

CEDAR GULCH ALLOTMENT EVALUATION AND DETERMINATION

**Achieving the Idaho Standards for Rangeland Health
And
Conformance with the Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management**



Introduction

This document is an evaluation of Idaho Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management of the public lands administered by the Salmon Field Office (SFO) of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) within the Cedar Gulch Allotment.

This is the first in a series of documents, including the Cedar Gulch Allotment Evaluation and Determination, and the appropriate National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation and subsequent Decision(s) that would change management where needed on the Cedar Gulch Allotment.

This Evaluation reports the condition and/or function of public land resources within the Cedar Gulch Allotment to the authorized officer, the Salmon Field Manager. The authorized officer reviews the findings in this evaluation to determine whether the eight Standards for Rangeland Health are being met and whether current livestock management conforms to the Idaho Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management.

The assessed condition/function of the Cedar Gulch Allotment Evaluation will be used in the NEPA process. In the future, an environmental assessment (EA) will be written addressing all resource concerns identified within the Cedar Gulch Allotment. If existing grazing management practices or levels of grazing use on the Cedar Gulch Allotment are determined to be a significant factor in failing to achieve one or more of the eight Standards, the BLM is required by regulation (43 CFR 4180.1) to make grazing management adjustments.

Implementation of new management will begin following completion of the NEPA process, but full implementation of revised grazing plans, if needed, and/or range improvement projects associated with these plans may take several years. The new plans will be developed in consultation and coordination with the affected permittees, the agency having lands or managing resources within the area and other interested parties.

The SFO completed a Resource Management Plan (RMP) in 1987 and amended that plan in 2001. The Lemhi RMP will provide program guidance in the SFO until replaced by a new Land Use Plan. The Lemhi Resource Area Ecological Site Inventory of 1983 provides documentation of rangeland conditions.

Background

The Cedar Gulch Allotment is located in Lemhi County, Idaho and comprises 2,960 acres of public land. The allotment lies within Township 17 North and Range 25 East, sections 15-16, 19-22, 28, and 29 Boise Meridian. This evaluation and determination addresses land health conditions on BLM public lands only.

Elevations range from approximately 5,972 feet to 8,800 feet. Topography varies from stream drainage bottoms to steep mountain ravines and ridge tops with rocky outcrops. Slopes range from undulating to very steep. Average annual precipitation is 9 inches, most of which occurs in May and June as rain (Western Regional Climate Center, 2008). Soils in the Cedar Gulch Allotment are predominantly clay loams and loams ranging from shallow to deep. These soils are affected by climate and parent material, and were formed primarily from alluvium.

Vegetation in the Cedar Gulch Allotment reflects the diversity of ecological conditions across the landscape. The dominant plant communities and habitat types vary depending upon the soils, precipitation, elevation, slope, and aspect. Vegetation includes wetland and riparian communities, drier upland sites, and forested habitats at higher elevations.

Livestock Grazing History

Livestock have grazed in the Lemhi valley since the 1860's, after the discovery of gold. Large bands of sheep and herds of cattle grazed the valley, often season long or until winter snows began to limit forage availability. The Cedar Gulch Allotment was utilized for sheep grazing until 1970, when the permit was converted to cattle grazing. After the permit was changed to cattle, the grazing period became May 1 to September 30 until 2000 when the grazing period was changed to May 15 to December 31 for 25 pair of cattle. The allotment has continued to improve under the grazing management plan that has been implemented in 2000, which allowed the majority of the grazing to occur after plant dormancy. Developed water sources on the allotment include the Cedar Gulch Pipeline, Middle Pasture Spring, and Chipmunk Spring. Other water sources include Cedar Gulch and Peterson Creek.

The Cedar Gulch Allotment is considered an *Improve* (I) allotment, as categorized by the SFO based on resource values and opportunities for improvement, and currently does not have an Allotment Management Plan (AMP). The stocking rate is 12.8 acres/AUM, which is influenced by soils, vegetation type, topography, water availability, and local weather. The kind and class of livestock authorized to graze on the allotment is cattle (cow/calf pairs). The ecological conditions (Figure 1) of the Cedar Gulch Allotment are 1,062 acres (40%) in Good condition, 1,365 acres (51%) in Fair condition, and 233 (9%) acres Unmapped (Figure 1) (RMP, 2001).

