

## **2006 Evaluation of Pedro Mountain Allotment (#1021) Relative to Rangeland Health Standards**

Assessment Participants (Name & Discipline or Interest):

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_____ Melissa Yzquierdo	Wildlife Biologist/Botanist
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### I. Area Evaluated

The Pedro Mountain Allotment (#1021) is located west of Rye Valley, Oregon (see Appendix 1: Map), and it is within the Pedro Mountain Geographic Unit as described in the Baker Resource Management Plan/Record of Decision dated July 1989. The allotment consists of 11,455 acres (public and private) split into three pastures. Each pasture was evaluated separately. Active grazing use allowable under the ten-year permit for this allotment is 552 AUMs on public land plus 1300 AUMs on private land, for a total of 1852 AUMs (30% public land) within the dates of June 1 to November 30. The actual way the allotment is used each year is within the dates of July 1 to September 30.

	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Predominant Elevations (feet)</u>
Thornton Pasture	3994	4400-6200
Pedro Pasture	5531	3800-6455
Cave Creek Pasture	1930	4400-6000

### II. Data and Information Used in the Evaluation

#### A. Trend Plots

Data from the trend plots is summarized in Appendix 2: Trend Data. Indicators used are ground cover (compared to bare ground), and plant species frequency as measured in frequency transects.

#### B. Rangeland Health Assessments

Appendix 3 summarizes the results of the rangeland health assessments completed in 2006. Multidisciplinary teams viewed sites in each pasture on the allotment, assessing 17 rangeland health indicators at each site in accordance with Technical Reference 1734-6, Interpreting Indicators of Rangeland Health, 2000 (Version 4).

#### C. Proper Functioning Condition Assessments

Appendix 3 summarizes the results of the PFC assessments completed in 2006, in which 17 indicators were assessed in accordance with Technical Reference 1737-15, A User Guide to Assessing Proper Functioning Condition, 1998.

D. Native, T & E, and Locally Important Species Habitat Ratings

These are habitat ratings for Standard 5 that were done with each rangeland health assessment. Indicators used were:

1. Presence or absence of T & E species or species of concern
2. Native Plant Communities
  - a. Age classes
  - b. Diversity
  - c. Habitat connectivity
  - d. Population recovery

III. Standards Evaluated

The standards evaluated are those presented in detail on pages 15-18 of the final version of “The Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Management for Public Lands Administered by the Bureau of Land Management in the States of Oregon and Washington” (August 12, 1997).

**A. Standard 1 - Upland Watershed Function**

Upland soils exhibit infiltration and permeability rates, moisture storage, and stability that are appropriate to soil, climate, and landform.

What Was Used to Evaluate the Status of this Standard: Rangeland health assessments, using the attributes of Soil & Site Stability and Hydrologic Function, plus the ground cover data from trend plots.

**Determinations for Standard 1:**

Thornton Pasture:

Standard Met  X                       Standard Not Met                            Standard Not Present        
Livestock not a significant factor        
Livestock a significant factor     

Rangeland health assessments showed none-to-slight departure from expected levels, and the trend plot showed more ground cover in 2004 than in 1993.

Pedro Pasture:

Standard Met  X                       Standard Not Met                            Standard Not Present        
Livestock not a significant factor        
Livestock a significant factor     

Rangeland health assessments showed none-to-slight departure from expected levels, and the trend plot showed static trend in ground cover between 1987 and 2004.

Cave Creek Pasture:

Standard Met  X                       Standard Not Met                            Standard Not Present        
Livestock not a significant factor        
Livestock a significant factor     

Rangeland health assessments showed slight-to-moderate departure from expected levels, and the trend plot showed a 7% increase in bare soil between 1993 and 2004.

**B. Standard 2 - Riparian/Wetland Watershed Function**

Riparian-wetland areas are in properly functioning physical condition appropriate to soil, climate, and landform.





Lower Pasture:  
Standard Met  X                       Standard Not Met \_\_\_\_\_                      Standard Not Present \_\_\_\_\_  
Livestock not a significant factor \_\_\_\_\_  
Livestock a significant factor \_\_\_\_\_

Cave Creek Pasture:  
Standard Met  X                       Standard Not Met \_\_\_\_\_                      Standard Not Present \_\_\_\_\_  
Livestock not a significant factor \_\_\_\_\_  
Livestock a significant factor \_\_\_\_\_

No species of T&E importance were identified, and native species habitat appeared adequate in all three pastures.

**Conformance with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management**

Management is in conformance with these guidelines.

**Recommendations**

1. Change period of use on the permit (currently June 1 to November 30) to reflect the actual management (July 1 to September 30).

IV. Appendices

Appendix 1: Map

Appendix 2: Trend Data

Appendix 3: Summary of Rangeland Health Evaluations

Appendix 4: Summary of Proper Functioning Condition Assessments

Appendix 5: Actual Use and Utilization Table