

Appendix A5 Clelland Allotment #72

1.0 Introduction

According to the RMP, Clelland Allotment #72 consists of approximately 200 acres of public land and 760 acres of private land. Public land consists of two isolated parcels; one is 120 acres, the other is 80 acres. Private land surrounds these parcels; both public land and private land is bordered on the east side by the Payette National Forest. There is no public access to the public land.

Through the Evaluation and Determination, it was determined that:

- 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, 3, 4, 8, 9, 12).

2.0 Description of the Alternatives

2.1 Alternative A – No Action /Continue Current Management

There are two permittees authorized to graze on this allotment on a season-long basis. Livestock grazing authorization would continue, with both of the current grazing permits expiring February 28, 2014. Mandatory terms and conditions of the grazing permit are:

Permittee	Livestock	Season of Use	Percent Public Land	Grazing Preference		
				Active	Suspended	Total
Anthony or Edith Schwartz	12 Cattle	05/01 to 06/19	100%	20	0	20
Carolyn Menichette	12 Cattle	04/15 to 06/03	100%	20	0	20

Following are allotment specific terms and conditions attached to both grazing permits:

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 (¼) 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 allotment(s) 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 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 fencelines and information provided by the permittee, the acreage for Clelland Allotment has been recalculated. There is one less acre of public land and no private land within the proposed allotment boundaries than are shown in the RMP. To incorporate updated allotment information and current grazing management guidance, it is proposed to:

1. Split Clelland Allotment into two separate allotments, based on existing fencelines, as follows:

Pasture Name	Public Land		Private Land (and others)		New Allotment Name
	Legal Description	Acres	Legal Description	Acres	
North	T17N, R1W				Big Ridge Allotment
	Section 24: S½NE¼, NE¼SE¼	119	None	0	
South	T17N, R1W				North Hill Allotment
	Section 24 SE¼SW¼, SW¼SE¼	80	None	0	

2. Percent public land would remain at 100 percent for both grazing permits;
3. 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. 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;
4. Livestock turn-out would be subject to Boise District range readiness criteria.
5. Correct both permittee's name;

- Use Annual Indicators to insure progress towards meeting Idaho Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management is being made.

Based on the proposed action for:

Big Ridge Allotment - grazing would be authorized for a maximum of 20 AUMs from April 15 to June 15.

North Hill Allotment – modify the current grazing preference from 20 active AUMs to 15 active AUMs and 5 suspended AUM to be used between April 15 and June 15. For the next five years (2009 through 2013), the allotment would be stocked with a maximum of eight cattle. If it is shown, through monitoring, that the allotment has improved ecologically and can support additional grazing, a portion or all of the suspended AUMs may be activated and the maximum cattle that could be grazed would be 20 head.

Terms and conditions necessary to regulate grazing activities on public land would be added to the grazing permit. Annual Indicators would be used to describe utilization criteria. Terms of the renewed grazing permits would be for ten years, from March 01, 2009 to February 28, 2019, as follows:

Allotment	Permittee	Livestock	Season of Use	Percent Public Land	Grazing Preference		
					Active	Suspended	Total
Big Ridge #1356	Edith Schwartz	20 Cattle	04/15 to 06/15	100%	20	0	20
North Hill #1359	Carolyn Menichetti	20 Cattle	04/15 to 06/15	100%	15	5	20

Allotment specific Terms and Conditions:

- 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).
- Authorized AUMs would not be exceeded on public land. 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.
- Changes to the scheduled use require prior approval, on an annual basis.
- 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.
- Annual maintenance of range improvements would be completed prior to livestock entry of the allotment.
- Livestock turn-out is subject to Boise District range readiness criteria.
- 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 (¼) 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: duration of grazing use and/or reducing livestock numbers. These modifications would be coordinated annually during pre-turnout meetings 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 will 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 upland vegetation in Clelland Allotment at the time of the 2005 Rangeland Health Assessment was not meeting the standard for native plant communities due to annual spring use and physical trampling of soil and plants. The authorized use period coincides with the critical growth period for perennial grasses, when plant energy is directed to developing new growth, seed stalks, and seed. Annual grazing during this time period often results in depletion of the herbaceous component of the plant communities.

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

Under this alternative, no livestock grazing management changes are proposed that will promote progress towards meeting the standard. At the time of the 2005 Rangeland Health Assessment, the Idaho rangeland health standard for native plant communities was not being met on this allotment. Livestock turnout would be authorized to occur two weeks earlier in the spring in Big Ridge Allotment, which would cause additional impacts to soils and vegetation. In North Hill Allotment, turn-out dates would remain the same and the off date would be extended; however, the maximum number of livestock authorized to be on the allotment would be eight head for the first five years (2009 through 2013). One quarter of the active AUMs would be put in suspension. This would be expected to improve vigor and health of native plant communities and soil stability.

3.2 Soils

3.2.1 Affected Environment – Soils

The soil stability and hydrologic function in Clelland Allotment at the time of the 2005 Rangeland Health Assessment was not meeting the standard for watershed health, due to soil trampling from early use. Additionally, 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

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

Livestock grazing management changes under this alternative would be expected to aid in recovery from past impacts to soils in the North Hill Allotment, and to increase impacts in the Big Ridge Allotment. Increased impacts would be associated with additional disturbance and soil compaction related to the two weeks earlier turnout in the spring.

