

Rangeland Health Standards Assessment

Allotment #1305 Schultz

Allotment Overview:

Allotment boundaries: refer to attached map.

7.5 Minute Topographic Map: Crooked Creek Valley

AUMs of Authorized Use: Active preference is 29 AUMs.

Permitted Season: 5/15-9/15

Allotment Category: C

Total acres: 120 acres BLM.

Schultz Allotment #1305 is an isolated parcel located approximately 13 miles North of Lakeview, Oregon. The parcel is surrounded by private property on all sides and no public access is available. 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.

Grazing Management:

Very little data is available in the allotment file, no utilization or monitoring has been conducted due to the size and inaccessibility of the allotment. Although the permit is still in the name of Sky Trails Ranch, the surrounding property has recently changed hands and the new owners have no plans to allow grazing on their surrounding property and have no plans to allow the current permit holder access to the parcel in the future.

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. There are 7 distinct soils identified in the Soil Survey of Lake County, Oregon Southern Part 1990 within the Schultz allotment (refer to attached map titled “1305 Schultz soils map” for names and locations of identified soils). All of the soils within the allotment belong to a group of map units associated with soils on forested mountain, plateaus, and hills. The vegetation and soils associated with these map units is characterized as “deep to moderately deep soils that support dominantly ponderosa pine, white fir, and western juniper on hills, plateaus, and mountainsides.”

Upon inspection of the allotment in the fall of 2006, it is apparent that only a small portion of the allotment is suited for livestock grazing (approximately 20 acres in size). This area is located primarily in the south east corner of the allotment and is characterized by an open stand of western juniper (*Juniperus occidentalis*) on a south west facing slope. The herbaceous layer within this area consists of Idaho fescue (*Festuca idahoensis*), Thurbers needlegrass (*Achnatherum thurberianum*), bottlebrush squirreltail (*Elymus elymoides*), Sandbergs bluegrass (*Poa secunda*), cheat grass (*Bromus tectorum*), and medusahead wildrye (*Taeniatherum caput-medusae*). The native bunch grasses appeared to be healthy and vigorous with light accumulations of dead material within the interspaces and at the bases of the plants. No rills or evidence of excessive

surface erosion, litter movement, pedestals, or terracettes were evident on any of the sites visited.

The shrub component within this area consists of a few individual scattered sagebrush and bitterbrush plants, many of the shrubs appeared to be dying due to be shaded out by encroaching conifers. Curlleaf mountainmahogany (*Cercocarpus ledifolius*) is present in patches but is dying out also from conifer encroachment. The rest of the allotment primarily consists of dense stands of ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) and white fir (*Abies concolor*) with little understory suitable to grazing. For additional plants observed on the field trip refer to the Botanist Report under **STANDARD 5- Native, T&E, and locally important species.**

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

This standard is not being met. Lotic PFC site inventories have not been completed but from previous site visits professional opinion rates Loveless Creek to be in Functional at risk condition with no apparent trend. At 6.6% this stream is steep with predominately A and F channel types. Being highly entrenched the A and F types do not have a flood plain and sinuosity is appropriate. Due to the nature of the stream there was little riparian vegetation. Large wood in the stream is lacking and is needed to add channel stability. Dogwood and some willow help provide some stability in the lower BLM segment of the stream.

While this stream channel is incised, current grazing management is not a contributing factor to the stream's condition.

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. Most of the plant communities within the allotment are healthy and diverse. Stands of pine and fir are obviously overstocked and in need of thinning and prescribed fire. Much of the nutrient cycling is functioning at a slow rate due to excessive overstocking of conifers and excessive amounts of dead biomass tying up nutrients such as needle cast and dead tree material coating the ground. The hydrologic cycle is probably functioning at its highest potential due to the excessive amounts of biomass on the soil surface- increasing moisture capture, storage, and release.

Wildlife report:

Standard III is being met for animal populations. The allotment is capable of supporting the current and proposed number of mule deer identified by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife management plans. The fourteen AUM's allocated for wildlife in the current RMP are adequate to support wildlife populations.

Weeds Report:

Noxious weeds are known to occur in the allotment. Medusahead rye is present in open areas along the access road and on the downhill slope near the road in the upper end of

the allotment. It is fairly evenly dispersed and widespread, though has not yet formed a monoculture. Mediterranean sage is sparsely scattered throughout the allotment.

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

Meets Standard. Loveless Creek has not been listed as water quality impaired by the Oregon DEQ. It is likely that should temperature data be collected the stream would be listed in the future due to natural conditions. The flow regime of this stream is not known. It appears to be intermittent with some years having perennial flow. Flow regime could be a factor in future water quality listing decisions. Current management is having no negative impact to the water quality.

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:

No BLM special status plant species were found in the Allotment. There is a possibility that *Penstemon glaucinus* (glaucous penstemon), a BLM Sensitive species, could be growing in the allotment. This penstemon has been found growing three miles from the area, in a similar habitat and at the same elevation. None was found during the inspection tour; however, surveys will be conducted in the future to determine if it is there.

Wildlife report:

This standard is being met for native, T&E and locally important wildlife species. The deer populations are healthy and stable in number within the allotment. Habitat quantity and quality do not appear to be limiting population size or health. The allotment also provides habitat for numerous small and nongame birds and mammals common to the Great Basin. There are no known sage grouse leks found within the allotment or pygmy rabbit habitat. The allotment provides habitat for raptors and sensitive bat species, however, no critical habitat or limitations have been identified for any of these species

Team Members

Lance Okeson
Vern Stofleth
Lucile Housley
Erin McConnell
Robert Hopper
Alan Munhall

Title

RMS
Wildlife Biologist
Botanist
Weed Management
Supervisory NRS
Fisheries Biologist

Determination

Existing grazing management practices or levels of grazing use on the #1305 Schultz 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 #3105 Schultz 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

1/19/07

Date

schults #1305

Briggs Garden

Hill Field

Fir Timber Butte

Jones Canyon

Legend

-  1305 shults allotment boundary
-  Bureau of Land Management
-  US Forest Service
-  Private
-  State

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use with other data. Original data were compiled from various sources. This information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This product was developed through digital means and may be updated without notification.

