

## Appendix A4 Glasscock Draw Allotment #47

### 1.0 Introduction

Glasscock Draw Allotment #47 consists of approximately 840 acres of public land and 620 acres of private land, per the RMP. Public land is in two separate parcels surrounded by private land. There is no public access to these parcels of public land.

Through the Evaluation and Determination, it was determined that

- Livestock management is in conformance with the Watershed (#1) standard;
- Livestock management is a factor of the non-conformance with 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 4, 9, 12, 18).

### 2.0 Description of the Alternatives

#### 2.1 Alternative A – No Action /Continue Current Management

Livestock grazing authorization would continue, on a season-long basis, with the current grazing permit expiring February 28, 2013. Mandatory terms and conditions of the grazing permit are:

Permittee	Allotment	Livestock	Season of Use	Percent Public Land	Grazing Preference		
					Active	Suspended	Total
Robert Wolfe	Glasscock Draw #47	111 Cattle	04/07 to 06/15	67%	171	0	171

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

1. Grazing on public land riparian areas will be managed to attain and maintain proper functioning condition. This management will include leaving adequate perennial herbaceous and woody vegetation by the end growing season to protect riparian area from erosion, maintain streambank integrity, provide for sediment catchment and allow for diversity in vegetation structure and age class.
2. Key riparian browse vegetation will not be used more than 50% of the current annual twig growth that is within reach of the animals.
3. Key herbaceous riparian vegetation on riparian area, other than the requirement of 43 CFR 4180 -- Fundamentals of Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Administration. This permit shall be modified (if necessary) to meet these requirements upon completion of a standard and guidelines assessment and determination as scheduled by the Authorized Officer.
4. Turn-out is subject to Boise District range readiness criteria.
5. Your certified Actual Use Report is due within 15 days of completing your authorized annual grazing use.
6. Salt and/or supplement shall not be placed within one-quarter (¼) mile of springs, streams, meadows, aspen stands, playas or water developments.
7. Changes to the scheduled use requires prior approval.

8. 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.
9. Livestock exclosures located within your grazing allotment(s) are closed to all domestic grazing use.
10. Range improvements must be maintained in accordance with the cooperative agreements and range improvements permits in which you are a signator or assignee. Allotment boundary fences must be functioning prior to allowing livestock onto the allotment.
11. 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 the Lower Snake River District Policy.

## **2.2 Alternative B – Proposed Action**

Based on field mapping of existing fencelines and information provided by the permittee, the acreage for Glasscock Draw Allotment has been recalculated. There are 15 fewer acres of public land and 62 acres more of private land within the allotment boundary than are shown in the RMP. The allotment now contains approximately 1,507 acres, including 825 acres of public land (55 percent) and 682 acres of private land (45 percent). These revised acres reflect the most accurate and up-to-date information, and would be used for the new term permit.

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

1. Modify the allotment boundary to correspond to existing fencelines;
2. Correct the amount of public land in the allotment from 67 to 55 percent;
3. Modify the season-of-use to a maximum of two months;
4. 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). 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.
5. Use Annual Indicators as a tool to insure progress is being 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 for a maximum of 171 AUMs from mid-April through mid-June. 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. Term of the renewed grazing permit would be for ten years, from March 01, 2009 to February 28, 2019, as follows:

Permittee	Livestock (maximum)	Season of Use (maximum)	Percent Public Land	Preference		
				Authorized	Suspended	Total
Robert Wolfe	111 Cattle	04/15 to 06/22	55%	171	0	171

Following are allotment specific Terms and Conditions to be attached to the grazing permit:

1. Livestock grazing for Glasscock Draw 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 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 all 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 lack of diversity in the structure and function of the plant communities, coupled with the high concentrations of invasive weeds, including rush skeltonweed which is a state listed noxious weed, and the native plant community is not functioning adequately to maintain essential nutrient and energy cycling. Although the shift in plant community composition is historic, current livestock management is accountable for less residual plant material left after grazing to promote soil moisture retention and nutrients.

#### **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**

The proposed change in livestock grazing management proposed under this alternative is a delay in turnout for one week in the spring (from April 01 to April 15), which is expected to result in slow, limited improvement over the long-term to the ecological condition of the native vegetative community.

### **3.2 Soils**

#### **3.2.1 Affected Environment – Soils**

Soil stability and hydrologic function in this allotment are adequate.

## **3.2.2 Environmental Consequences – Soils**

### **3.2.2.1 Alternative A**

Livestock grazing management under this alternative is expected to continue to meet the standard by promoting proper infiltration, retention, and release of water appropriate to soil type, vegetation, climate and landform to provide proper nutrient cycling, hydrologic cycling and energy flow.

### **3.2.2.2 Alternative B**

Livestock grazing management changes proposed under this alternative would be a one-week delay in livestock turnout in the Spring which would be expected to continue to meet the standard by promoting proper infiltration, retention, and release of water appropriate to soil type, vegetation, climate and landform to provide proper nutrient cycling, hydrologic cycling and energy flow.

