# **MANCROFT-EBA Consultants**

A division of EBA Engineering Consultants Ltd.

# B.C. FOREST LAND USE COORDINATION OFFICE RANGE INSPECTION FIELD NOTES

July 12 - 18, 1999

0505-99-50633000



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RANGE INSPECTION FIELD NOTES July 12 – 18, 1999

SUBMITTED TO

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0505-99-50633000

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# RANGE INSPECTION FIELD NOTES July 12 – 18, 1999

## INTRODUCTION

In July of 1999, Mancroft-EBA was contracted to carry out range inspections in the Muskwa-Kechika management area. These inspections were carried out in the company of Mr. Steve Amundson, of the B.C. Forest Service, utilizing a helicopter as access.

## SCOPE

All observations, including species composition, forage production, acreage estimates, past use, and potential improvement options are based on visual estimates only. These observations are based on a single site visit. Conditions may vary significantly over time and with varying environmental and land use conditions.

Applicability of sites for controlled burns is based on estimated forage response only. No judgements of fire suitability within the ecosystem, or fire safety have been considered in the evaluation of potential for burns on each site.

Carrying capacity (estimated horse days) estimates have been made under several assumptions. These are as follows:

- 1. One horse is assumed to be 1.5 Animal Units. At an average consumption of 26 pounds of forage per day per animal unit, one horse day is assumed to be approximately 40 lbs of consumed forage.
- 2. All carrying capacities are based on a maximum utilization of 50% of available forage.
- 3. All carrying capacities are based on assumptions of good livestock management, including use of wranglers (if necessary) to ensure good livestock distribution.





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#### SITE #

A1 Southwest facing lower slopes – dominated by Bog birch, with willow sub-dominant.  $57^{2}42.007$ , Understory co-dominated by hairy wild rye and Altai fescue. Bearberry is common throughout the area, with sedge common. Strawberry, tall bluebell and fireweed are scattered throughout the area. Occasional steep patches provide poor grazing potential.

Estimated forage production: 50 - 400 lbs./acre. Average = 150 lbs./acre.

**Valley bottom** – dominated by willow, with dwarf snow willow dominant in the understory. Slender wheat grass is scattered throughout the understory, with patches of hairy wild rye and Altai fescue.

Estimated forage production: 50 lbs./acre

**North slopes** – similar to southern exposures, except less forage is available. Moss cover is much higher.

Estimated forage production: 50 lbs./acre

No sign of domestic livestock use on site. Site is a large, open valley. Minimal improvement potential.

Estimated Range Condition:	Excellent
Estimated Acreage:	3 - 400 acres

Overall estimated horse days available: 312 horse days





Photo #1

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A2 Camp 1

124

33,169

18.634

Photo #2

Wetland valley, with heavy willow dominated uplands. Bog Birch is a sub-dominant species in the overstory. Tall larkspur is scattered throughout the area. Hairy wild rye and Altai fescue are co-dominant in the understory.

Estimated forage production:

0-25 lbs./acre

**Small openings** are scattered throughout the brushed uplands. These openings are dominated by Altai fescue, with alpine timothy a common, but minor species. Small flowering wood rush is scattered throughout.

Estimated forage production: 300 lbs./acre

Wetland areas are dominated by open sedge meadows. The lower meadows are very wet, and will be of little grazing value. Slightly upslope from these wet meadows are somewhat drier sedge meadows. These meadows are useable for grazing.

Estimated forage production:	400 lbs./acre
Estimated acreage:	7 acres

**Open spruce forest**, with bog birch scattered throughout the understory. Marsh reed grass and Altai fescue are co-dominant in the understory.

Estimated	forage production:	100 lbs./acre
Estimated		100 acres

Very little sign of use by domestic livestock. Open sedge meadows will be the preferred range. The open spruce will be secondary to the sedge meadows. The brushed uplands will contribute very little forage production. Very good livestock management will be required to prevent over-utilization of sedge meadows and spruce close to camp. Minimal improvement potential.

Estimated Range Condition: Total Estimated Horse Days: Excellent 140 Horse Days (with very good management) 80 – 100 Horse Days (conservative)

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A2 Open shrub/conifer stand. Small open patches scattered throughout. Similar (Camp 2) composition to the spruce stand in camp 1.

> Estimated acreage: 100 acres

Estimated Horse Days: **100 Horse Days** 

Shrubland. Willow dominated, with bog birch and shrubby cinquefoil common 57° 39.736 throughout. Shrub cover is approximately 2 ft. in height, 40 to 50% cover. Understory is dominated by hairy wild rye and slender wheat grass, with scattered Altai fescue and bearberry. Horse sign is scattered throughout the area, with picket pins evident. Good litter cover remains and area appears in good condition, even around the picket pins. Minimal improvement potential.

1250 Horse Days

Estimated Range Condition:	Good to Excellent
Estimated forage production:	500 lbs./acre
Estimated acreage:	200 acres

Estimated Horse Days:

#### Photo # 3

A3

1230





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A4  $57^{\circ}41.235^{\circ}$  41.034 Shrubland, dominated by willow and bog birch, with shrubby cinquefoil sub-dominant. Shrub cover is 30 to 40%, and approximately 2 feet in height. Understory is dominated by hairy wild rye, with Altai fescue sub-dominant. Bearberry is common. Very good litter accumulation. Very little horse sign. Minimal improvement potential.

Estimated Forage Production:700 lbs./acreEstimated Acreage:100 acres

Second meadow - east of first meadow. Same composition as first.

Estimated Range Condition: Estimated acreage:

Excellent 80 acres

Estimated Horse Days: 1575 Horse Days





Estimated forage production: 300 lbs./acre

Open areas throughout the shrubland have Altai fescue abundant, with sedge scattered.

