

Amendment to the 2025 Upper Green River Area Rangeland Project BA

In the fall of 2025, the Dollar Lake Fire burned a substantial portion of several pastures in the Upper Green River Area Rangeland Project. Formal consultation was conducted for livestock grazing for this project in April of 2019 and then again on May 16, 2025. For a minimum of 1, and maximum of 2 grazing seasons(2026 and possibly 2027), the United States Forest Service, Pinedale Ranger District, is proposing to provide grazing access to four allotments: Elk Ridge, Lime Creek, Rock Creek, and Tosi Creek allotments, also known as the Elk Ridge Complex. By using these allotments, livestock use can be limited in the burned pastures in the Upper Green River Rangeland Project area until Forest Plan standards for vegetative ground cover can be met. Based on results from previous livestock rest relative to wildfire on the forest, these standards will very likely be met within the two-year timeframe. If standards aren't met within the two-year timeframe, alternative grazing options will be implemented and will not be addressed in this aBA. This grazing proposal includes using the Elk Ridge Complex to graze up to 650 cattle from August 15 to October 15 each year. No changes to the livestock management strategies outlined in the 2025 BA will occur. Also, no changes to AUMs, livestock number, kind, or season of use will change. The USFS will commit to the nine conservation measures and all reasonable and prudent measures and terms and conditions as well as all reporting conditions outlined in the 2025 BO.

The following table describes the extent of the Dollar Lake fire on the pastures effected. From this table, it is clear that additional pasture is needed to accommodate cattle grazing to allow for vegetation restoration in the burned areas. □

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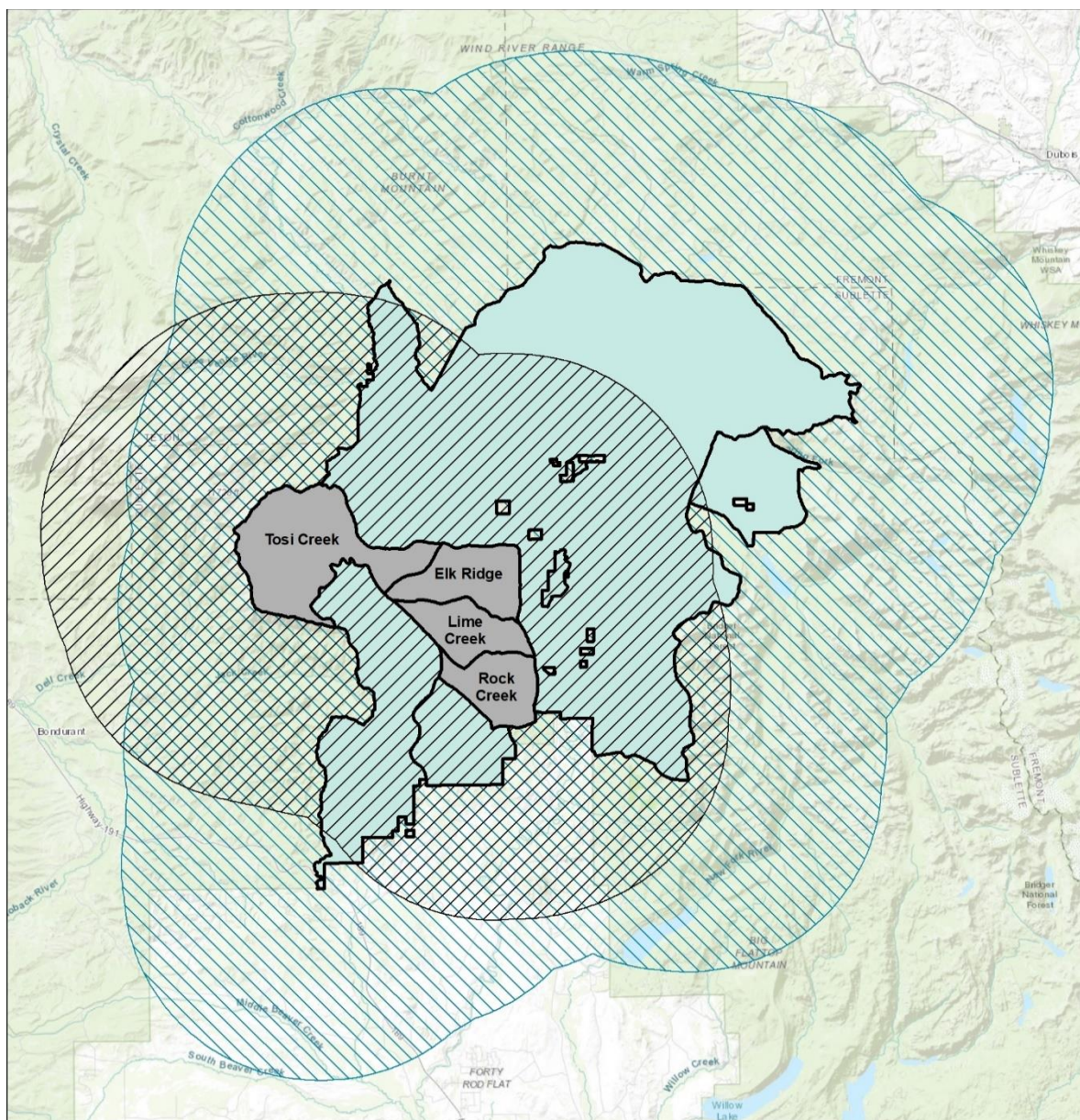
UGR Pasture Name	Burned (Acres)	Unburned (Acres)	Pasture Acres	Percent of Pasture Burned
Roaring Fork	536	7851	8387.6	6.39 %
Upper Gyp Pasture	13230	8980	22210.1	59.6 %
Lower Gyp Pasture	1021	8244	9266.4	11 %

