STANDARDS FOR RANGELAND HEALTH

AND

GUIDELINES FOR LIVESTOCK GRAZING MANAGEMENT

EVALUATION AND DETERMINATION OF PUBLIC LANDS ALONG THE JOHN DAY RIVER, SEGMENT 3 RIVER MILES (RM) 109 TO 156

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I. Evaluation

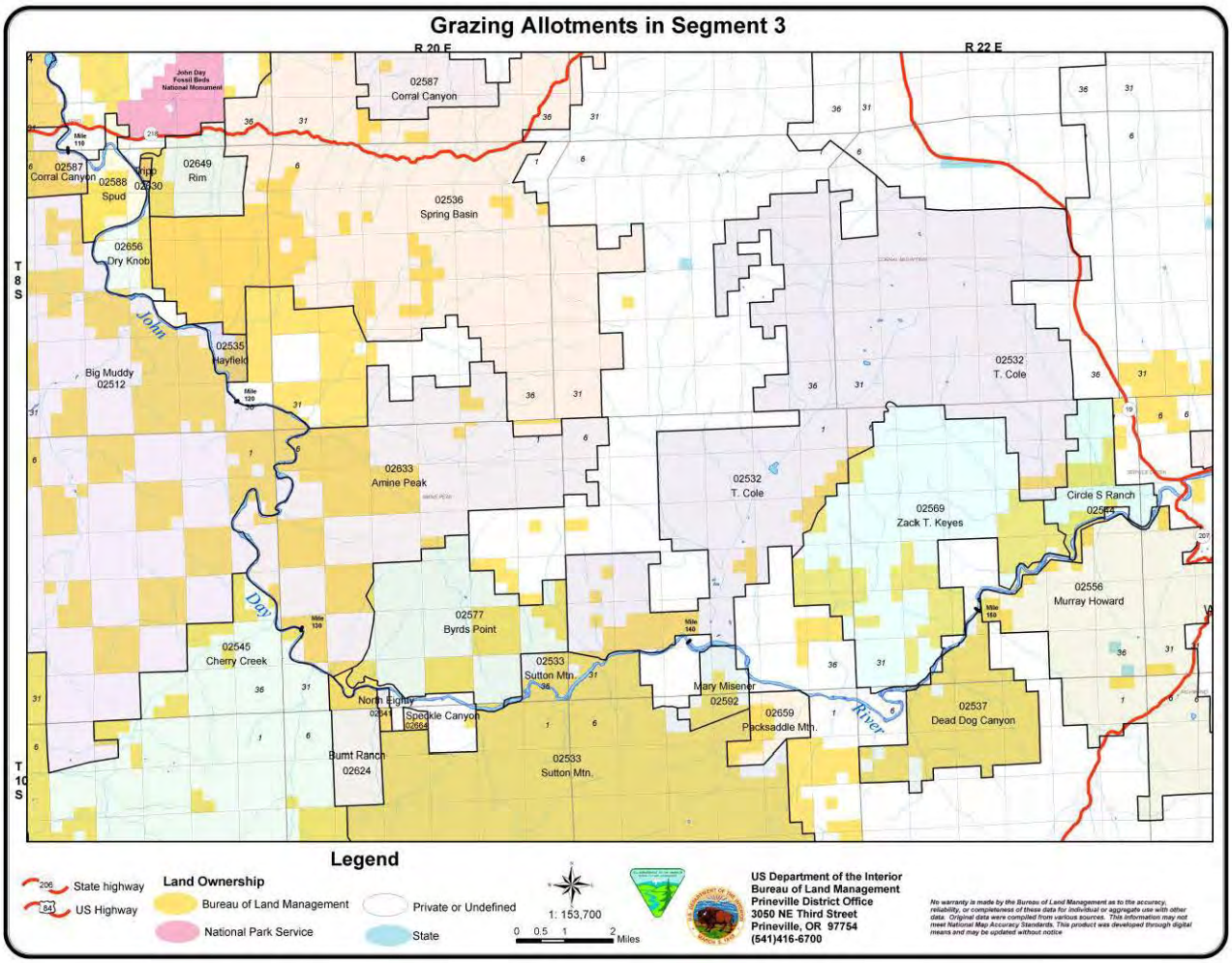
A. Area evaluated

This assessment covers BLM managed grazing allotments along the John Day River from RM 109 to 156. (See Map and Section III). This section of the river is referred to as Segment 3 and contains 22 grazing allotments which are part of the John Day River Wild and Scenic Corridor. Each allotment is managed according to the requirements of the John Day River Management Plan (Record of Decision, John Day River Proposed Management Plan, Two Rivers and John Day Resource Management Plan Amendments, February 2001). The map shows location of all 22 allotments, although, 13 are analyzed in this assessment and the remaining nine will be analyzed in separate documents during 2003. (See Section II.A).

B. Background

This document complies with Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations 4180 (Standards of Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Management) and The Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management for Public Lands Administered by the Bureau of Land Management in the States of Oregon and Washington, dated August 12, 1997. In order to comply, the process described in the Rangeland Health Standards Handbook (H-4180-1) is followed. The Handbook defines three steps in the process: assessment, evaluation and determination. The assessment defines the current resource conditions by using historic and newly collected information. The evaluation analyzes all information, including professional judgement, in relation to how well the Standards and Guidelines are being met. The determination is the statement of achievement or non-achievement for each Standard, list of causal factors if a Standard is not achieved or moving towards achievement, and conformance or non-conformance with the Guidelines. If corrective action is necessary due to livestock grazing, a plan is developed which will correct the problem and then implemented.

The management of public lands within allotments in the Wild and Scenic Corridor of Segment 3 was addressed in the June 2000, "John Day River Management Plan, Two Rivers, John Day, and Baker Resource Management Plan Amendments" Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and the February 2001, Record of Decision (ROD), for the FEIS. Within the FEIS each individual grazing allotment was specifically addressed with respect to current resource conditions, resource trends, and grazing management, which is equivalent to the three phases for determining the degree of compliance with the Standards and Guidelines. The alternatives and ultimately the


