

**RANGELAND HEALTH STANDARDS –ASSESSMENT  
GREASER DRIFT ALLOTMENT 0205**

The Greaser Drift Allotment (0205) is 9,210 acres and contains two separate use areas, a corral area (31 acres) and a large excluded area (5,461 acres). The two separate use areas are the Beaty Butte use area (3,180 acres) and the Rogers use area (538 acres) and these are grazed at different times by different allottees. The following assessment only considers these two use areas.

**STANDARD 1 - UPLAND WATERSHED**

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

**This standard is being met on the allotment.**

The indicators used to evaluate this standard are Soil Surface Factor (SSF), which documents accelerated erosion; and plant community composition, which indicates root occupancy of the soil profile.

Soil Surface Factor (SSF) is an indicator of accelerated erosion and is a method of documenting observations regarding erosion. Of the 3,718 acres being grazed in the Greaser Drift Allotment, 62% have an SSF rating of Slight and the remaining 38% of the acres were not rated. The Slight rating is the second lowest level of erosion in this methodology. A copy of the form used to document SSF is attached (Appendix A, "Determination of Erosion Condition Class").

Another indicator of Upland Watershed condition is plant composition and community structure. Current plant composition is compared to a defined Potential Natural Plant Community for the identified soil type and precipitation zone. Using the 1988 Ecological Site Inventory, the percent of the allotment in each seral stage is summarized in the table below. Most of the larger Beaty Butte use area is in the Mid seral (35%) or Late seral stage (34%). Most of the Rogers use area was not rated during the ESI survey and was seeded in 1991. The Rogers use area now contains a good stand of crested wheatgrass on the east half of the area and basin wildrye on the west half of the area. While the ecological condition has not been quantified, observations find that most of the area is functioning with a healthy stand of perennial grasses, especially the basin wildrye on the west half.

Seral Stage	Percent comparability to Potential Natural Community	Percent of allotment in seral stage	
		Beaty Butte Use Area	Rogers Use Area
		3,718 acres grazed	
		3,180 acres (86%)	538 acres (14%)
Early	0-25%	0%	0%
Mid	26-50%	35% (1106 acres)	20% (109 acres)
Late	51-75%	34% (1084 acres)	7% (35 acres)
Playa		1% (32 acres)	0%
Rockland		7% (216 acres)	0%
Unknown*		23% (742 acres)	73% (394 acres)

\* The unknown acres are the inclusions within a vegetation community that include transition areas and plant communities too small to be mapped separately.

The Observed Apparent Trend (Appendix B) determined during the ESI showed static trend on 47% of the allotment and a downward trend on 15%. The remaining 38% had an unknown trend. The Beaty Butte use area had 1,688 acres (53%) with a static trend and 521 acres (16%) with a downward trend, while 971 acres (31%) were not rated. The downward trend was in the vicinity of the MC well on the east end of the use area. Since the ESI data was collected in 1988, the construction of fences and implementation of a set grazing period late in the fall has improved the production and composition of the vegetation. Before 1988 the use around MC well was the result of trailing from spring through the fall. The current grazing period is late fall for 1-2 months. A trend plot located about ½ mile from MC well is in a site rated in downward trend by the ESI inventory in 1988. The photos taken at this trend site since that time indicate a static upward trend. The current trend in the Beaty Butte use area as a whole appears to be static or upward.

The Rogers Use area had 71 acres (13%) with a static trend and 52 acres (10%) with a downward trend, while 415 acres (77%) were not rated by the ESI inventory. The entire Rogers use area was reseeded in 1991 and the subsequent 3-year rest resulted in a good stand of crested wheatgrass and basin wildrye in the use area. The trend now appears static to upward. The current grazing in the Rogers Use area is for only 50 AUMS and occurs for 2-3 weeks during March or April, which leaves ample time for spring regrowth each year.

## **STANDARD 2 - RIPARIAN/WETLAND**

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

**Standard 2 is being met for Riparian/Wetland function.**

Only about 10% of the 2,393 acres of wetlands found in the allotment are within areas being grazed and they are currently in Proper Functioning Condition (PFC). Livestock grazing does not appear to be impacting these areas.

**STANDARD 3 - ECOLOGICAL PROCESSES**

**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.**

**This standard is being met.**

The Observed Apparent Trend as described in Standard one was static on half of the allotment. In the areas where the trend was downward, there has been improvement with seeding, fencing and better livestock management. There is one trend study in the Beaty Butte use area of the allotment and as described in Standard one the trend appears to be static to upward at this site. With the current late fall grazing and a conservative stocking rate of nine acres/AUM in the Beaty Butte use area, the plant production and ground cover are increasing. The increase in plant production and cover on both native range and the seeded areas would indicate ecological processes are working. The same is true on the Rogers use area as early spring use as been light to moderate and it appears there has been a steady increase in plant production and ground cover since 1991.

