

BEIRDNEAU - TREND STUDY NO. 2-9-11

Vegetation Type: Bitterbrush

Range Type: Crucial Deer Winter, Crucial Elk Winter

NRCS Ecological Site Description: Not Available

Land Ownership: USFS

Elevation: 5,450 ft (1,661 m)

Aspect: South

Slope: 50%

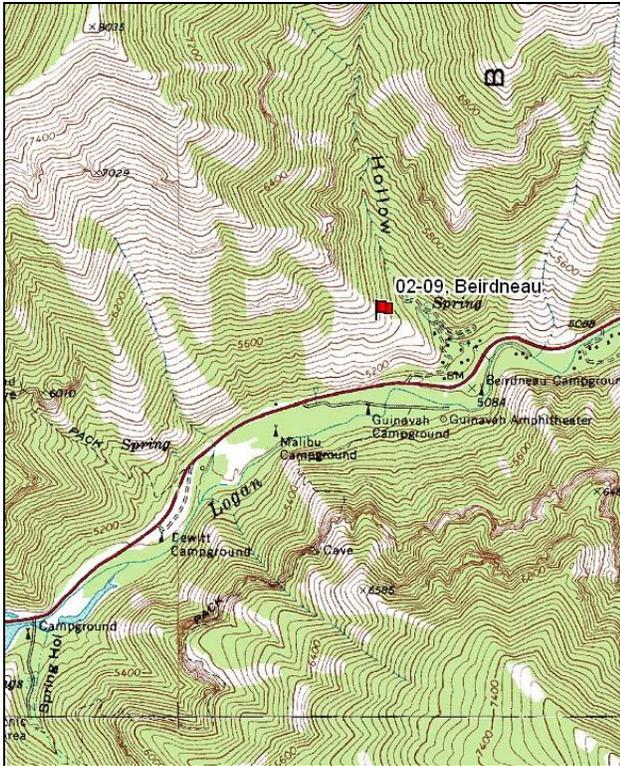
Transect bearing: 159° magnetic

Belt placement: line 1 (11 & 95ft), line 2 (34ft), line 3 (59ft), line 4 (71ft)

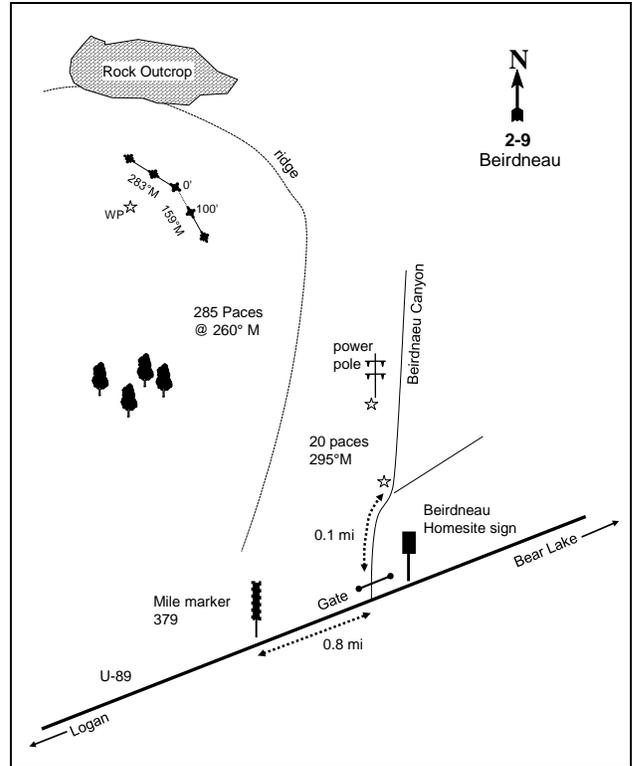
Directions:

Proceed up Logan Canyon to mile marker 379 and begin to note mileage. Continue 0.8 miles to the Forest Service sign "Beirdneau Summer Home Sites." Turn left here at the home site, and proceed 0.1 miles to a fork and stop. Walk to the power pole on the left at a bearing of 295 degrees magnetic and about 20 paces. Take a bearing of 260 degrees magnetic from the pole and walk 285 paces to the 0-foot stake of the baseline marked by browse tag #7928. The baseline runs at 159 degrees magnetic. The second stake is placed 50 feet down the slope at the same bearing. The third and fourth stake are placed 100 feet apart above the 0-foot baseline stake at a bearing of 283 degrees magnetic.