Grazing Allotments in Segment 3
R 20 E
R 22 E
T 8 S
T 10 S
John Day Fossil Beds National Monument
02587 Corral Canyon
02588 Spud
02649 Rim
02536 Spring Basin
02656 Dry Knob
02535 Hayfield
Big Muddy 02512
02633 Amine Peak
02532 T. Cole
02569 Zack T. Keyes
Circle S Ranch
02556 Murray Howard
02577 Byrds Point
02545 Cherry Creek
02533 Sutton Mtn.
Mary Misener 02592
02659 Packsaddle Mtn.
02537 Dead Dog Canyon
Norm Eighty
Speckle Canyon
Burnt Ranch 02624
John Day River
Legend
State highway
US Highway
Land Ownership
Bureau of Land Management
National Park Service
Private or Undefined
State
1: 153,700
0 0.5 1 2 Miles
US Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Prineville District Office
3050 NE Third Street
Prineville, OR 97754
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decisions for grazing management all were required to protect and enhance the outstanding and remarkable values (ORVs) of the Wild and Scenic River (WSR). The ORVs for the John Day WSR include scenic, recreation, fish, wildlife, geological, paleontological, archaeological and historical values. Botanical and ecological values are also significant. These ORVs are consistent with and inclusive of all five of the Standards for Healthy Rangelands and the Guidelines for Grazing Management. In addition, consultation required by the Endangered Species Act has been completed for the grazing management prescribed by the WSR Plan. The ROD acts a plan of action to correct problems resulting from grazing, along with other actions, as identified and analyzed in the FEIS.

In order to fully comply with the process outlined in the Handbook (H-4180-1), the Interdisciplinary Team (ID) reviewed all grazing allotments in Segment 3 covered in the FEIS and ROD. At this review, the ID Team selected those allotments where there was sufficient information and professional knowledge to make a determination as to the adequacy of meeting the Standards and Guidelines. The allotments which either need additional upland assessment work or will be part of the Sutton Mountain Coordinated Resource Management Plan assessment are listed with the Standards Summary Table. This document is the final process in making a determination of adequacy for the 13 allotments evaluated.

D. Standards evaluated

The Standards used are described in the publication "Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management for Public Lands Administered by the Bureau of Land Management in the States of Oregon and Washington, August 12, 1997."

Standard 1 Watershed Function - Uplands Upland soils exhibit infiltration and permeability rates, moisture storage and stability that are appropriate to soil, climate and landform.

Standard 2 Watershed Function - Riparian/Wetland Areas Riparian-wetland areas are in properly functioning physical condition appropriate to soil, climate, and landform.

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.

Standard 4 Water Quality Surface water and groundwater quality,

influenced by agency actions, complies with State water quality standards.

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.

E. Indicators used to evaluate the status of the standards

Standard 1 Watershed Function – Uplands

Amount and distribution of plant cover (including forest canopy cover), plus plant composition and community structure were looked at with respect to what was expected from Range Site Descriptions provided by the Soil Conservation Service and summarized in the Oregon Automated Ecological Site Information System, Oregon State Office, Bureau of Land Management (1979).

Standard 2 Watershed Function - Riparian/Wetland Areas

Properly Functioning Condition (PFC) assessments conducted by an interdisciplinary team of resource specialists.

Standard 3 Ecological Processes

Amount and distribution of plant cover (including forest canopy cover), plus plant composition and community structure were looked at with respect to what was expected from Range Site Descriptions provided by the Soil Conservation Service and summarized in the Oregon Automated Ecological Site Information System, Oregon State Office, Bureau of Land Management (1979).

Standard 4 Water Quality

Water temperatures were evaluated with respect to their effects on beneficial uses (i.e., effects of management activities on beneficial uses as defined under the Clean Water Act and State implementing regulations).

Standard 5 Native, T&E, and Locally Important Species

Knowledge of plant, fish, and animal populations with respect to their assumed range of occurrence. Threatened and Endangered Species listings.

F. Data and information sources used in the evaluation

1) John Day River Proposed Management Plan, Two Rivers and John Day Resource

Management Plan Amendments and Final Environmental Impact Statement, June 2000
2) Two Rivers Resource Management Plan, Record of Decision, Rangeland Program Summary, June 1986
3) Two Rivers Resource Management Plan, Environmental Impact Statement, 1985
4) Biological Assessment, June 1999
5) Biological Opinion, November 1999
6) Properly Functioning Condition (PFC) Evaluation, Segment 3, June 1997
7) Allotment vegetation and riparian monitoring studies
8) Weed inventories, 1995 to present
9) State of Oregon, Department of Environmental Quality, 303(d) listings
10) Oregon Natural Heritage Information Center: Rare, Threatened and Endangered Plants and Animals of Oregon
11) Professional knowledge, resource specialists

G. Conclusions

The geology and landforms of the lower John Day River canyon have a major influence on current vegetation and ecological conditions. The landforms also influence how past and present livestock use has impacted the land. The steep slopes of canyons have received the least amount of grazing use and are generally in late seral or climax ecological status. These communities are diverse and highly functional and are therefore considered to meet Standards 1, 3, and 5.

Low gradient terraces, shelves, ridgetops, and canyon rims range from early seral to climax ecological status. Many such areas near water sources have had more historic, often improper, livestock use and do not provide a diverse plant community. Other areas of this type have been cultivated in the past and then abandoned and many are still in early stages of recovery. Some of these areas have been invaded by exotic species. Where cheatgrass or other weeds overwhelm native plant communities, the resulting communities clearly do not meet Standards 1, 3, and 5, nor are they ever likely to progress out of their 'stable state' towards meeting standards until intensive treatment can be undertaken. Improving livestock management, or even eliminating livestock grazing, alone would not allow recovery. Where weed treatments and seedings have been undertaken, such communities have usually shown improvement, but do not yet meet Standards 1, 3, and 5.

The riparian areas along the river and the alluvial valleys of tributaries have historically received greater amounts of use by livestock. Professional judgement indicates that these areas are in early or mid seral ecological status. Since riparian areas are moist, they respond more quickly to management. Recent management

implementation is moving riparian areas towards meeting the standards.

The John Day River does not meet the water quality temperature standards defined by Oregon Department of Environmental Quality for section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act. However, water quality is a landscape scale issue. BLM administers only 8% of land within the watershed and public land on an individual grazing allotment occupies much less acreage than that. Since Standards 1, 2, and 3 address the hydrologic cycle within a grazing allotment, public lands must attain those standards if they are not to contribute to water quality problems. If the hydrologic cycle is disrupted, there is the potential for public lands to contribute to non-attainment of the water quality standard. Recent sensitivity to water and fish issues by landowners throughout the basin has led to wide scale watershed improvement projects. These projects are showing successes which are being reflected in improvements in water quality.

H. Interdisciplinary (ID) Evaluation Team

Lyle Andrews	Rangeland Management Specialist
Scott Cooke	Wildlife Biologist
Rick Demmer	Natural Resource Specialist
Ron Halvorson	Botanist
Craig Obermiller	Rangeland Management Specialist
Brent Ralston	Fish Biologist
Anna Smith	Hydrologist
Dan Tippy	Assistant Field Manager

II. Determination

A. Status of the public lands with respect to standards

The following table is a summary of the determinations made for each allotment in Section III, Allotment Descriptions.