Estimated Range Condition:ExcellentEstimated forage production:700 lbs./acre.Estimated acreage:200 acres

Estimated Horse Days: 750 Horse Days





57°38.198' Shrub cover is approximately 50%, 2 to 3 ft in height. Understory is dominated by Altai fescue, with hairy wild rye sub-dominant. Sedge is common throughout Good litter on site. Little horse sign present. Burning may improve forage production.

> Estimated Range Condition: Excellent Estimated forage production: 700 lbs./acre 50 acres Estimated acreage:

Estimated Horse Days: 430 Horse Days







**Shrubland**, with 70 to 80% willow cover, 3 to 8 ft in height. Average willow height is approximately 5 feet. Sedge dominated understory, with Altai fescue scattered. Higher areas are dominated by Marsh reed grass and Altai fescue. Along tree edge, some patches with lower density willow show higher percentage of Altai fescue. Burning may improve forage production.

Estimated Range Condition:ExcellentEstimated forage production:50 lbs./acreEstimated acreage:30 acres

Estimated Horse Days: 20 Horse Days







A10(#1) Shrubland, with airstrip. Airstrip dominated by creeping red fescue and Kentucky bluegrass.

Estimated forage production: 800 lbs./acre

**Shrubland** dominated by willow, averaging 80% cover, 3 - 8 ft in height. Very little forage available in shrubland. Browsing quite heavy. Small openings in the spruce forest along the shrubland edges are dominated by scattered willow, with Marsh reed grass, Labrador tea and horsetail dominant in the understory.

Burning may improve forage production, but considerable recovery time would probably be required. Not a prime candidate for a burn.

Estimated Range Condition:Good to ExcellentEstimated forage production:80 lbs./acre useableEstimated acreage:80 acres

#### Photo #10

123 27,96



Sedge wetland, dominated by sedge, with a willow overstory of approximately 30 - 40% cover, 3- 5 ft in height. Scattered black spruce. Area is very wet, but useable for grazing. Minimal improvement potential.

Estimated Range Condition:ExcellentEstimated forage production:1500 lbs./acreEstimated acreage:25 acres

Total Estimated Horse Days: 550 Horse Days

Photo # 11





Estimated	Range Condition:	Good
Estimated	forage production:	900 lbs./acre
Estimated	acreage:	300 acres

Estimated Horse Days: **3300 Horse Days** 



All **Burned slope**, dominated by hairy wild rye, with Altai fescue and sedge abundant. 57 33,233 Creamy peavine, American vetch and common rose are common. Regenerating burnt willow, with less than 10% cover. No horse sign evident. Good accumulation of litter. Burning could be utilized to maintain shrub cover below 25% level.

> Estimated Range Condition: Estimated forage production: Estimated acreage:

Good 1200 lbs. 80 acres

Estimated Horse Days:

1200 Horse Days







A13 Shrubland dominated by shrubby cinquefoil, with bog birch sub-dominant. Shrubs average 40% cover, 3 ft in height. Understory co-dominated by Altai fescue and sedge. Hairy wild rye and slender wheat grass scattered. Horse sign throughout the area. Litter accumulation good. Burning will not be of a major benefit at this time.

Estimated Range Condition:ExcellentEstimated forage production:1400 lbs./acreEstimated acres:30 acres

Estimated Horse Days:

525 Horse Days



A24 Shrubland, dominated by willow, 60 – 70% cover, 3 – 5 ft in height. Significant browsing. Understory dominated by Altai fescue and strawberry, with sedge and slender wheat grass sub-dominant. Hairy wild rye is abundant. Horse sign present. Fescue plants remain healthy. Bluegrass is dominant in patches. Burning may improve forage production.

Estimated Range Condition:GoodEstimated forage production:600 lbs./acreEstimated acreage:10 acres

Estimated horse days:

75 Horse Days







Shrubland, dominated by willow, 3 to 6 feet in height, approximately 60 % density. Shrubby cinquefoil and bog birch, 1 to 2 feet in height, scattered throughtout. Understory dominated by slender wheat grass, with sedge sub-dominant. Hairy wild rye and bluegrass scattered.

185 Horse days

Marginal site for burning.

Estimated Range Condition: Good Estimated forage production: 250 lbs./acre Estimated acreage: south of river – 30 acres north of river – 50 acres

Estimated horse days:





A23 Shru 57 26.487 Patc sub-23° 39.881 No h clum

**Shrubland**, dominated by willow, 3 to 4 feet in height, approximately 60% density. Patches of approximately 80% density. Altai fescue dominant, with slender wheat grass sub-dominant in the understory. Bearberry dominant in patches. Good litter accumulation. No horse sign over most of meadow – small amount of horse sign on east end. Fescue clumps appear very healthy. Marginal site for burning.

110 Horse days

Estimated Range Condition:GoodEstimated forage production:300 lbs./acreEstimated acreage:30 acres in two meadows

Estimated Horse days:





A14 123 23.04

**Open meadows** located along slopes. Dominated by Marsh reed grass, with Altai fescue subdominant. Minor forbs, such as harebells and fireweed. Good litter, excellent vigour. Minimal improvement potential.

Estimated Range Condition: Estimated forage production: Estimated acreage:

Excellent 2500 lbs./acre 60 acres

Photo #20 East of Creek



Photo #21 West of Creek



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**Valley bottom** – dominated by sedge, with open water in patches.

Estimated forage production: 200 lbs./acre Estimated acreage: 100 acres

Wet hillsides, dominated by bog birch, with willow sub-dominant. Shrubs approximately 1 to 2 feet in height. Labrador tea and heavy moss cover is abundant. Sedge is dominant in the understory. Useable area, but not primary range. Moderate browse noted on the willow.

