

April 2004

**Permit Renewal and Vegetation Allocation
Environmental Assessment**

No. ID-097-2004-011



Submitted By:

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Submitted To:



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U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACEC	Area of Critical Environmental Concern
AMP	Allotment Management Plan
ARPA	Archaeological Resources Protection Act
AUM	Animal Unit Month
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
CWA	Clean Water Act
CCA	Candidate Conservation Agreement
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CDC	Conservation Data Center
DEQ	Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
EA	Environmental Assessment
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FAR	Functioning-at-risk
FLPMA	Federal Land Policy and Management Act
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
ID	Interdisciplinary
JFO	Jarbidge Field Office
LWD	Large Woody Debris
IDFG	Idaho Department of Fish and Game
IMNH	Idaho Museum of Natural History
IMP	Interim Management Plan
MG	Management Guideline
MUA	Multiple Use Area
NAGPRA	Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act
NF	Nonfunctional
NCA	National Conservation Area
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NNHP	Nevada Natural Heritage Program
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
EO	Element Occurrence
OHV	Off-Highway Vehicle
ORMP	Owyhee Resource Management Plan
PFC	Proper Functioning Condition
PNC	Potential Natural Community
RAC	Resource Advisory Council
RES	Renewable Energy System
RHCA	Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas
ROD	Record of Decision
RMP	Resource Management Plan
S&G	Standards and Guidelines
SCR	Saylor Creek Range
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Officer
SRMA	Special Recreation Management Area
TNR	Temporary Non-renewable
T&E	Threatened or Endangered
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USDI	United States Department of the Interior
USEPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
USFS	United States Forest Service
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
VRM	Visual Resource Management
WSA	Wilderness Study Area
WSR	Wild and Scenic Rivers

Section 1.0 – Introduction

1.1 Overview of the Proposed Action

The proposed action is to issue new livestock grazing permits, allocate vegetation, and authorize appropriate grazing management for 18 allotments administered by the Jarbidge Field Office (JFO) of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The subject allotments are located in Owyhee and Twin Falls counties in southern Idaho (Figure 1.1). The proposed action would allocate vegetation for watershed, wildlife, livestock, and other purposes. The Allocation of Vegetation Formula used in developing the proposed action and alternatives is presented in Appendix A. A full description of the proposed action and alternatives is provided in Section 2.0 of this EA.

1.2 Purpose and Need for the Action

BLM normally issues grazing permits for a term of 10 years. The current permits for the 18 allotments are expiring and are scheduled for renewal. In accordance with the grazing regulations and the Jarbidge Resource Management Plan (RMP), BLM must consider changes in grazing management practices and allocation of forage as part of the grazing permit renewal process.

Large-scale projects in the 1960s and 1970s in certain portions of the study area have resulted in increased availability of forage for livestock grazing. These range projects replaced decadent stands of sagebrush and depleted understories with Crested Wheatgrass wheatgrass (*Agropyron cristatum*). Increased forage has also resulted from fire rehabilitation projects implemented to stabilize soils and stop or slow the proliferation of cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*).

The seedings have dramatically increased the amount of forage available for livestock use on a long-term, sustained basis. Permittees have been authorized to use part of the increased forage on a yearly basis as temporary nonrenewable (TNR) use. This forage has been available for the last 10 to 20 years. It is expected to continue to be available over the period of the new grazing permit (the next 10 years); therefore, it is now being considered for conversion from TNR to permitted use. The proposed action is needed to adequately allocate the increased forage.

As further discussed in Section 1.4, below, BLM has conducted allotment assessments in preparation for renewing the grazing permits for the 18 subject allotments. These allotment assessments indicate that certain conditions need to be improved in order to meet the applicable Idaho Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management (S&Gs). The proposed action is designed to improve resource conditions and includes management guidelines (MGs) developed and selected to meet or make progress toward meeting the S&Gs.

1.3 Conformance with Applicable Resource Management Plan

The 1987 Jarbidge RMP Record of Decision is a land use plan that guides ongoing resource management in the Jarbidge Field Office (JFO) area. The RMP includes projections of potential livestock use levels that were expected to occur within 20 years after completion of the plan. Increased livestock use levels in the proposed action and alternatives are in conformance with the projected use levels in the RMP. In addition, RMP objectives and resource decisions were reviewed as part of the process of developing the proposed action and alternatives. Similar to how the S&Gs were addressed, the MGs were developed to ensure that proposed management would be in conformance with the RMP. In Appendix A, Table A.2 lists the applicable RMP direction, and Table A.3 lists the MGs that would be applied to each allotment and pasture to address these objectives.

1.4 Relationship to Statutes, Regulations, and Other Plans

The proposed action would be in compliance with all applicable State and federal laws, regulations, and plans. For example, the proposed action is designed to be consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969. NEPA and its implementing regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508) require federal agencies to use a systematic interdisciplinary approach in planning and decisionmaking and to adequately consider the potential impacts of any federal action on the quality of the human environment.

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976 requires BLM to "manage the public lands under the principles of multiple use and sustained yield, in accordance with the land use plans..." FLPMA also requires that wilderness study areas (WSAs) be managed to prevent impairment of their suitability for designation as wilderness. Four of the allotments covered by this EA partially overlap two wilderness study areas WSAs. BLM's Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands under Wilderness Review (BLM Manual Handbook H-8550-1) provides detailed guidance regarding WSA management.

The Clean Water Act (CWA) of 1972 has as a goal to "restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation's waters." Several stream segments within the study area are currently listed on the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) 303(d) stream segment of concern list. The proposed action is consistent with the CWA and DEQ requirements.

In accordance with the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, a Biological Assessment on bull trout and the Bruneau hot springsnail will be completed in consultation with the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) before a final decision is implemented on the proposed action. For other wildlife species, the State Fish and Game Management Plans have been considered in coordination with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

A Candidate Conservation Agreement for Slickspot Peppergrass (*Lepidium papilliferum*) was published on October 24, 2003. A copy of the CCA (BLM et al, 2003) is available in the JFO. The CCA was developed cooperatively by the BLM, State of Idaho, the Idaho Army National Guard, and several private property owners who hold BLM grazing permits. Based on this CCA and other conservation plans, the FWS has withdrawn its proposal to list *Lepidium papilliferum* as an endangered species under the ESA. However, this plant remains on BLM's "sensitive species" list and will be given special consideration under the provisions of the CCA.

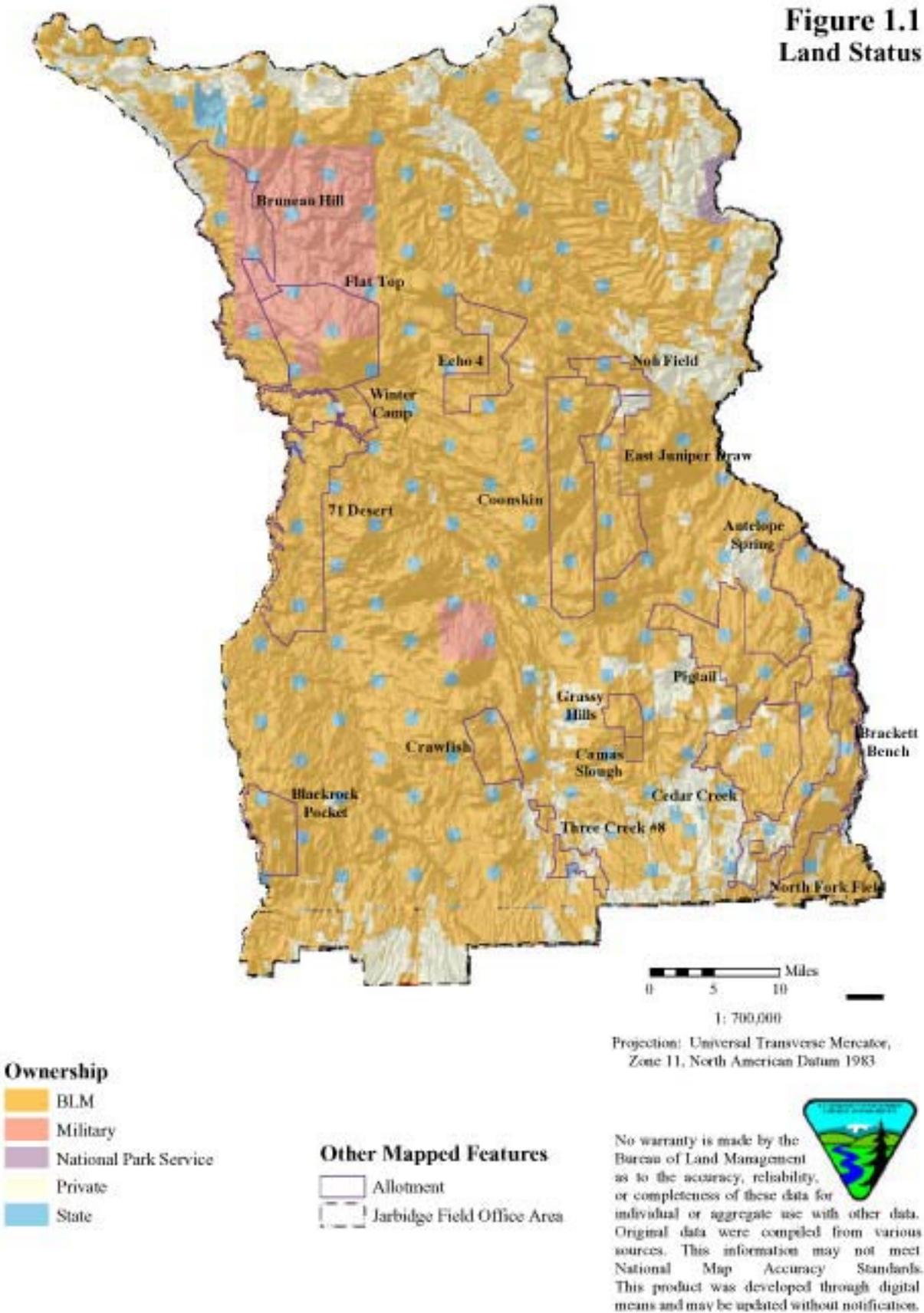
The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and other federal laws prohibit the destruction of cultural resources and require federal agencies to inventory, assess, protect, and manage cultural properties. BLM is conducting consultation on the proposed action with the Idaho State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), consistent with the National Programmatic Agreement and the implementing protocol agreement between Idaho BLM and the SHPO.

On August 12, 1997, the *Idaho Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management* (Appendix A) were approved by the Secretary of the Interior. These Standards and Guidelines will also be referred to as "Standards" or "S&Gs" in this EA. The eight standards pertaining to rangeland health were delineated and defined collaboratively by the three BLM Resource Advisory Councils in the State of Idaho. BLM regulations (43 CFR 4180) require that these standards, where applicable, be used to evaluate grazing allotments prior to renewal of the 10-year term grazing permits. If current grazing management is not complying with the applicable standards, the new grazing permit must adjust practices to meet or make progress toward meeting the S&G requirements. S&G assessments were completed on all of the 18 allotments in 2003, and the proposed action is designed to meet the required standards. Table A.1 summarizes the results of the allotment assessments and identifies the MGs that were incorporated into the proposed action and alternatives to address the identified problems.

On file in the JFO, and summarized herein, is monitoring data which clearly demonstrates that a surplus of forage exists in many of the 18 allotments. In the past, a portion of this surplus forage has been authorized as TNR use under the provisions of 43 CFR 4130.6-2, Grazing Administration-Other Grazing Authorizations. The monitoring data demonstrates that the baseline level of available forage has increased since inventories of the early 1980s. Regulation 43 CFR 4110.3, Increasing Permitted Use, outlines the necessary steps for allocating excess forage. The proposed forage allocations would comply with this regulation.

As part of the process of preparing the Jarbidge RMP, a Proposed RMP and Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was prepared and approved in 1987. This EIS, which is available to the public at the JFO, analyzed the potential social, economic, and environmental effects of livestock grazing management under the proposed RMP and five alternatives. The broad environmental impacts of the Jarbidge RMP, including the current and projected levels of livestock grazing, were analyzed in the EIS. The purpose of this EA is to evaluate the site-specific environmental impacts of achieving the RMP objectives, which were developed and analyzed in the land use planning and EIS processes. The detailed environmental analysis in this EA is tiered to the broader analysis in the EIS, as provided for by Section 1502.20 of the Council on Environmental Quality regulations.

**Figure 1.1
Land Status**



Section 2.0 - Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives

2.1 Alternative 1 (Proposed Action)

Introduction

Focusing on the maintenance and improvement of resource conditions and trends of the eighteen grazing allotments analyzed within this EA, the JFO interdisciplinary team has formulated a group of sixteen management guidelines (MGs). The 16 MGs are responsive to the spectrum of resource management objectives and requirements that apply to resource values resident in the eighteen allotments of the study area. The MGs are also designed to provide management direction in addressing conclusions reached in the Standards and Guides determinations (see Table A.1 of Appendix A) as well as, objectives set forth in the Jarbidge RMP (see Table A.2 of Appendix A).

The strategy and application of the management MGs are identical for all of the 4 alternatives. The MGs prescribed by the JFO interdisciplinary team has been assigned on a pasture specific basis for each allotment, and are displayed on Table A.3 of Appendix A. In addition to allotment specific objectives the MGs are also intended to be responsive to management concerns of specific species such as, sage grouse, bighorn sheep and bull trout as well as enhancing wildlife habitat in-general. The MGs also provide the blue print and parameters for the formulation of the “adaptive management” strategies for each allotment. The application of MGs is not intended and shall not preclude future consideration of range improvement or habitat restoration projects such as for sage grouse.

Alternative 1 would authorize livestock grazing operations under new permits and allocate vegetation production for watershed, wildlife, and livestock based on the application of a uniform formula. The new permits would be for 10 years (March 1, 2005 to February 28, 2015). The formula used to calculate vegetation allocation (Appendix A) is based on an assessment of rangeland health, vegetative production, climate, and resource values associated with the individual allotments.

A monitoring program consistent with guidance provided in BLM’s 1987 Jarbidge Resource Management Plan (RMP) has been applied in the formulation of the vegetation allocations. Guidance in the RMP provides that “the actual level of use that is authorized will be based on additional data collected

through monitoring and evaluation studies.” The levels of grazing use projected in the RMP are, in most cases, different than the levels proposed here. The RMP estimates were considered along with all other available data and current guidance when the allocation strategy used as the basis for the proposed action was developed.

The grazing management strategy used in the proposed action includes the application of management guidelines (MGs) tailored to meet the resource needs in allotments and individual pastures. The MGs are presented in Section 2.6. They were specifically developed to meet Idaho Standards and Guidelines (S&Gs) and to make progress toward RMP objectives, as described in Section 1.4. The MGs would be applied to individual allotments and pastures as shown in Tables A.1 and A.3 of Appendix A. This management strategy would also be used to:

1. Determine the amount of forage available in a pasture or allotment for the purposes of adjusting permitted use in subsequent years and
2. Calculate the amount of temporary non-renewable (TNR) use to be allowed on an annual basis in areas dominated by annual vegetation.

Season of Use

The season of use in this Alternative is from March 1 to February 28. Grazing use would not occur for the entire time, but rather would be set in the annual grazing authorizations. The flexibility in season of use would allow grazing management to be adjusted more readily in response to uncontrollable events such as drought, unusually wet periods, and wildfire. Each annual grazing license would be based on a grazing management plan prescribing livestock movements through all pastures and allotments on public lands.

Grazing Systems

Adaptive Grazing Management would be employed as the strategy to provide resource protection and flexibility for the permittee. It includes the development of an Annual Grazing Plan within the parameters of the Management Guidelines described in section 2.6 and adjusted within these parameters

based on monitoring and the needs of the watershed and wildlife. Adaptive grazing systems are proposed for most allotments, allowing flexibility to adjust the timing and rotation of use based on observed conditions. The number (head) and kind (cattle or sheep) of livestock, the total animal unit months (AUMs) of permitted use, and the type of grazing system proposed for each allotment are presented in Table A.3, Appendix A. Numbers of livestock would be allowed to vary, provided that total permitted AUMs of forage were not exceeded. The Management Guidelines may serve as triggers to redistribute livestock with a pasture or move them to another pasture. In addition to the permitted use, the proposed action would allow authorization of temporary nonrenewable (TNR) use only on an annual basis in areas dominated by **annual vegetation**. To provide additional perspective on the proposed level of permitted grazing use, it is compared in Table 2.1 to present permitted use, the RMP projected use, and the historic range of total authorized use for each allotment.

An example of adaptive Management is a pasture in an allotment contains active sage grouse leks. One lek is in the immediate area of a livestock watering trough. This pasture is scheduled to be grazed during the nesting season as it was rested the year before. The annual grazing plan identifies this situation and includes leaving this trough turned off during the nesting season to provide proper cover in the area near the lek. In addition to turning off the trough, The key areas for measuring utilization are established between .025 and 0.5 miles from water to provide greater cover in areas further away. Also salt would be placed at least 0.25 miles from sagebrush plant communities where these plant communities are adjacent to large areas with out sagebrush cover.