Map Name: Mt. Elmer



Diagrammatic Sketch:



Township: 12N Range: 2E Section: 23

GPS: NAD 83, UTM 12S 441937 E 4623976 N

## BEIRDNEAU - TREND STUDY NO. 2-9

### Site Information

Site Description: This study is located slightly north of the Beirdneau cabin area in Logan Canyon. The area is considered crucial deer winter range that possesses a good mix of mountain big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata* ssp. *vaseyana*) and antelope bitterbrush (*Purshia tridentata*), interspersed with Rocky Mountain juniper (*Juniperus scopulorum*). Wildlife occupancy was high in 1984, but has been low to moderate since 1984. Pellet groups for deer were sampled in low abundance in 2001 and 2011, but more moderate abundance in 2006. Elk pellet groups have been sampled in low abundance since 2001 (Table - Pellet Group Data).

Browse: Browse composition consists of a mixture of bitterbrush and mountain big sagebrush. Prior to 1984, a die-off of bitterbrush and sagebrush was reported to have affected a small portion of the population. Rodent activity in 1983-85 may have contributed to the die-off, as well as disease and insect infestation. The bitterbrush population is moderately dense, but density estimates have fluctuated over the sample years. The bitterbrush population is centered within the mature age class with very little recruitment of young bitterbrush plants. Bitterbrush has displayed moderate to heavy hedging since 1984. Decadence of bitterbrush was very high in 1984, and has been mostly moderate to high in the other sample years (Table - Browse Characteristics).

Mountain big sagebrush had a dense population in 1984, but has steadily declined to a population of insignificant density in 2011. Sagebrush decadence has been high since 1984 with the exception of the 2001 and 2011 sample years. Recruitment of young sagebrush plants have been a minor component of the population during each reading. Utilization has been light to moderate since 1990, but was heavy in 1984 (Table - Browse Characteristics).

Herbaceous Understory: Grasses and forbs are irregularly distributed, but provide good cover. Composition is poor due to the overabundance of weedy annual species. Cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) and Japanese brome (*B. japonicus*) have historically been the dominant species, but have decreased over the duration of the study. Cheatgrass has diminished and has become a minor component; however, Japanese brome still maintains a dominant population. The preferred species bluebunch wheatgrass (*Agropyron spicatum*) and the weedy species bulbous bluegrass (*Poa bulbosa*) are the only moderately abundant perennial grasses. The forb component has fair diversity and quality. The most common forb species include prickly lettuce (*Lactuca serriola*), yellow salsify (*Tragopogon dubius*), twolobe speedwell (*Veronica biloba*), the noxious weed Dyer's woad (*Isatis tinctoria*), spring parsley (*Cymopterus* spp.), and alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*) (Table - Herbaceous Trends).

Soil: Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) soil data was not available for this site. The soil texture is a clay loam and is moderately alkaline (pH of 7.9). Vegetation and litter cover appear to be high, while rock and pavement cover is moderate and provides adequate control for runoff. The soil erosion condition was classified as slight in 2001, but was determined to be stable in 2006 and 2011.

### Trend Assessments

#### Browse:

- **1984 to 1990 - slightly down (-1):** The key browse species are antelope bitterbrush and mountain big sagebrush. The density for bitterbrush increased 11% from 599 plants per acre to 665 plants per acre. The percent of decadent plants decreased from 78% to 30%. Poor vigor increased to 10% of the population. Mountain big sagebrush decreased in density by 39% from 1,198 plants/acre to 732 plants/acre. Decadence in the population decreased from 67% to 55%. Poor vigor increased marginally from 17% to 18%.
- **1990 to 1996 - stable (0):** Differences in density may be related to the larger sample area used in 1996; therefore, trend was determined using other parameters. No decadence or poor vigor was

reported in the bitterbrush population. Sagebrush had decreased in decadence to 44%, and poor vigor decreased to 6%.

