# Allotment Management Plan

Smiley Creek S&G
Fisher Creek S&G
Sawtooth National Recreation Area
Sawtooth National Forest

**Prepared by:** _____ **Date:** _____
(Title)

**Reviewed by:** _____ **Date:** _____
Permittee

_____ **Date:** _____
Permittee

_____ **Date:** _____
Permittee

This Allotment Management Plan implements direction established in the July 2003 Revision of the Sawtooth National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, the September 20, 2004 Record of Decision for the North Sheep Allotments Final Environmental Impact Statement and Supplemental Information Report (2007). This Allotment Management Plan is made part of your Term Grazing Permit in accordance with Section 8(a) Part 2 of that permit.

**Approved by:** _____ **Date:** _____
District Ranger

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

# I. Introduction

The Smiley Creek Allotment is located about 21 miles south of Stanley, Idaho along the southern edge of the Smoky Mountains within the Sawtooth National Forest boundary. The elevation on the allotment varies from 6,900 feet to over 10,200 feet above sea level. Annual precipitation for this area averages 26 to 45 inches depending on elevation and 60 to 70 percent of this occurs as snow. This allotment covers about 42,084 acres.

The Fisher Creek Allotment is located about 13 miles southeast of Stanley, Idaho along the western flank of the White Cloud Mountains within the Sawtooth National Forest boundary. The elevation on the allotment varies from about 6,800 to 8300 feet above sea level. Annual precipitation for this area averages 26 to 35 inches depending on elevation and 60 to 70 percent of this occurs as snow. This allotment covers about 7,494 acres.

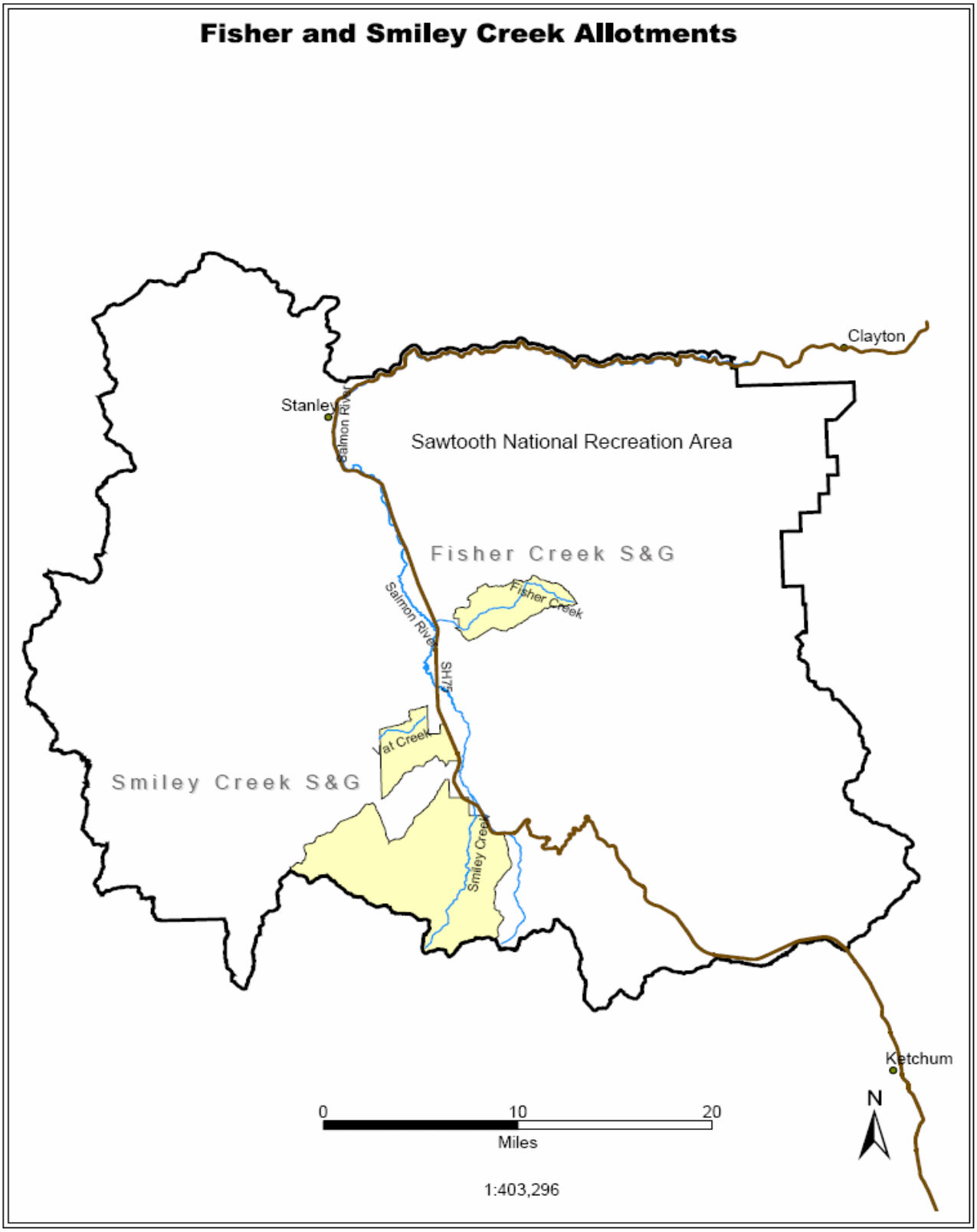
The Forest Service administers grazing on both Smiley Creek and Fisher Creek allotments.

**Condition**
Overall, the rangelands on these allotments are considered to be functioning appropriately. However, there are localized areas where recent grazing management has been an impediment to achieving desired resource conditions. This Allotment Management Plan (AMP) is designed to improve resource conditions in these areas.

**Key Management Issues**

- Important plant communities, including alpine, riparian, upland meadow, and sagebrush steppe communities.
- Special status plant species.
- Noxious weed infestations.
- Soils and soil productivity.
- Stream bank stability and morphology.
- Stream sedimentation and the deposition of fine soil material in gravel beds.

# A. Area Map


Fisher and Smiley Creek Allotments
Clayton
Stanley
Salmon River
Sawtooth National Recreation Area
Fisher Creek S&G
Fisher Creek
Salmon River
SH75
Yat Creek
Smiley Creek S&G
Smiley Creek
Ketchum
N
0
10
20
Miles
1:403,296

# II. GOALS & OBJECTIVES

## A. Forest Plan

Forest Plan goals and objectives are identified at two scales. The Forest Plan scale describes goals and objectives that are generally applied to all areas within the Forest. The management area scale describes management direction for specific management areas within the National Forest. Management Area objectives form the basis for development of project-level actions or proposals to help achieve Forest goals. However**,** not all project**s** proposed and designed are expected to respond to all objectives in the Forest Plan. These allotments fall within the Upper Salmon River Valley Management Area (Management Area No. 2).

### 1. Forest-Wide Goals

**RAGO01**- Provide for livestock forage within existing open allotments, in a manner that is consistent with other resource management direction and uses.
**RAGO02**- Manage rangelands using controlled livestock grazing, range structural and non-structural improvements, vegetative and ground rehabilitation, fire, and timber management in various combinations to meet desired conditions.
**RAGO03**- Manage upland vegetation on suitable rangelands to maintain or restore hydrologic function and soil productivity of watersheds.
**RAGO04**- Manage herbaceous and shrub vegetation on suitable rangelands to meet resource objectives in an efficient manner.
**RAGO05**- Manage livestock grazing within riparian areas to accommodate the maintenance or restoration of aquatic and riparian processes and functions.
**RAGO06**- Coordinate livestock grazing to address conflicts with other resource uses in a manner that is consistent with Forest Plan management direction.
**VEGO01 –** Maintain or restore desired plant community components, including species composition, size class, canopy closures, structure, snags, and coarse woody debris as described in Appendix A (FLRMP).
**VEGO02** –Maintain or restore vegetative conditions as described in Appendix A to provide for ecological processes, including disturbance regimes, soil hydrological processes, nutrient cycling and biotic interactions.

### 2. Forest-Wide Objectives

**RAOB01** - Coordinate the design, update and/or revision of AMPs with adjacent landowners to maximize opportunities and minimize potential management conflicts.
**RAOB02** - Coordinate livestock grazing with timber harvest and forest regeneration activities to capitalize on management opportunities, while minimizing activity conflicts to help meet Forest Plan Vegetation and Rangeland Resource goals.

**RAOB03** - Identify rangeland facilities that are degrading resource conditions and prioritize opportunities to mitigate their effects or to initiate restoration of resource conditions.
**TEOB23 –** Manage livestock grazing to be compatible with the maintenance or restoration of desired lynx habitat.
**VEOB03**- Utilize emerging technologies and science, and implement adaptive management process to provide for increasing the effectiveness of vegetation monitoring.
**VEOB06**- Determine high priority areas for vegetation management actions that restore or maintain desired vegetation attributes.

## 3. Management Area Goals (Prescriptions)

Management prescriptions are defined as, "Management practices and intensity selected and scheduled for application on a specific area to attain multiple use and other goals and objectives" (36 CFR 219.3). Management prescription categories (MPC) are broad categories of management prescriptions that indicate the general management emphasis prescribed for a given area. They are based on Forest Service definitions developed at the national level, and represent management emphasis themes, ranging from Wilderness (1.0) to Concentrated Development (8.0). The national MPCs have been customized during Forest Plan revision to better fit the needs and issues of the Forest. The allotments include MPCs 2.1 and 3.2 (see Appendix Figure 9).

**2.1 – Wild and Scenic Rivers**
The primary emphasis of this MPC is to "manage the eligible Wild and Scenic River corridors to their assigned classification standards and preserve their outstandingly remarkable values and free-flowing status, until the rivers undergo a suitability study and the study finds them suitable for designation by Congress or releases them from further consideration as Wild and Scenic Rivers".

**3.2 – Active Restoration and Maintenance of Aquatic, Terrestrial, and Hydrologic Resources.**
The general emphasis of this MPC is to actively restore degraded aquatic, terrestrial, and watershed resource conditions through a combination of management activities and natural processes. Restoration is focused on those components of the ecosystem that are not functioning properly, or are outside the range of desired conditions, while maintenance helps to preserve those components that are functioning properly.

## 4. Management Area Objectives

### a) Riparian, Soil, Water, Vegetation, Fish and Wildlife

- Provide riparian woody and hydric vegetation composition, age class structure, and pattern, that restores or maintains bank stability, low width/depth channel ratios, and provides for a properly functioning condition along the significant tributaries to the Salmon River within allotment boundaries(Objective 0250, pg III-113).
- Reduce road and grazing related sediment delivery within southern and eastern drainages, including Fisher Creek, Frenchman Creek, Smiley Creek, and Beaver Creek. Fisher Creek sub watershed is the priority (Objective 0248, pg III-113).

- Reduce grazing impacts to soil, water, riparian, and aquatic resources through more intensive grazing management practices. Emphasize restoration within Frenchman and Smiley Creeks (Objective 02142, pg III-120).

### b) Upland Mesic and Sagebrush

- Restore the Mountain Big Sagebrush, Low Sage, and Basin Big Sage vegetation groups to desired range of composition and structure, as described in Appendix A, to improve sagebrush-obligate species habitat by improving the diversity and distribution of age classes (Objective 0261, pg III-114).

- Maintain or increase aspen stands. Give priority to stands within wildlife wintering areas (Objective 0262, pg III-114).

### c) Non-Native Plants

- …Prevent, control, or eradicate noxious weed infestations within emphasis on Highway 75 corridor … (Objective 0268, pg III-114).

### d) Alpine

- Provide for mountain goat habitat by reducing competition for forage by domestic livestock where allotments overlap mountain goat habitat (Objective 0270, pg III-114).

- Maintain soil and vegetation conditions that are functioning properly and restore those that are degraded in the alpine and sub alpine communities where sheep trail routes and bedding have occurred, or are occurring (Objective 02141, pg III-120).

## B. Smiley and Fisher Allotment Management Plan Updates Record of Decision

The following goals are described in Record of Decision for the Fisher Creek & Smiley Creek Allotment Management Plan Updates. They are found in the Decision Section (p. 1) and the Adaptive Management Section (p. 3). The allotment specific objectives

were derived from the Record of Decision discussions on "How the Decision Responds to Public Concerns and Needs for Change" (pp. 6-9).

## 1. Goals

- Update the allotment management plans and provide for permitted livestock grazing that meets or moves toward desired conditions as described in FLRMP standards.

- Strike a balance between the growing recreation uses and long term sustainable livestock grazing within the SNRA.

- Restore aquatic, terrestrial, and hydrologic resources.

- Achieve or make progress towards FLRMP desired conditions affected by grazing.

## 2. Specific Allotment Objectives

### a) Riparian, Soil, Water, Vegetation, Fish and Wildlife

By 2014, bank stability and width/depth ratios must reach at least 90% of desired condition. Areas not functioning appropriately will be improved to functioning (Objective 0250, pg III-113). Significant tributaries include Smiley Creek, Frenchman Creek, and Fisher Creek.

By the year 2009, data from designated monitoring areas (DMA) should verify that all riparian areas are trending toward desired future condition. By the year 2014, all riparian areas should achieve 90 percent of their desired future condition as stated below (Objective 0250, pg III-113).

By the year 2009, a reduction of grazing caused sediment sources will be evaluated by measuring bank stability, bank cover, and the upland condition near or within riparian areas in Fisher, Smiley, Beaver, and Frenchman Creeks (Objective 0248, pg III-113).

On an annual basis, sheep must be trailed (not grazed) through the headwaters of Fisher Creek (Fisher Creek S&G), Eureka Gulch, Jake's Gulch and Frenchman Creek (Smiley Creek S&G) to reduce competition from domestic livestock for available

forage in mountain goat habitat (Objective 0270, pg III-114) & (Objective 02141, pg III-120).

By the year 2009, reduce grazing impacts to soil, water, riparian, and aquatic resources through more intensive grazing management practices. Emphasize restoration within Frenchman and Smiley Creeks (Objective 02142, pg III-120).

### b) Upland Mesic & Sagebrush

Through monitoring key areas, by 2008, upland mesic and sagebrush areas should be trending toward their desired future condition. By the year 2014, all sagebrush areas should be improved to 60% of their desired future condition. (Objective 0261, pg III-114). Note that this will only be achieved if sagebrush treatment programs such as prescribed burning can be implemented in portions of the sagebrush areas. This AMP does not address implementing vegetation treatment programs other than what may be accomplished through controlling and managing livestock grazing.

