

**Beaverhead West Watershed Assessment  
Executive Summary and Authorized Officer's  
Determination**



**The Beaverhead River looking southwest from Beaverhead Rock; November 2007.**

**Bureau of Land Management  
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This document summarizes the findings of the Beaverhead West Watershed (BWW) Assessment conducted during the 2007 field season. The assessment area covers approximately 92,000 acres of public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in Beaverhead and Madison Counties, Montana. The BWW includes nearly 90,100 acres within fifty-one grazing allotments and 2,033 acres that are unallotted, including the Eli Spring and Ney Ranch parcels.

The following table summarizes the determination of Rangeland Health Standards by allotment. It also briefly describes resource concerns identified by the interdisciplinary team (IDT) and preliminary recommendations to mitigate these concerns and revise management where deemed necessary.

The BLM is currently working on National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation, which will include all BLM-administered public lands covered in the BWW. Alternative management will be analyzed wherever it is determined that allotments are not meeting the Standards, allotments are meeting the Standards but have site specific resource concerns, unhealthy forest and/or fuels conditions are outside the natural range of variability, or we have received an application to modify any of the authorized uses.

The issue of scale must be kept in mind in evaluating each standard. It is recognized that isolated sites within a landscape may be FAR and not meeting the standards; however, considering broader scope and scale, the area may be in PFC; or isolated sites may be PFC, but overall the resource in the allotment or area is FAR and not meeting the standards. No single indicator provides sufficient information to determine land health. They are used in combination to provide the necessary information to make a land health determination. Alternatively, just because a standard is being met, does not mean that the conditions on the ground represent desired resource conditions or objectives.

Allotment Name, Number, Category, & BLM Acres	Are Healthy Rangelands Standards Being Met?					Primary Resource Concerns	Interdisciplinary Team Initial Recommendations
	Upland	Riparian Wetland	Water Quality	Air Quality	Bio-Diversity		
Anderson Field, 30026, (M) Acres: 6,194	YES	YES	*	YES	YES	1. Moderate soil compaction; reduced annual production, litter, & reproductive capability of perennial plants in Middle Chandler pasture. 2. Livestock grazing impacts to School Section Spring. 3. Juniper expansion. 4. Poor herbaceous cover for sage grouse nesting and brood-rearing.	1. Modify grazing management to shorten time spent in each pasture. 2. Redevelop School Section Spring and construct an enclosure around riparian area. 3. Consider using mechanical treatments and prescribed fire. 4. Improve herbaceous cover for sage grouse nesting and brood-rearing.
* The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has been given the responsibility for making water quality determinations and has completed its evaluation of 303(d)-listed streams. Tributary streams in the BWW are not on the 303(d) list, are not priority streams, and are not scheduled to be evaluated by the DEQ.							