Standard three is being met for animal populations. The allotment is supporting the current and proposed number of mule deer and pronghorn antelope identified by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) management plans.

Noxious weeds are known to occur in the allotment. Historically there have been yellow starthistle patches along the HWY 140 right of way and Scotch thistle in the old Adel landfill. These weeds have not been seen on these sites or in the vicinity in several years and are monitored annually. Halogeton is common along the roads in the allotment and occurs in areas that are disturbed and sparsely vegetated. There is a gravel pit on the south end of the allotment that is infested with halogeton. The pit is under an agreement with the County for treatment. Canada thistle occurs in a few small patches along the lakeshores in the Twenty Mile Slough area. Canada thistle and the halogeton along the roads are under an ongoing private contract for treatment.

**STANDARD 4 - WATER QUALITY STANDARDS**

**Surface and groundwater quality, influenced by agency actions, complies with State water quality standards.**

This standard is not applicable to this allotment since there are no 303d listed water bodies within the allotment.

**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.**

**This standard is being met for native, T&E, and locally important wildlife species.**

There are no known sage grouse leks within the allotment, however, there are numerous identified sage grouse leks and habitat within the surrounding allotments. Sage grouse have been seen using this allotment at different times of the year, but livestock grazing does not appear to be impacting sage grouse use within the allotment. Peregrine falcons have been seen within the allotment, probably from releases from the Crump Lake hack site, however, no nesting occurs within the area. Bald eagles use the area in the winter, feeding off dead waterfowl and other carrion.

No special status plants have been found and none are suspected. There have been several surveys of possible habitats and no plants were found.

**Current Management and Recent Management Changes**

The current grazing plan is to use the Beaty Butte use area in the fall after the cattle come from Beaty Butte, usually in October but may be earlier depending on the weather. Much of the Beaty Butte use area is either a seeding or a lakebed and using it in the fall allows it to grow all spring and summer and maximize production. The use is limited to 315 AUMS and utilization at that use level is light to moderate across the area. The Roger's use area is a seeding and is used in the spring and has been improving since this plan was implemented in the mid 1990's. The grazing is only 50 AUMS and the cattle are only in the area for 2-3 weeks.

**Team Members**

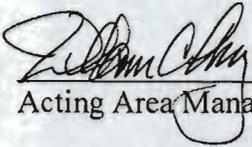
**Title**

Les Boothe	Range Management Specialist
Alan Munhall	Fishery Biologist
Vern Stofleth	Wildlife Biologist
Lucile Housley	Botantist
Bill Cannon	Archaeologist
Ken Kestner	Supervisory NRS
Robert Hopper	Supervisory RMS
Erin McConnell	Weed Management Specialist

**Determination**

- (x) Existing grazing management practices or levels of grazing use on the Greaser Drift Allotment promote achievement of significant progress towards the Oregon Standards for Rangeland Health and conform with the Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management.
- ( ) Existing grazing management practices or levels of grazing use on the Greaser Drift Allotment will require modification or change prior to the next grazing season to promote

