

## **Rangeland Health Standards Assessment**

### **Allotment #1302 Thomas Creek**

#### **Allotment Overview:**

Allotment boundaries: refer to attached map.

7.5 Minute Topographic Maps: West Side

AUMs of Authorized Use: 30 AUMs

Permitted Season: 6/1- 9/30

Allotment Category: C

Total acres: 40 acres BLM

As stated above Allotment #1302 is a category C meaning custodial. Thomas Creek is a very small allotment and there is little information available on the allotment because of its size and location. Thomas Creek is located approximately 4 miles south of Lakeview, Oregon. The allotment is completely surrounded by private lands which are locked and afford no public access. On September 21, 2005 the Lakeview Resource Area Staff toured the allotment with the permittee. The allotment is in good condition and the permittee is obviously demonstrating good stewardship in managing the BLM in holding along with his private lands.

#### **Grazing Management:**

The allotment is comprised of 40 acres of BLM land with a fence completely around the perimeter with no cross fences. Grazing usually takes place during the late summer for a short period of time each year. The permittee has express interest in haying the allotment and bunch raking the feed for winter use, this would require changing the season of use on the permittees permit.

**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.**

No Ecological Site Inventory (ESI) data is available for allotment #1302. Vegetative conditions on the allotment during the Resource tour were excellent. No areas of bare ground were noted and the allotment is fully vegetated with a mixture of native and introduced species providing adequate soil protection from water and wind erosion. Refer to observed plant list Standard 5 Botanist report.

#### **Weeds Report:**

No noxious weeds are known to occur in the allotment.

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

**Meets Standard.**

Thomas Creek Allotment has 7 acres classified as Palustrine. During a Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) survey in 1998 all 7 acres were rated at PFC. Thomas Creek is in close proximity to the east side of the allotment but is not located on the allotment so no water quality problems are associated and no aquatic habitats exists for fish.

**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:**

This allotment appears to have little grazing use and the plant communities are in good functioning condition with a large diversity of plants. There is a high diversity of grasses and few shrubs in the meadow.

**Wildlife report:**

This allotment supports healthy diverse wildlife populations. Ecological processes and species diversity is adequate to make this allotment functional.

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

**Meets Standard.**

No streams are associated with the allotment; standard does not apply.

**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.**

**Botanist report:**

This area has been surveyed for BLM Bureau special status plants and no plants were found. Special Status Plants: **None.**

List of plants observed on tour:

Grasses

*Becmannia syzigachne* (American sloughgrass)

*Distichlis spicata* (saltgrass)  
*Phleum pretense* (Timothy)  
*Elymus elymoides* (squirrel tail)  
*Deschampsia danthonioides* (hair grass)

Rushes

*Eleocharis macrostachya* (common spike rush)

Forbs

*Trifolium gymnocarpon* (hollyleaf clover)  
*Aster sp.*

**Wildlife report:**

Special status wildlife species or their habitats that are present within this allotment include the bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), ferruginous hawk (*Buteo regalis*), peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), and burrowing owl (*Speotyto cunicularia*). There are also two species with high public interest. These are mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) and pronghorn antelope (*Antilocapra americana*).

No nesting or roosting habitat exists within this allotment for the bald eagle, peregrine falcons or ferruginous hawks. Marginal foraging habitats exist for all three of these species. It is suspected that they may occasionally visit the area; however this is probably a relatively rare occurrence at best. There are no resource conflicts for peregrine falcons, ferruginous hawks or bald eagles.

No observations of burrowing owls exist within the vicinity of the allotment although they may occasionally occur within the allotment. There are no resource conflicts for this species.

Pronghorn antelope and mule deer may occasionally visit portions of the allotment. There is little browse available for deer within the allotment. No major conflicts exist between pronghorn, mule deer and cattle grazing within this allotment.

