



Table 6. - FY 2001 Survey and Manage Results for Fauna

	CV acres surveyed	CV new sites	MSH acres surveyed	MSH new sites	MTA acres surveyed	MTA new sites	Total Acres and Sites
Great Gray Owl	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Amphibians	25		1,539		2,572		4,136
<i>Plethodon larselli</i>		0		3		0	3
<i>Plethodon vandykei</i>		0		0		0	0
Mollusks	25		1,539		3,298		4,862
<i>Cryptomastix devia</i>		3				0	3
<i>Hemphillia glandulosa</i>		0				4	4
<i>Hemphillia malonei</i>		0		217		24	241

Recommended Action To Be Taken:

Continued specialized training for individuals conducting these surveys.

Grazing ⁴⁵ 

Introduction - Grazing: The grazing of cattle, horses, and sheep are among the historical uses on national forest system lands. Records from 1890 indicate over 100,000 sheep and 1,500 cattle grazed on the Forest. On an average year 716 cattle and 1,150 sheep are permitted on approximately 200,000 acres of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest.

Allotment management plans are current, and periodic evaluations of the allotment sites are performed. Cattle allotment management plans are reviewed every ten years; the sheep allotment management plan is reviewed an every five years. Every year, for each allotment, an annual operating plan is developed by the permittees and the Forest Service. Through our evaluations, we ensure that the Forest Plan standards are met. Forest Plan consistency is ensured by inspecting the sites prior to dispersal of livestock, and monitoring of the livestock to ensure proper utilization of resources, distribution of livestock, and maintenance of ecosystem health. Range improvements, such as maintenance of fences, cattle guards, and water lines, have been performed cooperatively by the permittees and the Forest Service.

Our monitoring utilizes photo plots of vegetation that aid in determining the condition and trends within certain sites over time. When grazing in or near riparian zones we ensure that the objectives for the Aquatic Conservation Strategy are fulfilled, including but not limited to water quality, stability of streams and



ponds, riparian vegetation and fish and wildlife habitat. In the past, approved post-grazing levels of vegetation were established by Regional and Forest personnel; our current post-grazing vegetation levels fall within these guidelines.

Grazing could be allowed in some research natural areas (RNA), botanical special interest areas (BSIA), and administrative sites (AS). However, the Gifford Pinchot NF has chosen not to permit grazing in RNA, BSIA, and any AS not specifically related to grazing.

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There are three active allotments on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. These allotments are almost all on transitional rangeland. They are located on portions of the Mt. Adams District and Mt. Saint Helens District in the areas of Twin Buttes, Mt. Adams, and Ice Caves.

Results: Livestock use for the 2003 season consisted of no sheep and 458 cattle pair totaling 553 Animal Unit Months (AUM) for the Forest, which is approximately 48 percent below the allowed and permitted head-months. Field analysis and utilization monitoring was completed during the grazing season

Evaluation: During 2003 any grazing allotment non-compliance concerns were addressed and corrected. The Twin Buttes permit was in non-compliance for unauthorized personal convenience non-use. Administration action was taken. The Ice Caves allotment did not meet the utilization standard of 3" stubble height. Permittee was notified of non-compliance and administrative action was taken.

During 2003 any grazing allotment non-compliance concerns were addressed and corrected

Recommended Action To Be Taken: Monitoring and current management practices are to be continued. Continue to emphasize prevention and coordinate monitoring activities with the permittees, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and botany, wildlife, fish, and hydrology specialists to maintain and improve resource conditions. Complete the NEPA process for the Ice Caves Allotment Management Plan.

Invasive Species (Noxious Weeds) ⁴⁶ ⓘ

Introduction

Noxious weeds are a problem because they can be toxic to wildlife, domestic livestock, and humans and they displace desirable plant communities. Toxicity to flora and fauna is the primary concern because they are rarely ingested by people. Ecosystem changes produced by noxious weeds can be dramatic and have highly adverse impacts to plant and animal environments. These types of changes impact all resources. The Gifford Pinchot National Forest is part of the FY 2004 Invasive Plants EIS with the Mt Hood and Olympic National Forests and Columbia Gorge Natural Scenic Area. This analysis will yield priorities and treatment strategies for invasive species.