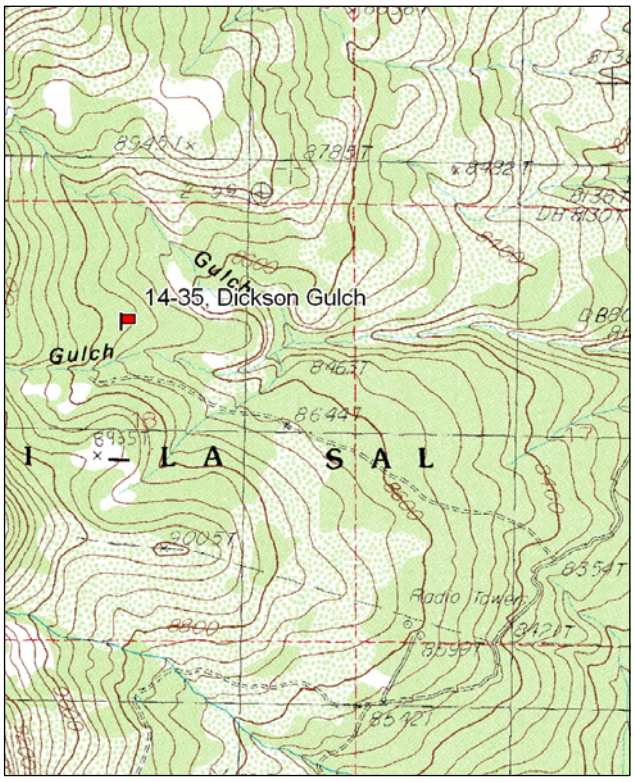
DICKSON GULCH - TREND STUDY NO. 14-35-09

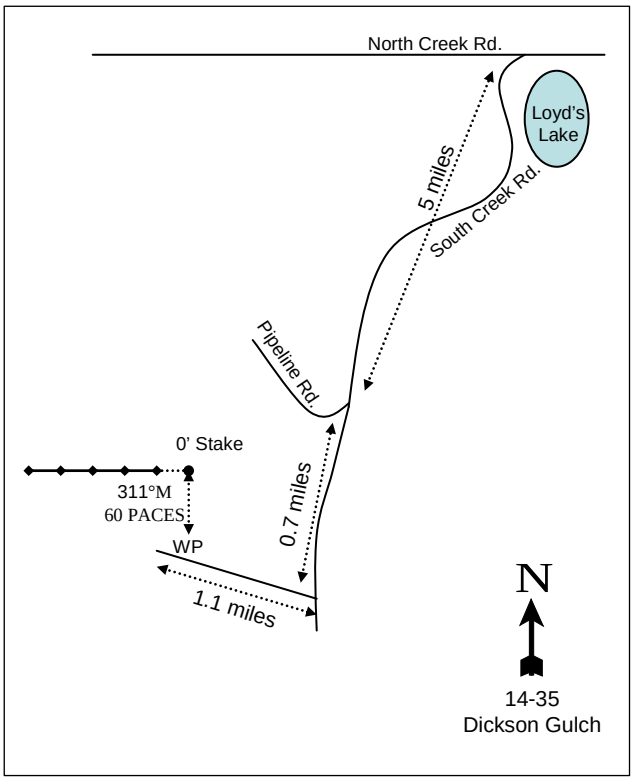
Vegetation Type: Aspen
Range Type: Crucial Deer Summer, Crucial Elk Summer
NRCS Ecological Site Description: Not Available
Land Ownership: USFS
Elevation: 8,740 ft (2,664 m)
Aspect: Southeast
Slope: 5%-10%
Transect bearing: 278 degrees magnetic
Belt placement: line 1(11 ft), line 2(34 ft), line 3(59 ft), line 4(71 ft), line 5(95 ft)
Notes: Soil sample needed.

Directions:
From the junction of South Creek Rd. (the road to Loyd's Lake) and North Creek Rd. (200 S. going west out of Monticello) go south on South Creek Rd. for 5 miles to a fork with the Pipeline Rd. Go left at the fork and continue 0.7 miles to another fork. Go right and continue 1.1 miles to the witness post on the right (north) side of the road. The 0 foot stake is 60 paces up the hill from the witness post at a bearing of 311°M and is marked by browse tag #270.

Map name: Abajo Peak



Diagrammatic Sketch:



Township: 34S, Range: 23E, Section: 18

GPS: NAD 83, UTM 12S 637504 E 4187545 N

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Site Information

Site Description: The study is located in a dense aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) stand on the east side of the Abajo Mountains. The last belt of the study transect fell in a clearing with fewer forbs and a few Gambel oak (*Quercus gambelii*). The understory is very thick, making it difficult to see pellets, but deer were seen on the site in 2009. There were also bedding areas and bear scat found in the area in 2009. Pellet group data indicated light use by deer and cattle in 2009 (Table - Pellet Group Data).