Figure 1: Ecological conditions of the Cedar Gulch Allotment (ESI, 1983).

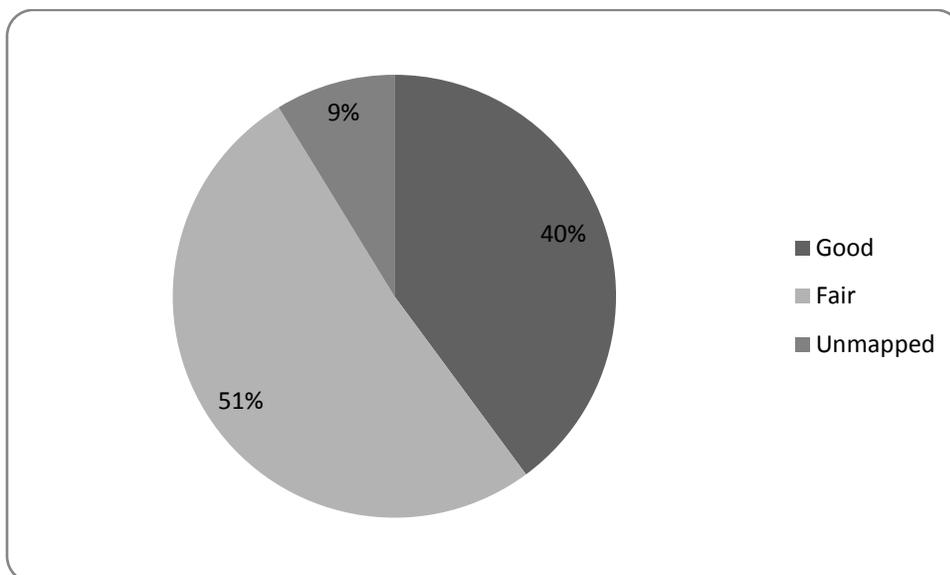


Table 1: The current permit/preference on the Cedar Gulch Allotment:

No. Livestock/Kind	Dates	% Public Land	Permittee
25 Cattle	05/15 – 12/31	100	James Lockes
Preference:	190 AUMs Active	50 AUMs Suspended	240 AUMs Total

Table 2: The objectives for the number of AUMs for the Cedar Gulch Allotment from the RMP, as well as the average actual grazing use on the allotment from 1998 to 2007 as reported by actual use booklets submitted by the permittees at the end of the grazing season.

AUMs from the RMP:	Average Actual Use for the previous 10 years:
RMP short-term objective: 160	147 AUMs
RMP long-term objective: 190	
RMP Active preference: 190	

Process

This evaluation was completed in accordance with BLM regulations regarding Rangeland Health Standards. Rangeland Health Standards are described in detail in the *Idaho Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management*. Standards are statements of physical and biological condition or degree of function required for healthy sustainable lands. Achieving or making significant progress towards these functions and conditions is required of all uses of public lands, as stated in 43 CFR 4180.1.

This evaluation will report condition and/or function for the following eight Idaho Standards for Rangeland Health:

- Standard 1: Watersheds
- Standard 2: Riparian and Wetland Areas
- Standard 3: Stream Channel/Floodplain
- Standard 4: Native Plant Communities
- Standard 5: Seedings
- Standard 6: Exotic Plant Communities, Other than Seedings
- Standard 7: Water Quality
- Standard 8: Threatened and Endangered Plants and Animals

Procedure to determine conformance with the standard(s):

The Cedar Gulch Allotment was assessed according to Interagency Technical Reference 1734-6 “Interpreting Indicators of Rangeland Health.” This qualitative process evaluates 17 “indicators” to assess three interrelated components of rangeland health: soil/site stability, hydrological function, and biotic integrity. Trend monitoring data, existing inventories, field visits, and historical photographs are used by the ID team to assess condition and function. The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) has developed Ecological Site Descriptions based on specific soil types, precipitation zones and location. These describe various characteristics and attributes including the vegetative species and relative percentage each are expected to be present

on the site. The ID team refers to these site descriptions while completing the Rangeland Health Assessment (RHA), which helps the ID team determine the departure from what is expected for the site assessed based upon soil/site stability, hydrologic function, and biotic integrity.

