

The maps that accompany this narrative represent old allotment areas as best interpreted using current allotment boundaries. This information has been gathered through review of permit files, allotment files, project files and NEPA documents. Often, actual use forms and bills contradict what was “permitted” prior to the 70’s and 80’s.

Historic grazing in the project area and sub watersheds can be summarized as follows: Prior to the late 1940’s, sheep were the main class of livestock grazing on National Forest, other federal and private lands in the area. Cattle and sheep grazed some areas during the same year and or season. By the mid 1950’s, conversion from sheep to cattle had happened, with the exception of the Winter Rim Allotment. Construction of fences by the early 1960’s resulted in the creation of allotments and pastures and the end of common allotments. Open season use was still the general rule, however, some basic rotation systems were being introduced. In the past 20 years, numbers have been adjusted and grazing systems have been introduced to encourage watershed and plant community function, as well as compliment the permittee’s operation. In three pastures of the Foster Butte Allotment, numbers have been reduced and dates have been adjusted for the upcoming razing season as a response to the Toolbox fire. The One pasture in the Buck Creek Allotment that has burned acreage will be rested, as scheduled prior to the fire. The Guyer Riparian pasture fence was completed this past fall and a two pasture system will incorporate deferment and early season use. Numbers will stay at 100 head. Grazing in the other allotments and/or pastures will not change in 2003. Beyond this grazing season, numbers, systems and seasons of use in the Foster Butte, Sycan and Winter Rim Allotments will be looked at in the Range NEPA currently in the works. The Yamsay Mt and Buck Creek allotment will continue to be managed within the terms and conditions of the grazing permits currently issued. They are scheduled to be part of NEPA analysis in 2007.

USFS Allotments and Private Lands within Allotments

Silver Creek Common Allotment

In the early 1940’s, 1000 head of sheep grazed the area during September. No records were found for the period 1943-1961. Part of this area eventually became the Silver Creek Allotment, which eventually became the Silver Creek pasture of the Foster Butte Allotment.

Thompson Valley Allotment

From 1946 – 1955, an open season grazing system was in place (may 16-Sept 20) with 220 head of cattle. No records were found past 1955, and it was part of the Foster Butte Allotment by 1955.

Silver Creek Allotment

100 head of cattle grazed open season (May 21 – Sept 5) from through the late 1970's. Became part of the Foster Butte Allotment in 1980.

Foster Butte Allotment

Sheep were primary class of livestock with conversion to cattle probably taking place by the late 1940's. 1602 head of cattle were permitted to graze May 21 – Sept 20 from 1966 through 1979. A rest rotation grazing system was in place. In 1980, the Silver Creek pasture became part of the allotment, and a 6-pasture rotation system with rest, deferment and early season use, was introduced. 6807 AUMs were permitted. An early season grazing system started in 1993 and continues today. Turn on/off dates vary pasture-to-pasture and year to year but on dates are generally late May and off dates are from late July to the first week of August. A total of 6297 AUMs are permitted. In 2003, the Hagar, Foster and Dead Indian pastures will have reduced numbers/AUMs and a shorter season in 2003. No changes will be made in other pastures. Management decisions beyond 2003 will be based on monitoring and the current Range NEPA.

Yamsay Mt

1000 sheep grazed open season (July 1 – Sept 30) from 1944 and 1945. From 1946 through 1960, open season grazing continued with 172 head of cattle from mid May/early June – Sept 15. 323 head were permitted from 1961 through 1966. 1967-1978 100 head of cattle were turned out May 21 with and off date of Sept 20. The 1979 and 1989 permits increased to 200 head of cattle. No grazing occurred 1992 through 1996. In 1994, the permit was waived back to the USFS by the permittee. From 1997 through 1999, a large portion of the allotment was closed to grazing; other parts were not used or became part of the Buck Creek Allotment. In 2000, a new permit was issued. It is for 200 head from July 16 through August 31. Completion of the Guyer Riparian fence allows this allotment 2 pasture management. One pasture will be grazed as a riparian pasture and the other will be grazed to complement it. In 2003, 100 head of cattle will graze. Management beyond 2003 will be based on monitoring and is expected to be the system with 200 head.

Buck Creek

This allotment did not have any areas within the sub watersheds in question until 1998. At that time the Lower Chase pasture was added. It is rested every other year and used by 50-55 head from May through June 20.