Range Improvement Projects

Alternative 1 would include the construction of a number of range improvement projects, including fences to protect sensitive areas, pipelines to watering troughs, and removal or relocation of troughs and pipelines (see Table 2.2, Project Summary, and Figure 2.1). The proposed projects were recommended by an interdisciplinary team to meet specific RMP objectives and the Idaho Standards for Rangeland Health for each allotment.

The pipelines would be constructed with at least 2-inch pipe buried at least 24 inches deep, where possible. Backfill would be mounded on top of the trench to protect from freezing during winter use. The disturbed area would be about 30 feet wide. Once construction is completed, it would be re-contoured and seeded with Siberian wheatgrass in areas of Crested Wheatgrass and Sandberg bluegrass and/or bluebunch wheatgrass in native vegetation areas.

Fences would be constructed in accordance with BLM standards with three or four strands of barbwire with the bottom strand barbless, depending on the expected pressure by livestock. The strands of a 3-wire fence would be at a height of 18, 30, and 40 inches above the ground. The height of 4-wire fence strands would be 18, 24, 30, and 42 inches. In-line braces, corner braces, and gate/end braces would be constructed with treated wood or steel pipe. There would be little ground disturbance other than for postholes and from over-country vehicular traffic. Vegetation affected by the construction would recover within two years. If deemed appropriate by the BLM authorized officer, disturbed areas could be re-contoured and seeded as previously described for pipelines.

Table 2.1 - Past, Present and Alternative 1 Proposed Authorized Grazing Use by Allotment

Name of Allotment	Present Permitted Use (AUMs)	RMP Recommended Grazing Use (AUMs)	Historic Range of TNR (AUMs)	Historic Range of Authorized Use (Permitted Use + TNR; AUMs)	Proposed Permitted Use (Alternative 1; AUMs)
71 Desert	2,981	4,925 ^a	0 – 2,111	2,952 – 5,092	3,652
Antelope Springs	6,046	AMP ^b	0 – 2,676	4,384 – 8,722	6,046
Blackrock Pocket	1,890	2,325	0 – 275	930 – 2,165	1,890
Brackett Bench	2,386	AMP ^b	0 – 846	806 – 3,232	2,386
Bruneau Hill	4,200	15,668 ^a	0 – 2,312	2,762 – 6,512	4,200
Camas Slough	180	231	0-221	0 – 401	253
Cedar Creek	4,233	4,058	0 – 3,311	3,281 – 7,544	4,443
Coonskin AMP	4,783	AMP ^b	0 – 1,798	2,793 – 6,551	5,468
Crawfish	650	2,439	0 – 417	602 – 1,067	650
East Juniper Draw	907	2,740	0 – 3,491	0 – 4,398	2,474
Echo 4	2,309	4364 ^a	0 – 3,328	730 – 5,629	3,740
Flat Top	3,248	12,726 ^a	0 – 2,710	2,248 – 5,958	5,761
Grassy Hill	658	1,866	0 – 1,210	0 – 1,868	858
Noh Field	528	947 ^a	0 – 951	408 – 1,479	1,073
North Fork Field	570	590	0 – 1,204	169 – 1,774	570
Pigtail Butte	3,959	5,966	0 – 2,585	1,731 – 6,544	5,532
Three Creek 8	797	927	0 – 70	725 – 867	797
Winter Camp	515	912 ^a	0 – 111	349 – 626	519

RMP = Resource Management Plan; TNR = Temporary Non-renewable

^a Allotments that were subdivided out of a larger common Allotment after the Jarbidge RMP was implemented. The RMP proposed allocation level is pro-rated from that proposed for the larger common allotment based on current permitted use (preference).

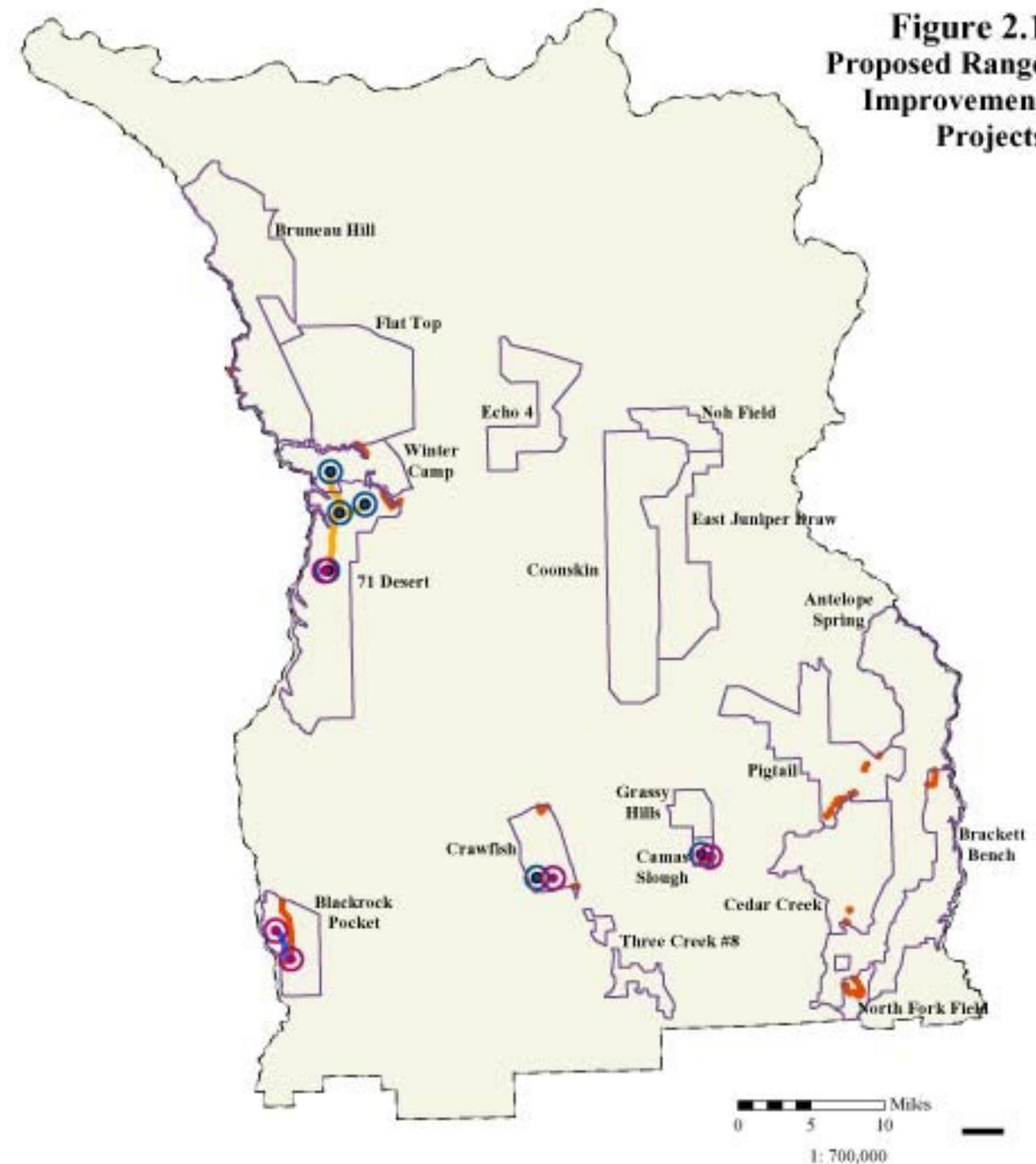
^b Specific RMP recommendations were not made for all allotments as they were under a grazing management system at the time of the RMP. The distribution of AUMs in these allotments was to be accomplished through further evaluation and environmental assessments.

Table 2.2 – Range Improvement Project Summary

Allotment Name	Project Description
71 Desert	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Extend AEC Pipeline to the north approximately 6 miles into the Lookout Pasture to provide water in a trough in the north end of Sheepshead Draw Pasture and a trough site in the Lookout Pasture. -Install 1.9 miles of 3-strand fence to control livestock grazing use of the Clover Creek riparian area on the east side of the Lookout Pasture. -Move trough in Sec. 24, T. 11 S., R. 7 E. one quarter mile to avoid livestock conflicts with Bighorn Sheep ACEC buffer area.
Blackrock Pocket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Construct approximately 4.8 miles of 3-strand fence to limit livestock access to Blackrock Pocket (proper) area. This fence would allow area to be rested following vegetation treatments. -Remove trough and large storage tank from the Blackrock Pocket Pipeline (project #6255) since the trough is non-functional and is located within the one-mile buffer area of the ACEC.
Brackett Bench	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Construct about 1.5 miles of 3-strand fence around Antelope Springs Creek to create a riparian pasture in this area of Pasture 1 (the North Pasture).
Bruneau Hill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Construct 0.2 miles of 4-strand barbwire, buck-and-pole, or other type of fence suitable to construct in the WSA to control cattle drift down the Roberson Trail into the Bruneau Canyon. Any vehicle traffic within the WSA would be confined to existing trails.
Camas Slough	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Expand the existing riparian enclosure with 0.6 miles of 4-strand barbwire fence to enclose the entire wetland/wet meadow area from livestock grazing. -Move the water trough (T.14S. R. 12 E., Sec. 32 NE4SE4) presently at the edge of the wet meadow at least 0.4 miles to the west.
Cedar Creek	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Enlarge the enclosure with 0.3 miles of 4-strand barbwire fence at the headwaters of Cedar Creek by expanding it to the east to protect significant cultural resources.* -Expand enclosure at Sage Hen Spring with 0.2 miles of 4-strand barbwire fence.
Crawfish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Move the trough 1.1 miles to the east in the south central portion of the South Pasture. -Fence off water gap area in southeast end of South Pasture at Crawfish Crossing with 0.3 miles of 4-strand barbwire fence. -Fence wetland area in northeast corner of North Pasture to exclude livestock and improve wildlife habitat with 1.1 miles of 4-strand barbwire fence.
North Fork Field	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Construct 3.3 miles of 3-strand barbwire fence to segregate federal land riparian areas in Timber Canyon and Rocky Canyon from the remainder of the allotment and manage fenced area as a riparian pasture.
Pigtail Butte	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Construct a water gap and drift fences with 0.5 miles of 4-strand barbwire fence at Three Mile Crossing to exclude cattle from the majority of the Cedar Creek to improve the riparian area and to protect important cultural resources.* -Construct 1.8 miles of 3-strand barbwire fence on the rim of Cedar Creek Reservoir to limit livestock access to the reservoir.
Winter Camp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Extend the AEC Pipeline 2.6 miles from the extension to the Lookout Pasture of the 71 Desert Allotment into the West Pasture and install one trough to provide a reliable source of water in the uplands away from Clover Creek. -Construct approximately 1.2 miles of 3-strand barbed-wire fence to control cattle access in the Bruneau River Sheep Creek WSA.

* Identifies projects that would be implemented in all Alternatives, including Alternative 4.

**Figure 2.1
Proposed Range
Improvement
Projects**



Project Type

-  Move Trough
-  Install Trough
-  Pipeline Removal
-  Pipeline Installation
-  Fence Construction

Other Mapped Features

-  Allotment
-  Jarbidge Field Office Area

Projection: Universal Transverse Mercator,
Zone 11, North American Datum 1983



No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use with other data. Original data were compiled from various sources. This information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This product was developed through digital means and may be updated without notification.

Monitoring

The following represents the optimum level of monitoring to measure progress toward meeting the Standards for Rangeland Health and RMP objectives. The accomplishment of this level would be dependent on funding.

Nested-plot Frequency studies along with Photo Plots would continue to be read at 85 established key study sites currently located within the allotments in accordance with *Sampling Vegetation Attributes Interagency Technical Reference* (BLM, 1996). Additional sites would be established in the Crawfish, East Juniper Draw, Echo 4, Flat Top, Grassy Hills, Noh Field and Three Creek #8 allotments. Each of these studies would be read every five to ten years. The data would be baseline, for comparison to future readings to determine trend and changes in the plant communities.

Canopy cover data would be collected as part of the Nested-plot Frequency method. Vegetation cover may also be collected using a pace transect that measures the layers of vegetation cover and structural diversity. This method of measuring cover is described in *Framework to Assist in Making Sensitive Species Habitat Assessments for BLM-administered Public Lands in Idaho* (BLM, 2000).

Utilization would be monitored during and at the end of the grazing season each year, at key areas established by the interdisciplinary team and the permittee. Data gathered here would be used as triggers in meeting management guidelines. In upland areas, utilization relating to MGs 1,2 and 3 would be measured using the Height-Weight Method, Utilization pattern mapping may also be done as needed to help in the location of key areas. Utilization in riparian areas for MGs 4 and 5 would be done using the Residual Measuring Method. Utilization of shrubs in riparian and upland areas for MGs 8 and 9 would be done using the Extensive Browse Method. These utilization methods are described in *Utilization Studies and Residual Measurements Interagency Technical Reference* (FS, 1996).

Actual use would be summarized from actual use reports collected at the end of the season. Actual Use would be submitted annually by each permittee within 15 days of the end of the authorized period of use.

Climate data would be used from the NOAA weather stations located at Glenns Ferry, Castleford, Bruneau, and Hollister, all in Idaho, and precipitation data collected at all ten of BLM's precipitation stations.

Production would be monitored on an as-needed basis. If Nested-plot Frequency studies indicate that a species has statistically significant lower or higher frequency of occurrence, production monitoring may be conducted to determine the overall production of the species and the ecological condition. Production studies would be completed as described by BLM's *Inventory and Monitoring Technical Reference TR-1734-7*. Application of this method would include three transects of at least 10 plots at each site monitored in native areas. These 30 plots would be estimated by the ocular method described in the Technical Reference guidance, with at least 6 of the 30 plots clipped for purposes of "double sampling" and adjusting the ocular estimates. In areas where vegetation diversity is low, such as in Crested Wheatgrass seedings or areas dominated with annual vegetation, data would be collected at 15 plots in one transect with at least 3 clipped plots.

Monitoring identified in the Candidate Conservation Agreement for Slickspot Peppergrass (*Lepidium papilliferum*) (BLM et al, 2003) would be accomplished as part of this proposed action. Monitoring would also be established as necessary for other plant and animal species which are proposed for listing or are listed under the Endangered Species Act. If found and as appropriate, conferencing and/or consultation would be initiated with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife service. Management alternatives would be developed in consultation with the permittee, government agencies responsible for natural resource management on public lands, and interested publics to develop alternatives to mitigate impacts to the species.

Cultural resource monitoring of historic properties (i.e., sites that are eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places) would be conducted on an annual basis. The purpose of this monitoring would be to provide quantitative documentation of the physical condition of particular sites and to identify the source and degree of any impacts.

Formal allotment assessments including the evaluation of monitoring data would be completed after ten years. The evaluation would indicate if management actions were successful in meeting the Rangeland Health Standards and achieving resource objectives. The assessment would recommend changes, if necessary, in allotment management based upon all monitoring studies and data.

2.2 Alternative 2

Permitted grazing levels under Alternative 2 would be limited to the proposed 20-year projections identified in Appendix D-1 of the Jarbidge RMP Record of Decision (USDI 1987a). Where allotments have been subdivided since completion of the RMP, AUMs would be pro-rated based on the proportion of permitted use in each new allotment. Alternative 2 would not provide for authorizing TNR. Proposed levels of permitted use by allotment are presented in Table 2.3. As shown in the same table, 12 of the allotments would not have full-year flexibility for season of use. Some of the specified shorter seasons of use would eliminate grazing within the allotment during the critical growing period for perennial vegetation. Consistent with the other three Alternatives, Alternative 2 would implement the same MGs as Alternative 1 to achieve conformance with the S&G assessments (Table A.1, Appendix A) and the RMP objectives (Table A.2, Appendix A). This Alternative would also include the same project development as described for Alternative 1 (Table 2.2).

2.3 Alternative 3

Alternative 3 would continue to authorize existing grazing operations, except that the same MGs as identified for Alternative 1 would be applied under the new permits. Adjustments in existing grazing operations would be required to be in conformance with management guidelines prescribed for each allotment and pasture (Table A.3, Appendix A). Permitted use would remain essentially unchanged under this Alternative and TNR would continue to be authorized within the historic range of use. Table 2.1 displays the historic range of TNR use along with the present permitted use for each allotment. Alternative 3 would include the same project development as described for Alternative 1 (Table 2.2).

2.4 Alternative 4

Alternative 4 would continue authorization of existing grazing operations under new permits, but only at present permitted use levels (Table 2.1). No TNR would be authorized under this Alternative; therefore, total authorized grazing would be substantially less than allowed under the historic range of use. As in the previous three Alternatives, grazing operations would be subject to the MGs prescribed for each allotment and pasture (Table A.3, Appendix A). Because of the reduced level of grazing use under this Alternative, most of the projects proposed in the Alternatives would not be needed to conform to S&G

assessments and RMP objectives. However, as shown on Table 2.2, the projects to enlarge the enclosure at the headwaters of Cedar Creek and to construct a water gap and drift fences at Three Mile Crossing would be included under this Alternative.

