

Monitoring

The value of doing your own monitoring
By
Chris Black, Rancher



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN IDAHO STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND IDAHO BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT FOR THE COLLECTION AND USE OF PHOTO MONITORING DATA IN RANGELAND HEALTH ASSESSMENTS

Parties

This Memorandum of Understanding [MOU] is made and entered into by and between the Idaho State Department of Agriculture [ISDA], whose address is 2270 Old Penitentiary Road, P.O. Box 7249, Boise, Idaho 83707 and the Idaho Bureau of Land Management [BLM], whose address is 1387 S. Vinnell Way, Boise, Idaho 83709. (The above parties are hereafter collectively referred to as the "Parties").

Introduction

43 CFR § 4100 defines monitoring as *"the periodic observation and orderly collection of data to evaluate (1) effects of management actions and (2) effectiveness of actions in meeting management objectives."* Idaho's Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management define monitoring as *"the orderly collection, analysis, and interpretation of resource data and information to evaluate progress toward meeting Standards for Rangeland Health and/or management objectives."*

Mutual Benefits and Interests:

The Parties agree that:

- A. Repeated photographs taken at permanent locations are an effective and efficient method for monitoring. Repeat photographs of landscape locations and/or photo plots can provide basic documentation of range trend. The parties will benefit by realizing an increase in frequency of photo monitoring at established sites, as well as an increase in the number of allotments/acres being monitored with photos.
- B. Photo points are especially well adapted for use by permittees who are interested in monitoring their allotments. Photo points require minimal equipment, and are easy to set up and retake.
- C. They can encourage participation by external groups or permittees by providing assistance such as formal or informal training, duplication of photographs, or copies of photo cards and other necessary forms.
- D. They have a mutual interest in the BLM's photo monitoring process, photo monitoring data collection, and reporting methods for each area encompassed by the Photo Monitoring Program.
- E. They have a mutual interest in retaining an economically viable livestock industry by ensuring healthy rangelands through proper grazing management.
- F. Natural resources will benefit by management practices implemented as a result of the information obtained through this cooperative effort.
- G. The Parties will benefit from having additional knowledge of the condition or status of the:
 - (i) Resources,
 - (ii) Open space, and
 - (iii) Resource uses.