Rangeland Health Assessment Site Selection:

The site selected for the RHA was chosen based upon representative soil type and ecological sites of the allotment, and is representative of rangeland conditions occurring on the Cedar Gulch Allotment. Digital mapping of ecological sites, soil types, distances to developed and undeveloped water sources, and distances from sage grouse leks were also used by the ID team to examine potential sites to conduct the RHA. Soil type was determined by digging a soil pit and comparing soils maps of the area, ensuring that the ID team collected data for the RHAs on soils representative of that portion of the allotment.

The RHA site for the allotment was located in the Lower Pasture on the Dawtonia soil of the Dawtonia-Custco association, which comprises 46% of the pasture and is the largest soil unit. The ID team selected the site within the Wyoming big sagebrush/bluebunch wheatgrass (*Artemisia tridentata* spp. *wyomingensis*/*Pseudoroegneria spicata*) habitat type, which is the most frequently utilized by cattle due to proximity to water. The site within the Dawtonia-Custco association was also chosen due to its approximation to a sage grouse lek, water, and distance to a fences and roads.

Standard 1 (Watersheds)

Standard doesn't apply

Evaluation and Information Sources (*required regardless of which box is checked*): Rangeland Health Assessments 6/17/08 including visual observations, line-point intercept data, and field visits and project inspections throughout the allotment in 2008, and ID team meetings on 4/23/2008 and 10/29/2008.

Watersheds should provide proper infiltration, retention, and water release that are specific to the soil type, vegetation, climate, and landform in order for proper nutrient and hydrological cycling as well as energy flow, to occur.

No rills or water-flow patterns were present at the site (Table 3). Very slight pedestalling was present, but was within the expected range for the soils and ecological site. No gullies, wind-scoured areas, blowouts, or depositional areas occurred. The soil surface was resistant to erosion resulting from the vegetative, rock, and litter cover, and no surface loss or degradation was apparent. No compaction layer was present on the soil surface. Large woody litter was not moving far from its origin; however the slope on the site was not such that woody or fine litter would be expected to move far from the source. Plant community composition and distribution relative to infiltration was as expected for the site, with adequate composition of deep-rooted bunchgrasses and shrubs to increase snow accumulation and promote infiltration. The amount of fine litter and woody debris was as expected for the site. Bare ground was 4% on the site, which was lower than expected (50-60%), due to the extensive amount of surface gravel and woody debris.

Table 3. Hydrologic function and soil and site stability ratings for the Cedar Gulch Allotment RHA site.

Hydrologic Function		Soil and Site Stability	
	Rating		Rating
Indicators:	Lower Pasture RHA	Indicators:	Lower Pasture RHA
Rills	<i>none to slight</i>	Rills	<i>none to slight</i>
Water-flow patterns	<i>none to slight</i>	Water-flow patterns	<i>none to slight</i>
Pedestals and/or terracettes	<i>none to slight</i>	Pedestals and/or terracettes	<i>none to slight</i>
Bare ground	<i>none to slight</i>	Bare ground	<i>none to slight</i>
Gullies	<i>none to slight</i>	Gullies	<i>none to slight</i>
Soil surface resistance to erosion	<i>none to slight</i>	Wind Scour	<i>none to slight</i>
Soil surface loss or degradation	<i>none to slight</i>	Litter movement	<i>none to slight</i>
Plant community composition and distribution relative to infiltration	<i>none to slight</i>	Soil surface resistance to erosion	<i>none to slight</i>
Compaction layer	<i>none to slight</i>	Soil surface loss or degradation	<i>none to slight</i>
Litter Amount	<i>none to slight</i>	Compaction layer	<i>none to slight</i>
Overall Ratings:	<i>none to slight</i>	Overall Ratings:	<i>none to slight</i>

The watershed within the Cedar Gulch Allotment provides for water infiltration, retention, and release appropriate for the soils, vegetation, climate, and land forms present. No soil degradation or loss was evident, and infiltration was as expected due to the composition of deep rooted native bunchgrasses and shrubs.