2.5 Alternatives Considered But Not Further Analyzed

An alternative was considered that would analyze authorizing present permitted use along with the historic range of TNR but without the application of MGs to meet Idaho Rangeland Health Standards and Jarbidge RMP objectives. This Alternative could also be considered a “no action” Alternative. This Alternative was removed from further consideration because it would not comply with regulations regarding S&G assessments. Furthermore, without the application of MGs listed in Table A.3, this Alternative would not fully address the Jarbidge RMP objectives. Of the four Alternatives analyzed in detail, Alternative 3 most closely represents the no action Alternative; however, it includes MGs that address the S&G recommendations and RMP objectives, as required by BLM regulations.

An alternative was considered to increase the current permitted use to the maximum amount of TNR grazing use authorized since 1990. However, there is inadequate documented monitoring data available to determine the effects of the levels of grazing use authorized as TNR use during this period. For that reason, an increase in permitted use would not be in compliance with the RMP, which requires any increases in permitted use to be based on monitoring. Therefore, this Alternative was removed from further consideration and analysis.

A “no grazing” Alternative was also considered. Under this Alternative, each permittee’s application to renew the 10-year term grazing permit would be denied. This Alternative was ruled out because it is not in compliance with the RMP objectives or the Taylor Grazing Act. A specific reference on page I-3 of the Jarbidge RMP (BLM 1987) states that the baseline for livestock grazing is 176,976 AUMs. (In 2002 the Jarbidge Field Office authorized 154,000 AUMs for livestock grazing.) On page I-7 of the RMP, 280,501 AUMs is identified as the grazing-level objective over the life of the RMP. At this time, actual use remains at 123,618 AUMs, which is less than half the stated objective of the RMP. Considering that vegetative production is substantially more than livestock utilization on many allotments, and the application of MGs will provide protection to those areas where improvement in condition and trend is needed, the Alternative of “no grazing” has been precluded from detailed analysis.

2.6 Management Guidelines

The MGs described in this section are the product of an interdisciplinary (ID) team effort that involved many meetings and lengthy deliberations of the Jarbidge Field Office staff. They have been developed from various resource management program and enhancement objectives and resource management requirements (including mandates from BLM policy, applicable federal laws, and Idaho State mandates) that apply to resources in each of the various allotments in the study area. The MGs are specifically responsive to recommendations from the S&G assessments and to objectives set forth in the Jarbidge RMP. The MGs have been uniformly applied to all four Alternatives.

During the analysis for this EA, the interdisciplinary team reviewed each allotment and pasture to determine whether its vegetation is primarily native, seeded with non-native species (e.g. Crested Wheatgrass), or a seeding with remnants of native vegetation. MGs were developed and applied to fit the characteristics and values typical of these communities. The interdisciplinary team has applied MGs to pastures and allotments as displayed in Tables A.1 and A.3, Appendix A. On a pasture-specific basis, these guidelines set the parameters in the development of the annual grazing plan and enforced through the 43 CFR 4100 regulations. The application of MGs is not intended and shall not preclude future initiation of range improvement or habitat restoration projects such as to benefit sage grouse.

The following list provides a narrative description of the 16 MGs addressed in this EA:

1. Upland utilization on native bunchgrass plant communities (pasture greater than 50 percent native by cover) would be limited to 40 percent utilization as measured in key areas. Livestock may be moved or relocated within a pasture when utilization targets have been met if more than one key area exists and utilization targets have not been met in all key areas. Utilization would be conducted based on the Height-Weight methodology described in Interagency TR (TR) 1734-3, *Utilization Studies and Residual Measurements*.

For grazing use that occurs between March 1 and May 15 native pastures would be stocked to achieve no more than 40 percent utilization. Utilization measurements would be conducted after May 15 (in accordance

with TR 1734-3) to verify that the pasture was stocked appropriately. Management adjustments within the allocated permitted use would be made in subsequent years based on actual use and utilization data.

2. Seeded pastures (pastures greater than 50 percent seeded non-native species) with less than 15 percent sagebrush cover would be limited to 50 percent utilization as measured in key areas. Livestock may be moved or relocated within a pasture when utilization targets have been met if more than one key area exists and utilization targets have not been met in all key areas. Grazing use may be authorized in annual grazing plans up to an average of 70 percent on Crested Wheatgrass in key areas on an occasional basis (once in 5 years) to reduce/prevent Crested Wheatgrass wolf plants. When 70 percent grazing use is authorized in key areas within a seeded pasture, use in the remaining seeded pastures would be at 50 percent or less; in the native pastures at 40 percent or less; and total grazing use would be limited to the permitted use in the allotment. Utilization would be calculated based on the Height-Weight Methodology described in Interagency TR 1734-3, *Utilization Studies and Residual Measurements*.

For grazing use that occurs between March 1 and May 15, seeded pastures would be stocked to achieve no more than 50 percent utilization. Utilization measurements would be conducted after May 15 (in accordance with TR 1734-3) to verify that the pasture was stocked appropriately. Management adjustments to grazing would be made in subsequent years based on actual use and utilization data.

3. Seeded pastures (pastures with greater than 50 percent seeded non-native species) with greater than 15 percent sagebrush cover would be limited to 40 percent utilization as measured in key areas. Livestock may be moved or relocated within a pasture when utilization targets have been met if more than one key area exists and utilization targets have not been met in all key areas. Utilization would be calculated using the Height-Weight methodology described in Interagency TR 1734-3, *Utilization Studies and Residual Measurements*.

For grazing use that occurs between March 1 and May 15 in seeded pasture would be stocked to achieve 40 percent utilization. Utilization measurements would be conducted after May 15 (in accordance with TR 1734-3) to verify that the pasture was stocked appropriately. Management adjustments would be made in subsequent years based on actual utilization.

4. Stream segments assessed as functional-at-risk (FAR) with an upward trend would be subject to a median four (4) inch stubble height on key hydric herbaceous plant species, at the end of the growing season (Clary and Leininger 2000). Stubble height would be measured along the greenline in key riparian areas dominated by herbaceous species or herbaceous mix with woody species. Streams assessed at proper functioning condition (PFC) would be subject to Management Guideline (MG) 15. Key species would be determined on site. Utilization in riparian areas would be measured using the Residual Measuring Method. As described in *Utilization Studies and Residual Measurements Interagency Technical Reference* (FS, 1996)
5. Stream segments assessed as functioning at risk with no apparent trend or a downward trend or streams that are non-functional would be subject to a minimum six (6) inch median stubble height on key hydric plant species or species groups at the end of the growing season (Clary and Leininger 2000). The stubble height would be measured along the greenline in key riparian areas dominated by herbaceous species or herbaceous mix with woody species. Key species would be determined on site. In riparian areas along streams not meeting Idaho Water Quality Standards for their beneficial use where the cause is a result of livestock management within the pasture as identified by a interdisciplinary team and monitoring, this MG would apply. Utilization in riparian areas would be measured using the Residual Measuring Method. As described in *Utilization Studies and Residual Measurements Interagency Technical Reference* (FS, 1996)
6. For known or suspected sensitive fish-bearing streams, livestock would be managed so stream bank alteration is minimized to allow improving trends toward or maintain PFC. If improving trends are not

occurring, streambank alteration would be limited to 10 percent of the stream bank in designated key areas (Cowley 2002). In riparian areas along streams not meeting Idaho Water Quality Standards for their beneficial use where the cause is a result of livestock management within the pasture as identified by a interdisciplinary team and monitoring, this MG would apply.

Stream bank damage would be measured using the method presented in "Monitoring the Current Year Streambank Alteration, Ervin R. Cowley, Bureau of Land Management, Idaho State Office, March, 2002" as modified based on future research.

7. On streams that are known or suspected to be non-fish bearing, livestock would be managed so that stream bank alteration is minimized to allow improving trends toward or maintaining PFC. If improving trends are not occurring, streambank alteration would be limited to 20 percent in designated key areas (Cowley 2002).

Stream bank damage would be measured using the method presented in "Monitoring the Current Year Streambank Alteration, Ervin R. Cowley, Bureau of Land Management, Idaho State Office, March, 2002" as modified based on future research.
8. In riparian areas dominated by woody species or a mix of woody and herbaceous species, livestock would be managed so that regeneration of woody species would be allowed to occur. If regeneration is not allowed to occur, woody species use would be limited to no more than 50 percent frequency of nipping (about 25 percent utilization) on current year leaders of key riparian shrubs accessible to livestock in key areas (Stickney 1966). Key species would be determined on site. Utilization of shrubs in riparian and upland areas would be measured using the Extensive Browse Method. Utilization methods are described in *Utilization Studies and Residual Measurements Interagency Technical Reference* (FS, 1996)
9. In upland areas, livestock would be managed so that no more than 50 percent of browsing (frequency of nipping) would occur on current year leaders on key upland shrubs in key areas (Stickney 1966). Key species

would be determined on site. Utilization of shrubs in riparian and upland areas would be measured using the Extensive Browse Method. These utilization methods are described in described in *Utilization Studies and Residual Measurements Interagency Technical Reference* (FS, 1996)

10. In big game winter range, livestock would be managed so that less than 50 percent of current year leaders are browsed (frequency of nipping) on key forage shrubs where woody species are susceptible to damage by browsing and where livestock utilization is affecting normal growth and/or age class structure (Stickney 1966). Key species would be determined on site. Utilization of shrubs in riparian and upland areas would be measured using the Extensive Browse Method. These utilization methods are described in described in *Utilization Studies and Residual Measurements Interagency Technical Reference* (FS, 1996)
11. Implement grazing management practices that provide periodic rest or deferment during critical growth stages to allow sufficient growth to achieve and maintain healthy, properly functioning conditions including good plant vigor and adequate plant cover appropriate to site potential.
12. In bighorn winter and lambing range, grazing of winter range or lambing range pastures during critical times would occur after coordination with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game and the affected permittee. The critical winter range period is December 1 through March 15 and for lambing is from May 1 through June 15.
13. In big game winter range, grazing of winter range during critical times would occur after coordination with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game and the affected permittee has occurred. The critical period is from December 1 to March 15.
14. In aspen groves, allow no more than 50 percent browsing (frequency of nipping on those parts of woody species accessible to livestock) on current annual growth of aspen and associated key shrub species (chokecherry and serviceberry) in aspen stands and mountain shrub habitats.
15. Knowledgeable and reasonable practices other than those listed herein may be used to

meet applicable land use objectives and applicable Rangeland Health Standards. These practices may be initiated subject to scientific literature; monitoring data collected over time; consultation, coordination and cooperation; and consistent with 43 CFR 4130.3 and 43 CFR Part 4100, subpart 4160 and NEPA.

Requirements under MG 15 would be tailored to individual allotments, as shown on Table A.3, Appendix A. Examples of MG 15 practices include a restriction on increasing grazing use in WSAs until IMP requirements are met; a prohibition on placing supplement feed such as salt or mineral in ACECs; and a requirement to place supplement at least .25 mile away from identified sensitive areas, including Salmon Falls Canyon, Cedar Creek, Cedar Creek Reservoir, Saylor Creek, Dry Lake Complex, East Fork Bruneau River, and hedgehog cactus sites.

16. In areas of Sage grouse strongholds, grazing management would include shutting off troughs near sage grouse leks during nesting season; locating new troughs at least 0.25 miles away from large sagebrush stands where there is adequate area on non-sagebrush plant communities; placing any new salting (other approved supplement) areas at least 0.25 miles from leks; placing salting areas at least .25 miles from sage brush stands where there is adequate areas of non-sagebrush plant communities; and new fencing would be located at least 0.6 miles from leks. These management strategies and MG 1, 3, 9, and 11 would provide parameters for Adaptive Management to assure adequate nesting, brood rearing and winter habitat is available for sage grouse.

2.7 Comparison of Alternatives

Table 2.2 (Past, Present, and Alternative 1 Proposed Permitted Grazing Use by Allotment) is presented previously in Section 2.1. It provides a baseline description of present permitted use, RMP recommended grazing use, historical range of TNR use, historical range of total authorized use, and proposed permitted use under Alternative 1. It is helpful for comparing all Alternatives to historical levels of use.

Table 2.3 compares permitted use, season of use, kind and class of livestock, and proposed MGs for each

allotment under each of the four Alternatives. It provides a good “side by side” comparison by allotment of the vegetative allocations and other management proposed under each Alternative.

As stated previously, all four Alternatives include the same proposed MGs. The interdisciplinary team determined that all four Alternatives must meet the basic requirement of responding to the S&G assessments and conforming to the RMP objectives.

Alternatives 1, 2 and 3 include the same project development proposals. Within the vegetative allocations proposed for these three Alternatives, it was determined by the interdisciplinary team that the projects were necessary to respond to the S&G assessments and the RMP objectives. With only two exceptions, the proposed projects were considered to be unnecessary to meet management objectives in Alternative 4. Table 2.2 provides a brief description of new projects presently identified for each grazing allotment. These projects apply only to Alternatives 1 through 3, except for the two identified with an asterisk (*), which also apply to Alternative 4.

Table 2.3 - Comparison of Authorized Use and Management Guidelines for all Alternatives

71 Desert Allotment 1099				
	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 4
Season of Use	03/01 to 02/28	04/01 to 12/31	12/01 to 05/15	12/01 to 05/15
Animal Unit Months	3,652	3,652 (RMP-4,925) ^c	2,981 up to 5,092 with TNR	2,981
Number of Cattle*	304 Cattle	404 Cattle	574 to 933 Cattle	574 Cattle
Proposed Management Guidelines	1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 15 ^f , 16	1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 15 ^f , 16	1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 15 ^f , 16	1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 15 ^f , 16
Antelope Springs Allotment 1096				
	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 ^a	Alternative 4
Season of Use	03/01 to 02/28	03/01 to 02/28	04/01 to 11/30	04/01 to 11/30
Animal Unit Months-Cattle	5,965	5,965	4,252 up to 8,311 with TNR	5,965
Animal Unit Months-Sheep	81	81	54 up to 141 with TNR	81
Number of Cattle*	504 Cattle	504 Cattle	750 Cattle	750 Cattle
Number of Sheep*	34 Sheep	34 Sheep	34 Sheep	34 Sheep
Proposed Management Guidelines	1, 2, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15 ^f , 16	11, 2, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15 ^f , 16	1, 2, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15 ^f , 16	1, 2, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15 ^f , 16
Blackrock Pocket Allotment 1102				
	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 4
Season of Use	03/01 to 02/28	03/01 to 02/28	07/01 to 11/30	07/01 to 11/30
Animal Unit Months	1,890	1,890 (RMP-2,325) ^b	1,890 up to 2,165 with TNR	1,890
Number of Cattle*	376 Cattle	376 Cattle	376 Cattle	376 Cattle
Proposed Management Guidelines	1, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15 ^f , 16	1, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15 ^f , 16	1, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15 ^f , 16	1, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15 ^f , 16
Brackett Bench Allotment 1008				
	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 ^a	Alternative 4
Season of Use	03/01 to 02/28	03/01 to 02/28	06/01 to 7/31, 11/01 to 11/30	06/01 to 7/31, 11/01 to 11/30
Animal Unit Months	2,386	2,386 (RMP-AMP) ^d	2,386	2,386
Number of Cattle*	199 Cattle	199 Cattle	1,000 Cattle	1,000 Cattle
Proposed Management Guidelines	1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 15 ^f , 16	1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 15 ^f , 16	1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 15 ^f , 16	1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 15 ^f , 16
Bruneau Hill Allotment 1057				
	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 4
Season of Use	03/01 to 02/28	03/01 to 02/28	03/01 to 04/15, 11/01 to 02/28	03/01 to 04/15, 11/01 to 02/28
Animal Unit Months	4,200	4,200 (RMP-15,668) ^c	4,200 up to 6,512 with TNR	4,200
Number of Cattle*	350 Cattle	767 to 1,192 Cattle	767 to 1,192 Cattle	767
Proposed Management Guidelines	1, 2, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15 ^f , 16	1, 2, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15 ^f , 16	1, 2, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15 ^f , 16	1, 2, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15 ^f , 16

Table 2.3 (continued)

