

EVALUATION AND DETERMINATION
Achieving the OR/WA Standards for Rangeland Health
and
Conformance with the Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management

Field Office: Medford Determination Date: 11/19/2008
 Grazing Allotment Name & Number: Crowfoot Creek #10039

Standard 1 Watershed Function – Uplands Standard doesn't apply

1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meeting the Standard	5 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, cause not determined
2 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, but making significant progress towards	
3 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, current livestock grazing management practices are not significant factors (list important causal agents)	6 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conforms with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management.
4 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, current livestock grazing management practices are significant factors (list important causal agents)	7 <input type="checkbox"/> Does not conform with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management (list Guidelines No(s) in non-conformance)

Rationale: The main soil limitations affecting livestock grazing are erosion, compaction, the depth to bedrock, and the steepness of slope. This season of use and number of cattle does not significantly diminish the health and function of the watershed by maintaining adequate vegetative cover, healthy root systems, and soil moisture content that prevents soil compaction. These factors aid in maintaining existing infiltration, percolation, runoff and erosion rates. There was no departure from what would be expected at a pine-Douglas fir fescue ecological site pertaining to the soil site stability.

Standard 2 Watershed Function – Riparian/Wetland Areas Standard doesn't apply

1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meeting the Standard	5 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, cause not determined
2 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, but making significant progress towards	
3 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, current livestock grazing management practices are not significant factors	6 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conforms with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management.
4 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, current livestock grazing management practices are significant factors	7 <input type="checkbox"/> Does not conform with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management (list Guidelines No(s) in non-conformance)

Rationale: Crowfoot Creek and several of its tributaries lack structure and large woody debris recruitment. On several of the intermittent tributaries of Crowfoot Creek, downcutting and sidewall erosion has been observed. Many streams lack structure, but do not appear to be unstable. The general stability of this drainage network can be attributed to bedrock control of many of the streams. Nonetheless, some horizontal instability has been documented as seen in channel definition and migration. Approximately 60% of the surveyed streams in the allotment are in Proper Functional Condition. Forty percent of the surveyed streams are Functional At Risk; of these only one stream segment has a Downward trend, but can be attributed to a road crossing. Active erosion was only noted on 10% of the surveyed streams. Cattle grazing was observed, but does not appear to negatively influence hydrology.

Standard 3 Ecological Processes Standard doesn't apply

1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meeting the Standard	5 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, cause not determined
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3 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, current livestock grazing management practices are not significant factors	6 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conforms with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management.
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Rationale: In areas of coniferous forest and under the oak canopy we found conditions expected for the sites, which indicate that the energy, nutrient, and hydrologic cycles are balanced. Annual non-native grasses are scattered in patches through out the non-wooded areas within the allotment. Annual grasses reduce habitat quality for wildlife, have shallow root systems and short life cycles and thus have reduced capacity to hold the soil and retain water and nutrients. Annual

non-native grassland furthermore often accumulates a layer of thatch where decomposition and nutrient cycling are different than in native bunchgrass plant communities. However, current livestock grazing is not intense enough to contribute to additional conversion of native plant communities to exotic annual grasslands.

Standard 4 Water Quality Standard doesn't apply

1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meeting the Standard	5 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, cause not determined
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3 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, current livestock grazing management practices are not significant factors	6 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conforms with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management.
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Rationale: Within the Crowfoot Creek Allotment there are no known listed streams on DEQs 2004/2006 303 (d) list. Big Butte Creek (approximately one-third mile downstream), however, is listed for summer stream temperature, *E. coli* and dissolved oxygen from its mouth to stream mile 11.6. Grazing on the Crowfoot Creek Allotment is not a significant contributing factor to the 303 (d) listing downstream of the allotment because the grazing is not intense enough, the stream is bedrock dominated, and there is very little to no water in the creek during the authorized period.

Standard 5 Native, T&E, and Locally Important Species Standard doesn't apply

1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meeting the Standard	5 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, cause not determined
2 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, but making significant progress towards	
3 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, current livestock grazing management practices are not significant factors	6 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conforms with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management.
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Rationale: The allotment is meeting the Standards and Guidelines for protection of habitat for terrestrial and aquatic wildlife species. Current use levels on this allotment are light-moderate therefore; special status species are not likely to be adversely affected by the grazing use. The short duration of grazing here will not have any impact on the northern spotted owl's ability to

forage, nor will it remove any mature trees it requires for nesting. There are no effects to federally listed SONC coho salmon or their critical habitat at the sixth field project level as a result of this action.

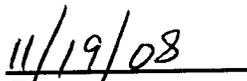
The allotment is also meeting the Standards and Guidelines for protection of habitat of special status vascular and non-vascular plant species. The special status species could be negatively impacted if trampled or grazed by cows but do not currently appear to be threatened. The allotment is within the range of one federally endangered plant, *Fritillaria gentneri*; however, no sites have been documented within the allotment. On-going treatment and monitoring of the yellow star-thistle populations in the allotment should continue to prevent further degradation of the plant communities.

Field Manager's Determination Rationale:

Because Rangeland Health Standards are being met, or there is adequate rationale that cattle are not the significant factor where standards are not met, I have determined the Rangeland health Assessment (RHA) is being met and livestock grazing conforms with the Oregon/Washington standards for rangeland health.



David J. Hughes, Acting Field Manager



Date