

Appendix A2 Camp Creek Allotment #33

1.0 Introduction

Camp Creek Allotment #33 consists of approximately 203 acres of public land, 3,380 acres of private land, and 600 acres of State land, per the RMP. The public land occurs in two isolated parcels within the allotment; an 80-acre parcel in the north portion is surrounded by private land and bordered by the Payette National Forest; and a 120-acre parcel in the south portion is surrounded by private land. There is no public access to these public land parcels.

Through the Evaluation and Determination, it was determined that

- Livestock management is in conformance with the Water Quality (#7) standard
- Significant progress is being made toward conformance with the Riparian Areas (#2) and Stream Channels and Flood Plains (#3) standards;
- Livestock management is contributing to the non-conformance with the Watershed (#1), Native Plant Communities (#4), and Threatened and Endangered Species (#8) standards
- Compliance with all applicable guidelines for livestock grazing management is not being achieved (numbers 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 11, 12, 18).

2.0 Description of the Alternatives

2.1 Alternative A – No Action /Continue Current Management

The current authorization for season-long grazing would continue, with the current grazing permit expiring February 28, 2016. Terms and conditions of the current grazing permit are:

Permittee	Livestock	Season of Use	Percent Public Land	Grazing Preference		
				Active	Suspended	Total
Monty J. Pearce	250 Cattle	05/01 to 06/30	4%	20	0	36
	100 Cattle	07/01 to 10/31		16		

Following are allotment specific terms and conditions attached to the grazing permit:

1. Turn-out is subject to Boise District range readiness criteria.
2. Your certified Actual Use Report is due within 15 days of completing your authorized annual grazing use.
3. Salt and/or supplement shall not be placed within one-quarter (1/4) mile of springs, streams, meadows, aspen stands, playas or water developments.
4. Changes to the scheduled use require prior approval.
5. Trailing activities must be coordinated with the BLM prior to initiation. A trailing permit or similar authorization may be required prior to crossing public lands.
6. Livestock exclosures located within your grazing allotments are closed to all domestic grazing use.
7. Range improvements must be maintained in accordance with the cooperative agreements and range improvements permits in which you are a signator or assignee. All maintenance of

range improvements within a Wilderness Study Area requires prior consultation with the Authorized Officer.

8. All appropriate documentation regarding base property leases, lands offered for exchange-of-use, and livestock control agreements must be approved prior to turn-out. Leases of land and/or livestock must be notarized prior to submission and be in compliance with Boise District Policy
9. Failure to pay the grazing bill within 15 days of the due date specified shall result in a late fee assessment of \$25.00 or 10 percent of the grazing bill, whichever is greater, not to exceed 250.00 payment. Payment made later than 15 days after the due date, shall include the appropriate late fee assessment. Failure to make payment within 30 days livestock may be a violation of 43 CFR 4140.(b)(1) and shall result in action by the Authorized Officer under 43 CFR 4150.1 and 4160.1-2.

2.2 Alternative B – Proposed Action

Based on field mapping of existing fences and information provided by the permittee, the acreage for Camp Creek Allotment has been recalculated. There are 88 acres more of public land, 29 fewer acres private land, and 2 acres more of state land within the proposed allotment boundary than are shown in the RMP. The allotment currently consists of approximately 3,415 acres, including 285 acres of public land (8 percent), 2,525 acres of private land (74 percent), and 605 acres of IDL (18 percent). These revised acreages reflect the most accurate and up-to-date information, and would be used for the new term permit.

Pasture Name	Acreage			
	Public Land	Private Land	State Land	Total
Lower	165	875	0	1,040
The Gut	40	1,005	0	1,045
Upper	80	645	605	1,330
TOTAL	285 acres	2,525 acres	605 acres	3,415 acres

To incorporate updated allotment information and current grazing management guidance, it is proposed to:

1. Modify the allotment boundary to correspond to existing fencelines. Two isolated 40-acre parcels of public land (T15N, R4W, Section 13 SE¼NE¼ and T15N R3W, Section 19 NW¼NW¼) identified in the 1988 Cascade RMP as being a part of the old Advent Gulch Allotment will become a part of Camp Creek Allotment due to existing fencelines. These two parcels of public land were previously deleted from the Advent Gulch Allotment by a 2007 grazing decision. Camp Creek Allotment would now consist of three pastures - Lower Pasture, Upper Pasture, and the Gut Pasture;
2. Increase the percent public land term of the grazing permit from 4 to 8 percent;
3. Convert from a cattle only allotment to a mixed use allotment for cattle and/or horses;
4. A three-pasture deferred rotation grazing system would be followed; livestock distribution would be achieved through rotations and riding;

