

Appendix A11 J Harrington Allotment #134

1.0 Introduction

According to the RMP, J Harrington Allotment #134 consists of approximately 200 acres of public land and 460 acres of private land. Through a 2007 grazing decision for environmental assessment #ID-110-2005-EA-010 (Rocky Allotment #206), the southern boundary of the J Harrington Allotment #134 was modified to reflect existing fencelines. Thus, the J Harrington Allotment now consists of a 43 acre parcel of public land in Section 31, T. 17 N., R. 1 W., and two isolated public land parcels totaling 118 acres in Section 25, T. 17 N., R. 2 W.

The permittee does not own or control the private lands surrounding the 118 acre parcel of public land. Thus, he has no legal access to the lands, and cannot use the lands for authorized grazing purposes. The individual owning the private lands contiguous to the 118 acres of public land has applied for the grazing privileges associated with these two parcels.

Through the Evaluation and Determination, it was determined that:

- Current livestock management practices are not a factor in the allotment's 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 being achieved.

2.0 Description of the Alternatives

The J Harrington Allotment has not been managed as authorized. An older horse had been kept in the pasture on a year-long basis so it could be close to the permittee's home; however, the horse has since died.

2.1 Alternative A – No Action /Continue Current Management

Livestock grazing would continue, on a season-long basis, with the current grazing permit expiring February 28, 2017. Mandatory terms and conditions of the grazing permit are:

Allotment	Livestock	Season of Use	Percent Public Land	Grazing Preference		
				Active	Suspended	Total
J Harrington #134	30 Cattle	04/16 to 05/21	50%	18	10	28

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

1. Livestock grazing for J Harrington Allotment #134 will comply with Field Manager's proposed decision dated August 30, 2006.
2. Authorized AUMs will not be exceeded on public land. Livestock numbers and season of use, as shown above indicate the maximum that will be allowed under this permit. The

permittee has discretion to manage within these numbers, provided overuse does not occur on the public land.

3. Scheduled use changes require prior approval on an annual basis. From information provided in the annual application, a grazing bill will be prepared indicating authorized use for that year.
4. The Annual Actual Use Report is due within 15 days of completing your authorized annual grazing use.
5. Annual maintenance of range improvements will be completed prior to livestock entry of the allotment.
6. Turn-out date will be subject to range readiness. Range readiness occurs once the soils have firmed after the spring thaw, and the physiological requirement of the plants have been met.
7. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(b), the permittee must notify the BLM Field Manager, by telephone or with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony on Federal Land. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c), the permittee must immediately stop any ongoing activities connected with the discovery and make a reasonable effort to protect the discovered remain or object.
8. Salt and/or supplement shall not be placed within one-quarter ($\frac{1}{4}$) mile of springs, streams, meadows, riparian habitats, or aspen stands.

2.2 Alternative B – Proposed Action

Based on field mapping of existing fences, the boundary of the J Harrington Allotment has been adjusted and the allotment acreage has been recalculated. There are now 39 fewer acres of public land and 188 fewer acres of private land in the allotment than are shown in the RMP. The allotment now contains two separate pastures.

1. J Harrington Allotment would be split into two separate allotments based on existing fencelines. The two new allotments would be named the Snips #1357 and Pole Creek #1358 Allotments, as follows:

Public Land Parcel	Public Land		Private Land		Action
	Legal Description	Acres	Legal Description	Acres	
South Side of J Harrington Allotment	T17N, R1W				Split J Harrington into two separate allotments. South side would become Snips #1357
	Section 31: That portion lying north of the road	43	Section 30: SE ¹ / ₄ SW ¹ / ₄ , SE ¹ / ₄ SW ¹ / ₄ SW ¹ / ₄	50	
			Section 31: NE ¹ / ₄ NW ¹ / ₄ NW ¹ / ₄ , NE ¹ / ₄ NW ¹ / ₄	40	
Total Acreage (based on GIS)		43		90	
North Side of J Harrington Allotment	T17N, R1W				Split J Harrington into two separate allotments. North side would become Pole Creek #1358
	Section 25: NE ¹ / ₄ NE ¹ / ₄ , SW ¹ / ₄ NE ¹ / ₄ , NW ¹ / ₄ SE ¹ / ₄	118	Section 30:W ¹ / ₂ NW ¹ / ₄ lying west of the fenceline	65	
	T17N, R2W				
			Section 25: Portion of SE ¹ / ₄ NE ¹ / ₄ lying in the eastern and southern portion of the quarter-section	27	
Total Acreage (based on GIS)		118		92	

2. Cancel the existing grazing permit for the J Harrington Allotment #134, and issue two new grazing permits, one each for the Snips #1357 and Pole Creek #1358 Allotments.
3. Establish percent public land term of each grazing permit as:
 - Snips Allotment: 32% public land
 - Pole Creek Allotment: 56% public land
4. For the Snips Allotment: Authorize 4 active AUMs and 2 suspended AUMs of grazing preference for the 43 acres of public land in the allotment.
5. For the Pole Creek Allotment: Authorize 11 active AUMs of grazing preference for the 118 acres of public land in the allotment.
6. The season of use for both allotments would be from May 01 to June 30.
7. The grazing permits for the Snips and Pole Creek allotments would reflect maximum 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). Management flexibility would be allowed provided livestock use remains within the sideboards of maximum livestock numbers and season-of-use, and without exceeding authorized AUMs.
8. Use Annual Indicators to insure that public lands are making progress towards meeting Idaho Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management.

