JEROME ALLOTMENT DETERMINATION

Achieving Standards for Rangeland Health
and
Conforming with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management

<table>
<tr><td colspan="3">Field Office: Shoshone</td><td>Watershed Name/Number:
Upper Snake Rock 1704021207
Upper Snake Rock 1704021209</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">Allotment Name/Number: Jerome/90910</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="3">Public Land (acres)</td><td rowspan="2">Streams on Public Land (miles): 0 Miles</td></tr>
<tr><td>Upland: 527</td><td>Riparian: 0</td><td>Total: 527</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="3">Date(s) of Field Assessment:
June 3, 2004</td><td>Name of Permittee(s):
William F. Gulley</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">Assessment Participants (Name & Discipline or Interest):
Joanna Tjaden, Rangeland Management Specialist
Paul McClain, Wildlife Management Biologist</td></tr>
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Standard 1 (Watersheds)

Check those that apply:[*One or more boxes must be checked.*] Standard doesn't apply

[X] Meeting the Standard.	[ ] Not Meeting the Standard, Livestock Grazing Management Practices are Significant Factors.
[ ] Not Meeting the Standard, but making significant progress to meeting the Standard.	[ ] Not Meeting the Standard, Livestock Grazing Management Practices are **not** Significant Factors.
[X] Conforms with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management.	[ ] Does not conform with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management Guideline No(s).

Rationale/Information Sources: Eleven indicators were evaluated on the Sandy 8-12" ecological site Field measurements found that vascular plants provide 69% of the cover on average for this site, rock 3%, biotic crust 1%, litter in contact with soil 20%, and standing litter 3% with bare ground found on 4% of the transect points.

The overall rating for Standard 1 is slight to moderate. Six indicators (55%) were marked none to slight, three indicators (27%) were marked slight to moderate, one indicator (9%) was marked moderate, and one indicator (9%) was marked moderate to extreme.

Final Determination

Standard 2 (Riparian Areas and Wetlands) & Standard 3 (Stream Channel/Floodplain)

Check those that apply:[*One or more boxes must be checked.*] X ***Standard doesn't apply***

Standard 4 (Native Plant Communities)

Check those that apply:[*One or more boxes must be checked.*] Standard doesn't apply

☐ Meeting the Standard.	☐ Not Meeting the Standard, Livestock Grazing Management Practices are Significant Factors.
☐ Not Meeting the Standard, but making significant progress to meeting the Standard.	☒ Not Meeting the Standard, Livestock Grazing Management Practices are **not** Significant Factors.
☒ Conforms with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management.	☐ Does not conform with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management Guideline No(s).

Rationale/Information Sources: One site was evaluated on native vegetation for this standard. Cover data indicates that cheatgrass, basin big sagebrush, bluebunch wheatgrass, and rabbitbrush are the dominant plant species. While perennial grasses and forbs native to the site are present, the abundance is lower than expected. Dead and/or decadent sagebrush is present. Cheatgrass is the dominant species throughout the allotment. There is the possibility that this could pose a threat to further expansion into neighboring public lands. Other plants that were present in the allotment included bottlebrush squirreltail, bitterbrush, basin wildrye, lupine, and Hood's phlox.

According to the Ecological Site description, many other species of vascular plants should be present as well as a dominant visual aspect of this site. Some of these include Indian ricegrass, needle and threadgrass, sand dropseed, penstemon, arrowleaf balsamroot, and milkvetch. None of these vegetative species were observed in June of 2004.

The average rating for assessed indicators is moderate. Cheatgrass is the most dominant vegetative species and because of that, this allotment is currently not providing a healthy, diverse, and productive wildlife habitat. Two indicators (22%) were marked none to slight, three indicators (33.5%) were marked slight to moderate, one indicator (11%) was marked moderate, and three indicators (33.5%) were marked moderate to extreme.

Standard 5 (Seedings)

Check those that apply:[*One or more boxes must be checked.*] X ***Standard doesn't apply***

Note: At the time this Assessment, the Jerome Allotment did not have any seedings present. After the wildfire in 2006, a seeding was implemented. If this seeding becomes established, Standard 5 will apply to the Jerome Allotment in the future.

Final Determination

Standard 6 (Exotic Plant Communities, Other than Seedings)

Check those that apply:[*One or more boxes must be checked.*] X ***Standard doesn't apply***

Standard 7 (Water Quality)

Check those that apply:[*One or more boxes must be checked.*] X ***Standard doesn't apply***

Standard 8 (Threatened and Endangered Plants and Animals)

Check those that apply:[*One or more boxes must be checked.*] Standard doesn't apply

☐ Meeting the Standard.	☐ Not Meeting the Standard, Livestock Grazing Management Practices are Significant Factors.
☐ Not Meeting the Standard, but making significant progress to meeting the Standard.	☒ Not Meeting the Standard, Livestock Grazing Management Practices are **not** Significant Factors.
☒ Conforms with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management.	☐ Does not conform with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management Guideline No(s).

Rationale/Information Sources: The variation in habitat conditions and habitat structural components that currently exist on the allotment likely provides minimal suitable habitat conditions for each of the sensitive plant or animal species described above. The allotment provides relatively small and discrete areas of suitable or marginal winter habitat for the sage grouse. Picabo milkvetch (*Astragalus oniciformis*), a sensitive plant, has potential to occur within the allotment due to there being known populations in the Tunupa Allotment, located nine miles north the Jerome Allotment. At this time, there are no documented populations in the Jerome Allotment.

Determination:

I have determined that Standard 1(Watersheds) is being met and Standard 4 (Native Plant Communities) and Standard 8 (Threatened and Endangered Species) are not being met but current livestock grazing management is not a contributing factor in the failure of these two standards in the Jerome Allotment. Standard 2 (Riparian Areas and Wetlands) and Standard 3 (Stream Channel and Floodplains), Standard 5 (Seedings), Standard 6 (Exotic Plant Communities), and Standard 7 (Water Quality) do not apply to the Jerome Allotment.

Even though the Jerome Allotment has not passed the Idaho Standards for Rangeland Health, current livestock grazing is not considered to be a factor in the failure of Standard 4 (Native Plant Communities) and Standard 8 (Threatened and Endangered Species). The action listed below will be considered in the Environmental Assessment.

Final Determination

1. Renew a 10 year grazing permit in the Jerome Allotment for the same active preference of 91 AUMs.
2. Incorporate the utilization standards for the new seeding if it is successful.
3. Incorporate a fall use period in the allotment to allow for seed set.

/s/ Lori A. Armstrong — September 25, 2007
Shoshone Field Office Manager — Date

No Comment Letters were received for the Jerome Allotment Assessment mailed out on March 4, 2005.