Winter Rim

From 1966 through 1980, 1500-2000 sheep grazed open season (July through Aug/Sept). No use occurred in 1978. The allotment was converted to cattle by the 1981 season. 300 head were permitted open season (July 1 through Sept 30). In 1990, use changed to 282 cattle using two pastures in a rotation system June 25 through Sept 24. In 2001 and 2002, 660 cattle used the allotment June 15-July 25, early season. The use in 2003 will go back to the two-pasture rotation with 282 head. Management decisions beyond 2003 will be based on monitoring and the current Range NEPA.

Sycan

Sheep were the only livestock permitted until 1941. In 1941, 1703 head of cattle and 4300 head of sheep used the allotment from May 15 – Sept 30. In 1946, 5274 cattle and 3000 sheep used the allotment from May through Sept. The cattle numbers permitted were reduced to 1608 and season shortened to Sept 15 and the sheep numbers permitted were reduced to 3350 by 1957. In 1957, it was recommended to graze 1780 head of cattle from May 16 – Sept 15. Recommended sheep numbers were 3350 from May 16 – Sept 15. 1961 through 1966 this allotment was permitted 700 cattle and 2000 sheep. Sheep use was eliminated in this allotment in 1965 and the northern part of the allotment became part of the Foster Butte Allotment in 1966. 700 cattle ran open season (May – Sept till the early 1990's. By 1996, the numbers decreased and 2380 AUMs were permitted open season, however, the allotment has been used early season, May – July/Aug, since 1996. Two years, 2001 and 2001, the allotment was used by 550 head open season. In 2003, the use will go back to what it was in the 1990's. Management decisions beyond 2003 will be based on monitoring and the current Range NEPA.

BLM Allotments

Grazing in 2003 and beyond in these allotments will continue as permitted in all but the Dead Indian-Duncan Allotment. These BLM Allotments are scheduled for Rangeland Health Assessments and any changes needed will be determined at that time.

Silver Bridge Creek – 700

Prior to the early 1980's, this allotment has a rest rotation grazing system with a season of use from mid April through mid January. 262 AUMs were permitted. From the early 1980's to present the allotment has been managed with 3 pastures under a rest rotation grazing system and one riparian pasture. 262 AUMs are permitted mid April through mid June. Areas of sub watershed 1, 4 and 3 are within this allotment.

Upper Bridge Creek – 701

Prior to the early 1980's, this allotment had a spring/fall grazing system with two seasons of use from early April through early October. 108 AUMs were permitted. From the early 1980's to present the allotment has been managed with a rest rotation grazing system. 108 AUMs are permitted early March through early October. An area of sub watershed 3 is within this allotment.

Dead Indian – Duncan 709

Prior to the early 1980's, this allotment had a deferred grazing system with a season of use from early May through late June. 586 AUMs were permitted. The current management has changed little. Recently an increase in pastures was achieved through additional fencing. Periods of rest have been incorporated. Areas of sub watershed 1 and 2 are within this allotment. Pastures within the sub watersheds will be rested in 2003 and 2004. Decisions on grazing beyond 2004 will be made based on monitoring of the pastures in the next couple years.

Murdock 710

Prior to the early 1980's, this allotment had a spring/summer grazing system with a season of use from early May through late June. 705 AUMs were permitted. From the early 1980's to present the allotment has been managed under a rest rotation grazing system. 545 AUMs are permitted early May through late June. An area of sub watershed 1 is within this allotment. This allotment will be used in this way in 2003 and beyond.

Silver Creek 713

Prior to the early 1980's, this allotment had a spring/summer grazing system with a season of use from mid April through late May. 200 AUMs were permitted. Management in this allotment has not significantly changed. An area of sub watershed 1 is within this allotment.

Private Land fenced out of the Allotments

T30S R15E Section 28 NE1/4 (160 acres) and T30S R15E Section 33 NE1/4 and N1/2SE1/4 (240 acres)

This land lies within sub watershed 6. Prior to 1985, these acres were not fenced out of the Foster Butte Allotment. From about 1985 to 1989, an average of 100 head grazed these two fenced areas May through Sept. For the past 12 years (1990 to present), both fenced areas are used by the ZX Ranch to gather straggler cattle from the Foster Butte Allotment. This use varies depending on the success of the initial gather and move off each pasture in July/August. This is how the areas are will be used in 2003 and in the future.

T29S R13E Section 36 E1/2SW1/4, NW1/4SE1/4 and SE1/4SE1/4 (200 acres) USFS T21S R13E Section 36 SW1/4SE1/4 (40 acres) through a Special Use Permit

For the past 12 years, 200 pairs total have used these areas May thru June for approximately 2 months and in the fall for approximately 2 weeks. Use prior to this was similar with numbers varying. Both areas will be rested in 2003. Use planned for 2004 will be similar to the past 12 years.