### c) Aspen

Through monitoring key stands, by 2008, aspen stands should be trending toward their desired future condition. By the year 2014, all aspen stands should be improved to 90 percent of their desired future condition as stated below. Note that this will only be achieved if aspen treatment programs such as prescribed burning can be implemented in portions of the aspen stands. This AMP does not address implementing vegetation treatment programs other than what may be accomplished through controlling and managing livestock grazing.

### d) Non-Native Invasive Plants

By 2009, infestations along Fisher Creek, Smiley Creek, Frenchman Creek, Beaver Creek, and Cabin Creek Roads should be inventoried and a treatment schedule completed. (Objective 0268, pg III-114).

## C. Desired Conditions

### 1. Forest Plan Level

Rangeland Resource Desired Condition: A sustainable level of forage, consistent with other resource management direction, is available for use through the Forest Service grazing permit system. Rangeland forage quality is maintained or improved in areas where vegetation management projects and range management actions occur. Riparian areas continue to be a focal point for

providing vegetation diversity, landscape capability, soil productivity, wildlife habitat, proper stream channel function, and water quality important to sustaining beneficial uses. Riparian areas are functioning properly and/or have improving trends in vegetative composition, age class structure and vigor. Upland range vegetation is contributing to proper hydrologic function. The composition and densities of shrubs, grasses and forbs are variable and dynamic across the landscape.

## 2. Allotment Specific

### a) Riparian

Riparian variables would need to trend toward desired conditions at a minimum in each DMA within specified timeframes as described in the allotment objectives. If variables are not trending toward this condition, then additional sampling within each stream would be required. Sampling would determine if grazing is impeding recovery at a larger scale and be used to make the appropriate adjustments in the allotment management plan.

- Stream bank vegetation in late seral condition per Winword 2000 classification.
- Bank Stability at 90% of potential where influenced by grazing.
- Width/depth ratios at 90% of potential where influenced by grazing.
- Adequate cover of key native species (both woody and herbaceous) such as carex, rush and willow species in a variety of age classes that are adequately reproducing and maintaining good vigor. Desired condition can be further explained as cover of these species to be 90% or greater of its estimated potential.

***Areas of Concern:*** Localized sites within Smiley Creek Meadows, Lower Smiley Creek drainages (sheep corrals/trailing), Lower Frenchman Creek, Upper Alturas Creek, Fisher Creek Meadows, and Lower Fisher Creek drainages.

### b) Upland Mesic Riparian

- Adequate cover of key native species (both woody and herbaceous) such as carex, rush and willow species in a variety of age classes that are adequately reproducing and maintaining good vigor. Desired condition can be further explained as cover of these species to be 70 percent or greater of estimated potential.
- No active head cutting is occurring.

***Areas of Concern:*** Same areas mentioned in the previous section.

### c) Upland Sagebrush

- Sagebrush meets FLRMP standards of:
  30-40% of areas in 0-10% canopy cover class

30-40% of areas in 11-20% canopy cover class
20-30% of areas in 21-30% canopy cover class
<= 5% of area in > 30% canopy cover class

Note: Recovery to meet this condition will require disturbance treatment by fire or other means irrespective of sheep management practices. This will require planning treatment projects with additional NEPA analysis as funds and priorities warrant.

- Soil Cover on grazed areas will be within the desired range based on information available for existing land type classifications.

- Plant composition on grazed areas will include species diversity and presence as described in FLRMP App. B.

- Presence or absence of noxious weeds will be determined and included in the desired condition analysis.

***Areas of Concern***: Upland sites and flats adjacent to streams in Smiley Creek, Beaver Creek, Frenchman Creek, Alturas Lake Creek and Vat Creek.

## d) Perennial Grass Slopes (10-18 inch precipitation zone)

- Blue bunch wheat grass is the dominant bunch grass. Perennial grasses compose 80-90% of production. Sandberg bluegrass is a minor component of the vegetation. Common forbs include Indian wheat, shining chickweed, salsify, yarrow, lupine, balsamroot, biscuit root, hawksbeard, fleabane, milk vetch and phlox. Noxious weeds are absent.

***Areas of Concern:*** Same area mentioned in the previous section.

## e) Perennial Grass Montane (14 – 30 inch precipitation zone)

This type is interspersed with sagebrush, forested and mountain brush types. Idaho fescue is the dominant grass. Other species may include intermediate oat grass, western needle grass and Richardson needle grass. Forbs compose 40-65% of production. Common forbs are yarrow, besseya, geum, Indian paintbrush, lupines, phlox, and balsamroot.

***Areas of Concern:*** Same area mentioned in the previous section.

## f) Aspen

- Aspen stands will have sufficient regeneration to sustain the stand over time with adequate native species composition and cover in the understory that are adequately reproducing and maintaining good vigor (Bartos 2001; Burton 2002; Mueggler 1988; USDA Forest Service 2004).

**Stand Specific Desired Condition:**

- Aspen dominates the over story canopy level (aspen > 8 in. DBH). Over 2/3$^{rds}$ of the canopy cover is composed of aspen.
- Aspen dominates the mid-level canopy level (aspen 1 in. DBH to 8 in. DBH). Over 2/3$^{rds}$ of the mid-level canopy is composed of aspen.
- There is significant aspen regeneration occurring to support a healthy stand. The stand has over 500 stems per acre < 1 in. DBH. Less than 20% have multiple leaders or are hedged from browsing.
- Less than 20% of the stand contains sagebrush.

***Areas of Concern:*** Over mature or decadent stands that are lacking in regeneration as a result of grazing impacts and those stands adjacent to streams or other water sources favored for bedding areas.

Monitoring will focus on the impacts of bedding or shading within these stands and may include measuring age-class diversity, stand condition, degree of regeneration, and grazing use of aspen and under story vegetation.

### g) Alpine

- Desired Condition for alpine habitats includes an abundance of perennial vegetation communities (i.e cushion plants, grasses and sedges for sod-like mats) distributed throughout the alpine region (Sawtooth FLRMP Appendix A-28).
- Soils have not been compacted by livestock trampling and species composition has not altered substantially to include a preponderance of non-native or annual plant species.

***Areas of Concern:*** High elevation areas that will continue to receive trailing impacts, such as Jakes Gulch and Beaver Creek.

Monitoring will focus on the survival of sensitive plants species common to high alpine basins impacted by grazing and trailing activities, the spread of non-native species, and the restoration of white bark pine and aspen. Additionally, monitoring may be conducted in the high elevation areas that are closed to grazing by the Record of Decision to determine the effectiveness of this decision on achieving desired conditions in this community type.

# III. MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS

## A. Management Prescription Categories

| Table 1. Management Prescription Category Standards and Guidelines for Management Area 2, Sawtooth FLRMP | |
|---|---|
| **MPC 2.1 Standards and/or Guideline** | |
| Standard | Manage the eligible Wild and Scenic River corridors to their assigned classification standards, and preserve the outstandingly remarkable values and free-flowing status, until the rivers undergo a suitability study and the study finds them suitable for designation by Congress or releases them from further consideration as Wild and Scenic Rivers. |
| **MPC 3.2 Standards and/or Guidelines** | |
| Standard | Management actions, including salvage harvest, may only degrade aquatic, terrestrial, and watershed resource conditions in the temporary time period (up to 3 years) short term (3-15 years) and must be designed to avoid resource degradation long term (greater that 15 years). |

# B. Objectives from the Sawtooth FLRMP, and how they are addressed in the Record of Decision:

## 1. Areas Closed To Grazing

**Actions in ROD**

- Area closures have been established in the Smiley Creek Allotment to prevent livestock from grazing approximately 547 otherwise capable acres in high elevation (>9000 ft.) cirque basins at the headwaters of Frenchman Creek, Smiley Creek, Mill Gulch, Beaver Creek, Jake's Gulch and Alturas Lake Creek drainages. This adjustment was made to protect thin soils, fragile alpine plant life, unique wildlife habitat, and to reduce the potential for recreation/livestock conflicts (See Figure 10).

- No closures have been made in the Fisher Creek S&G Allotment.

**Objectives Met by Actions:**

- Provide for mountain goat habitat by reducing competition for forage by domestic livestock where allotments overlap mountain goat habitat (Objective 0270).
- Maintain soil and vegetation conditions that are functioning properly and restore those that are degraded in the alpine and sub alpine communities where sheep trail routes and bedding have occurred, or are occurring (Objective 02141).
- Reduce grazing impacts to soil, water, riparian, and aquatic resources through more intensive grazing management practices. Emphasize restoration within Frenchman and Smiley Creeks (Objective 02142).

## 2. Grazing Capacity

**Actions in ROD**

- The maximum* number of livestock head months (sheep months) permitted annually within the Smiley Creek S&G Allotment will be 3628.

- The maximum* number of livestock head months (sheep months) permitted annually within the Fisher Creek S&G Allotment will be 930.

  *This is equivalent to the maximum annual livestock forage allocation that will be authorized under Term Grazing Permit without further analysis.

**Objectives Met by Actions:**

- Reduce grazing impacts to soil, water, riparian, and aquatic resources through more intensive grazing management practices. Emphasize restoration within Frenchman and Smiley Creeks (Objective 02142).

## 3. Season of Use and Threatened and Endangered Species

**Actions in ROD**

Grazing use is restricted (see mitigation described in section IV.B.2.B) in the following drainages to protect TES spawning and incubating periods (See Figure 3). These dates will remain in effect unless revised in future consultation efforts that result in Biological Opinions or Concurrence Letters.

- Smiley Creek below the tributary in Section 20 after August 1.
- Alturas Lake Creek below the confluence with Alpine Creek after August 1.
- The lower 4 miles of Frenchman Creek after August 1.

**Objectives Met by Actions:**

- Reduce adverse grazing effects to fish habitat and water quality (Objective 0330).
- Improve stream channel width/depth ratios, bank stability and water tables in the riparian areas that are not functioning appropriately (Objective 0343).
- Restore willow composition, structure, and density, and hydric forbs and grasses in riparian areas by reducing impacts from livestock grazing (Objective 0349).

## 4. Temporary Nonuse Rest Areas

**Actions in ROD**

The following habitat indicators for Riparian Conservation Areas within the Smiley Creek drainage from the confluence of Mill Creek to the Forest boundary will be used to help determine recovery:

- Riparian areas will have adequate cover of key native species in a variety of age classes that are adequately reproducing and maintaining good vigor.

- Stream bank stability is greater than 90 percent of inherent potential.
- No more than 15 percent of the soil productivity of an activity area is in a detrimentally disturbed condition as measured by compaction, puddling, and displacement.
- Hummocks or pedicels are generally absent.

Sheep Activity (e.g. grazing, trailing, bedding, nooning, and use of temporary or permanent corrals for shipping and receiving livestock) in the Smiley Creek drainage will be restricted between the confluence of Mill Gulch and the Forest Boundary until substantial recovery of habitat indicators occurs (Smiley/Fisher ROD pg. 5).

**Objectives Met by Actions:**

- Provide riparian woody and hydric vegetation composition, age class structure, and pattern, that restores or maintains bank stability, low width/depth channel ratios, and provides for a properly functioning condition along the main stem Salmon River, Valley Creek and significant tributaries (Objective 0250).
- Reduce road and grazing related sediment delivery within southern and eastern drainages, including Fisher Creek, Frenchman Creek, Smiley Creek, and Beaver Creek. Fisher Creek sub watershed is the priority (Objective 0248).
- Reduce grazing impacts to soil, water, riparian, and aquatic resources through more intensive grazing management practices. Emphasize restoration within Frenchman and Smiley Creeks (Objective 02142).
- Restore the Mountain Big Sagebrush, Low Sage, and Basin Big Sage vegetation groups to desired range of composition and structure, as described in Appendix A, to improve sagebrush-obligate species habitat by improving the diversity and distribution of age classes (Objective 0261).
- Maintain or increase aspen stands. Give priority to stands within wildlife wintering areas (Objective 0262).
- Maintain soil and vegetation conditions that are functioning properly and restore those that are degraded in the alpine and sub alpine communities where sheep trail routes and bedding have occurred, or are occurring (Objective 02141).

# C. Standards and Guidelines (S&G's) from the Sawtooth FLRMP, and how they are addressed in the Record of Decision:

## 1. Riparian Habitat S&G's

- Forage Utilization in areas where riparian goals and objectives are not being met will not exceed 30 percent use of the most palatable forage

species, or must retain a minimum 6 inch stubble height of hydric green line species, whichever occurs first, (FLRMP Standard 02143).

The following table sets proper use standards for the Smiley Creek allotment by Unit, Drainage and reach:

**Table 2. Riparian Use Standards for Smiley Creek Allotment**

| Allotment | Drainage | Creek | Reach | Utilization Standard |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Smiley | Smiley | Smiley | 1,3,5 | 30% (6") |
| | | | 2,4 & 6 | 45% or 4" |
| | | | All Tribs. | 45% or 4" |
| | Frenchman | Frenchman C | All Reaches | 45% or 4" |
| | | | All Tribs | 45% or 4" |
| | Beaver | Beaver | 1 & 3 | 30% (6") |
| | | | 2 | 45% or 4" |
| | | West Beaver | All | 45% or 4" |
| | | Little Beaver | All | 45% or 4" |
| | Alturas | Upper Alturas | 8 & 10 | 30% or 6" |
| | | | 9 | 45% or 4" |
| | | Alpine | All | 45% or 4" |
| | Vat | Vat | All | 45% or 4" |
| | | Cabin | All | 45% or 4" |

The following table sets proper use standards for the Fisher Creek allotment by Unit, Drainage and reach:

**Table 3. Riparian Use Standards for Fisher Creek Allotment**

| Allotment | Drainage | Creek | Reach | Utilization Standard |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Fisher | Fisher | Fisher | All | 45 % (4") |
| | | Pass | All | 30% (6") |

- Mitigate, through avoidance, the adverse effects of livestock access or activities that may result in trampling of redds or disturbance of spawning or reproductive staging of Endangered Species Act listed fish species (FLRMP Standard TEST25, pg III-13).

    - Compliance with this mitigation requirement is addressed by required changes in the season of use as stated in section "III, B (3)". Ongoing monitoring efforts may identify additional areas / stream

reaches that require these or similar restrictions. Such areas will be identified, and appropriate restrictions stipulated, in subsequent Annual Operating Instructions.

- Livestock trailing, bedding, watering, and other handling efforts shall be limited to those areas and times that maintain or allow for restoration of beneficial uses and native and desired non-native fish habitat (FLRMP Standard RAST02, pg III-45).

    - This standard is addressed by the restriction placed on grazing between the confluence of Mill Gulch and the Forest Boundary until substantial recovery of habitat indicators occurs. This restriction, along with maps designating areas for watering, trailing and shipping, will be included in the AOI. The standard is further addressed by the requirement that temporary corrals will be used in lieu of the Smiley Creek Corral until recovery standards have been met.