1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meeting the Standard	4 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, current livestock grazing management practices are significant factors
2 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, but making significant progress towards	
3 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, current livestock grazing management practices are not significant factors	5 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, cause not determined

Standard 2 (Riparian Areas and Wetlands)

Standard doesn't apply

Evaluation and Information Sources (*required regardless of which box is checked*): Stream Condition Rating by drainage for the Salmon River (BLM 2001), ID team field visits 2008, and stream and spring assessments in 2008.

Riparian and wetland areas should be in properly functioning condition appropriate to the soil types, climate, geology, and landform to provide for proper nutrient and hydrologic cycling, as well as, energy flow. The ID team members evaluated undeveloped springs and used data from

stream condition class ratings to determine the vigor, age-class distribution, and composition of riparian and wetland vegetation present on the allotment. Riparian and wetland vegetation should also control erosion, stabilize streambanks, provide shading, filter sediment, aid floodplain development, dissipate energy, delay flood water, and increase groundwater recharge.

The Cedar Gulch Allotment contains three separate riparian areas. First is a short segment of lower Peterson Creek that includes a fenced enclosure of a spring complex. Second is the ephemeral draw Cedar Gulch. Third is a spring complex on the western edge of the allotment just above the Lemhi River valley floor which is fenced from livestock. Herbaceous riparian and wetland species common to streams and springs in the allotment include beaked sedge (*Carex utriculata*), Nebraska sedge (*Carex nebraskensis*), brookgrass (*Catabrosa aquatica*), monkeyflower (*Mimulus guttatus*), and baneberry (*Actaea rubra*). Riparian trees and shrubs that are also found include cottonwood (*Populus angustifolia*), aspen (*Populus tremuloides*), booth willow (*Salix boothii*), geyer willow (*Salix geyeriana*), coyote willow (*Salix exigua*), and alder (*Alnus incana*).

Peterson Creek is diverted for irrigation on two separate private land parcels prior to reaching the Cedar Gulch Allotment. During the irrigation season from April through late October, the stream is completely diverted upstream of the allotment. Water does flow occasionally down the channel through the allotment for the other part of the year. Cottonwoods, aspen, willows, and other riparian obligate species are present inside the enclosure and directly adjacent to the enclosure associated with a spring, but riparian vegetation is not present along the entire reach on BLM in the allotment due to dewatering. The BLM does not have discretion over the irrigation withdrawal.

The majority of the undeveloped springs on the allotment are comprised of a fenced spring complex in the Lower Pasture. This area supports multiple age-classes of woody riparian species, predominantly willows, as well as herbaceous riparian vegetation. The other undeveloped spring is associated with Cedar Gulch, which is an ephemeral draw. Water flows down Cedar Gulch as far as the Middle Pasture in early spring, but the riparian vegetation is limited to the higher elevation Cedar Gulch Pasture due to water flowing sub-surface for most of the year. This lack of water does not support riparian obligate species downstream in the Middle Pasture. Multiple age-classes of woody riparian species is present along Cedar Gulch in the Cedar Gulch Pasture along the entire segment. Aspen regeneration was apparent near the undeveloped spring associated with Cedar Gulch.



2008-Upper Cedar Gulch



2008-Fenced Spring Complex in the Lower Pasture

Riparian areas are in proper functioning condition within the allotment, except for the dewatered portion of lower Peterson Creek. Riparian vegetation is in good condition and multiple age-classes of woody riparian vegetation is present, as well as a variety of riparian species that will promote maintenance of riparian and wetland conditions.

