

DETERMINATION & RECOMMENDATIONS

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

Resource Area: BAKER

GMA: BURNT RIVER #2

Grazing Allotment Name/Number: NORTH BRIDGEPORT #11302

Public Land (acres): 10,814

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 Technican

Standard 1: Watershed Function - Uplands

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

Standard 2: Watershed Function – Riparian/Wetland Areas

Standard Met Standard Not Met DARK CANYON Standard Not Present _____
Livestock a significant factor X
Standard Not Met DEER CREEK
Livestock not a significant factor X

Causal factors for not achieving this standard on Dark Canyon:

- ! Active head and down cutting of stream channel.
- ! Bank trampling by livestock.
- ! Utilization by livestock.
- ! Stream temperature is above average.
- ! Stand removing fire in the upland watershed left it in poor condition.
- ! Historic mining and dredging.

Causal factors for not achieving this standard on Dark Canyon:

- ! Stream temperature does not meet state standards.
- ! Stand removing fire in the upland watershed left it in poor condition.

Standard 3: Ecological Processes

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

Causal factors for not achieving this standard:

- ! Other resource problems (wildlife, recreation, etc).
- ! Juniper and sagebrush has invaded upland sites due to the lack of fire.
- ! Forest health issues have limited production and vigor of perennial species.
- ! Historical grazing resulted in declines in plant communities.

Standard 4: Water Quality

Standard Met _____ Standard Not Met DARK CANYON Standard Not Present _____
Livestock a significant factor X
Standard Not Met DEER CREEK
Livestock not a significant factor X

Causal factors for not achieving this standard:

These factors are the same as Standard 2 above.

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 _____

Grazing is in conformance with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management in Oregon and Washington, with the following exceptions:

Deer Creek and Dark Canyon pastures are used early every spring because they are at a lower elevation and are ready earlier than the other four pastures. The intensity of grazing use along Dark Canyon riparian zones does not promote stream bank stability, debris and sediment capture, floodwater energy dissipation, or to restore water quality. Use in the rest of the pasture is limited due to very steep slopes. Most of the livestock use in Deer Creek is limited, due to the installation of a temporary electric fence on both sides of the creek. The upper timber area is a little gentler and has more water sources available for livestock to improve distribution problems. Monitoring has shown that livestock continue to get back in these pastures when they are not authorized.

Recommendations:

1. Make sure that all range projects are maintain on a yearly basis to help follow the current grazing system and to keep livestock where they belong.
2. Implement utilization levels as follows: 45% on riparian herbaceous plants and 30% on riparian shrub component.
3. Adjust current grazing season or livestock numbers where needed to allow for implementation of the above utilization standards.
4. Drop trees where needed along the riparian areas to help excluded livestock.
5. Restore ecosites that exhibit poor plant diversity and plant vigor to help move towards DRFC (desired range future condition). This can be accomplished by removal or control of these species, like annuals, shrubs, junipers and other forest species.
6. Replace the temporary Deer Creek exclosure fence with a permanent fence.
7. Continue to monitor.

Prepared by _____

Supervisory Natural Resource Specialist concurrence _____

Authorized Officer concurrence with findings _____

Date _____