Allotment Name, Number, Category, & BLM Acres	Are Healthy Rangelands Standards Being Met?					Primary Resource Concerns	Interdisciplinary Team Initial Recommendations
	Upland	Riparian Wetland	Water Quality	Air Quality	Bio-Diversity		
Antelope Butte, 10118, (C) Acres: 414	NO	N/A	N/A	YES	NO	Loss of cool-season grasses and low plant vigor with some soil erosion.	Change season of use until after seedripe for cool-season grasses and rest occasionally.
Argenta Flats, 10687, (C) Acres: 1,445	YES	N/A	N/A	YES	YES	1. Composition and vigor of cool-season bunchgrasses were reduced. 2. Isolated ≈40-acre parcel in NE¼SW¼, Sec. 17, T07S, R09W	1. Adjust season of use until after growing season for cool-season grasses. 2. Recommend disposal of isolated parcel.
Bachelor Mountain, 30608, (C) Acres: 85	YES	N/A	N/A	YES	YES	No resource concerns identified.	Continue current management.
Barretts, 30014, (M) Acres: 1,592	YES	N/A	N/A	YES	YES	1. No resource concerns from currently authorized uses. 2. Unauthorized, feral goats impacting mountain mahogany.	1. Continue current management. 2. Attempt to determine ownership and remove from allotment.
Beaverhead Rock, 20537, (C) Acres: 124	NO	N/A	N/A	YES	YES	1. Lack of cool-season grasses and reduced plant vigor and reproductive capability in north pasture resulting from heavy grazing and trailing by livestock. 2. Infestations of spotted knapweed, leafy spurge, and black henbane.	1. Fence across the north end to provide a stock lane to water and remove livestock grazing from the remainder of the allotment. 2. Continue to coordinate weed treatments with private land owners, county and state.
Bell Ranch, 20197, (I) Acres: 2,328	YES	YES	*	YES	YES	1. Poor water storage and vegetative cover due to livestock grazing at Albers Spring (52). 2. Existing boundary fence is ≈60" high and constructed with woven- and barbed-wire, which obstructs wildlife. 3. Limited water availability for wildlife.	1. Enlarge livestock enclosure. 2. Modify existing boundary fence to BLM specifications. 3. Consider installing wildlife guzzlers.
<p>* The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has been given the responsibility for making water quality determinations and has completed its evaluation of 303(d)-listed streams. Tributary streams in the BWB are not on the 303(d) list, are not priority streams, and are not scheduled to be evaluated by the DEQ.</p>							

Allotment Name, Category, & BLM Acres	Are Healthy Rangelands Standards Being Met?					Primary Resource Concerns	Interdisciplinary Team Initial Recommendations
	Upland	Riparian Wetland	Water Quality	Air Quality	Bio-Diversity		
Big Hole Road, 10135, (C) Acres: 795	YES	N/A	N/A	YES	YES	1. No resource concerns identified. 2. Non-functional and unnecessary fences obstruct wildlife.	1. Continue current management. 2. Repair non-functional fences. Remove unnecessary fences using volunteers or laborers.
B-Rock, 20599, (C) Acres: 44	NO	N/A	N/A	YES	NO	1. Lack of vegetation resulting from heavy, unauthorized horse use from adjacent deeded land by a non-permittee. 2. Isolated parcel in NE¼SE¼, Sec. 14, T07S, R09W.	1 & 2. Very little, if any, benefit to public or wildlife. Recommend disposal.
Browns Canyon, 20194, (C) Acres: 123	YES	N/A	N/A	YES	YES	No resource concerns identified.	Continue current management.
Bryan, 10459, (I) Acres: 911	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	1. No resource concerns from currently authorized uses. 2. Some spotted knapweed and cheatgrass in disturbed areas.	1. Continue current management. 2. Continue to coordinate weed treatments with private land owners, county, and state.
Burns Mountain, 10160, (C) Acres: 1,158	YES	N/A	N/A	YES	YES	No resource concerns identified.	Continue current management.
Buzztail, 20161, (C) Acres: 551	YES	N/A	N/A	YES	YES	No resource concerns identified.	Continue current management.
Conover AMP, 10117, (M) Acres: 4,268	YES	YES	*	YES	YES	1. No resource concerns from currently authorized uses. 2. Infestations of spruce budworm, mountain pine beetle, & Douglas-fir bark beetle. 3. Increasing Douglas-fir densities.	1. Continue current management. 2 & 3. Consider using mechanical treatments and/or prescribed fire.
<p>* The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has been given the responsibility for making water quality determinations and has completed its evaluation of 303(d)-listed streams. Tributary streams in the BWW are not on the 303(d) list, are not priority streams, and are not scheduled to be evaluated by the DEQ.</p>							