Camas Slough Allotment 1095				
	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 ^a	Alternative 4
Season of Use	03/01 to 02/28	05/15 to 12/01	07/01 to 07/31	07/01 to 07/31
Animal Unit Months	253	231 (RMP-231) ^b	180 up to 401 with TNR	180
Number of Cattle ^e	21	35	177 to 393	177
Proposed Management Guidelines	1, 9, 11, 16	1, 9, 11, 16	1, 9, 11, 16	1, 9, 11, 16
Cedar Creek Allotment 1131				
	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 ^a	Alternative 4
Season of Use	03/01 to 02/28	06/15 to 11/15	06/01 to 11/30	06/01 to 11/30
Animal Unit Months-Cattle	4,421	4,065 (RMP-4,065) ^b	4212 up to 7,544 with TNR	4212
Animal Unit Month-Sheep	22	20	21 up to 30 with TNR	21
Number of Cattle ^e	370	802	696 to 1,246	696
Number of Sheep ^e	9	8	17 to 25	17
Proposed Management Guidelines	1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15 ^f , 16	1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15 ^f , 16	1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15 ^f , 16	1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15 ^f , 16
Coonskin AMP Allotment 1123				
	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 ^a	Alternative 4
Season of Use	03/01 to 02/28	03/01 to 02/28	03/01 to 05/31 12/01 to 12/30	03/01 to 05/31 12/01 to 12/30
Animal Unit Months-Cattle	3,554	3,681 (RMP-AMP) ^d	3,109 up to 5,169 with TNR	3,109
Animal Unit Months-Sheep	1,914	1,982 (RMP-AMP) ^d	1,674 up to 1,866 with TNR	1,674
Number of Cattle ^e	296 Cattle	259	775 to 1,288	775
Number of Sheep ^e	797	697	2,086 to 2,325	2,086
Proposed Management Guidelines	1, 3, 9, 11, 15 ^f , 16	1, 3, 9, 11, 15 ^f , 16	1, 3, 9, 11, 15 ^f , 16	1, 3, 9, 11, 15 ^f , 16
Crawfish Allotment 1118				
	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 4
Season of Use	03/01 to 02/28	04/01 to 12/15	04/01 to 05/31 10/01 to 11/30	04/01 to 05/31 10/01 to 11/30
Animal Unit Months	650	650 (RMP-2,439) ^b	650 up to 1,067 with TNR	650
Number of Cattle ^e	54	77	162	162
Proposed Management Guidelines	1, 9, 10, 11, 13, 16	1, 9, 10, 11, 13, 16	1, 9, 10, 11, 13, 16	1, 9, 10, 11, 13, 16
East Juniper Draw Allotment				
	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 ^a	Alternative 4
Season of Use	03/01 to 02/28	04/01 to 12/31	05/1 to 05/31	05/1 to 05/31
Animal Unit Months	2,474	2,474 (RMP-2,740) ^b	907 up to 4,241 with TNR	907
Number of Cattle ^e	206	206	889 to 4,150	889
Proposed Management Guidelines	1, 9, 11, 15 ^f , 16			

Table 2.3 (continued)

Echo 4 Allotment 296				
	Alternative 1	Alternative 2 ^c	Alternative 3	Alternative 4
Season of Use	03/01 to 02/28	03/15 to 12/31	03/01 to 02/28	03/01 to 02/28
Animal Unit Months	3,740	3,740 (RMP-4,364) ^c	2,309 up to 5,629 with TNR	2,309
Number of Cattle ^e	311	389	192	192
Proposed Management Guidelines	2, 3, 9, 11, 16	2, 3, 9, 11, 16	2, 3, 9, 11, 16	2, 3, 9, 11, 16
Flat Top Allotment 1059				
	Alternative 1	Alternative 2 ^c	Alternative 3	Alternative 4
Season of Use	03/01 to 02/28	03/01 to 02/28	03/01 to 02/28	03/01 to 02/28
Animal Unit Months	5,761	5,761 (RMP-12,726) ^c	3,248 up to 5,958 with TNR	3,048
Number of Cattle ^e	480	480	254 to 496	254
Proposed Management Guidelines	1, 2, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15 ^f , 16	1, 2, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15 ^f , 16	1, 2, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15 ^f , 16	1, 2, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15 ^f , 16
Grassy Hills Allotment 1029				
	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 ^a	Alternative 4
Season of Use	03/01 to 02/28	04/01 to 10/31	07/01 to 07/30	07/01 to 07/30
Animal Unit Months	858	858 (RMP-1,250)	658 up to 1,868 with TNR	658
Number of Cattle ^e	71	71	667 to 1,892	657
Proposed Management Guidelines	1, 9, 11, 16	1, 9, 11, 16	1, 9, 11, 16	1, 9, 11, 16
Noh Field Allotment 1140				
	Alternative 1	Alternative 2 ^c	Alternative 3 ^a	Alternative 4
Season of Use	03/01 to 02/28	03/15 to 12/31	12/01 to 12/30	12/01 to 12/30
Animal Unit Months	1,073	947 (RMP-947) ^c	528 up to 1,479 with TNR	528
Number of Cattle ^e	89	99	527 to 1,499	527
Proposed Management Guidelines	2, 9, 11, 15 ^f , 16			
North Fork Field Allotment 1088				
	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 ^a	Alternative 4
Season of Use	03/01 to 02/28	07/01 to 11/01	07/01 to 07/30	07/01 to 07/30
Animal Unit Months	570	570 (RMP-590) ^c	570 up to 1,774 with TNR	570
Number of Cattle ^e	47	140	578 to 1,798	578
Proposed Management Guidelines	1, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 14, 15 ^f , 16	1, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 14, 15 ^f , 16	1, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 14, 15 ^f , 16	1, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 14, 15 ^f , 16

Table 2.3 (continued)

Pigtail Butte Allotment 1125				
	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3 ^a	Alternative 4
Season of Use Cattle	03/01 to 02/28	04/01 to 11/30	04/01 to 11/30	04/01 to 11/30
Season of Use Sheep	03/01 to 02/28	04/01 to 11/30	03/15 to 05/14	03/15 to 05/14
Animal Unit Months-Cattle	3,386	3,386 (RMP-3,820) ^b	1,813 up to 3,327 with TNR	1,813
Animal Unit Months-Sheep	2,146	2,146 (RMP-2,146) ^b	2,146 up to 2,980 with TNR	2,146
Number of Cattle ^c	282	422	226 to 414	226
Number of Sheep ^c	894	1,337	5,347 to 7,425	5,347
Proposed Management Guidelines	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, 13, 15 ^f , 16	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, 13, 15 ^f , 16	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, 13, 15 ^f , 16	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, 13, 15 ^f , 16
Three Creek #8 Allotment 1070				
	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 4
Season of Use	03/01 to 02/28	06/01 to 11/30	06/01 to 06/30 10/01 to 11/30	06/01 to 06/30 10/01 to 11/30
Animal Unit Months	797	797 (RMP-927) ^b	797 up to 867 with TNR	797
Number of Cattle ^c	66	114	266 to 290	266
Proposed Management Guidelines	1, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, 13, 15 ^f , 16	1, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, 13, 15 ^f , 16	1, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, 13, 15 ^f , 16	1, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, 13, 15 ^f , 16
Winter Camp Allotment 1064				
	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 4
Season of Use	03/01 to 02/28	04/01 to 12/31	04/01 to 02/04	04/01 to 02/04
Animal Unit Months	519	519 (RMP-912) ^c	515 up to 626 with TNR	515
Number of Cattle ^c	43	54	51 to 62	51
Proposed Management Guidelines	1, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15 ^f , 16	1, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15 ^f , 16	1, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15 ^f , 16	1, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15 ^f , 16

^a Grazing would continue in accordance with the approved Grazing Management Plan and the Management Guidelines.

^b This number is the proposed 20-year allocation level from the Jarbidge RMP.

^c Allotments that were subdivided out of a larger common allotment after the Jarbidge RMP was implemented. The allocation level proposed in the RMP is prorated from that proposed for the larger common allotment based on current permitted use (previously known as grazing preference).

^d There was no definitive proposed allocation of additional AUMs in 20 years. The allocation level depended on the success of the then approved AMP.

^e The number of livestock would be allowed to vary with a corresponding change in season of use, consistent with the annual grazing management plan, provided that total permitted AUMs were not exceeded.

^f Requirements under MG 15 would be tailored to individual allotments, as shown on Table A.3. Examples of MG 15 practices include a restriction on increasing grazing use in WSAs until IMP requirements are met; a prohibition on placing supplement feed such as salt or mineral in ACECs; and a requirement to place supplement at least .25 mile away from identified sensitive areas, including Salmon Falls Canyon, Cedar Creek, Cedar Creek Reservoir, Saylor Creek, Dry Lake Complex, East Fork Bruneau River, and hedgehog cactus sites.

Section 3.0 - Affected Environment

3.1 Federal Trust Responsibilities and Tribal Concerns

The federal government has a special trust responsibility, defined by treaty, statute, court decisions, regulation and policy, to recognize and support its government-to-government relationship with Indian nations and assess the impact actions may have on tribal self-government, rights, lands and natural resources, and cultural and religious values (see, among others, Executive Memorandum, 1994; Executive Order 13084; Executive Order 13175; Secretarial Order 3206).

Preservation of archaeological and sacred sites, access to traditional cultural properties and natural areas, land use, environmental health of the area, all natural resources addressed in this EA, communication, and sovereignty are issues of tribal concern.

JFO staff members (including the cultural resource specialist and field office manager) meet regularly with representatives from the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Reservation and the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation on cultural resource and land use issues. These meetings provide an opportunity to address tribal concerns throughout the environmental assessment process. The Shoshone-Bannock have treaty rights reserved in the Fort Bridger Treaty of 1868 that protect their right to hunt and fish on the unoccupied lands of the United States.

3.2 Livestock Grazing Management

This section presents information regarding current grazing operations for each of the 18 allotments addressed in this EA, including the current number of authorized animal unit months (AUMs) of permitted use, AUMs of historic temporary nonrenewable (TNR) use, the typical season of grazing use, and the percent forage utilization (see Table 2.2 to compare AUMs among allotments). Utilization data taken in 2001, 2002 and a limited amount in 2003 are reported unless otherwise noted. Although most of the grazing permits identify a number of livestock to be licensed, the numbers are allowed to vary, provided that the authorized number of AUMs is not exceeded. Therefore, numbers of livestock are not included in the descriptions.

71 Desert

Current permitted use is for a total of 2,981 AUMs. Season of use is December 1 to May 15. TNR grazing use has been authorized in 11 of the last 13 years (since 1990) and has ranged from 0 to 2111 AUMs. The allotment consists of four pastures that contain primarily native communities and one pasture that has primarily Crested Wheatgrass. Utilization of Crested Wheatgrass averaged 42 percent in 2001 and 31 percent in 2002. An adaptive grazing system is in place, which allows flexibility in timing and rotation of use to adjust to observed conditions.

Antelope Springs

Current permitted use is 6,046 AUMs (5965 AUMs for cattle and 81 AUMs for sheep). Season of use is April 1 to June 30, July 1 to October 30, and November 1 to January 30 for cattle, and June 1 to June 5 for sheep. TNR use has been authorized in 11 of the last 13 years (since 1990) and has ranged from 0 to 2676 AUMs. The allotment consists of 10 pastures and the cattle grazing use is outlined in a Livestock Management/Grazing Plan developed in 1993. According to this plan, some pastures are used as winter range, some as spring range, some as late spring/early summer range, and one as a summer range. The sheep are trailed through parts of the allotment in early June. Utilization of Crested Wheatgrass averaged 41 percent in 1979 and 49 percent in 2002. Utilization of native range averaged 20 percent in 1979 and 37 percent in 2001.

Blackrock Pocket

Current permitted use is for a total of 1,890 AUMs. Season of use is July 1 to November 30. TNR use has been authorized in only 2 years since 1990 and has ranged from 0 to 275 AUMs. The allotment consists of a single pasture. Utilization of bluebunch wheatgrass averaged 30 percent in 2002.

Brackett Bench

Current permitted use is for a total of 2,386 AUMs. Season of use is June 1 to July 31 and November 1 to November 30. TNR use has been authorized in 3 years since 1990 and has ranged from 0 to 846 AUMs. The allotment consists of 8 pastures. The current grazing plan calls for a deferred-rotation system in conjunction with other allotments used by the permittee. Utilization of bluebunch wheatgrass averaged 30 percent in 2002. Utilization of native range averaged 35 percent in 2002 and 8 percent in 2001. Average use of Crested Wheatgrass was 21 percent in 2003.

Bruneau Hill

Current permitted use is for a total of 4,200 AUMs. Season of use is March 1 to April 15 and November 1 to February 28. TNR use has been authorized in 5 years since 1990 and has ranged from 0 to 2312 AUMs. The allotment consists of 6 pastures, 4 of which have primarily Crested Wheatgrass vegetation, and 2 of which have native vegetation. No formal grazing management plan exists, but the allotment is managed so that no pasture is used during the critical growth period for 2 consecutive years. Movement of cattle by April 15 allows vegetation to complete growth prior to being grazed the next winter. A considerable portion of the allotment consists of land under special management; an ACEC and WSA are present in 5 of the 6 pastures, the 6 pastures contain a majority of lands under a withdrawal to the Air Force for the Saylor Creek Training Range, and a portion of the northern pasture lies within the Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area.

Camas Slough

Current permitted use is for a total of 180 AUMs. Season of use is July 1 to July 31, with some flexibility in season of use allowed. TNR use has been authorized in 2 years since 1990 and has ranged from 0 to 221 AUMs. The allotment consists of a single pasture. The allotment is used mainly as a holding area while trailing from winter to summer allotments, with grazing use only 2-7 days each year. Utilization on native range was estimated to be between 4 and 15 percent in 1999.

Cedar Creek

Current permitted use is for a total of 4,212 AUMs for cattle and 21 AUMs for sheep. The season of use is June 1 to November 30 for cattle, and the allotment is used in conjunction with other allotments by the permittee. Sheep use is from June 1 to June 2 for trailing. TNR use has been authorized in 8 years since 1990 and has ranged from 0 to 3311 AUMs. The allotment consists of six pastures. The three lower pastures are grazed in a deferred-rotation system, which alternates use between late spring and early summer/fall use. Utilization on native range averaged 44-55 percent and use on Crested Wheatgrass averaged 44 percent in 2001. BLM land along Cedar Creek is habitat for sensitive species.

Coonskin AMP

Current permitted use is for a total of 3,109 AUMs for cattle, plus 1,674 AUMs for sheep. The total permitted use is 4,783 AUMs. The season of use is March 1 to May 31 and December 1 to December 30 for cattle, with an adaptive grazing management system, and March 1 to July 31 for sheep. Cattle graze in a rotation system in the eight pastures in late spring, fall, and winter in conjunction with other

allotments used by the permittee. Sheep use is mainly for trailing. TNR use has been authorized in 4 years since 1990 and has ranged from 0 to 2060 AUMs. Utilization on native range averaged 41 percent and 20 percent in 2001 and 2002. Use on Crested Wheatgrass averaged 43 percent and 18 percent in 2001 and 2002, respectively.

Crawfish

Current permitted use is for a total of 650 AUMs. The season of use is April 1 to May 31 and October 1 to November 30, which allows for periodic rest during the critical growth period in the spring between boot stage and flowering of perennial grasses. TNR use has been authorized in 10 years since 1990 and has ranged from 0 to 417 AUMs. The allotment consists of two pastures. Utilization on native range averaged between 5 and 22 percent in 1997 and averaged 8 percent in 2003.

East Juniper Draw

Current permitted use is for a total of 907 AUMs. The season of use is April 1 to May 31 and October 1 to November 30, which allows for periodic rest during the critical growth period in the spring between boot stage and flowering of perennial grasses. TNR use has been authorized in 7 years since 1990 and has ranged from 0 to 3,491 AUMs. The allotment consists of two pastures. Utilization on native range was between 11.5 percent and 35 percent in 2001. Utilization of Crested Wheatgrass ranged from 31 to 48 percent in 2001 and averaged 29.5 percent in 2002.

Echo 4

Current permitted use is for a total of 2,309 AUMs. The season of use is March 1 to February 28. The allotment consists of four pastures. The permittee grazes the allotment in the fall, winter, and spring, but does not graze any pasture during the critical growth period in the spring between boot stage and flowering of perennial grasses for two consecutive years. TNR use has been authorized on this allotment in 12 years since 1990 and has ranged between 0 and 3328 AUMs. Utilization on native range averaged 22 percent and use on Crested Wheatgrass averaged 44 percent in 2001.

Flat Top

Current permitted use is for a total of 3,240 AUMs. The season of use is March 1 to February 28. The permittee grazes the allotment in the fall, winter, and spring. The spring grazing is informally rotated through pastures to avoid grazing a pasture during the critical growth period in the spring between boot stage and flowering of the grasses for two consecutive years. TNR use has been authorized in 8 years since 1990 and has ranged from 0 to 2710. The

allotment consists of five pastures. Utilization on native range averaged 45.6 percent in 2003. Use on Crested Wheatgrass ranged from 2.5 to 8 percent in 1997, 2.5 - 2.9 percent in 1999 and 2.5 – 4.5 percent in 2001. Use on crested averaged 29 percent in 2003. An ACEC and WSA are present in the southwestern pasture of the allotment.

Grassy Hills

Current permitted use is for a total of 658 AUMs. The season of use is from July 1 to July 30. The allotment consists of two pastures. The allotment is mainly used for a trailing hold-over area when cattle are moved from winter to summer allotments. Grazing use generally occurs after the critical growth period of the perennial grasses. TNR use has been authorized in 6 years since 1990 and has ranged from 0 to 1,210 AUMs. Utilization on native range averaged 2.5 percent in 1999 but the use was observed prior to livestock turn-out in June.

Noh Field

Current permitted use is for 528 cattle with a total of 528 AUMs. The season of use identified in the grazing permit is December 1 to December 30; however, under provisions of the allotment management plan, use is allowed at other times, including the spring season. The allotment consists of two pastures and is used by the permittee in conjunction with other allotments. Use of the pastures is rotated so cattle do not graze during the critical growth period (April) of key species for two consecutive years in either pasture. TNR use has been authorized in 10 years since 1990 and has ranged from 0 to 951 AUMs. Utilization on native vegetation ranged from 5.6 to 28 percent in 2001. Use on Crested Wheatgrass ranged from 19.7 to 48 percent in 2001 and from 10 to 15 percent in 2002.