- **1996 to 2001 - stable (0):** Bitterbrush increased in density by 47% from 380 plants/acre to 560 plants/acre. However, bitterbrush decadence increased to 21% within the population. The sagebrush population decreased in density by 17% from 360 plant/acre to 300 plants/acre. However, decadence decreased to 27% of the population, and poor vigor was not observed.
- **2001 to 2006 - down (-2):** Bitterbrush density decreased by 68% from 560 plant/acre to 180 plants/acre. Decadence in the population decreased to 11%. Sagebrush decreased in density by 27% from 300 plant/acre to 220 plants/acre. Decadence increased to 64%, and poor vigor affected 36% of the population.
- **2006 to 2011 - slightly down (-1):** The density for the bitterbrush population increased by 33% to 240 plants/acre. However, both decadence and poor vigor increased to 25% of the population. Sagebrush density decreased by another 27% to 160 plants/acre. Decadent plants made up 25% of the population, and poor vigor increased to 50%.

#### Grass:

- **1984 to 1990 - stable (0):** The sum of nested frequency for perennial grasses remained similar.
- **1990 to 1996 - stable (0):** The sum of nested frequency for perennial grasses, excluding bulbous bluegrass, remained similar. The weedy perennial grass bulbous bluegrass was recorded for the first time and was fairly prevalent on the site. Bluebunch bluegrass remained stable in nested frequency. Annual grasses were included in the sample for the first time. Cheatgrass and Japanese brome were both measured as having high abundance.
- **1996 to 2001 - stable (0):** The sum of nested frequency for perennial grasses remained similar. The composition for annual grasses shifted from Japanese brome being the dominant grass to cheatgrass.
- **2001 to 2006 - slightly up (+1):** The sum of nested frequency for perennial grasses, excluding bulbous bluegrass, increased 11%. Bluebunch wheatgrass increased significantly in nested frequency, but so did the weedy species bulbous bluegrass. The annual species cheatgrass decreased significantly in nested frequency.
- **2006 to 2011 - stable (0):** The sum of nested frequency for perennial grasses decreased remained similar. The annual grass Japanese brome had a significant increase in nested frequency.

#### Forb:

- **1984 to 1990 - down (-2):** The sum of nested frequency for perennial forbs increased by 29%. Although there was an increase in the sum of nested frequency, the increase was mainly from the weedy species Dyer's woad, houndstongue (*Cynoglossum officinale*), and prickly lettuce.
- **1990 to 1996 - slightly down (-1):** The sum of nested frequency for perennial forbs remained similar. Yellow sweet clover increased significantly in nested frequency and provided 5% cover. However, the species false dandelion (*Agoseris glauca*) and low penstemon (*Penstemon humilis*) decreased significantly in nested frequency. Prickly lettuce and the weedy annual houndstongue decreased significantly in nested frequency. However, Dyer's woad increased significantly, and had a cover just over 1%.
- **1996 to 2001 - stable (0):** The sum of nested frequency for perennial forbs remained similar. The desirable yellow sweet clover decreased significantly in nested frequency. The noxious weed Dyer's woad and the annual species yellow salsify both decreased significantly in nested frequency.
- **2001 to 2006 - slightly up (+1):** The sum of nested frequency for perennial forbs increased 15%. Yellow sweet clover and alfalfa both increased significantly in nested frequency. Yellow sweet clover increased in cover from less than 1% to 1%. Alfalfa was sampled for the first time in 2006 at 2% cover. Dyer's woad decreased in nested frequency and cover decreased to less than 1%.
- **2006 to 2011 - up (+2):** The sum of nested frequency for perennial forbs increased by 63%. This increase is linked to the significant increase in nested frequency for the preferred species alfalfa and

Lewis flax (*Linum lewisii*). Dyer's woad and pale alyssum (*Alyssum alyssoides*) also increased significantly in nested frequency. Dyer's woad increased in cover to 5%.

