

**Annual Reevaluation of Effects to
Threatened and Endangered Fish Species and
Their Habitat as Required by the
1997 Programmatic Grazing Biological Opinion**

Fremont-Winema National Forest

Introduction

The purpose of this document is the reevaluation of the grazing effects determinations made in 1996, as directed by the Programmatic Grazing Biological Opinion (Grazing BO) for the Fremont National Forest (USDI 1997). Under the Grazing BO direction, the Level 1 team was to evaluate the 1996 effects determinations annually based on changes in habitat conditions, species distribution, or other new information, guided by the flow chart (Appendix A) used by the Level 1 team in 1996. This document *does not* change the effects determination for the grazing program of May Effect, Likely to Adversely Affect, from the Grazing BO. This document is partial fulfillment of the responsibilities of the Fremont-Winema National Forest under the Grazing BO.

All effects determinations in this document as well as in the Grazing BO are based on all pasture use guidelines being met. The effects of any non-compliance with the grazing utilization standards are not covered in this document.

Summary of Rationale for Changes in Effects Determinations

Grazing in watersheds with a high risk of Cumulative Watershed Effects (CWE) generally leads to a May Affect, Likely to Adversely Affect determination when using the Effects Determination Flow Chart (Appendix A). In the 1997 BO, it was noted that a problem with the CWE process used may have resulted in a higher percentage than necessary of watersheds rated as having a high risk of CWE, and therefore an elevated number of pastures determined Likely to Adversely Affect listed fish species. An analysis of CWE risk done in 2004 (Appendix B) concluded that none of the affected watersheds had a high risk of CWE, which changed numerous pasture effects determinations from May Affect, Likely to Adversely Affect to May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect. Other things that resulted in changes to effects determinations included the proposed designation of bull trout critical habitat and updated information on listed species distribution, both of which changed effects determinations of May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect to May Affect, Likely to Adversely Affect. Pastures rested in 2004 were determined to have No Effect on any listed species.

Grazing in Occupied Habitat

All grazing pastures that contain occupied habitat and/or designated or proposed critical habitat for any Threatened or Endangered fish species has been determined Likely to Adversely Affect the affected species, consistent with the Effects Determination Flow Chart (Appendix A). Refer to the Grazing BO (USDI 1997) for a discussion of those effects.

Discussion of Downstream Effects

Grazing plans developed for the Fremont-Winema grazing allotments are intended to initiate recovery of both uplands and riparian areas. In general, recovery measures include implementing grazing systems that incorporate riparian condition and trend with stream sensitivity to establish grazing utilization levels and stubble height to maintain plant vigor, protect streambanks, and reduce sediment runoff to local and downstream waters (USDI 1997). Field reconnaissance, photo monitoring, and preliminary interpretation of long-term effectiveness monitoring data indicate that stream conditions are trending upward across the Fremont-Winema National Forest, including grazed stream reaches. Residual vegetation remaining after grazing is expected to maintain streambank stability, reduce sediment runoff, and aid in streambank building and channel recovery (USDI 1997; Skinner 1998; Clary et al. 1996). Any sediment deposition to downstream areas and/or increases in stream temperature resulting from grazing activities are expected to be at an immeasurable, negligible level based on the amount of residual vegetation at the end of the grazing season and the following spring when peak flows occur, and the limited amount of sediment input expected, coupled with the distance of the pastures from occupied habitat (generally 10-20+ miles) and the large scale grazing operations that typically occur on private lands downstream of the National Forest lands, between the Forest and the occupied habitat. In some instances where occupied habitat occurs on the Forest, as little as ¼ mile exists between some pastures and occupied habitat. No downstream effects to any listed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat is expected to occur based on the best professional judgment of the zone fish biologists, in conjunction with use of Appendix A. This professional judgment was based on the site specific knowledge of the areas in question and the intermittent nature of the tributary streams that are grazed. These streams are generally well armored with rock and lack riparian vegetation. As a result, the limited cattle use along these small intermittent channels coupled with the armored nature of the channels resulted in the effects determinations shown in Table 1. Intermittent channels are dry during the summer months when water temperature is most critical; therefore grazing these reaches is not expected to result in any changes to water temperatures downstream.

The rationale for effects determinations by allotment and pasture can be found in Table 1.

