

Divide Allotment 2021 End of Year Report

NMFS BO No: NWR-2012-3954

Wallowa-Whitman National Forest
Wallowa Valley Ranger District

04 March 2022

Introduction: The purpose of this report is to satisfy Terms and Conditions set forth in the Biological Opinion from NMFS, NWR-2012-3954, and USFWS, 01EOW00-2012-F-0105. This report will cover the grazing activities and results from monitoring and adaptive management conducted during the 2021 grazing season.

Terms and Conditions

- I. To implement reasonable and prudent measure RPM 1 (minimize take from livestock grazing), the WWNF shall:
 - a. The WWNF and its permittees shall ensure that pastures are monitored midseason and end-of-season at the frequency described in the Proposed Action. For pastures which overlap with ESA-listed fish and where habitat indicators are not meeting objectives, implement a mid-season move trigger of 15 percent streambank alteration.
 - The streams with critical habitat on the Divide Allotment are within enclosures or in riparian pastures that are rested each year.
 - b. The WWNF shall ensure that appropriately trained WWNF staff monitor streambank alteration levels, at the DMAs which the WWNF has proposed for each pasture. If the take surrogate of 20 percent streambank alteration is exceeded, the WWNF shall contact the NMFS Snake Basin Area Office immediately.
 - The streams with critical habitat on the Divide Allotment are within enclosures or in riparian pastures that are rested each year. Because grazing does not overlap with critical habitat on the Divide Allotment the DMAs are not monitored.
 - c. The WWNF shall ensure all enclosures, fences, and water developments that reduce cattle use adjacent to streams are properly maintained and functioning as intended.
 - In 2021 the oldest enclosure on Carrol Creek was reconstructed. Maintenance on enclosures and pasture fences that distribute cattle away from critical habitat was completed prior to turning cows onto the allotment.
 - d. The WWNF shall use the Long-Term and Annual Adaptive Management Strategies described in the Proposed Action to adjust grazing management strategies when needed to maintain desired stream habitat conditions and minimize incidental take.
 - The streams with critical habitat on the Divide Allotment are within enclosures or in riparian pastures that are rested each year. Because grazing does not overlap with critical habitat on the Divide Allotment the DMAs are not monitored.

II. The following terms and conditions implement RPM 2 (monitoring and reporting). The WWNF shall:

Submit an annual monitoring report to NMFS by February 1 each year with the following:

- a. Overview of proposed action and actual management (e.g., livestock numbers, on-off dates for each pasture, etc.)
 - Table 1 is the 2021 grazing schedule.

Table 1. 2021 Grazing schedule.

Pasture	Head	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct
North Target Springs *	140	30-	-31		11-	-21
White Horse*	85	11-	-31			
Hepburn*						
Middle Target Springs*						
South Target	225			1-	-	-10
Little Sheep Riparian	No planned use					
Holding	As needed to manage cattle					
Cow Camp Horse Pasture	3 H/M	11-	-	-	-	-21

*Contains listed fish species

- b. Discussion of any unauthorized use and /or any maintenance issues related to fences or water developments.
 - There are no unauthorized use or maintenance issues to discuss.
- c. Review of allotment compliance with annual use indicators. For any incidences of non-compliance, describe the WWNF response per the Annual Adaptive Management Strategy in the Proposed Action.
 - Monitoring on the Divide Allotment was for fence reconstruction and maintenance. The fences were in good maintenance and enclosure was reconstructed.
- d. Detailed description of any adaptive management responses taken by the WWNF as part of the Long-Term and Annual Adaptive Management Strategies described in the Proposed Action.
 - Continue to complete fence maintenance and reconstruction. Manage grazing based on monitoring.
- e. Any relevant information that becomes available regarding Snake River Basin steelhead or Snake River spring/summer Chinook salmon habitat trends and /or spawning locations that would modify the assumptions made in this opinion or result in effects not considered.
 - There is no new information to report at this time.
- f. Any management recommendations for subsequent years.
 - Manage grazing based on monitoring and continue to complete infrastructure reconstruction and maintenance.