Minimal improvement potential.

Estimated Range Condition: Excellent 100 lbs. Estimated forage production:

Estimated Horse days: 2100 Horse days

Meadow, with scattered willow and shrubby cinquefoil, 2 to 3 feet in height. Understory 57 30.677 dominated by Altai fescue, with Marsh reed grass subdominant. Good litter accumulation. Very vigorous fescue plants. Horse sign apparent. Burning will not be of a major benefit at this time.

Estimated	Range Condition:	Excellent
Estimated	forage production:	2500 lbs./acre
Estimated	acreage:	2 acres

#### Photo #22

A15





**Burn**, on terrace, with scattered bog birch up to 2 feet in height. Understory dominated by Altai fescue, with scattered patches of hairy wild rye common. Scattered small flowering wood rush. Numerous patches of willow and bog birch, 50% cover, averaging 2 feet in height. Horse and moose sign evident throughout the area. Good litter accumulation. Excellent vigour.

Burning could be utilized to maintain brush cover at a low density. A follow up burn may also be required in order to clean up deadfall as the standing dead trees start to come down.

Estimated Range Condition: Estimated forage production: Estimated acreage: Excellent 1800 lbs./acre 200 acres

Total estimated Horse Days:

4560 Horse Days







#### South-west side of creek:

**Meadow** dominated by Marsh reed grass, with Altai fescue and small flowering wood rush subdominant. Willow overstory, approximately 11 feet in height, covering less than 20%. Horse sign. Good litter and vigour. Burning will not be of a major benefit at this time.

Estimated Range Condition: Estimated forage production: Total Estimated Horse Days:

Good to Excellent 2000 lbs./acre **337 Horse Days** 



A17
Shrubland, dominated by willow and bog birch, with shrubby cinquefoil subdominant.
57 35.051
Shrub cover 2 to 3 feet in height, 50 - 70% cover. Understory dominated by moss, with Altai fescue subdominant. Bearberry is abundant in patches. Slender wheat grass is scattered and common. Shrub cover heavier in lower areas and lighter on upland terraces. Good vigour and litter. Horse sign throughout. Similar types scattered along length of creek. Marginal site for burning.

Estimated Range Condition: Estimated forage production: Estimated acreage: Good to Excellent 200 lbs./acre 30 acres

75 Horse Days

Estimated Horse Days:





A18 57 35.153 43.450 Shrubland, dominated by willow, with bog birch and shrubby cinquefoil a minor component. Shrub cover 3 to 4 feet in height, approximately 80% cover. Understory dominated by slender wheat grass and Altai fescue, with sedge subdominant. Hairy wild rye scattered throughout. Similar meadows, with slightly less brush cover across creek. Horse sign scattered throughout area. Horses noted at time of inspection. Litter accumulation remains good. Burning may improve forage production.

> Estimated Range Condition: Estimated forage production: Estimated acreage:

Good 60 lbs./acre 300 acres

225 Horse Days

Estimated Horse Days:





A19 Meadow, with willow dominant overstory, 1 to 2 feet in height. Bog birch subdominant in overstory. Shrub layer approximately 20% cover. Understory dominated by hairy wild rye and Altai fescue. Baltic rush common in patches. No horse sign noted. Good litter accumulation. Similar meadows extend up valley. Marginal site for burning.

> Estimated Range Condition: Estimated forage production: Estimated acreage:

Good 1000 lbs./acre 10 acres

Estimated Horse Days:

125 Horse Days

Photo #28



A20 Alpine shrubland, dominated by willow, with bog birch subdominant. Approximately 70 to 90% shrub cover, 2 to 3 feet in height. Understory dominated by moss, with Altai fescue and sedge. Forbs common, including arrow leafed coltsfoot. Slender wheat grass scattered. Upper terraces, dominated by bog birch, 2 to 3 feet in height, approximately 80% cover. Understory dominated by marsh reed grass and Altai fescue. Minimal improvement potential.

Estimated Range Condition: Estimated forage production: Excellent 30 lbs./acre



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**Open sedge areas** scattered. Willow, averaging 1 to 2 feet, with approximately 40% cover. Sedge meadows cover approximately 10% of meadow complex. No horse sign evident. Minimal improvement potential.

Estimated Range Condition: Estimated forage production: Estimated acreage:

Excellent 200 lbs./acre 400 acres

Estimated Horse Days:

235 Horse Days

Photo #29



Meadows near camp – dominated by bog birch, to 3 feet in height, approximately 60% cover. Willow, to 1 foot in height, scattered. Bearberry is scattered, but common throughout. Understory dominated by slender wheat grass and hairy wild rye, with Altai fescue subdominant. Altai fescue clumps are small, but vigorous. Fair litter from last year. Marginal site for burning.

41.357' Estimated range condition: Fa

Fair to Good.

**Meadows above camp** – similar to near camp, but Altai fescue is healthier. Patches with sedge dominant and Altai fescue subdominant. Small area of sedge and tufted hair grass dominant. Horse sign abundant near camp. Horse sign decreasing significantly as you move out from camp. Marginal site for burning.

Estimated range condition: Estimated forage production: Estimated acreage: Good. 300 lbs./acre 60 acres



Large meadow upstream from camp – dominated by bog birch, with willow and shrubby cinquefoil subdominant. Shrub layer approximately 3 feet in height and 60 - 70% cover. Very hummocky. Understory dominated by sedge and Altai fescue, with slender wheat grass and bearberry common. No horse sign noted. Marginal site for burning.