Standards Summary Table						
Key: **Y** = meeting standard **N+** = not meeting standard but moving to attainment **NA** = not applicable to public land						
Allotment Number	Allotment Name	Standard 1 Watershed Function - Uplands	Standard 2 Watershed Function - Riparian Wetland Areas	Standard 3 Ecological Processes	Standard 4 Water Quality	Standard 5 Native, T&E, & Locally Important Species
2633	Amine Peak	Y	N+	Y	N+	N+
2512	Big Muddy	N+	N+	N+	N+	N+
2624	Burnt Ranch	N+	N+	N+	N+	N+
2577	Byrd's Point	Y	N+	Y	N+	N+
2544	Circle S	Y	N+	Y	N+	N+
2587	Corral Canyon	N-	N+	N-	N+	N-
2656	Dry Knob	Y	N+	Y	N+	N+
2535	Hayfield	Y	N+	Y	N+	N+
2649	Rim	N+	NA	N+	NA	Y
2536	Spring Basin	Y	NA	Y	NA	Y
2588	Spud	Y	N+	Y	N+	N+
2532	T. Cole	Y	N+	Y	N+	N+
2630	Tripp	Y	N+	Y	N+	N+

The following allotments need additional upland assessment work which is planned for 2003: North 80 2641, Cherry Creek 2545, Murray Howard 2556, Zack Keys 2569 and Zack Keys 2570. Also, the following allotments will be addressed as part of the Sutton Mountain Coordinated Resource Management Plan assessment planned for 2003: Dead Dog 2537, Misener 2592, Packsaddle 2659 and Sutton Mountain 2533.

B. List of causal factors for not achieving standards

Within the evaluation area, Standards 1, 3, and 5 are not being met in site specific areas. The causal factors for non-attainment in these areas are to a great extent historic, improper livestock grazing practices and the introduction of non-native plants (for example, cheatgrass, diffuse knapweed) which have slowed the recolonization of abused sites by native plants.

Riparian areas and water quality are influenced greatly by watershed scale processes. On the John Day river the pattern of runoff has changed dramatically due to historic human activities which did not focus on watershed protection. Improper, historic practices (during activities such as mining, road construction, logging, grazing, agriculture, fire suppression) have caused increases in spring flows and sediment loads which have contributed to the widening of the river channel.

C. Status of the grazing management with respect to guidelines

Levels of authorized harvest by livestock were adjusted according to an inventory of the forage resource such that soil cover is maintained. The grazing prescriptions are designed to meet the physiological needs of the desirable plant species found on the allotment by providing rest during the critical growing period and avoiding concentrations of livestock on the riparian areas. Grazing management systems were developed to fit into the year-round management strategy and resources of the lessees and meet the nutritional and herd health requirements. Livestock distribution will continue to be improved through implementation of projects described in the Record of Decision - John Day River Management Plan, Two Rivers, John Day, and Baker Resource Management Plan Amendments, signed February 2001.

D. Date and signature

_____ _____

Danny L. Tippy Date

Acting Manager Central Oregon Resource Area

Note: The signed determination is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal

III. Allotment Description

2633 Amine Peak Allotment

Location:	River Miles 122.0 - 131.6
Category:	I
AUMs within lease:	294
Miles of river bank	private 5.7 public 3.9
Acres within allotment	private 11,062 public 4349
Riparian management in 2002	rested 2002; spring
Upland management in 2002	rested 2002; spring
Riparian monitoring	Willow Report: shows an increase in willow communities from 0.0 river miles in 1981 to 0.58 river miles in 1995. Field observations indicate willows increasing in density and area covered.
Upland monitoring	Trend plot (Daubenmire) established in 1995 has not been remeasured. A second Daubenmire study was established in 2002. Field observations indicate good vigor and high density of bluebunch wheatgrass on hill slopes and sand dropseed on alluvial flats.
1980 Ecological Status:	climax: 348 acres late seral: 1479 acres mid seral: 1304 acres early seral: 1218 acres unclassified: 0 acres

Comments: Historically, this allotment was used heavily by cattle and during the 1970s and 1980s. In addition, trespass cattle and horses were a problem each year. New ownership of adjacent ranches, new lessees, elimination of the horse trespass, and increased livestock compliance has drastically reduced the level of use. The new lessees will be taking nonuse for two to three years while a management plan is developed jointly with the BLM. The plan will emphasize continuing watershed and riparian improvement.

Results of Determination

Standard 1 Watershed Function - Uplands

Meeting the Standard

Rational: The majority of the upland acres are in mid seral condition or better which is considered functioning. Historically, due to heavy livestock grazing, native bunchgrasses were drastically reduced in drainage bottoms and on low elevation slopes; however, field observations over the past few years indicate a large increase of sand dropseed and needle-and-thread grass on the early seral alluvial flats along the John Day. Bluebunch wheatgrass is returning to the larger drainage bottoms and low elevation slopes, but at a much slower rate. Based on professional

judgement, some of the early seral acres in 1980 may be rated at mid seral today. Approximately 200 acres of medusahead and 75 acres of knapweed are present.

Standard 2 Watershed Function - Riparian/Wetland Areas
Not meeting the Standard, but Making Significant Progress Towards Attainment

Rational: The PFC rating in 1997 was Functional - At Risk with an Upward trend. Based on field observations over the last few years and the 1995 Willow Report, density and area of willows is increasing. Also, the amount of herbaceous riparian vegetation is increasing, particularly clumped sedge.

Standard 3 Watershed Function - Uplands
Meeting the Standard

Rational: The same rational as Standard 1.

Standard 4 Water Quality
Not meeting the Standard, but Making Significant Progress Towards Attainment

Rational: The John Day River is a 303(d) listed water body. Riparian and upland conditions are improving.

Standard 5 Native, T&E, and Locally Important Species
Not meeting the Standard, but Making Significant Progress Towards Attainment

Rational: The Mid Columbia Steelhead is listed as an endangered species. Riparian conditions are improving and the favorable upland conditions on the allotment are allowing significant progress towards re-establishment of important plant species.

Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management
Conforms with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management

Rational: Levels of authorized harvest by livestock were adjusted according to an inventory of the forage resource such that soil cover is maintained. The grazing prescriptions are designed to meet the physiological needs of the desirable plant species found on the allotment and avoid concentrations of livestock on the riparian areas.