- Livestock salting will be prohibited in Riparian Conservation Areas (RCA's). Sheep will be salted only at bed grounds. Salt will be placed in containers and moved with the sheep (FLRMP Standard RAST04, pg III-45).

    - This standard will be stipulated in the AOI.

- Only one night/one time use of bed grounds is allowed (FLRMP Standard RAST05, pg III-45).

    - This standard will be stipulated in the AOI.

- Only open or loose sheep herding will be practiced, except where site-specific vegetation management (e.g. noxious weed control) is needed and has been prescribed (FLRMP Standard RAST06, pg III-45).

    - This standard will be stipulated in the AOI. Maps identifying site-specific exceptions will be included in the AOI as necessary.

- Only annual once-over sheep grazing will be allowed, with the exception of designated sheep driveways, travel routes, or where specifically authorized (FLRMP Standard RAST07, pg III-45).

    - This standard will be stipulated in the AOI. Maps identifying site-specific exceptions will be included in the AOI as necessary.

- Bedding of sheep and salting of livestock in plantations will be prohibited until plantation trees have grown to a size that reduces their

susceptibility to damage from livestock (FLRMP Standard RAST08, pg III-45).

- This standard will be stipulated in the AOI when this type of reforestation is prescribed within the allotments. Maps identifying plantation locations will be included in the AOI as necessary.

## 2. Upland Mesic and Sagebrush S&G's

- Forage utilization for upland vegetative cover types will not exceed 40 percent for early season or season long pastures and 50 percent for vegetative slow growth, after seed ripe conditions, or late season pastures (FLRMP Standard RAST01).

  - Use standards appropriate to the stipulated grazing rotation will be assigned to each pasture and reflected in the AOI.

## 3. Alpine and Threatened, Endangered, Proposed Candidate Plant Species S&G's

- Livestock trailing, bedding, watering, and other handling efforts shall be mitigated, through avoidance, to address adverse effects to occupied TEPC habitat (FLRMP Standard TEST22, pg. III-13).

  - This standard is addressed in high elevations through changes to the allotment boundary as stated in section III, B (1). The Record of Decision further addresses this issue by stipulating: "An adaptive management strategy, which will allow for flexibility during the implementation of the grazing strategy, will allow permittees to respond to changing conditions and unexpected results". Ongoing monitoring efforts may identify additional areas that require these or similar mitigations. Such areas will be identified, and appropriate mitigations stipulated, in subsequent Annual Operating Instructions.

- New water developments, corrals, and other handling or loading facilities shall not be located within occupied habitat of TEPC plant species unless it can be demonstrated these facilities shall not adversely affect occupied habitat (FLRMP Standard TEST23, pg III-13).

  - The Record of Decision stipulates: "My decision will also update the Fisher Creek and Smiley Creek AMPs and authorize livestock grazing in a manner that will meet FLRMP standards for livestock management throughout the allotments". All development proposals will be accompanied by documentation verifying concurrence with this standard.

- Livestock salting and/or bed grounds shall be located outside occupied TEPC plant habitat so that plants shall not be adversely affected by associated trampling (FLRMP Standard TEST24, pg III-13).

    - This standard is addressed in high elevations through changes to the allotment boundary as stated in section "III B (1)." This standard is further addressed in the Record of Decision under "Management Direction Common to Both Allotments / Vegetation Resources" as follows: "Survey potential habitat for special status plant species in areas that would receive concentrated sheep use, such as trailing corridors and temporary corral sites not analyzed in this FEIS, to determine if the habitat is occupied. If habitat is occupied, relocate disturbance to unoccupied habitat".

- Mitigate, through avoidance, effects to occupied TEPC plant habitat through grazing system design and implementation, and livestock adjustment (FLRMP Standard TEST26, pg III-14).

    - This standard is addressed through changes to the allotment boundary as stated in section "III B (1)." It is further addressed by stocking rate limits and seasonal use restrictions provided in "III B (2), B (3)." These provisions will be reflected in the AOI.

## 4. Wildlife habitat S&G's

- Big game requirements for space and forage have priority in the management of winter range used in common by livestock and big game (FLRMP Standard WIST07, pg III-27).

    - This standard has been addressed through changes to the allotment boundary as stated in section "III B (1)." It is further addressed by stocking rate limits and seasonal use restrictions provided in "III B (2), B (3)."

    - Ongoing analysis of big game requirements will be used to address this standard through ongoing monitoring and adaptive management. Management changes will be reflected in the AOI.

## 5. Livestock Management S&G's

- Only one night/one time use of bed grounds is allowed (FLRMP Standard RAST05, pg III-45).

    - This standard will be included among provisions of the AOI.

- Only open or loose sheep herding will be practiced, except where site-specific vegetation management (e.g. noxious weed control) is needed and has been prescribed (FLRMP Standard RAST06, pg III-45).

- The AOI will stipulate "Livestock will be moved such that utilization standards are not exceeded".

- Only annual once-over sheep grazing will be allowed, with the exception of designated sheep driveways, travel routes, or where specifically authorized (FLRMP Standard RAST07, pg III-45). Specific criteria where trailing is allowed through closures, or where more than once-over grazing is authorized will be described in the AOIs including specific locations and direction for length of time, bedding, nooning, etc.

    - This standard will be included among provisions of the AOI.

- Bedding of sheep and salting of livestock in plantations will be prohibited until plantation trees have grown to a size that reduces their susceptibility to damage from livestock (FLRMP Standard RAST08, pg III-45).

    - This standard will be included among provisions of the AOI when reforestation is prescribed within the allotments.

- Sheep should be routed to avoid slopes with loose soil conditions, active gullies, and snow bank areas that have low productivity, soil puddling, and compaction conditions (FLRMP Guideline RAGU08, pg III-47).

    - This standard will be addressed in the AOI by designation of grazing route, stipulation of utilization standards, restricted use in areas of resource concern, and other measures identified and implemented through ongoing monitoring and adaptive management.

- Where rangeland facilities or practices have been identified as potentially contributing to the degradation of water quality, aquatic species or occupied sensitive or watch plant habitat, facilities and practices causing degradation should be considered for relocation, closure, or changes in management strategy, alteration, or discontinuance (FLRMP Guideline RAGU05, pg III-46).

    - This standard has been addressed with the temporary rest of the Smiley Creek corrals and Smiley Creek drainage. (Refer To section III B (4).)
    - This standard will be addressed as necessary each year based on the results of ongoing monitoring and adaptive management.

# IV. LIVESTOCK GRAZING PRESCRIPTION

## A. Forage Allocations and Herd Rotations

In accordance with Alternative B of the North Sheep Final Environmental Impact Statement, the total annual livestock forage allocation shall not exceed 3628 sheep head months for Smiley Creek Allotment, and 930 sheep head months for the Fisher Creek Allotment. Within these constraints sheep will be herded on routes described in Annual Operating Instructions. The design of these routes will ensure that no area of an allotment receives substantial grazing by livestock more than once per season ("once-over grazing"). Where routes must cross previously grazed areas, trailing timeframes will be stipulated to prevent other than incidental grazing during the crossing. Ongoing monitoring and subsequent development of adaptive strategies may result in variations to the grazing route from year to year. Though no formal pasture divisions exist in these allotments, variations in season of use for a given area are facilitated by rotating the order of use among drainages in Smiley Creek Allotment, and by alternating which aspect (side) of a drainage is used first in the Fisher Creek Allotment. Examples of possible rotations are shown in the following table:

**Drainage Rotation (order of use)***

**Table 4. Smiley Creek Allotment Rotation Schedule**

| Year | *Frenchman Creek* | *Smiley Creek* | *Beaver Creek* | *Alturas Lake Creek* | *Vat Creek* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **First** | **5** | **4** | **3** | **2** | **1** |
| **Second** | **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** |
| **Third** | **3** | **4** | **2** | **5** | **1** |

** The above rotation is tentative, and may be altered through adaptive management, or as a result of administrative necessity, area closures, etc. Unless altered, the rotation repeats every three years for the duration of this plan.*

**Fisher Creek Allotment**

First Year – Sheep will enter the allotment trailing up Fourth of July Creek to the east half of section 10, T. 8N. R. 14E., and then trailing north to the lower reaches of Fisher Creek. From there, sheep will be grazed up either the north aspect of Fisher Creek drainage and then down the south aspect, or vice versa, depending on seasonal variations in range readiness. Tributaries to Fisher Creek (such as Pass Creek) within the boundaries of the allotment may be grazed as part of the general rotation in the same fashion (graze up one aspect and down the other) as Fisher Creek.

Second Year - Sheep will enter the allotment trailing up Fourth of July Creek to the NW1/4 of section 12, T. 8N. R. 14 E, and then trailing north to the upper reaches of Pass Creek. From there, sheep will graze down Pass Creek to the confluence with Fisher Creek where

the normal pattern of grazing (up one aspect and down the other) will resume as described for the first year rotation.

## B. Standards and Mitigations

The following standards and mitigation measures will be stipulated in Annual Operating Instructions as applicable to management strategies employed for a specific grazing season:

### 1. Forage Utilization Standards:

Maximum forage utilization of representative areas within each pasture shall not exceed the values shown at the end of growing season.
Variation in utilization standards in order to achieve specific vegetative management objectives shall occur with a site-specific or project-level decision according to direction in FSM 1922.5.
a) *Riparian Areas:* (See section III.C.1, p. 17)
b) *Upland Vegetative Cover Types:* Early season or season long pastures – 40 percent use. Vegetative slow growth, after seed ripe conditions, or late season pastures – 50 percent use.

### 2. Mitigation Measures:

A. When grazing in the Smiley Creek valley:
- Between the confluence of Mill Gulch downstream to the Forest boundary, restrict all sheep activity (grazing, trailing, bedding, and nooning) to the Smiley Creek road (FR077) or the area west of the road.
- Allow 2 days for the band to travel between Mill Gulch and the Forest boundary.
- When water is not available on the west side of the Smiley Creek road, water from portable water troughs.
- Maintain these limits until substantial recovery of important habitat indicators occurs (perhaps 3 to 5 seasons). If it is determined that Smiley Creek and its Riparian Conservation Area (RCA) are functioning appropriately or nearly so in regard to indicators substantially affected by sheep grazing, adaptive management and identification of predetermined stream crossings may allow a less-tightly controlled but still closely-monitored use of some or part of the Smiley Creek valley affected by this mitigation measure.

B. To protect spawning steelhead, bull trout, and Chinook salmon and their redds, permittees shall avoid watering and crossing of sheep bands in specific stream reaches (to be determined by a Sawtooth NF fisheries specialist) of the Smiley or Fisher Creek allotments in which steelhead, bull trout, or Chinook salmon spawning is likely to occur or is observed. The directed avoidance for steelhead, which would likely spawn each season prior to sheep turnout, will typically continue through mid- to late

July, while the directed avoidance for Chinook salmon and bull trout, which are fall spawners, will begin in early to mid-August (and continue through the remainder of the grazing season). Avoidance dates may vary depending on site-specific information. Alternatively, if determined feasible and appropriate by a SNF fisheries specialist, permittees shall water and cross sheep bands only at specifically marked stream sections in which steelhead, Chinook salmon, and/or bull trout spawning is determined by the specialist to be unlikely to occur because of habitat characteristics (e.g., at a sandy-bottomed beaver pond or in a high-gradient cobble riffle). The time-frame for designated crossings for steelhead will begin at turnout and continue through mid- to late July; for Chinook salmon and bull trout the use of designated crossings will begin in early to mid-August and continue through the remainder of each grazing season.

C. Permittees shall not noon or bed sheep within perennial or intermittent stream channels or riparian vegetation at any time.

D. Signs shall be posted at trailheads during the grazing season warning recreationists that sheep bands and guard dogs are present.

E. Potential habitat for special status plant species shall be surveyed in areas that would receive concentrated sheep use, such as trailing corridors and temporary corral sites, to determine if the habitat is occupied. If habitat is occupied, disturbance shall be relocated to to unoccupied habitat.

F. Reduce sheep activity around corrals at shipping time by bringing bands directly into the corral the night before shipping and only allowing them out for water until handling is done and they are taken out of the area.

G. Avoid sheep bedding in and nooning in noxious weed infestation areas to the extent possible.

H. Coordination between permittees and agency personnel will occur in order to identify and manage noxious weed infestations within the allotment so as to prevent further expansion or reduce existing densities (NPOB05).

I. Sheep bedding and nooning is prohibited within a 30-acre buffer of known goshawk nest sites.

J. Avoid sheep bedding and nooning in mule deer fawning and elk calving areas. Avoid bedding and nooning in active fawning and calving areas until mid July and late June,respectively.

K. If bighorn sheep are sighted in any of the allotments, permittees shall

report sitings to SNRA personnel immediately. This information will be used in coordination with IDFG to determine the appropriate management steps for the protection of this species.

L. Livestock salting will be prohibited in RCA's. Sheep will be salted only at bed grounds. Salt will be placed in containers and moved with the sheep. Loose salt must be kept in containers and made available to sheep at bedgrounds only. Do not salt in areas above 9,000 ft. elevation. Do not place salt within 100 yards of any watering area or meadow unless you receive prior approval from the Forest Officer. This includes, but is not limited to, springs, seeps, water troughs, and creeks. Salt will be removed from grazed areas in time to prevent forage utilization in excess of standards. Salt fed in loose form shall be placed in an approved container such that it is prevented from spilling onto the ground.

M. By USDA order 04-00-097, all non-pelletized hay, straw or mulch possessed, stored, or transported on National Forest System Lands, in individual bales or containers, must be tagged or marked as weed free, or must have the original and current evidence of weed free certification documentation present. All markings must meet the State and/or County standards for certification as weed free.

N. There may be special Ketchum/Stanley sheep driveway use instructions pertaining to concerns about spreading spotted knapweed.

O. The use of temporary corrals may be required to reduce livestock impacts associated with unnecessary trailing. Any approved temporary corral locations will be specified in annual operating instructions.

P. New herder camps must not be located in perennial or intermittant stream Riparian Conservation Areas (RCAs).

Q. Horses used by herders in conjunction with permitted livestock management shall not be staked or picketted within riparian zones.

R. To prevent excessive forage utilization, horses used in conjunction with permitted livestock management shall not be kept in the vicinity of a given herder camp for more than two consecutive days, or four days total per grazing season.

S. In-season information on the location and timing of the sheep band, grazing, bedding, nooning, watering sites, stream crossing sites, and on herder camp location shall be reported by the permittee to the Forest Service every two weeks.