DEER DESIRABLE COMPONENTS INDEX - MID-LEVEL POTENTIAL SCALE --

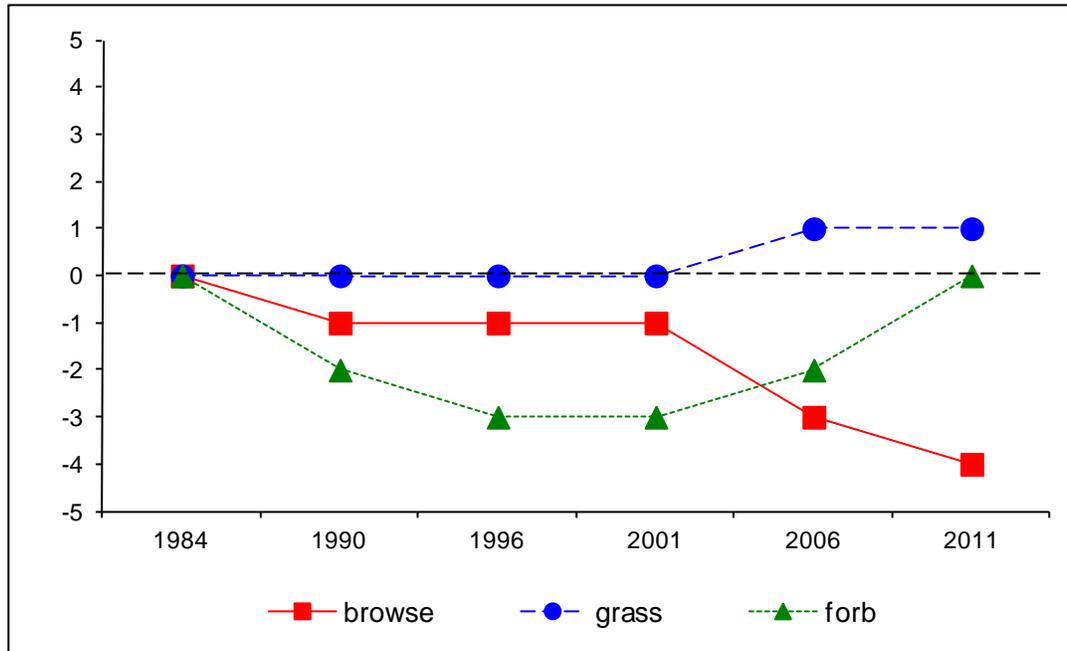
Management unit 2, study no: 9

Year	Preferred Browse Cover	Preferred Browse Decadence	Preferred Browse Young	Perennial Grass Cover (-POBU)	Annual Grass Cover	Perennial Forb Cover	Noxious Weeds	Total Score	Ranking
96	16.1	12.6	0.6	6.2	-19.6	10.0	-2.0	<b>23.8</b>	Very Poor
01	11.6	8.3	1.6	6.9	-20.0	10.0	-2.0	<b>16.4</b>	Very Poor
06	10.8	8.2	0.0	7.7	-2.6	10.0	-2.0	<b>32.1</b>	Very Poor
11	8.3	7.5	0.0	4.9	-1.9	10.0	-2.0	<b>26.8</b>	Very Poor

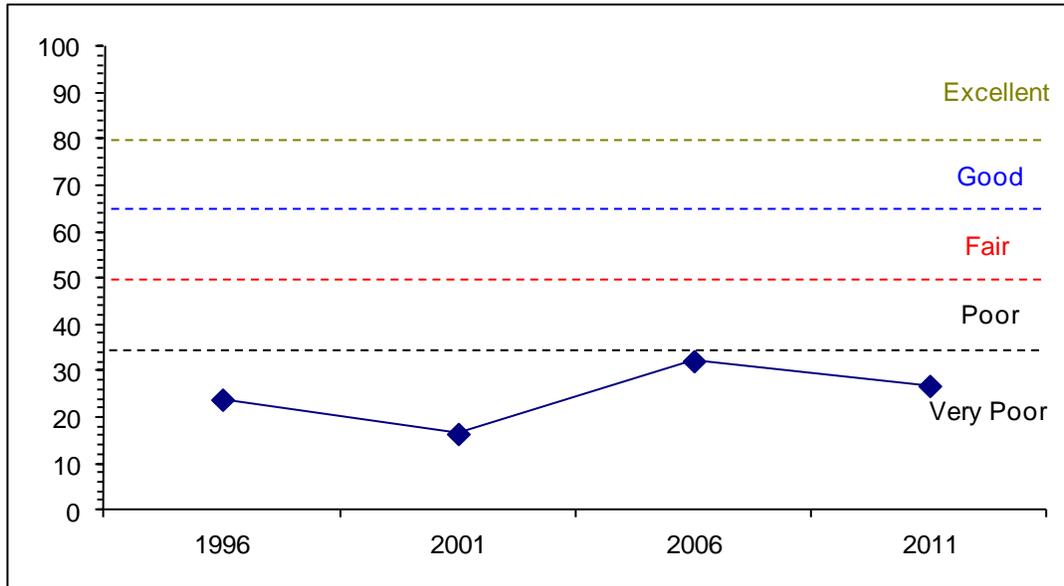
**Trend Summary**

CUMULATIVE RANGE TREND ASSESSMENT--

Management unit 2 Study no: 9



DEER DESIRABLE COMPONENTS INDEX TREND, MID-LEVEL POTENTIAL--  
Management unit 2, Study no: 9