III. Allotment Description

2512 Big Muddy Allotment

Location:	River Miles 114.5 - 128.1
Category:	I
AUMs within lease:	605
Miles of river bank	private 8.0 public 5.6
Acres within allotment	private 64,483 public 14,890
Riparian management in 2002	rested 2000, 2001 and 2002; spring
Upland management in 2002	Rest-rotation and deferred depending on the forage year.
Riparian monitoring	Photo point on Currant Creek established in 1987 and Remeasured in 1994. There was no discernable change. Willow Report shows an increase in willow communities from 0 river miles in 1981 to 0.47 river miles in 1995. Field observations indicate an increase of willow, clumped sedge and reed grasses.
Upland monitoring	Trend plot (3x3 photoplot) west of Melendy Ridge was established in 1987 and remeasured in 1994. There is no discernable change. Trend plot (3x3 photoplot) in Domogalla Canyon was established in 1987, not found in 1994, study reestablished. Trend plot (3x3 photoplot) in Currant Creek Canyon was established in 1987, not found in 1994, study reestablished. Field observations indicate upland areas improving with increased plant vigor and seedling establishment. Wagner Mtn. and Dry Creek Pastures show the most improvement.
1980 Ecological Status:	climax: 197 acres late seral: 1861 acres mid seral: 4211 acres early seral: 8070 acres unclassified: 551 acres

Comments: The Big Muddy Ranch is under new ownership with a focus on resource improvement. The owners are constructing fences, maintaining old ones, and developing springs to improve livestock distribution. They have initiated stream restoration work in cooperation with NRCS and State of Oregon, which involves excluding stream reaches from grazing and planting woody riparian vegetation. All pastures appear to be improving with control of livestock, more rotation, and attention to utilization levels. The two largest riparian pastures along the river have been in non-use for three years. The lower reaches of Little Muddy Creek and Current Creek have been excluded from livestock use and the upper reaches are managed for riparian improvement.

Results of Determination

Standard 1 Watershed Function - Uplands

Not meeting the Standard, but Making Significant Progress Towards Attainment

Rational: Past heavy livestock grazing created the high number of early seral acres. Medusahead and knapweed have invaded some of these sites, but recent field observations indicate existing mid, late and climax sites are doing well. Also, early seral sites without high weed densities are showing improvement with establishment of sand dropseed, needle-and-thread grass, and small amounts of bluebunch wheatgrass.

Standard 2 Watershed Function - Riparian/Wetland Areas
Not meeting the Standard, but Making Significant Progress Towards Attainment

Rational: The PFC rating in 1997 was Functional - At Risk with an Upward trend. Based on field observations over the last fifteen years and the 1995 Willow Report, density and area occupied by willows is increasing. Also, the amount of herbaceous riparian vegetation is increasing, particularly clumped sedge.

Standard 3 Watershed Function - Uplands
Not meeting the Standard, but Making Significant Progress Towards Attainment

Rational: The same rational as Standard 1.

Standard 4 Water Quality
Not meeting the Standard, but Making Significant Progress Towards Attainment

Rational: The John Day River is a 303(d) listed water body. Progress towards attainment is being made due to improving uplands and riparian areas.

Standard 5 Native, T&E, and Locally Important Species
Not meeting the Standard, but Making Significant Progress Towards Attainment

Rational: The Mid Columbia Steelhead is listed as an endangered species. Riparian conditions are improving and the favorable upland conditions on the allotment are allowing significant progress towards re-establishment of important plant species.

Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management
Conforms with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management

Rational: Levels of authorized harvest by livestock were adjusted according to an inventory of the forage resource such that soil cover is maintained. The grazing prescriptions are designed to meet the physiological needs of the desirable plant species found on the allotment and avoid concentrations of livestock on the riparian areas.

III. Allotment Description

2624 Burnt Ranch Allotment

Location:	River Miles 131.6 - 133.0
Category:	C
AUMs within lease:	7
Miles of river bank	private 0.0 public 1.4
Acres within allotment	private 2080 public 328
Riparian management in 2002	rested 2000, 2001 and 2002; early spring (between March 15 and April 15) for two weeks every other year.
Upland management in 2002	early spring use.
Riparian monitoring	Willow Report: shows an increase in willow communities from 0.0 river miles in 1981 to 0.46 river miles in 1995. Field observations indicate an increase of willow and clumped sedge. Observations in 2002 indicate an increase in willow area along the riverbanks.
Upland monitoring	Trend plot (3x3 photoplot) in the River Pasture (riparian management pasture) was established in 1989 and remeasured in 1995. Grazing occurred each spring during the critical growing season until 1997 when it changed to two weeks use every other year. Monitoring shows an increase in *Oryzopsis hymenoides*. Field observations indicate bunchgrasses are increasing.
1980 Ecological Status:	climax: 0 acres late seral: 0 acres mid seral: 0 acres early seral: 316 acres unclassified: 12 acres

Comments: Historically the public land, which is adjacent to the river, received heavy grazing. A fence in 1984 essentially separated the public and private land, plus a change in grazing use, allowed for increased recovery. A high level of recreation use occurs on public land at the "sandy beach" are near Burnt Ranch Rapids. Control of vehicle access has been implemented and the boat launch area has been relocated down river.

Results of Determination

Standard 1 Watershed Function - Uplands

Not meeting the Standard, but Making Significant Progress Towards Attainment

Rational: Past heavy livestock grazing created the early seral condition. Medusahead has invaded some locations, but early seral sites without high weed densities are showing improvement with establishment of sand dropseed and needle-and-thread grass. Good grazing practices and construction of a fence are improving watershed functioning.

Standard 2 Watershed Function - Riparian/Wetland Areas
Not meeting the Standard, but Making Significant Progress Towards Attainment

Rational: The PFC rating in 1997 was Functional - At Risk with an Upward trend. Based on recent field observations and the 1995 Willow Report, density and area occupied by willows is increasing. Also, the amount of herbaceous riparian vegetation is increasing, particularly clumped sedge.

Standard 3 Watershed Function - Uplands
Not meeting the Standard, but Making Significant Progress Towards Attainment

Rational: The same rational as Standard 1.

Standard 4 Water Quality
Not meeting the Standard, but Making Significant Progress Towards Attainment

Rational: The John Day River is a 303(d) listed water body. Riparian areas are recovering and upland conditions are improving.

Standard 5 Native, T&E, and Locally Important Species
Not meeting the Standard, but Making Significant Progress Towards Attainment

Rational: The Mid Columbia Steelhead is listed as an endangered species. Riparian conditions are improving and the favorable upland conditions on the allotment are allowing significant progress towards re-establishment of important plant species.

Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management
Conforms with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management

Rational: Levels of authorized harvest by livestock were adjusted according to an inventory of the forage resource such that soil cover is maintained. The grazing prescriptions are designed to meet the physiological needs of the desirable plant species found on the allotment and avoid concentrations of livestock on the riparian areas.

III. Allotment Description

2577 Byrd's Point Allotment

Location:	River Miles 131.7 - 134.2 River Miles 135.3 - 136.4
Category:	I
AUMs within lease:	94
Miles of river bank	private 1.6 public 2.0
Acres within allotment	private 4612 public 1455
Riparian management in 2002	exclusion
Upland management in 2002	spring use
Riparian monitoring	Willow Report: shows an increase in willow communities from 0.0 river miles in 1981 to 0.35 river miles in 1995. Field observations indicate willow are increasing.
Upland monitoring	Trend plot (Daubenmire), established in 1993, could not be located in 2002, but observations indicated good stands of bluebunch wheatgrass with some sand dropseed.
1980 Ecological Status:	climax: 224 acres late seral: 495 acres mid seral: 442 acres early seral: 402 acres unclassified: 0 acres

Comments: The landowner has entered into partnerships with NRCS and ODF&W to seed private land (early seral condition) and exclude the riparian zone by fencing both the public and private land along the John Day in 1999. The riparian zone has shown an initial flush of willows.

Results of Determination

Standard 1 Watershed Function - Uplands
Meeting the Standard

Rational: The majority of the upland acres are in mid seral condition or better which indicates a large ratio is functioning as desired. Medusahead has occupied some of the early seral sites.

Standard 2 Watershed Function - Riparian/Wetland Areas
Not meeting the Standard, but Making Significant Progress Towards Attainment

Rational: The PFC rating in 1997 was Functional - At Risk with an Upward trend. Based on field observations over the last few years and the 1995 Willow Report, density and area of willows is increasing especially since the riparian fence was constructed.

Standard 3 Watershed Function - Uplands
Meeting the Standard

Rational: The same rational as Standard 1.

Standard 4 Water Quality
Not meeting the Standard, but Making Significant Progress Towards Attainment

Rational: The John Day River is a 303(d) listed water body. Riparian areas are recovering and uplands are improving where needed.

Standard 5 Native, T&E, and Locally Important Species
Not meeting the Standard, but Making Significant Progress Towards Attainment

Rational: The Mid Columbia Steelhead is listed as an endangered species. Riparian conditions are improving and the favorable upland conditions are allowing significant progress towards re-establishment of important plant species where needed.

Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management
Conforms with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management

Rational: Levels of authorized harvest by livestock were adjusted according to an inventory of the forage resource such that soil cover is maintained. The grazing prescriptions are designed to meet the physiological needs of the desirable plant species found on the allotment and avoid concentrations of livestock on the riparian areas. The fenced riparian zone has maximized the rate of recovery.

III. Allotment Description

2544 Circle S Allotment

Location: River Miles 153.7 - 156.0
Category: I

AUMs within lease:	16
Miles of river bank	private 1.5 public 0.8
Acres within allotment	private 1596 public 598
Riparian management in 2002	spring
Upland management in 2002	spring
Riparian monitoring	Photo point at river mile 153.8, established in 1989 and remeasured in 1994. Sporadic livestock trespass prior to 1998. Monitoring shows no obvious change. Willow Report: shows an increase in willow communities from 0.0 river miles in 1981 to 0.15 river miles in 1995. Field observations indicate an increase of willow and clumped sedge.
Upland monitoring	Trend plot (3x3 photoplot) was established in 1989 and remeasured in 1994. Sporadic livestock trespass prior to 1998. Monitoring shows an increase in *Stipa comata*. Field observations indicate an improvement in vigor and density of needle-and-thread and sand dropseed grasses.
1980 Ecological Status:	climax: 0 acres late seral: 0 acres mid seral: 499 acres early seral: 0 acres unclassified: 19 acres

Comments: This allotment has a steep rocky upland pasture and a small riparian one along the John Day River. Contrary to the 1980 inventory, the public land in the upland pasture appears to be in mostly late seral condition and the riparian pasture is mid seral with thirty acres in early seral condition due to knapweed. The riparian pasture has not been used by the lessee for eight years due to difficulty in moving cattle to this area and it's small size; however, the pasture has been plagued by trespass livestock during that time. This problem was stopped in 1998 with construction of a fence. The pasture has been completely rested (no authorized or trespass use) since 1998.

Results of Determination

Standard 1 Watershed Function - Uplands

Meeting the Standard

Rational: The majority of the upland acres are in mid seral condition or better which means a large proportion is functioning as desired. Field observations and the upland monitoring study indicate conditions are still improving. Medusahead has occupied some of the early seral sites.

Standard 2 Watershed Function - Riparian/Wetland Areas

Not meeting the Standard, but Making Significant Progress Towards Attainment

Rational: The PFC rating in 1997 was Functional - At Risk with an Upward trend. Based on field observations over the last few years and the 1995 Willow Report, density and area of

willows are increasing.

Standard 3 Watershed Function - Uplands
Meeting the Standard

Rational: The same rational as Standard 1.

Standard 4 Water Quality
Not meeting the Standard, but Making Significant Progress Towards Attainment

Rational: The John Day River is a 303(d) listed water body. Progress towards attainment is being made due to functioning uplands and an improving riparian areas.

Standard 5 Native, T&E, and Locally Important Species
Not meeting the Standard, but Making Significant Progress Towards Attainment

Rational: The Mid Columbia Steelhead is listed as an endangered species. Riparian conditions are improving and the favorable upland conditions are allowing significant progress towards re-establishment of important plant species where needed.

Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management
Conforms with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management

Rational: Levels of authorized harvest by livestock were adjusted according to an inventory of the forage resource such that soil cover is maintained. The grazing prescriptions are designed to meet the physiological needs of the desirable plant species found on the allotment and avoid concentrations of livestock on the riparian areas.