T. Watering sites may be used only once during each grazing season.

U. With the exception of designated driveways and trailing routes, only "once over" grazing will be allowed on the allotments.

V. No bedding or nooning area shall be used more than once during the grazing season.

W. Changes to existing Forest Service system roads and unauthorized, user created, routes has occurred in recent years within the allotment. Several routes have recently been closed, obliterated, and restored to native conditions. Vehicle travel associated with livestock management shall be consistent with the Forest Travel Map designated routes, unless otherwise authorized.

## C. Adaptive Management

Adaptive management is a strategy based on three principles:

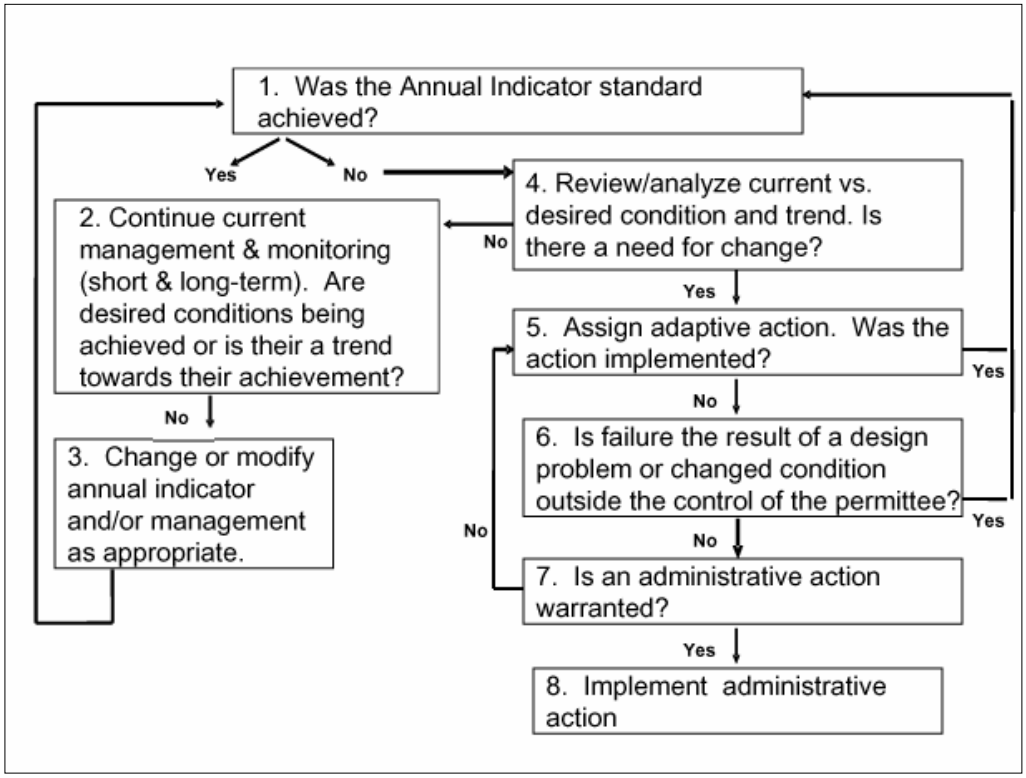
1. Achievement of realistic, clearly defined objectives;
2. Ongoing monitoring to assess progress toward those objectives; and
3. Flexibility to alter management when adequate progress is not being achieved.

This management strategy is most appropriate in dynamic situations, where change is the norm. Change can be a characteristic of the management setting, or the result of management activities, or both. In such situations, adaptive management is the most efficient way to achieve desired objectives.

The Sawtooth Forest Plan recognizes that most physical, biological, social, and economic systems are dynamic and that management must be correspondingly flexible in order to be effective.

The adaptive management procedure is based on both annual grazing use and long-term monitoring to determine if management is achieving long-term management objectives. Establishing a relationship between annual grazing use and achievement of long-term objectives necessarily emphasizes use of end-of-season annual grazing use indicators, as well as long-term indicators of rangeland condition. Within-season annual grazing use indicators may also be established through the adaptive management process to determine when livestock should be moved from a grazing unit to achieve appropriate end-of-season grazing use levels and resource management objectives. Annual grazing use indicators (including Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines), both within-season and end-of-season, along with other required management practices, are a total package that, when implemented and adhered to, will result in a reasonable expectation that long-term desired condition objectives will be achieved.

## 1. Adaptive Management Decision Tree




In Block 1, the grazing permittee(s) and/or land manager evaluates whether the annual grazing use indicator or standard was met. This assumes that the correct indicator and value was being used. These annual indicators are initially set in the Forest Plan (Forest Plan pp. III-45 through III-47) and the monitoring sections of the Allotment Management Plans (Supplement, App. C). The adaptive management process provides the opportunity to evaluate and adjust annual grazing indicators. As the adaptive management process is followed, indicators may be modified based on the results of annual and long-term monitoring.
This may be subject to re-evaluation later in the process.

A. Annual Indicator or Standard is Met: If the annual grazing use indicator is met, current management will continue, including short- and long-term monitoring as indicated in Block 2.

A1. Continue Current Management and Monitoring (Block 2): Long-term monitoring indicators are used to assess whether management objectives for resource conditions and values are being achieved. This data will be used over time to determine the effectiveness of management direction and/or annual grazing use indicators in achieving the desired conditions. Note: The adaptive management process may begin with this block when long-term monitoring is completed and evaluated.

A2. Modify the Annual Indicator and/or Management as Appropriate (Block 3): If the desired condition objective is not being achieved, there is a need to change management and/or modify either the type or value of annual grazing use indicators being used. The primary situations that could lead to modifying annual indicators are. 1) When long-term monitoring results indicate that desired conditions are not being achieved. Along with other management changes, it may be necessary to change the indicator to a more restrictive use criterion. For example, if bank stability goals are not being achieved with a 4 inch stubble height annual use criteria, raising the threshold to require leaving a 6 inch stubble height after grazing use may be appropriate. 2) The indicator is not sensitive to achieving desired conditions. For example, using a stubble height use criteria may not adequately address recovery of willow species on a site. It may be more appropriate to add or change the indicator to a limit on browsing on seedling and young willow plants. 3) New resource issues or use conflicts surface. If areas are significantly disturbed by fire, flood, or other disturbances that significantly change resource conditions, new or additional use criteria may be needed. 4) When desired conditions have been achieved, criteria may not need to be as restrictive to provide for maintenance of resource conditions as when managing for recovery of resource conditions.

B. Annual Grazing Use Indicator or Standard Is Not Met: If the grazing use exceeds the annual grazing use indicator or standard, proceed to the evaluation steps in Block 4.

B1. Analysis and Determination of the Need for an Adaptive Management Adjustment (Block 4): If the grazing use exceeds the established annual grazing use indicator or standard, the resource manager, in consultation with the permittee(s) and others as appropriate, determine: 1) the potential cause for exceeding the standard, and 2) the significance of the excessive grazing use relative to its impact on the achievement of the desired resource conditions.

The resource manager, in consultation with the permittee(s), should determine whether the failure to meet the annual grazing use indicator is an infrequent occurrence or whether there is routine difficulty in meeting annual grazing use standards. A one-time occurrence due to some unique variable may not be significant and may not require further evaluation or adaptive management adjustments. Routine difficulty in meeting the annual grazing use indicator may indicate further evaluation and the need for adaptive management adjustments.

If further evaluation is warranted, comparison of the current condition with the desired condition should be made. If there is a large departure between current conditions and desired resource conditions, it may be fairly obvious that the need to achieve the annual use indicator is significant and that adaptive management actions are needed to provide for the achievement of the annual use indicator and meet long-term objectives.

While the evaluation of current versus desired conditions should be made with the use of long-term monitoring data, this information may not be available. In that case, utilize the best available information or complete a simple and rapid qualitative analysis to compare current conditions with desired conditions. While long-term trend and condition information is preferred, the lack of such information should not delay the evaluation of the current rangeland condition and needed adaptive management adjustments. Adaptive management adjustments should be temporary modifications until quantitative long-term condition and trend information is available to support permanent changes. If the resource manager's evaluation concludes that current conditions are close to desired resource conditions, then failure to achieve the annual grazing use indicator during that grazing season may not be significant in terms of achieving long-term objectives. In this case, adaptive management adjustments may not be necessary. Existing management and monitoring to achieve desired conditions would continue (Blocks 2 and 3). The exception to this situation may be where available information indicates that the long-term trend is negative, and adaptive management adjustments are needed.

If the resource manager's evaluation concludes that there is a significant gap between current and desired conditions and there is no indication of a positive trend, then the need for adaptive management adjustments are indicated.

Note: Determination of "large departure" may be either qualitative or quantitative depending on available information. Interdisciplinary teams or resource specialists may rely on personal experience, observations, and/or quantitative assessments to make this determination. Where available, quantitative data, such as is found in the Natural Conditions Database (Overton et.al. 1995), could be used. For example, a bank stability rating that is greater than the standard error in the Database could be used to define "large departure". Where observational data is used for this determination, specialists should use photographs and/or descriptions of the observed conditions related to desired conditions to support the need for changing management and/or use indicators.

B2. Development and Implementation of Adaptive Management Adjustments (Block 5): If adaptive management adjustments are warranted, the resource manager develops these actions in collaboration with the permittee(s) and others, as appropriate. The adaptive actions are implemented through annual authorizations or operating instructions issued by the resource manager. These actions typically include, implementation of additional or more restrictive annual use criteria; change in season, timing, or duration of grazing; changes in numbers of livestock; changes in herding or routing practices; changes in grazing rotations; closures or resting areas from grazing; changes in salting and watering practices, and changes in other livestock management practices and requirements.

Once adaptive management adjustments are developed and assigned, the resource manager, in collaboration with permittee(s) and others, as appropriate, must assess whether the adaptive management adjustments were implemented as designed during the following grazing period.

If adaptive management adjustments were implemented by the permittee(s), then a determination as to whether these adjustments achieved the annual grazing use indicator would be made the following grazing period (Block 1). If the adaptive management adjustments were effective in achieving the annual grazing use indicator, then management and monitoring would continue as planned (Blocks 2 and 3). If they were not effective, then the resource manager, in collaboration with permittee(s) and others, as appropriate, must determine what additional adaptive management actions are needed (return to Block 5). Adaptive management actions considered in the proposed action are described below.

B3. Adaptive Management Adjustment Not Implemented (Block 6): If the adaptive management adjustments were not implemented, the resource manager must determine if the failure results from a design problem or changed condition, outside the control of the permittee(s). If there were problems with the design or ability to implement the adaptive management adjustments outside the control of the permittee(s), the resource manager and/or permittee(s) would revisit the design or selection of the adaptive management adjustment (return to Block 5).

B4. Determination of Non-compliance (Block 7): If failure to implement the adaptive management adjustment is not related to the design or inability to implement the adaptive action by the permittee(s), the resource manager would assess the need for an administrative action. If the resource manager determines that an administrative action is not warranted, additional changes or adaptive management direction should be considered (return to Block 5).

B5. Issue Notice of Non-compliance (Block 8): If failure to implement adaptive management adjustments is an issue of permittee(s) performance and compliance or is repetitive, then take appropriate action under the grazing regulations (36 CFR Part 222.4), Forest Service Manual direction (FSM 2231.6), and Forest Service Handbook direction (FSH 2209.13 sec. 16 & R4 FSH 2209.13 sec. 16).

## 2. Adaptive Management Actions

This AMP is a component of the grazing permit that authorizes grazing use on National Forest System lands. The AMP implements management direction designed to achieve the goals and directives identified in the Forest Plan and allotment level NEPA analysis and related decisions.

Annually, Agency personnel meet with the grazing permittees to evaluate management activities and accomplishment of the grazing objectives. During these annual meetings, the previous year's grazing use and monitoring is reviewed, and annual operating instructions (AOI) are developed for the following grazing season. The AOI adapts management direction from the AMP, term grazing permit, and allotment specific decisions to the current conditions and expectations for the grazing season. The AOI sets the stage for the on-the-ground application of management direction for livestock grazing on the allotment. The AOI are used to implement direction within the context

of the existing allotment specific decisions and the Agency's administrative authority established by law and regulation. Actions implemented through the AOI must be consistent with the direction evaluated in the existing NEPA analyses and/or the existing administrative authority of the Agency.

Adaptive management actions may be implemented as long as they are consistent with existing NEPA analyses and decisions and/or the administrative authority of the Forest Service. The administrative authority of the Forest Service is described in Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations, part 222; and in Forest Service Manuals and Handbooks. Courses of action that would be considered if monitoring did not indicate progress toward desired future conditions, particularly in light of the constraints discussed above are described in the following section. Such changes would generally be determined in advance and documented in the AOI describing authorized management actions for the upcoming grazing season. Additional NEPA analysis would not be required.

Adaptive management actions should be applied where:

- Monitoring shows management objectives are not being achieved or that trend towards achieving desired conditions is not improving or improving at an adequate rate.
- Annual indicators of grazing use or grazing standards are not met.
- Climatic events, fire, flood or uses and activities detrimentally impact resource conditions and a modification of grazing use is needed to provide for recovery of the site.

Implementation of adaptive management actions will be consistent with the direction established in the December 19, 2005, Forest Plan Grazing Implementation Guide (1920/2200 Memo to District Rangers signed by SE Idaho Forest Supervisors on Dec. 19, 2005). Adaptive actions may be needed and applied in both the short-term and long-term. Adaptive management actions may be implemented singly or as a set of management actions. Short-term actions will be implemented through the AOI. Modifications to the AMP and/or term grazing permit should be considered where monitoring shows that these actions need to be continued in the long-term or are implemented repeatedly or consistently over time.