HERBACEOUS TRENDS--  
Management unit 02, Study no: 9

Type	Species	Nested Frequency						Average Cover %			
		'84	'90	'96	'01	'06	'11	'96	'01	'06	'11
G	Agropyron spicatum	125	105	108	95	117	113	2.99	3.35	3.79	2.34
G	Agropyron trachycaulum	-	-	7	-	-	-	.06	-	-	-
G	Bromus brizaeformis (a)	-	-	a2	b10	a1	a-	.00	.05	.00	-
G	Bromus japonicus (a)	-	-	c343	a152	a148	b208	17.68	2.40	1.63	1.70
G	Bromus tectorum (a)	-	-	b204	c302	b177	a70	8.41	24.20	1.76	.84
G	Carex sp.	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	.03
G	Poa bulbosa	a-	a-	bc83	b73	c103	bc98	2.65	2.36	2.41	1.75
G	Poa pratensis	4	10	-	-	4	3	-	-	.00	.00
G	Poa secunda	-	10	3	19	6	4	.04	.09	.04	.06
Total for Annual Grasses		0	0	549	464	326	278	26.10	26.65	3.40	2.54
Total for Perennial Grasses		129	125	201	187	230	224	5.74	5.82	6.26	4.20
Total for Grasses		129	125	750	651	556	502	31.85	32.48	9.66	6.75
F	Achillea millefolium	14	-	-	8	5	4	-	.21	.06	.18
F	Agoseris glauca	ab14	b26	a1	a1	ab10	a-	.00	.03	.10	-
F	Allium acuminatum	b45	ab29	a6	ab26	a14	c88	.04	.17	.11	.39
F	Alyssum alyssoides (a)	-	-	b137	b151	a35	c206	.39	.71	.07	1.53
F	Arctium minus	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	.15
F	Artemisia ludoviciana	4	3	10	6	14	8	.26	.30	1.54	1.08
F	Aster chilensis	b49	b40	a2	a4	a4	a1	.00	.01	.09	.03
F	Astragalus beckwithii	a-	b13	a-	a-	a2	a1	-	-	.03	.03
F	Astragalus sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	.03	-
F	Astragalus utahensis	1	3	2	1	1	-	.00	.03	.03	-
F	Balsamorhiza sagittata	5	5	3	5	2	3	.53	.22	.60	.03
F	Camelina microcarpa (a)	-	-	-	6	5	9	-	.01	.01	.05