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	Upland	Riparian Wetland	Water Quality	Air Quality	Bio-Diversity		
Farlin Creek, 20191, (I) Acres: 1,906	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Streambank trampling and overwidening of Scudder Creek (33) due to livestock.</li> <li>2. Infestations of Douglas fir bark beetle and spruce budworm.</li> <li>3. Expansion of conifers.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Coordinate with USFS to adjust timing and duration of livestock grazing.</li> <li>2 &amp; 3. Consider using prescribed fire.</li> </ol> <p>Explore opportunities for WFU in the Farlin Creek WSA, in coordination with USFS.</p>
Flynn Draw, 20538, (C) Acres: 420	YES	NO	*	YES	YES	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Overwidening, streambank shearing, hummocking along Sheep Creek tributaries (30 &amp; 6).</li> <li>2. Unknown fish populations in Sheep Creek tributary (30).</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Improve livestock distribution and defer grazing to shorten time spent on stream.</li> <li>2. Conduct a fishery survey.</li> </ol>
Frying Pan, 10131, (I) Acres: 2,785	NO	N/A	N/A	YES	YES	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Poor production and vigor of cool-season bunchgrasses due to livestock grazing.</li> <li>2. Limited water availability for wildlife.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Defer use until after seedripening or develop rest-rotation grazing system.</li> <li>2. Consider installing wildlife guzzlers.</li> </ol>
Frying Pan Basin, 30691, (C) Acres: 131	YES	N/A	N/A	YES	YES	No resource concerns identified.	Continue current management.
Gallagher, 20114, (M) Acres: 5,045	YES	NO	*	YES	YES	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Not achieving desired distribution and level of utilization in the meadow along the Beaverhead River (2) due to subirrigated conditions.</li> <li>2. Trampling of spring source at Upper Bill Hill Spring (35).</li> <li>3. Poor willow regeneration and overwidening on Bill Hill Creek (14 &amp; 35).</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Extend permitted season of use to allow the pasture to be grazed when the soil is frozen.</li> <li>2. Enlarge livestock enclosure.</li> <li>3. Improve livestock distribution or shorten grazing period in these pastures.</li> </ol>