The following table lists and describes the probable actions that would be considered and implemented under adaptive management. However, it is not intended to exclude other actions which may be authorized by the grazing permit or under authority of 36 CFR 222, Forest Service Manuals and Handbooks, and other laws and regulations as they exist or may be enacted.

| **Table 5. Potential Adaptive Management Actions** | **Authority** |
|---|---|
| 1. Modify the terms and conditions of a permit to conform to current situations brought about by changes in law, regulation, executive order, development or | 36 CFR 222.4 |

| | |
|---|---|
| revision of an allotment management plan, or other management needs. | |
| 2. Modify the seasons of use, numbers, kind, and class of livestock allowed or the allotment to be used under the permit, because of resource condition, or permittee request. | 36 CFR 222.4 (Change in livestock kind will require additional NEPA evaluation.) |
| 3. Adjustments to sheep numbers and seasons of use. | NSEIS, p. 2-11 |
| 4. Implement periods of rest for the allotment or areas within the allotment. | NSEIS, p. 2-11 |
| 5. Closure of grazing areas within the allotment. | NSEIS, p. 2-11 |
| 6. Implementation of additional grazing restrictions. Includes: annual grazing use indicators (end of season and/or within season), salting practices, herding practices, and other management practices. | NSEIS, p. 2-11; FLRMP p. III-44 - 47 |
| 7. Alteration of trailing routes (timing and location). | NSEIS, p. 2-11; FLRMP p. III-44 - 47 |
| 8. Adjust grazing to address conflicts with other resource uses. | FLRMP, p. III-44 - 47 |
| 9. Adjust grazing to provide for maintenance or restoration of aquatic and riparian processes and functions and beneficial uses. | FLRMP, p. III-44 - 47 |
| 10. Coordinate grazing with timber harvest and forest regeneration activities. | FLRMP, p. III-44 - 47 |
| 11. Temporary corrals. | NSEIS p. 2-12 & associated RODs. |
| 12. Structural range improvements and handling facilities (water developments, fences, permanent corrals, etc. | Will require additional NEPA evaluation. |
| 13. Vegetation treatments (prescribed fire, brush control, seedings, etc.) implemented to achieve management objectives and desired conditions. | Will require additional NEPA evaluation. |

**1. Modification of Terms and Conditions of the Grazing Permit.** Term grazing permits may be modified at the request of the permit holder to adjust the permit to his/her ranch operation. It may also be modified to achieve consistency with changes in law and regulation, Forest Plan direction, NEPA analysis and related decisions, AMP direction, monitoring results, etc. Permit modifications are administrative actions and do not require additional NEPA unless they are inconsistent with existing NEPA analyses and related decisions. Permit modifications may include the actions described below.

**2. Modify the seasons of use, numbers, kind, and class of livestock allowed or the allotment to be used under the permit, because of resource condition, or permittee request.** This action may include changing the timing, duration and intensity of grazing use, class of livestock grazed (ewes with lambs, dry ewes, and rams), changes in

allotment boundaries, etc. without additional NEPA as long as these actions are consistent with current allotment specific decisions. Changes in kind of livestock such as changing from sheep to cattle use will require additional NEPA analysis. These changes may be implemented at the request of the permittee to adapt grazing to his/her ranch operation or they may be the result monitoring and the need to adapt management to changing conditions using actions such as those described below to achieve resource desired conditions and or resolve conflicts in resource uses.

**3a. Modify Season of Use.** As appropriate, adjust the season of use for the allotment or areas within an allotment to reduce grazing impacts. These actions include shortening the period of use to reduce or eliminate grazing impacts during periods where plants or other resources are most susceptible to damage, or avoid conflicts with other uses such as during periods of high recreation use. They may include: changing the season of use to avoid grazing impacts or conflicts with critical resource needs of TES species and other wildlife, adjusting the season of use at the request of the permittee to provide a better fit to his/her ranch operation, adjusting the season of use to take advantage of the availability of additional forage through extending the grazing season, and adapting the grazing season in response to seasonal variations in climate and productivity such as during periods of drought. Adjustments to stocking and season of use may be considered jointly or separately as appropriate.

**3.b Modify Stocking.** As appropriate, adjust authorized or permitted livestock numbers during all or a portion of the grazing season to match grazing use to resource conditions and productivity. Adjustments to stocking and season of use may be considered jointly or separately as appropriate.

**4. Rest (i.e. closure to grazing for a full year).** Rest the allotment or areas within the allotment for a specific period of years or on a periodic rotation where monitoring shows that trend towards achieving desired conditions are not stable, improving, or improving at an adequate rate. May also be implemented where fire, flood, etc; detrimentally impact resource conditions or where treatment activities require a period of rest to provide for recovery of the site. Where this occurs, specific recovery criteria for when grazing will be allowed should be specified.

**5. Closure of Areas.** Close areas within allotments where monitoring shows that desired conditions cannot be met while sustaining grazing use. This may include alteration of allotment boundaries or identification of specific areas within an allotment where livestock grazing will not be allowed. Modify the AMP and term grazing permit to identify the change in the allotment boundary or the area closure.

**6. Grazing Restrictions – Modification of Indicators of Annual Grazing Use.**
Annual grazing use indicators generally consist of measures of allowable grazing use including: forage utilization limits, woody species utilization limits, streambank disturbance limits, soil disturbance limits, once-over grazing, open herding, one-time use of bedding areas, one-time use of watering areas, location of nooning areas, location of watering areas, location of bedding areas, camp locations, length of stay at camp

locations, corral locations, use limits around corrals, season and duration of use, etc. These indicators of livestock use may be modified or other indicators identified as needed to facilitate achievement of objectives and desired conditions. Levels of acceptable use such as forage utilization are set for some of these practices in the Forest Plan and/or the NSEIS. Where specific allowable use limits are set in the Forest Plan or in the NSEIS and ROD, they may be modified, if needed, to be more restrictive without additional NEPA analysis.

**6a. Grazing Restrictions – Changes in Grazing Use Indicators.** Changes in end-of-year and in-season grazing use indicators may be made based on results of short-term and/or long-term monitoring. Indicators evaluated during monitoring are described in the AMP Monitoring Plan. Modification and/or implementation of these annual use indicators will be consistent with the direction established in the December 19, 2005, Forest Plan Grazing Implementation Guide (1920/2200 Memo, dated 12/19/2005, signed by Boise, Payette, and Sawtooth Forest Supervisors).

**6b. Grazing Restrictions – Modification of Management Practices.** This includes a range of management and herding practices that vary according to conditions and use that are found on individual grazing allotments. These practices may include specification of areas where trailing or open herding techniques are used, location of bedding and nooning areas, use of salt and mineral supplement, location and duration of use of herder camps, etc.

**7. Alteration of grazing routes**. Alteration of designated trailing routes and route rotations to avoid resource damage, avoid use conflicts, reduce grazing pressure in specific areas, improve distribution, access unused grazing areas, facilitate shipping, or facilitate rest or deferred rotation grazing.

**8. Adjust grazing to address conflicts with other resource uses.** Modification of grazing use may be appropriate to prevent or manage conflicts with other uses such as dispersed recreation, coordinate with other management activities such as timber harvest and forest regeneration, or mitigate conflicts or impacts to other resources. Examples include management of impacts to roads and trails, herding and trailing practices around developed recreation sites, use of sheep grazing as a tool for noxious weed management and site preparation for reforestation, management of sheep camps, fire and noxious weed prevention, etc.

**9. Adjust grazing to provide for maintenance or restoration of aquatic and riparian processes and functions and beneficial uses.** This practice may involve use of the adaptive actions described in this section with the specific purpose of reducing grazing impacts or managing grazing use to achieve functioning riparian systems. The focus of these actions will be on ecological conditions or processes that may be impacted by grazing. They include managing for properly functioning riparian vegetation, bank stability, sedimentation, etc.

**10. Coordinate grazing with timber harvest and forest regeneration activities.** This covers three areas of coordination actions. First, the potential for physical conflict between grazing and timber activities (harvest, thinning, site preparation, etc.) as the timber activities are implemented; second, the potential for physical damage to tree seedlings on new plantations or regeneration sites; and third, the potential for using grazing for vegetation management and site preparation to facilitate timber stand regeneration and reduce competition from other vegetation, (noxious weeds, brush, etc.). Coordination may include changing use routes, closing or resting areas for periods needed for regeneration, adjusting grazing intensity to remove competing vegetation prior to planting, etc.

**11. Temporary Corrals.** The location and use of temporary corrals has been provided for in the North Sheep FEIS. These corrals are composed of panels that may be erected at the time of shipping and removed afterwards. They include some permanent structures required to support the corral panels and associated use. Use of fully portable corrals with no associated permanent structures may be considered in other locations as long as they are consistent with direction for management of heritage and archeological resources, Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive (TES) species requirements, noxious weed management direction, recreation management direction, etc. identified in the Forest Plan and other appropriate environmental analysis and related decisions.

**12. Range Improvements – Structural.** Structural range improvements include construction of water developments, fences, corrals and other permanent livestock handling facilities, trails, bridges, etc. These actions may be proposed as adaptive management actions. Additional environmental analysis will be required for these activities unless they are currently covered under existing environmental analyses.

**13. Vegetative Treatments – Nonstructural range improvements.** Actions include implementing vegetation treatments to achieve desired rangeland conditions including prescribed fire, noxious weed treatment, seedings, aspen stand treatments, sagebrush manipulation, etc. These actions may be proposed as adaptive management actions. Additional environmental analysis will be required for these activities unless they are currently covered under existing environmental analyses such as is the case with noxious weed management activities.

# D. Area Closures / Areas Rested

## 1. Fisher Creek Allotment

There are no changes to allotment boundaries or area closures within the Fisher Creek Allotment at this time. Should occupied big horn sheep habitat overlap into the Fisher Creek Allotment sometime in the future, adaptive management strategies, including area closures, may be used to reduce the potential for disease transmission between domestic sheep and bighorn sheep.

## 2. Smiley Creek Allotment

Some areas of the Smiley Creek Allotment are now closed to sheep grazing as described in the Proposed Action (NSEIS), and shown in the Appendix (Figure 10). Portions of the Smiley Creek drainage will be rested as described in annual operating instructions. The use of temporary corrals for shipping and receiving livestock will be required until important habitat indicators improve.

The Smiley Creek allotment contains high-elevation areas, including cirque basins and other sensitive land types, which are important for both their ecological functions and their recreational value. Closure of these areas will protect thin soils, fragile alpine plant life, and unique wildlife habitat and reduce the potential for recreation/livestock conflicts. Specific high elevation areas that will be closed* include the headwaters of:

- Frenchman Creek
- Smiley Creek, and Mill Gulch
- Beaver Creek
- Jake's Gulch
- Alturas Lake Creek

* Trailing through the closure area may be allowed to maintain herding efficiency. Each crossing of the closure area will be limited to one day.

Sheep activity (e.g. grazing, trailing, bedding, nooning, and use of temporary or permanent corrals for shipping and receiving livestock) in the Smiley Creek Drainage will be restricted from the confluence of Mill Gulch to the National Forest lands boundary until substantial recovery of important habitat indicators occurs. Areas east of the Smiley Creek Road (FR70077) will be rested and this may require use of portable water troughs if sheep are trailed through the drainage. No use of corrals for shipping and receiving sheep and lambs will be allowed while the areas are being rested.

The following habitat indicators for RCA's within the Smiley Creek drainage from the confluence of Mill Creek to the National Forest lands boundary will be used to help determine recovery.

- Riparian areas will have adequate cover of key native species in a variety of age classes that are adequately reproducing and maintaining good vigor. Thresholds for "adequate cover of key native species", and "adequately reproducing and maintaining good vigor" will be developed for specific areas of concern based on species composition inventory data, vigor assessment, age class distribution and characterizations of desired plant communities. Collection of relevant data is slated to begin in 2008. Depending on the results of data interpretation, thresholds may be stated in terms such as a minimum stability rating, wetland rating, seral status, vigor,

age class distribution, or in terms of trend toward meeting such minimums.

- Stream bank stability is greater than 90 percent of the inherent potential stability.

- No more than 15 percent of the soil productivity of an activity area is in a detrimentally disturbed condition as measured by compaction, puddling, and displacement.

If it is determined that Smiley Creek and its RCA are functioning appropriately, or nearly so, in regard to the above indicators, adaptive management may allow use of the subject area for shipping and receiving sheep and lambs at the Smiley Creek corrals, prescriptive grazing and/or rotational changes.

# V. IMPROVEMENTS

## A. Existing Improvements

### 1. Current Condition

- The condition of improvements may range from critical to good. A critical rating implies that the improvement has failed or failure is imminent. A poor rating implies that high maintenance is required to protect the investment. A satisfactory rating implies that light maintenance is required. A good rating implies that the improvement is like new and needs no repair.

- Current information, including condition ratings and maintenance responsibility is listed in Figure 4 and Figure 5 located in the Appendix. This information is routinely updated to reflect the current condition rating for each improvement. Maintenance responsibility and schedules will be included annually in the AOI. Forest Service range personnel will monitor improvement maintenance and determine whether improvements are maintained to standard, and will evaluate the feasibility of the directed work in the AOI.

### 2. Sawtooth FLRMP Standards and Guidelines

- New, reconstructed, or replaced livestock water developments must provide access and escape to and from water for all types of wildlife (FLRMP Standard RAST09, pg III-45). This standard will be implemented as water developments are constructed, reconstructed, or replaced.

## B. Approved and Proposed Improvements

- No improvements have been proposed under the current Record of Decision. Any approved proposals will be added to the AMP only after appropriate clearance under provisions of NEPA. Timeframes for NEPA clearance and construction will be clearly defined.

# VI. MONITORING

## A. Aspects Common to Implementation and Effectiveness Monitoring:

Three general types of monitoring activities will be carried out on the Allotments. These are allotment field inspections or reviews, site-specific grazing use monitoring, and long-term effectiveness monitoring. The allotment reviews and site-specific use monitoring are Implementation Monitoring actions or monitoring of annual management to determine if specified management direction is being implemented and criteria or limits on annual grazing use are being met. Effectiveness monitoring evaluates achievement of long-term desired condition of the allotment resources. Site-specific annual use monitoring and long-term effectiveness monitoring are conducted at specific locations identified in this monitoring plan. These sites are chosen to represent areas of the allotment where grazing impacts are occurring and specific improvement of resource conditions are monitored. These sites are used to link annual grazing use monitoring to the achievement of specified desired conditions for allotment resources associated with grazing use. The allotment reviews are used to relate monitoring results from these sites to observed conditions and grazing use across the allotment in general. The combined use of these three monitoring actions provide adequate information to determine if management is being implemented as directed and that the results of that management are leading to achievement of management goals and objectives. Linking annual field inspections, site-specific use monitoring and long-term desired condition monitoring allows the Forest to keep the number of more labor intensive monitoring sites and protocols to a manageable level.

Note: The use of the monitoring protocols identified in the following sections will be adaptive. Changes in protocols used may occur where new or more effective protocols are developed, identified protocols are found to not be effective in evaluating achievement of objectives, etc.

The BLM multiple indicator monitoring protocol (Burton, *et al*. 2007) method will be used to establish or re-read permanent 100m monitoring transects for streamside riparian areas; this method is employed for both the implementation and effectiveness protocols described below. Monitoring locations and protocols are selected to evaluate specific annual grazing use indicators, resource conditions (desired condition) and resource trends. Note: Changes in the number of monitoring locations, indicators evaluated at specific sites, protocols, etc. may be made as part of adaptive management where additional needs are identified, better or more appropriate protocols become

available, locations that better address desired conditions and annual grazing use are determined, etc.