5. Renew the grazing permit showing maximum authorizations for livestock numbers, season-of-use, and AUMs (each of these columns would be stand-alone sections of the permit therefore standard method for calculating AUMs would not apply). Annual flexibility of livestock numbers and/or season-of-use would be allowed based on seasonal circumstances (example - range readiness; variations in permittee's management; but not limited to these situations). Flexibility would be authorized annually before livestock turn out, by the authorized officer to ensure livestock use remains within the sideboards of maximum livestock numbers and season-of-use, and without exceeding authorized AUMs.
6. Authorize trailing of livestock from the corral on private land in Horse Flat Allotment (T15N, R3W, Section 29) to and from Lower Pasture of Camp Creek Allotment, which is less than one mile and should take about an hour each way. Trailing would be authorized as a part of the AUMs already allocated to the permittee. If these grazing privileges are transferred, trailing would not automatically be transferred.
7. Use Annual Indicators as a tool to insure that progress is made toward conformance with Idaho Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management.

Based on the proposed action, livestock grazing would be authorized between April 20 and November 15 across the entire allotment, for a maximum of 36 AUMs on public land; livestock would generally be in each pasture for approximately two months. The rotation sequence, between the three pastures, would be determined annually, with turn-out being alternated among the pastures such that no pasture would be grazed during two consecutive Spring seasons (April 20 through May 31), which would provide plants with rest during the critical growth period, and allow for continued improvement of the native plant community. Terms and conditions necessary to regulate grazing activities on public land would be added to the grazing permit. Annual Indicators describe utilization criteria. If annual indicator levels are exceeded, livestock numbers or period of use would be modified for the following year to ensure excess use does not occur in consecutive years. The grazing permit would be renewed for a term of ten years, from March 01, 2009 to February 28, 2019, as follows:

Allotment	Livestock (maximum)	Season of Use (maximum)	Percent Public Land	AUMs		
				Active	Suspended	Permitted
Camp Creek	150 Cattle or Horses	04/20 to 11/15	8%	36	0	36
Horse Flat #95	150 Cattle or Horses	04/20 to 05/15 10/15 to 11/15	Trailing			

Allotment specific Terms and Conditions:

1. Livestock grazing for Camp Creek Allotment will comply with Field Manager's Decision that became final on (intentionally left blank at this time, date to be inserted when the decision becomes final).
2. Authorized AUMs would not be exceeded on public lands. Livestock numbers and season of use, as shown above, indicate maximums allowed under this permit. The permittee has discretion to manage within these numbers, provided overuse does not occur on public land.
3. Changes to the scheduled use require prior approval, on an annual basis.

4. The Annual Grazing Use Report (BLM Form 4130-5) must be properly completed, signed, dated and submitted within 15 days of completing your authorized annual grazing use.
5. Annual maintenance of range improvements would be completed prior to livestock entry of the allotment.
6. Livestock turn-out is subject to Boise District range readiness criteria.
7. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(b), permittee must notify the BLM Field Manager, by telephone followed with written confirmation, immediately upon discovery of human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony (as defined in 43 CFR 10.2) on federal land. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c), permittee must immediately stop any ongoing activities connected with the discovery and make a reasonable effort to protect discovered remains or object.
8. Salt and/or mineral blocks shall not be placed on public lands within one quarter (1/4) mile of springs, streams, meadows, riparian habitats or aspen stands.

Flexibility

Scheduled turn out dates by pasture may be adjusted based on Range Readiness and Annual Indicators. Grazing schedule adjustments require prior approval from the Authorized Officer.

Based on the results of monitoring associated with Annual Grazing Use Indicators, periodic modifications to authorized grazing management may be imposed. Monitoring data collected would be used to ensure adherence with Annual Indicators, listed below. Modifications may include, but are not limited to the following: duration of grazing use by pasture, and/or reducing livestock numbers by pasture. These modifications would be coordinated annually with the permittee and incorporated into the annual authorization.

