

<p>U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>NRCS-CPA-53 12-02</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>CONSERVATION EFFECTS BENCHMARK MANAGEMENT SYSTEM</b></p>	<p>Name: Douglas and Kathy Fir</p> <hr/> <p>Address: 612 Plantation Pine Road Birch, USA 31100</p>
<p><b>Resource Setting:</b></p> <p><b>Grazed forest (2c)</b> – Soil B predominates on the unit with slopes ranging from 8-15%. Unrestricted livestock access throughout the entire unit.</p> <p>A naturally-established, even-aged stand of conifers occupy the northern area of the unit and range from 12-18" diameters-at-breast-height (DBH). There are scattered openings of herbaceous vegetation/forage; canopy shading has reduced forage production under the trees. Snags are scattered throughout the area.</p> <p>The south end consists of upland mixed "high quality" hardwoods adjacent to the spring-fed stream with slopes ranging from 15-25%. The hardwoods range from 6-14" DBH and are uneven-aged mast-producing trees. The area has evidence of livestock trampling and compaction including the stream area. Also, tree regeneration and understory vegetation densities are low. Lower than optimum wildlife numbers are also present.</p>	<p><b>Resource Concerns Before Treatment:</b></p> <p><i>Northern area</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plant condition; productivity (forage, forest)</li> <li>• Plant management, establishment, growth and harvest (forage, forest)</li> <li>• Plant suitability; intended use (forage, forest)</li> <li>• Animal habitat; quantity and quality of drinking water (domestic)</li> <li>• Human, economic; profitability</li> </ul> <p><i>Southern area</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soil condition; soil compaction</li> <li>• Plant condition; health and vigor (forest)</li> <li>• Animal habitat, wildlife; cover and shelter</li> <li>• Water quality, surface; sediment</li> <li>• Human, economic; profitability</li> </ul>
<p><b>Benchmark</b> (Present management system)</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Actions - Present Management</b> (kinds, amounts, and timing)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Effects</b> (Effects of continuing the benchmark system)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• basic grazing system 528A; 590</li> <li>• uncontrolled livestock to stream</li> <li>• 560; 655</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• poor regeneration in understory from grazing and compaction</li> <li>• poor livestock weight gains</li> <li>• low economic returns from woodlands</li> <li>• restricted stream capacity from unrestricted livestock activity</li> </ul>
<p>Comments: Southern area adjacent to Nature Conservancy. Owners expressed an interest in developing a small, remote area for growing and harvesting commercial ginseng (south of the tributary that flows to the east into Noname Creek). At the same time, they want to exclude vehicular and livestock access across this tributary creek to prevent damage to the ginseng and the stream corridor.</p>	