Estimated Range Condition: Estimated forage production: Estimated acreage: Excellent 100 lbs./acre 300 acres

Total Estimated Horse Days:

600 Horse Days





Meadow, with willow dominant and bog birch subdominant. Shrub cover 2 to 3 feet in height, approximately 50% cover. Open patches scattered throughout. Understory dominated by Altai fescue, with hairy wild rye subdominant. Good litter and vigour. Litter horse sign noted after immediate camp area. Burning will not be of a major benefit at this time.

Estimated Range Condition: Estimated forage production: Estimated acreage:

Excellent 1000 lbs./acre 80 acres

**1000 Horse Days** 

Estimated Horse Days:

Photo #31



B12 4.198

Small shrublands amongst forest - mid way up lake. Dominated by willow, averaging approximately 2 feet in height, 80% cover. Heavy browsing evident. Occasional openings with cow parsnip up to 20% cover. Understory dominated by marsh reed grass. Forage production could be improved by burning.

Estimated Range Condition: Estimated forage production: Estimated acreage:

Excellent 1000 lbs./acre

Estimated Horse Days:

15 acres

180 Horse Days



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**East end of lake** – meadows dominated by willow, 2 to 4 feet in height. Very heavy browsing noted. Understory dominated by cow parsnip, marsh reed grass and hairy wild rye. Bluegrass is scattered. Frequent open patches dominated by marsh reed grass, with hairy wild rye and Altai fescue subdominant. No horse use noted. Forage production could be improved by burning.

Estimated Range Condition: Estimated forage production: Estimated acreage: Good to Excellent 600 lbs./acre 50 acres

Estimated Horse Days:

375 Horse Days







**Shrubland**, dominated by willow, with shrubby cinquefoil and bog birch subdominant. Shrub height averages approximately 3 feet. Shrub density varies, with most being up to 90% cover. Patches dominated by bog birch. Small open areas near center of meadow, along runway. Hummocky ground. Understory on south end dominated by hairy wild rye, with Altai fescue a minor component. North end has Altai fescue and hairy wild rye dominant in understory, with slender wheat grass subdominant. Patches of sedge scattered. Little horse sign. Burning may improve forage production.

Estimated Range Condition: Estimated forage production: Estimated acreage: Excellent 150 lbs./acre 300 acres

560 Horse Days

Estimated Horse Days:

#### Photo #33





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**Hillside southwest of cabin** – relatively open treed hillside, dominated by hairy wild rye, with Altai fescue subdominant and fireweed common. Bog Birch is dominant in the shrub layer, with willow subdominant. Shrub layer averages approximately 3 feet in height, 30 % cover.

Large meadows noted across river, upstream and downstream.

Estimated Range Condition: Estimated forage production: Estimated acreage:

Good to Excellent 300 lbs./acre 4 acres



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#### Estimated Horse Days:

#### **15 Horse Days**

B9-1 , Meadow on terrace - approx. 5700 ft.. Heavily dominated by forb species with Altai 56 58.481 fescue sub dominant. Small flowered wood rush scattered. No signs of use. Very little forage value. Minimal improvement notantial forage value. Minimal improvement potential.

Oatgrass and reed grasses noted in main valley. Somewhat more forage available on south facing slopes.

> Estimated Range Condition: Excellent Estimated forage production: 80 lbs./acre Estimated acreage: 100 acres

\* Note. High alpine site. Suggested use level reduced by additional 50%. Estimated Horse Days: 50 Horse Days – length of valley







B9#2 **Small meadows** within bog birch and willow dominated brushlands. Brush averages approximately 5 feet in height, 90% cover. Meadows dominated by hairy wild rye, with veiny meadowrue and Altai fescue subdominant. Sedge is abundant in patches. Hillside dominated by hairy wild rye, with Altai fescue and fireweed common. Bluegrass scattered. Bison noted on site. Burning may improve forage production.

Estimated forage production:	brushland -50 lbs./acre meadows - 1800 lbs./acre
Estimated acreage:	4 acres
Estimated Horse Days:	24 Horse Days






B5 Various sites surrounding Beatty Lake. 57 11.013

57<sup>°</sup> 11.0 13<sup>°</sup> Meadow, dominated by sedge, with tufted hair grass common. Bison sign noted. Minimal 123<sup>°</sup> 16.42<sup>°</sup> improvement potential.

> Estimated Range Condition: Estimated forage production: Estimated acreage:

Excellent 1800 lbs./acre 15 acres

Estimated Horse Days:

338 Horse Days

Photo #40



**Old burn** off east end of lake. Understory dominated by hairy wild rye, with fireweed and horsetail subdominant. Deadfall and slope will hinder use on all but the toe of the slope. Further burning may increase some forage availability through cleaning up of deadfall. However, steep slopes will prevent significant use of this area by horses.

Estimated Range Condition: Estimated forage production: Estimated acreage (useable):

Good 450 lbs./acre 5 acres

Estimated Horse Days:

28 Horse Days



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**Meadows** off north-west corner of lake, dominated by willow, with bog birch common. Shrub cover averages approximately 3 feet in height, with approximately 90% cover. Wet area, with a moss dominated understory. Negligible forage value. Small open areas dominated by sedge. Minimal improvement potential.

Estimated Horse Days:	10 Horse Days
Estimated Range Condition:	Excellent
Estimated forage production:	800 lbs./acre
Estimated acreage:	1 acre

**Open burn** in draw off of north-west corner of lake. Dominated by Altai fescue, with hairy wild rye and fireweed common. Terrace and lower slopes. Follow-up burns may be required to clean up blowdown when trees start falling.

