

Grazing Implementation Update

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Why now?

**(Rulemaking, SEPA, and Grazing
Policy Updates, late winter 2021)**

Presentation Overview

- Annual Operation Plans
- Ecological Integrity Monitoring
- Fire-affected Permits
- Emergency Permits, Total Permits
- Review of New Grazing Permits



Soda Springs Unit, Klickitat Wildlife Area



Annual Operation Plans (AOPs)

1. District Staff: Risk assessment
2. Regional Meetings (including some statewide staff):
 - Review risk assessment(s)
 - Determine which permits need AOPs
 - Review appropriate measures
3. Wildlife Area Manager/Wildlife Conflict Specialist: Initiate dialogue with Permittee(s) and develop appropriate language
- (4.) Sanitation Measures*

*~23 AOPs contained measures exceeding default sanitation measures, e.g. frequent range riding



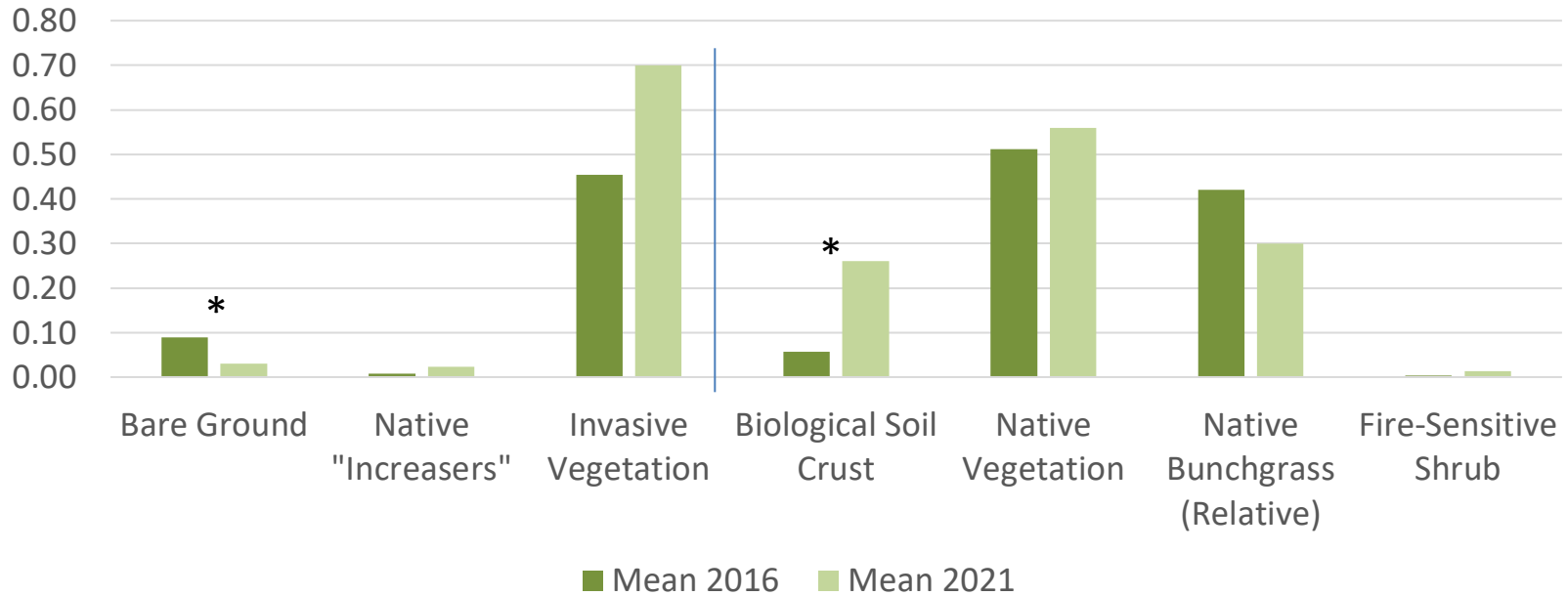
Ecological Integrity Monitoring

Variety of quantitative soil and vegetation indicators are tracked over time and reported in grazing management plan:

- Results
- Discussion
- Repeat photography



Ecological Integrity Monitoring

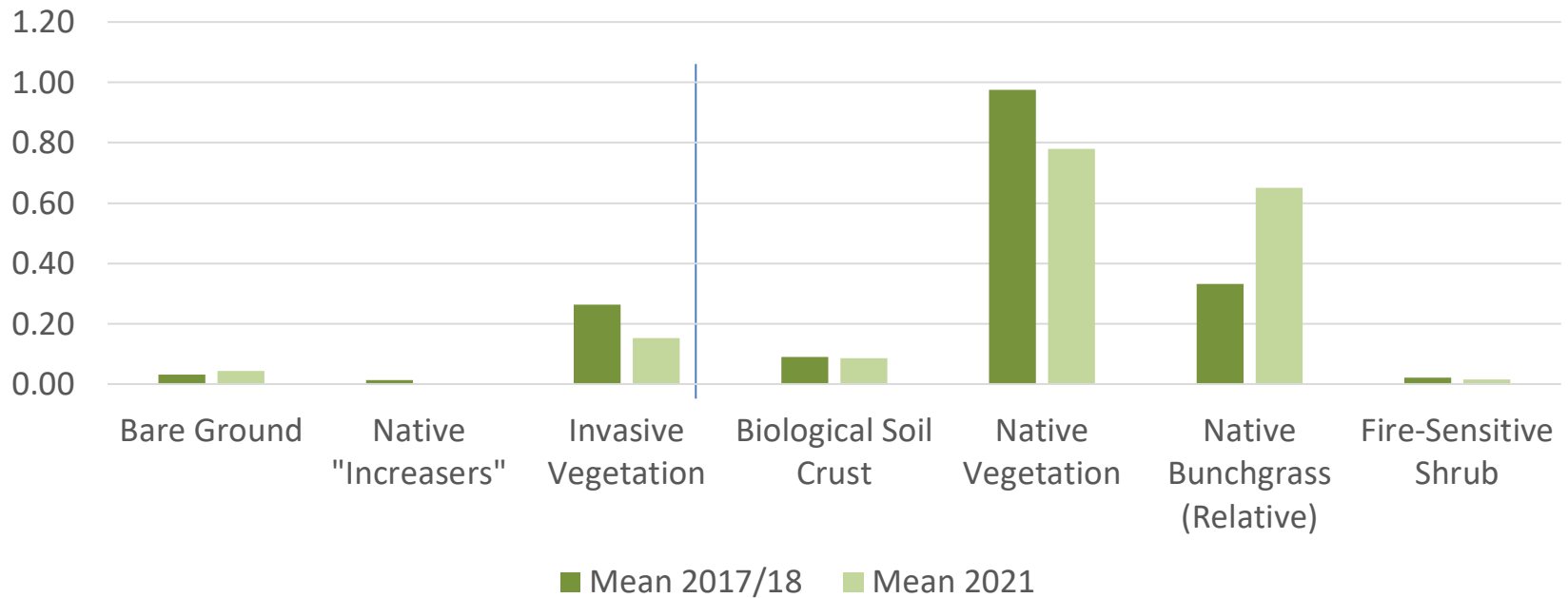


Chiliwist Unit

* Statistically significant ($p=0.05$)



Ecological Integrity Monitoring



Simcoe Unit

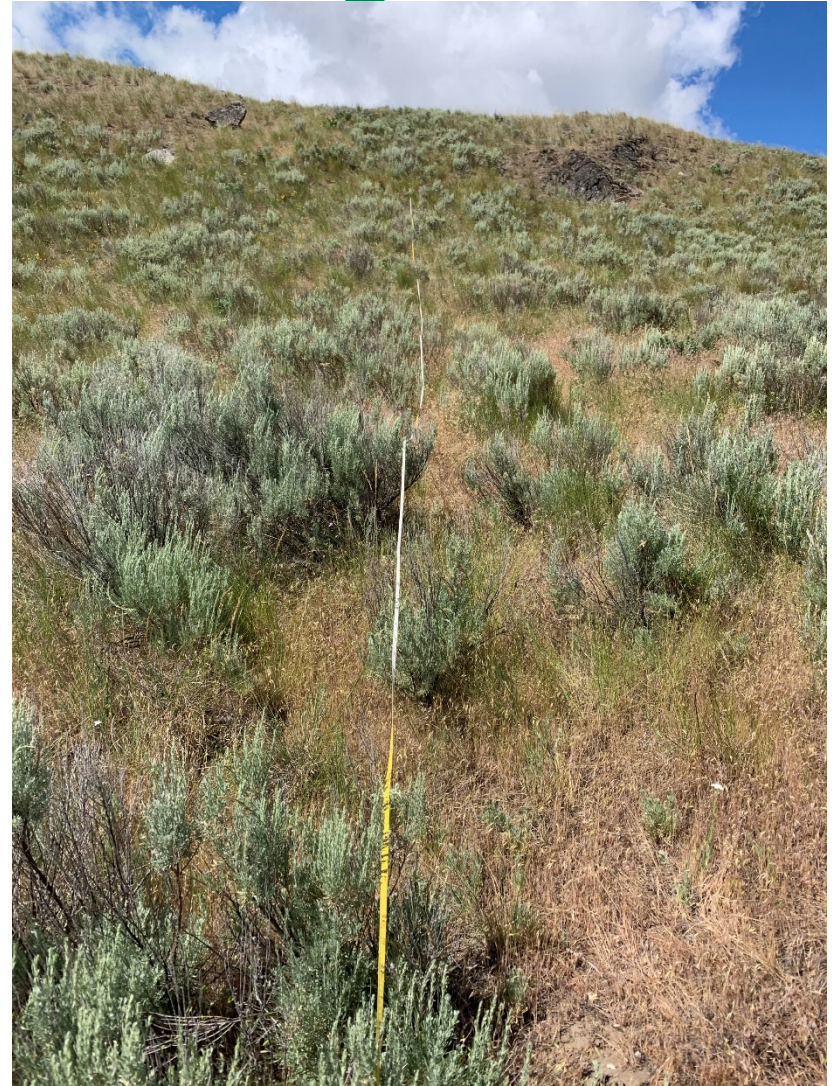
(no statistically significant changes)