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Allotment Name, Number, Category, & BLM Acres	Are Healthy Rangelands Standards Being Met?					Primary Resource Concerns	Interdisciplinary Team Initial Recommendations
	Upland	Riparian Wetland	Water Quality	Air Quality	Bio-Diversity		
Gallagher, 20114, (M) Acres: 5,045 Continued	YES	NO	*	YES	YES	4. Gallagher Creek (26) flowing down county road. 5. Old fence in Upper Bill Hill pasture poses a risk to livestock and wildlife. 6. Infestations of noxious weeds and invasive species. 7. Juniper expansion.	4. Coordinate with Union Pacific and Montana DEQ. 5. Coordinate removal of old fences using laborers or volunteers. 6. Continue to coordinate weed treatments with private land owners, county, and state. 7. Consider using mechanical and/or chemical treatments and prescribed fire
Gallagher Mtn. AMP, 30013, (I) Acres: 14,214	YES	YES	*	YES	YES	1. No resource concerns from currently authorized uses. 2. Infestations of mountain pine beetle in lodgepole pine and spruce budworm. 3. Isolated infestations of spotted knapweed.	1. Continue current management. 2. Consider mechanical treatments or prescribed fire. 3. Continue to coordinate weed treatments with private land owners, county, and state.
Grasshopper, 30600, (M) Acres: 602	YES	YES	*	YES	YES	1. No resource concerns from currently authorized uses. 2. Small infestation of cheatgrass and houndstongue.	1. Continue current management. 2. Continue to coordinate weed treatments with private land owners, county, and state.
Hayden, 10134, (C) Acres: 33	YES	N/A	N/A	YES	YES	No resource concerns identified.	Continue current management.
Henneberry Ridge Cust, 20634, (C) Acres: 103	YES	N/A	N/A	YES	YES	No resource concerns identified.	Continue current management.
Henneberry Ridge #2, 20171, (M) Acres: 1,146	YES	N/A	N/A	YES	YES	No resource concerns identified.	Continue current management.
Hildreth Individual, 30103, (C) Acres: 616	YES	N/A	N/A	YES	YES	Some spotted knapweed infestations along road.	Continue to coordinate weed treatments with private land owners, county, and state.
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	Upland	Riparian Wetland	Water Quality	Air Quality	Bio-Diversity		
Hogback, 20486, (M) Acres: 2,393	YES	N/A	N/A	YES	YES	No resource concerns identified.	Continue current management.
Holland-Carrol Isolated, 30618, (C) Acres: 468	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	1. Poor willow and aspen regeneration, overwidening, and hummocking on Taylor Creek (89). 2. Infestations of mountain pine beetle, mistletoe, and Commandra blister rust. 3. Lodgepole expansion into sagebrush/grassland.	1. Repair non-functional fences and improve livestock distribution or frequency of use. 2 & 3. Consider using mechanical treatments and/or prescribed fire.
Kennison Spring, 20182, (M) Acres: 1,173	YES	N/A	N/A	YES	YES	1. No resource concerns from currently authorized uses. 2. Unauthorized cross-country OHV use. 3. Limited water availability for wildlife.	1. Continue current management. 2. Patrol and enforce travel restrictions. 3. Consider installing wildlife guzzlers.
Krueger Creek, 10139, (M) Acres: 146	YES	YES	*	YES	NO	1. No resource concerns identified from current authorized uses. 2. Infestation of Douglas fir bark beetle. 3. Increasing Douglas fir density.	1. Continue current management. 2 & 3. Consider using mechanical treatments and/or prescribed fire.
Lovells Lk Non-AMP, 30605, (C) Acres: 229	YES	N/A	N/A	YES	YES	No resource concerns identified.	Continue current management.
Lower Reservoir Cr., 760, (C) Acres: 231	YES	N/A	N/A	YES	YES	No resource concerns identified.	Continue current management.
Meine, 20544, (C) Acres: 71	YES	YES	*	YES	YES	No resource concerns identified.	Continue current management.
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	Upland	Riparian Wetland	Water Quality	Air Quality	Bio-Diversity		
Meine Cow Camp, 20113, (M) Acres: 333	YES	N/A	N/A	YES	YES	1. No resource concerns identified from current authorized uses. 2. Hounstongue infestation in drainage.	1. Analyze request to graze both cattle and horses during the current season of use. 2. Continue to coordinate weed treatments with private land owners, county and state.
Meine Homestead, 03146, (C) Acres: 56	YES	YES	*	YES	YES	No resource concerns identified.	Continue current management.
PHW Allotment, 30031, (I) Acres: 9,067	YES	NO	*	YES	YES	1. Reduced vigor and production of grasses and excessive bare ground in the North Seeding pasture due to livestock grazing. 2. The south fork of Watson Creek (38 & 40) have poor age-class distribution of willows and aspen and have trailing, hummocking, and some entrenchment. 3. Watson Creek (34 & 61) have poor willow regeneration, extensive hummocking and trailing, and no defined channel.	1 & 2. Modify grazing management to prevent spring grazing in the North Seeding pasture in consecutive years and reduce the length of time cattle spend in each pasture. 3. Divide the Three-Deer Spring pasture and create a riparian pasture within the Bachelor Mountain pasture along Watson Creek.
Pipe Organ Rock, 10110, (M) Acres: 1,078	YES	N/A	N/A	YES	YES	1. No resource concerns from currently authorized uses. 2. Infestation of diffuse knapweed along the road.	1. Continue current management. 2. Continue to coordinate weed treatments with private land owners, county and state.
Polaris, 20186, (C) Acres: 198	YES	N/A	N/A	YES	YES	No resource concerns identified.	Continue current management.
Rattlesnake, 10510, (C) Acres: 1,642	NO	YES	NO	YES	YES	1. Low production and vigor of cool-season grasses. 2. Some soil erosion. 3. Unauthorized cross-country OHV use.	1 & 2. Periodically defer grazing until after seedripeness for cool-season grasses and/or include rest. 3. Patrol and enforce travel restrictions.
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	Upland	Riparian Wetland	Water Quality	Air Quality	Bio-Diversity		
Rebich, 20174, (C) Acres: 309	YES	YES	*	YES	YES	No resource concerns identified.	Continue current management.
Rebich #2, 20184, (C) Acres: 1,069	YES	N/A	N/A	YES	YES	1. No resource concerns from currently authorized uses. 2. Infestations of spruce budworm and mountain pine beetle.	1. Continue current management. 2. Consider mechanical treatments and/or prescribed fire.
Red Mine, 30034, (I) Acres: 3,705	YES	NO	NO	YES	YES	1. Overwideing and streambank shearing on Taylor Creek (44). 2. Taylor Creek (43) is entrenched and has noxious and invasive species concerns. 3. Wetland (56), in Pasture 1, is heavily grazed and has extensive hummocking and reduced water storage capacity. 4. Poor herbaceous cover for sage grouse nesting and brood-rearing.	1. Fence along BLM boundary and provide water gaps. 2. Develop livestock water in uplands to reduce impacts. Continue to coordinate weed treatments with private land owners, county and state. 3. Develop reliable livestock water in other pastures to reduce dependency on Pasture 1. 4. Improve herbaceous cover for sage grouse nesting and brood-rearing.
Red Spring, 10120, (M) Acres: 1,705	YES	N/A	N/A	YES	YES	No resource concerns identified.	Continue current management.
Rocky Hills, 10148, (I) Acres: 15,906	YES	NO	*	YES	YES	1. Cedar Creek (96) has streambank, sedimentation, and vegetative composition concerns. 2. Douglas-fir colonization. 3. Spotted knapweed infestations along roads. 4. Poor herbaceous cover for sage grouse nesting and brood-rearing. 5. Limited water availability for wildlife.	1. Construct a livestock enclosure around this reach. 2. Consider using mechanical treatments and prescribed fire. 3. Continue to coordinate weed treatments with private land owners, county and state. 4. Improve herbaceous cover for sage grouse nesting and brood-rearing. 5. Consider installing wildlife guzzlers.