The terms of the two grazing permits would be for ten years, from March 01, 2009 to February 28, 2019, as follows:

Allotments	Livestock (maximum)	Season of Use (maximum)	Percent Public Land	Grazing Preference		
				Active	Suspended	Total
Snips #1357	10 Cattle	05/01 to 06/30	32%	4	2	6
Pole Creek #1358	20 Cattle	05/01 to 06/30	56%	11	0	11

Following are allotment specific Terms and Conditions to be attached to the grazing permits for Snips #1357 Allotment and for Pole Creek #1358 Allotment. Allotment specific terms and conditions for the other allotments authorized under this grazing permit would be added to the following:

1. Livestock grazing for (appropriate allotment name would be inserted here) 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 that would be allowed under this permit. 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: duration of grazing use and/or reducing livestock numbers. 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 would 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.

3.0 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 Idaho rangeland health standard for native plant communities is not being met on this allotment. Overall, the biotic integrity of the plant community to cycle adequate nutrients and energy to maintain a perennial plant community is compromised. Evidence of soil loss was observed, the ability of the soil surface to resist erosion was reduced, and the level of exotic invasive plant species has altered the functionality and structure of the plant community. The amount of residual plant material was sparse.

3.1.2 Environmental Consequences – Vegetation

3.1.2.1 Alternative A

Livestock grazing management under this alternative is expected to continue to not meet the standard by not maintaining or promoting healthy productive and diverse native animal habitat and populations of native plants appropriate to soil type, vegetation, climate and landform to provide proper nutrient cycling, hydrologic cycling and energy flow.

3.1.2.2 Alternative B

Proposed livestock grazing management changes include extending the season of use by one month and reducing the authorized AUMs by 40 percent. These proposed changes are expected to make improvement to the vegetation and allow for progress towards meeting the standard by maintaining or promoting healthy productive and diverse native animal habitat and populations of native plants appropriate to soil type, vegetation, climate and landform to provide proper nutrient cycling, hydrologic cycling and energy flow.

3.2 Soils

3.2.1 Affected Environment – Soils

Evidence of overland water flow, plant pedestalling, large areas of bare ground, and soil loss and/or soil degradation were observed; soil resistance to erosion was reduced. Composition and distribution of the plant community is not conducive to promoting infiltration and reducing runoff. In this situation, the watershed is not able to cycle nutrients and energy or function hydrologically to maintain a diverse perennial plant community.

3.2.2 Environmental Consequences – Soils

3.2.2.1 Alternative A

The Idaho rangeland health standard for watersheds, based on soil site stability and hydrologic function, is not being met on this allotment. Livestock grazing management under this alternative is expected to continue to not meet the standard by not promoting proper infiltration, retention, and release of water appropriate to soil type, vegetation, climate and landform to provides proper nutrient cycling, hydrologic cycling and energy flow.

3.2.2.2 Alternative B

Proposed changes in livestock grazing management under this alternative are expected to improve soil site stability and/or hydrologic function by reducing overall soil disturbance, trampling, and compaction, thus allowing the allotments to make progress towards meeting the standard through the proper infiltration, retention, and release of water appropriate to soil type, vegetation, climate and landform to provides proper nutrient cycling, hydrologic cycling and energy flow.

3.3 Special Status Plants

3.3.1 Affected Environment – Special Status Plants

Mahala mat, also called prostrate ceanothus, is a low mat-forming shrub that occurs in the southern portion of J Harrington Allotment. This sub-shrub, disjunct from the eastern slopes of the Cascades where it is known from Washington south to the Sierra Nevada, has a prostrate growth form. It is currently known only to occur in two locations in Idaho. The population on this allotment has been estimated at approximately 300 to 400 individuals. Livestock trailing does occur within the population area; however cattle do not appear to graze on prostrate ceanothus, possibly because of its prickly leaves.

3.3.1.1 Environmental Consequences – Special Status Plants

3.3.1.2 Alternative A

Under current management, livestock grazing does not appear to be causing a decline in the species. However, use level changes and/or salting in the vicinity of the population, or increases of rush skeletonweed which is already in the area, could potentially be adverse.

3.3.1.3 Alternative B

The proposed management changes would decrease the current level of livestock use. As a consequence, the proposed management change would have no negative effect on Mahala mat and may actually provide a benefit to the species by reducing indirect trampling effects.

3.4 Wildlife – Including Special Status Animal Species

3.4.1 Affected Environment – Wildlife – Including Special Status Animal Species

Public lands offer some value to special status animal species. Simply due to the existence of forested areas, habitat is provided for forest nesting birds (e.g. white-headed woodpeckers). Rangelands in the allotment contain a degraded herbaceous layer and a shrub component that is denser than desirable.

