

## **APPENDIX D**

### **MONITORING PLAN - SEPTEMBER 30, 2003**

#### **UPPER AND LOWER EAST FORK C&H ALLOTMENTS**

##### **INTRODUCTION**

This monitoring plan is developed to guide monitoring efforts specifically related to the decision implemented by the Record of Decision to the Upper and Lower East Fork Cattle and Horse Allotment Management Plans EIS (ROD). This monitoring plan will be implemented if any decision other than no grazing is selected. Monitoring of the East Fork allotments would determine success with annual use objectives and compliance with management direction included in the AMP. Monitoring would occur in a format whereby specific monitoring protocols are followed and data are collected. Annual livestock use would be monitored through the standard allotment administration and the Implementation Monitoring Program.

In addition to the monitoring elements listed below, information would be gathered from these allotments to contribute to Forest Plan monitoring and evaluation requirements (See Chapter IV, revised Sawtooth Land and Resource Management Plan - 2003). The Implementation Monitoring Program, a prescribed integrated monitoring program that includes all National Forest management programs/objectives, and includes specific protocols for livestock grazing (Interagency Implementation Team 2003), would also continue to be implemented on the allotments. This program is required for all National Forests with threatened salmon, steelhead, and bull trout habitat. These implementation monitoring protocols are directly tied and related to basin wide effectiveness monitoring objectives performed by a multi-Regional team of monitoring specialists.

##### **ALLOTMENT ADMINISTRATION/IMPLEMENTATION MONITORING**

For grazing, one or more "Designated Monitoring Areas" (DMAs) (formerly "key areas") would be established within riparian areas in every pasture permitted for grazing within the East Fork allotments. These areas define where the required implementation monitoring occurs. As directed, these selected areas are to be: among the most sensitive areas from the standpoint of fish habitat conditions; contain impacts that result principally from livestock grazing; represent areas used by livestock, and; have the potential to respond to and measure changes in grazing management.

Annual use standards established within the Forest Plan or Management Area direction, or allotment specific direction to be monitored within DMAs:

- Forage utilization for riparian areas will not exceed 30 percent use of most palatable forage species, or must retain a minimum 6 inch stubble height of hydric greenline species, whichever occurs first, when riparian goals and objectives are not being met.
- Forage utilization of woody species, such as willow, alder and aspen, will not exceed maximum of 30 % use of current years growth.
- A maximum of 10% streambank alteration due to current year's use.
- Soil productivity shall not be significantly reduced as evidenced by no more than 15 percent of an activity area in a detrimentally disturbed condition.

As encountered elsewhere within the pastures, administration will also note:

- For early season or season long pastures – 40 percent use on upland vegetation cover types. Vegetative slow growth, after seed ripe conditions, or late season pastures – 50 percent use.
- Presence of livestock in closed units or outside the permitted area or season.
- Carryover effects from previous year's grazing based on utilization cages.
- Extent and location of impact areas (e.g. loafing, salting, trailing).
- General patterns of utilization, and
- Whether conditions within selected DMAs are representative of overall use within the pasture.
- Due to the climatic and elevational considerations in these two allotments, forage utilization monitoring will be conducted following the removal of livestock and again at the end of the growing season the first two years after the decision is implemented to determine if regrowth has been achieved.

Copies of allotment inspections and condition assessments would be filed in the project-monitoring file. Estimated grazing capacities for the allotments would be verified by documentation of proper use criteria inspections. If trends to desired conditions are not positive, or use criteria are not being met during the permitted grazing season, capacities would be examined for potential adjustments. Opportunities for alternative resource management strategies utilizing livestock on public lands would be considered if permittees approach the Forest Service.

Fences damaged on public land would be the responsibility of the permittee to detect and repair. The USFS would provide materials for fence maintenance. Fences that are damaged repeatedly by wildlife in a certain area would be reviewed for possible reconstruction to better accommodate their passage.

## EFFECTIVENESS MONITORING

Resource conditions and trend, relative to desired conditions within the allotments, would be determined consistent with the monitoring and evaluation direction of the Forest Plan. This monitoring would determine if the authorized level of livestock grazing, as well as the prescribed use standards are effective in maintaining or moving toward desired resource conditions. Chapter IV of the Sawtooth Forest Plan outlines the monitoring elements and objectives.

- **MONITORING FOR PLANT SPECIES OF CONCERN**

Given the inability of plant species to relocate to avoid direct or indirect impacts, the FLRMP does not provide prescriptive management direction for protection, but rather requires that projects and management activities include provisions for ensuring mitigation or avoidance of impacts.

### **TEPC Plants**

FLRMP direction for TEPC plant species requires that impacts to known populations be mitigated through avoidance. To insure compliance with this requirement, the following monitoring will be required.

#### **Slender Moonwort:**

Alternative 1: This alternative maintains the potential for unauthorized livestock grazing of this population. Permanent transects would be established to determine population trend and impact levels associated with unauthorized livestock grazing. If monitoring results find that the population shows a downward trend as a result of unauthorized livestock use, permit actions may be warranted.

Alternative 2: Prohibiting livestock use in elevations over 9000 feet should reduce the threats from unauthorized livestock use. cursory monitoring (i.e. periodic site visits) of the population would occur within the first few years of implementation to determine if the elevation restriction is effective in keeping cattle from accessing the population.

### **Sensitive Plants**

FLRMP requirements for sensitive plant species require that all management actions occurring within occupied habitat must incorporate measures to ensure habitat is maintained where it is within desired condition or restored where degraded. To ensure compliance with this requirement, the following monitoring is required.

### **White Cloud Milkvetch**

Alternative 1: This alternative will allow continued livestock access all known populations of White Cloud milkvetch. The following populations of White Cloud milkvetch have documented impacts occurring from livestock use: south of Bowery Creek (002), Jim Creek (003), Boulder Chain Lakes Creek (004), and Red Ridge (007). Permanent transects would be established in these four populations to record types of impacts, population reproductive effort, and demographic trends to determine if impacts

are continuing. Continued degradation of these populations may require installation of barriers or changes in livestock management.

Alternative 2, three populations (South of Bowery 002, Railroad ridge – above Boulder Creek 001 and Bowery Ridge 008) would remain within the allotments and accessible to livestock use. Permanent transects would be established in these three populations to record types of impacts, population reproductive effort, and demographic trends to determine if impacts are continuing. Continued degradation of these populations may require installation of barriers or changes in livestock management.

**Silvery Jones/Primrose**

Alternative 1 and 2: Annual monitoring of the Bowery Creek population would be conducted to determine if existing fencing is being maintained and providing adequate protection for this population.

Permanent transects would be established in both populations to record types of impacts, population reproductive effort, and demographic trends to determine if impacts are continuing. Continued degradation of these populations may require installation of barriers or changes in livestock management.