DATE _____

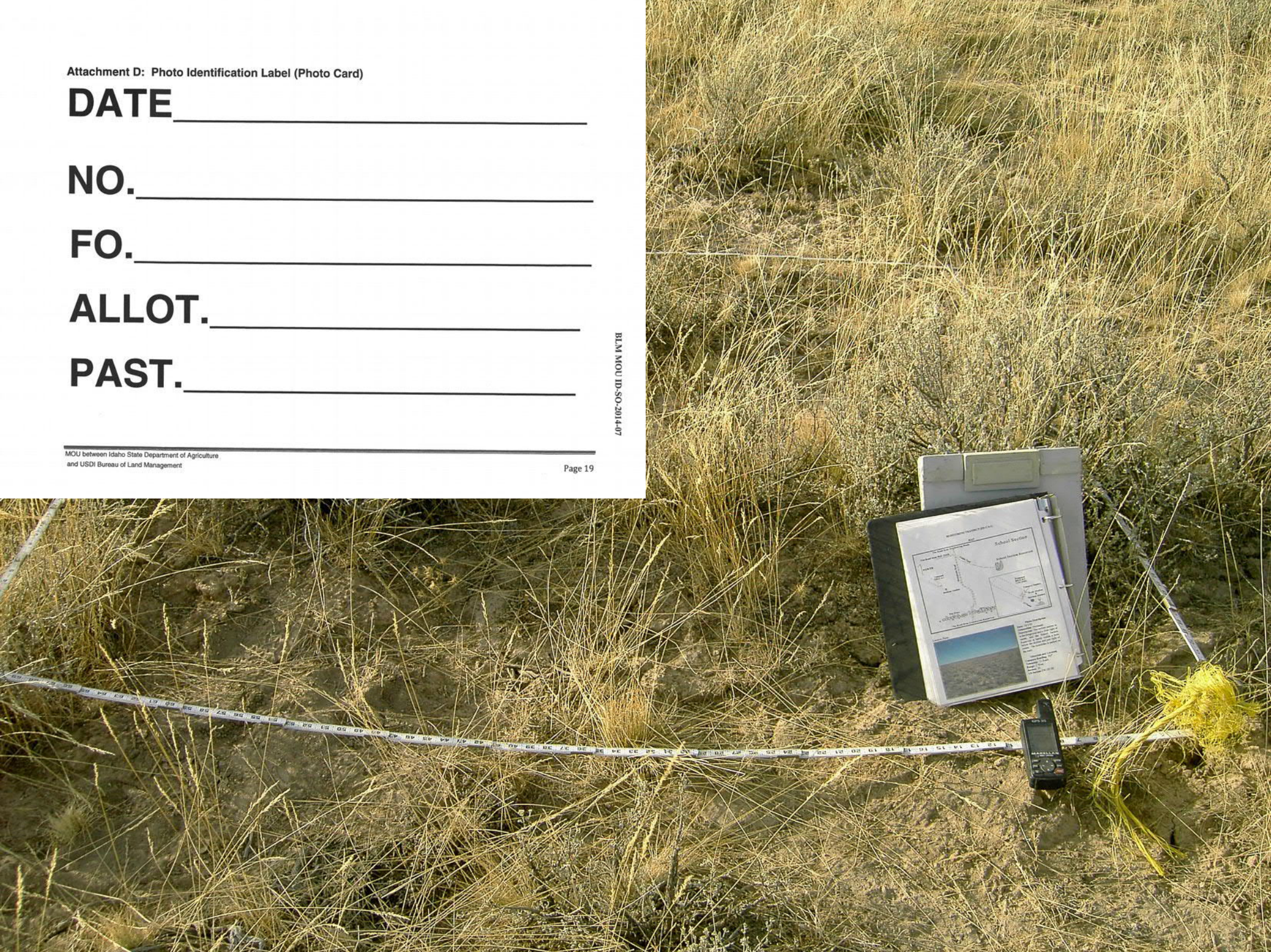
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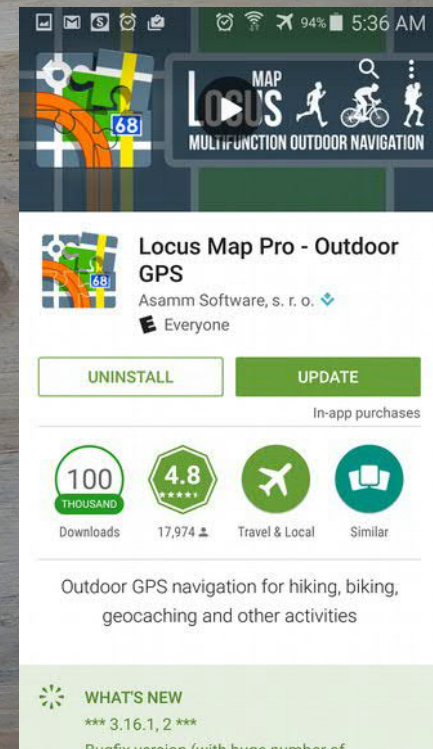
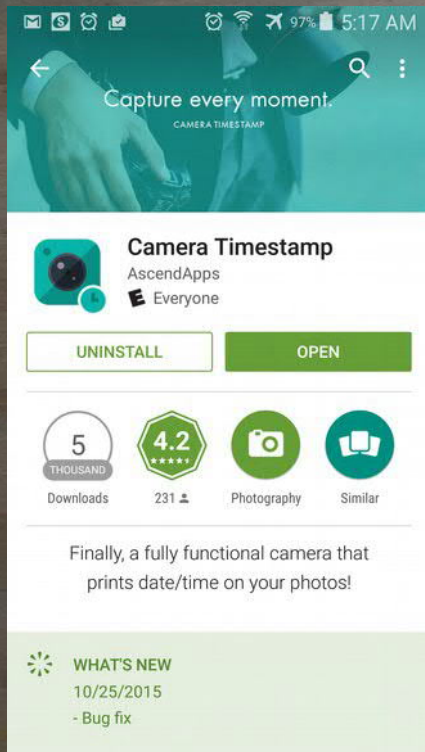
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ALLOT. _____

