Rangeland Health Standards Assessment

Allotment #1300 Beecraft

Allotment Overview:
Allotment boundaries: refer to attached map.
7.5 Minute Topographic Maps: Fitzwater Point.
AUMs of Authorized Use: Active preference is 10 AUMs.
Permitted Season: 5/1-5/31
Allotment Category: C
Total acres: 120 acres BLM.

Allotment #1300 Beecraft is and isolated parcel located approximately 13 miles SW of Lakeview, Oregon. The parcel is located between private property on the east and the Fremont National Forest on the west. Also located on the allotment is a gravel pit operated by Lake County (north end of the allotment). No Ecological Site Inventory data is available for this allotment. The allotment is covered by the Soil Survey of Lake County, Oregon, Southern Part 1990. The allotment consists of only one soil type- Lasere loam, 2 to 15 percent slopes.

Characteristics of the Lasere Soil:
Parent material: kind-lake sediment;source-bassalt,tuff.
Depth class: moderately deep (20-40 inches) to bedrock, very shallow (5-10 inches) to the claypan.
Drainage class: well drained
Permeability: Slow
Available water capacity: about 4 inches
Hazard of erosion by water: Moderate
Shrink-swell potential: High between depth of 10 and 23 inches.
Dominant vegetation in Potential Plant Community: Idaho fescue, low sagebrush, Bluebunch wheategrass.
Refer to Table 1 under Standard 1 for discussion of current plant species observed in allotment compared to Potential Natural Community (PNC).

Grazing Management:
Very little data is available in allotment file, according to records this allotment has been used in the spring since at least 1981 with a stocking rate of 10 AUMs.

STANDARD 1- Upland Watershed- Upland soils exhibit infiltration and permeability rates, moisture storage, and stability that are appropriate to soil, climate, and land form.

Meets Standard.

Indicator used to evaluate upland watershed condition is plant composition. Current plant composition is compared to a defined Potential Natural Plant Community (PNC) for the identified soil types and precipitation zone PNC data is compiled using the Soil

Survey of Lake County, Oregon, Southern Part, published 2001. Table 1 compares the current plant composition with the PNC. Plant species expected at PNC for each range site as described in the Lake County Soil Survey are part of the plant community composition currently found on the allotment.

Table 1

Soil Map Unit	Dominant Vegetation on allotment	PNC Dominant vegetation	Plant species that occur on the allotment and are identified in the PNC description
132C	Juniperus occidenatlis, Artemisisa arbuscula, Festuca idahoensis, Pseudoroegneria spicata, Poa secunda , Purshia tridentate, Sitanion hystrix	Festuca idahoensis, Pseudoroegneria spicata, Artemisisa arbuscula	Festuca idahoensis, Pseudoroegneria spicata, Artemisisa arbuscula

All species identified in PNC are present in the allotment (refer to Table 1). Upon inspection it should be noted that the primary native grass species on the allotment is Squirrel tail (Sitanion hystrix). Portions of the allotment are infested with noxious weeds (refer to Weeds Report Standard 3).

STANDARD 2- Riparian-wetland areas are in properly functioning physical conditions appropriate to soil, climate, and landform.

Meets Standard.

The only flowing water in this allotment is the South Canal irrigation conveyance ditch that runs water from Drews Dam to the irrigators on the South End of the Drews Valley Water Users system. The ditch flows for about 1/8 mile on BLM. Condition of the riparian vegetation along the ditch is a function of the ditch management and maintenance more than the grazing management. Grazing is not having a negative effect on the riparian area in this allotment.

STANDARD 3- Healthy, productive, and diverse plant and animal populations and communities appropriate to soil, climate, and landform are supported by ecological processes of nutrient cycling, energy flow and the hydrologic cycle.

Meets Standard.

Botanist report:
The site contains what are called "biscuit flats" of low sagebrush and geophytic plants that are green in the spring after the snow melt and then dry out when the soils dry up. Idaho fescue and other grasses appear to be doing well in the allotment. Off road activity in the past has affected the plant communities, but recently, that activity has been contained.

Weeds Report:
Noxious weeds are known to occur in the allotment. The primary weed of concern is medusahead rye which exists in patches throughout the allotment and on the adjacent private land. Mediterranean sage is present at the gravel pit but very sparse and widely scattered. The Lake County Road Department has been treating the Mediterranean sage for several years in the pit area and continues to monitor for and treat the med sage as needed.

