

EVALUATION AND DETERMINATION
Achieving the OR/WA Standards for Rangeland Health
and
Conformance with the Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management

Field Office: Medford Determination Date: 11/24/2008
 Grazing Allotment Name & Number: Devon South #10043

Standard 1 Watershed Function – Uplands Standard doesn't apply

1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meeting the Standard	5 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, cause not determined
2 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, but making significant progress towards	
3 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, current livestock grazing management practices are not significant factors (list important causal agents)	6 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conforms with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management.
4 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, current livestock grazing management practices are significant factors (list important causal agents)	7 <input type="checkbox"/> Does not conform with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management (list Guidelines No(s) in non-conformance)

Rationale for Determination: The main soil limitations affecting livestock grazing are erosion, compaction, the depth to bedrock, and the slope. This grazing system does not significantly diminish the health and function of the watershed. This is accomplished by maintaining adequate vegetative cover, healthy root systems, and soil moisture content. These factors aid in maintaining existing infiltration, percolation, runoff and erosion rates. The Rangeland Health Field Assessment (RHFA) indicators pertaining to Soil/Site Stability revealed that all 10 indicators were rated none to slight departure from the ecological site description, and zero were rated; slight to moderate, moderate, moderate to extreme, or an extreme to total departure.

Standard 2 Watershed Function – Riparian/Wetland Areas Standard doesn't apply

1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meeting the Standard	5 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, cause not determined
2 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, but making significant progress towards	
3 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, current livestock grazing management practices are not significant factors	6 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conforms with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management.
4 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, current livestock grazing management practices are significant factors	7 <input type="checkbox"/> Does not conform with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management (list Guidelines No(s) in non-conformance)

Rationale for Determination: Riparian features throughout the allotment show little sign of cattle use. All drainages in the allotment are “captured” by the Medford Irrigation Ditch, effectively reducing connectivity between the allotment and any downstream perennial waters. A short section of the major channel on the east side of section 15 is entrenched but does not appear to be as a result of cattle grazing.

Standard 3 Ecological Processes Standard doesn't apply

1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meeting the Standard	5 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, cause not determined
2 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, but making significant progress towards	
3 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, current livestock grazing management practices are not significant factors	6 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conforms with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management.
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Rationale for Determination: In areas of coniferous forest we found conditions expected for the ecological sites, which indicate that the energy, nutrient, and hydrologic cycles are balanced. Annual grasses are scattered in patches through out the non-conifer areas within the allotment. Annual grasses reduce habitat quality for wildlife, have shallow root systems and short life cycles and thus have reduced capacity to hold the soil and retain water and nutrients. Annual grassland furthermore often accumulates a layer of thatch where decomposition and nutrient cycling are different than in native plant communities. However, data in similar plant communities indicate that there is a static to slightly upward trend and that current livestock grazing is not intense enough to contribute to additional conversion of native plant communities to exotic annual grasslands.

Standard 4 Water Quality Standard doesn't apply

1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meeting the Standard	5 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, cause not determined
2 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, but making significant progress towards	
3 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, current livestock grazing management practices are not significant factors	6 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conforms with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management.
4 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, current livestock grazing management practices are significant factors	7 <input type="checkbox"/> Does not conform with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management (list Guidelines No(s) in non-conformance)

Rationale for Determination:

Within the Devon South Allotment, there are no streams listed on DEQs 2004/2006 303 (d) list. In addition, all drainages within the allotment are intercepted by the Medford Irrigation Canal, effectively reducing connectivity between the allotment and any downstream perennial waters.

Standard 5 Native, T&E, and Locally Important Species Standard doesn't apply

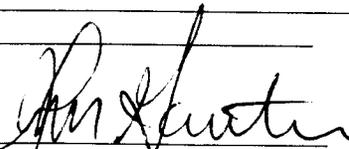
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Rationale for Determination: The allotment is meeting the Standards and Guidelines for protection of habitat for terrestrial and aquatic wildlife species. Current use levels on this allotment are slight-light therefore; special status species are not likely to be adversely affected by the grazing use. There are no effects to federally listed SONC coho salmon or their critical habitat as a result of this action. There are not effects to federally listed Nothern Spotted Owls or their critical habitat as a result of this action.

The allotment is also meeting the Standards and Guidelines for protection of habitat of special status vascular and non-vascular plant species. The allotment is outside the range of federally listed plants so there is no impact to any federally threatened plant species and there are no known occurrences of any vascular or nonvascular sensitive species.

Field Manager's Determination Rationale:

I concur with the rationales presented in this document.


John Gerritsma, Field Manager

11/24/08
Date