## B. Implementation Monitoring:

Seasonal monitoring and allotment administration will include field reviews of grazing practices, to include allotment inspections with permittees and their agents, review of annual grazing use information provided by the permittee, and pertinent information provided by Forest specialists working within the allotment. Allotment inspections or reviews are general inspections of grazing use across the allotment or large areas (pastures, watersheds, etc.) within the allotment. These reviews assess the general compliance with directions established in the grazing permit and annual operating instructions. They provide an overview of grazing impacts associated with the areas that have been grazed. Items such as maintenance of improvements, compliance with designated use and rest areas, trailing effects, overall use levels, etc. are evaluated during these field inspections. These field reviews will include evaluation of compliance with the grazing standards and other direction listed in the Management Requirements section of this AMP. This information will be evaluated on a yearly basis to insure management deficiencies are corrected and that successful management practices continue moving the resource in the desired direction. The results of this monitoring will help determine the need for adaptive changes to livestock management.

Annual monitoring for resource conditions and permit compliance within the allotment will include:

- Carry-over effects from previous year grazing.
- Presence of livestock in closed areas, outside the permitted area, or outside the authorized season of use.
- Extent and location of impact areas (e.g. salting, nooning, bedding, and trailing).
- General patterns of utilization, areas of concentrated use, or areas underutilized.
- Areas showing recent impacts due to drought or other weather related influences (such as drying up of springs and seeps), increased forage utilization, and obvious increases in bare ground resulting from lack of production.

**Table 6. Annual Monitoring**

| Unit/Pasture | DMA Description and Location (GPS ) | Site Type | Study Type/Protocol | Short Term Monitoring End-of-Season Indicator |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Fisher Creek | Fisher Creek 1<br>4880375 N, 677235 E | Riparian | MIM (Burton & Cowley 2005) | Stubble Ht. > 6 in.<br>Woody Utiliz. < 25% |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Frenchman Creek | Frenchman Creek 1 4857038 N, 677936 E | Riparian | MIM (Burton & Cowley 2005) | Stubble Ht. > 6 in<br>Woody Utiliz. < 25% |
| Smiley Creek | Smiley Creek 1 4861415.50 N, 676429.75 E | Riparian | MIM (Burton & Cowley 2005) | Stubble Ht. > 6 in<br>Woody Utiliz. < 25% |
| Smiley Creek | Smiley Creek 2 4861415.50 N, 676429.75 E | Riparian | MIM (Burton & Cowley 2005) | Stubble Ht. > 6 in<br>Woody Utiliz. < 25% |
| Vat Creek | Vat / Cabin 4870132 N, 670902 E | Riparian | MIM (Burton & Cowley 2005) | Stubble Ht. > 6 in<br>Woody Utiliz. < 25% |

# C. Effectiveness Monitoring:

Effectiveness monitoring will focus on five vegetation community types: riparian areas associated with stream systems, upland mesic riparian, sagebrush, aspen, and alpine. Designated Monitoring Areas (DMA) will be established to determine progress toward meeting Desired Conditions determined by criteria specific to that community type. DMA's will be located on each allotment to reflect the conditions found within a particular vegetation community (See Figure 6 and Figure 7 in Appendix).

## 1. Riparian Monitoring

Monitoring of this community type will determine resource conditions and trends with respect to achievement of desired conditions as described in the Sawtooth National Forest Revised Resource Management Plan, the North Sheep Final Environmental Impact Statement and decision, and this AMP. Data from this monitoring will allow the Forest to document successful adaptive management and compliance with Forest Plan goals and objectives.

**Protocols**: Monitoring the Vegetation Resources in Riparian Areas, Winward 2000, the BLM multiple indicator monitoring protocol (Burton et. al. 2007)and / or Pacfish/Infish Biological Opinion monitoring protocols. Any or all protocols may be performed at each site, as well as bank full width and depth transects. Photo Points will be established at each monitoring site.

**Location /Number of sites**: Designated Monitoring Areas may be co-located with an implementation-monitoring site. These locations are tentatively selected for Riparian designated monitoring areas:

| Table 7. Riparian DMA Monitoring | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Allotment** | **Riparian DMA** | **Last Monitored** | **Location** | **Protocol** | **Desired Condition** | **Current Condition** |
| **Fisher Creek S&G** | **Fisher Creek 1** | **2006** | **4880375 N, 677235 E** | **MIM (Burton & Cowley 2005)** | **Bank Stability > 76%** | **Seral Status not determined in '06 Bank Stability = 91% Bank Cover = 100%** |
| **Smiley Creek S&G** | **Beaver Creek 1** | **2007** | **4860569 N, 671823 E** | **MIM (Burton & Cowley 2005)** | **To be determined** | **Baseline Data not yet interpreted** |
| | **Smiley Creek 1** | **2005** | **4861415.50 N, 676429.75 E** | **MIM (Burton & Cowley 2005)** | **Bank Stability > 76%** | **PNC Bank Stability = 59% Bank Cover = 56%** |
| | **Smiley Creek 2** | **2005** | **4859968.59 N, 676204.75 E** | **MIM (Burton & Cowley 2005)** | **Bank Stability > 76%** | **Late Seral Bank Stability = 100% Bank Cover = 100%** |
| | **Frenchman Creek 1** | **2005** | **4857038 N, 677936 E** | **MIM (Burton & Cowley 2005)** | **Late Seral Bank Stability > 76% Bank Cover > 86%** | **PNC Bank Stability = 77% Bank Cover = 81%** |
| | **Vat/Cabin** | **2006** | **4870059 N, 671565 E** | **MIM (Burton & Cowley 2005)** | **To be determined** | **Mid Seral Bank Stability = 98% Bank Cover = 100%** |
| | **Upper Alturas** | **2005** | **4862030 N, 667612 E** | **MIM (Burton & Cowley 2005)** | **Bank Stability > 76%** | **Mid Seral Bank Stability = 100% Bank Cover = 100%** |

**Timing/ Frequency**: Site monitoring was initiated in 2005. Subsequent data collection at each site will follow at three to five-year intervals. The permittee will be encouraged to participate in this monitoring as appropriate.

**Participants**: Forest Range and/or other resource specialists or technicians. The permittees and/or their employees may participate in this monitoring.

## 2. Sagebrush/Grass (Upland) Monitoring

Monitoring of this community type will determine resource conditions and trends with respect to achievement of desired conditions as described in the Sawtooth National Forest Revised Resource Management Plan, the North Sheep Final Environmental Impact Statement and decision, and this AMP.

**Protocols** (USDA et. al. 1996).

Nested Frequency Plots: These are established to provide quantitative measurements of frequency and ground cover**.** Frequency is an useful index

for monitoring changes in vegetation over time and comparing different plant communities. Ground Cover is the percentage of ground service covered by vegetation and other materials, ie; not bare ground.

Line Intercept: This measurement of Crown Canopy Cover will be conducted along selected legs of the Nested Frequency Plot. These measurements provide an estimate of the relative cover of the shrub species measured on the study site.

**Location /Number of sites**: Each site is selected using existing site analysis surveys. Additional sites have been identified. These locations are tentatively selected for the Nested Frequency Plots and Line Intercept Transects:

**Table 8. Upland DMA Monitoring**

| Allotment | Upland DMA | Year Last Monitored | Location | Protocol | Desired Condition | Current Condition |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Smiley Creek S&G | Smiley Creek | 2006 | 4859982 N, 675939 E | Mosley 1983 | Fair or better | Fair |
| | Mid Cabin &Vat Creeks | 2006 | 4869844 N, 673519 E | Mosley 1983 | Fair or better | Fair |
| | Alturas Lake / Jake's Gulch | 2006 | 4858941 N, 666124 E | Mosley 1983 | Fair or better | Good |
| | Alturas Lake P2 | 2006 | 4861240 N, 665863E | Line Intercept | See table A-13 Appendix A FLRMP | Sage cover ranges from 13-47% |
| Fisher Creek S&G | Fisher Creek 1 | 2006 | 4881049N 678848E | Mosley 1983 | Fair or better | Good |
| | Fisher Creek 2 | 2006 | 4883065N 680085E | Mosley 1983 | Fair or better | Good |
| | Pass Creek 1 | 2006 | 4879740N 677337E | Mosley 1983 | Fair or better | Fair |
| | Pass Creek 2 | 2006 | 4879903N 677485E | Mosley 1983 | Fair or better | Good |

**Timing/ Frequency**: Site monitoring was initiated in 2005. Subsequent data collection at each site will follow at three to five-year intervals.

**Participants**: Range specialists or technicians will perform vegetation community monitoring. The permittee will be encouraged to participate in the monitoring process where appropriate.

## 3. Aspen

Initial monitoring of this resource type will take the form of ocular reconnaissance during allotment inspections. If issues (especially those related to livestock impact) are identified during these inspections, further monitoring will be implemented that more specifically measures the observed impacts. Based on monitoring data, remedial or preventive measures may be identified and implemented through the adaptive management process. Monitoring to verify progress toward achievement of objectives identified in the Record of Decision will be implemented prior to 2014. The most likely methods of monitoring to be implemented are shown in the "Protocols" section below.

**Protocols**. Methods described in the interagency technical reference USDA et. al. 1996, "Utilization Studies and Residual Measurements," may be used to collect utilization data for aspen. These methods provide data on age and form class, availability and hedging, estimated utilization by browsing ungulates and growth / use indices for the aspen component of the plant community. Samples will be taken along ~300ft transects taking the nearest sample every 10ft. If an aspen stand cannot accommodate the full 300 ft transect, fewer than 30 samples will be taken, or samples will be taken at closer intervals. Transects will be laid out as straight as possible, only bending to fit geographic features within the sampling area, or to best represent the average condition of the aspen stand as a whole.

**Table 9. Aspen Monitoring (Location / Number of Sites)**

| Allotment | Aspen DMA | Year Last Monitored | Location UTM |
|---|---|---|---|
| Smiley Creek S&G | Smiley Creek Aspen 1 | 2005 | 4861193.00 N, 675834.38 E |
| | SCAS2 | 2005 | 4862140.08 N, 675906.57 E |
| | SCAS3 | 2005 | 4863226.5 N, 676177.80 E |
| | SCAS4 | 2005 | 4861861.89 N, 676109.50 E |
| | Beaver Creek Aspen 1 | 2005 | 4862062.86 N, 672382.66 E |
| | BVAS2 | 2005 | 4862651.26 N, 673679.31 E |
| | BVAS3 | 2005 | 4863203.70 N, 674704.60 E |
| Fisher Creek S&G | Pass Creek/4thJuly Creek1 | 2005 | 4878306.90 N, 677505.77 E |
| | Pass/ 4th 2 | 2005 | 4878645.85 N, 678144.49 E |
| | Pass/ 4th 3 | 2005 | 4878465.06 N, 677999.65 E |
| | Pass/ 4th 4 | 2005 | 4877760.72 N, 676866.81 E |

**Timing/ Frequency**: Browse utilization monitoring was performed in 2005. Subsequent ocular reconnaissance will occur annually.

**Participants**: Forest Range and/or other resource specialists or technicians. The permittee will be encouraged to participate in the monitoring process where appropriate.

### 4. Non-Native Invasive Plants

Monitoring and treatment of non-native invasive plants on the Smiley Creek and Fisher Creek Allotments will continue to be addressed under existing management strategies as part of the Noxious Weed Control Program for the Sawtooth NRA.

## D. Photo Points

Photo-points or ground cover observations will be established within each of the key vegetative communities to supplement data collected at the DMAs described above. After establishment, photos will be retaken at three to five year intervals using Hall 2002 protocol.