PAST. _____

BLM MOU ID-SO-2014-07

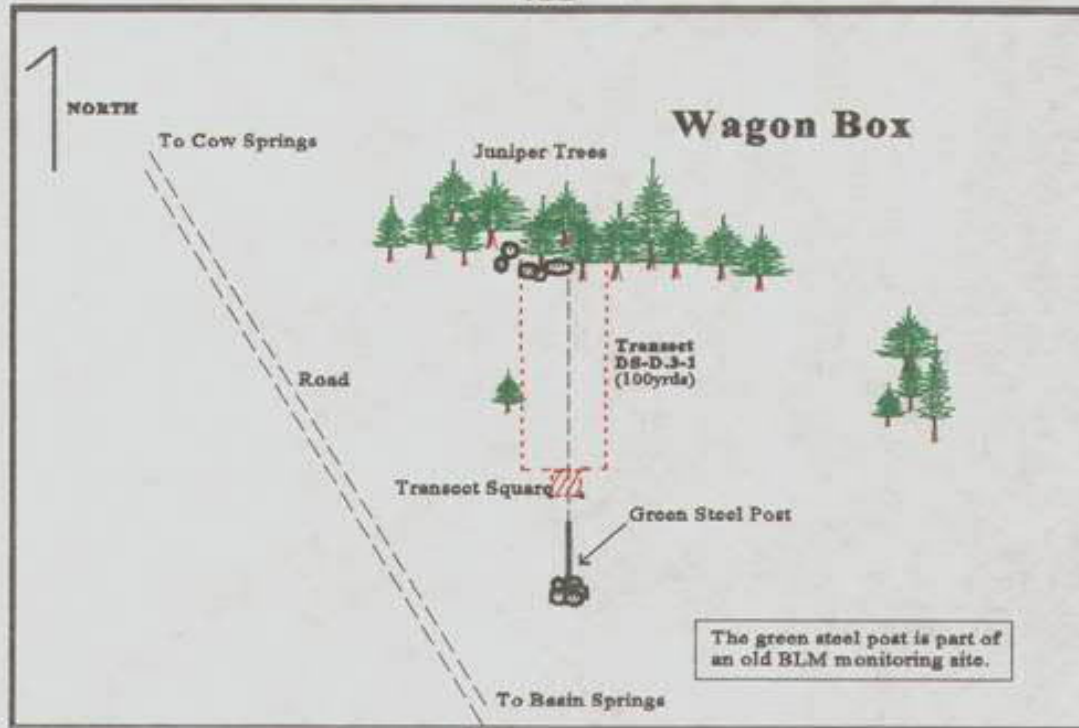






MONITORING TRANSECT (DS-D.3-1)

MAP



11 0536621
4706934

Location Photo



Photo Description

Date: 6/29/93

Orientation: North

Description: The green steel post is located on the east side of the road between Basin Springs and Cow Springs in Wagon Box. The transect square is marked with yellow twine.

