

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

**UPDATE for the  
Blue Creek Seeding Allotment #200**

**6/10/13**

The Blue Creek Seeding Allotment #200 is 600 acres of a diverse and vigorous plant community of grasses, forbs and shrubs. The allotment has a total of 131 AUMs and is utilized by NJN Flynn Investments LLC. In 2012, NJN Flynn Investments applied for a total of 130 AUMs and had 1 AUM non-use. The period of use for this allotment is 9/15-11/15.

The original Blue Creek Seeding Allotment Rangeland Health Assessment was conducted in 2003. Since the last RHA, a pace 180, line and intercept, and observed apparent trend has been added to the single trend plot of the allotment. There was plant composition data recorded in 1969 when the plot was established.

**Summary of Rangeland Health Assessment for Blue Creek Seeding Allotment (00200)**

Standard	Assessment Finding 2003	Current Assessment 2013	Comments
1. Watershed Function – Uplands	Met	Met	Upland soils in the Blue Creek Seeding Allotment exhibit infiltration and permeability rates, moisture storage, and stability appropriate for soil, climate, and land form. Root occupancy for the soil is appropriate. The plant composition and community structure is defined by the soil type and precipitation zone. In the allotment, 40% (240 acres) of vegetation is in the mid seral stage and 13% (77 acres) is in the late seral stage.
2. Watershed Function Riparian/ Wetland Areas	Met	Met	Peddler Creek, an intermittent stream flows in the pasture for half a mile. A note in the 2003 RHA states that the condition of the stream has stabilized and has been improving since its condition in 1995. Nine acres of lentic palustrine riparian resources are in proper functioning condition according to the 2003 RHA.
3. Ecological Processes	Met	Met	There is a diverse and vigorous plant composition and community structure of forbs, grasses and shrubs. The allotment provides habitat for populations of mule deer, pronghorn antelope, and sage grouse. The 50 AUMs allocated to wildlife seem adequate to support the current wildlife populations and was adjusted from 45 to 50 to address the expansion of elk and potential competition with livestock for forage. The allotment lies within ODFW's Warner Big Game Management Unit for deer, pronghorn antelope, and elk. Current populations are slightly below management objectives for mule deer and substantially below that proposed for elk. The allotment contains crucial winter range habitat for mule deer. The allotment also contains year-round habitat for sage grouse and pronghorn antelope, however no crucial habitat has been identified.
4. Water Quality	—	—	This standard is not applicable to the assessment area. There are no perennial streams in this allotment.
5. Native, T/E, and Locally Important Species	Met	Met	The allotment provides habitat for numerous small game and nongame birds and mammals common to the Great Basin, as well as, sage grouse, and marginal California bighorn sheep habitat. Wildlife populations are healthy and increasing in number within the allotment. Habitat quantity and quality do not appear to be limiting population size or health. The habitat provided within the allotment is crucial to wintering deer in that it adjoins with winter range on the forest to the west and to the BLM-administered winter range to the north and south. It provides habitat connectivity, as well as a spatial distribution of the lower elevation range critical during high snowfall years. The Blue Creek Seeding Allotment contains approximately 414 acres (69% of the allotment) rated as PPH and 0 acres rated as PGH. Approximately 504 acres (84%) of the Blue Creek Seeding Allotment is marginal yearlong habitat, 42 acres (7%) is suitable breeding habitat, and 54 acres (9%) is unsuitable habitat. There was one known sage grouse lek found within the allotment at the time of the 2003 health assessment, however, at present there are no active sage grouse leks found within the allotment as per ongoing BLM and ODFW surveys. Sage grouse populations are stable. The allotment also provides habitat for raptors and some BLM and state sensitive wildlife species and federally listed species. No critical habitat or limitation have been identified for any of these species and federally listed species. No critical habitat or limitations have been identified for any of these species which include wintering bald eagles, and possibly pygmy rabbits and various sensitive bat species.