Estimated Range Condition:	Excellent
Estimated forage production:	800 lbs./acre
Estimated acreage:	5 acres

Estimated Horse Days:

**50 Horse Days** 

Photo #41



Wetlands located immediately off of north-west corner of lake – dominated by sedge and moss. Very wet area. Suitability for grazing is limited.



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B4
5707.693
Meadow, dominated by sedge, with Altai fescue common. Moss cover is abundant. Good litter accumulation. Fescue clumps have received grazing pressure in the past, but appear vigorous. Slightly elevated areas have a higher proportion of sweetgrass and slender wheatgrass. Lower areas are dominated by sedge and arrowleafed coltsfoot. Large amount of bison sign noted. Area may have received past heavy use from bison. Predominance of Altai fescue may be lower than expected under climax condition. Similar type along valley length. Minimal improvement potential.

Estimated Range Condition: Estimated forage production: Estimated acreage: Good 1800 lbs./acre 80 acres

1800 Horse Days

Estimated Horse Days:





B3 / Meadow, dominated by hairy wild rye and marsh reed grass, with sedge and Altai fescue 5707.18 subdominant. American vetch and geranium common. Good litter and vigour. North of airstrip, willow overstory is up to approximately 6 feet in height, with approximately 80% 13308.784 cover. Open patches dominated by Altai fescue, with hairy wild rye subdominant. Bison sign throughout area. Horse sign noted on meadow by airstrip. Forage production could be improved by burning.

> Estimated Range Condition: Estimated forage production: Estimated acreage:

Good to Excellent 1800 lbs./acre 100 acres total

Estimated Horse Days:

450 Horse Days

Photo #43





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B2 , **Shrubland**, dominated by willow, with bog birch common. Shrubs average approximately 3 feet in height, with approximately 90% cover. Open patches dominated by hairy wild rye, with sedge and Altai fescue subdominant. Sedge dominant in low lying areas. Litter accumulation fair, vigour fair to good. Burning may improve forage production.

> Estimated Range Condition: Estimated forage production: Estimated acreage:

Good 300 lbs./acre 150 acres

Estimated Horse Days:

560 Horse Days

Photo #44



B13 56 53.654 35,893

Small meadows scattered in a wet shrubland, dominated by Altai fescue, with hairy wild rye and slender wheatgrass common. Vigorous stand. Bison sign present. No horse sign noted. Minimal improvement potential.

Estimated Range Condition: Estimated forage production: Estimated acreage:

Estimated Horse Days:

Excellent 2000 lbs./acre 5 acres

125 Horse Days



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Shrubland dominated by willow, with bog birch and shrubby cinquefoil common. Shrubs approximately 3 to 6 feet in height, 90% cover. Hummocky ground, with heavy moss cover. Sedge common in low areas. Scattered Altai fescue throughout. Access through shrubland is poor. Forage value negligible. Minimal improvement potential.

## Photo 45



B14 56 51.929 123 37.641

Shrubland, with open meadows. Bog birch overstory averaging approximately 3 feet in height, 60 – 70% cover. Scattered willow. Understory dominated by Altai fescue and slender wheatgrass, with marsh reed grass subdominant, and hairy wild rye common.
'Sedge and many flowered wood rush scattered. Burning may improve forage production.

Estimated Range Condition: Estimated forage production: Estimated acreage: Excellent 200 lbs./acre 180 acres



**Open meadows** amongst shrubland, dominated by Altai fescue, with slender wheatgrass common. Forbs, including monkshood, aster, tall larskspur, strawberry and tall bluebell common. Some fescue clumps raised and decadent on main meadows. Small amount of bison sign noted. No evidence of recent use noted. Minimal improvement potential.

Estimated Range Condition: Estimated forage production: Estimated acreage:

Good – Excellent 1200 lbs./acre 20 acres

Total Estimated Horse Days:

750 Horse Days

Photo #46



Photo #47



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B15 Wet shrubland, dominated by willow, with bog birch common. Approximately 90% shrub cover. Sedge patches. Scattered slope meadows, dominated by Altai fescue, with marsh reed grass, many flowered wood rush and aster common. Good litter accumulation. No sign of bison or horse use. Moose sign abundant. Minimal improvement potential.

Slope meadows:

Estimated range condition: Estimated forage production: Estimated acreage: Excellent 1200 lbs./acre 3 acres

Sedge openings:

Estimated range condition: Estimated forage production: Estimated acreage:

Total Estimated Horse Days:

2000 lbs./acre 8 acres

Excellent

245 Horse Days





B16 5655.3% 5655.3% 31.119 B16 Shrubland, dominated by willow, with bog birch common. Shrub cover up to approximately 6 feet in height, 60 – 70% cover. Open meadows dominated by Altai fescue, with sedge and slender wheatgrass common. Monkshood and veiny meadowrue common throughout the area. Good litter and vigour. Bison sign noted throughout area. Small patches of Altai fescue scattered throughout brush. Forage production could be improved by burning.

Good to Excellent

2340 Horse Days

750 lbs./acre

250 acres

Estimated Range Condition: Estimated forage production: Estimated acreage:

Estimated Horse Days:





Meadow in spruce stand, dominated by Altai fescue, with sedge, marsh reed grass and tall bluebell common. Sedge common on south end. Good litter accumulation. Fescue is clumped. No sign of use. Minimal improvement potential. B17

Estimated Range Condition: Estimated forage production: Estimated acreage:

Excellent 1800 lbs./acre 2 acres

Estimated Horse Days:

**45 Horse Days** 

Photo #50



B18 51,614

Shrubland/meadow complex. Approximately 80% shrubland and 20% meadow. Shrubland dominated by willow, approximately 70% cover, 3 to 4 feet in height. Understory dominated by cow parsnip, with marsh reed grass subdominant. Heavily 123 29.422 browsed. Burning may improve forage production.

