

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/5/2012 12:00:00 AM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: WATER SOURCES

I notice no attention to various guzzlers, tanks, waterholes, and ice caves present on the project, over 40 water sources. We ask that these water sources be preserved, maintained, cleaned out, or enhanced and funding specifically available via KV or other sources to compensate for adverse effects. Specifically the following: Hambone Hole, Hambone well, Lower Hambone Pond, Lower Hambone well, Middle Hambone Pond, North Hambone Pond, Hunter Tank, Hunter Hole Pond, Hill Road Pond, Timber Hill West, Timber Hill South, Powder Pass, Powder Hill, Powder South, Powder Meadow, Nowhere Guzzler, Stud hill, Rocky Canyon, Rocky Canyon North, Stud Hill South, Stud Hill Trough, Porcupine North, Porcupine West, Porcupine Ridge, Porcupine Junction, Porcupine Landing, Porcupine Cinder, Cinder East, Cinder West Guzzlers. More guzzlers exist in PP, but the above are near or inside units according to your maps. We believe these investments should be protected for the area's wildlife.

I had a copy of the GPS map locating all guzzlers and ponds in this area, numbering 283 points, which was made by Annette Navarre, where these points are identified. She can pull up this map on file, identifying these points within 0.1 mile, and all are coded as to what kind of water source each one is. I had it on my office wall for many years, but it disappeared mysteriously just before I retired and Annette did not print another one for me. I would like to have one. Of course, I remember where waters are, because I built most of them. Derby knows where a few are, but generally ignored most. She and I named some, i.e. Lava Tank. All are on Annette's map, and which is on file. Specific directions are also in my guzzler books at STNF SO, along with management notes.

To summarize, protect, build, fix, identify and improve all water sources.

WILDLIFE

This area has near units lions, badgers, marten, wolverine, bear, amphibians (LTS), Cooper hawks, but in low numbers. Turkey, elk, deer, and pika are much more common, especially in any area where water is available as noted above. Among TES and concern species, S&M, of particular note is over 5 goshawk nests, 2 Pileated Woodpecker nests, flamulated owls, golden eagle, pallid bats, and Big ear bats, particularly in minor ice caves, some not human-accessible but good for rodents or bats. The bigger ones are Ice River Canyon complex, Porcupine, Bat, and Hambone caves, with their associated holes, known by Jim Wolfe, me, and the spelunker group.

These nest and etc. locations and the caves are on maps I submitted to Annette Navarre, which were made, and I have original USGS copies. She made a very nice computer copy that I used for years, but disappeared just before I retired. I would like a copy.

The elk herd now numbers about 350 by my last count, generally improving with guzzlers and waterholes I put in. I ask for more to spread these animals out during fawn/calf season. Put in ponds in most riparian areas, about a mile apart where feasible.

Any water in May or June is effective; it can dry up in July and still be effective. Several ponds, such as Hill pond were not built properly, and dry up too soon. Depth down is the key, rather than dam height, and bigger size promotes a riparian edge. Many small ones are far superior to one big one, so spread them out. Also, ponds need no maintenance and guzzlers of the old roof type need much maintenance. I doubt they all work now. Summary, be aware and improve habitat for all TES, SM, concern, and game species. Particularly improve water wherever you can with small ponds (less maintenance).

RANGE

The area is grazed by deer and elk, and herds could increase for economic assets to local tourism. This is much more practical than grazing allotments, which in SMMU should all be terminated completely in favor of wildlife game species, which were improving while I was there making water sources. The PP area had substantial trespass by Toad

Mountain allotment cows, which many times destroyed riparian areas, disrupted fawning, and tore up plantation mulch mats, besides overgrazing. This had health and nutrition effects on ungulates. Range Inspection Record

2200-2230 notes, included by reference.

We also have substantial livestock trespass into Mayfield road from Modoc, Atkins Meadow, and Ponds on occasion. RIR is referenced. Keep cows out, terminate Toad.

Summary, terminate Toad, Hambone grazing allotments, and let game use this area. It's a big admin headache and too expensive to run. Cows damaged plantations; see RIR.

PLANTS

SAEX and ILBA are in the area with S&M mushrooms and sensitive plants. We should make more effort to spread ILBA in this area as elk and deer food. Overgrazing hurt it.

Generally, more under burns to restore range and aspen would help. This is a poor to fair timber area. Where is the Big Old Growth pine and Douglas fir that used to be here?

Enhance aspen by thinning conifer over story whenever aspen, even a single tree, is found. Sometimes that's all that's left of huge aspen groves is one tree. Just cut off the competing pines, no site prep, and that works well.

SMMU direction was to restore aspen to 15% of the timber in area. That works well.

RECREATION

Control ORV use. Most of this is for poaching or illegal mushrooming and few true ORV folk use this area.

Gating Ice River Cave and Mayfield Cave would help bats.

Most importance is ending cow allotments, providing water, and TES, SM, C species. RSVP, Francis Mangels 926-0311