Table 1 – Grazing Effects Determinations by Allotment and Pasture

Allotment	Pasture	1996 Effects Call	2004 Effects Call	2004 Flow Chart End Point	Additional Rational
WARNER BASIN					
Barley Camp	Barley Camp	LAA	NLAA	6	
Barley Camp	Deep Mosquito	LAA	NLAA	6	
Barley Camp	Spray	LAA	NLAA	6	
Barley Camp	Frakes/Camp (Holding F)	LAA	NLAA	6	
Barley Camp	12 Mile EXC	NE	NE	2	Exclosure
Barley Camp	Deep Creek EXC	n/a	NE	2	Exclosure
Barley Camp	Dismal RIP	n/a	NLAA	6	
Barley Camp	15 Mile RIP (Horse P)	LAA	NLAA	6	
Crane Mountain	Crane Mountain	LAA	NLAA	6	
Crane Mountain	Burn	LAA	NLAA	6	
Crane/Kelly	Burnt Creek	LAA	NLAA	6	
Crane/Kelly	Willow Creek	LAA	NLAA	6	
Crane/Kelly	Burnt RIP 1	none	NLAA	6	
Crane/Kelly	Willow RIP	n/a	NLAA	6	
Sage	Hickey	NLAA	NE	2	Rested in 2004
Sage	Camas RIP (new)	n/a	NE	2	Rested in 2004
Horse Prairie	Horse Prairie	LAA	NLAA	6	
Horse Prairie	Twin Springs	LAA	NLAA	6	
Horse Prairie	Camas EXC (RIP)	NE	NE	2	Exclosure
Horse Prairie	Burnt RIP 2	NE	NE	2	Rested in 2004
Rogger Peak	Rogger Meadow	LAA	NLAA	6	
Rogger Peak	Summit Prairie	LAA	NLAA	6	
Rogger Peak	Rogger Peak RIP	NE	n/a	n/a	Part of RMeadow
Squaw Butte	Upper Squaw	LAA	NLAA	6	
Squaw Butte	Lower Squaw	LAA	NLAA	6	
Bauers Bridge	Bauers Bridge	n/a	NLAA	6	New Allotment

Allotment	Pasture	1996 Effects Call	2004 Effects Call	2004 Flow Chart End Point	Additional Rational
WARNER BASIN					
Little Cove	Little Cove	NLAA	NLAA	6	
Porcupine	Porcupine	LAA	NLAA	6	
McDowell	McDowell	NLAA	NLAA	6	
McDowell	Twelvemile	NLAA	NLAA	6	
Honey Creek	Big Honey	LAA	NLAA	6	
Honey Creek	Burn	LAA	NLAA	6	
Honey Creek	Blue Springs RIP	none	NLAA	6	
White Pine	White Pine	LAA	NLAA	6	
White Pine	Sherman Valley	LAA	NLAA	6	
LOST RIVER BASIN					
Yocum Valley	Stateline	LAA	LAA	5	Occupied habitat in NF Willow
Yocum Valley	Yocum	LAA	NLAA	6	
Wildhorse	Barnes Valley	LAA	NLAA	6	
Wildhorse	Wildhorse	LAA	NLAA	6	
Wildhorse	Bear Valley	NLAA	NLAA	6	
Fort Springs	Fort Springs	LAA	NLAA	6	
Pitchlog	Southern	LAA	NLAA	4	See discussion below
Pitchlog	Northern (RIP)	LAA	LAA	5	Occupied habitat in Barnes Valley Creek
Barnes Valley	Little Squaw	LAA	LAA	5	Occupied habitat in unnamed Long Branch tributary
Barnes Valley	Branch Creek	LAA	n/a	n/a	Part of LSquaw
Barnes Valley	Long Branch RIP	NE	NE	2	
Arkansas	Arkansas Flat	LAA	LAA	5	Occupied habitat in Lapham
Arkansas	Juniper Mountain	LAA	NLAA	6	
Arkansas	Blue Monday	NLAA	NLAA	6	
Arkansas	Creed	NLAA	NLAA	6	
Arkansas	Lapham Creek RIP	NE	NE	2	

Allotment	Pasture	1996 Effects Call	2004 Effects Call	2004 Flow Chart End Point	Additional Rational
LOST RIVER BASIN					
Privy Springs	Privy Springs	n/a	NLAA	6	
SPRAGUE/LOST RIVER BASINS					
Horsefly	South Horsefly	NLAA	NLAA	6	
Horsefly	Tub Butte	NLAA	NLAA	6	
Horsefly	Big Meadow	NLAA	NLAA	6	
Horsefly	Fishole (East)	NLAA	NLAA	6	
Horsefly	Lost Burn	NLAA	NLAA	6	
Horsefly	Picket Flat	NLAA	NLAA	6	
Horsefly	Devils Lake	NLAA	NLAA	6	
Horsefly	Fishole EXC (RIP)	NE	NE	2	Exclosure
Horsefly	Gooch Meadow RIP	NE	NLAA	6	
Horsefly	Taylor Draw	n/a	NLAA	6	
Yainax	Vinson	LAA	NLAA	6	
Yainax	Dry Prairie	NLAA	NLAA	6	
Yainax	Deer Springs	NLAA	NLAA	6	
Yainax	Yellow Jacket	NLAA	NLAA	6	
Yainax	Mineral Springs	NLAA	NLAA	6	
Yainax	Yainax	NLAA	NLAA	6	
Yainax	Round Prairie	n/a	NLAA	6	
Yainax	Harrison	n/a	NLAA	6	
Yainax	Mahoney	n/a	NLAA	6	
Yainax	Capon	n/a	NLAA	6	
Yainax	Goodlow	n/a	NLAA	6	