> Estimated forage production: 400 lbs./acre

Meadows dominated by marsh reed grass, with Altai fescue, sorrel, and tall bluebell common. Good litter accumulation. No sign of use noted.

Estimated forage production: 3200 lbs./acre

Estimated Range Condition: Estimated acreage:

Excellent 40 acres





Tree fringe, dominated by an open spruce stand, with an understory dominated by Altai fescue and aster. Forbs common.

Estimated forage production: Estimated acreage:

150 lbs./acre 2 acres

Total Estimated Horse Days:

480 Horse Days



B19 5651.485 5651.485 78.607 Meadow on lower slope. Upper slope portion dominated by marsh reed grass and Altai fescue, with fireweed, dock and tall bluebell common. Cow parsnip thick in patches. Fescue heavily clumped. Litter accumulation good. A controlled amount of fire or grazing disturbance would probably enhance this area.

Estimated Range Condition:ExcellentEstimated forage production:2000 lbs./acreEstimated acreage:8 acres

Lower slope portions dominated by sedge.

Estimated Range Condition: Estimated forage production: Estimated acreage: Excellent 3000 lbs./acre 8 acres

**Shrubland** dominated by willow, approximately 80% cover, 2 to 3 feet in height. Sedge understory. No sign of horse or bison use noted. Minimal improvement potential.

Excellent 100 lbs./acre 24 acres

**530 Horse Days** 

Estimated Range Condition:	
Estimated forage production:	
Estimated acreage:	

Total Estimated Horse Days:



Photo #52

D:\Manorofl-EBA\SiteAssessments\50633 Rulledge.doc

B20#1 Meadow, dominated by Altai fescue, with northern anemone subdominant, and small flowered wood rush common. Litter accumulation good. Minimal improvement potential. 28.007 Estimated Range Condition: Excellent Estimated forage production: 300 lbs./acre Estimated acreage: 10 acres

Estimated Horse Days:

**37 Horse Days** 

56 50.975 evident. Good litter cover remains. Minimal improvement potential. Estimated Range Condition: 173 12.715 Estimated Range Condition: B20#2 Meadow dominated by sedge, with tall bluebells and tall larkspur common. Picket pins

Estimated Range Condition:	Excellent
Estimated forage production:	3000 lbs./acre

**Open meadows** beside brushland, dominated by willow, approximately 3 feet in height and 50% cover. Understory dominated by hairy wild rye, with slender wheatgrass subdominant, and Altai fescue common. Veiny meadowrue and tall larkspur are scattered and common throughout. Type continues up and down valley. Burning of shrubland may increase forage production.

	Estimated Range Condition: Estimated forage production:	Excellent 500 lbs./acre
Total	Estimated Acreage:	50 acres

Total Estimated Horse Days:

780 Horse Days

Photo #53



D \Mancroft-EBA\SiteAssessments\50633 Rutledge.doc

Valley - Shrubland/meadow complex, dominated by willow, with a sedge understory. B21 56 52.500 Wet. Minimal improvement potential.

123 24.26

Estimated Range Condition: Excellent Estimated forage production: Estimated acreage:

750 lbs./acre Entire Valley area

Estimated Horse Days:

**300+ Horse Days** 

Small meadow upslope, dominated by alati fescue. Heavy litter accumulation.

Estimated forage production: Estimated acreage:

3000 lbs./acre 5 acres

Estimated Horse Days:

**185 Horse Days** 



**Open treed slope**, dominated by bog birch, approximately 2 to 3 feet in height, 40 to 60% cover. Understory dominated by Altai fescue, with hairy wild rye common. Significant bison sign noted. Small amount of horse sign noted. Forage production could be improved by burning.

Estimated Range Condition: Estimated forage production: Estimated acreage: Excellent 2000 lbs./acre 20+ acres – along valley edges

Estimated Horse Days:

**500 Horse Days** 





B22, Meadows along valley terraces. Dominated by Altai fescue, with forbs, including 5659.483, monkshood, aster, geranium and bluebells common. Many flowered wood rush is scattered throughout. Good litter accumulation. Bison sign present. Valley bottom dominated by heavy willow cover. Minimal improvement potential.

> Estimated Range Condition: Estimated forage production: Estimated acreage:

Excellent 2000 lbs./acre 15 acres

Estimated Horse Days:

**375 Horse Days** 





B23 Meadows located along terraces. Dominated by marsh reed grass and Altai fescue, with scattered hairy wild rye. Good litter accumulation. Old bison sign. No sign of horse use.

123° 14.857 Steep valley, with valley bottom dominated by willow, approximately 30 to 40% cover. Small patches of spruce. Understory dominated by Altai fescue and hairy wild rye. Heavy browsing noted on willow. Minimal improvement potential.

> Estimated Range Condition: Estimated forage production: Estimated acreage:

Excellent 2000 lbs./acre 2 acres

**50 Horse Days** 

Estimated Horse Days:





B24 5655, 497 123 09.476 Shrubland, dominated by willow, approximately 50% cover, 3 feet in height. Understory dominated by marsh reed grass, with hairy wild rye and slender wheatgrass subdominant. Altai fescue, bluegrass, geranium, and tall bluebells are common. Altai fescue is dominant in patches. Meadow adjacent to camp has picket pins and horse sign evident. Fescue remains vigorous. Burning may improve forage production.

