

DETERMINATION & RECOMMENDATIONS

Achieving Standards for Rangeland Health and Conforming with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management

Resource Area: Baker

GMA: Burnt River

Grazing Allotment Name/Number/Pastures: South Bridgeport #11301/05

Public Land (acres): 1,120

Streams on Public Lands (miles): 1.0

Assessment Participants (Name & Discipline or Interest):

_____	Greg Miller	Wildlife Biologist
_____	Jackie Dougan	Fisheries Biologist
_____	Zona Irby	Biological Technician
_____	Todd Kuck	Hydrologist
_____	Gary Guymon	Rangeland Management Specialists
_____	Cindi Burton	Rangeland Management Specialists
_____	Craig Martell	Rangeland Management Specialists
_____	Sue Badgley	Rangeland Technician

Standard 1: Watershed Function - Uplands

Standard Met X

Standard Not Met _____

Standard Not Present _____

Livestock not a significant factor _____

Livestock a significant factor _____

Marble Creek:

This pasture has a good component of the key species identified for the soil sites and the ecosystem is intact except for a small portion in the south end along the road. Livestock grazing has been adjusted (livestock numbers and grazing time) to help with improvement of key species. Most soil sites exhibit good infiltration and permeability rates. When you combine the soil structure with the cover of plant species and litter component, the moisture storage and stability is good. All the indicators are showing the watershed is functioning properly.

Standard 2: Watershed Function – Riparian/Wetland Areas

Standard Met _____

Standard Not Met _____

Standard Not Present X

Livestock not a significant factor _____

Livestock a significant factor _____

Causal factors for not achieving this standard in Marble Creek Pasture:

Heavy juniper cover and increase in the sagebrush component in the watershed is a non-livestock factor.

Standard 3: Ecological Processes

Standard Met X Standard Not Met ____ Standard Not Present ____
Livestock not a significant factor ____
Livestock a significant factor ____

Marble Creek Pasture:

This standard is being met even though there has been historical over grazing. Change in livestock numbers and grazing time has benefited the upland areas. Evidence of a healthy, productive and diverse plant communities are supported by a working ecological process of nutrient cycling, energy flow and the hydrologic cycle. The pasture has evidence of a substantial increase in juniper and sagebrush, which could eventually, could reduce the ecological process. Noxious weed sites have been identified along the Burnt River road and some mining sites along the road.

Standard 4: Water Quality

Standard Met ____ Standard Not Met ____ Standard Not Present X
Livestock not a significant factor ____
Livestock a significant factor ____

Marble Creek Pasture not applicable.

Some minor affects may occur with current mining operations.

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

Standard Met X Standard Not Met ____ Standard Not Present ____
Livestock not a significant factor ____
Livestock a significant factor ____

Marble Creek Pasture:

Assessment information determined no negative impacts and that habitats support healthy, productive and diverse populations and communities of nature plants and animals appropriate to soil, climate and landform. Several noxious weeds sites have been identified in this pasture. Special Status Species Management (California bighorn sheep and Sage-grouse are present) means the use of all methods and procedures necessary to improve the condition of special status species and their habitats to a point where their special status recognition is no longer warranted.

Recommendations:

1. Continue current changes to the grazing plan:
 - a. Adjust grazing system, livestock numbers and time to meet utilization standards on upland areas.

2. Better livestock distribution:
 - a. Require maintenance of spring and reservoir developments. Require more frequent riding to keep livestock scattered out better. Inventory pasture for possible new water developments and fencing to achieve resource goals.

3. Juniper/sagebrush treatments:
 - a. Burn or cut either species to enhance other native species within the ecosystem and reseed areas to enhance recovery of upland areas.

4. Monitor the grazing changes to see if utilization standards are being met or if the carrying capacity will need to be adjusted to keep utilization at a moderate level.

Authorized Officer concurrence with findings _____

Date _____