Direction and Location

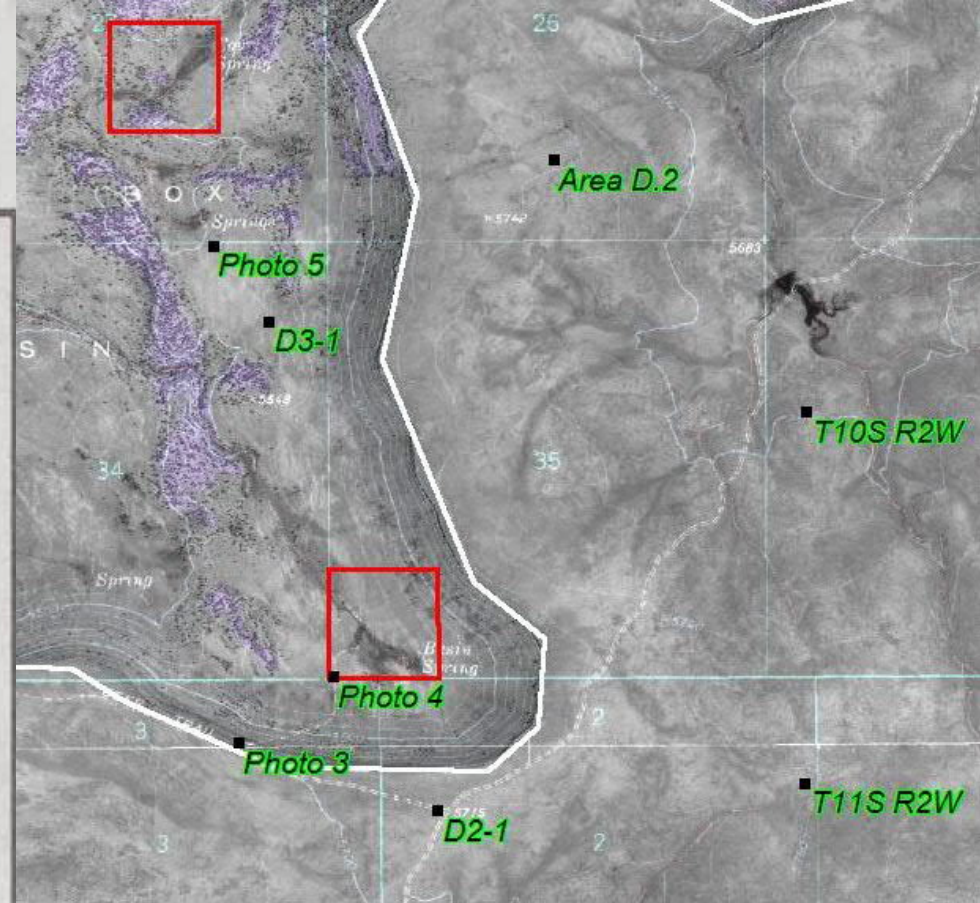
Compass Reading: Due North

Township: 10 South

Range: 1 West

Section: 34

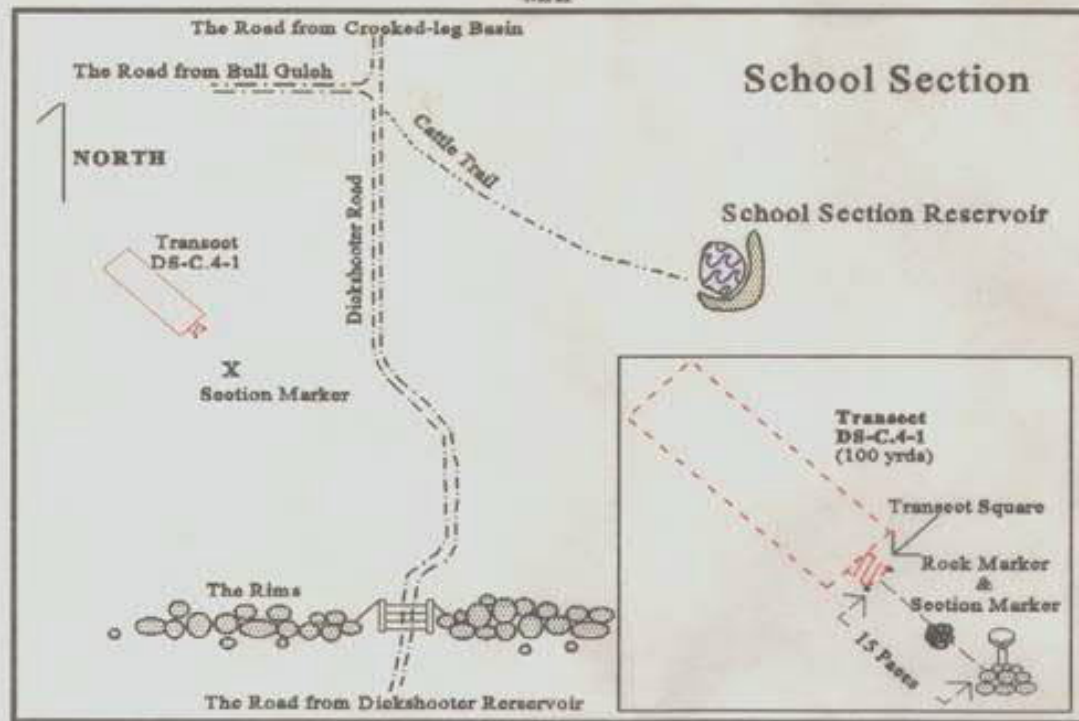
1/4 Section: NE-NE-SE





MONITORING TRANSECT (DS-C.4-1)