> Estimated Range Condition: Estimated forage production: Estimated acreage:

Excellent 1200 lbs./acre 30 acres

Estimated Horse Conditions:

**450 Horse Days** 





B20#3 56 50.95 173 11. \$1 Shrubland, dominated by willow, approximately 2 feet in height, 50 to 60% cover. Understory dominated by Altai fescue, with hairy wild rye subdominant. Sedge scattered in patches. Good litter and vigour. Hummocky and channeled in willows. No sign of use noted. Similar type up and down valley. Burning may improve forage production.

> Estimated Range Condition: Estimated forage production: Estimated acreage:

Excellent 1100 lbs./acre 30 acres

Estimated Horse Days:

410 Horse Days





**APPENDIX A** 

PLANT SPECIES LIST



## PLANT SPECIES LIST

Common Name	Scientific Name
Grasses	
Alpine timothy	Phleum alpinum
Altai fescue	Festuca altaica
Creeping red fescue	Festuca rubra
Hairy wild rye	Leymus innovatus
Kentucky bluegrass	Poa pratensis
Marsh reed grass	Calamagrostis canadensis
Pumpelly brome	Bromus inermis ssp. pumpellianus
Slender wheat grass	Elymus trachycaulus
Sweetgrass	Heirochloe odorata
Tufted hair grass	Deschampsia caespitosa
Reeds and Sedges	
Sedge	Carex sp.
Small flowering wood rush	Luzula parviflora
Shrubs and Trees	
Black spruce	Picea mariana
Bog Birch	Betula glandulosa
Common Rose / Prickly rose	Rosa sp.
Dwarf snow willow	Salix reticulata
Labrador tea	Ledum groenlandicum
Pine	Pinus sp.
Shrubby cinquefoil	Potentilla fruticosa
Spruce	Picea sp.
Willow	Salix sp.
Forbs	<i></i>
American vetch	Vicia americana
Arrowleaf coltsfoot	Petasites sagittatus
Aster	Aster sp.
Bearberry / Kinnikinnick	Arctostaphylos uva-ursi
Creamy peavine	Lathyrus ochroleucus
Cow parsnip	Heracleum lanatum
Dock	Rumex sp.
Fireweed	Epilobium angustifolium
Geranium	Geranium sp.
Hairbell	
Horsetail	Campanula rotundafolia Equisetum arvense
Monkshood	
Northern Anemone	Aconitum delphinifolium
	Anemone parviflora Polemonium pulcherricum
Showy Jacob's ladder	
Sorrel	Rumex sp.
Strawberry	Fragaria sp.
Tall larkspur	Delphinium glaucum
Veiny Meadowrue	Thalictrum venulosum



## Muskwa-Kechika Range Inspection – July 26 & 27, 1999

Site	Plant Community Description	Horse Grazing Days
Henry Creek NRM /14	<ul> <li>Picture 6 (campsite area) – site is dominated by willow, bog birch, hairy wildrye, slender wheatgrass and American hedysarum. Area around campsite has received heavy grazing pressure, dominated by Kentucky bluegrass.</li> <li>Picture 7 (meadows) – the site is dominated by bluejoint, fowl bluegrass, sedge, willow, and shrubby cinquefoil. Area is in Good-Excellent Range Condition.</li> </ul>	20
Moose Creek NRM 115	<ul> <li>Picture 8 (meadow near campsite) – site is dominated by shrubby cinquefoil, altai fescue, sedge, and mountain monkshood. Area is in Excellent Range Condition.</li> <li>Picture 9 (shrub-car along creek) – site is dominated by willows, shrubby cinquefoil with a minor component of fowl bluegrass. Area is in Excellent Range Condition. Minimal grazing value.</li> </ul>	24
Upper Moose Creek	<ul> <li>Picture 10 (area between meadows) – site is dominated by bog birch, willow, bluejoint, moss and sedge. Areas are in Excellent Range Condition.</li> <li>Picture 11 &amp; 13 (meadows) – sites are dominated altai fescue, Jacob's-ladder, luzula, shrubby cinquefoil and tall larkspur. Areas area in Excellent Range Condition.</li> <li>Picture 12 (riparian area close to campsite) – site is dominated by bluejoint, fowl bluegrass, fireweed and Jacob's-ladder. Localized areas of overgrazing dominated by Kentucky bluegrass. Area is in Fair-Good Range Condition.</li> <li>Picture 14 (aerial view of meadows)</li> </ul>	60 This is only available if all meadows are utilized. If grazing takes place only in the meadow near the campsite, there are only 10 horse days.
Toilet Creek NFM 117 NFM 118	<ul> <li>Picture 20 (riparian area and upland adjacent to creek) – the riparian area is dominated by willow, sedge, and bluejoint. The area is in Excellent Range Condition. The upland area is dominated by willow, scrub birch, altai fescue, luzula, and monkshood. This area is in Excellent Range Condition.</li> <li>Picture 21 (shrub meadow) – the site is dominated by scrub birch, shrubby cinquefoil, altai fescue, luzula, Jacob's-ladder, and monkshood. The area is in Excellent Range Condition.</li> <li>Picture 22 (horse tethering) – impacts of tethering a horse to trees.</li> <li>Picture 23 (meadow near campsite) – site is dominated by altai fescue, scrub birch, alpine bluegrass, and luzula. The area is in Good Range Condition.</li> <li>Picture 24 (meadow) – site is dominated by sedge, alpine timothy, altai fescue, monkshood, and willows. The area is in Excellent</li> </ul>	42