## **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, known to occur on Glasscock Draw Allotment. Southern Idaho ground squirrels, a federally listed threatened species, occur within five miles of the allotment in similar habitat. The allotment is designated as potential Greater sage-grouse habitat, but with a poor understory of herbaceous vegetation.

### **3.3.2 Environmental Consequences – Wildlife – Including Special Status Animal Species**

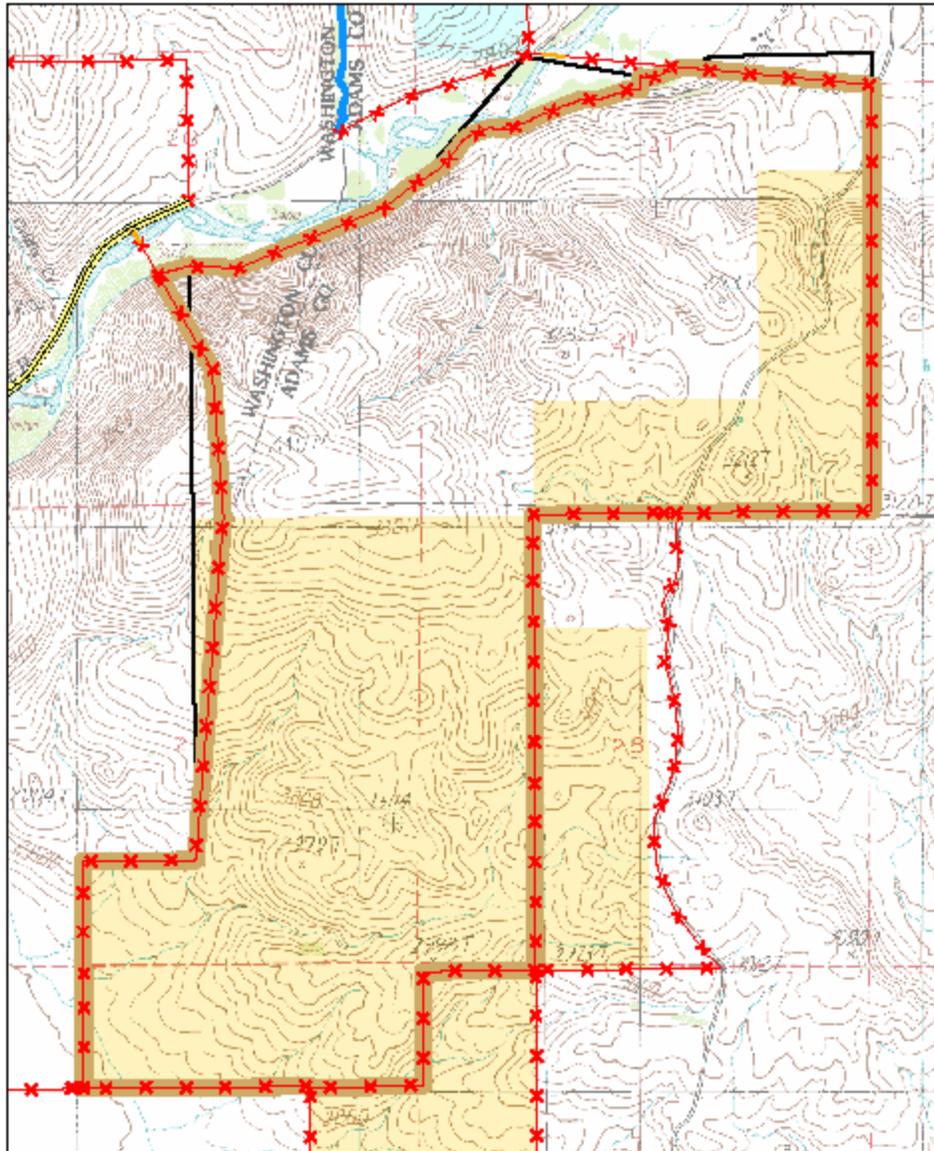
#### **3.3.2.1 Alternative A**

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 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.

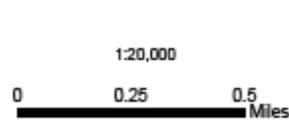
#### **3.3.2.2 Alternative B**

Livestock grazing management changes proposed under this alternative are expected to make improvements to the vegetation and 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. With a one week later turn-out of livestock; slow, limited improvement will occur over the long-term. If annual indicators are adhered to, slow progress will be made over the long-term.

Glasscock Draw Allotment #47  
T 15 N R 2 W



Map Legend	
	Fence
	Water Boundary
	Road
	Closure Line
	Proposed Allotment Boundary
	1988 Management Plan
	BLM
	State
	Private



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