MAP



Location Photo



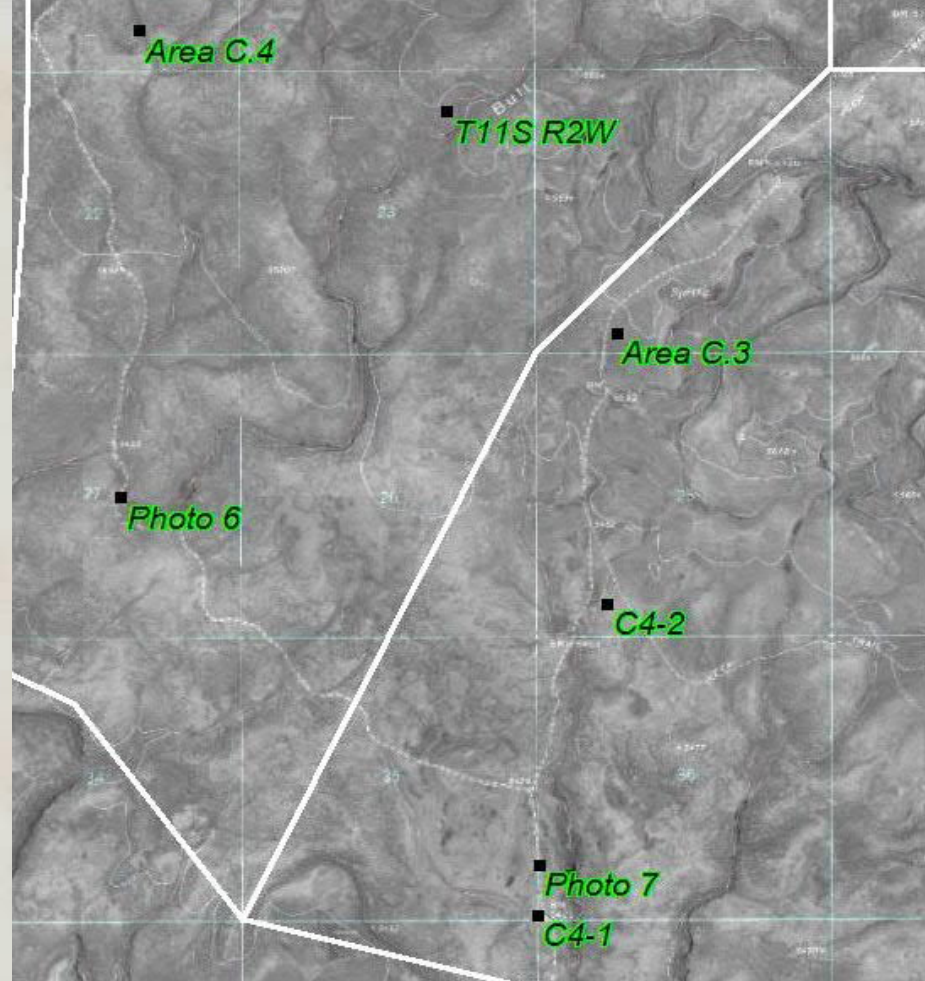
Photo Description

Date: 10/1/93
 Orientation: Northeast
 Description: The section marker is in the foreground and a little right of center, and the School Section Reservoir is barely visible a little below the skyline and just right of center. The motorbike is parked on the road.