1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meeting the Standard	4 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, current livestock grazing management practices are significant factors
2 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, but making significant progress towards	
3 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, current livestock grazing management practices are not significant factors	5 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, cause not determined

Standard 3 (Stream Channel/Flood plain)

Standard doesn't apply

Evaluation and Information Sources (*required regardless of which box is checked*): Stream Condition Rating by drainage for the Salmon River (BLM 2001), ID team field visits 2008.

Stream channels and floodplains should be properly functioning relative to the geomorphology and climate in order to provide proper nutrient and hydrologic cycling, and energy flow. Indicators that ID team members used to evaluate this standard include whether stream channels and floodplains dissipate energy and transport sediment, have access to floodplains, have limited compaction from human activities, and have stable streambanks.

Approximately ¾ of mile Peterson Creek flows through the Cedar Gulch Allotment. About 0.1 miles of the channel has conditions to support riparian vegetation and is excluded from livestock. Peterson Creek on BLM is dewatered with the exception of early in the season, and although a stream channel is present, not enough water is present throughout the season to support riparian vegetation, with the exception of the enclosure containing an undeveloped spring. BLM does not have discretion over the water withdrawal on Peterson Creek on the allotment with the exception of maintaining the portions within the enclosure associated with the undeveloped spring.

1 <input type="checkbox"/> Meeting the Standard	4 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, current livestock grazing management practices are significant factors
2 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, but making significant progress towards	
3 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, current livestock grazing management practices are not significant factors	5 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, cause not determined

Standard 4 (Native Plant Communities)

Standard doesn't apply

Evaluation and Information Sources (*required regardless of which box is checked*): Rangeland Health Assessment, including visual observations, and line-point intercept data (Field visits throughout the allotment in 2008, and ID team meetings on 10/29/2008).

Healthy, productive, and diverse native animal habitat and populations of native plants should be maintained or promoted that appropriate to the soil types present on the Cedar Gulch Allotment, and should provide for proper nutrient cycling, hydrologic cycling, and energy flow. Native plant communities were evaluated throughout the allotment based upon indicators of biotic integrity (Table 4) of the native plant communities present, which includes information from the

RHA's completed in the Lower Pasture. The ID team evaluated upland health conditions in all native plant communities including sagebrush and grassland areas, forested areas, noxious weed and cheatgrass infestations, and special status plants occurring in the Cedar Gulch Allotment. Special status plants will be discussed in detail under Standard 8: Threatened and Endangered Plants and Animals.

Approximately 90% of the allotment is comprised of soil complexes and associations that support various upland habitat types. Three-tip sagebrush (*Artemisia tripartita*), mountain big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata* spp. *vasayana*), and Idaho fescue (*Festuca idahoensis*) can be found throughout the allotment in the higher elevation Cedar Gulch Pasture. Lower elevation uplands on the allotment in the Lower and Middle Pastures are dominated by Wyoming big sagebrush. Basin big sage (*Artemisia tridentata* spp. *tridentata*) can also be found near streams at lower elevations. The prominent herbaceous species throughout, which are cool season grasses and provide the understory vegetation in the sagebrush habitat types, included in these uplands are bluebunch wheatgrass, Idaho fescue, and Sandberg bluegrass (*Poa secunda*). Forbs such as long leaf phlox (*Phlox longifolia*), cushion phlox (*Phlox hoodii*), Indian paintbrush (*Castilleja* spp.), buckwheat (*Eriogonum* spp.), tapertip hawksbeard (*Crepis acuminata*), and fleabane (*Erigeron* spp.) also occur in the sagebrush understory.

An additional 2% of the allotment supports a Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) and lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*) canopy in the higher elevations of the Cedar Gulch Pasture. Whitebark pine (*Pinus albicaulis*), and Engelmann spruce (*Picea engelmannii*) are also present in these areas, as well as occasional Rocky Mountain juniper (*Juniperus scopulorum*). Approximately 6% of the allotment is comprised of steep limestone rock outcrops that support very little plant life due to the harshness of conditions.

