



Appendix F

Recreation Livestock Monitoring Plan

RECREATION LIVESTOCK MONITORING

Goal: To determine the existing condition, the difference from the natural and non-impacted conditions, and provide information necessary to establish a desired future condition (LAC standard) for impacted areas.

This monitoring information will be used to determine if and to what extent the impacted areas have deteriorated from natural conditions, and ultimately to prevent degradation of natural conditions in the wilderness by implementing management actions.

Objective:

Design and implement a feasible monitoring system to measure existing utilization, condition, and trend of vegetation and document specific impacts such as stream bank deterioration, tree root damage, and dust bath areas.

Who: The monitoring system will be implemented by Wilderness Rangers after training from specialists in the Range Zone. Volunteers are also desirable for this task and will be recruited.

How: *Utilization* - Measure the impact of recreation livestock grazing on the forage vegetation.

Determine the amount of vegetation utilized as forage by livestock and quantify the amount and significance of current disturbances.

Condition - Measure the current condition of forage vegetation relative to natural and non-impacted areas.

The site monitoring will be conducted generally as follows:

∞ Run transects through selected key areas to determine composition and abundance of plant species.

∞ Compare to plant classification and riparian type data to determine deviation from natural conditions.

Trend - Measure the vegetation type and forage condition over time.

∞ Establish permanent vegetation transects which can be re-evaluated in the future.

∞ Determine the change in vegetation type and whether condition is increasing, decreasing, or static at five year intervals.

∞ Establish photo points and photograph the area of impact and specific impacts such as stream banks, tree roots active erosion, etc.

When: The monitoring system will be a progressive program that measures *condition* on as many sites as is feasible given the availability of wilderness rangers to do the inventory. *Trend* will be measured on a five year minimum basis.

Utilization studies will be an on-going program. A site that receives use only during the fall hunting season may only need to be monitored once per year. A site that receives use throughout the season will need multiple samples.

Where: Camp areas which are known to have been impacted by recreation livestock within the ECW will be inventoried and monitored for *condition*, *trend*, and *utilization*. The locations receiving the greatest impact will be the top priority. Sites will be selected to represent the WRS classes where the most use is occurring.

The locations listed below are the priorities for inventory. The locations are listed by WRS Class of Semi-Primitive or Primitive. The current inventory shows no highly impacted sites in the Pristine WRS Class.

Semi-Primitive

Horseshoe Lake
John Henry Lake
Little Minam River
North Minam Meadows
Minam River
West Fork Wallowa
Douglas/Lee Lakes
Frazier Lake
Brownie Basin
Bear Creek
Elk Creek
Minam Lake
Queens Meadow

Primitive

Cliff Creek
Upper Little Minam River
Long Lake
Upper Minam River
Upper South Fork Imnaha River