

Section B

INITIAL ALLOTMENT AND PERMIT/LEASE REVIEW and RANGELAND HEALTH ASSESSMENT

Field Office: Burley Field Office Date: October 21, 2014

1. Allotment Name/Number: Salmon Tract-U2 #04109
2. Name(s) of Permittee(s)/Preference Code: C.E. Brackett Cattle Co.
3. Permit Expiration Date(s): 2/28/2019
4. Acres of: Public: 315 Private: 64 State: _____ Other: _____
5. Percent public land in the allotment: 100
6. Is public land large contiguous block(s) of public land, isolated parcel(s) or both? Block
7. Is the public land fenced separately from the private land? No
8. Is any public land within the allotment identified for exchange/disposal in the land use plan?
No Percent of Allotment _____ If yes, two year notification sent? _____
9. Does BLM have administrative access separate from the grazing permit/lease? No
10. Does public have legal access to the allotment? Yes
11. Is the public land physically isolated from the adjoining public land? Yes
12. What is the livestock grazing management category? (M, I, or C) M
13. List all Land Use Plan (LUP) objectives and decisions (consider resource list for No. 14 below for objectives and decisions in the LUP), other grazing decisions, and other NEPA documents pertaining to the allotment:

Range: **RM 1.5** (continue to allow livestock grazing on seasonal use allotments).
RM 3.1 (allocate 72 AUMs of livestock forage on the Salmon Tract-U2 Allotment).

Wildlife: **WL 4.10** (Enhance wildlife habitat for non-game species by implementing the following livestock management:
--for seeded areas, avoid more than the following utilization percentages:
40 percent utilization for spring use,
60 percent utilization for summer use,
60 percent utilization for fall and winter use;)

Twin Falls Grazing EIS identified the season of use on the Salmon Tract-U2 Allotment as 05/15 – 07/01.

14. Check the Standards, Guidelines, and Resources that are applicable to this allotment. Following ID Team disclosure of information and data (monitoring data, studies, inventories, etc, information from other agencies, local governments, and the public) and the ensuing discussions, briefly describe in the comment section any issues (with supporting information). This information will be used to determine if existing data is adequate, or if more information is needed to determine compliance with the Idaho Standards and Guidelines for Rangeland Health.

Standard, Guideline, or Resource Issue	Check(if applicable)	Comments
<i>Watershed (Standard 1)</i>	X	According to the 1988 evaluation, ground cover (plant and litter) increased within the 3x3 photo trend plot from its establishment in 1983. 2014 S&G monitoring found that the public lands within the allotment have adequate vegetative cover, two years post fire and there are no signs of excessive erosion. Soil site stability and hydrologic function have none-slight departure from what is expected. See attached photos.
<i>Riparian Areas, Wetland (Standard 2)</i>	N/A	There are no riparian or wetland areas within the allotment.
<i>Stream Channel, Flood Plains (Standard 3)</i>	N/A	There are no stream channels or flood plains within the allotment.
<i>Native Plant Communities (Standard 4)</i>	N/A	The allotment burned in the 2012 East Hollister Fire. The burned area was drill seeded with a non-native/native like seed mix. Therefore, this standard no longer applies.
<i>Seedings (Standard 5)</i>	N/A	The allotment burned in the 2012 East Hollister Fire. The burned area was successfully drill seeded with a non-native/native like seed mix. According to the 2014 S&G monitoring, plant community diversity and structure is adequate on the seeded rangeland in the allotment two years post fire. Shrub cover was noted as being low, but is establishing. Plant health and cover appears to be appropriate with evidence of perennial plant establishment. The limited forb cover was as expected given range site potential and fire rehab efforts. Total 2014 annual production is calculated at 924 lbs/acre.
<i>Exotic Plant Communities Other Than Seedings (Standard 6)</i>	N/A	There are no exotic plant communities other than seedings within the allotment.
<i>Water Quality (Standard 7)</i>	N/A	There are no stream segments listed on Idaho's 303d list of impaired water bodies on the allotment.
<i>Threatened & Endangered Plant & Animals (Standard 8)</i>	X	No threatened or endangered species are known to inhabit this allotment. The allotment has the potential to provide habitat for Migratory Bird Species of Conservation Concern including grasshopper sparrows, burrowing owl, long-billed curlews, short-eared owl and northern harrier.
Guidelines (1-20)	X	