Uplands: The uplands are in good ecological condition and the overall rating for the native plant communities within the Cedar Gulch Allotment was a *none to slight* departure from the conditions expected for the soil type and ecological sight (Table 4). No soil loss or degradation was occurring at the RHA site and no compaction layer was present. The order of functional structural groups at the RHA site was cool season bunchgrasses dominant over shrubs, shrubs dominant over forbs, and shallow rooted grasses subdominant to forbs, which was expected for the ecological site. The amount of coarse and fine litter on the site was as expected, with fine litter accumulation present under shrubs. Annual production was estimated at 400 lbs/acre, which is within the acceptable range for annual production in a normal year (~325 lbs/acre) for the Wyoming sagebrush/bluebunch wheatgrass plant community. Plant mortality and decadence in perennial grasses and shrubs was not more than expected for the ecological site. All functional groups were visibly producing seeds, and seedlings were also present.

Table 4. The biotic integrity ratings for the nine indicators of rangeland health that is associated with plant health and function.

Biotic Integrity	
Indicators:	
Soil surface resistance to erosion	<i>none to slight</i>
Soil surface loss or degradation	<i>none to slight</i>
Compaction layer	<i>none to slight</i>
Functional/Structural Groups	<i>none to slight</i>
Plant Mortality/Decadence	<i>none to slight</i>
Litter Amount	<i>none to slight</i>
Annual Production	<i>none to slight</i>
Invasive plants	<i>none to slight</i>
Reproductive capability of perennial plants	<i>none to slight</i>
Overall Ratings:	<i>none to slight</i>

Noxious weeds and cheatgrass: Cheatgrass is located in few isolated areas in the allotment, particularly near the road along Cedar Gulch. A few isolated knapweed plants are present along the road as well.

Overall conditions of the native vegetation within the allotment are very good, largely due to the effectiveness of the grazing management plan implemented 10-years earlier. Herbaceous species and shrubs are reproducing and vigorous throughout the allotment, and very few weeds are present.

1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meeting the Standard	4 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, current livestock grazing management practices are significant factors
2 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, but making significant progress towards	
3 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, current livestock grazing management practices are not significant factors	5 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, cause not determined

Standard 5 (Seedings)

X Standard doesn't apply

1 <input type="checkbox"/> Meeting the Standard	4 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, current livestock grazing management practices are significant factors
2 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, but making significant progress towards	
3 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, current livestock grazing management practices are not significant factors	5 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, cause not determined

Standard 6 (Exotic Plant Communities, Other than Seedlings) Standard doesn't apply

Evaluation and Information Sources (*required regardless of which box is checked*):

1 <input type="checkbox"/> Meeting the Standard	4 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, current livestock grazing management practices are significant factors
2 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, but making significant progress towards	
3 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, current livestock grazing management practices are not significant factors	5 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, cause not determined

Standard 7 (Water Quality)

Standard doesn't apply

Evaluation and Information Sources (*required regardless of which box is checked*): State of Idaho; Department of Environmental Quality “Lemhi River Watershed Assessment” and 303d stream list/Idaho 2002 305(B) Integrated Report (Final).

Peterson Creek is not listed by DEQ as being water quality limited and is meeting the standard.

1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meeting the Standard	4 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, current livestock grazing management practices are significant factors
2 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, but making significant progress towards	
3 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, current livestock grazing management practices are not significant factors	5 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, cause not determined

Standard 8 (Threatened and Endangered Plants and Animals) Standard doesn't apply

Evaluation and Information Sources (*required regardless of which box is checked*): Lemhi Resource Management Plan (1987), and Idaho Conservation Data Center (CDC) database. Rangeland Health Assessments including visual observations and line-point intercept data. Field visits were completed throughout the allotment in 2008.

Maintaining habitat that is suitable for viable populations of special status species, including threatened, endangered and BLM sensitive species is an important component of managing public lands. The ID team used several parameters to assess the existing and potential habitat of these species, including annual population monitoring of sensitive plant species, and field observations of fisheries and wildlife habitat and species presence.