North Fork Field

Current permitted use is for a total of 570 AUMs. The season of use is July 1 to July 30. TNR use has been authorized in 5 years since 1990 and has ranged from 0 to 1,204 AUMs. The allotment consists of one pasture and is used by the permittee in conjunction with other allotments. Cattle do not graze during the critical growth period of key species. Stubble height measurements on riparian areas were taken instead of utilization in 2001 and 2003. Average stubble height on was 2.5-5 inches on August 2, and 2.5-3.5 inches on October 26, 2001. Average stubble height was 12 inches on July 31, 2003.

Pigtail Butte

Current permitted use is 1813 AUMs for cattle and 2,146 AUMs for sheep, for a total of 3,959 AUMs. The season of use is April 1 to November 30 for

cattle and March 15 to May 15 for sheep. The allotment consists of nine pastures, five of which are used by cattle and four by sheep. Use by cattle is in conjunction with other allotments. Use by sheep is a combination of a three-pasture rest rotation system with one pasture used for trailing use by sheep. TNR use has been authorized in 5 years since 1990 and has ranged from 0 to 2,585 AUMs. Utilization on Crested Wheatgrass measured prior to issuance of TNR averaged 42 percent in 2001 and 31 percent in 2002.

Three Creek #8

Current permitted use is for a total of 797 AUMs. The season of use is June 1 to June 30 and October 1 to October 30. The allotment consists of three pastures. There is no formal grazing system. TNR use has been authorized in 4 years since 1990 and has ranged from 0 to 70 AUMs, with an average of 21 AUMs over the 13 years. Utilization on Crested Wheatgrass taken prior to TNR averaged 2.5 percent in 1998, 1999, and 2000. Use of Crested Wheatgrass after grazing averaged 40 percent in 2001.

Winter Camp

Current permitted use is for a total of 515 AUMs. The season of use is April 1 to February 4. The allotment consists of two pastures with an additional pasture proposed. There is no formal grazing system. TNR use has been authorized in 6 years since 1990 and has ranged from 0 to 111 AUMs. Utilization on Crested Wheatgrass averaged 31 percent in 2002.

3.3 Vegetation

The historic vegetation of the JFO area rangeland is sagebrush steppe. There are 14 different vegetation units associated with the grazing allotments (Figure 3.1). For forage management purposes, the vegetation units have been collapsed into four forage vegetation types which occur in the 18 allotments in the JFO area: Native, Seedings with Non-native Species, Seedings with >15 percent Sagebrush and Annual Range (Figure 3.2). Range condition, as determined by monitoring in 2002–2003, ranges from midseral (fair) to potential natural community (excellent) when compared to the desirable percentage composition of species described in the appropriate Ecological Site Guide. Annual ranges typically are the result of wildfire and/or failed seeding which are now dominated by cheatgrass, a non-native annual grass. Communities dominated by non-native species, either perennial (such as Crested Wheatgrass) or annual (such as cheatgrass) cannot be measured in terms of ecological condition or range condition. Areas dominated by cheatgrass usually are areas that have burned and were not seeded or where seeding has not produced the desired stand of non-native perennial species. Areas dominated by Crested

Wheatgrass usually are the result of seeding Crested Wheatgrass to quickly stabilize the soils in burned areas and prevent invasion of cheatgrass or other non-native weeds. Crested Wheatgrass seedings that have a strong native component (>15 percent sagebrush cover) through natural invasion or seeding are classified as “Seedings with >15 percent Sagebrush” and would be managed the same as native plant communities in terms of grazing management and utilization limits under the proposed action and Alternatives.

On allotments where vegetation production and range condition information was collected in 2002-2003, the similarity index (similarity to Potential Natural Community), range condition (seral state) and total production are summarized in Table 3.1. The ecological site where each sample was collected is indicated. For every allotment where sampling occurred, the range condition (seral state) increased (improved) at least one condition or seral state class from the samples taken in 1981-1983 on the same allotment. The methodology to determine range condition (seral state) was different in 1981–82 than in 2002–03. However, comparison between the results for the two periods is instructive and does provide the only basis to judge range condition trend. Because of space limitations, it is not possible to describe and quantify the two different approaches and the type of changes in range condition that took place on every range site on every allotment. However, all data are available in the JFO files to make these comparisons and details are presented in the Allotment Assessment document for each allotment. The term “Vegetation Type”, as used previously and shown in Figure 3.2, is not synonymous with the term “Ecological Site” used to indicate the sites where vegetation was sampled on each allotment in 2002-2003. Depending on seral state, a given Ecological Site may have several different vegetation types on it. For example, a Wyoming Big Sagebrush/Thurber’s Needlegrass Ecological site might have Thurber’s needlegrass as the dominant grass in late seral to PNC condition but have bluegrass (*Poa sandbergii*) as the dominant grass when in early or mid seral condition. This same Ecological Site might also have Crested Wheatgrass or annuals as the dominant plant species depending on past fire and cultural practices.

The types of changes that took place from 1981–1983 to 2002–2003 on native rangelands include: increases in amounts and percentage composition of desirable grass species, increases in amounts and percentage composition of forbs desirable for wildlife species, decreases in amount and/or percentage composition of cheatgrass, and, in areas that were recently burned in 1981–1983, increases in the amount of sagebrush

through natural succession. Although areas seeded to Crested Wheatgrass are not classified as to range condition or seral state, increases in sagebrush through natural succession to the threshold level of 15 or more percent cover also occurred in many seeded areas, which makes these areas function more like native plant communities and they are managed as such.

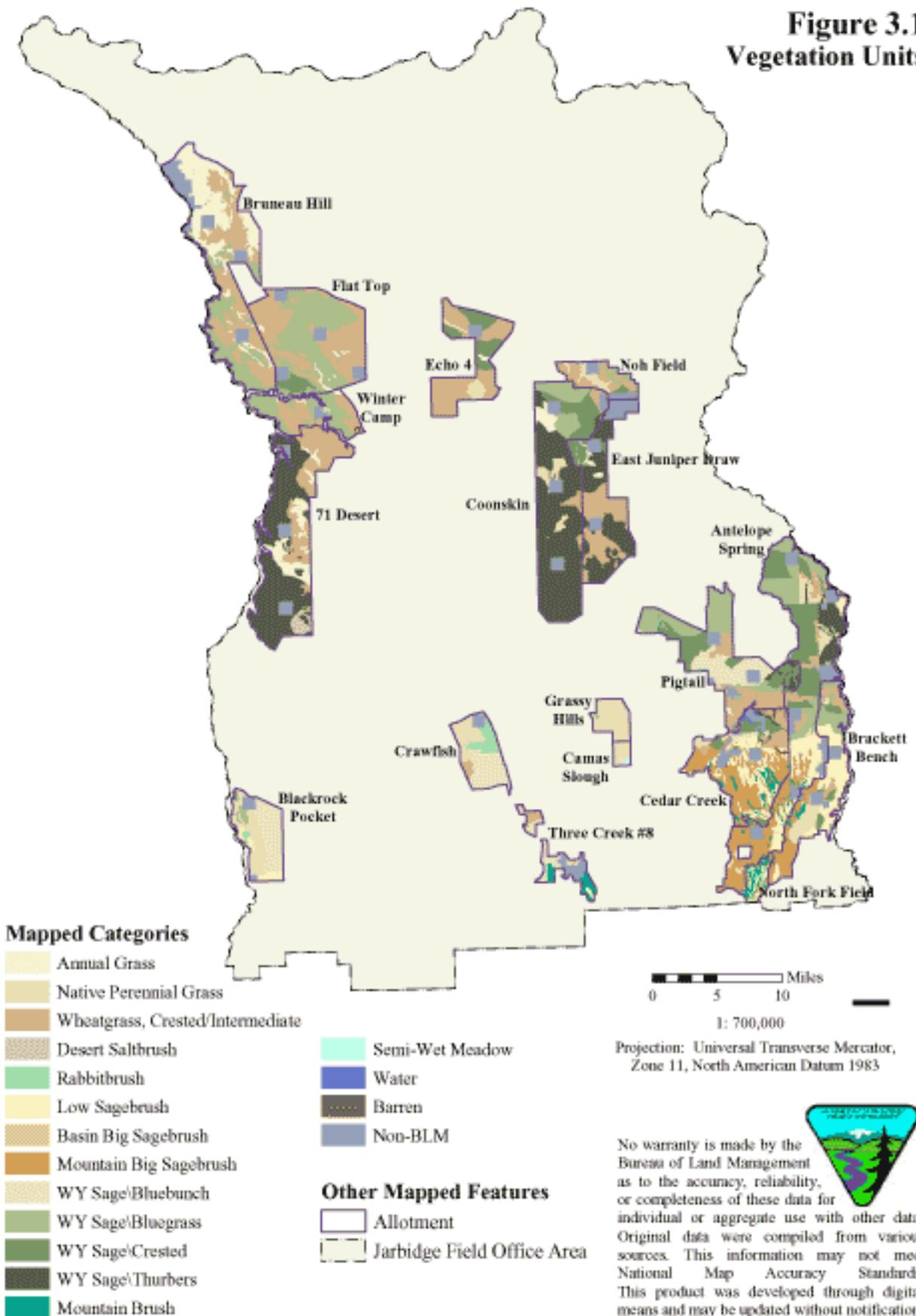
Table 3.1 and Figure 3.2 summarize the acres of native, seeded, seeded with >15 percent sagebrush and annual rangeland in each of the 18 Allotments. Table B.1 in Appendix B lists the total acres of all the vegetation communities in each allotment. Table 3.2 summarizes the determinations about conformance with Idaho State Standards for Rangeland Health for each of the 18 allotments.

71 Desert Allotment

The 71 Desert Allotment is located in the central west part of the JFO area (Jarbidge Field Office), with approximately 41 percent in MUA (Multiple Use Area) 10 and 59 percent in MUA 11. Total Federal acreage is 39,697. The dominant native vegetation type is Wyoming Big Sagebrush/Thurber’s Needlegrass, which makes up the majority of the native vegetation and 57 percent of the total vegetation on the allotment. Crested Wheatgrass stands occupy 27 percent of the allotment.

Vegetation production information was collected on the allotment in 2002 and 2003. The results of this sampling are summarized in Table 3.3 and also reported in Appendix I of the Allotment Assessment for the 71 Desert Allotment (available for review at the JFO) where the production figures of both seeded and native stands are used to determine the level of proposed AUMs. The water year precipitation at two rain gauges (Big Draw and Three Creek Well) representative of conditions on the allotment were 79 percent and 75 percent of the long term average, respectively, in 2002 and 68 percent and 91 percent of the long term average respectively in 2003. These

**Figure 3.1
Vegetation Units**



**Figure 3.2
Forage Vegetation Type**



Mapped Categories

- Annual
- Seedings
- Seedings with >15% sagebrush
- Native vegetation
- Barren
- Non-BLM

Other Mapped Features

- Allotment
- Jarvis Field Office Area

Projection: Universal Transverse Mercator,
Zone 11, North American Datum 1983



No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use with other data. Original data were compiled from various sources. This information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This product was developed through digital means and may be updated without notification.

Table 3.1 - Amount of Native, Seeded, Seeded with at Least >15 Percent Sagebrush, and Annual Vegetation in Each of the Allotments

Allotment (Total Federal Acres)	Forage Vegetative Type	Acres	Percent
71 Desert (39,697)	Native	24,107	61
	Seeded	10,835	27
	Annual	4,773	12
Antelope Springs. (45,966)	Native	31,308	68
	Seeded	3,476	8
	Seeded with >15 percent sagebrush	11,221	24
Blackrock Pocket (12,142)	Native	12,142	100
	Seeded	0	0
Brackett Bench (20,594)	Native	17,045	85
	Seeded	1,734	9
	Seeded with >15 percent sagebrush	1,122	6
Bruneau Hill (40,062)	Native	9,507	24
	Seeded	15,243	39
	Annual	14,696	37
Camas Slough (1,606)	Native	1,606	100
	Seeded	0	0
Cedar Creek (24,945)	Native	20,215	79
	Seeded	3,013	12
	Seeded with >15 percent sagebrush	1,956	8
Coonskin AMP (41,034)	Native	33,873	82
	Seeded	1,608	4
	Seeded with >15 percent sagebrush	4,139	10
	Annual	1,434	3
Crawfish (10,423)	Native	9,855	95
	Seeded	571	5
East Juniper Draw (20,704)	Native	10,396	50
	Seeded	8,059	39

Allotment (Total Federal Acres)	Forage Vegetative Type	Acres	Percent
	Seeded with >15 percent sagebrush	1,729	8
	Annual	549	3
Echo 4 (16,599)	Native	965	6
	Seeded	10,911	66
	Seeded with >15 percent sagebrush	4,420	27
	Annual	327	2
Flat Top (34,818)	Native	16,505	47
	Seeded	16,333	47
	Seeded with >15 percent sagebrush	1,459	4
	Annual	569	2
Grassy Hills (4,907)	Native	4,907	100
	Seeded	0	0
Noh Field (6,122)	Native	2,448	40
	Seeded	3,306	54
	Seeded with >15 percent sagebrush	376	6
North Fork Field (3,354)	Native	3,354	100
	Seeded	0	0
Pigtail Butte (28,576)	Native	17,152	60
	Seeded	6,146	21
	Seeded with >15 percent sagebrush	5,188	18
	Annual	94	1
Three Creek #8 (4786)	Native	3,850	80
	Seeded	938	20
Winter Camp (11,856)	Native	7,302	60
	Seeded	4,714	39
	Annual	183	2

**Table 3.2 - Summary of Determinations of Conformance to Idaho Standards for
Rangeland Health on 18 Allotments**

	1 (Watershed)		2 (Riparian/ Wetland)		3 (Stream Channel)		4 (Native Plant Community)		5 (Seedlings)		6 (Other Exotic)		7 (Water Quality)		8 (Special Status Species)	
	Met	Ls Factor	Met	Ls Factor	Met	Ls Factor	Met	Ls Factor	Met	Ls Factor	Met	Ls Factor	Met	Ls Factor	Met	Ls Factor
71 Desert	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	N/A		No	No	No	Yes
Antelope Springs	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	N/A		Yes	No	No	Yes
Black Rock Pocket	No	Yes	N/A		N/A		No	Yes	N/A		N/A		N/A		No	Yes
Brackett Bench	No/ Yes	Yes	No/ Yes	Yes	No/ Yes	Yes	No/ Yes	Yes	No/ Yes	Yes	N/A		Yes	Yes	No/ Yes	Yes
Bruneau Hill	Yes	No	N/A		N/A		No	No	No	No	N/A		N/A		No	No
Camas Slough	Yes	No	N/A		N/A		Yes	No	N/A		N/A		N/A		Yes	No
Cedar Creek	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	N/A		Yes	No	No	No
Coonskin AMP	Yes	No	N/A		N/A		Yes	No	No	No	N/A		N/A		Yes	No
Crawfish	Yes	No	No	Yes	N/A		No	Yes	N/A		N/A		N/A		No	No
East Juniper Draw	No	No	N/A		N/A		No	No	No	No	N/A		N/A		No	No
Echo 4	Yes	No	N/A		N/A		Yes	No	No	No	N/A		N/A		No	No
Flat Top	Yes	No	N/A		N/A		No	Yes	No	No	N/A		N/A		No	Yes
Grassy Hills	Yes	No	N/A		N/A		Yes	No	N/A		N/A		N/A		No	No
Noh Field	No	Yes	N/A		N/A		Yes	No	No	Yes	N/A		N/A		No	No
North Fork Field	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	N/A		N/A		Unk		No	Yes
Pigtail Butte	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	N/A		No	Yes	No	No
Three Creek #8	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	N/A		No	Yes	No	Yes
Winter Camp	No		No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	N/A		No	No	No	No

Ls factor=Livestock grazing is a factor in not meeting the Standard

Unk= Unknown

low precipitation figures, at least in part, are responsible for the low production.

This production sampling also determined range or ecological site condition. Four sites were sampled within the allotment. All were located in Wyoming Big Sagebrush/Thurber's Needlegrass on vegetation on Loamy 7-10" Ecological Sites. The results in Table 3.3 show use percentage composition of the sites sampled compared with the percentage composition in the reference community (PNC or Excellent Condition) listed in the Ecological Site Guide.

The 2002–03 results indicate an apparent improvement of condition (seral stage) compared to the 1981–83 sampling on this allotment.

Antelope Springs

The Antelope Springs Allotment is located in the southeast part of the JFO area, with the southern half located at higher elevations in MUA 15 and the northern half located at lower elevations in MUA 13. Total Federal acreage is 45,966. The dominant native vegetation types are Wyoming Big Sagebrush/Bluegrass which occupies 19 percent and Mountain Big Sagebrush which occupies 21 percent of the vegetation occurring on Federal land in the allotment. Crested Wheatgrass stands occupy 8 percent of the allotment but Wyoming Big Sagebrush/Crested Wheatgrass stands occupy an additional 24 percent of the allotment and are managed as native stands.

