross-section sites will be established to evaluate the effects and determine trends of adaptive management on the stream channel.

Improvements

There are a total of three structural range improvements proposed for construction on the Twelvemile allotment, which include two fences and one water development. Maintenance responsibilities for these improvements, once constructed, will be assigned to the permittee through term permit modification or reissuance.

Maintenance responsibilities are shown on individual term grazing permits. Permittees will maintain all range improvements to Forest Service standards. All assigned improvements are to be maintained annually whether grazing occurs or not. Maintenance of the exterior fences must be completed prior to the turn on of either the Twelvemile

livestock or the adjacent permittee(s). Interior fences must be maintained prior to turn-on into the affected unit unless otherwise specified in the AOI.

Water developments must be maintained prior to turn-on into the affected unit.

Improvements that have met their planned life expectancy shall be scheduled for replacement under a permit modification. Scheduling may be dependent upon funding, timing, and the ability to obtain the appropriate clearances. See Appendix A for a complete list of improvements and the maintenance schedule.

APPENDIX A: MAINTENANCE RESPONSIBILITY AND SCHEDULE

NUMBER	NAME	TYPE	CONDITION RATING	MAINTENANCE RESPONSIBILITY
150001	TWELVEMILE DIVISION	FENCE	POOR	NATIONAL FOREST (FS)
150002	HOMESTEAD MEADOW	FENCE	SATISFACTORY	NATIONAL FOREST (FS)
150003	IRON MOUTAIN	FENCE	POOR	NATIONAL FOREST (FS)
150004	INDIAN CREEK-ADDY BASIN	FENCE	POOR	NATIONAL FOREST (FS)
150005	NORTHWEST BOUNDARY	FENCE	SATISFACTORY	NATIONAL FOREST (FS)
150009	TWELVEMILE-MONAHAN	FENCE	SATISFACTORY	NATIONAL FOREST (FS)
150007T	TWELVEMILE	TROUGH	SATISFACTORY	NATIONAL FOREST (FS)
15007SP	TWELVEMILE	SPRING	POOR	NATIONAL FOREST (FS)
150008T	HOMESTEAD	TROUGH	GOOD	NATIONAL FOREST (FS)
15008SP	HOMESTEAD	SPRING	GOOD	NATIONAL FOREST (FS)

APPENDIX B: RANGE READINESS

RANGE READINESS INDICATORS

Record of Range Readiness Checks

Allotment _____ Forest _____ Name of Observer _____
Observation Location (Vegetation type, zone or elevation, area) _____

Date	Species or Indicator	Vegetation Development Stage (Record plant height and development stage)	Soil Condition (Firm, Soft, Muddy)
Conclusions and recommendations:			

Note: Record key species or as many indicator plants as needed. Sheet may serve for several checks in one year or checks in several years.

Indicators of Range Readiness

Grasses

Wheatgrass	Agropyron app.	About 6 inches in height
Green Fescue	Festuca viridula	Leaves 5 inches in height, seed heads showing
Idaho Fescus	Festuca idahoensis	Leaves about 3 inches in height, seed heads showing
Prairie Junegrass	Koeleria cristata	Leaves about 3 inches in height, seed heads showing
Sandberg bluegrass	Poa secunda	Plants maturing, seed heads conspicuous
Pinegrass	Calamagrostis	Foliage 3-4 inches in height
Tufted hairgrass	Deschampsis cespitosa	4 inches or more in height, heads conspicuous

Grasslike

Elk sedge	Carex geyeri	Leaves 3 inches in height
------------------	---------------------	----------------------------------

Forbs

Western yarrow	Achillea lanulosa	Flower stocks beginning to show
Arrowleaf balsamroot	Balsamorhiza app.	Leafage about ½ developed
Geranium	Geranium app.	Leafage about 4 inches high, flower in bloom
Groundsel	Senecio app.	Leafage ¾ mature
Dandelion	Taraxacum officinale	Leafage developed, full bloom

Shrubs

Serviceberry	Amelanchier app.	Part of blossoms out
Antelope bitterbrush	Purshia tridentate	Flower buds conspicuously swollen
Snowberry	Symphoricorpus app.	7 to 8 pairs of leaves unfolded from each bud

Soils

Normally dry sites should be fairly dry and firm. Wet meadows, unless lightly stocked, should have most of the area dry enough to carry stock without breaking the sod and destroying the cover. Both soil and forage indicators must be considered in determining range readiness.

Indicators of Range Not Ready to Use

	<u>When in Flower</u>	<u>Soils</u>
Spring Beauty	Claytonia	Soils are wet, loose and subject to excessive compaction or damage from trampling
Lambtongue favcilly	Erythronium	
Fritillary	Fritillaria	
Waterleaf	Hydrophyllum	
Sagebrush buttercup	Ranunculus	