



The David Little Livestock Range Management Endowment

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO

2018 Project Progress Report:

Ranchers Monitoring on their Public Land Grazing Allotments

PERSONNEL: Shannon Williams-UI Extension
Ingrid Fullstone-FS Range Con
Austin Folley-BLM Range Con
Michaelyn McDonnell – Range Tech Intern

PRELIMINARY RESULTS for 2018:

BACKGROUND: Since beginning as the Extension Educator in January, 2000, it has been said that ranchers need to do monitoring on their public grazing allotments. Numerous monitoring workshops, at least one a year, have been offered with varying attendance. Evaluations show that ranchers gain knowledge & skills about rangeland monitoring, but VERY few have applied the knowledge.

Ranchers Doing Monitoring was piloted the summer of 2016. The idea was for the ranchers to have a “tutor” to help them work through the process of doing photo monitoring on their own allotment.

HYPOTHESIS or OBJECTIVES: In the pilot year, 4 ranchers participated. In year 2, those ranchers increased the number of sites to include Forest Service photo monitoring sites and 5 more ranchers began doing photo monitoring. The plan for 2018 is:

- 5 new ranchers will begin with the photo monitoring.
- Ranchers starting the program in 2017 will add additional sites to be photo monitored
- Ranchers who have done photo monitoring for 2 years will add data collection to each site in the form of forage measurements.

PROCEDURES: Ranchers are invited to participate January-March.

- Extension Educator/Range Technician contacts the appropriate rangeland managers to gain access to past monitoring information & locations, data & photos.
- Range technician contacts rancher and sets date to “tutor” them through the monitoring.
- Range technician contacts the rangeland manager when a date and time have been set to do the monitoring.
- Range technician assists with downloading of photos, data sheets, etc.
- Rancher determines where data will be “housed” & technician assists with making sure that is done.
- Each rancher participating will receive a “range monitoring kit” that includes photo frame, photo board, plant ID book

ACCOMPLISHMENTS or RESULTS:

For 2018, Michaelyn McDonnell was hired as the Range Tech/Intern for this project. She was funded through this grant and UI Extension Intern grant. Due to a previous commitment, she was available for the project May 21 through June 30 and August 6 through August 24. She worked with 7 ranchers to do monitoring on their public grazing allotments. Six of the ranchers had participated in the past and 1 was new. She also gathered information for 1 other new rancher, but due to haying and bad weather, they were not able to complete the monitoring.

A survey was sent to all ranchers who have participated in the past 3 years. Here are the results of the survey:

1. Where you doing any monitoring on your public lands grazing permit before this? **Yes- 33% No – 66%**
 - a. If yes, what type: **Photo**
2. Have you shared your photo monitoring with your federal land management specialists? **Yes – 66% No – 33%**
3. Do you go out with your range management specialist when they do their monitoring? **Yes – 100% No – 0%**
4. Have you attended rangeland photo monitoring workshops before this program? **Yes- 33% No – 66%**
5. Please rank your comfort level of doing photo monitoring on your own with 4 being “I got this” and 1 being “I still need a “tutor”!” **4-33% 3 – 33% 2 -33% 1 – 0%**
6. If this program is not offered in 2019 will you continue with your photo monitoring? **Yes – 100% No – 0%**
7. Would you like to add some forage measurements to your monitoring? **Yes – 100% No**
8. The Idaho Department of Agriculture (ISDA) has a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) regarding photo monitoring. If the photos that you have taken are “proofed” by Idaho Department of Agriculture, BLM will accept them as if BLM had taken the photos Would you be interested in sending your photos and data sheets to ISDA to then be sent to your BLM range specialist? (Note: ISDA is currently working with Forest Service for a similar MOU) **Yes – 100% No**

PUBLICATIONS or OUTPUTS:

Now that the survey data is compiled, there will be a UI Extension Impact statement written and published.