

## Appendix A10 Greenwood Individual Allotment #123

### 1.0 Introduction

According to the RMP, Greenwood Allotment #123 contains approximately 160 acres of public land and 400 acres of private land. Public land in this allotment is part of a block of land approximately 520 acres in size that is surrounded by private land. Approximately 240 acres is in a neighboring allotment to the west; the remaining 120 acres to the east, is unallocated.

Through the Evaluation and Determination, it was determined that

- Livestock management is a factor in 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, and 12).

### 2.0 Description of the Alternatives

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

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

Permittee	Livestock	Season of Use	Percent Public Land	Grazing Preference		
				Active	Suspended	Total
Rodney Greenwood	30 Cattle	04/01 to 05/15	73%	33	0	33

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

1. The allotment listed on this grazing permit is subject to 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.
2. Turn-out is subject to Boise District range readiness criteria.
3. Your certified Actual Use Report is due within 15 days of completing your authorized annual grazing use.
4. Salt and/or supplement shall not be placed within one-quarter (1/4) mile of springs, streams, meadows, aspen stands, playas or water developments.
5. Changes to the scheduled use require prior approval.
6. 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.
7. Livestock enclosures located within your grazing allotment(s) are closed to all domestic grazing use.
8. 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.

9. 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
10. 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**

This proposal would delete all private land from the allotment, leaving only public land. Based on field mapping of existing fencelines and information provided by the permittee, the existing acreage of public land has been reduced by two acres. Further, the proposal would incorporate into the allotment 120 acres of unallocated public land lying immediately east of the allotment, which would increase the total amount of public land to 278 acres.

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

1. Modify the allotment boundary so that it contains only public land;
2. Incorporate 120 acres of unallocated public land abutting the east boundary of the allotment; thus, increasing the amount of public land in the allotment to 278 acres, and resulting in the allotment being 100 percent public land;
3. Continue to authorize 33 AUMs of active use;
4. Extend the season of use by 15 days.
5. Implement a grazing rotation schedule between two pastures;
6. Change the allotment name from Greenwood Individual to Greenwood;
7. If it is determined feasible, construct a pond in T. 17 N., R. 2 W., Section 4: E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$  and Section 3: S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ ;
8. 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.
9. Use Annual Indicators to insure that the allotment makes progress towards meeting 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 33 AUMs from April 1 through May 30. 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. The grazing permit would be renewed for a term of ten years, from March 01, 2009 to February 28, 2019, as follows:

Permittee	Livestock (maximum)	Season of Use (maximum)	Percent Public Land	Grazing Preference		
				Active	Suspended	Total
Rodney Greenwood	100 Cattle	04/01 to 05/30	100%	33	0	33

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

1. Livestock grazing for Greenwood Allotment will comply with the 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. 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 (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 to: 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 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. Annual livestock use coincides with the critical growth period of perennial grasses. Use during this period reduces the ability of plant communities to maintain diversity and vigor. Also, if use occurs during the critical growth period on an annual basis, during periods of unfavorable conditions such as prolonged drought occur, the ability of the plants to survive and persist is compromised.

##### **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**

Livestock grazing management changes proposed under this alternative would incorporate an additional 120 acres of public land into the allotment. The authorized AUMs would not increase, which would reduce the overall use in the allotment. It would be expected that this change would improve the ecological condition of the vegetation and allow 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**

The Idaho rangeland health standard for watersheds, based on soil site stability and hydrologic function, is not being met on this allotment. The ability of the watershed to protect and retain soil and moisture and to cycle nutrients and energy appropriate to maintain a perennial plant community is compromised. The soil loss and pedestalling appear to be historic, however the loss of herbaceous plants in the shrub interspaces and the corresponding increase in bare ground are indications that recovery is not occurring.

### **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 proposed under this alternative will reduce the stocking rate, which would reduce trampling and soil compaction, and in turn would improve soil site stability and/or hydrologic function and 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 Wildlife – Including Special Status Animal Species**

#### **3.3.1 Affected Environment – Wildlife – Including Special Status Animal Species**

An historic Northern Idaho ground squirrel colony, a federally listed threatened species, existed on Greenwood Individual Allotment. It could not be determined at this time if the colony was active on Federal lands; however, a survey conducted in 2004 found Northern Idaho ground squirrels (NIDGS) on the allotment. The Idaho rangeland health standard for special status animal species is not being met on this allotment.

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

##### **3.3.2.1 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. No progress would be made in improving Northern Idaho ground squirrel habitat.

##### **3.3.2.2 Alternative B**

Livestock grazing management under this alternative is expected to improve slightly with the addition of 120 acres of public land and no associated increase in AUMs. Limiting utilization to 40 percent on perennial bunchgrasses will help make progress towards meeting the standard; however, the early season-of-use beginning April 1 each year will hinder making progress towards meeting Standard 8. Without a vegetative treatment to reduce sagebrush/bitterbrush, while increasing perennial grasses and forbs, little improvement is expected in NIDGS habitat on Greenwood Individual Allotment. Even if no grazing was to occur, significant improvement in NIDGS habitat would not occur due to the depleted herbaceous condition.

## **3.4 Cultural Resources**

### **3.4.1 Affected Environment – Cultural Resources**

Cultural resource records in the Four Rivers Field Office indicate that some sites have been recorded within the Goodrich watershed on private and public lands. The cultural site records do not indicate that grazing activities are presently causing any adverse impacts to the recorded cultural resources, therefore, the grazing permits should be renewed based on cultural resource management issues.