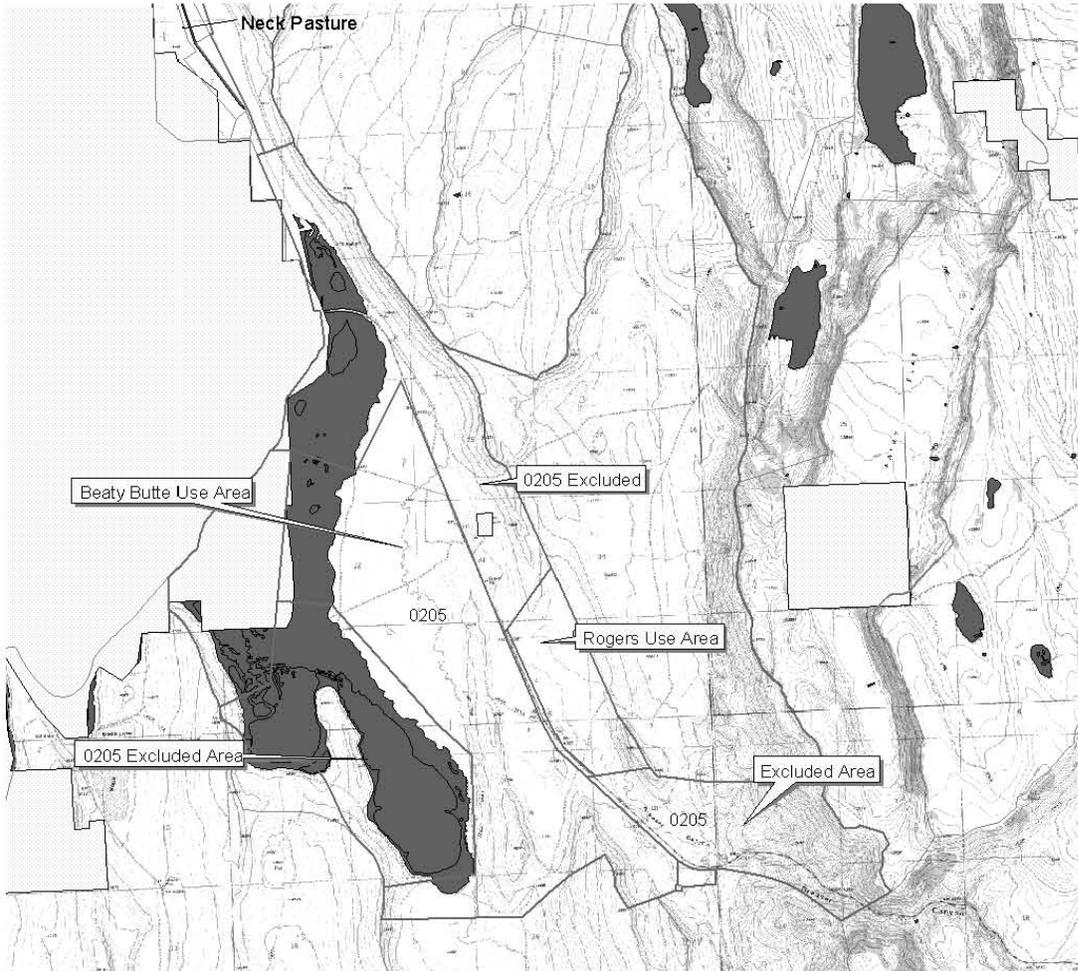
achievement of the Oregon Standards for Rangeland Health and conform with the Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management.



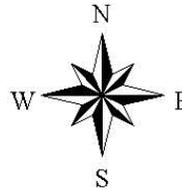
Acting Area Manager, Lakeview Resource Area

9/30/12  
Date

# Greaser Drift Allotment 0205



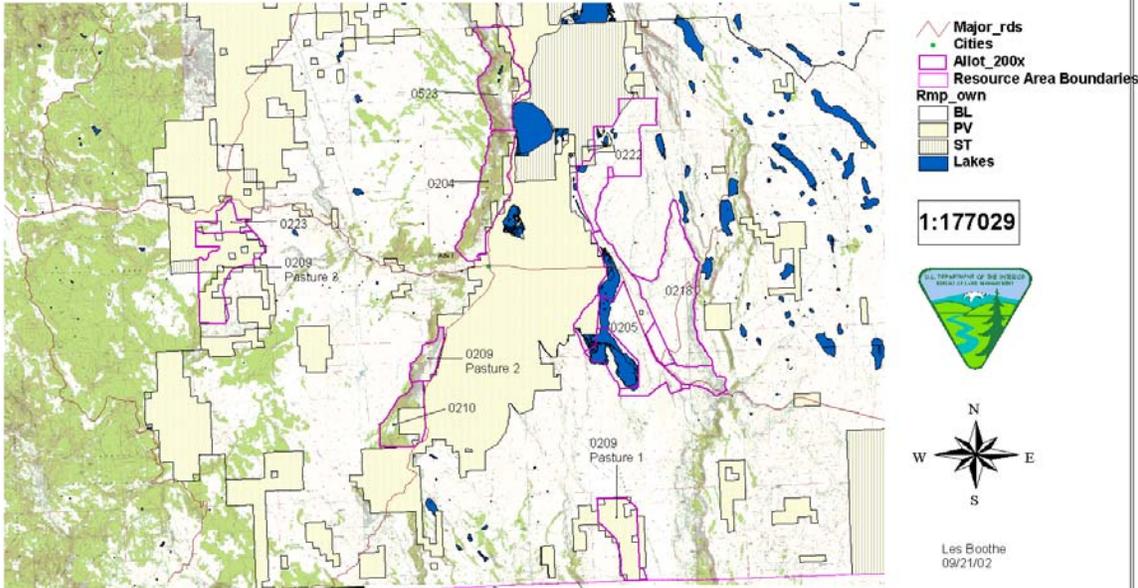
- **Cities**
- **Allot\_200x**
- **Gra**
- **Resource Area Boundaries**
- Rmp\_own**
- **BL**
- **PV**
- **ST**
- **Lakes**



Les Boothe  
9/21/02

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of this data for individual use or as aggregate use with other data.

# South Warner Allotments



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