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	Range Condition.	
Tetsa NEM 119	<ul> <li>Picture 1 (campsite) – site is dominated by Kentucky bluegrass, wild strawberry, and hairy wildrye. This area has received very heavy horse use. The area is Poor-Fair Range Condition.</li> <li>Picture 4 (campsite) – sheep are causing some of the impacts at the campsite.</li> <li>Picture 3 (gravel terrace) – site is dominated by scrub birch, shrubby cinquefoil, kinnikinnik, sedge, hairy wildrye, willow, and altai fescue. The site is in Fair-Good Range Condition.</li> </ul>	22
Tetsa Lake NPM \20	<ul> <li>Picture 9 (potential campsite) - site is dominated by sedge, scrub birch, moss and a minor component of altai fescue. The site is in Excellent Range Condition. This is the only area with grazing available around the lake area.</li> <li>Picture 10 (lake) - site is dominated by scrub birch, moss and a minor component of altai fescue. No grazing available</li> </ul>	12
Dead Dog Flats NFM 121	<ul> <li>Picture 12 &amp; 13 (flats) – site is dominated by scrub birch, shrubby cinquefoil, hairy wildrye, Kentucky bluegrass, tall larkspur, wild strawberry, yarrow, lupine and a minor component of altai fescue. The area is in Fair Range Condition. There are very heavy grazing pressures from elk and horses.</li> </ul>	2,870 This is the total number of days available for elk and horse combined.
Horse Shoe Mt. NEW \7 3	<ul> <li>Picture 14 (riparian) – site is dominated by willow, sedge, luzula, Jacob's-ladder, altai fescue and a minor component of bluejoint. The area is in Excellent Range Condition. The soils are very wet.</li> <li>Picture 15 &amp; 16 (meadow near campsite) – site is dominated by willow, shrubby cinquefoil, altai fescue, alpine timothy, Jacob's-ladder, slender wheatgrass and monkshood. The area is in Good Range Condition.</li> <li>Picture 17 (burn slope above campsite) – site is dominated by hairy wildrye, sedge, Jacob's-ladder, and altai fescue slower on the slope. The area is Excellent Range Condition.</li> </ul>	200 This is the total available if the burn slope close to the campsite is utilized. If only the meadows near the campsite are utilized, there are only 58 horse days.
Halfway Meadow NEM \ 25	• Picture 19 (meadow) – site is dominated scrub birch, willow, wild strawberry, lupine, shrubby cinquefoil, awned wheatgrass, rose, Kentucky bluegrass, and a minor component of altai fescue. The area is in Fair Range Condition. The area receives heavy grazing pressure from elk.	1035 This is the total number of days available for elk and horse combined.

Compositer + Rayo site i NRM lays a chola cat of than, et. 2715 A NEN 114 115 2=16A 2 over C & 2717H 116 yypo: moore CE 2717B 117 lypp. Toilet et 2=17-C IV Loui Toild CK 119 27184 By a o Teta up in a from a les can cohin 27 2 0 A 120 ioner Televicke Deal dog mendon 27234 121 eat Hericha CK 270713 122 123 TO CE 124 2810 B - Horfer, & weeken 125 126 211.4 castlo ce. nuw/ See Pary's Report.

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Site ID	Latitude	Longitude	Range condition	Horse Grazing Days	Horse Grazing Days Improvement Potential
PR01A1	57 42.007	124 06.130'	ш	312	Σ
PRO2A2	57 33.169'	124 18.634	ш	140	Σ
PRO3A3	57 39.736'	123 52.629'	GE	1250	Σ
PR04A4	57 41.235'	123 41.034'	ш	1575	U
PR05A6	57 38.735	123 31.380'	ш	750	G
PR07A7	57 38.198'	123 28.140'	ш	430	G
PRO8A8	57 41.155'	123 24.422	ш	20	G
PR09A9	57 41.595'	123 19.649'	GE	25	Σ
PRO10A10-1	57 38.278'	123 22.351'	GE	550	Σ
PR011A10-2	57 39.168	123 22.512'	GE	3300	G
PROA11	57 33.233'	123 23.019'	ш	1200	Σ
PROA12	57 29.324	123 22.761'	ш	1500	Σ
BHC1A13	57 26.599'	123 24.613'	ш	525	z
BHC2A14	57 29.713'	123 23.066'	ш	2100	Σ
PR013A15	57 30.677	123 27.498'	ш	4560	z
PR014A16	57 31.546'	123 36.152'	ш	337	z
PR016A17	57 35.051	123 36.086'	GE	75	z
PR018A18	57 35.153	123 43.450'	GE	225	U
PROA19	57 29.202'	123 51.013'	GE	125	z
BHC3A20	57 25' 17.4"	123 48' 16.8"	٩	0	z
BHC4A21	57 19.682'	123 41.357	FGE	600	z
BHC5A23	57 26.487	123 39.881'	GE	110	z
BHC7A26	57 27.2'	123 19.581'	ш	1000	z
BHC8B2	57 10.823'	123 11.111'	U	560	IJ
BHC9B3	57.07.718	123 08.784'	GE	450	IJ
BHCB4	57 07.693	123 13.282'	ŋ	1800	Σ
BHC10B5E	57 11.013	123 16.426'	GE	366	Σ
BHC11B5W	57 11' 06.3"	123 18' 9.3"	ш	60	Σ
BHCB6	57 07.590'	123 17.761	ш	375	Σ
BHC12B7	57 04.259'	123 16.841'	ш	938	Σ
BHC14B10	57 54.312'	123 34.414'	GE	52	Σ
BHC15B11	57 54.737	123 47.392'	ш	560	U
BHC16B12	56.54.198	123 47.626'	GE	555	IJ
BHCB13	56.53.654	123 35.893'	ш	125	Σ
BHC17B14	56 51.929'	123 37.641'	ш	750	Σ
BHC18B15	56.50.962'	123 42.889'	ш	245	Σ