III. Allotment Description

2587 Corral Canyon Allotment

Location:	River Miles 109.6 - 111.4
Category:	I
AUMs within lease:	88

Miles of river bank	private 1.7 public 0.1
Acres within allotment	private 1200 public 2101
Riparian management in 2002	Rested 2002, spring use
Upland management in 2002	Corral Canyon and Hummingbird rested 2002. Spring use on three pastures, Corral Canyon, Hummingbird and Knox Ranch.
Riparian monitoring	none
Upland monitoring	Trend plot (3x3 photoplot) in the Corral Canyon Pasture was established in 1987 and remeasured in 1990 and 1994. Utilization levels light to moderate. Monitoring shows an increase in *Stipa thurberiana*. Field observations indicate increasing bunchgrasses on none early seral sites.
1980 Ecological Status:	climax: 0 acres late seral: 17 acres mid seral: 0 acres early seral: 2006 acres unclassified: 78 acres

Comments: Medusahead occupies approximately 1,600 acres of the early seral sites. Future large scale herbicide and seeding projects are needed. The early "off" date of April 15 allows for regrowth on upland and riparian vegetation.

Results of Determination

Standard 1 Watershed Function - Uplands

Not meeting the Standard, Not Making Significant Progress Towards Attainment

Rational: Past heavy livestock grazing created the high number of early seral acres. Medusahead has invaded most of these sites, but recent field observations and the vegetation study indicate increasing densities of sand dropseed, needle-and-thread grass, and small amounts of bluebunch wheatgrass. Even with improving upland trends on some sites, there is a high percentage of acres in early seral condition occupied by medusahead which will not allow change until vegetation treatments are done.

Standard 2 Watershed Function - Riparian/Wetland Areas

Not meeting the Standard, but Making Significant Progress Towards Attainment

Rational: The PFC rating in 1997 was Functional - At Risk with an Upward trend. Based on field observations over the last fifteen years and the 1995 Willow Report, density and area occupied by willows is increasing. Also, the amount of herbaceous riparian vegetation is increasing, particularly clumped sedge.

Standard 3 Watershed Function - Uplands

Not meeting the Standard, Not Making Significant Progress Towards Attainment

Rational: The same rational as Standard 1.

Standard 4 Water Quality
Not meeting the Standard, but Making Significant Progress Towards Attainment

Rational: The John Day River is a 303(d) listed water body. Progress towards attainment is being made due to improving uplands and riparian areas.

Standard 5 Native, T&E, and Locally Important Species
Not meeting the Standard, Not Making Significant Progress Towards Attainment

Rational: Mid Columbia Steelhead are listed as an endangered species. While riparian conditions are improving, the static trend in early seral conditions on the uplands are not allowing significant progress towards re-establishment of important plant species.

Establishment of Cause: The causal factors for non-attainment of Standards 1, 3, and 5 are historic, improper livestock grazing practices and the introduction of non-native plants (medusahead) which have halted the recolonization of early seral sites by native plants. Current livestock management has been altered by recent planning decisions and is no longer contributing to non-attainment.

Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management
Conforms with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management

Rational: Levels of authorized harvest by livestock were adjusted according to an inventory of the forage resource such that soil cover is maintained. The grazing prescriptions are designed to meet the physiological needs of the desirable plant species found on the allotment and avoid concentrations of livestock on the riparian areas.

III. Allotment Description

2656 Dry Knob Allotment

Location:	River Miles 112.9 - 116.9
Category:	C
AUMs within lease:	7

Miles of river bank	private 3.2	public 0.8
Acres within allotment	private 900	public 275
Riparian management in 2002	nonuse, spring	
Upland management in 2002	nonuse, autumn	
Riparian monitoring	Field observations indicate increasing willow establishment.	
Upland monitoring	Field observations indicate bluebunch wheatgrass and sand dropseed have good vigor and new plant establishment.	
1980 Ecological Status:	climax: 22 acres late seral: 93 acres mid seral: 83 acres early seral: 76 acres unclassified: 1 acres	

Comments: The amount of grazing has been reduced by the landowner and currently in nonuse.

Results of Determination

Standard 1 Watershed Function - Uplands
Meeting the Standard

Rational: The majority of the upland acres are in mid seral condition or better based on the 1980 inventory and functioning as desired. Field observations indicate the vegetation is in a upward trend. Medusahead occupies approximately 40 acres.

Standard 2 Watershed Function - Riparian/Wetland Areas
Not meeting the Standard, but Making Significant Progress Towards Attainment

Rational: The PFC rating in 1997 was Functional - At Risk with an Upward trend. Based on field observations over the last few years the density and total area of willows are increasing.

Standard 3 Watershed Function - Uplands
Meeting the Standard

Rational: The same rational as Standard 1.

Standard 4 Water Quality
Not meeting the Standard, but Making Significant Progress Towards Attainment
Rational: The John Day River is a 303(d) listed water body. Progress towards attainment is being made due to functioning uplands and a riparian area which is improving.

Standard 5 Native, T&E, and Locally Important Species
Not meeting the Standard, but Making Significant Progress Towards Attainment

Rational: The Mid Columbia Steelhead is listed as an endangered species. Riparian conditions

are improving and a majority of the uplands are functioning as desired.

Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management
Conforms with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management

Rational: Levels of authorized harvest by livestock were adjusted according to an inventory of the forage resource such that soil cover is maintained. The grazing prescriptions are designed to meet the physiological needs of the desirable plant species found on the allotment.

III. Allotment Description

2535 Hayfield Allotment

Location:	River Miles 118.0 - 119.6	
Category:	C	
AUMs within lease:	11	
Miles of river bank	private 0.9	public 0.7
Acres within allotment	private 2360	public 345

Riparian management in 2002	spring
Upland management in 2002	short duration early spring use
Riparian monitoring	Field observations indicate increasing willow cover.
Upland monitoring	One Daubenmire study established in each of three pastures in 2002; all three sites show a good stand of sand dropseed with needle-and-thread grass and bluebunch wheatgrass. Field observations indicate increase in bunchgrass density.
1980 Ecological Status:	climax: 0 acres late seral: 301 acres mid seral: 31 acres early seral: 0 acres unclassified: 13 acres

Comments: The allotment has two small riparian pastures which are all public land along the river and one upland pasture. In the two riparian pastures on the river, short duration spring use was instituted in 1994. Prior to this, the pastures were used heavily and for about two month periods.

Results of Determination

Standard 1 Watershed Function - Uplands
Meeting the Standard

Rational: The upland acres are in mid and late seral condition with no early seral. Field observations indicate the vegetation is in a upward trend. Scattered medusahead can be found in one of the pastures, but is not considered a concentration yet.

Standard 2 Watershed Function - Riparian/Wetland Areas
Not meeting the Standard, but Making Significant Progress Towards Attainment

Rational: The PFC rating in 1997 was Functional - At Risk with an Upward trend. Based on field observations over the last few years the density and total area of willows are increasing.

Standard 3 Watershed Function - Uplands
Meeting the Standard

Rational: The same rational as Standard 1.