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Scudder Creek AMP, 30028, (I) Acres: 666	NO	N/A	N/A	YES	NO	1. Poor production, vigor, and reproductive capability of perennial plants due to repeated spring grazing. 2. Pedestalling, soil surface loss, and water flow patterns. 3. Poor herbaceous cover for sage grouse nesting and brood-rearing.	1 & 2. Reseed with native or introduced species. Adjust grazing management to include rest or deferment. 3. Improve herbaceous cover for sage grouse nesting and brood-rearing.
Selkirk, 20188, (C) Acres: 471	YES	N/A	N/A	YES	YES	No resource concerns identified.	Continue current management.
Shale Creek, 20718, (C) Acres: 285	YES	YES	*	YES	NO	1. No resource concerns identified from current authorized uses. 2. Infestations of Douglas fir bark beetle and mountain pine beetle.	1. Continue current management. 2. NEPA and planning have been completed to harvest infested trees.
Slanger, 20712, (C) Acres: 266	YES	N/A	N/A	YES	YES	No resource concerns identified.	Continue current management.
Small Horn Canyon, 20722, (M) Acres: 504	YES	N/A	N/A	YES	YES	No resource concerns identified.	Continue current management.
Timber Butte Isolated, 30632, (C) Acres: 249	YES	N/A	N/A	YES	YES	No resource concerns identified.	Continue current management.
Tucker Creek, 20480, (C) Acres: 41	YES	YES	*	YES	YES	1. No resource concerns identified. 2. No public access.	1. Continue current management. 2. Recommend disposal.
West Big Hole Road, 10503, (C) Acres: 782	YES	N/A	N/A	YES	YES	1. No resource concerns identified. 2. Non-functional and unnecessary fences obstruct wildlife. 3. Limited water availability for wildlife.	1. Continue current management. 2. Repair non-functional fences. Remove unnecessary fences using volunteers or laborers. 3. Consider installing wildlife guzzlers.