Type	Species	Nested Frequency						Average Cover %			
		'84	'90	'96	'01	'06	'11	'96	'01	'06	'11
F	Chaenactis douglasii	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
F	Cirsium undulatum	2	5	5	-	7	-	.33	-	.21	-
F	Collinsia parviflora (a)	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	.00	-
F	Collomia linearis (a)	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	.00
F	Comandra pallida	8	-	2	-	-	8	.03	-	-	.01
F	Crepis acuminata	-	-	-	1	2	2	-	.02	.03	.03
F	Cymopterus sp.	97	118	107	125	131	142	2.99	6.04	7.21	11.53
F	Cynoglossum officinale	a5	c27	a2	ab11	bc28	abc18	.00	.12	1.25	.29
F	Epilobium brachycarpum (a)	-	-	b46	a24	ab38	ab41	.22	1.66	.24	.61
F	Erodium cicutarium (a)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	.15	-
F	Galium aparine (a)	-	-	b36	a-	bc59	c57	.40	-	.36	.72
F	Gilia aggregata	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
F	Hackelia patens	a1	a10	a-	b47	a13	a-	-	.79	.13	.00
F	Holosteum umbellatum (a)	-	-	5	6	-	-	.01	.03	-	-
F	Isatis tinctoria	a-	a23	b65	a25	a5	b97	1.33	1.20	.11	5.15
F	Lactuca serriola (a)	a-	c67	b28	c99	c118	d172	.15	.93	2.84	3.36
F	Lappula occidentalis (a)	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	.00	-	-
F	Lepidium densiflorum (a)	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	.03	-
F	Linum lewisii	a20	a22	a29	a15	a21	b60	.37	.16	.33	.22
F	Lithospermum ruderales	10	8	9	11	7	16	.54	.58	.45	.93
F	Medicago sativa	a-	a-	a-	a-	a24	b95	-	-	2.07	3.85
F	Melilotus officinalis	a2	a15	c100	a4	b68	ab38	5.01	.19	1.26	.21
F	Microsteris gracilis (a)	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	.02	-
F	Penstemon humilis	ab2	b10	a1	ab3	ab5	a1	.03	.06	.12	.03
F	Phlox hoodii	12	13	-	-	2	-	-	-	.03	-
F	Ranunculus testiculatus (a)	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	.00	-
F	Tragopogon dubius (a)	b159	b163	b156	a102	ab124	a88	2.96	1.90	1.79	1.15
F	Trifolium sp.	a-	a-	a-	b32	b9	b23	-	.45	.02	.19
F	Unknown forb-perennial	-	-	1	-	-	-	.06	-	-	-
F	Veronica biloba (a)	-	-	a31	bc103	b76	c124	.11	.60	.63	2.51
F	Zigadenus paniculatus	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	.00	.00
Total for Annual Forbs		159	230	439	492	470	699	4.27	5.87	6.18	9.97
Total for Perennial Forbs		291	375	345	325	375	610	11.58	10.61	15.86	24.39
Total for Forbs		450	605	784	817	845	1309	15.85	16.49	22.05	34.36

Values with different subscript letters are significantly different at alpha = 0.10

BROWSE TRENDS--

Management unit 02, Study no: 9

Type	Species	Strip Frequency				Average Cover %			
		'96	'01	'06	'11	'96	'01	'06	'11
B	Artemisia tridentata vaseyana	14	14	9	6	2.04	1.60	1.67	.21
B	Chrysothamnus viscidiflorus viscidiflorus	4	5	2	3	.30	.15	.15	.15
B	Gutierrezia sarothrae	10	11	3	0	.43	.51	.15	-
B	Juniperus scopulorum	1	0	0	1	.85	-	-	.63
B	Purshia tridentata	17	20	8	12	9.03	6.37	5.82	5.35
B	Symphoricarpos oreophilus	10	9	10	9	1.38	1.96	1.77	2.25
Total for Browse		56	59	32	31	14.05	10.60	9.57	8.60

CANOPY COVER, LINE INTERCEPT--

Management unit 02, Study no: 9

Species	Percent Cover		
	'01	'06	'11
Artemisia tridentata vaseyana	-	1.61	.61
Chrysothamnus nauseosus albicaulis	-	-	.03
Chrysothamnus viscidiflorus viscidiflorus	-	.20	.61
Gutierrezia sarothrae	-	.11	-
Juniperus scopulorum	1.00	-	1.73
Purshia tridentata	-	9.35	11.44
Symphoricarpos oreophilus	-	2.70	2.95

KEY BROWSE ANNUAL LEADER GROWTH--

Management unit 02, Study no: 9

Species	Average leader growth (in)		
	'01	'06	'11
Artemisia tridentata vaseyana	-	2.4	2.2
Purshia tridentata	3.0	3.7	2.9

BASIC COVER--

Management unit 02, Study no: 9

Cover Type	Average Cover %					
	'84	'90	'96	'01	'06	'11
Vegetation	1.25	14.50	54.68	54.55	41.26	49.97
Rock	20.25	9.00	12.78	11.34	10.78	16.55
Pavement	19.50	31.00	5.56	16.53	16.43	12.96
Litter	48.00	39.00	48.74	43.50	31.27	29.63
Cryptogams	.25	0	.20	.07	0	.00
Bare Ground	10.75	6.50	6.39	5.70	11.91	10.30

SOIL ANALYSIS DATA --

Management unit 02, Study no: 9, Study Name: Beirdneau

Effective rooting depth (in)	pH	Clay Loam			%OM	PPM P	PPM K	ds/m
		%sand	%silt	%clay				
13.8	7.9	26.7	38.0	35.3	3.2	8.7	211.2	0.5

