

## COMPARISON AND USE OF STREAMBANK ALTERATION ASSESSMENT METHODS<sup>AFS</sup>

Rick Henderson and Jeremiah Heitke, USDA Forest Service, 860 N 1200 E, Logan, UT 84321  
rhenderson01@fs.fed.us

The potential impacts of livestock grazing on streambanks and riparian areas have received considerable attention in recent years. The percent of the streambank trampled is one tool used by range managers as a “trigger” to determine when livestock should be moved. Over the last two years the USDA Forest Service has been developing a standardized sampling method for Region 1. As part of this process, we have compared different streambank alteration assessment methods used on federal lands in the Western U.S. Our objectives were to 1) define observer variability for each method, 2) determine whether the methods yield similar estimates, and 3) determine importance of training and 4) discuss recommendations for improving methods. We summarize the results from these studies, implications for using alteration as a grazing management tool, and current Forest Service direction for sampling alteration.