3.3 Wildlife – Including Special Status Animal Species

3.3.1 Affected Environment – Wildlife – Including Special Status Animal Species

There are no populations of threatened, endangered, or sensitive animal species, or their habitat, known to occur on Clelland Allotment. Upland habitats failed to provide for the needs of upland dependent animal species. Shrubs were heavily browsed and understory vegetation had a high proportion of invasive grass species.

3.3.2 Environmental Consequences – Wildlife – Including Special Status Animal Species

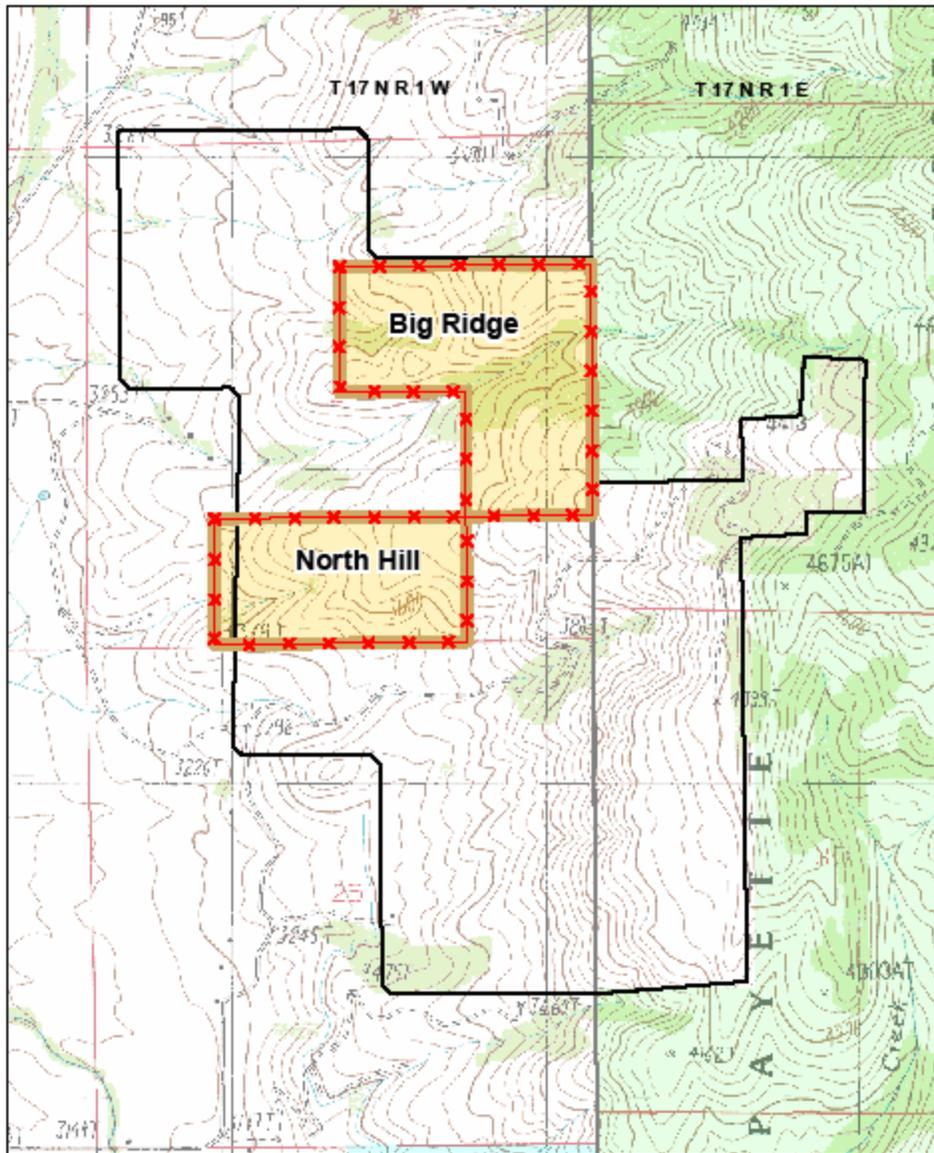
3.3.2.1 Alternative A

The Idaho rangeland health standard for special status animal species is not being met on this allotment due to current livestock grazing management practices. Since there are no changes under this alternative, it is expected that no progress will be made towards meeting the standard in the future.

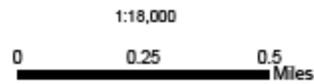
3.3.2.2 Alternative B

The Idaho rangeland health standard for special status animal species is not being met on this allotment due to current livestock grazing management practices. Little difference exists between Alternative A and B for the Big Ridge Allotment. In fact, turn-out could take place even earlier in the grazing season which would be further detrimental to wildlife habitat. The proposed suspension of five AUMs and the reduction of livestock use during the first five years following permit renewal would further benefit wildlife and the habitat on which they depend. The suspension equals 25 percent of the permit and is considered significant towards meeting standards for wildlife and special status animal species.

Big Ridge #1356 and North Hill #1359 Allotments



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



7/15/2008, 71506_BigRidge1356_1359.mxd
 R:\oc\GIS\Projects_GIS\Staff\FourRivers\FCR\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.