<i>Land Use Plan Review</i>		
<i>Livestock Grazing</i>	X	The allotment is currently supporting 72 AUMs of forage for livestock. The allotment is seasonally used.
<i>Botanical</i>	N/A	No botanical resource issues have been identified.
<i>Cultural</i>	N/A	No cultural resource issues have been identified.
<i>Fire, Fuel</i>	N/A	Nothing identified in the MFP.
<i>Fisheries</i>	N/A	No fisheries occur on the allotment.
<i>Forestry</i>	N/A	This allotment is not suitable for forestry.
<i>Land</i>	N/A	There are no lands within the allotment identified for disposal/exchange.
<i>Minerals</i>	N/A	No mineral resource issues have been identified.
<i>Recreation</i>	N/A	No recreation issues have been identified.
<i>Special Status Species</i>	X	See Standard 8 above.
<i>Wild Horses</i>	N/A	There are no wild horses or burros on this allotment.
<i>Wildlife</i>	N/A	No wildlife issues have been identified.
<i>Other- Watershed</i>	N/A	

15. Describe BLM's ability or inability to manage the allotment by considering the following, as applicable: Whether there is legal access; whether % federal land comprises majority of the allotment; whether the public land acreage is small (less than 640 acres) and surrounded by private land(isolated); whether the federal land is fenced separate from the private land; etc.

The allotment is comprised of 315 acres of public land, approximately 83% of the total acreage. The public land is not fenced separately from private land and there is limited legal motorized access. This allotment is easily managed.

Current permit: 40 Cattle 05/01 – 06/24 100%PL 72 AUMs

16. Based on the information above the following is recommended to the field manager: (check the appropriate category)

1. Review of existing information indicates that there is no livestock grazing or other issues. Available information is adequate or little additional information is needed to complete the evaluation and NEPA. Grazing permit has been fully processed previously. Conditions that existed when fully processed have not changed (no new listed species, fires, major changes in rangeland health).
 - 1a. Existing grazing is meeting or moving towards meeting standards. Complete DNA based on the original EA to fully process the permit renewal. In some cases another EA may be the basis for the DNA (e.g., use an EA from another allotment with similar grazing management and ecological sites).**
2. Review of existing information indicates that there is livestock grazing or other issues. Available information is adequate or little additional information is needed to complete the evaluation and NEPA. Grazing permit has been fully processed previously. Conditions that existed when fully processed have not changed (no new listed species, fires, major changes in rangeland health). **Develop alternative grazing or adaptive management strategies. If alternative grazing strategies are covered in existing NEPA then complete DNA, if not complete appropriate NEPA. Adaptive management actions should be covered by existing NEPA and final decision.**

3. X Review of existing information indicates that there is no livestock grazing or other issues. Grazing permit has not been fully processed before. Available information is adequate to complete the evaluation and determination. (see numbers 5,6,7,8, 11, and 15 above).
4. _____ Review of available information indicates that grazing or other issues may or may not exist. However, the allotment has no or limited potential for management and/or physical characteristics (e.g., slope, rock, location on the landscape, and lack of livestock forage) of the tract deter livestock grazing use on the public land. (see numbers 5,6,7,8,11, and 15 above). Grazing permit has not been fully processed before. Available information is adequate to complete the evaluation and determination.
5. _____ Review of existing information indicates that an issue(s) may or may not exist. The allotment is considered manageable (see #s 5,6,7,8,11, and 15 above). Grazing permit has not been fully processed before. **Available information is adequate to complete the RHA. Complete RHA (or if adequate use this form as the RHA) and the Evaluation Report, appropriate NEPA, and Determination Document.**
6. _____ Review of existing information indicates that an issue(s) exists. The allotment is considered manageable (see #s 5,6,7,8,11, and 15 above). More information is needed to evaluate current conditions. **Gather additional information and data. Complete the RHA and Evaluation Report and Determination Document or if postponing S&Gs, complete NEPA which in this case is normally an EA.**

List the names and title of the member of the ID team involved with this review:

Name	Title
Jason Theodozio	Range Management Specialist
Jeremy Bisson	Wildlife Biologist