### **3.4.2 Environmental Consequences – Cultural Resources**

Livestock grazing has the potential to directly impact the cultural resources that may be found in the allotment pastures. Livestock trampling and trailing could adversely impact cultural resource sites. Range improvements such as fences, ponds, spring developments and troughs could impact cultural resources when they are constructed and maintained. Also access roads, portable water troughs and salting locations could impact cultural resource sites.

Livestock grazing also may cause indirect impacts to cultural resources. Indirect impacts may be consuming and trampling vegetation that in turn exposes cultural resource sites to increased erosion and makes the sites more vulnerable to vandalism and unauthorized excavating and unauthorized artifact collecting.

#### **3.4.2.1 Alternative A**

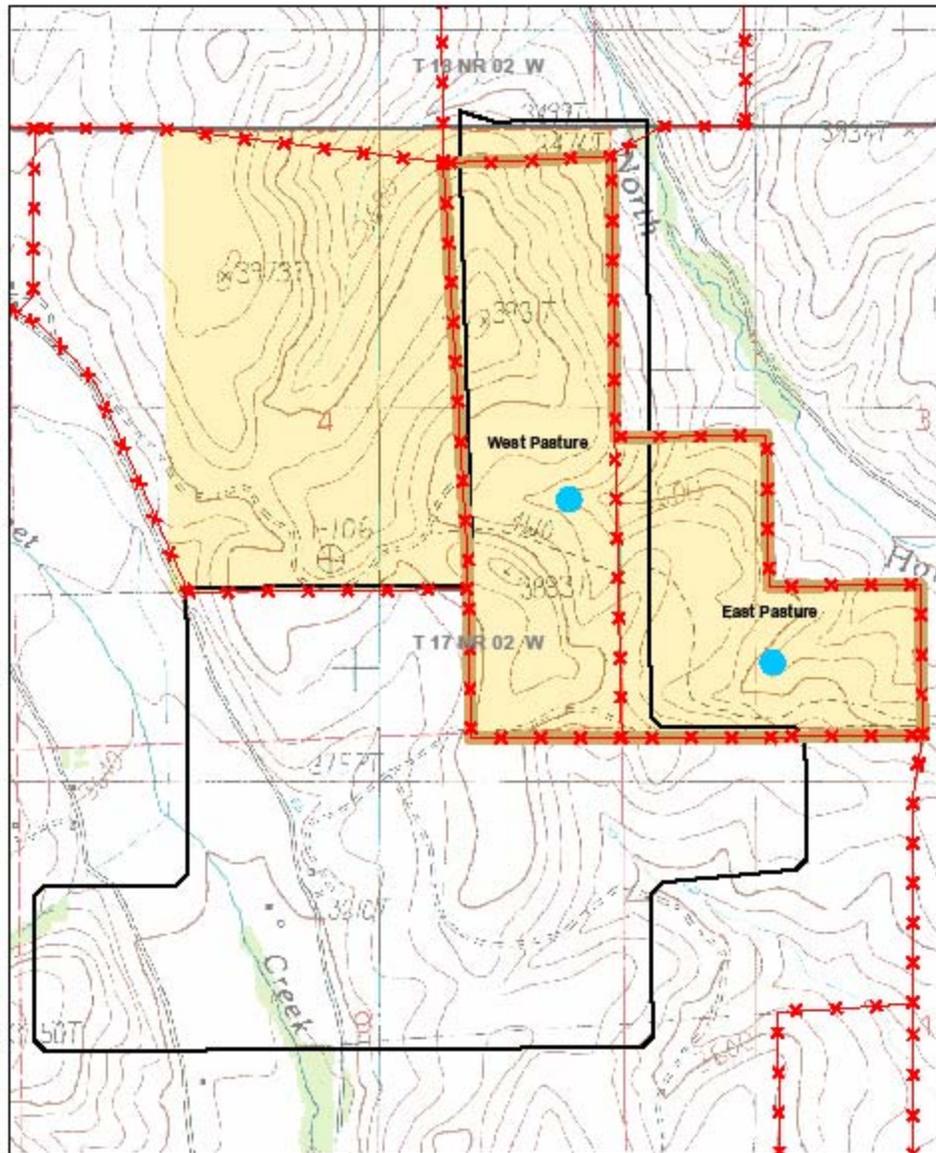
Under Alternative A, existing cultural resources would remain under present cultural resource management guidelines. The BLM would continue to protect and preserve cultural resources on public lands or mitigate adverse impacts to those cultural resources with input and coordination with the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Additional new sites may be recorded and existing sites may be monitored for impacts as staff levels and budgets allow.

#### **3.4.2.2 Alternative B**

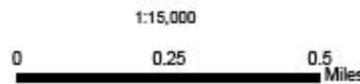
Under Alternative B, existing cultural resources would remain under present cultural resource management guidelines. BLM would continue to protect and preserve cultural resources on public land or mitigate adverse impacts to those cultural resources with input and coordination with SHPO. Additional sites may be recorded and existing sites may be monitored for impacts as staff levels and budgets allow.

A pond is proposed for construction on public lands in the Greenwood Allotment #123, pending the outcome of a site feasibility study. A Class III Cultural Resource Survey would be completed prior to authorization of any construction activities.

# Greenwood Allotment #123



Map Legend	
	Proposed Pond Development
	Fence
	Proposed Allotment Boundary
	1988 Management Plan
	BLM
	Private



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