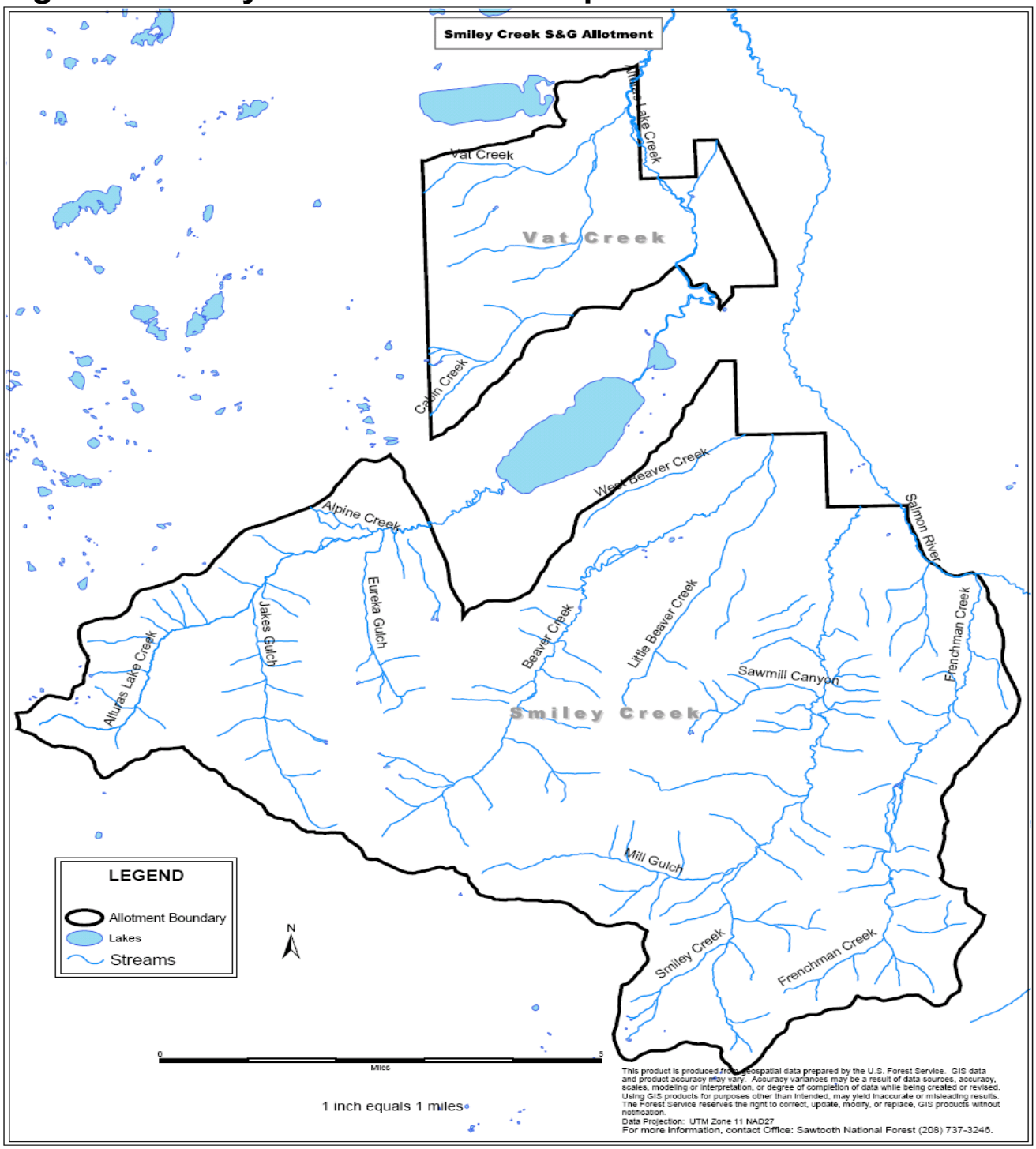
**Locations of photo points**

**Table 10. Photo Points**

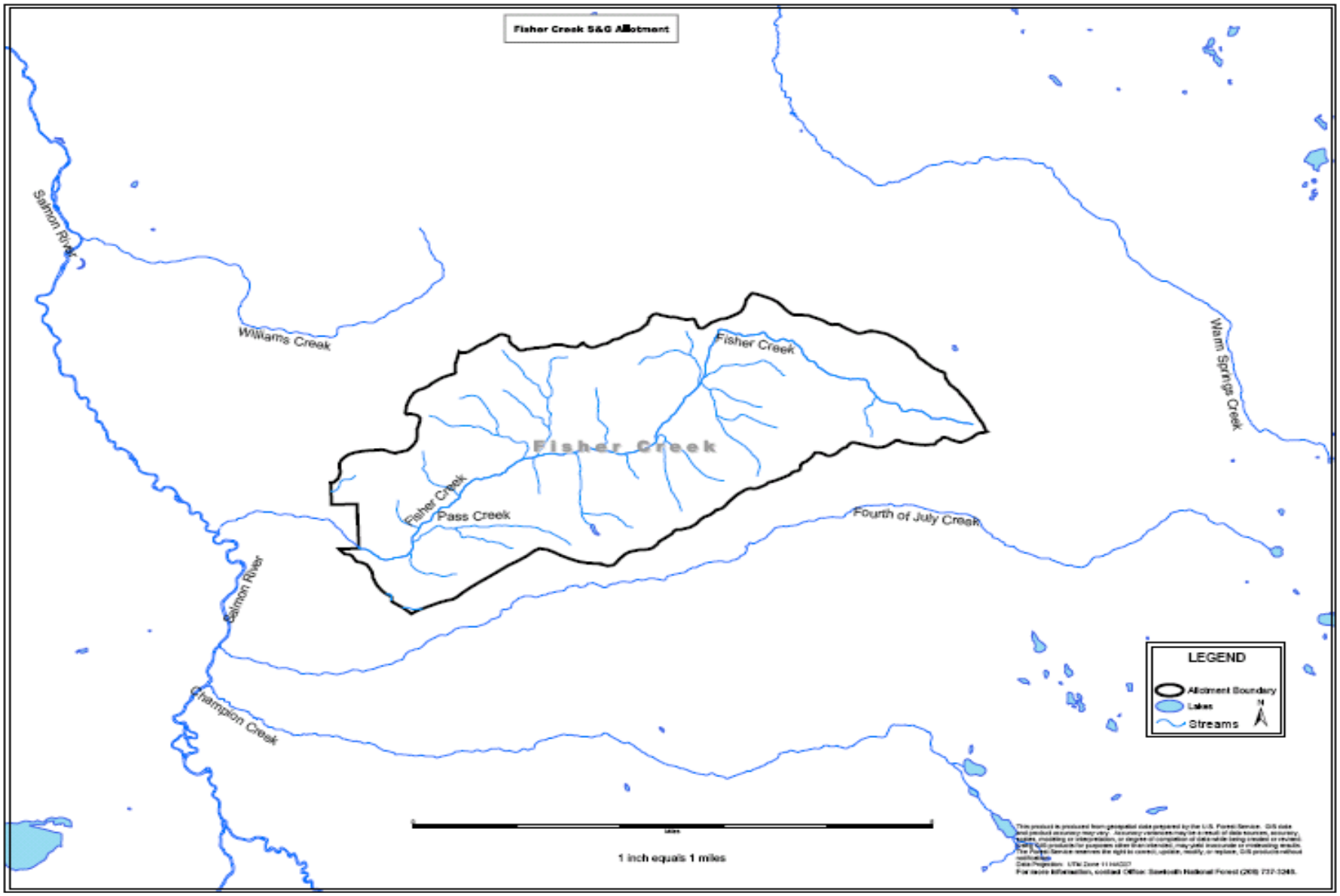
| Allotment | Photo Point ID | Year Last Photographed | Location UTM |
|---|---|---|---|
| Smiley Creek S&G | Frenchman Creek # 1 | 2005 | 4860784.74 N, 679240.06 E |
| | Frenchman Creek # 2 | 2005 | 4859112.48 N, 678962.28 E |
| | Smiley Creek # 1 | 2005 | 4853351.37 N, 674706.67 E |
| | Smiley Creek # 2 | 2005 | 4855240.22 N, 675173.34 E |
| | Little Beaver Creek # 1 | 2004 | 4863591 N, 675374 E |
| | Little Beaver Creek # 2 | 2005 | 4859235 N, 671185 E |
| | Vat Creek # 1 | 2005 | 4870132 N, 670902 E |

# VII. APPENDIX

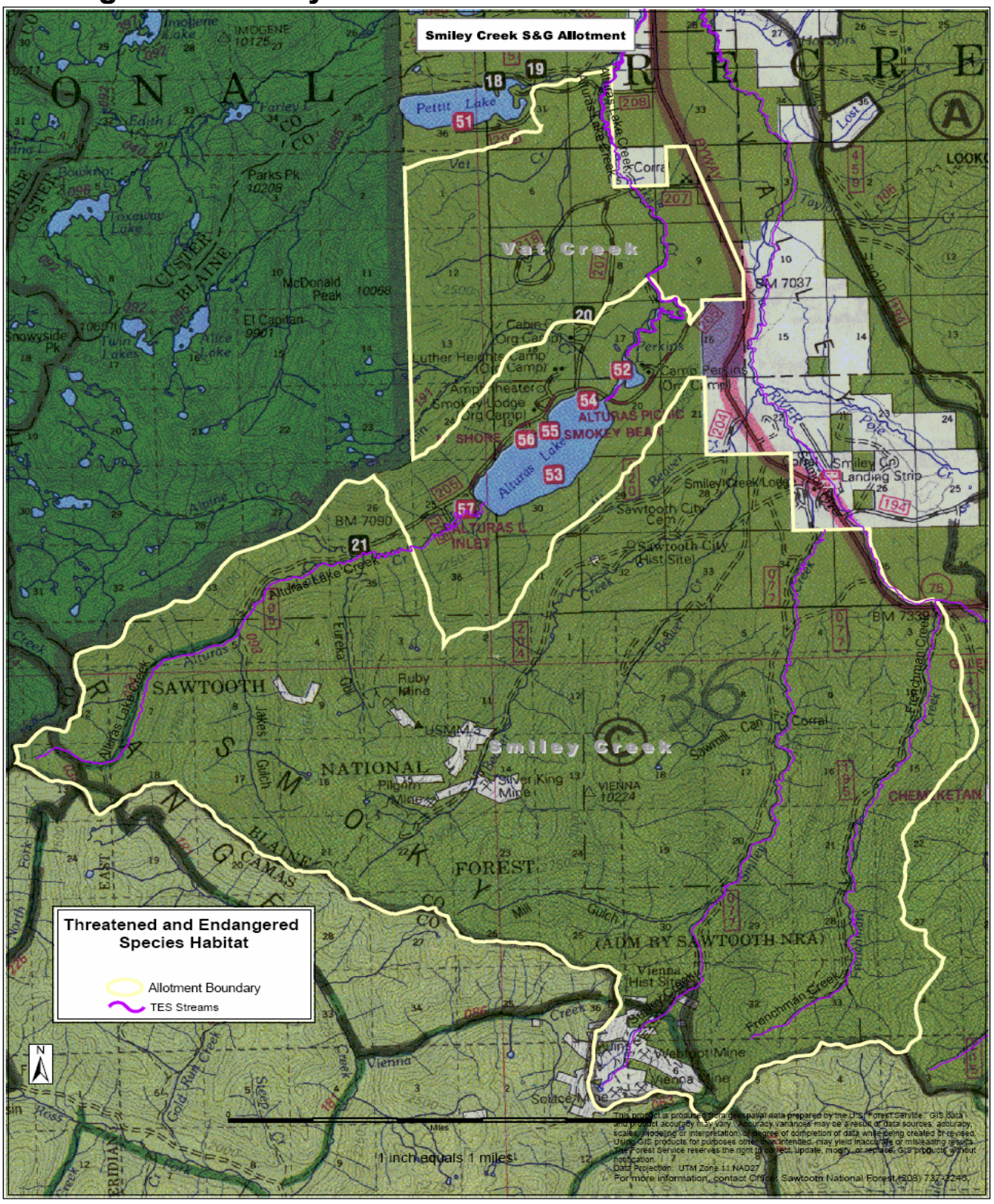
## Figure 1. Smiley Creek Allotment Map



## Figure 2. Fisher Creek Allotment Map



# Figure 3. Smiley Creek TES Restricted Streams



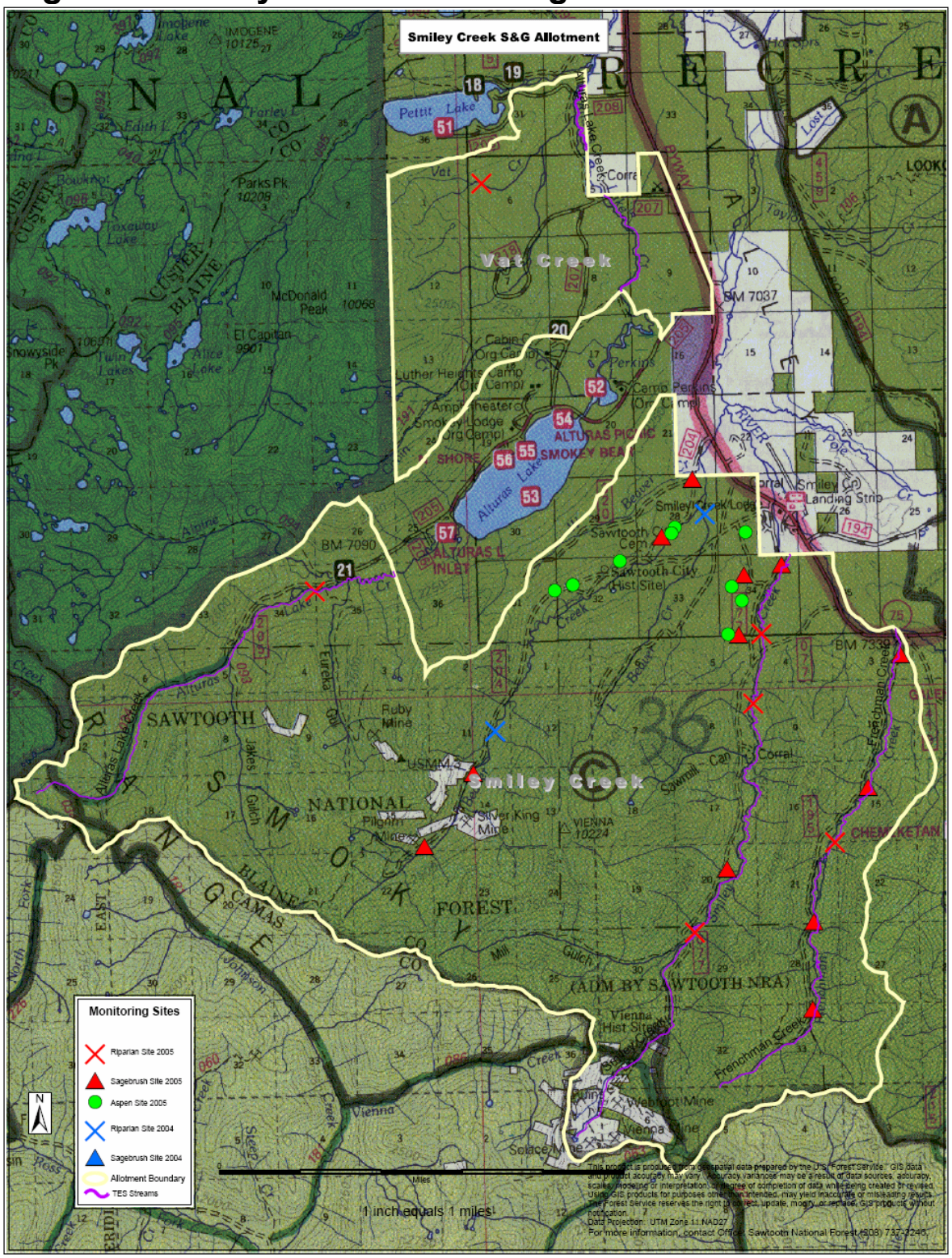
## Figure 4. Smiley Creek Allotment Existing Range Improvements

| IMPROVEMENT NAME | IMPROVE-MENT NUMBER | LOCATION | CONDITION | IMPROVEMENT TYPE | YEAR CON-STRUCTED (recon-structed) | RESPONSI-BILITY |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Smiley Creek Sheep Corral | 40401 | T6N R14E Sec 8 NE ¼ | Satisfactory | Pole Holding Facility | 1940 | Faulkner Land & Livestock |