No vegetation production or range condition information was collected on this allotment in 2002 and 2003. However, twelve native vegetation sites have been monitored on study sites in this allotment established between 1988 and 1998. Monitoring included nested plot frequency and other methods. Two of these native sites were potentially meeting RMP objectives of maintaining good (late seral) condition in that situation. The other ten native sites were not meeting the RMP objectives to improve poor (early seral) or fair (mid seral) ecological conditions by one condition class. Two rain gauges are representative of conditions on the allotment, one (Cedar Mesa) for the lower, drier half of the allotment and the other (Monument Springs) for the higher, wetter half of the allotment. The water year precipitation at Cedar Mesa collected 86 and 83 percent of the long-term average precipitation in 2002 and 2003 while the Monument Spring gauge

collected 95 percent and 92 percent of average respectively in the two years.

Blackrock Pocket.

The Blackrock Pocket Allotment is located in the southwest part of the JFO area. All of the allotment is located in MUA 16. The total Federal acreage is 12,142. The dominant native vegetation type is Wyoming Big Sagebrush/Bluebunch Wheatgrass, which occupies 44 percent of the native vegetation occurring on Federal land in the allotment. The Bluebunch Wheatgrass type is the next most dominant vegetation type, occupying 30 percent of the allotment. No Crested Wheatgrass stands occur on the allotment.

No vegetation production or range condition information was collected on this allotment in 2002/2003. One rain gauge (Murphy Airfield) is representative of conditions on the allotment. The water year precipitation at this gauge was 80 percent and 78 percent of the long term average in 2001 and 2002 respectively.

Brackett Bench

The Brackett Bench Allotment is located in the southeast part of the JFO area, with the majority (90 percent) in MUA 15 but with 2130 acres at the north end in MUA-13. Total Federal acreage is 20,594. The dominant native vegetation type is Low Sagebrush which occupies 34 percent of the native vegetation occurring on Federal land in the allotment. Mountain Big Sagebrush occupies 22 percent of the allotment. Crested Wheatgrass stands occupy 9 percent of the allotment but Wyoming Big Sagebrush/Crested Wheatgrass stands occupy 6 percent of the allotment and are managed as native stands.

No vegetation production or range condition information was collected on this allotment in 2002 and 2003. However, six native vegetation sites have been monitored on study sites in this allotment since 1988. Monitoring included nested plot frequency and other methods. One of the six native sites was potentially meeting RMP objectives of maintaining good or late seral condition in that situation.

Table 3.3 – Native Range Condition Estimates Based on 2002-2003 Production Data

Allotment Name ¹ and Study Site Number	Similarity Index (percent)	Range Condition (Seral State)	Production (lbs./ac.)
71 Desert Allotment			
71D1	66	Good (Late Seral)	199
71D2	34	Fair (Mid Seral)	155
71D4	31	Fair (Mid Seral)	116
71D7	47	Fair (Mid Seral)	217
Bruneau Hill			
BHP1	37	Fair (Mid Seral)	103
BHPP3	44	Fair (Mid Seral)	113
Cedar Creek			
CDCP6	56	Good (Late Seral)	224
CDCP9	91	Excellent (PNC)	469
CDCP8	57	Good (Late Seral)	624
CDCP10	92	Excellent (PNC)	631
Coonskin AMP			
CSP2	68	Good (Late Seral)	543
CSP5	66	Good (Late Seral)	183
CSP7	77	Excellent (PNC)	289
CSP8	52	Good (Late Seral)	357
East Juniper Draw			
EJ1	68	Good (Late Seral)	311
EJ6	75	Good (Late Seral)	412
EJ7	69	Good (Late Seral)	349
EJ9	58	Good (Late Seral)	274
Flat Top			
FTP4	58	Good (Late Seral)	300
FTP6	57	Good (Late Seral)	327
FTP7	68	Good (Late Seral)	315
Noh Field			
NOH2	54	Good (Late Seral)	146
Pigtail Butte			
PBP5	60	Good (Late Seral)	369
PBP7	39	Fair (Mid Seral)	357
PBP10	54	Good (Late Seral)	519
Three Creek #8			
TC8P2	84	Excellent (PNC)	538
Winter Camp			
WCP2	55	Good (Late Seral)	140
240	63	Good (Late Seral)	240

¹ Antelope Springs, Blackrock Pocket, Brackett Bench, Camas Slough, Crawfish, and Grassy Hills Allotments are not listed in this table because production data were not collected for them in 2002-2003 and no condition estimates were made. Production data were collected for Echo 4 Allotment, but are not listed because it has no native range sites.

The other five native sites were not meeting the RMP objectives to improve poor (early seral) or fair (mid seral) ecological conditions by one condition class. Two rain gauges are representative of conditions on the allotment, one (Cedar Mesa) represents the lower, drier half of the allotment and the other (Monument Springs) represents the higher, wetter half of the allotment. As reported for the Antelope Springs Allotment, the water year precipitation at Cedar Mesa was 86 and 83 percent of the long-term average in 2002 and 2003 while the Monument Spring gauge was 95 percent and 92 percent of average respectively in the two years.

Bruneau Hill

The Bruneau Hill Allotment is located in the central west part of the JFO area, with approximately 76 percent located in MUA 6, 17 percent in MUA 10 and 7 percent in MUA 5. Total Federal acreage is 40,062. The dominant native vegetation type is Wyoming Big Sagebrush/Bluegrass, which makes up the majority of the native vegetation and 24 percent of the total vegetation on the allotment. Crested Wheatgrass stands occupy 39 percent and Annuals occupy 37 percent of the allotment.

Vegetation production information was collected on the allotment in 2002 and 2003. The results of this sampling are summarized in Table 3.3 and also reported in Appendix I of the Allotment Assessment for the Bruneau Hill Allotment (available for review at the JFO) where the production figures of both seeded and native stands are used to determine the level of proposed AUMs. The water year precipitation at the Pothole rain gauge on the allotment collected 72 percent of the long-term average in 2002 and 77 percent of average in 2003. The lower than average precipitation is, at least in part, responsible for the low production.

This production sampling also determined range or ecological site condition. Two sites were sampled within the allotment. One was located in Wyoming Big Sagebrush/Thurber's Needlegrass vegetation on Loamy 8-10" Ecological Site and the other was located in Wyoming Big Sagebrush/Bluebunch Wheatgrass-Thurber's Fescue vegetation on a Loamy 10-12" site. The results shown in Table 3.3 use percentage composition of the sites sampled compared with the percentage composition in the reference community (PNC or Excellent Condition) listed in the Ecological Site Guide.

Camas Slough

The Camas Slough Allotment is located in the southeast part of the JFO area. All of the allotment is located in MUA 12. The total Federal acreage is 1,606. The dominant native vegetation type is Bluebunch Wheatgrass which occupies 67 percent of the vegetation occurring on Federal land in the allotment. The Wyoming big sagebrush normally associated with bluebunch wheatgrass has been burned off by wildfire. No Crested Wheatgrass stands occur on the allotment.

No vegetation production or range condition information was collected on this allotment in 2002 and 2003. One rain gauge (Heil Reservoir) is representative of conditions on the allotment and the water year precipitation was 57 percent and 69 percent of the long term average in 2002 and 2003 respectively at this gauge.

Cedar Creek

The Cedar Creek Allotment is located in the southeast part of the JFO area, and is entirely within in MUA 15. Total Federal acreage is 24,945. The dominant native vegetation type is Mountain Big Sagebrush, which makes up 45 percent of the total vegetation on the allotment. Crested Wheatgrass stands occupy 12 percent of the allotment.

Vegetation production information was collected on the allotment in 2002 and 2003. The results are summarized in Table 3.3 and also reported in Appendix I of the Allotment Assessment for the Cedar Creek Allotment (available for review at the JFO) where the production figures of both seeded and native stands are used to determine the level of proposed AUMs. The water year precipitation at two rain gauges is representative of conditions on the allotment. One (Heil Reservoir) represents the lower, drier half of the allotment and the other (Monument Springs) represents the higher, wetter half of the allotment. The water year precipitation at Heil Reservoir was 57 and 69 percent of the long-term average precipitation in 2002 and 2003 respectively while the Monument Spring gauge was 95 percent and 92 percent of average respectively in the two years.

This production sampling also determined range or ecological site condition. Four sites were sampled within the allotment. Two sites (CDCP6 and CDCP9) were located in Low

Sagebrush/Bluebunch Wheatgrass-Idaho Fescue vegetation on Shallow Claypan 12-16" 7-10" Ecological Site. One site (CDCP8) was in a Wyoming Big Sagebrush/Bluebunch Wheatgrass vegetation on a Loamy 11-13" Ecological Site and one (CDCP10) was in Mountain Big Sagebrush/Idaho Fescue vegetation on a Loamy 16+" Ecological Site. The results are shown in Table 3.3 use percentage composition of the sites sampled compared with the percentage composition in the reference community (PNC or Excellent Condition) listed in the Ecological Site Guide.

The 2002-03 results indicate an apparent improvement of condition (seral state) compared to the 1981-83 sampling in this allotment.

Coonskin AMP

The Coonskin AMP Allotment is located in the southeast part of the JFO area, and is entirely within in MUA 12. Total Federal acreage is 41,034. The dominant native vegetation type is Wyoming Big Sagebrush/Thurber's Needlegrass, which makes up 67 percent of the total vegetation on Federal acres on the allotment. Crested and Intermediate Wheatgrass stands occupy 4 percent of the allotment.

Vegetation production information was collected on the allotment in 2002 and 2003. The results of this sampling are summarized in Table 3.3 and also reported in Appendix I of the Allotment Assessment for the Coonskin AMP Allotment (available for review at the JFO) where the production figures of both seeded and native stands are used to determine the proposed level of AUMs. Two rain gauges are representative of conditions on the allotment. One (Big Hill) represents the lower, drier half of the allotment and the other (Cedar Mesa) represents the higher, wetter half of the allotment. The water year precipitation at Cedar Mesa was 86 and 83 percent of the long-term average in 2002 and 2003 while the Big Hill gauge was 98 percent and 95 percent of average respectively in the two years.

The 2002/03 results indicate an apparent improvement of condition (seral state) compared to the 1981-83 sampling in this allotment.

Crawfish

The Crawfish Allotment is located in the southwest part of the JFO area and is located primarily in MUA 11. The total Federal acreage

is 10,423. The dominant native vegetation types are Wyoming Big Sagebrush/Bluebunch Wheatgrass, which occupies 37 percent and Bluebunch Wheatgrass which occupies 28 percent of the vegetation occurring on Federal land in the allotment. No Crested Wheatgrass stands occur on the allotment.

No vegetation production or range condition information was collected on this allotment in 2002 and 2003. At one rain gauge representative of conditions on the allotment (Three Creek Well), the water year precipitation was 75 percent and 91 percent of the long-term average in 2002 and 2003.

East Juniper Draw

The East Juniper Draw Allotment is located in the southeast part of the JFO area, and is in MUA 12. Total Federal acreage is 20,704. The dominant native vegetation type is Wyoming Big Sagebrush/Thurber's Needlegrass, which makes up 50 percent of the total vegetation on Federal acres and almost all of the native range on the allotment. Crested Wheatgrass stands occupy 39 percent of the allotment.

Vegetation production information was collected on the allotment in 2002 and 2003. The results of this sampling are summarized in Table 3.3 and also reported in Appendix I of the Allotment Assessment (available for review at the JFO) for the allotment where the production figures of both seeded and native stands are used to determine the proposed level of AUMs. One rain gauge (Cedar Mesa) is representative of conditions on the allotment. The water year precipitation was 86 and 83 percent of the long-term average in 2002 and 2003 respectively.

This production sampling also determined range or ecological site condition. Four sites were sampled within the allotment, all in Wyoming Big Sagebrush/Thurber's Needlegrass vegetation. Three sites were on Loamy 8-10" Ecological Sites and one site (EJ9) was on Loamy 7-10" Ecological Site. The results shown in Table 3.3 use percentage composition of the sites sampled compared with the percentage composition in the reference community (PNC or Excellent Condition) listed in the Ecological Site Guide.

The 2002/03 results indicate an apparent improvement of condition (seral state) compared to the 1981-83 sampling in this allotment.

Echo 4

The Echo Allotment is located in the central part of the JFO area, and is in MUA 7. Total Federal acreage is 16,599. The dominant vegetation type managed as native range is Wyoming Big Sagebrush/Crested Wheatgrass, which occupies 27 percent of the total vegetation on Federal acres on the allotment. Crested Wheatgrass stands occupy 66 percent of the allotment.

Vegetation production information was collected on the allotment in 2002 and 2003. The results of this sampling are summarized in Table 3.3 and also reported in Appendix I of the Allotment Assessment (available for review at the JFO) for the allotment where the production figures of both seeded and native stands are used to determine the proposed level of AUMs. One rain gauge (Big Hill) is representative of conditions on the allotment. The water year precipitation was 102 percent and 89 percent of the long-term average in 2002 and 2003 respectively.

No range condition information was available based on the vegetation production information collected in 2002-2003.

A determination was made on December 20, 1999 that this allotment met Idaho State Standards for Rangeland Health for Standards 1 and 4 and did not meet Standards # 5 and 8. Current livestock management practices were found not to be a factor in failing to meet these Standards. Standards 2, 3, 6, and 7 were not applicable (Table 3.2). Please refer to the Allotment Assessment for an in-depth discussion of the S&G review. The Allotment Assessments are on file with the JFO.

Flat Top

The Flat Top Allotment is located in the northwest part of the JFO area, of which 98 percent is in MUA6 and 2 percent is in MUA 10. Total Federal acreage is 34,818. The dominant native vegetation type is Wyoming Big Sagebrush/Bluegrass, which makes up 47 percent of the total vegetation on Federal acres on the allotment. Crested Wheatgrass stands occupy 47 percent of the allotment.

Vegetation production information was collected on the allotment in 2002 and 2003. The results of this sampling are summarized in Table 3.3 and also reported in Appendix I of the Allotment Assessment (available for review at the JFO) for the allotment where the production figures of

both seeded and native stands are used to determine the proposed level of AUMs. One rain gauge (Big Draw) is representative of conditions on the allotment. The water year precipitation was 79 and 68 percent of the long-term average in 2002 and 2003, which, in part, may explain the somewhat low production.

This production sampling also determined range or ecological site condition. Three sites were sampled within the allotment, all in Wyoming Big Sagebrush/Thurber's Needlegrass vegetation on Loamy 8-10" Ecological Sites. The results shown in Table 3.3 use percentage composition of the sites sampled compared with the percentage composition in the reference community (PNC or Excellent Condition) listed in the Ecological Site Guide.

The 2002/03 results indicate an apparent improvement of condition (seral state) compared to the 1981-83 sampling in this allotment.

A determination was made on November 26, 1999 that not all applicable Standards for Rangeland Health were met. Standard 1 for Watershed is met. Standard 2 and 3 do not apply because cattle do not have access to Clover Creek. Standard 4 (Native Plant Communities) is not met and livestock grazing is an important factor. Standard 5 for Seeded Rangelands was not being met, but livestock were found not to be an important factor. Standards 6 and 7 do not apply to the Allotment. Standard 8 for Special Status Plant and Animal species is not met and livestock were found to be an important factor. (Table 3.2). Please refer to the Allotment Assessment for an in-depth discussion of the S&G review. The Allotment Assessments are on file with the JFO.

Grassy Hills

The Grassy Hills Allotment is located in the southeast part of the JFO area, and is in MUA 12. Total Federal acreage is 4,907. The dominant native vegetation type is Wyoming Big Sagebrush/Bluebunch Wheatgrass, which occupies 94 percent of the total vegetation on Federal acres on the allotment. There are no Crested Wheatgrass stands on the allotment.

Vegetation production information was collected on the allotment in 2002 and 2003. The results of this sampling are summarized in Table 3.3 and also reported in Appendix I of the Allotment Assessment (available for review at the JFO) for

the allotment where the production figures of both seeded and native stands are used to determine the proposed level of AUMs. One rain gauge (Heil Reservoir) is representative of conditions on the allotment. The water year precipitation was 56 percent and 69 percent of the long term average in 2002 and 2003 respectively.

No range condition information was available based on the vegetation production information collected in 2002-2003.

Noh Field

The Noh Field Allotment is located in the central east part of the JFO area, of which 80 percent is in MUA7 and 20 percent is in MUA 12. Total Federal acreage is 6,122. The dominant native vegetation types are Bluegrass, which occupies 23 percent and Wyoming Big Sagebrush/Bluegrass which makes up 17 percent of the total vegetation on Federal acres on the allotment. Crested Wheatgrass stands occupy 54 percent of the allotment.

Vegetation production information was collected on the allotment in 2002 and 2003. The results of this sampling are summarized in Table 3.3 and also reported in Appendix I of the Allotment Assessment (available for review at the JFO) for the allotment where the production figures of both seeded and native stands are used to determine the proposed level of AUMs. One rain gauge (Big Hill) is representative of conditions on the allotment. The water year precipitation was 98 and 85 percent of the long-term average in 2002 and 2003, respectively.

This production sampling also determined range or ecological site condition. One site was sampled in the allotment in Wyoming Big Sagebrush/Thurber's Needlegrass vegetation on a Loamy 8-10" Ecological Site. The results shown in Table 3.3 use percentage composition of the sites sampled compared with the percentage composition in the reference community (PNC or Excellent Condition) listed in the Ecological Site Guide.

The 2002/03 results indicate an apparent improvement of condition (seral state) compared to the 1981-83 sampling in this allotment.