The Elk Ridge Complex contains 12,303 suitable acres to graze for cattle. A shapefile has been sent along with this document for reference to these allotments. Currently, there are no other projects proposed in the Elk Ridge Complex

Grazing cattle on these allotments would have the same impacts, and therefore, the same determination calls for all T&E species in the 2019 and 2025 BA, except Kendall Warm Springs Dace. There are no dace in the Elk Ridge Complex, and therefore the call will change to “no effect.” The supplemental correspondence for wolverine and whitebark pine to the 2025 BO also applies with no changes. In addition, the existence of the newly proposed species of Monarch Butterfly and Suckley’s Cuckoo Bumble Bee would not be jeopardized by this action.

Evaluation of the proposed action and the action area analyzed under the 2025 BO for the Upper Green River Area Rangeland Project indicates a high level of consistency as it relates to the focal species of this analysis. For the purposes of the amendment to the 2025 BA, grizzly bears are of particular interest as a “likely to adversely affect” call was made. The Elk Ridge Complex and Upper Green Area are comparable in relation to grizzly bear management, habitat, food resources, and potential impacts. Both action areas fall within the same Demographic Monitoring Area and contain grizzly bears from the same population and are thus represented by the same demographic and population monitoring that informs recovery and management goals and objectives. Grizzly bear habitat is also similar in terms of elevation, topography, availability of denning habitat, and vegetation cover type. Road and trail type, use, and extent are also similar within both action areas, with minimal extents and densities below the threshold for suitable grizzly bear habitat. Vegetation cover and community type within both action areas is mostly comparable though the Elk Ridge Complex has increased proportional cover of the white bark pine community type and talus/alpine, which is representative of white bark pine seed and army cutworm moth food resources. Food resources are comparable between the two action areas, though the Elk Ridge Complex has increased availability of white bark pine seeds and increased potential army cutworm moth aggregation sites that could concentrate bears during the late summer and fall, though the high-elevation and steeper terrain associated with these food resources typically precludes cattle grazing, therefore minimizing the risk of overlap between foraging grizzly bears and grazing cattle, reducing risk of livestock conflict. There is also less winter-kill of big game within the Elk Ridge Complex compared to the Upper Green Area. These differences in food availability between the two action areas are minimal and unlikely to substantially alter grizzly bear occupancy and use of either action area and would not likely result in increased livestock conflict. Given the similarity between the Elk Ridge Complex and the Upper Green Area as well as the overlap of livestock conflict and grizzly bear data analyzed during consultation for the 2025 BO with the Elk Ridge Complex, the Proposed Action would not be expected to have any additional impacts to grizzly bears other than those already determined during that consultation process. Therefore, the application of the conclusions of the 2025 BO is recommended for this proposal, given the high degree of consistency between the proposed action and action area represented by the Upper Green River Area Rangeland Project.

Please refer to the following map for details on the juxtaposition of the Elk Ridge Complex to the Upper Green River Area Rangeland project as well as the grizzly bear analysis area for the associated allotments.



Grizzly Bear Analysis Area for the Elk Ridge Complex and Upper Green River Area

Legend

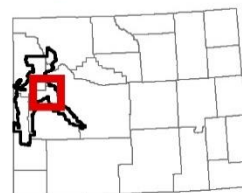
- Elk Ridge Complex Allotments
- Elk Ridge Complex 7.5-mile Buffer
- Upper Green River Area
- Upper Green River Area 7.5-mile Buffer

Disclaimer

The USDA Forest Service makes no warranty, expressed or implied regarding the data displayed on this map, and reserves the right to correct, update, modify, or replace this information without notification.



WYOMING Bridger-Teton National Forest



Map Author: cmiller; Map Creation Date: 9/2/2021
Data Sources: U.S. Forest Service, ESRI
Coordinate System: NAD_1983_UTM_Zone_12N