Browse: Point-quarter data shows a dense stand of aspen (Table - Point-Quarter Data) with most of the trees being over 12 feet tall, but with many young plants less than 1 foot tall. The strip density data also indicated that there were a large number of young plants in the aspen population. The only understory browse species of note is snowberry (*Symphoricarpos oreophilus*). The snowberry population is mostly mature with low decadence and good vigor (Table - Browse Characteristics).

Herbaceous Understory: Grasses are fairly diverse and abundant, but are dominated by the introduced grass Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*). Other common grasses include smooth brome (*Bromus inermis*), sedge (*Carex sp.*), and Letterman needlegrass (*Stipa lettermani*). Forbs are very diverse and very abundant on the site. The dominant forb species is thickleaf peavine (*Lathyrus lanszwertii*) which provided nearly half of the forb cover. Other common forb species include western yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), western sweetroot (*Osmorhiza occidentalis*), dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*), stickseed (*Hackelia sp.*), and nettleleaf (*Agastache urticifolia*).

Soil: The soil is a loam with a moderately acidic pH (Table - Soil Analysis Data). There is almost no bare ground cover on this site due to high amounts of litter and vegetation cover (Table - Basic Cover). The soil erosion condition was classified as stable in 2009.

Trend Summary

HERBACEOUS TRENDS--
Management unit 14, Study no: 35

Type	Species	Nested Frequency '09	Average Cover % '09
G	Bromus carinatus	-	.30
G	Bromus inermis	72	1.64
G	Carex sp.	65	1.54
G	Dactylis glomerata	7	.53
G	Poa fendleriana	5	.15
G	Poa pratensis	381	26.87
G	Poa secunda	5	.15
G	Stipa lettermani	69	3.08
Total for Annual Grasses		0	0
Total for Perennial Grasses		604	34.29
Total for Grasses		604	34.29
F	Achillea millefolium	257	9.42
F	Agastache urticifolia	15	1.06
F	Androsace septentrionalis (a)	31	.18
F	Casella bursa-pastoris	-	.03

Type	Species	Nested Frequency '09	Average Cover % '09
F	Chenopodium fremontii (a)	21	.19
F	Conioselinum scopulorum	4	.41
F	Cymopterus sp.	5	.04
F	Erigeron flagellaris	7	.21
F	Geranium sp.	46	.91
F	Hackelia sp.	102	2.20
F	Lathyrus lanszwertii	274	25.18
F	Osmorhiza occidentalis	208	9.10
F	Polygonum douglasii (a)	5	.15
F	Potentilla sp.	13	.20
F	Senecio neomexicanus	1	.03
F	Stellaria jamesiana	118	2.98
F	Taraxacum officinale	98	3.10
F	Thermopsis montana	7	.53
F	Unknown forb-perennial	3	.03
F	Vicia americana	68	1.12
F	Viola sp.	30	1.23
Total for Annual Forbs		57	0.53
Total for Perennial Forbs		1256	57.82
Total for Forbs		1313	58.36

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

BROWSE TRENDS--
Management unit 14, Study no: 35

Type	Species	Strip Frequency '09	Average Cover % '09
B	Populus tremuloides	30	1.36
B	Quercus gambelii	3	.03
B	Symphoricarpos oreophilus	67	6.31
Total for Browse		100	7.70

CANOPY COVER, LINE INTERCEPT--
Management unit 14, Study no: 35

Species	Percent Cover '09
Populus tremuloides	38.31
Quercus gambelii	13.10
Symphoricarpos oreophilus	4.73

KEY BROWSE ANNUAL LEADER GROWTH--
Management unit 14, Study no: 35

Species	Average leader growth (in) '09
Symphoricarpos oreophilus	2.9

POINT-QUARTER TREE DATA--
Management unit 14, Study no: 35

Species	Trees per Acre '09	Average diameter (in) '09
Populus tremuloides	375	8.9

BASIC COVER--
Management unit 14, Study no: 35

Cover Type	Average Cover % '09
Vegetation	79.51
Litter	60.62
Bare Ground	.93

PELLET GROUP DATA--
Management unit 14, Study no: 35

Type	Quadrat Frequency '09	Days use per acre (ha) '09
Deer	9	5 (12)
Cattle	4	12 (29)

BROWSE CHARACTERISTICS--
Management unit 14, Study no: 35

		Age class distribution				Utilization			
Year	Plants per Acre (excluding seedlings)	% Young	% Mature	% Decadent	Seedling (plants/acre)	% moderate	% heavy	% poor vigor	Average Height Crown (in)
Populus tremuloides									
09	**1040**	73	27	-	320	0	2	0	-/-
Quercus gambelii									
09	**160**	50	50	-	-	0	0	0	-/-
Symphoricarpos oreophilus									
09	**4760**	35	65	-	-	0	0	0	15/18