North Fork Field

The North Fork Field Allotment is located in the southeast part of the JFO area and is in MUA 15. The total Federal acreage is 3,354. The dominant native vegetation types are Low Sagebrush which occupies 51 percent and Mountain Brush which occupies 31 percent of the vegetation occurring on Federal land in the allotment. No Crested Wheatgrass stands occur on the allotment.

No vegetation production or range condition information was collected on this allotment in 2002 and 2003. However, two native vegetation sites have been monitored on study sites in this allotment since 1987. Monitoring has included nested plot frequency and other methods. Both sites are meeting the RMP objective for maintaining native plant communities in Excellent (Potential Natural Community) condition. For the one rain gauge (Monument Spring) representative of conditions on the allotment, the water year precipitation was 95 percent and 92 percent of the long-term average in 2002 and 2003 respectively.

Pigtail Butte

The Pigtail Butte Allotment is located in the southeast part of the JFO area, of which 79 percent is in MUA13 and 21 percent is in MUA 15. Total Federal acreage is 28,576. The dominant native vegetation type is Wyoming Big Sagebrush/Bluegrass, which makes up 33 percent of the total vegetation on Federal acres on the allotment. Crested Wheatgrass stands occupy 21 percent and Wyoming Big Sagebrush/Crested Wheatgrass occupy an additional 18 percent of the allotment.

Vegetation production information was collected on the allotment in 2002 and 2003. The results of this sampling are summarized in Table 3.3 and also reported in Appendix I of the Allotment Assessment (available for review at the JFO) for the allotment where the production figures of both seeded and native stands are used to determine the proposed level of AUMs. Two rain gauges are representative of conditions on the allotment. One (Cedar Mesa) is representative of the lower northern portions of the allotment, and Heil Reservoir represents the higher, southern portions. The water year precipitation was 86 and 83 percent of the long term average at Cedar Mesa and 57 and 69 percent at Heil Reservoir in 2002 and 2003, respectively.

The production sampling also determined range or ecological site condition. Three sites were sampled within the allotment, all in Wyoming Big Sagebrush/Bluebunch Wheatgrass-Thurber's Needlegrass vegetation on Loamy 10-12" Ecological Sites. The results shown in Table 3.3 use percentage composition of the sites sampled compared with the percentage composition in the reference community (PNC or Excellent Condition) listed in the Ecological Site Guide.

The 2002/03 results indicate an apparent improvement of condition (seral state) compared to the 1981-83 sampling in this allotment.

Three Creek #8

The Three Creek #8 Allotment is located in the southern part of the JFO area, of which 85 percent is in MUA15 and 15 percent is in MUA 12. Total Federal acreage is 4,786. The dominant native vegetation types are Mountain Big Sagebrush, which makes up 35 percent and Wyoming Big Sagebrush/Bluebunch Wheatgrass which makes up 44 percent of the total vegetation on Federal acres on the allotment. Intermediate and Crested Wheatgrass stands occupy 20 percent of the allotment.

Vegetation production information was collected on the allotment in 2002 and 2003. The results of this sampling are summarized in Table 3.3 and also reported in Appendix I of the Allotment Assessment (available for review at the JFO) for the allotment where the production figures of both seeded and native stands are used to determine the proposed level of AUMs. One rain gauge (BLM Three Creek School) is representative of conditions on the allotment. The water year precipitation was 86 and 99 percent of the long-term average in 2002 and 2003 respectively.

The production sampling also determined range or ecological site condition. One site was sampled in the allotment, all in Mountain Big Sagebrush/Bluebunch Wheatgrass-Idaho Fescue vegetation on a Loamy 13-16" Ecological Site. The results shown in Table 3.3 use percentage composition of the sites sampled compared with the percentage composition in the reference community (PNC or Excellent Condition) listed in the Ecological Site Guide.

The 2002/03 results indicate an apparent improvement of condition (seral state) compared to the 1981-83 sampling in this allotment.

Winter Camp

The Winter Camp Allotment is located in the central west part of the JFO area, of which 35 percent is in MUA 1, 35 percent in MUA 7, 28 percent in MUA 10 and 2 percent is in MUA 6. Total Federal acreage is 11,856. The dominant native vegetation type is Wyoming Big Sagebrush/Bluegrass, which makes up 55 percent of the total vegetation on Federal acres on the allotment. Crested Wheatgrass stands occupy 39 percent of the allotment.

Vegetation production information was collected on the allotment in 2002 and 2003. The results of this sampling are summarized in Table 3.3 and also reported in Appendix I of the Allotment Assessment (available for review at the JFO) for the allotment where the production figures of both seeded and native stands are used to determine the proposed level of AUMs. One rain gauge (Big Draw) is representative of conditions on the allotment. The water year precipitation was 79 and 68 percent of the long-term average in 2002 and 2003 respectively, which, in part, may explain the somewhat low production.

The production sampling also determined range or ecological site condition. Two sites were sampled within the allotment, all in Wyoming Big Sagebrush/Thurber's Needlegrass vegetation on Loamy 8-10" Ecological Sites. The results shown in Table 3.3 use percentage composition of the sites sampled compared with the percentage composition in the reference community (PNC or Excellent Condition) listed in the Ecological Site Guide.

The 2002/03 results indicate an apparent improvement of condition (seral state) compared to the 1981-83 sampling in this allotment.

3.4 Special Status Plant Species

Section 7 of the ESA specifically requires all federal agencies to use their authorities (1) to carry out programs for the conservation of listed species and (b) to ensure that no agency action is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of a listed species or adversely modify critical

habitat. The BLM has established specific protocols to address any T&E, candidate, or sensitive species (Jarbidge Resource Management Plan 1987, pages II-82). Species not expected to occur in the study area are excluded from further discussion in this EA.

3.4.1 Threatened and Endangered Plant Species

There are currently no known occurrences of plant species that are listed as threatened or endangered on BLM-administered lands in the study area. The December 2003 90-Day Species List Update (1-4-04-SP-093) for those Federally listed or proposed to be listed species which may occur in the Jarbidge Field Office area lists only slickspot peppergrass (*Lepidium papilliferum*).

In 1999, the USFWS published findings indicating slickspot peppergrass warranted protection under the ESA. On January 16th, 2004 this species was withdrawn. Slickspot peppergrass is now considered a BLM sensitive species. BLM has a Candidate Conservation Agreement (CCA) with the USFWS on how to manage rangeland for this species. Habitat and threats to the species are further described within this section. No known occurrences of this species have been reported, however, suitable habitat is known to occur within the project allotments.

The BLM JFO, Idaho Conservation Data Center (CDC), and the Nevada Natural Heritage Program (NNHP) prepared a list of species of special concern known or suspected to occur within the study area. The Idaho Conservation Data Center tracks species of special concern using elemental occurrences (EOs). An EO corresponds with the local population, a portion of a population or an aggregation of populations (i.e. metapopulations). The CDC prepared a map showing polygons of special status plant species within the study area (Figure C.1, Appendix C). Polygons represent actual occurrences of plants.

3.4.2 Special Status - Sensitive Plant Species

There are nine (9) Idaho BLM special status plant species known or suspected to occur within the study area, and one (1) Nevada BLM sensitive plant species suspected to occur within

the study area. The CDC query of plant species also identified seven (7) species of concern known to occur in adjacent or neighboring allotments (Table 3.4). These species have a probability of occurring in the study area. BLM categorizes sensitive species using five categories:

1. Type 1, Federally Listed, Proposed and Candidate Species
2. Type 2, Rangeland/Globally Imperiled Species, High Endangerment
3. Rangeland/Globally Imperiled Species, Moderate Endangerment
4. Type 4, Generally Rare in Idaho with Currently Endangerment Threats
5. Type 5, Watch List.

For the most part, limited surveys have been conducted for sensitive plant species within the study area and more species may occur. Sensitive species occurrences are frequently observed from incidental observations. Slickspot peppergrass is not known to occur within the study area; however suitable habitat acreage is defined by allotment. There is no information available to determine whether livestock grazing is having an impact on sensitive plant species or not, with the exception of Antelope springs, Bracket Bench and North Fork Field Allotment where impacts from livestock have either been described as “slight” or they have not been reported or observed at some of the plant locations.

Currently there are no known occurrences of slickspot peppergrass within the study area (Figure C.1, Appendix C). However, suitable habitats (acreages) have been identified within the allotments and are listed in Table 3.4. The study area represents a total of 656,991 acres of BLM managed lands. Of this total, 91,439 acres, or 14 percent, are considered suitable habitat for slickspot peppergrass. Surveys for slickspot peppergrass in the project area were in portions of the Crawfish and the 71 Desert allotments. With the exception of these detailed surveys conducted in October 2003, by Vision Air Research, limited surveys for this species have not confirmed or denied occurrence of slickspot peppergrass.

Slickspot peppergrass (BLM Type 2) is a small annual/biennial plant species endemic to the sagebrush-steppe ecosystem of southwestern Idaho. Plant communities containing slickspot

peppergrass habitat generally fall into Wyoming big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata wyomingensis*)-series. This small forb is restricted to small-scale, scarcely vegetated, visually distinct, edaphically-determined openings within the sagebrush matrix. All occurrences of slickspot peppergrass occur on or adjacent to extensive volcanic plains, mostly the Snake River Plain, and one site on the Owyhee Plateau. This small forb occurs in “mini-playas” or small depositional areas characterized by clay and a salt enriched surface horizon. The abundance of slickspot peppergrass is known to fluctuate greatly from year to year, a common pattern for many short-lived plants growing in arid environments (Mancuso 2000).

Threats to this species include fragmentation and loss of habitat through conversion of the sagebrush communities to agriculture, frequent fires and the overall decline in the ecological condition of sagebrush – steppe communities. Ground disturbing activities adversely affecting slickspot integrity diminish the suitability of microsites to support slickspot peppergrass. More specifically, direct affects of livestock grazing to slickspot peppergrass and/or slickspot peppergrass habitat are primarily trampling of slickspots which causes plant mortality, degrades the seed banks, disturbs the soils structure and reduces the slickspot integrity. The actual grazing or palatability of slickspot peppergrass by cattle is generally limited. Slickspot peppergrass seed bank generally survives minor disturbances associated with limited grazing and the slick spot microsites reform and the populations appear to persist (Meyers 1993). However, repeated or extensive ground disturbance in slickspots may impact slickspot peppergrass and allows non-native annual plants to establish which compete with or displaces slickspot peppergrass and causes soil compaction. In many cases slickspot peppergrass populations decline or are extirpated after the natural community is replaced by annuals (Meyers 1993; Meyer and Quiney 1993). Cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) which is an introduced annual, increases fire frequencies by creating a more continuous fuelbed. More-frequent fires and reduced patchiness prevents, or greatly retards, normal vegetation succession. Occasionally, on marginal sites, cheatgrass and other annuals such as clasping pepperweed (*Lepidium perfoliatum*), may limit or otherwise out compete slickspot.

Other direct impacts may result from livestock crushing or causing damage to the plant. Previous observations by surveyors have implied a negative correlation between ground disturbance and slickspot peppergrass occurrence condition (Popovich 2000 and 2001). Mancuso (2001) reported trampling by livestock to be one of the main disturbances to slickspot microsites. Slickspot peppergrass has been shown to disappear from occupied habitat, especially when grazed during periods of high soil moisture (Moseley 1994). Slickspots can be degraded by loss of boundary integrity, soil compaction, and increased organic debris. Meyers (1993) found that slickspots are characterized by reduced levels of organic matter and bound nutrients as a consequence of lower biomass production relative to the surrounding shrubland vegetation. Indirect affects of livestock grazing and associated practices such as salting, water troughs, fence maintenance, pipelines, and access roads include increases in exotic plant invasion, and habitat degradation of slickspots and the surrounding sagebrush-steppe landscape. Further degradation can result in increased invasion of exotic annuals, which increases fire frequency and decreases native forbs. Loss of forbs and trampling of pollinator ground nesting sites by livestock causes a decline in pollinators, which decreases viable seed formation in slickspot peppergrass, since insects are critical for seed production (Robertson, 2002).

Davis peppergrass (*Lepidium davisii*, BLM Type 3) is a long-lived, deep-rooted perennial with a low compact growth form commonly referred to as a clump or cushion. This forb is a regional endemic restricted mainly to Ada, Elmore and Owyhee counties, small parts of Twin Falls County, Idaho. The species habitat is flat, barren, internally drained, seasonally flooded, hard floors of playas between 2,500 and 5,000-foot elevations. Waterfowl are partly responsible for seed dispersal (Croft et al., 1997). Compacted soils and invasion of exotic species within playas create unsuitable habitat for this species. Livestock grazing may affect Davis peppergrass through trampling and compaction of the playas, which may extirpate populations (Bernatas and Mosely 1991). Degradation of the surrounding habitat can result in increased invasion of exotic annuals, which increases fire frequency and sedimentation into the playas. Increased sedimentation resulting from the degradation of the adjacent environment may contribute to the decline of this species (Croft et.

al., 1997). Also decline in population numbers may also be related to the drought (Bernatas, S. and R. K. Mosely 1991). Other threats associated with disturbance are the developments of stock water ponds within playas, OHV use and increased erosion or sedimentation into playas.

Spine-node milkvetch (*Peteria thompsoniae*, BLM Type 4) is a perennial forb that produces new shoots from a rhizomatous root system and buried caudex in the spring. Flowering for spine-node milkvetch occurs in May and June. Spine-node milkvetch occurs in disjunct populations on barren areas with thin cinder soils or slopes in desert shrub communities in dry washes, flats, ridges and talus. Populations are restricted to volcanic sands. Associated plant species include purple sage (*Salvia dorrii*), shadscale (*Atriplex confertifolia*) and annual buckwheat (*Eriogonum* spp.). This forb is known within the salt desert shrub plant community at elevations in Idaho from 2,600 to 3,200 feet. DeBolt and Rosentreter (1988) identified off-road vehicle use, and concentrated grazing in riparian areas as threats to this species.

Rigid threadbush (*Nemacladus rigidus*, BLM Type 4) is a small compact annual forb less than 5 inches tall. Flowering is generally May and June. This forb is found on loose, sandy washes, cindery or ashy outcrops, cracks in basalt, or in dried mud. This forb is known to the shadscale-sagebrush zone at elevations from 3,700 to 6,500 feet. Identified threats for rigid threadbush include off-road vehicles and range improvement programs.

Spreading gilia (*Ipomopsis polycladon*, BLM Type 3) is a short annual forb reaching a height of 4 to 8 (rarely) inches. Flowering is from late April to June. This plant occurs in dry, open areas in the desert shrub communities of shadscale, horsebrush (*Tetradymia* spp.), and sagebrush on sandy to silty soils. This forb is known from elevations of 2,400 to 4,500 feet. No threats have been identified for this species.

Snake River milkvetch (*Astragalus purshii* var. *ophiogenes*, BLM Type 5) is a perennial which occupies a number of different soils including sands, gravel-sandy bluffs, talus, dunes, and volcanic ash beds. This forb often occurs on barren sites within big sagebrush, Indian ricegrass (*Oryzopsis hymenoides*), needle-and-thread grass, (*Stipa comata*) and fourwing

saltbush (*Atriplex canescens*) communities at elevations from 2,100 to 3,250 feet. Impacts from livestock may include direct mortality due to trampling, and degradation of habitat. Other threats include off highway vehicle use, range improvement projects and livestock trailing.

White-margined wax plant (*Glyptopleura marginata*, BLM Type 4) is a small tufted winter annual, flowering from April to June. This species occurs on dry, sandy-gravelly or loose ash soils that are typically sparsely vegetated on ridges and at the edge of upland benches. White-margined waxplant is tolerant to some extent to alkaline soil conditions. Southern Idaho is the northern extension of its geographic range. This forb often occurs within shadscale, greasewood (*Sarcobatus vermiculatus*), rabbitbrush, winterfat (*Ceratoides lanata*), and sagebrush communities from 2,400 to 3,600 feet. Identified threats to this species include off-road vehicles and range improvements programs.

Greeley's wavewing (*Cymopterus acaulis* var. *greeleyorum*, BLM Type 3) is a low-growing perennial which flowers from March to May. By mid-summer the plants are dormant, and the foliage has dried out. This plant occupies sites which undergo a lot of soil movement, such as sandy soil, brown and white volcanic ash. The sand is loosely held together, while the deposits that have weathered clay shrink and swell greatly. This plant is known to occur within Wyoming big sagebrush, desert shrub, and Indian ricegrass zones. Impacts from livestock may include direct mortality due to trampling, and degradation of habitat. Other threats may include off highway vehicle use.

Simpson's hedgehog cactus (*Pediocactus simpsonii*, BLM Type 5) is a small barrel cactus found primarily on gravelly soils in low sagebrush/Idaho fescue plant communities. Threats to this species are primarily from collection of plants from the wild, but fire, habitat degradation, and trampling from livestock also impact this species.