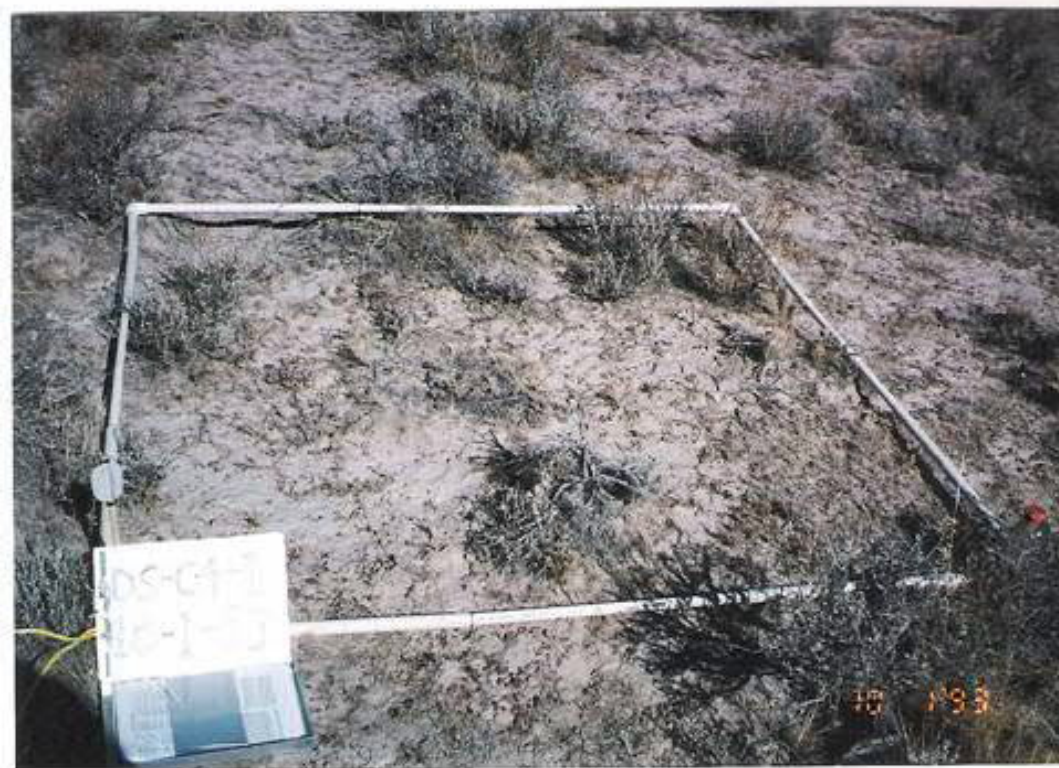
Direction and Location

Compass Reading: 305°
 Township: 11 South
 Range: 2 West
 Section: 35
 1/4 Section: SW-SE-SE