PELLET GROUP DATA--

Management unit 02, Study no: 9

Type	Quadrat Frequency				Days use per acre (ha)		
	'96	'01	'06	'11	'01	'06	'11
Elk	-	-	6	2	3 (8)	14 (35)	18 (45)
Deer	1	6	8	2	17 (41)	25 (61)	11 (26)

BROWSE CHARACTERISTICS--

Management unit 02, Study no: 9

Year	Plants per Acre (excluding seedlings)	Age class distribution			Seedling (plants/acre)	Utilization			Average Height Crown (in)
		% Young	% Mature	% Decadent		% moderate	% heavy	% poor vigor	
<b>Amelanchier alnifolia</b>									
84	0	0	0	-	-	0	0	0	-/-
90	0	0	0	-	-	0	0	0	-/-
96	0	0	0	-	-	0	0	0	-/-
01	0	0	0	-	-	0	0	0	-/-
06	0	0	0	-	-	0	0	0	42/53
11	0	0	0	-	-	0	0	0	35/48
<b>Artemisia tridentata vaseyana</b>									
84	1198	6	28	67	-	6	94	17	22/27
90	732	0	45	55	-	9	0	18	24/32
96	360	6	50	44	-	33	0	6	23/40
01	300	0	73	27	-	13	0	0	30/45
06	220	0	36	64	-	45	9	36	28/40
11	160	0	75	25	-	13	0	50	25/36
<b>Chrysothamnus nauseosus albicaulis</b>									
84	0	0	0	-	-	0	0	0	-/-
90	0	0	0	-	-	0	0	0	-/-
96	0	0	0	-	-	0	0	0	45/61
01	0	0	0	-	-	0	0	0	-/-
06	0	0	0	-	-	0	0	0	54/72
11	0	0	0	-	-	0	0	0	61/96
<b>Chrysothamnus viscidiflorus viscidiflorus</b>									
84	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	-/-
90	199	67	33	0	66	0	0	0	25/30
96	100	20	80	0	-	0	0	0	28/41
01	140	0	86	14	-	0	0	0	24/21
06	60	0	100	0	-	0	0	0	16/28
11	60	0	100	0	-	0	0	0	21/20

		Age class distribution					Utilization			
Year	Plants per Acre (excluding seedlings)	% Young	% Mature	% Decadent	Seedling (plants/acre)	% moderate	% heavy	% poor vigor	Average Height Crown (in)	
<i>Gutierrezia sarothrae</i>										
84	<b>1865</b>	25	75	-	-	0	0	0	15/19	
90	<b>66</b>	0	100	-	-	0	0	0	9/14	
96	<b>400</b>	0	100	-	-	0	0	0	14/17	
01	<b>580</b>	0	100	-	-	0	0	0	13/17	
06	<b>60</b>	0	100	-	-	0	0	0	14/23	
11	<b>0</b>	0	0	-	-	0	0	0	14/26	
<i>Juniperus scopulorum</i>										
84	<b>0</b>	0	0	-	-	0	0	0	-/-	
90	<b>0</b>	0	0	-	-	0	0	0	-/-	
96	<b>20</b>	0	100	-	-	0	0	0	-/-	
01	<b>0</b>	0	0	-	-	0	0	0	-/-	
06	<b>0</b>	0	0	-	-	0	0	0	-/-	
11	<b>20</b>	0	100	-	-	0	0	0	-/-	
<i>Purshia tridentata</i>										
84	<b>599</b>	0	22	78	-	0	100	0	45/53	
90	<b>665</b>	0	70	30	-	50	0	10	63/92	
96	<b>380</b>	0	100	0	-	74	5	0	52/88	
01	<b>560</b>	4	75	21	-	75	11	0	58/93	
06	<b>180</b>	0	89	11	-	33	44	0	53/81	
11	<b>240</b>	0	75	25	-	25	17	25	50/75	
<i>Symphoricarpos oreophilus</i>										
84	<b>332</b>	60	40	0	-	40	0	0	32/31	
90	<b>732</b>	45	55	0	-	0	0	0	16/28	
96	<b>240</b>	25	67	8	-	8	0	17	24/51	
01	<b>200</b>	0	100	0	160	0	0	0	30/57	
06	<b>300</b>	0	100	0	-	7	0	0	29/49	
11	<b>240</b>	17	75	8	-	0	0	8	21/44	