

# Grazing Impacts Monitoring Report

If you see something, say something!

Over the years, some of the unique, protected botanical areas in the Klamath-Siskiyou have been subject to damage from cattle, contributing; trampling of vegetation, erosion of soil, and spoiling the experience for visitors to these special places on our public lands.

**Specific locations that we would like to hear about - Siskiyou Crest key areas of concern, along FS Road 20:**

- [Grouse Gap Meadows](#)
- [Siskiyou Gap](#)
- [McDonald Basin](#)

**Other monitoring locations and projects:**

- [Monitoring Grazing at Muir Creek](#), Muir Creek, near the Rogue-Umpqua Divide Wilderness, is a special and beloved place: old-growth, elk herds, spring flowers, and waterfalls! What could go wrong? Extensive cattle grazing is harming riparian and meadow values while rendering the trail system nearly unusable. What used to be a clear trail in a wonderful watershed is now a confusing hodgepodge of cattle trails, damaged meadows, and mud holes. Muir Creek needs your eyes and ears! Please consider taking an afternoon on the Upper Rogue to hike the area, listen for cowbells, and document the

impacts of grazing on the recreational, hydrological and botanical values of these public lands.

- [Alex Hole Meadows](#), a remote and sensitive wetland area that has a long history of damage from cattle. KS Wild hosts two stewardship events here every year to set-up, take-down and repair fencing that protects this botanical area from cattle drift. The restoration work is easy, so that leaves plenty of time for exploration, and to take an evening hike up to Condrey Peak off of the PCT trail to enjoy sunset. Email [allee@kswild.org](mailto:allee@kswild.org) if you're interested in this project.

### **KS Wild's Manual for Monitoring Grazing in the RRSNF:**

- We are looking for any cows on the Rogue River Siskiyou National Forest. Finding them on the Klamath is helpful, especially if it close to the Rogue - but we really want to find them on the Rogue River-Siskiyou NF.
- See map below for key areas of concern and areas to park.
- We suggest focusing on the meadows in Grouse and Siskiyou Gap and in McDonald Basin.
- Get out of your car and walk around the meadows looking for fresh evidence of cows (hoof markings in wet areas and cow pies).
- Although sometimes you can see them along the FS road 20, it's generally not enough to just drive the 20 Road. Binoculars can be used from vantage points (Meridian Overlook, Dutchman are good ones.)
- Listen for bells. Sometimes cows get in the shade of trees in the daytime when it is warm.

- **Please Advise:** Sections of the 20 road between Wrangle and Dutchman's are really rough and not fun to drive. I would not recommend driving this section unless you have a significant rig and strong constitution. I suggest going up and over Mt. Ashland to reach FS road 20 or if coming from the Applegate use Beaver Creek to access the FS road 20.

### **Trip Planning Before you go:**

- Bring a hard copy map of the **Applegate and West Half of Ashland Ranger Districts**. Purchase one from any Forest Service Office or Ranger Station.
- Tell someone where/when you are going and email: [allee@kswild.org](mailto:allee@kswild.org).
- Have plenty of water and food.
- Budget your time well.
- Implement Leave-no-trace practices.
- Have a full tank of gas.
- ***Don't forget to please*** email [allee@kswild.org](mailto:allee@kswild.org) when you plan to monitor grazing.

### **Information Gathering When in the Field:**

- Look for cattle present. Take note of the number of cattle, the color of their ear tags, if they have bells and chains around their neck, if they have canvass straps around their neck.
- Look for vegetation impact from the cattle. Specifically in riparian and wetland areas.

- Look for evidence of cattle present- excrement, trampling, hoof-prints, etc.
- **Take photos of all of the above!**
  - With each photo record the location, day, and time.
  - Please take photos which clearly display the subject, be it cow or cow excrement, while showing relevant landscape.
  - With each photo of cattle please capture the animals color, tag color, ear notches, or any other distinguishing characteristic. If you cannot get a clear photo of a tag color please record it.

### **Photos:**

- Please attach your photos, with location, date, and time, by replying to the email confirmation you will receive, once your form is submitted.



Thank you again for volunteering your time!

Once you have returned from your hike, please submit your report here: [www.kswild.org/grazing-monitoring-report](http://www.kswild.org/grazing-monitoring-report)

If you have any questions via [allee@kswild.org](mailto:allee@kswild.org) or by calling 541-218-8690.