Annual Indicators

Adherence to the annual indicators listed below, and the prescribed grazing management program are expected to make progress towards meeting, and maintaining achievement of the Standards for Rangeland Health and land use plan objectives. Periodic collection, evaluation, and interpretation of monitoring data (in accordance with BLM approved monitoring techniques) could provide an indication of the potential success of the grazing management prescription.

1. Average utilization by livestock on key bunchgrass species would not exceed 40 percent during the period of critical growth (May 1 through June 30), and 50 percent outside the critical growth period.
2. Utilization on shrubs would not exceed 30 percent of current year's production as determined by Browse Removal Method, or other approved methods.
3. Maintain a median of six inches, or more, of residual stubble height on herbaceous riparian vegetation along Camp Creek (segment CAMP-010.9), on an annual basis throughout the growing season.
4. Bank alteration from foraging or trailing livestock along Camp Creek (segment CAMP-010.9) would be limited to 15 percent or less.

Long Term Indicator Criteria for Riparian Areas

1. Increase riparian plant cover, particularly late seral sedges, rushes, and willows on stream banks as measured on riparian trend (Greenline) transects;

2. Increase bank stability to 85 percent or more, as measured on riparian trend (Greenline) transects;
3. Decrease in greenline to greenline channel width (width/depth ratio).

3.0 Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences

Affected environment is discussed in the main body of this EA, with additional information provided below.

3.1 Vegetation

3.1.1 Affected Environment – Vegetation

The upland vegetation in Camp Creek Allotment, at the time of the 2005 Rangeland Health Assessment, was not meeting the standard for native plant communities due to early use, repeat spring and fall use, and general overuse. The authorized use period coincides with the critical growth period for many of the large perennial bunchgrasses, when plant energy is directed to developing new growth, seed stalks, and seed. Annual grazing during this time period depletes the herbaceous component of plant communities by reducing plant carbohydrate root reserves. Livestock grazing management practices have been modified during the last five years, and improvement in vigor and diversity are becoming evident. Under proper livestock management practices, the native plant community has potential to meet resource objectives.

3.1.2 Environmental Consequences – Vegetation

3.1.2.1 Alternative A

The Idaho rangeland health standard for native plant communities is not being met on this allotment. However, modifications to livestock grazing management practices have occurred over the last five years and progress towards meeting the standard is becoming evident. Although some changes may not occur rapidly, such as reduction of invasive species, the native plant community is becoming more vigorous and diverse. Continuation of current livestock grazing management practices is expected to meet resource objectives and make progress towards meeting the standard for native plant communities.

3.1.2.2 Alternative B

Changes to livestock grazing management practices proposed under this alternative would increase the total number of days in the allotment and authorize horse use, as well as cattle. Although livestock turnout would be authorized 10 days earlier which would further impact native plants during their critical growth period, and not allow the allotment to make progress toward achieving the standards of rangeland health, the proposed deferred rotation will provide rest for plants during the critical growth period, and provide for continued improvement in the vigor and diversity of the plant community. Additionally, livestock numbers will be reduced from 250 in the spring to a maximum of 150 at any one time, which will result in less impact to plants and soils. Total AUMs would not be increased under this alternative although the period of use is relaxed to show the maximum days the allotment could be used.

3.2 Soils

3.2.1 Affected Environment – Soils

The soil stability and hydrologic function in Camp Creek Allotment, at the time of the 2005 Rangeland Health Assessment, was not meeting the standard for watershed health, due to early use, repeated spring and fall use, and general overuse. The authorized use period coincides with the critical growth period for many of the large perennial bunchgrasses. Annual use of this nature affects the vigor, distribution, and function of the plant community to aid the watershed in the ability to properly infiltrate, retain and release water which provides for proper nutrient and hydrologic cycling and energy flow. The health of the soil resource is directly correlated with the health and structure of the plant community; therefore, as one resource becomes altered, the other resource is affected.

3.2.2 Environmental Consequences – Soils

3.2.2.1 Alternative A

The Idaho rangeland health standard for watershed, based on soil site stability and hydrologic function was not being met on this allotment. However, modifications to livestock grazing management practices have occurred over the last five years and progress towards meeting the standard is becoming evident. Although some changes may not occur rapidly such as; reduction of invasive species, the native plant community on public lands is becoming more vigorous and diverse. The continuation of the current livestock grazing management practices are expected to make progress to meeting the standard for watershed health and meet resource objectives.