Wildlife Report:
This area supports healthy diverse wildlife populations that are appropriate for the type of habitats available within the allotment. The habitat within this allotment is in moderate ecological condition. Ecological condition within this allotment is degraded by high levels of cheat grass in some areas. This standard is currently being met from the aspect of wildlife populations and diversity.

STANDARD 4- Surface water and groundwater quality, influenced by agency actions, complies with State water quality standards.

Not Applicable.

The ditch water is not listed as water quality impaired. Livestock management on this allotment has no effect on the quality of the water in the ditch.

STANDARD 5- Native, T&E, and locally important species. Habitats support healthy, productive and diverse populations and communities of native plants and animals (including special status species and species of local importance) appropriate to soil, climate and landform.

Meets Standard.

Botanists report:
This area has been surveyed for Bureau special status plants and no special status plants were found or are they expected. At this point in time, there are no known Bureau special status plants found within the allotment.

This allotment has a number of cultural plants that are monitored by the Bureau of Land Management: *Lomatium* species (biscuitroot), *Perideridia* species (yampah), and Allium species (wild onion). Mesdusahead rye has not invaded the specific area where they grow at this time; however, that possible invasion is being monitored.

Plant list:

Trees/Shrubs:
Artemisia arbuscula
Juniperus occidentalis
Artemisia tridentata
Artemisia arbuscula
Lygodesmia spicatum
Lygodesmia spicatum
Tetradymia canescens
Ericameria nauseosa (Chrysothamnus n.)

Grasses:
Leymus cinereus (Elymus cinereus)
Elymus elymoides (Sitanion hystrix)
Poa segunda
Pseudoroegneria spicata (Agrophyron spicatum)

Forbs:
Lomatium canbyi
Lomatium nevadensi
Lomatium piperi
Allium spp.
Balsamrhize hookeri
Fritilleria pudica
Astragalus lentiginosus
Astragalu purshii
Agoserus glauca
Antennaria dimorpha
Phlox hoodii

Weeds/Introduced plants:
Bromus tectorum
Taeniatherum caput-medusae
Agropyron cristatum
Sismbrium altissimum

Microbiotic crusts
Small number *Tortula* moss
Caloplaca (fungi)

There are no listed T&E or sensitive aquatic species known in South Canal.

Wildlife report:

Special status wildlife species or their habitats that are present within this allotment include the bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), and Lewis' woodpecker (*Melanerpes lewis*). Mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) also occur and are a species with high public interest.

No nesting or roosting habitat exists within this allotment for the bald eagle. Nesting and roosting habitat does occur on U.S. Forest Service lands to the west. It is suspected that they are occasional visitors to the area. Bald eagle foraging could occur within the allotment; however it is probably restricted mostly to occasional scattered carrion. There are no resource conflicts for bald eagles.

Scattered Ponderosa pine and western juniper woodlands occur over the allotment. This habitat is suitable, but marginal for Lewis' woodpeckers. There are no resource conflicts for this species.

Mule deer inhabit the allotment and much of the surrounding area. Large concentrations of wintering mule deer inhabit this allotment and surrounding areas. No conflicts exist between mule deer and cattle grazing within this allotment.

Overall, this standard is being met for wildlife species within the allotment. The occurrence of invasive western juniper and cheatgrass appear to be the limiting factors for most wildlife species within the allotment.

Team Members	**Title**
Lance Okeson	RMS
Todd Forbes	Wildlife Biologist
Lucile Housley	Botanist
Erin McConnell	Weed Management
Robert Hopper	Supervisory NRS
Ken Kestner	Supervisory NRS
Allen Munhall	Fisheries Biologist

Determination

(X) Existing grazing management practices or levels of grazing use on the #1300 Beecraft Allotment promote achievement of significant progress toward the Oregon Standards and Guidelines for Rangeland Health and conform with the Guidelines for Livestock grazing Management.

( ) Existing grazing management practices or levels of grazing use on the #3100 Beecraft Allotment will require modification or change prior to the next grazing season to promote achievement of the Oregon standards and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management.

Field Manager, Lakeview Resource Area — Date 6/21/05

1300 Beecraft Alltoment