Standard 4 Water Quality
Not meeting the Standard, but Making Significant Progress Towards Attainment

Rational: The John Day River is a 303(d) listed water body. Riparian areas are recovering and the upland are functioning properly.

Standard 5 Native, T&E, and Locally Important Species

Not meeting the Standard, but Making Significant Progress Towards Attainment

Rational: The Mid Columbia Steelhead is listed as an endangered species. Riparian conditions are improving and a majority of the uplands are functioning as desired.

Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management
Conforms with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management

Rational: Levels of authorized harvest by livestock were adjusted according to an inventory of the forage resource such that soil cover is maintained. The grazing prescriptions are designed to meet the physiological needs of the desirable plant species found on the allotment.

III. Allotment Description

2649 Rim Allotment

Location:	Contains no river bank miles, but lies within WSR boundaries	
Category:	C	
AUMs within lease:	3	
Miles of river bank	private 0.0	public 0.0
Acres within allotment	private 1606	public 301
Riparian management in 2002	n/a, allotment within the WSR corridor, but not on the	

	river.
Upland management in 2002	spring use
Riparian monitoring	n/a
Upland monitoring	Field observations indicate good stands of bluebunch wheatgrass at higher elevations and sand dropseed lower down.
1980 Ecological Status:	climax: 0 acres late seral: 172 acres mid seral: 0 acres early seral: 118 acres unclassified: 11 acres

Comments: Historically, little attention was devoted to this allotment because of it's small size and lack of any riparian areas. It may have been used heavily at times; however, since 1987 it has been grazed conservatively during the spring with infrequent years of nonuse. The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs gained control of the private land in this allotment in 1999. Their mandate is to manage the watershed to obtain the highest condition possible. The allotment will be in nonuse for two to three years while a joint management plan is developed between the Tribes and BLM.

Results of Determination

Standard 1 Watershed Function - Uplands
Not meeting the Standard, but Making Significant Progress Towards Attainment

Rational: Over half of the upland acres are functioning as desired, but there is still a large portion which is in early seral condition. Field observations indicates desirable vegetation is increasing on the early seral sites.

Standard 2 Watershed Function - Riparian/Wetland Areas
Not applicable, no riparian

Standard 3 Watershed Function - Uplands
Not meeting the Standard, but Making Significant Progress Towards Attainment

Rational: The same rational as Standard 1.

Standard 4 Water Quality
Not applicable, no riparian

Standard 5 Native, T&E, and Locally Important Species
Meeting the Standard

Rational: Based on meeting Standards 1 and 3.

Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management

Conforms with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management

Rational: Levels of authorized harvest by livestock were adjusted according to an inventory of the forage resource such that soil cover is maintained. The grazing prescriptions are designed to meet the physiological needs of the desirable plant species found on the allotment.

III. Allotment Description

2536 Spring Basin Allotment

Location:	Contains no riverbank miles, but portions lie within the WSR boundaries.
Category:	I
AUMs within lease:	146
Miles of river bank	private 0.0 public 0.0
Acres within allotment	private 24,280 public 5363
Riparian management in 2002	no riverbank
Upland management in 2002	winter use
Riparian monitoring	n/a
Upland monitoring	Trend plot (frequency) in the Spring Basin WSA was established in 1987 and remeasured in 1990. Grazing generally occurs between November 1 and February 28. There is no discernable change. Trend plot (3x3 photoplot) in the Spring Basin WSA was established in 1987 and remeasured in 1990. Grazing generally occurs between November 1 and February 28. There is no discernable change. Field observations indicated a great deal of sand dropseed establishment on early seral sites in the drainage bottoms.
1980 Ecological Status:	climax: 0 acres late seral: 3275 acres mid seral: 450 acres early seral: 1438 acres unclassified: 200 acres

Comments: This allotment has all the characteristics of one grazed heavily in the past resulting in a low density of native bunchgrasses in the drainage bottoms, but an abundance on the steep hillsides. The Spring Basin Pasture of the allotment has been in nonuse since 1992 and all pastures since 1999. The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs gained control of the private land in 1999. Their mandate is to manage the watershed to obtain the highest condition possible. To accomplish this, they are developing a management plan which will probably involve several years of nonuse followed by a rest-rotation grazing system on those pastures being grazed. There are no riparian areas associated with streams or the John Day River.

Results of Determination

Standard 1 Watershed Function - Uplands

Meeting the Standard

Rational: The majority of the upland acres are in late seral condition and functioning as desired. Field observations indicate a probable upward trend on the early seral sites with establishment of sand dropseed. About 80 acres of medusahead present.

Standard 2 Watershed Function - Riparian/Wetland Areas
Not applicable, no riparian

Standard 3 Watershed Function - Uplands
Meeting the Standard

Rational: The same rational as Standard 1.

Standard 4 Water Quality
Not applicable, no riparian

Standard 5 Native, T&E, and Locally Important Species
Meeting the Standard

Rational: Based on meeting Standards 1 and 3.

Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management
Conforms with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management

Rational: Levels of authorized harvest by livestock were adjusted according to an inventory of the forage resource such that soil cover is maintained. The grazing prescriptions are designed to meet the physiological needs of the desirable plant species found on the allotment.

III. Allotment Description

2588 Spud Allotment

Location:	River Miles 110.7 - 114.5
Category:	M
AUMs within lease:	40
Miles of river bank	private 3.2 public 0.6
Acres within allotment	private 650 public 608
Riparian management in 2002	Early spring use.
Upland management in 2002	Grazing during the dormant period of late fall and winter.
Riparian monitoring	Willow Report: shows an increase in willow communities from 0.0 river miles in 1981 to 0.5 river miles in 1995. Field observations indicate willows are increasing.
Upland monitoring	Trend plot (3x3 photoplot) established in 1987 and remeasured in 1994. Grazing occurs during the winter, monitoring shows an increase in *Sporobolus cryptandrus*.
1980 Ecological Status:	climax: 0 acres late seral: 427 acres mid seral: 0 acres early seral: 159 acres unclassified: 22 acres

Comments: Riparian areas are improving due to control of the recent trespass problem from a neighboring ranch.

Results of Determination

Standard 1 Watershed Function - Uplands
Meeting the Standard

Rational: A majority of the upland acres late seral condition and field observations indicate the vegetation is in a upward trend.

Standard 2 Watershed Function - Riparian/Wetland Areas
Not meeting the Standard, but Making Significant Progress Towards Attainment

Rational: The PFC rating in 1997 was Functional - At Risk with an Upward trend. Based on recent field observations and the 1995 willow report the riparian zone is improving.