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	Upland	Riparian Wetland	Water Quality	Air Quality	Bio-Diversity		
Unallotted / Eli Spring Acres: 643	YES	NO	N/A	YES	YES	1. Eli Spring (70) has excessive exposed soil, hummocking, and altered flow patterns.	1. Maintain perimeter fence to exclude livestock and replace wire gates with metal gates.
Unallotted / Ney Ranch Acres: 234	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	1. Accumulation of decadent herbaceous vegetation along the Beaverhead River (1).	1. Analyze using high-intensity/short-duration livestock grazing as a vegetation treatment on an as-needed basis.
Unallotted Acres: 1,156	YES	YES	N/A	YES	YES	1. Scattered infestations of houndstongue, leafy spurge, and spotted knapweed on parcel near Big Hole River. 2. Spruce budworm and mountain pine beetle infestations in Small Horn Canyon.	1. Continue to coordinate weed treatments with private land owners, county and state. 2. Consider using mechanical treatments and/or prescribed fire.
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## Standard # 1: Upland Health

Six allotments are **not** meeting this standard:

1. Antelope Butte
2. Beaverhead Rock
3. B-Rock
4. Frying Pan
5. Rattlesnake
6. Scudder Creek AMP

On the Antelope Butte, Beaverhead Rock, Frying Pan, Rattlesnake, and Scudder Creek AMP allotments, trend data and IDT observations indicate shifts from cool-season bunchgrasses to warm-season shortgrasses that reduce annual production, vegetative canopy cover, and infiltration, increase runoff, and result in water flow patterns and pedestalling. Poor reproductive capability of perennial plants was often observed on these sites, as well.

On the 40 BLM-administered acres of the B-Rock allotment, the IDT noted heavy, unauthorized horse-use by a non-permittee using adjacent deeded land. This allotment is an isolated, hilltop parcel comprised of very shallow soils. Although there is a lack of vegetation on this parcel, the site potential is very low and the rocky composition prevents erosion from being a concern.

Livestock impacts have been determined to be the primary factor in not meeting the upland standard in each of these allotments.

## **Standard # 2: Riparian Health**

Six allotments and the unallotted Eli Spring parcel are **not** meeting this standard:

1. Farlin Creek
2. Flynn Draw
3. Gallagher
4. PHW Allotment
5. Red Mine
6. Rocky Hills

The riparian areas that did not meet the standards were determined to be FAR, with either a static or downward trend, or non-functional. Riparian habitat that is FAR with an upward trend is considered to be meeting the riparian health standard because it is making progress toward achieving PFC.

Generally, the riparian areas that did not meet the standard had altered vegetative composition along the riparian zone and/or reduced bank stability due to impacts from livestock trailing and/or grazing. Increasing densities of Rocky Mountain juniper and/or Douglas-fir were also riparian concerns on the lower reaches of Gallagher Creek. Most riparian areas had some level of infestation of houndstongue and/or cheatgrass. The highest infestation levels were found in the Gallagher and Red Mine allotments.

Livestock impacts have been determined to be one of the contributing factors in not meeting the riparian standard in each of these allotments and the unallotted Eli Spring parcel.

## **Standard # 3: Water Quality**

Five allotments and the unallotted Ney Ranch parcel are **not** meeting this standard:

1. Bryan
2. Farlin Creek
3. Holland-Carroll Isolated
4. Rattlesnake
5. Red Mine

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has been given the responsibility for making water quality determinations and has completed its evaluation of 303(d)-listed streams. The Beaverhead River, Big Hole River, Farlin Creek, Rattlesnake Creek, Scudder Creek, Steel Creek, and Taylor Creek are on the 303(d) list and have been found to be impaired. Tributary streams in the BWW are not on the 303(d) list, are not priority streams, and are not scheduled to be evaluated by the DEQ.

Livestock impacts have been determined to be one of the contributing factors in not meeting the water quality standard in the Farlin Creek, Holland-Carroll Isolated, and Red Mine allotments.

## **Standard # 4: Air Quality**

All the allotments assessed within the watershed are meeting this standard.