3.2.2.2 Alternative B

Livestock grazing management practices under this alternative would increase the total number of days in the allotment and authorize horse use, as well as cattle. Although livestock turnout would be authorized 10 days earlier than currently permitted, which would further impact native plants during their critical growth period, and not allow the allotment to make progress toward conformance with rangeland health standards, the proposed reduction in livestock numbers and the deferred rotation will lessen the potential for soil damage, and lead to improvements. Total AUMs would not be increased under this alternative although the period of use is relaxed to show the maximum days the allotment could be used.

3.3 Wildlife – Including Special Status Animal Species

3.3.1 Affected Environment – Wildlife – Including Special Status Animal Species

Greater sage-grouse, a Type 2 range-wide imperiled sensitive species, is known to occur on Camp Creek Allotment. The majority of upland habitat in Camp Creek Allotment offers marginal habitat for special status animal species including sage grouse. Shrubs are in adequate amounts, but understory species are dominated by invasive species which do not meet the habitat needs of wildlife to the degree that native plant species will meet the needs of wildlife.

3.3.2 Environmental Consequences – Wildlife – Including Special Status Animal Species

3.3.2.1 Alternative A

The Idaho rangeland health standard for special status animal species is not being met on this allotment. Livestock grazing management under this alternative is expected to make slow progress towards meeting the standard due to recent improvements already observed during the last five years.

3.3.2.2 Alternative B

Alternative B incorporates a two-pasture rotation system that prevents livestock from grazing either lower pasture during the same time every year. The upper pasture would be grazed last every year, after herbaceous plants have reached seed-ripe or dormancy. This treatment will allow plants to grow and set seed at least once every two years, which will benefit native herbaceous plants and in turn, sage grouse nesting and early-brood rearing habitat. Livestock grazing management practices under this alternative would increase the total number of days potentially in the allotment with fewer head (250 down to a maximum of 150 in the spring). Livestock grazing could be authorized 10 days earlier each year and last an additional 15 days. The ability to graze livestock 10 days earlier than currently authorized would impact native plants during their critical growth period and not allow the allotment to make progress toward achieving the standard for special status animal species, and wildlife in general. Overall under this alternative, progress would be slowly made towards meeting Standard 8 due to the deferment. The other primary change under this alternative is an option to substitute horses for cattle, either in part or total, in the grazing system. It is difficult to predict the effect horses will have on wildlife habitat because the proportion of horse use is nebulous. Monitoring and adaptive management will determine if horses are detrimental to the allotment.

3.4 Riparian Areas, Water Quality, and Fisheries

3.4.1 Affected Environment – Riparian Areas, Water Quality, and Fisheries

Two segments of Camp Creek occur in this allotment.

CAMP-006.0: was rated in functioning-at-risk with static trend for Standard 2. This segment has an intermittent flow regime, and vegetation type was largely affected by the limited water available for hydric plant life. Vegetation was mostly a mixture of Baltic rush and arroyo willows, bulbous bluegrass, and Kentucky bluegrass. Noxious weeds, leafy spurge and Scotch thistle, were also present. Some areas are devoid of vegetation due to a combination of factors including persistent drought and historic livestock grazing. Water quality standards for seasonal cold water biota were met. Camp Creek does not support a fishery.

CAMP-010.9: was rated in non-functioning condition in the original assessment as a result of bank shearing, width-depth ratio imbalances, high sediment levels, braided channels, greater than 50 percent frequency of un-vegetated and unstable banks, presence of active head-cuts, and absence of sufficient density of native deep-rooted riparian plant species to stabilize the fine soils.

However, following a June 19, 2008, field inspection, this segment was re-rated functioning-at-risk with a strong upward trend for Standard 2.

Remarkable changes have occurred in Camp Creek following the 2002 visit. Riparian areas now have abundant and vigorous early seral sedges and rushes, and willows, quaking aspen, and dogwood are actively and rapidly regenerating along the channel. The stream terraces which were previously bare and trampled are now vegetated with vigorous snowberry, graminoids, and many forb species. Stream banks are now mostly vegetated (estimated at 75 percent overall) and stable except in the upper reaches of this segment which under previous management, was in the worst condition. But, in the upper reaches, sedges and rushes are now actively regenerating, and in a few more years stream banks should be well stabilized by riparian vegetation.

Standards for cold water biota were met on segment CAMP-010.9 as it is a spring fed stream at this location, and water temperatures remain at a near constant 14°C (58°F). Camp Creek does not support a fishery.

