



### **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:**

Site disturbances of many decades ago, such as overgrazing, fire, and reseeding resulted in drastic changes in plant communities, so this standard can no longer be met by simple grazing management. Current livestock grazing is not a significant factor in failure to achieve this standard.

### **Standard 4: Water Quality**

Standard Met

Standard Not Met X

Standard Not Present

Livestock not a significant factor

Livestock a significant factor X

#### **Causal factors for not achieving this standard:**

These factors are the same as for Standard 2 above. In addition, Alder Creek shows signs of historic mining and dredging.

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

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:**

These factors are the same as for Standard 3 above.

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

1. The intensity of grazing use along Woods Gulch riparian zones does not provide for establishment of adequate cover and plant community structure to promote streambank stability, debris and sediment capture, floodwater energy dissipation, or to restore water quality.
2. Because this pasture is grazed in the spring every year, in April, May, sometimes into June, plants are regularly grazed during critical growth periods, and this does not promote plant vigor, reproduction and productivity. However, there is a tradeoff against riparian zones if the pasture is grazed later in the year. If the major upland grasses (crested wheatgrass, bulbous bluegrass, and cheatgrass) are no longer lush and green, if the reservoir has dried up (it normally holds water only in spring), and if the heat causes cattle to stay close to water, then riparian zones will receive more severe impacts from grazing. Fall use in this pasture has proved unacceptable due to willow utilization and conflicts with other landowners (irrigated private meadows providing great attraction to the cattle on the dry BLM land).

#### **Recommendations:**

1. Cut junipers along Woods Gulch, dropping some of them in the channel to trap sediments and rebuild the channel. They would also serve to protect banks from cattle trampling and protect newly-establishing riparian plants from cattle grazing. Continue juniper-cutting in the drainage north of Woods Gulch, the goal being juniper control in the southwest quarter of the pasture.
2. Ensure that the east boundary of the pasture, the private land fence which crosses Alder Creek, receives needed maintenance/reconstruction to keep cattle out of Alder Creek during times not authorized.

3. Hold grazing use to only one month in the spring (normally April 16 to May 15, if turnout is not delayed), except for trailing through in the fall. The goal would be to allow some plant recovery during the latter part of the growing period each year.
4. Do not attempt more reseeding of the low seral condition range in this pasture due to the high cost and the difficult terrain.

**Pasture:** EAST

**Acres Public:** 3364

**Field Writeup Labels:** Durkee #17-#26

**Standard 1: Watershed Function - Uplands**

<u>Standard Met</u> <u>  X  </u>	<u>Standard Not Met</u>	<u>Standard Not Present</u>
	<u>Livestock not a significant factor</u>	
	<u>Livestock a significant factor</u>	

**Standard 2: Watershed Function – Riparian/Wetland Areas**

<u>Standard Met</u> <u>  X  </u>	<u>Standard Not Met</u>	<u>Standard Not Present</u>
	<u>Livestock not a significant factor</u>	
	<u>Livestock a significant factor</u>	

**Standard 3: Ecological Processes**

<u>Standard Met</u> <u>  X  </u>	<u>Standard Not Met</u>	<u>Standard Not Present</u>
	<u>Livestock not a significant factor</u>	
	<u>Livestock a significant factor</u>	

**Standard 4: Water Quality**

<u>Standard Met</u>	<u>Standard Not Met</u> <u>  X  </u>	<u>Standard Not Present</u>
	<u>Livestock not a significant factor</u> <u>  X  </u>	
	<u>Livestock a significant factor</u>	

**Causal factors for not achieving this standard:**

- Limited water flow in this drainage.
- Livestock ponds higher up in the drainage and the old cat trail constructed to build them.
- Heavy juniper invasions throughout the drainage and watershed.
- Grazing is light along the McElroy Canyon riparian zone, mostly from cattle just trailing through, and most of the stream has dense brush cover or steep, rocky sides that restrict livestock use. Any grazing use at all within McElroy Canyon probably adversely affects water quality to some extent, but currently the intensity of grazing is not a significant factor