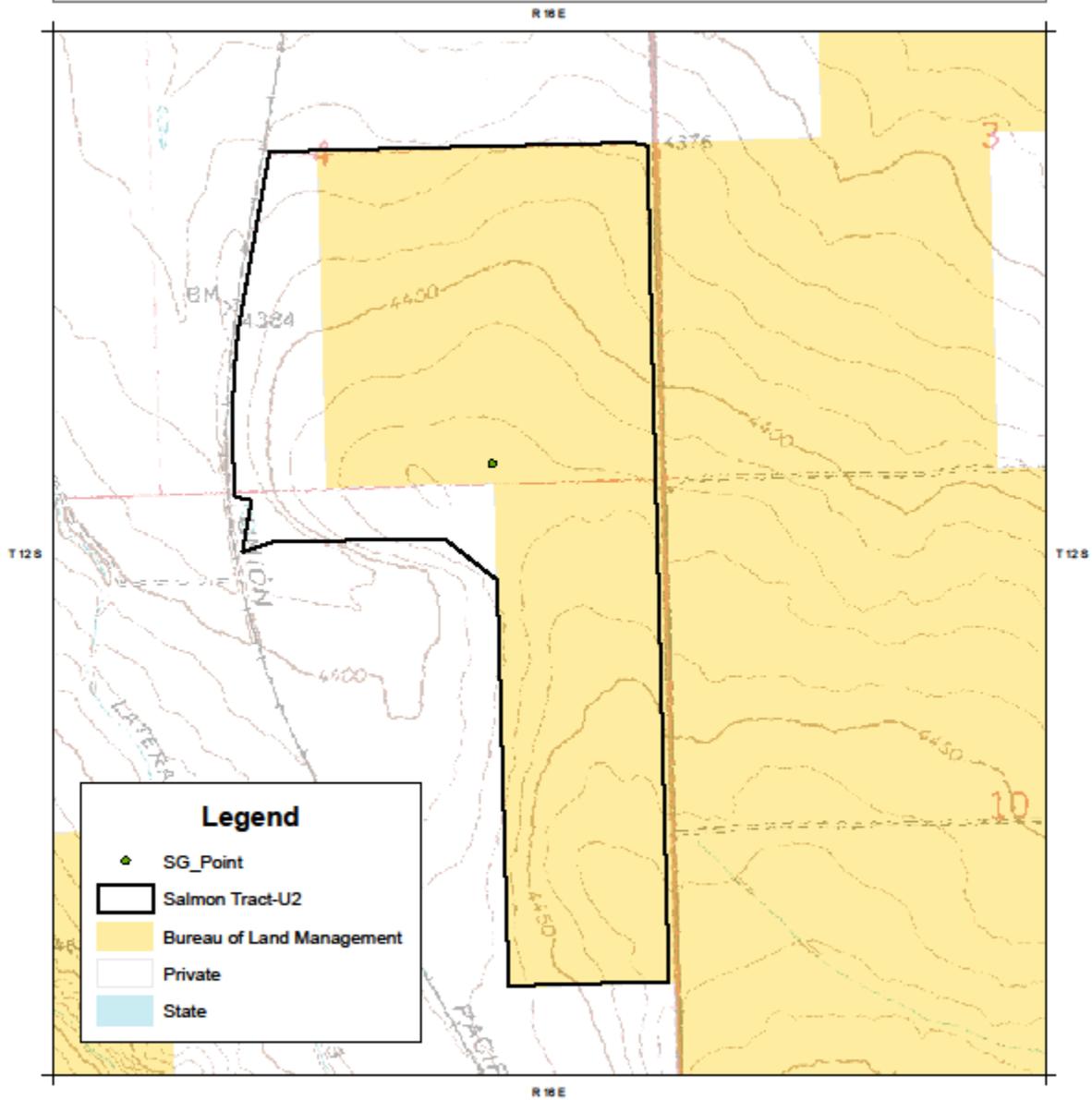
Prepared by Jason Theodozio October 21, 2014
Team Leader for the ID Team **Date**

Field Manager's Finding and Rationale:

Review of data available in the files and professional knowledge of the area indicates the season of use may have been a factor for poor native plant composition that existed on the allotment prior to 2012. Since the rehab effort from the 2012 East Hollister Fire and a two year grazing closure, plant community diversity and structure is adequate on the seeded rangeland. Shrubs are limited within the allotment, but are establishing. This is the RHA.

/s/Jim Tharp 10/20/2014
Authorized Officer (Acting) **Date**

Salmon Tract-U2



Legend

- SG_Point
- Salmon Tract-U2
- Bureau of Land Management
- Private
- State



Map Created: 7/3/2014

The surface management status ("land ownership") should be used as a general guide only. Official land records, located at the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and other offices, should be checked for up-to-date information concerning any specific tract of land.

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1:12,500



Data displayed in UTM Zone 11N, NAD83






1985 Trend overview



1988 Trend overview



2010 Trend overview



S&G site and trend overview (2 years post fire and rehab) 2014