3.4.2 Environmental Consequences – Riparian Areas and Fisheries

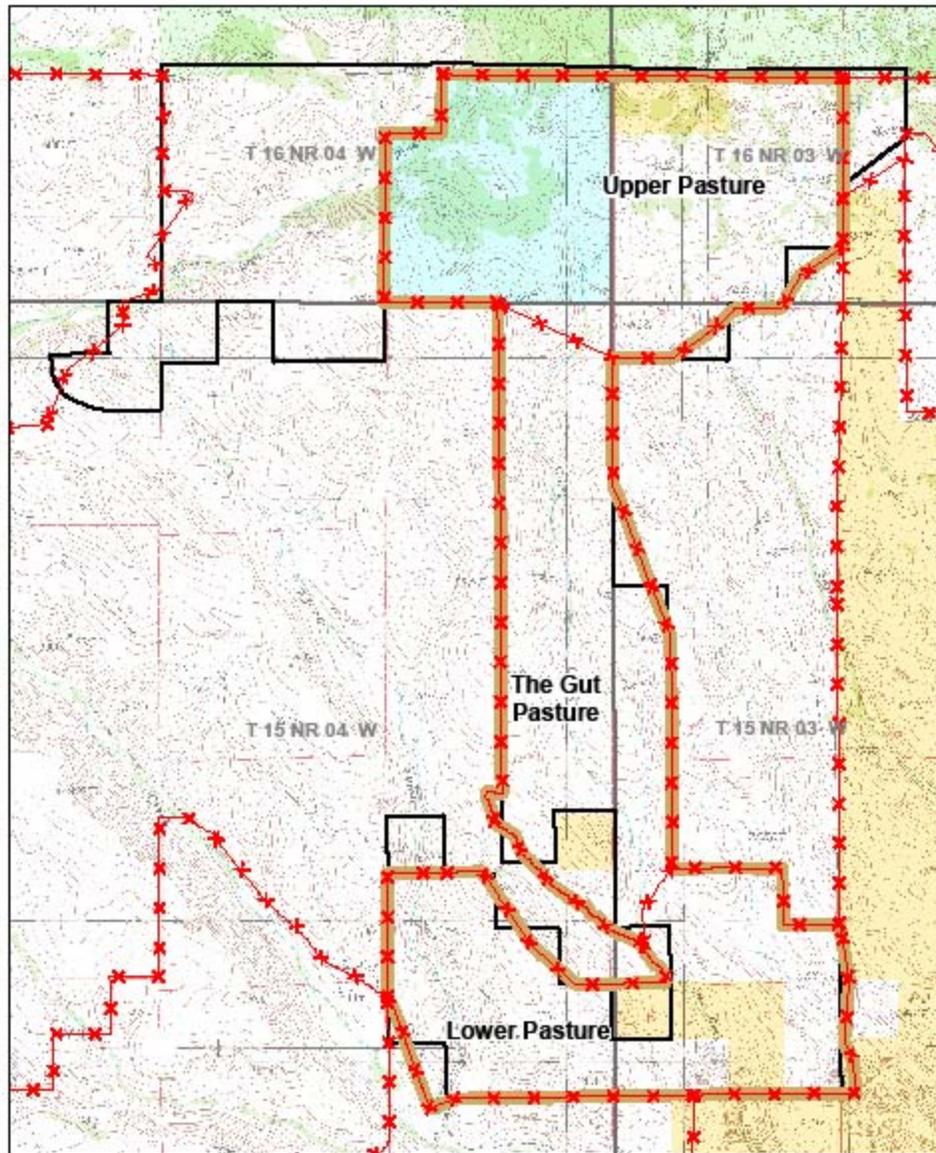
3.4.2.1 Alternative A

It is expected that the segments of Camp Creek would continue to improve under current management through the short and long terms. Water quality standards for cold water biota would continue to be met.

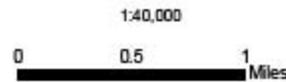
3.4.2.2 Alternative B

It is expected that the segments of Camp Creek would continue to improve under the proposed three pasture rotation through the short and long terms. Water quality standards for cold water biota would continue to be met.

Camp Creek Allotment #33



Map Legend	
	Fence
	Proposed Allotment Boundary
	1988 Management Plan
	BLM
	USFS
	State
	Private



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