The allotment provides habitat for various Special Status Species. Type 1 Special Status Species are those species that were listed as threatened or endangered, or were proposed or candidates for listing under the Endangered Species Act in 2003. Type 2 Special Status Species are species that are experiencing significant declines throughout their range with a high likelihood of being listed in the foreseeable future due to their rarity and/or significant endangerment factors. Type 3 Special Status Species are species that are experiencing significant declines in population or habitat and are in danger of regional or local extinctions in Idaho in the foreseeable future if factors contributing to their decline continue.

Type 1 Special Status wildlife species that have been documented on, or near, the Cedar Gulch allotment include the gray wolf, Canada lynx and bald eagle. Gray wolf sightings have increased in the area. No known dens or rendezvous sights are documented in the allotment. While the allotment is not within a Lynx Analysis Unit there are historic records of Canada lynx on the private land below the allotment. The allotment itself does not provide the timber habitat that Canada lynx's prefer. Bald eagles winter along the Lemhi River and may forage over the low elevations of the allotment.

The only Type 2 Special Status wildlife species that has been documented on the allotment is the pygmy rabbit. The allotment is near the northern boundary of the pygmy rabbit population in Lemhi County. Surveys have found pygmy rabbits scattered in the Middle Pasture of the allotment. The vegetation on the allotment is as expected and provides suitable habitat for pygmy rabbits. Surveys have not documented sage grouse on the allotment. A sage grouse lek located about three miles from the western boundary of the allotment, across the Lemhi River and Highway 28. Sage grouse have not documented in the allotment and surveys for leks in the area have failed to document any grouse. The allotment provides habitat suitable to maintain the Special Status wildlife populations on the allotment.

Surveys and field visits in 2008 indicated that no Threatened, Endangered, or BLM Sensitive plant species are present in the allotment. No habitat for ESA listed fish species occurs on the Cedar Gulch Allotment.

1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meeting the Standard	4 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, current livestock grazing management practices are significant factors
2 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, but making significant progress towards	
3 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, current livestock grazing management practices are not significant factors	5 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, cause not determined

Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management:

Guidelines for livestock grazing management help land managers implement grazing practices and livestock management facilities that promote progress toward meeting and maintaining Idaho's Standards for Rangeland Health. The grazing management programs within the Salmon Field Office are developed through consultation, coordination, and cooperation with the BLM, permittees, other agencies, Native American tribes, and interested publics. The ID team evaluated all 20 guidelines for the Cedar Gulch Allotment, and the guidelines that the allotment does not conform to are discussed in detail in this portion of the evaluation.

6 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conforms with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management.	7 <input type="checkbox"/> Does not conform with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management (list Guidelines No(s) in non-conformance)
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ID Team:

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| Tanya Thrift | Rangeland Management Specialist |
| Vince Guyer | Natural Resources Specialist (T&E) |
| Craig Nemeth | Supervisory NRS |
| Jude Trapani | Fisheries Biologist |
| Alexia Cochrane | Botanist |
| Tricia Miller | Fisheries Biologist SCEP |

Field Manager's Determination Rationale:

I have determined that all of the applicable Standards for Rangeland Health **are not** being met in the Cedar Gulch Allotment. Standards 1, 2, 4, 7, and 8 **are** being met. Standard 3 **is not** meeting the Standards and current livestock grazing management practices **are not** significant factors. Peterson Creek is dewatered by an irrigation diversion for most of the year, resulting in failure to meet Standard 3. BLM does not have discretion over the water withdrawal on Peterson Creek on the allotment. Standards 5 and 6 do not apply to the Cedar Gulch Allotment. Livestock grazing practices **are not** a significant factor in achieving the Standards for Rangeland Health, and livestock management practices **conform** to the Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management in the Cedar Gulch Allotment.