SPRAGUE/SYCAN BASINS					
Bly Ridge	Whiskey John	LAA	NE	2	Rested in 2004
Bly Ridge	Mineral Creek	LAA	NE	2	Rested in 2004
Blaisdell	Round Butte	NLAA	LAA	5	SF Sprague BT PCH
Blaisdell	Owen Butte	n/a	NLAA	6	
Pothole	Drews Creek	NLAA	LAA	5	SF Sprague BT PCH
Pothole	Mitten	NLAA	NE	5	Rested in 2004
Pothole	Brownsworth	NLAA	NE	2	Long Term Non-Use
Pothole	Whitworth RIP	NE	NE	2	Rested in 2004
Dairy Creek	Dairy Creek	NLAA	NE	2	Closed Allotment
Swede/Deming	Swede Cabin	NLAA	NLAA	6	
Swede/Deming	Deming Creek	NLAA	NLAA	6	
Horseglades	Horseglades	NLAA	NLAA	6	
North Fork	North Fork	NLAA	NLAA	6	
North Fork	Griffin Creek	n/a	NE	1	
Traphouse	Traphouse	NLAA	NLAA	6	
Reservoir Creek	Reservoir Creek	NLAA	NLAA	6	
Black Hills	Black Hills	NLAA	NLAA	6	
Black Hills	Sycan RIP	n/a	NLAA	6	
Black Hills	Teddy Powers EXC	n/a	NE	2	
Yaden Flat	Yaden Flat	NLAA	NE	3	
Meryl Creek	N. Meryl Creek	n/a	NE	1	
Meryl Creek	S. Meryl Creek	n/a	NE	1	
Five Mile	Riverbed Butte	NLAA	NLAA	6	
Five Mile	North Paiute	NLAA	NLAA	6	
Five Mile	Five Mile RIP	NE	NLAA	6	
Five Mile	Swamp Creek RIP	n/a	NE	2	Rested in 2004
Five Mile	Foster Field EXC (RIP)	NE	NE	2	Exclosure
Paradise Creek	North Paradise	NLAA	NLAA	6	

SPRAGUE/SYCAN BASINS					
Paradise Creek	South Paradise	NLAA	LAA	5	NF Sprague BT PCH
Paradise Creek	Fuller Walker RIP	NE	LAA	5	NF Spr BT PCH
Paradise Creek	Lee Thomas	NE	NE	2	
Paradise Creek	Sprague River RIP	n/a	LAA	5	NF Spr BT PCH
Sycan	Sycan	n/a	LAA	5	Sycan River BT PCH
Currier Camp	Hog Wallow	LAA (03)	LAA	5	Sycan BT PCH
Currier Camp	Squaw Flat	LAA (03)	LAA	5	Sycan BT PCH
Currier Camp	Skull Creek	LAA (03)	NLAA	6	
Withers Special Use	East	LAA (03)	LAA	5	Sycan BT PCH
Withers Special Use	West	LAA (03)	LAA	5	Sycan BT PCH
Riverbeds	Riverbeds	NLAA (03)	LAA	5	Sycan BT PCH
Bear/Lakes	Bald Butte	LAA (03)	LAA	5	NF Spr and Sycan BT PCH
Foster Butte	Silver Creek	LAA (03)	LAA	5	Occupied BT Coyote Cr.
Winter Rim	Fremont	NLAA (03)	NLAA	6	
Yamsey	Yamsey	n/a	NE	2	CLOSED Allotment

Additional Rationale

Pitchlog Allotment/Southern Pasture - Pitchlog Creek within the pasture may provide seasonal habitat for shortnose suckers, but is dry when the pasture is grazed. The channel and streambanks are well armored with cobble and small boulder sized rock. Little to no riparian vegetation occurs along the creek in the pasture due to its dry nature most of the year, which results in little to no cattle use in the vicinity of Pitchlog Creek in the Southern pasture. For the above stated reasons, it has been determined that grazing in the Southern Pasture of the Pitchlog Allotment **May Affect**, but is **Not Likely to Adversely Affect** shortnose suckers.

Prepared by: _____

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Literature Cited

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