

## Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument (CSNM) Livestock Impacts Studies – Fact Sheet January 2008

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Medford District has completed the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument (CSNM) studies of livestock impacts and is releasing the results to the public.

The findings from the studies of livestock impacts, and all other available data, will be used in an evaluation to determine whether or not the allotments are meeting BLM's Oregon/Washington Standards for Rangeland Health. This information will also be used to determine if livestock grazing is consistent with the 2000 Presidential Proclamation. Some of the key findings of the studies of livestock impacts include:

- The monument has experienced 150 years of livestock influence;
- The pattern, seasonality, intensity of use have changed over time;
- There have been many range-related activities over time (mechanical scarification, herbicide/fertilizer application, prescribed fire seeding);
- Over 50 forbs and grasses have been introduced since 1950;
- A historic loss of perennial bunchgrass and conversion to "weeds" occurred in the late 1800s/ early 1900s; and
- Intense use by livestock, deer, and elk excludes certain macro-invertebrate species considered intolerant of disturbance

### Background

The 2000 CSNM Presidential Proclamation directed the Secretary of the Interior to "...study the impacts of livestock grazing on the objects of biological interest in the monument with specific attention to sustaining the natural ecosystem dynamics."

The *Draft Study of Livestock Impacts on the Objects of Biological Interest* was published in May 2001. Based on the comments received and additional discussions with the potentially affected livestock operators, the BLM modified and updated the studies. The scientific integrity and comprehensiveness of the updated study plan was again reviewed by the Provincial Advisory Committee as well as an Oregon State University panel in 2004. The final *Plan for Studying the Impacts of Livestock Grazing on the Objects of Biological Interest* was released by the Medford District BLM in November 2005. During the summer of 2007 the study findings and methods were peer reviewed by the Ecological Society of America (ESA).

The original projects defined by the Plan for Studying the Impacts of Livestock Grazing on the Objects of Biological Interest released in November 2005 are summarized in nine papers.

Within the CSNM, 11 ranchers currently hold grazing leases for 2,714 animal unit months (AUM) on 9 grazing allotments. An AUM represents the amount of forage required to support an "animal unit," or one mature 1000 pound cow and her calf, for one month. Two of the allotments are currently vacant.