Chiliwist Unit Monitoring



2016



2021



Simcoe Unit Monitoring



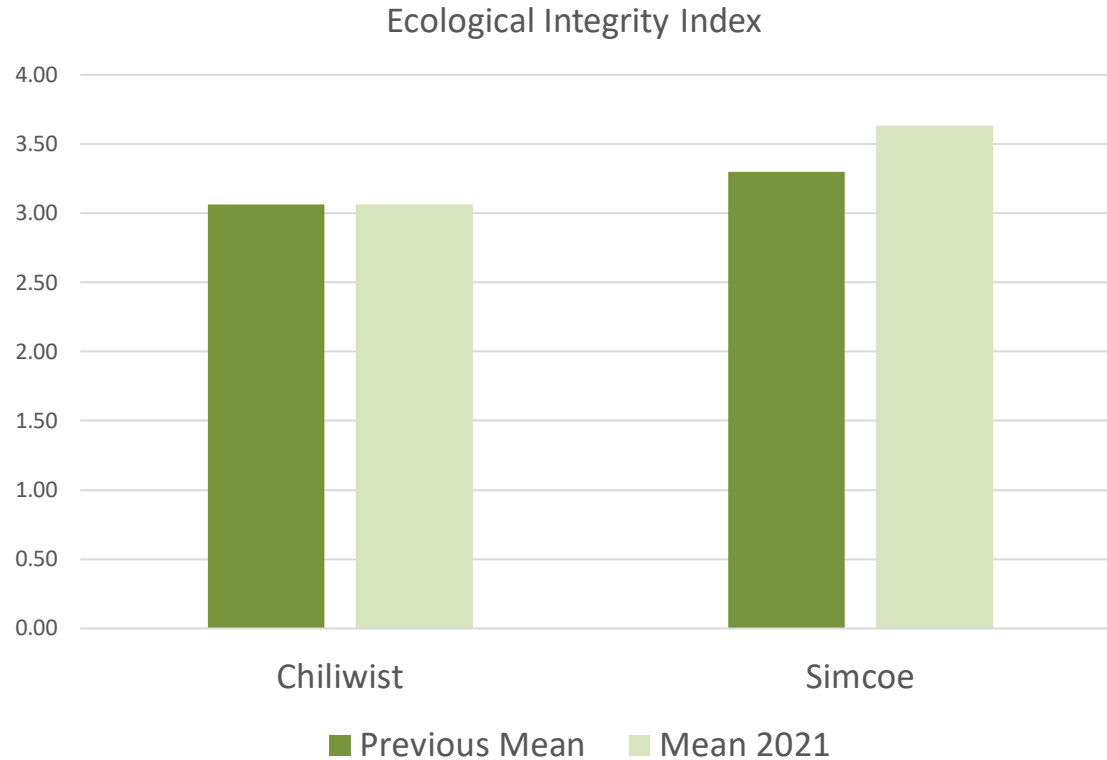
2017



2021



Ecological Integrity Monitoring



(no statistically significant changes)



Fire Effects on Existing Permits

- Lick Creek Fire
- Indirect Fires:
 - Cedar Creek
 - Cub Creek 2



Asotin Creek Wildlife Area



Emergency Temporary Permits Issued (Fire), 2021

Permit/Wildlife Area Complex	Acreage	AUMs
*Wahl/Scotch Creek	4115	556
Crossland/Methow	266	100
Smith/Methow	266	100
Townsend/Sinlahekin	600	73
Woodward/Scotch Creek	3034	245

**Holder of existing WDFW grazing permit elsewhere*



Approximate total permits, late 2021

Region	#Agreements	Acreage	AUMs
1	10	10,790	1,482
2	34	67,831	10,080
3	10	26,576	1,215
5	9	13,770	2,428
Total	63	118,967	15,205



Commission Review: New Permits

WAC 220-500-200 Livestock grazing on department of fish and wildlife lands

... (3) With the following three exceptions, grazing permits shall first be submitted to the commission, which may review the permits to ensure that they conform to commission policy: (a) Temporary permits; (b) Permits that are being renewed or renegotiated for acreage where the department has permitted non-temporary grazing during the previous ten years; and (c) Permits that are being issued for acreage acquired by the department within the previous twelve months. If, within thirty days, the commission has not disapproved a permit, [WDFW] shall be deemed authorized to issue that permit. ...



Proposed Review Process

- 1) Grazing materials (proposed permit, grazing plan, maps, etc.) are provided to the Commission four weeks prior to a scheduled Commission presentation.
- 2) Commissioners are requested, but not required, to submit in writing any questions regarding the proposed permit within two weeks to allow staff time to incorporate responses within the scheduled Commission presentation.
- 3) Staff present the proposed permit in Commission meeting no more than 30 days after Step (1). No action is requested.
- 4) If the permit is not disapproved, WDFW shall be authorized to issue the permit.



Questions?