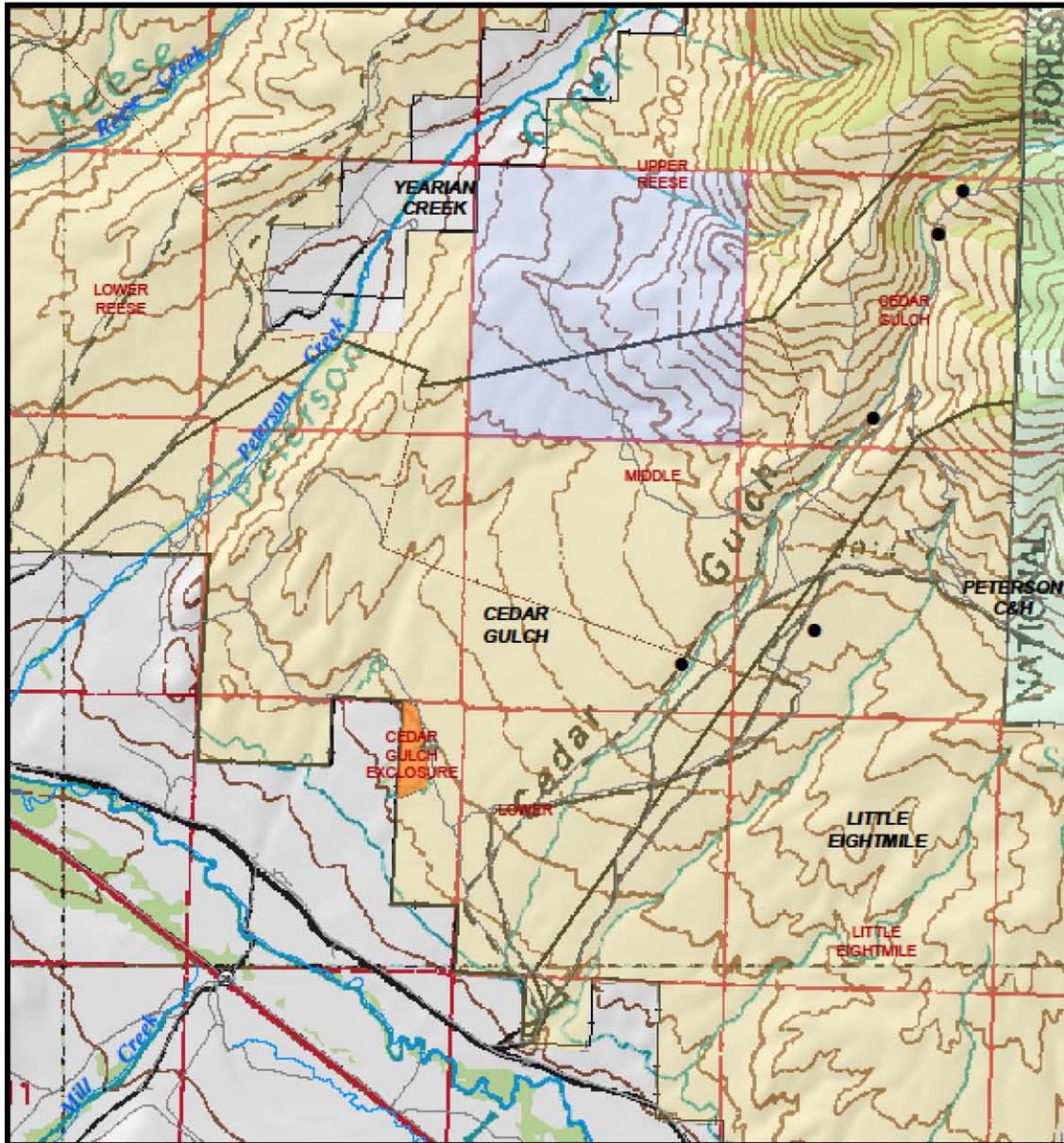
/s/ Steve Hartmann

Field Manager

8/25/10

Date

Cedar Gulch Allotment



Legend

- WATER DEVELOPMENT
- ROADS
- |- FENCES
- ▭ PASTURES
- ▭ GRAZING ALLOTMENTS
- ▭ EXCLOSURES

This map depicts the Cedar Gulch Allotment vicinity of the Salmon Field Office, BLM.

The sources of the data are from Idaho-BLM Corporate data and the USGS.

Datum: NAD 83, UTM Zone 12 N
 No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data is not guaranteed.

Map Created by
 8/16/2007