### Guidelines for Livestock Management

Existing grazing management practices or levels of grazing use on the Blue Creek Allotment are consistent with the Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management (August 12, 1997). The pasture is grazed at an appropriate season coordinated with precipitation, plant growth, and plant form to promote appropriate vegetative cover and optimal rangeland health. BLM lands are grazed in coordination with private lands to minimize conflicts and promote adequate livestock distribution.

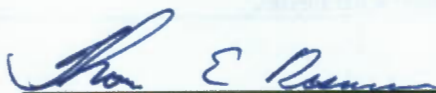
### 2013 Team Members

Name	Title
Lori Crumley	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

### 2013 Determination

Existing grazing management practices or levels of grazing use on the Blue Creek 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 Blue Creek 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

6/6/13

Date

## Blue Creek Seeding Allotment

### Monitoring Summary (2012):

The allotment has a total of 131 AUMs and is utilized by NJN Flynn Investments LLC. In 2012, NJN Flynn Investments applied for a total of 130 AUMs and had 1 AUM non-use. The period of use for this allotment is 9/15-11/15. There is no utilization data for this allotment.

### Actual Use and Utilization

Year	Blue Creek Seeding AUMs
2012	
2011	87
2010	
2009	114
2008	61
2007	119
2006	131
2005	101
2004	
2003	
2002	
2001	
2000	34
...	
1990	129
1989	129
...	
1970	60
Average	

## Blue Creek Seeding Pasture:

### Observed Apparent Trend

BC-01	2012
Vigor	9
Seedlings	9
Surface Litter	5
Pedestals	4
Gullies	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Rating</b>	<i>Upward</i>

### Cover

	1969		1972	
	483 B	483 A	438 B	483 A
Composition, Key Species	67.4	72	31.4	80.1
Cover, Live Vegetation	19.2	25.7	25.3	15.8
Seedlings, Key Species				
Littler, Plot Total	2.8	4.2	7.7	7.7

BC-01	2012
Bare Ground	4
Litter	14
Rock	2
Vegetation	80
Crust/Moss	

### % Composition

	1969	
	483 B	483 B
AGCR	67.4	72
CHVI	32.6	

BC-01	2012
POSE	27
AGCR	2
Poa	22
LECH	1

<b>LUAR</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>ACMI</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Lamiaceae</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Polemoniaceae</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>NOTR</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>PUTR</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>CHVI</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>ARTR</b>	<b>20</b>

**Line and Intercept**

BC-01	% cover		
	LI-1	LI-2	LI-3
<b>ARTR</b>	16	27	23
<b>PUTR</b>	27	20.6	31
<b>CHVI</b>	4	6	1
<b>Total % cover</b>	50	53	55
<b>Average Total % cover</b>	52.6		
<b>Average height (ft)</b>	3-5 ft		

Trend plot BC-01 was established in 1969. Plant composition data was recorded in the late 60's early 70's. A pace 180 was established in 2012 to record plant composition. A line-intercept was established in 2012 to monitor sage grouse habitat. Observed apparent trend was established in 2012 also.

Notes from the observed apparent trend say there is an extensive amount of shrub cover (PUTR, ARTR, CHVI) and desirable grasses present and growing. Crested wheatgrass is present. There was little visible erosion on dry creek beds. The allotment is in an upward trend. The upward trend and lack of any visible evidence of erosion illustrates standard 1 is still being met on the allotment.

The trend photos and line intercept data show a substantial amount of shrub cover. Trend photos and pace 180 data show a large diversity in vegetative cover. Ground cover and plant composition data from 1969 and 1972 was included separately due to a different monitoring technique used.

The trend photos from 1969 to 2012 show an increase in growth. Earlier trend photos show heavier use and some bare ground. Trend photos from 2012 show shrub cover has increased and there is less bare ground.

One small (.88 acre) Mediterranean Sage site has been identified as a noxious weed and appropriately mapped within the Blue Creek Allotment.