Standard 3 Watershed Function - Uplands
Meeting the Standard

Rational: The same rational as Standard 1.

Standard 4 Water Quality
Not meeting the Standard, but Making Significant Progress Towards Attainment

Rational: The John Day River is a 303(d) listed water body. Riparian areas are recovering and upland conditions are functioning properly.

Standard 5 Native, T&E, and Locally Important Species
Not meeting the Standard, but Making Significant Progress Towards Attainment

Rational: The Mid Columbia Steelhead is listed as an endangered species. Riparian conditions are improving and a majority of the uplands are functioning as desired.

Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management
Conforms with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management

Rational: Levels of authorized harvest by livestock were adjusted according to an inventory of the forage resource such that soil cover is maintained. The grazing prescriptions are designed to meet the physiological needs of the desirable plant species found on the allotment.

III. Allotment Description

2532 T. Cole Allotment

Location:	River Miles 139.0 - 140.8
Category:	C
AUMs within lease:	75
Miles of river bank	private 1.1 public 0.7
Acres within allotment	private 25,280 public 1770
Riparian management in 2002	spring use.
Upland management in 2002	combination of rest-rotation and deferred use depending on forage conditions.
Riparian monitoring	Willow Report: shows an increase in willow communities from 0.0 river miles in 1981 to 1.06 river miles in 1995. Field observations indicate willows are continuing to increase.
Upland monitoring	Two line-intercept studies were established in 2001in the Red Rock Pasture. Field observations indicate sand dropseed is increasing.
1980 Ecological Status:	climax: 21 acres late seral: 864 acres mid seral: 54 acres early seral: 634 acres unclassified: 60 acres

Comments: As part of the Oregon Land Exchange Act (OLEA) of 2000, the acres of public land and associated AUMs were reduced from 2,116 acres and 117 AUMs to 1,770 acres and 75 AUMs. Most of the remaining public lands is in the Red Rock Pasture, which is along the John Day River, and the rest are scattered throughout the allotment. Areas of medusahead occur in the Red Rock Pasture, but the scattered tracts of public land appear to have little. Historically the Red Rock Pasture received heavy use during the winter and into early summer, but the River Management Plan now limits grazing to short duration spring use.

Results of Determination

Standard 1 Watershed Function - Uplands

Meeting the Standard

Rational: A majority of the upland acres are mid to late seral condition and field observations indicate the vegetation is in a upward trend.

Standard 2 Watershed Function - Riparian/Wetland Areas

Not meeting the Standard, but Making Significant Progress Towards Attainment

Rational: The PFC rating in 1997 was Functional - At Risk with an Upward trend. Based on recent field observations and the 1995 willow report the riparian zone is improving.

Standard 3 Watershed Function - Uplands
Meeting the Standard

Rational: The same rational as Standard 1.

Standard 4 Water Quality
Not meeting the Standard, but Making Significant Progress Towards Attainment

Rational: The John Day River is a 303(d) listed water body. Riparian areas are recovering and upland conditions are functioning properly.

Standard 5 Native, T&E, and Locally Important Species
Not meeting the Standard, but Making Significant Progress Towards Attainment

Rational: The Mid Columbia Steelhead is listed as an endangered species. Riparian conditions are improving, the favorable upland conditions on the allotment are allowing significant progress towards re-establishment of important plant species.

Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management
Conforms with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management

Rational: Levels of authorized harvest by livestock were adjusted according to an inventory of the forage resource such that soil cover is maintained. The grazing prescriptions are designed to meet the physiological needs of the desirable plant species found on the allotment.

III. Allotment Description

2630 Tripp Allotment

Location:	River Miles 111.9 - 112.5
Category:	I
AUMs within lease:	7
Miles of river bank	private 0.4 public 0.2
Acres within allotment	private 18 public 80
Riparian management in 2002	season long
Upland management in 2002	winter use
Riparian monitoring	Willow Report: shows an increase in willow communities from 0.0 river miles in 1981 to 0.16 river miles in 1995. Field observations indicate willows increasing slightly, but an excellent stand of water birch is present on public and extending to private land.
Upland monitoring	Trend plot (frequency) in the Upland Pasture was established in 1987 and remeasured in 1993. Grazing is winter use only and monitoring shows an increase in *Stipa thurberiana*. Trend plot (3x3 photoplot) in the Upland Pasture was established in 1987 and remeasured in 1993. Grazing is winter use only and monitoring shows an increase in *Festuca idahoensis*. Trend plot (3x3 photoplot) in the Upland Pasture was established in 1987 and remeasured in 1993. Grazing is winter use only and monitoring shows a decrease in *Poa secunda*.
1980 Ecological Status:	climax: 6 acres late seral: 27 acres mid seral: 24 acres early seral: 22 acres unclassified: 1 acres

Comments: This allotment has an upland pasture which is in mid, late and PNC condition. The monitoring studies indicate an increase in native bunchgrasses, plus it has been rested the last four years. The riparian pasture along the John Day River, contains about 15 acres of public land, which is in early seral condition, although, the riparian zone is showing improvement. There is little chance of improvement on the non-riparian portion because a residence, various out-buildings, old farm equipment and car bodies occupy the public land.

Results of Determination

Standard 1 Watershed Function - Uplands

Meeting the Standard

Rational: A majority of the upland acres are mid seral or better condition, and both vegetation studies and field observations indicate the vegetation is in a upward trend.

Standard 2 Watershed Function - Riparian/Wetland Areas
Not meeting the Standard, but Making Significant Progress Towards Attainment

Rational: The PFC rating in 1997 was Functional - At Risk with an Upward trend. Based on field observations progress of the riparian zone is slow, but improving.

Standard 3 Watershed Function - Uplands
Meeting the Standard

Rational: The same rational as Standard 1.

Standard 4 Water Quality
Not meeting the Standard, but Making Significant Progress Towards Attainment

Rational: The John Day River is a 303(d) listed water body. Also, the same rational as Standard 2.

Standard 5 Native, T&E, and Locally Important Species
Not meeting the Standard, but Making Significant Progress Towards Attainment

Rational: The Mid Columbia Steelhead is listed as an endangered species. Riparian conditions are improving, the favorable upland conditions on the allotment, except for the occupancy trespass, are allowing significant progress towards re-establishment of important plant species.

Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management
Conforms with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management

Rational: Levels of authorized harvest by livestock were adjusted according to an inventory of the forage resource such that soil cover is maintained. The grazing prescriptions are designed to meet the physiological needs of the desirable plant species found on the allotment.