3.4.2 Environmental Consequences – Wildlife – Including Special Status Animal Species

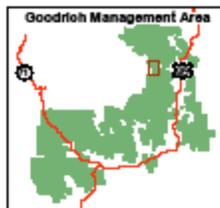
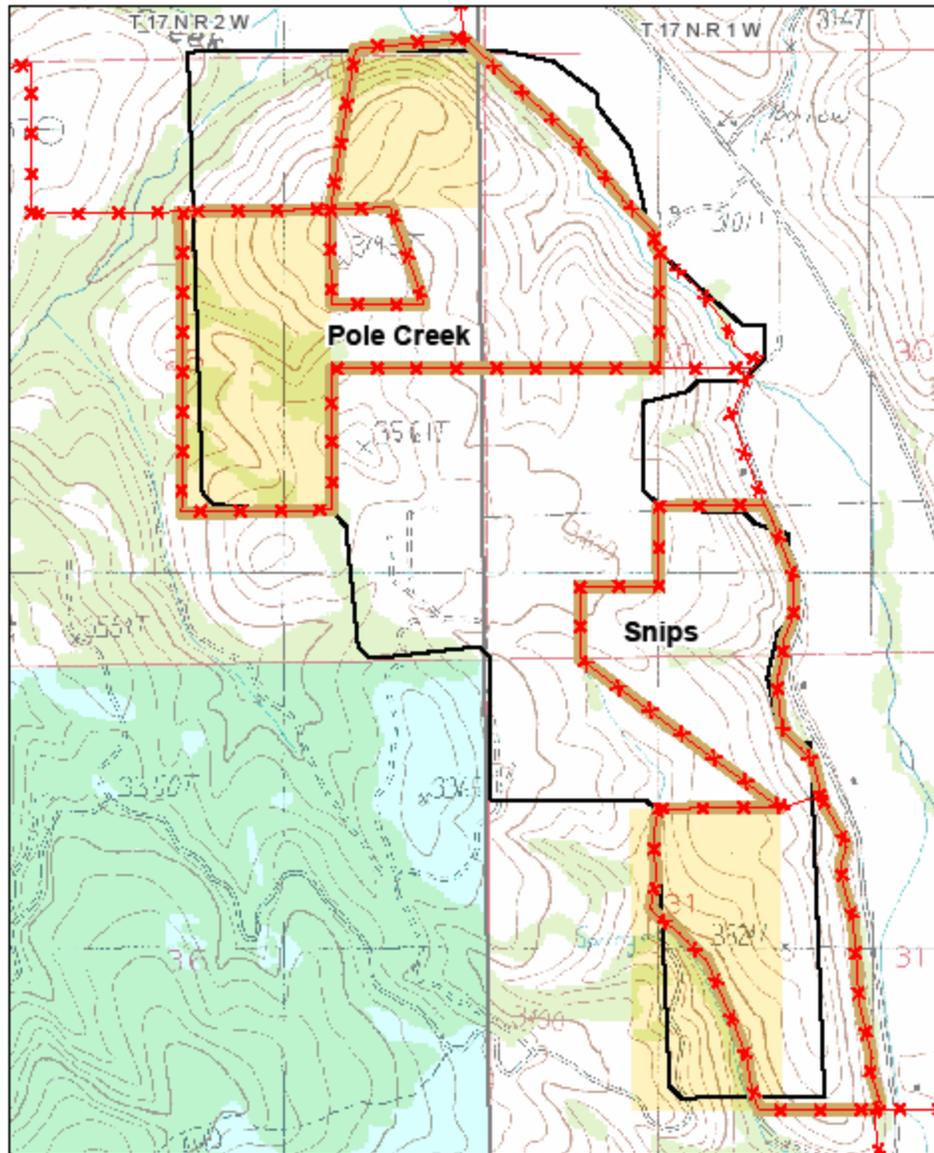
3.4.2.1 Alternative A

The Idaho rangeland health standard for special status animal species is not being met on this allotment due to causes other than current livestock grazing management practices. Therefore, livestock grazing management under this alternative is expected to not affect whether the standard is being met by maintaining or promoting healthy productive and diverse native animal habitat and populations of native plants appropriate to soil type, vegetation, climate and landform.

3.4.2.2 Alternative B

The Idaho rangeland health standard for special status animal species is not being met on this allotment due to causes other than current livestock grazing management practices. Therefore, livestock grazing management under this alternative is expected to not affect whether the standard is being met by maintaining or promoting healthy productive and diverse native animal habitat and populations of native plants appropriate to soil type, vegetation, climate and landform. Reduced grazing under Alternative B may benefit wildlife habitat; however, livestock grazing was not determined to be the causal factor for the allotment not meeting Standard 8; weeds are still a factor.

Snips #1357 and Pole Creek #1358 Allotments



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

1:15,000

0 0.25 0.5
Miles

8/12/2008, 81208_Snips1357andPoleCk1358.mxd
 R:\oc\GIS\Projects_GIS\State\FourRiversFOIR\Range\Goodrich\Goodrich_2008\Maps\Goodrich_EA_7_2008
 No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management. The accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data is not guaranteed.