

climax ecological condition and is heavily dominated by midgrasses, particularly sideoats grama. A Forest Service range personnel (Duane Thwaits) report shows grazing use across Chimenea Pasture was light (25%) (Table 3).

### Bolsa Pasture

We conducted both roadside and foot inspections of Bolsa Pasture on September 28. We noted very high vigor of perennial grasses in both upland and riparian areas. We observed clear water in all tanks and saw no signs of accelerated erosion. It is our observation this pasture is in a strong upward trend and midgrasses are increasingly replacing shortgrasses on flat areas in the northern part of the pasture.

### **Summary and Conclusion**

In 2001, grazing intensity across the entire Montana Allotment was light averaging 20%. Our intensive quantitative survey of Warsaw Pasture on September 27 and 28, 2001 showed overall grazing use to be 31%. Based on our interviews with Forest Service personnel grazing use in Chimenea Pasture was 25% and Ruby Pasture was 26%. Schumacher Pasture was rested. Precipitation was above average during fall 2000 through mid-summer 2001 (Table 1). However August 2001 precipitation was below average. It is our observation that favorable precipitation and light to conservative grazing resulted in a strong trend towards more midgrasses throughout Montana Allotment during 2001. The Chiltons have demonstrated excellent public land stewardship through their decisions to adjust cattle numbers to water and forage conditions within each pasture and aggressive application of herding practices that keep cattle well distributed. Our grazing intensity surveys on the Montana Allotment now involve four consecutive years (1998 -2001). In all four years