

(1998b). They are willing to make adjustments in their management as they gain more information and whenever environmental conditions change. They are willing to fence 40 acres at the north end of Schumacher Pasture to better control grazing. They are willing to put 50 head of cattle in Bolsa Pasture during even-numbered summers to reduce grazing pressure on Schumacher Pasture.

10. Our surveys indicate the Chiltons, in most years, only use about 20-25% of the forage resources on the Montana Allotment. In future years, some of the cattle (about 100-150 head) could be scattered over other pastures during the summer. This would have little effect on vegetation in these pastures (Warsaw, Bolsa, Ruby) and should improve the esthetic appearance of Schumacher Pasture when it is grazed.
11. In our opinion, livestock grazing as presently practiced is having no negative effects on the Sonoran Chub and may be positively improving vegetation on the Montana Allotment.
12. We consider range management on the Montana Allotment to be excellent. High amounts of forage were present on 90% of the Allotment in our Fall 1998 survey. Our April 1998 survey of the Montana Allotment also showed light to conservative overall use (Table 3). Even in Schumacher Pasture, we found large areas that had received light to conservative grazing in the eastern part. We rate overall esthetic quality of the Montana Allotment excellent. We made the same observation when we conducted our spring survey of the Montana Allotment in April 1998.
13. We strongly believe that reduction in the grazing permit for the Montana Allotment, to protect endangered species and other ecological values, is completely unnecessary.