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

<u>Standard Met</u> <u>  X  </u>	<u>Standard Not Met</u>	<u>Standard Not Present</u>
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Livestock not a significant factor

Livestock a significant factor

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

1. Because of the mid-elevation location of this pasture, it is normally grazed in mid-season after cattle have left the spring turnout pasture (lowest elevation) and before they reach the summer pasture (highest elevation). Also, many of the water developments in this pasture dry up by mid-spring. Grazing use later in the season is limited to very few water sources, so it is more difficult to achieve good cattle distribution when grazed late. These facts explain why this pasture has been grazed in the spring almost every year, in late May, June and early July. As a result, plants are regularly grazed during critical growth periods, and this does not promote plant vigor, reproduction and productivity.
2. Another conflict with the guidelines is the intensity and duration of the grazing use in the flatter areas near water, especially Rocky Flat Well. Practices that would improve cattle distribution are not being employed to the full extent possible.

**Recommendations:**

1. This pasture can be periodically used just for a short time in the spring, on the way to the highest pasture, and then grazed in the fall after plants have completed seed production. The spring use could be confined just to trailing through, or it could be limited to one or two weeks. This should be done in one out of every three years as required by the 1971 allotment management plan. The goal is to promote plant vigor, reproduction, and productivity.
2. Another trend study should be established at the location where the Durkee #24 rangeland health assessment was completed, on the ridge above the Upper McElroy Waterhole.
3. Some degree of juniper control is needed to maintain ecological balance of the native communities and to improve the watershed. This pasture should be first priority of the two upper pastures for juniper control and for resting from grazing for two growing seasons following any prescribed burning.
4. Actions to reduce the concentrations of cattle around Rocky Flat Well should be taken, and these could include:
  - a. Realigning the fence near this well (moving the fence one-half mile to the west would result in better distribution of cattle, as would shifting the fence slightly to the west near Upper McElroy Waterhole).
  - b. Requiring repair or maintenance of alternative water sources, especially Rizor Waterhole/Spring. Fortunately, Durkee Guzzler was repaired by the permittees after the 2003 grazing season and should improve the situation somewhat, but bringing back Rizor Waterhole/Spring or a substitute is essential to maintaining the current amount of use in this pasture. One possible substitute would be to redo the pipeline off the Durkee Guzzler.
  - c. Requiring additional riding to distribute cattle
5. Utilization monitoring should focus on the key management areas within the livestock use areas, and permittees should understand that exceeding utilization limits on these areas will end up causing a reduction in use.

**Pasture: WEST**

**Acres Public: 3683**

**Field Writeup Labels: Durkee #1-#16**

**Standard 1: Watershed Function - Uplands**

Standard Met   X  

Standard Not Met \_\_\_\_\_

Standard Not Present \_\_\_\_\_

Livestock not a significant factor

Livestock a significant factor

**Standard 2: Watershed Function – Riparian/Wetland Areas**

Standard Met X

Standard Not Met

Standard Not Present

Livestock not a significant factor

Livestock a significant factor

**Standard 3: Ecological Processes**

Standard Met X

Standard Not Met

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Livestock not a significant factor

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**Standard 4: Water Quality**

Standard Met

Standard Not Met

Standard Not Present X

Livestock not a significant factor

Livestock a significant factor

**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 of the West Pasture is in conformance with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management in Oregon and Washington.

**Recommendations:**

1. Some degree of juniper control is needed to maintain ecological balance of the native communities and to improve the watershed. Any prescribed burning needs to be followed by two growing seasons of rest.
2. Grazing should be deferred until seed-ripe of bluebunch wheatgrass in at least one (and preferably two) out of every three years, as required by the 1971 allotment management plan.
3. Utilization monitoring should focus on the key management areas within the livestock use areas, and permittees should understand that exceeding utilization limits on these areas will end up causing a reduction in use.

Authorized Officer concurrence with findings \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

