

**Standards for Rangeland Health  
and  
Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management  
for  
Public Lands in Oregon and Washington**

**UPDATE for the  
White Rock Allotment**

**8/8/13**

The original White Rock Allotment Rangeland Health Assessment was conducted in 2005.

The White Rock Allotment has a total of 438 acres BLM administered lands. A 5 year permit authorization number 3600245 authorizes 10 AUM's to be used sometime between 5/1-9/30. This is a small custodial allotment grazed in conjunction with private lands. The allotment is primarily comprised of steep slopes 30 to 50 percent. The winter fire burned the area in 2002. The allotment and was rested for two years following the fire and grazing resumed in 2005.

**Summary of Rangeland Health Assessment for White Rock Allotment (00416)**

Standard	Assessment Findings 2005	Current Assessment 2013	Comments
<b>1. Watershed Function – Uplands</b>	Met	Met	No ecological site inventory data is available for this allotment all vegetation current conditions were listed as unknown or unavailable due to the difficulty of access to this area and the small number of acres. Long term trend data collected in 2012 in the area rated Observed Apparent trend as upward with litter accumulating in place and stream channel looks good. There was little bare ground indicating that upland soils were exhibiting infiltration and permeability rates, moisture storage, and stability that are appropriate to soil, climate, and landform. Available trend data show that plant cover and the amount and distribution of bare ground is within the range of variability expected for the vegetation community found. The most abundant plant composition is Wyoming sagebrush on the steeper slopes and crested wheatgrass, bluegrass, some great basin wildrye with appropriate forb cover present at the trend site location.
<b>2. Watershed Function Riparian/ Wetland Areas</b>	Not met	Met	The 2005 RHA states that this standard was not met due to Kelly Creek being a deeply incised channel with rock and very little vegetation. The condition of the creek was a result floods in 1964 and possible subsequent high water years like 1997 flood. PFC was reassessed in 2013 and the condition of the stream is still deeply incised however Kelly creek is very slow to repair as it intermittent and wetland soil takes longer to build. The stream is functioning as it is and isn't likely to change quickly. The team also looked at White Hill Creek which is perennial and in a similar condition as Kelly Creek that is deeply incised due to flooding and highly erosive soil types. Both streams were rated as Functioning at risk with an upward trend and having conditions outside the BLM control as contributing factors to why the stream is not meeting properly functioning. In both stream conditions livestock grazing is not a factor limiting riparian/wetland function. For the majority of the stream livestock are unable to access the riparian vegetation due to vegetation and landform of steep terrain and the deeply incised channel. Livestock grazing utilization on the allotment as a whole is very light.
<b>3. Ecological Processes</b>	Met	Met	The 2005 RHA noted good establishment of vegetation after the fire and moderate ecological conditions with improvement from the fire on juniper reduction and invasion that had been occurring. Plant reproduction is appropriate and organic matter is accumulating in the form of litter and is being incorporated into the soil. Trend photos indicate good vigor of perennial vegetation and upward trend within the allotment. A field trip to the allotment in 2013 showed excellent native grass species diversity, abundance, cover, and vigor of upland plants. Noxious weeds mentioned in the 2005 RHA were medusa head and white top. These occur in the allotment and occupy less than 1 acre. These are being monitored and treated under the current integrated noxious weed management program.
<b>4. Water Quality</b>	Met	Met	This standard is being met. The only perennial stream in the allotment is White Rock Creek. No water quality data exists for this small, non-fish bearing stream. White Rock Creek in the Allotment was determined Functional at Risk with an upward trend in 2013. Survey data and field reconnaissance indicate that road encroachment and naturally highly erodible landscape setting were potential issues with stream function, although they were not thought to be measurably affecting water quality. Water in stream was clear and cold, and thought to be near its potential for quality.

5. Native, T/E, and Locally Important Species	Met	Met	Standard 5 is being met for native T&E and locally important species. Special Status species foraging habitat for bald eagles occurs on the allotment. Marginally suitable habitat for the special status species Lewis woodpeckers occurs within the allotment. Habitats for special status species sage-grouse does occur within the allotment but is fragmented and it is unlikely sage-grouse use the area due to extreme isolation. Mule deer and big horn sheep inhabit the area and surrounding area. No conflicts exist between these wildlife species and cattle grazing within the allotment.
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**Guidelines for Livestock Management**

Existing grazing management practices or levels of grazing use on the White Rock Allotment are consistent with the Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management (August 12, 1997). The pasture is grazed at an appropriate season coordinated with precipitation, plant growth, and plant form to promote appropriate vegetative cover and optimal rangeland health. BLM lands are grazed in coordination with private lands to minimize conflicts and promote adequate livestock distribution.

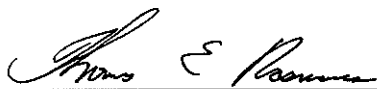
**2013 Team Members**

Name	Title
Lori Crumley	Rangeland Management Specialist
Vern Stofleth	Wildlife Biologist
Theresa Romasko	Assistant Field Manager
Grace Haskins	Weed Management Specialist
Bill Cannon	Archeologist
Jimmy Leal	Fisheries Biologist
Chris Bishop	Recreation
Todd Forbes	Assistant Field Manager

**2013 Determination**

Existing grazing management practices or levels of grazing use on the White Rock 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 White Rock 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.

  
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 Thomas E. Rasmussen, Field Manager

9/17/13  
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 Date

## White Rock Allotment Monitoring Summary (2013):

The livestock grazing on the White Rock Allotment includes one 5 year lease permits for 10 AUM's from 5/1-9/30. Historically livestock used this area to trail through onto the forest however, much of the trailing has ceased and the pasture is now used by a few livestock on an as needed bases yearly. Use since the fire in 2001 has been very light and limited. Utilization was observed to be 35% on key forage species in 1992 and 3 to 6% in 2013. No other utilization has been recorded for this allotment due to difficult access primarily by horseback or walking only. In 2013, notes were made that vegetation both upland and riparian were very healthy and had high vigor. Proper Functioning and Conditioning (PFC) was completed on both White Hill Creek and Kelly Creek and found to be Functional At Risk (FAR) with upwards trends. Both creeks were highly incised due to historical conditions and not related to livestock grazing.

### Actual Use

Actual use was not historically submitted or required due to the custodial category of this allotment. The following is a partial record of permittee submitted actual use.

Year	White Rock AUMs
2012	9
2011	7
2010	10
2009	10
2008	7
2007	10
2006	9
2005	rest
2004	Rest
2003	Rest
2002	Fire
1980	10

Photo Trend- Photos show good establishment of perennial vegetation promoting soil stability and a diversity of grasses forbs and shrubs on site.

### Observed Apparent Trend

BC-01	2012
Vigor	10
Seedlings	7
Surface Litter	5
Pedestals	4
Gullies	5
<b>Total</b>	31
<b>Rating</b>	<i>Upward</i>

### Long term trend vegetative cover

PF-8	2012
Bare Ground	9
Litter	33
Rock/Gravel	6
Vegetation	52