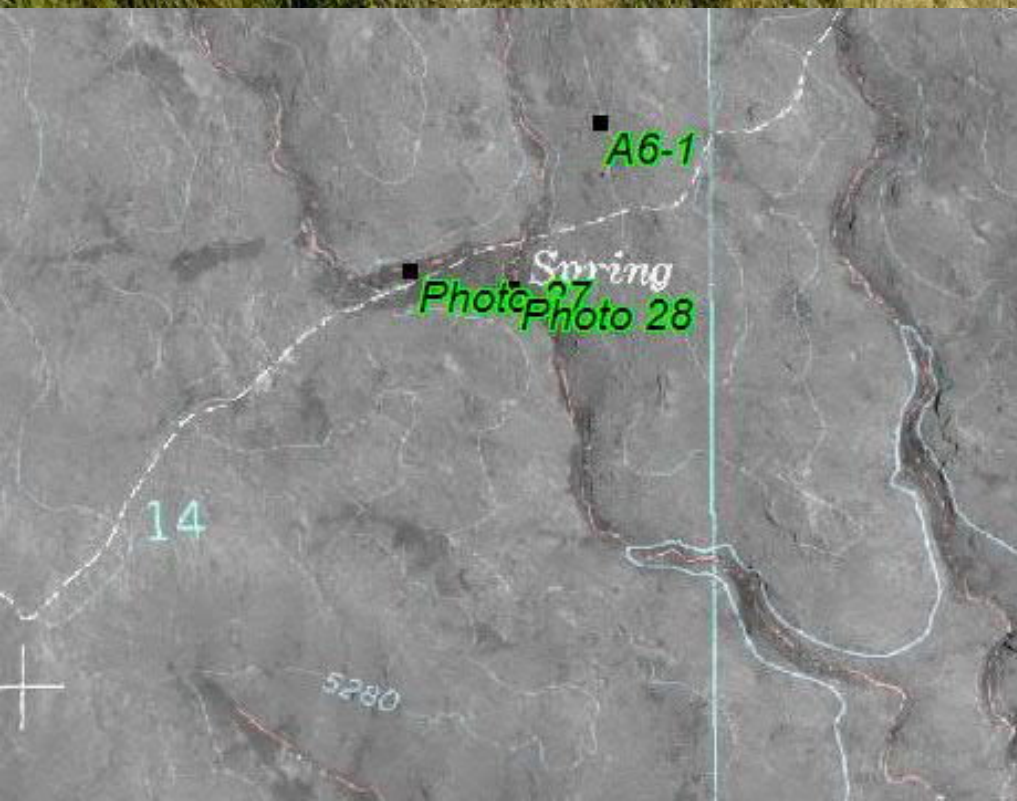
11 4696215N
 538673E



9.3.2005



C.4-1



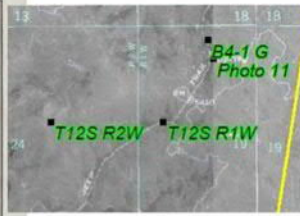
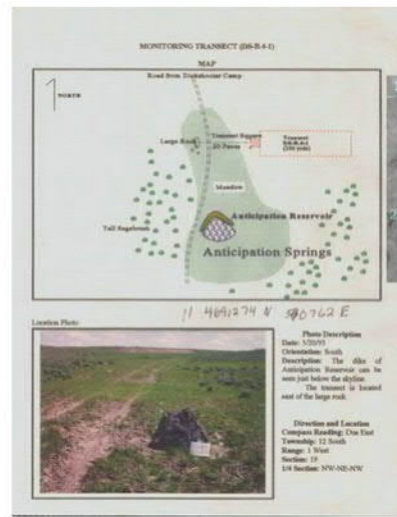


Spring C in Wagon Box Basin Pole Creek Wilderness. BLM is proposing a fence around this spring head. I have water rights on this spring so BLM can not fence cattle completely away from here. This spring was said to be NF by BLM but is obviously in PFC. My proposal for this and other spring heads in Wagon Box was to use a Wilderness friendly approach of using junipers to exclose spr heads.

Spring B Wagon Box Basin, Pole Creek Wilderness. Here again obviously PFC. BLM wants to fence. I would like to use Junipers to exclose the spring head.



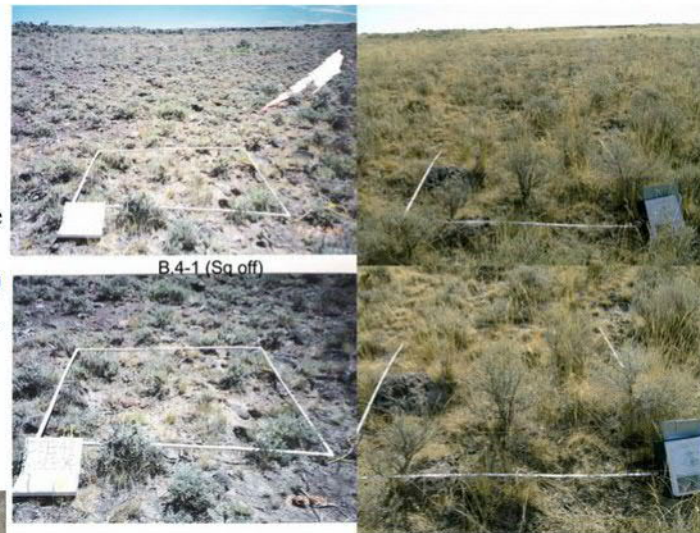
Spring A Wagon Box Basin, Pole Creek Wilderness. Here Obviously PFC. BLM wants to do nothing. I would like to exclose spring head with Junipers.



This is a page out of a previously submitted Qualitative monitoring transect. As you can see it is a short distance from Anticipation Reservoir. It shows a marked increase in functioning from the first transect in 1993. All of the 24 Qualitative monitoring transects in Black Use Area show this same marked increase in functioning condition.



There is no doubt that Black Use Area is in better shape than it has ever been in in my lifetime. I have personally been on the ground there and seen this progression for the last 45 years. All of this within 100 yards of a main BMP off site water, Anticipation Reservoir.





Life on the Range is sponsored by the Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission. If you have a story idea that you'd like us to cover or comments about the project, please send us an email.

Owyhee County ranchers create...

Art Takma

The Nature Conservancy

LIFE RANGE



PHOTO GALLERY

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