Overall, this standard is being met for wildlife species within this 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
Allan Munhall	Fisheries Biologist

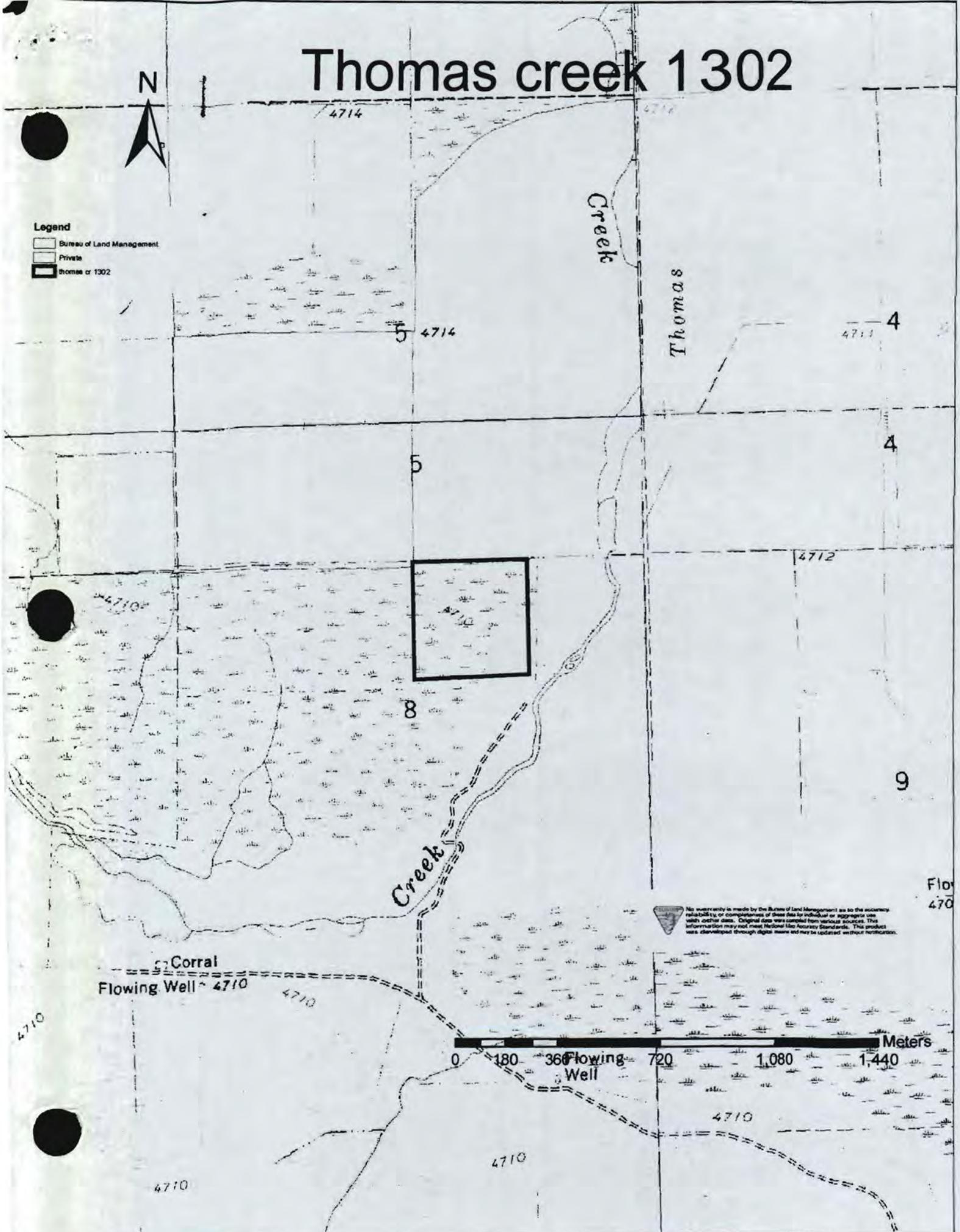


# Thomas creek 1302



### Legend

-  Bureau of Land Management
-  Private
-  Thomas or 1302



Flow  
470

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