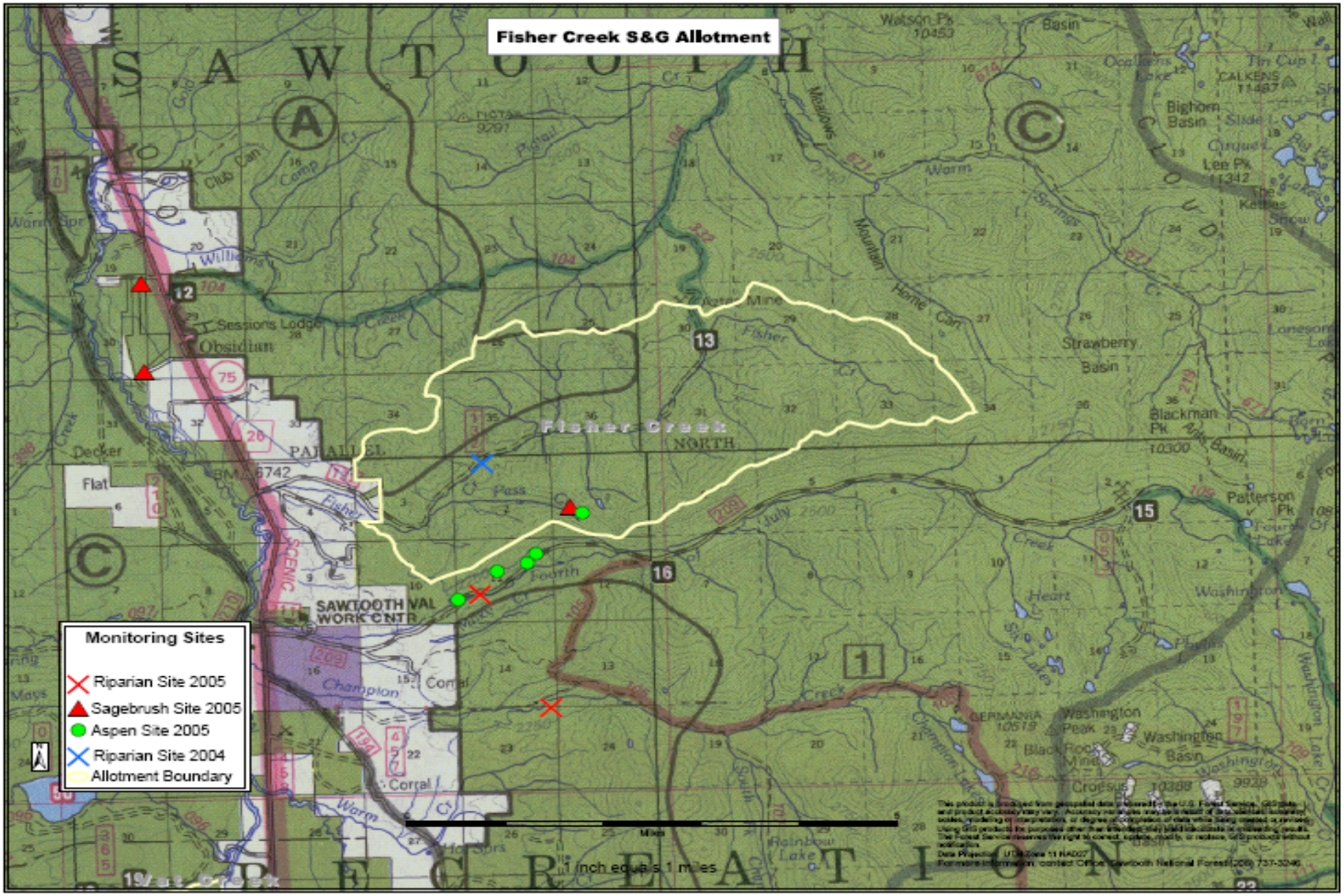
## Figure 5. Fisher Creek Allotment Existing Range Improvements

| IMPROVEMENT NAME | IMPROVE-MENT NUMBER | LOCATION | CONDITION | IMPROVEMENT TYPE | YEAR CON-STRUCTED (recon-structed) | RESPONSI-BILITY |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Fisher Creek Corral | 46901 | T9N R14E Sec29 NESE | Good | Treated Lumber | 1978 | D & L Kowitz |

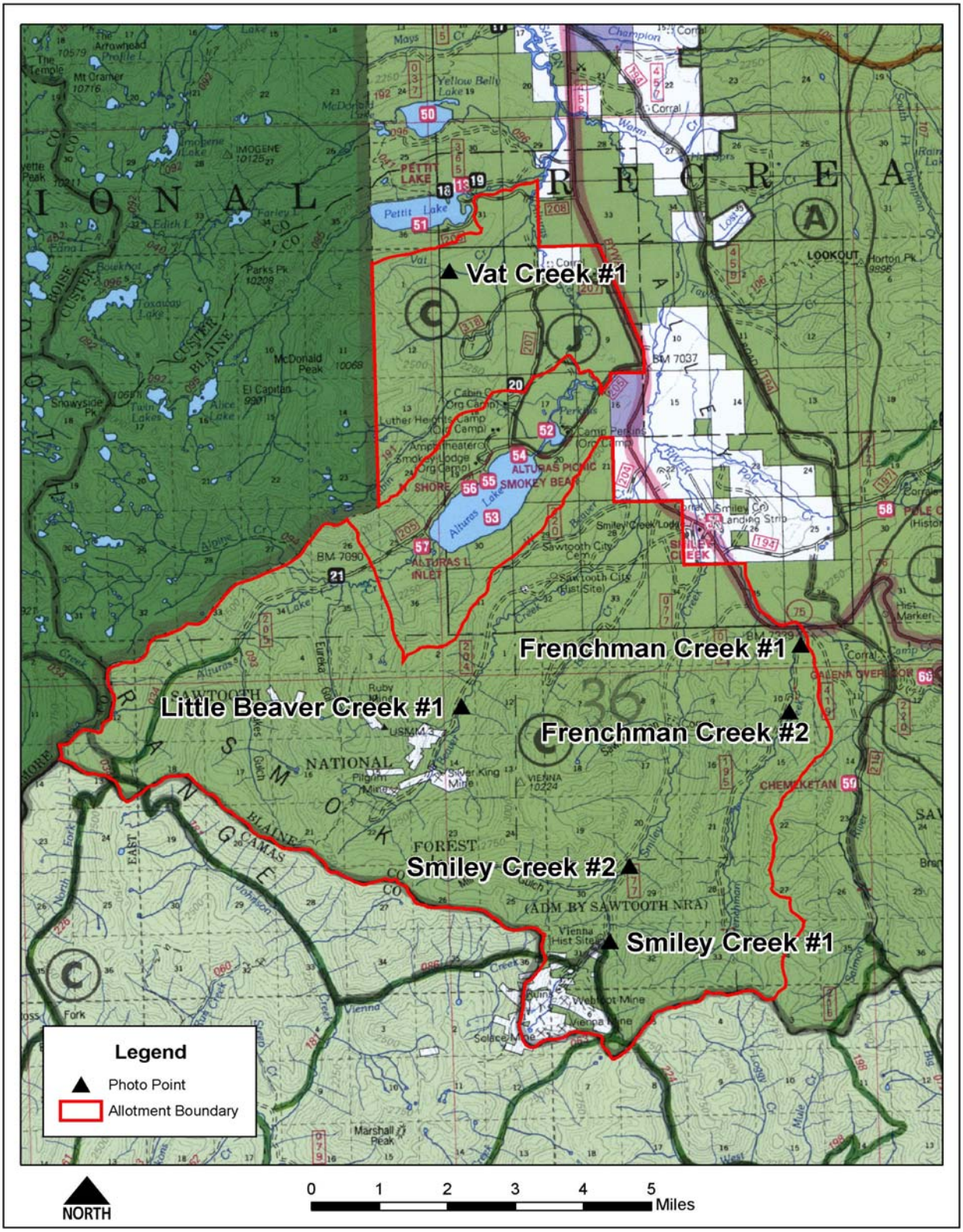
# Figure 6. Smiley Creek Monitoring



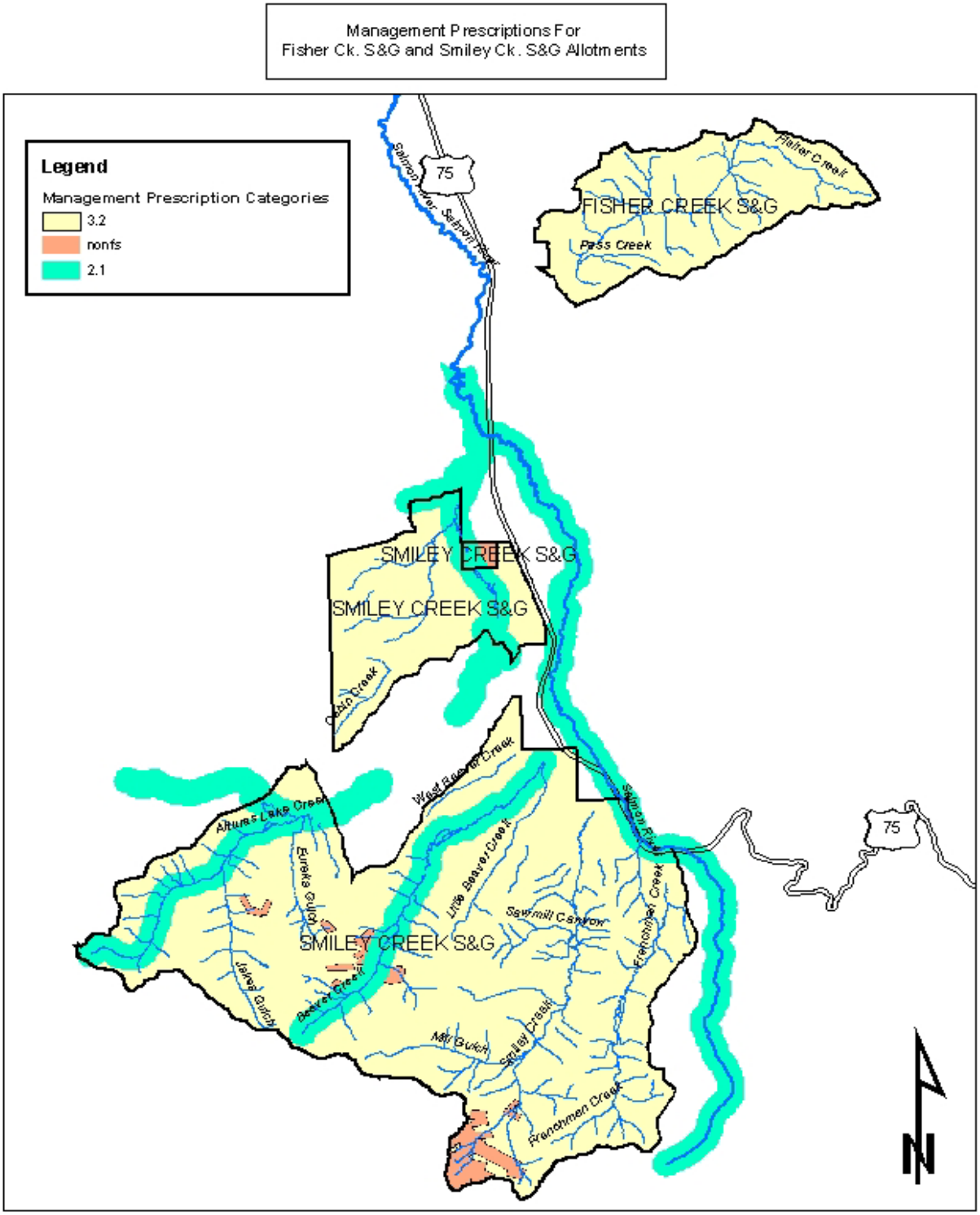
## Figure 7. Fisher Creek Monitoring



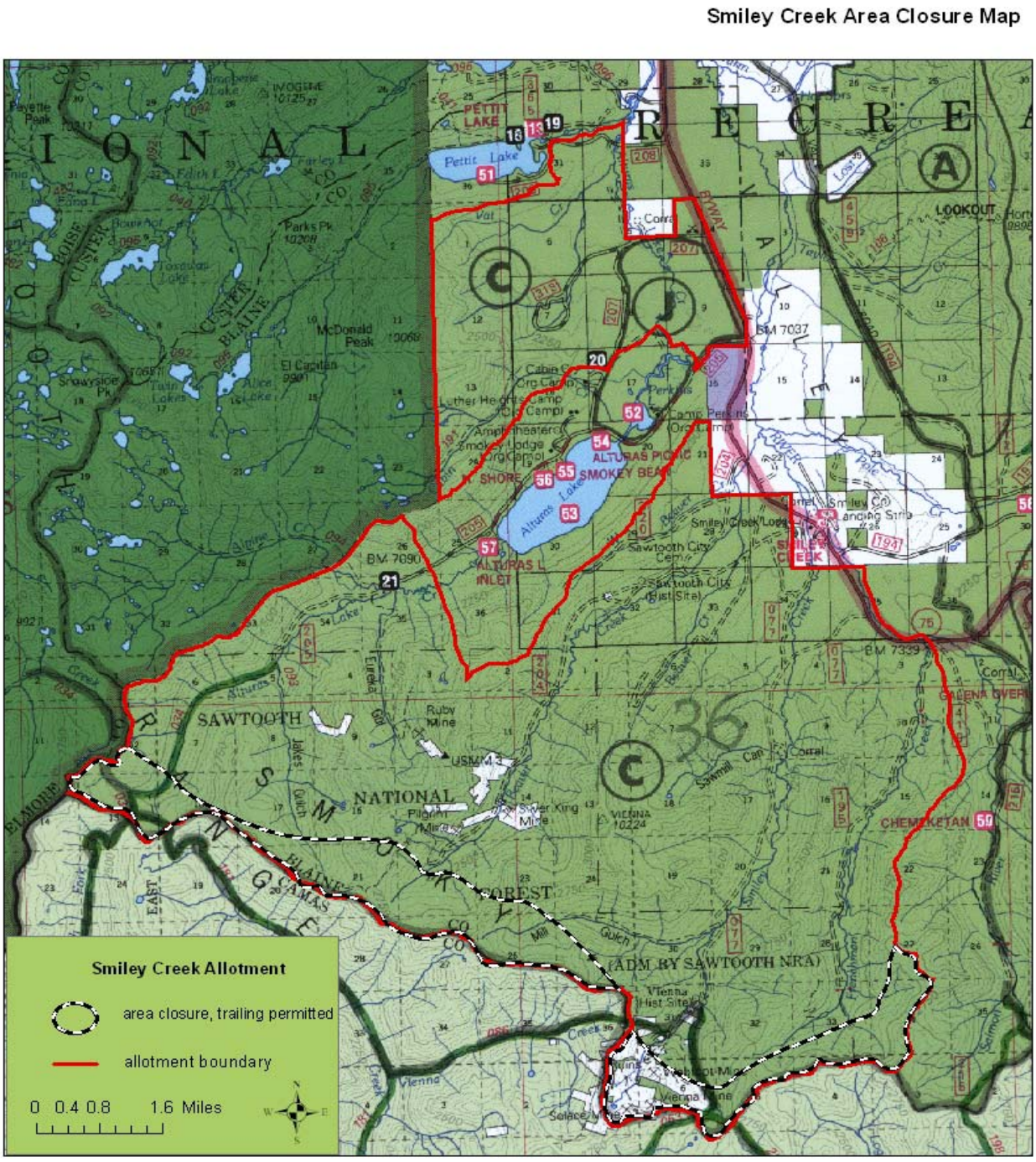
# Figure 8. Photo Point Locations



# Figure 9. Management Prescriptions



# Figure 10. Area Closure



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