## **Standard # 5: Biodiversity**

Biodiversity is closely related to upland, including forests, and riparian health. Six allotments are **not** meeting this standard:

1. Antelope Butte
2. B-Rock
3. Farlin Creek
4. Krueger Creek
5. Scudder Creek AMP
6. Shale Creek

Forest health was a causal factor for not meeting the biodiversity standard on the Farlin, Krueger, and Shale Creek allotments. Epidemic insect infestations in these areas are resulting in conifer mortality and increased fuel loading. Overstocked forests are becoming increasingly susceptible to insect attack and subsequent mortality due to recent drought and competition for limited resources. Livestock grazing has resulted in poor species composition, vigor, and reproductive capability of cool-season grasses, shifts in dominance of functional/structural groups, and has been determined to be a primary factor in not meeting the biodiversity standard on the Antelope Butte, B-Rock, and Scudder Creek AMP allotments.

## **NEPA Documentation**

Before any of the above stated recommendations can be implemented, NEPA documentation will be completed to analyze a reasonable range of alternatives to address resource concerns found during the Assessment. The Dillon Field Office will be working on the Beaverhead West Environmental Assessment (MT-050-07-70) during the winter and spring of 2008.

Implementation of new plans will begin in 2008, but due to budgetary and human resource constraints, complete implementation of these plans may take several years.

For more information, please review the Beaverhead West Watershed Assessment Report or contact the Dillon Field Office (406) 683-8000.

## **Authorized Officer's Determination**

Based on my review of the Assessment Team's recommendations, and other relevant data and information, I have determined that the following 35 allotments within the Beaverhead West Watershed **meet** all five of the Standards for Rangeland (Land) Health and Guidelines for Grazing Management for BLM lands in Montana:

1. Anderson Field
2. Argenta Flats
3. Bachelor Mountain
4. Barretts
5. Bell Ranch
6. Big Hole Road
7. Brown's Canyon
8. Burns Mountain
9. Buzztail
10. Conover AMP
11. Frying Pan Basin
12. Gallagher Mtn. AMP
13. Grasshopper
14. Hayden
15. Henneberry Ridge Cust.
16. Henneberry Ridge #2
17. Hildreth Individual
18. Hogback

19. Kennison Spring
20. Lovells Lk. Non-AMP
21. Lower Reservoir Cr.
22. Meine
23. Meine Cow Camp
24. Meine Homestead
25. Pipe Organ Rock
26. Polaris
27. Rebich

28. Rebich #2
29. Red Spring
30. Selkirk
31. Slinger
32. Small Horn Canyon
33. Timber Butte Isolated
34. Tucker Creek
35. West Big Hole Road

I have determined that the following 16 allotments and the unallotted Eli Spring and Ney Ranch parcels **do not** meet the Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Management for BLM lands in Montana:

1. Antelope Butte
2. Beaverhead Rock
3. B-Rock
4. Bryan
5. Farlin Creek
6. Flynn Draw
7. Frying Pan
8. Gallagher
9. Holland-Carroll Isolated
10. Krueger Creek
11. PHW Allotment
12. Rattlesnake
13. Red Mine
14. Rocky Hills
15. Scudder Creek AMP
16. Shale Creek

I have determined that current livestock management is a significant causal factor in the land health standards **not being met** on 13 of the 16 above listed allotments.

Pursuant to 43 CFR 4180.2(c), the Authorized Officer shall take appropriate action as soon as practicable but not later than the start of the next grazing year upon determining that existing grazing management practices or levels of grazing use on public lands are significant factors in failing to achieve the standards. Appropriate action means implementing actions that will result in significant progress toward fulfillment of the standards. Practices and activities subject to standards and guidelines include the development, modification, or revision of AMPs, establishment of terms and conditions of permits, leases and other grazing authorizations, and range improvement activities such as vegetation manipulation, fence construction and development of water.

BLM Manual Handbook H-4180-1, Rangeland Health Standards Handbook, provides guidance for conducting watershed-based Land Health Assessments. It states "If the Land Health Standards are not being achieved because of a causal factor other than current livestock grazing management, you must consult other program guidance for the appropriate steps to be taken to ensure that progress toward meeting Standards is made."

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Dillon Field Manager

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Date