Broadleaf fleabane (*Erigeron latus*, BLM Special Status Species in Nevada) is a low growing perennial forb flowering in June and July. This species prefers shallow, relatively barren, vernal saturated, otherwise dry, gravelly to sandy soils or bedrock on flats and slopes of volcanic scablands or benches. Composition is mostly rhyolitic or basaltic in composition, in the

sagebrush steppe and juniper zones with low sagebrush (*Artemisia arbuscula*) and big sagebrush (6,200 – 6,450 feet elevation). Livestock grazing does not directly threaten this species, but habitat destruction by related roads and water developments has occurred to a small degree.

3.4.3 Special Status Plant Species by Allotment

71 Desert

Two plants presently classified as sensitive are known within this allotment (Simpson's hedgehog and Davis peppergrass). Other playas within this allotment offer potential habitat for Davis peppergrass. Numerous unoccupied slickspot habitats (467) were found in the surveyed portion of this allotment (2003 Vision Air Research).

Antelope Springs

The only plant species on the Idaho BLM sensitive species known to occur in this allotment is Simpson's hedgehog cactus.

Bracket Bench

The only plant species on the Idaho BLM sensitive species known to occur in this allotment is Simpson's hedgehog cactus.

Bruneau Hill

Six plants presently on the BLM sensitive plant species list are known to occur in this allotment. Playas within this allotment offer suitable habitat for Davis peppergrass.

Crawfish

Sixty seven (67) unoccupied slickspots were identified during a detailed survey of a portion of this allotment in 2003 by Vision Air Research.

North Fork Field

The only sensitive BLM plant species known to occur in this allotment is Simpson hedgehog cactus.

Three Creek #8

Broad fleabane is known to occur just north of the Nevada State Line and is expected to occur in the Nevada portion of the allotment.

Winter Camp

One BLM sensitive plant species is known to occur in this allotment, Davis Peppergrass.

Other playas within this allotment offer suitable habitat for this sensitive plant species.

Additional plants listed by CDC (2003) which have the potential to occur within the Project are presented in Table 3.5.

3.5 Invasive and Noxious Weeds

Noxious and invasive weeds are an increasing problem on BLM Idaho rangelands. There are approximately 300 weed species that occur throughout Idaho (Prather et al. 2002). Noxious and invasive weeds rapidly displace desirable plants that provide forage for livestock, habitat for wildlife, decrease recreational enjoyment, and alter historic wildfire regimes. Some weeds are poisonous to wildlife, livestock, and people. Noxious and invasive weeds are plants that are not native to Idaho vegetation and were introduced accidentally or intentionally. Noxious weeds are listed by state and federal law and are generally considered those that are exotics and negatively impact agriculture, navigation, fish, wildlife, or public health (Howery and Ruyle 2002). There are 36 weed species designated noxious by Idaho law as of 2001. Ten of Idaho's 36 noxious weeds occur in the grazing allotments (Table 3.6 and Figure 3.3). Noxious weed dominance in the surrounding plant communities is relatively minor but through inappropriate grazing management and wildfire their dominance could increase substantially (Table 3.7).

However, there are other invasive weeds such as cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) that are not listed as noxious but can still be problematic on Idaho rangelands and the 18 grazing allotments. These plants are considered invasive weeds because they displace and reduce the normal composition and productivity of native rangeland vegetation. In addition, they may raise the risk of wildland fire because of increased flammability, altered fire return frequency, and biomass accumulation in rangeland vegetation communities. Annual grasslands, mainly dominated with cheatgrass, are a particular concern in the 18 grazing allotments because of reduced forage productivity, increased wildfire risk, and its ability to rapidly expand into disturbed areas. Annual grassland occurs on approximately 22,625 acres, which is almost 6 percent of the

total allotment acreage (Table 3.8 and Figure 3.2).

3.6 Fire Ecology

Prior to European settlement, fire was a common and widespread influence on many landscapes in southwest Idaho. Many of these fires were caused naturally from lightening but some were also started purposefully by Native Americans for hunting and warfare. The historic fire regime of southwest Idaho rangelands varied in frequency and severity depending on many factors such as vegetation type, climate, and topography (Figure 3.4). The historic fire regimes for the JFO are varied from low intensity fire with a return frequency of 0-35 years to stand replacement fire with a return frequency of 25 to >100 years. Wildfire in the different vegetation communities found on BLM land was a normal occurrence and helped define species composition, structure, and standing biomass. As such, many forage plants are adapted to withstand wildfire through a variety of anatomical or physiological mechanisms to persist with frequent fire.

Figure 3.5 illustrates the 50-year fire history of the grazing allotments and surrounding rangeland. Noteworthy is the widespread and frequent occurrence of fire within the grazing allotments and the surrounding rangeland (Table 3.9). Looking at the past 50 years, 44 percent of the grazing allotments have been burned at least once and 17 percent have had multiple fires. The historic nature of wildfire in southwest Idaho changed with the onset of European settlement. As such, current-day fire regimes for many vegetation communities have changed in comparison with historic patterns (Figure 3.4). Livestock grazing and land cultivation caused fuel loads (i.e., the amount of live and dead vegetation) to be reduced and fragmented into smaller landscape units. Furthermore, the fire management practices for the past 100 years that included organized fire suppression with post-fire rehabilitation using non-native plant species has resulted in changes to the character of many vegetation communities in species composition, structure, and standing biomass. The large expanse of Crested Wheatgrass in some allotments resulted from it being seeded after fire to reduce soil erosion, improve forage for grazing, and inhibit the establishment of cheatgrass (Figure 3.1). In other areas,

cheatgrass has become established in the grazing allotments as a result of improper grazing practices or other occurrence that have disrupted the native plant community and allowed it to invade. Cheatgrass as fuel is a particular concern to fire management because it may raise the risk of fire through increased flammability and increased fire frequency and intensity in comparison with native vegetation. The establishment of cheatgrass into new areas may, in part, result from fire if more desirable range vegetation does not become established quickly. Thus, the justification for the seeding of Crested Wheatgrass. In contrast, Crested Wheatgrass is considerably less flammable and more desirable forage than cheatgrass.

Table 3.4 - BLM Special Status Plant Species for Each Grazing Allotment

Species Common Name	Status	Presence	Populations ¹	No known locations of BLM sensitive species occur in this allotment	Suitable habitat (acreage) for Slickspot peppergrass/ Number of slickspots ²
71 Desert					
Simpson's hedgehog cactus	Sensitive	Confirmed	7		
Davis peppergrass	Sensitive	Confirmed	6		
Slickspot peppergrass	Sensitive	Likely			10,000/467
Antelope Springs					
Simpson's hedgehog cactus	Sensitive	Confirmed	14		
Slickspot peppergrass	Sensitive	Likely			2711
Black Rock Pocket					
Bracket Bench					
Simpson's hedgehog cactus	Sensitive	Confirmed	7		
Slickspot peppergrass	Sensitive	Likely			52
Bruneau Hill					
Spine-node milkvetch	Sensitive	Confirmed	12		
Snake river milkvetch	Sensitive	Confirmed	3		
Greeley's wave-wing	Sensitive	Confirmed	8		
Rigid threadbush	Sensitive	Confirmed	2		
Spreading gilia	Sensitive	Confirmed	6		
White-margin waxplant	Sensitive	Confirmed	2		
Slickspot peppergrass	Sensitive	Likely			7465
Camas Slough					
Cedar Creek					
Slickspot peppergrass	Sensitive	Likely			482
Coonskin AMP					
Slickspot peppergrass	Sensitive	Likely			31,835
Crawfish					
Slickspot peppergrass	Sensitive	Historically present			2647 / 67 ⁴
East Juniper Draw					
Slickspot peppergrass	Sensitive	Likely			8,847

Table 3.4 (continued)

Echo 4					
Slickspot peppergrass	Sensitive	Likely			12,829
Flat Top					
Slickspot peppergrass	Sensitive	Likely			5,628
Grassy Hills					
Slickspot peppergrass	Sensitive	Likely			11,000
Noh Field					
Slickspot peppergrass	Sensitive	Likely			1,600
North Fork Field					
Simpson's hedgehog cactus	Sensitive	Confirmed	25		
Pigtail Butte					
Slickspot peppergrass	Sensitive	Likely			1,686
Three Creek #8					
Slickspot peppergrass	Sensitive	Likely			16
Broadleaf fleabane	Sensitive	Likely			
Winter Camp					
Davis peppergrass	Sensitive	Confirmed	2		
Slickspot peppergrass	Sensitive	Likely			4,641

¹ Population data from Idaho Conservation Data Center and BLM field surveys.

² Surveys conducted by Vision Air Research, October 2003, unoccupied slickspot habitat.

Table 3.5 - BLM Sensitive Species with Potential to Occur within the Study Area

Species	Status	Habitat	Known Distribution Adjacent to the Study Area
Two-headed onion (<i>Allium anceps</i>)	BLM type 3	Heavy soils of volcanic origin or seasonally wet playas or rocky soils in sagebrush zones	East of Salmon Falls Creek Reservoir
Newberry milkvetch (<i>Astragalus newberryi</i> var. <i>castoreus</i>)	BLM type 4	Chalky hills and lakebeds, lacustrine sediments. Clay to silt soils within sagebrush habitat	South of Rogerson
Giant helleborine (<i>Epipactis gigantea</i>)	USFS Region 1 Sensitive, BLM type 3	Moist areas along stream banks, at lower elevations along the Snake River	North of the Bruneau Hill allotment along the Bruneau River
Alkali cleomella (<i>Cleomella plocasperma</i>)	BLM type 3	Dry saline meadows, alkaline meadows, greasewood flats and around thermal springs from 2,400 to 4,200 ft.	SE of Bruneau at Hot Spring, on edge of saltgrass meadow
Packard's buckwheat (<i>Eriogonum shockleyi</i> var. <i>packardiae</i>)	BLM type 3	Oolitic limestone outcrops, snady loess over basalt, and lacustrine deposits consisting of cobbly desert pavement overlying a sandy-substrate.	South of Bruneau, near Devils bathtub (Indian bathtub)
Bruneau River prickly-phlox (<i>Leptodactylon glabrum</i>)	BLM type 3	Vertical or underhanging rhyolitic canyon walls along the Bruneau and Jarbidge rivers	Along the Bruneau River adjacent to allotments Bruneau Hill and 71 Desert.
Janish's penstemon (<i>Penstemon janishiae</i>)	BLM type 3	Clay soils derived from volcanic ash or lake bed sediment in sagebrush habitat 2,400 to 3,900 ft	SE of Bruneau Hill, sandy bluffs SW of Hot Spring.

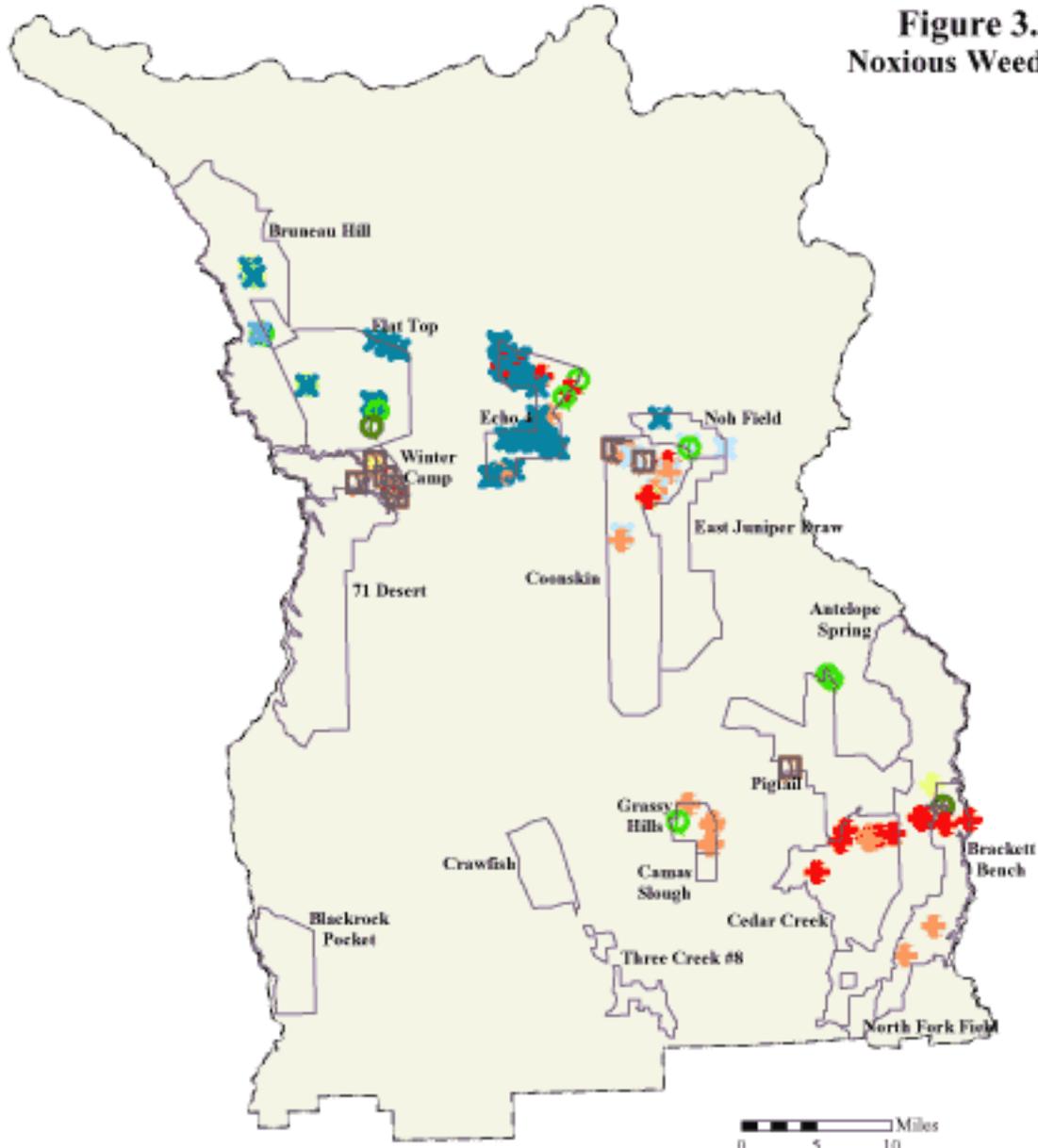
Table 3.6 - Idaho Noxious Weeds that Occur in the 18 Grazing Allotments

Scientific Name	Common Name	Growth Habit	Habitat	Potential Affect on Livestock Grazing
<i>Acroptilon repens</i>	Russian knapweed	Perennial forb	Variety of ecological conditions	Chewing disease in horses
<i>Cardaria draba</i>	White top or hoary cress	Perennial forb	Variety of ecological conditions	Competition with desirable forage
<i>Centaurea diffusa</i>	Diffuse knapweed	Annual, biennial, or short-lived perennial forb	Variety of ecological conditions	Competition with desirable forage
<i>Centaurea maculosa</i>	Spotted knapweed	Biennial or short-lived perennial forb	Variety of ecological conditions	Competition with desirable forage
<i>Chondrilla juncea</i>	Rush skeletonweed	Perennial forb	Well drained light soils	Competition with desirable forage
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Canada thistle	Perennial forb	Variety of ecological conditions	Competition with desirable forage
<i>Convolvus arvensis</i>	Field bindweed	Perennial vine	Variety of ecological conditions	Competition with desirable forage
<i>Hyoscyamus niger</i>	Black henbane	Annual or biennial forb	Variety of ecological conditions	Narcotic and poisonous
<i>Lepidium latifolium</i>	Perennial pepperweed	Perennial forb	Variety of ecological conditions	Competition with desirable forage
<i>Onopordum acanthium</i>	Scotch thistle	Biennial forb	Moist sites	Competition with desirable forage

Table 3.7 - Noxious Weed Dominance by Grazing Allotments

Allotment	Approximate Acres of Noxious Weeds									
	Black henbane	Canada thistle	Diffuse knapweed	Field Bindweed	Perennial Pepperweed	Rush skeletonweed	Russian knapweed	Scotch thistle	Spotted knapweed	Whitetop
Antelope Spring	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blackrock Pocket	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brackett Bench	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.0
Bruneau Hill	1.0	0	0	0	1.0	3.0	1.0	1.0	0	0
Camas Slough	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cedar Creek	0	0	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Coonskin AMP	0	0.4	1.1	1.3	0	0	1.0	0	0	3.0
Crawfish	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
East Juniper Draw	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Echo 4	0	1.1	2.2	0	0	40.0	0	1.1	0	0
Flat Top	0	0	0	0	0	16.3	1	5.0	0	0
Grassy Hills	0	23.5	0	0	0	0	0	1.1	0	0
Noh Field	0	0	0	0.2	0	0.1	0	5.0	0	0
North Fork Field	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pigtail Butte	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2.0	0	1.0
71 Desert	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Three Creek #8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Winter Camp	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4.1

**Figure 3.3
Noxious Weeds**



Mapped Species Location

-  Black Henbane
-  Canada Thistle
-  Diffuse Knapweed
-  Field Bindweed
-  Perennial Pepperweed
-  Rush Skeletonweed
-  Russian Knapweed
-  Scotch Thistle
-  Spotted Knapweed
-  Whitetop

Other Mapped Features

-  Allotment
-  Jarbidge Field Office Area

0 5 10 Miles
1: 700,000
Projection: Universal Transverse Mercator,
Zone 11, North American Datum 1983



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