

**Standards for Rangeland Health
and
Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management
for
Public Lands in Oregon and Washington**

**UPDATE for the
Becraft Allotment #1300
September 2013**

The original Becraft Rangeland Health Assessment (RHA) was conducted in 2005. This is an update to the original RHA.

Standard	2005 Assessment	2013 Assessment	Comments
1. Watershed Function – Uplands	Met	Met	The indicator used to evaluate upland watershed condition, in 2005, was plant composition. Plant composition was compared to Potential Natural Plant Community (PNC), and all of the species identified in PNC were present on the allotment. These same species are still present within the allotment in 2013.
2. Watershed Function Riparian/ Wetland Areas	Met	Met	The only Perennial flowing water in this allotment is the south canal irrigation conveyance ditch. Condition of the riparian vegetation along the ditch is a function of ditch maintenance. Mill Creek is intermittent through the entire allotment. There are four acres of palustrine wetland habitat within the Becraft Allotment that rates as Proper Functioning Condition.
3. Ecological Processes	Met	Met	Plant composition and community structure are appropriate for the site. Organic matter appears to be accumulating in the form of litter and is being incorporated into the soil.
4. Water Quality	N/A	N/A	N/A
5. Native, T/E, and Locally Important Species	Met	Met	Special status plant surveys have been conducted on this allotment, and none were found. The cultural plants that occur on this allotment include: Lomatium species (biscuitroot), Perideridia species (yampah), and allium species (wild onion). Special status wildlife species or their habitat is present within the allotment including bald eagle and Lewis' woodpecker. Mule deer, a species with high public interest, also occurs within this allotment.

Guidelines for Livestock Management

Existing grazing management practices or levels of grazing use on the Becraft Allotment is consistent with the Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management (August 12, 1997).

2013 Determination

Existing grazing management practices or levels of grazing use on the Becraft Allotment promote achievement of significant progress towards the Oregon Standards for Rangeland Health and conform with the Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management.

() Existing grazing management practices or levels of grazing use on the Becraft Allotment will require modification or change prior to the next grazing season to promote achievement of the Oregon Standards for Rangeland Health and conform with the Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management.


 Thomas E. Rasmussen, Field Manager

9/3/13

Date

2013 Team Members

Name	Title
Jayna Ferrell	Rangeland Management Specialist
Vern Stofleth	Wildlife Biologist
Theresa Romasko	Assistant Field Manager
Grace Haskins	Weed Management Specialist
Bill Cannon	Archeologist
Jimmy Leal	Fisheries Biologist
Chris Bishop	Recreation
Todd Forbes	Assistant Field Manager
John Owens	Wildlife Biologist

Becraft Allotment 2013 Summary:

The Becraft Allotment is grazed during the spring/summer (05/01-05/31) each year. Becraft Allotment is managed as a category *Custodial* allotment. General management direction within a *Custodial* allotment is limited to periodic inventories and observations to measure long-term condition changes. There are no long-term monitoring plots within the Becraft Allotment, and utilization has been collected once within the last ten years.

Actual Use and Utilization

Year	Becraft AUMs	% Utilization
2013	10	13
2012	10	
2011	10	
2010	10	
2009	10	
2008	14	
2007	51*	
2006	10	
2005	11	
2004	10	
2003	9	

*This allotment may have been used in conjunction with private land or Forest Service Administered land.

Watershed Function Uplands (Standard 1)

The site visit in 2013 indicates that plant composition is fairly diverse and community structure of grasses, forbs, and shrubs are what is expected for the site. Organic matter in the form of plant litter is accumulating and being incorporated into the soil. Cheat grass, medusahead rye, and Mediterranean sage are also present.

Watershed Function Riparian/ Wetland Areas (Standard 2)

The 2005 RHA stated that the standard was met, and noted that the only flowing water in this allotment is the south canal irrigation conveyance ditch. Condition of the riparian vegetation along the ditch is a function of ditch maintenance. A site visit was conducted in 2013, and the riparian vegetation is a function of ditch maintenance, and is not applicable for standard 2 in 2013. However, there are four acres of palustrine wetland habitat within the Becraft Allotment that rates at Proper Functioning Condition.

Mill Creek is an intermittent channel within the Becraft Allotment. The channel in the Becraft Allotment is generally in good condition in terms of physical attributes (i.e. vegetation bank stability, lateral and vertical stability, etc.)

Ecological Processes (Standard 3)

Plant composition and community structure appear to be appropriate for the site. Organic matter is accumulating in the form of litter and is being incorporated into the soil. This allotment is continuing to meet this standard, as seen in the 2013 site visit.

Water Quality (Standard 4)

This Standard was not applicable in 2005 RHA, and 2013 RHA update.

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

This standard continues to be met for native, T&E, and locally important species including bald eagle, Lewis' woodpecker, and mule deer.