

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

Update for  
Coglan Hills Allotment #00400  
27 April 2015

The Coglan Hills Allotment encompasses 12, 213 acres, all of which are BLM-administered lands. There is one pasture in this allotment grazed by one permittee from 4/01-5/31 with a total of 116 AUMs. This is an M category allotment.

### Guidelines for Livestock Management

Standard	Standards 2014	Current Assessment 2014	Standards 2003	Summary of 2006
1. Watershed Function – Uplands	Met	Uplands soil conditions have not changed since the previous assessment.	Met	Approximately, 66% of upland soils are in the slight SSF condition class with approximately 34% of upland soil in the moderate SSF condition. This indicates soils are stable and functioning appropriate to climate and landform.
2. Watershed Function Riparian/ Wetland Areas	NA	A 2014 review of the national wetland inventory shows there are no perennial streams or wetland areas within the current allotment boundary.	Met	There was an estimated 1,459 acres of palustrine wetland identified within a larger allotment boundary.
3. Ecological Processes	Met	Cheatgrass continues to be present within the allotment. No other known weeds sites are known to occur in the allotment.	Met	Cheatgrass is currently occupying much of the understory vegetation out-competing some native perennial vegetation. This occurred long ago and overall ecological processes are in balance with the nutrient cycling, energy flow, and the hydrologic cycle.
4. Water Quality	NA	No perennial water occurs on the allotment.	NA	No perennial water occurs on the allotment.
5. Native, T/E, and Locally Important Species	Met	No changes in habitat have occurred since the 2003 assessment and wildlife populations continue to be sustainable supported by the habitat provided in the allotment. No known SSPS occur within the allotment.	Met	The standard is being met for all wildlife populations within the allotment.

**STANDARD 1 - Upland Watershed -Upland soils exhibit infiltration and permeability rates, moisture storage, and stability that are appropriate to soil, climate, and landform**

This standard is being met on the allotment. Trend studies conducted throughout the allotment show stable to upward trends throughout the allotment. No substantial disturbances or changes have occurred affecting soil stability since the 2006 RHA was completed.

**STANDARD 2 -Riparian/Wetland-Riparian-wetland areas are in properly functioning physical condition appropriate to soil, climate, and landform.**

The RHA completed in 2006 listed an estimated 1,459 acres of palustrine wetland habitat present within the allotment. However, this estimate included wetlands in the Abert Rim and Diablo Peak areas (which were formerly part of the 00400 allotment) that are now separate allotments. The most recent review of the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) data shows approximately 12 acres of palustrine wetlands located within the current allotment boundary. Most of these sites are stock watering areas. The sites have been modified with dug outs changing the site potential of the wetland vegetation. Many were classified as Emergent Wetlands, but appear to be unconsolidated shore as assessed from current NAIP imagery. These sites are located in natural drainages dominated by upland vegetation draining water only during periodic wet periods of the year and do not hold water for any length of time. None would qualify as true lentic wetland systems where a PFC should be conducted. The sites appear to be functioning adequately as stock watering areas, but none of these qualify.

There are no other riparian resources in this allotment. For these reasons, this standard does not apply to the current allotment boundary.

**STANDARD 3 -Ecological Processes-Healthy, productive, and diverse plant and animal populations and communities appropriate to soil, climate, and landform are supported by ecological processes of nutrient cycling, energy flow, and hydrologic cycle.**

Although cheatgrass continues to be present in the allotment, native vegetation is appropriate for the site potential. The long-term trend site PC-71 shows sagebrush as the dominant vegetation on site. This may be a contributing factor to a loss in density of perennial grasses at this site, a typical successional process when a community moves from an early seral stage to a later seral stage. Cheatgrass occurs in the interspaces between sagebrush plants at this site with native perennial grasses occurring within sagebrush plants. This site has changed little in the last 50 years. A second long term trend site CH-1, established in 2014, is located in a low sagebrush site with and understory of native perennial grasses. This site was rated to have a current upward trend with appropriate species diversity for the range site.

No other noxious weeds or invasive species are known to occur within the allotment. Much of the allotment continues to show abundant native vegetation appropriate to soil, climate, and landform. For these reasons, this standard is being met on the allotment.

**STANDARD 4: Surface water and groundwater quality, influenced by agency actions, complies with State water quality standards.**

This standard is not applicable as no perennial water occurs within the allotment.

**STANDARD 5: Native, T&E, and Locally Important Species. Habitats support healthy, productive and diverse populations and communities of native plants and animals (including special status species and species of local importance) appropriate to soil, climate and landform.**

Preliminary Priority Habitat (PPH) does not occur within the allotment; however, there is approximately 11,446 acres (90%) of PGH. Objectives for this allotment to maintain and/or enhance current sage grouse habitat are being met. The majority of allotment is intact and functioning sagebrush habitat that support natural ecological processes and provide habitat for sage grouse life requisites.

The Coglan Hills Allotment falls within the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's Wagontire big game habitat management unit. The mule deer populations are relatively stable within this unit, but below the current management objectives. Elk herd range is not present within the allotment. Bighorn sheep populations within the unit are stable. Pronghorn antelope herds range across allotment where trend data has indicated a declining population. The allotment comprises a small percentage of the big game habitat units, but provide habitat capable of supporting mule deer, and pronghorn antelope. Quantity and quality do not appear to be limiting big game population size or health within the unit.

No Special status plant species occur within the allotment. For these reasons, this standard is being met on the allotment.

**2014 ID Team Members**

Name	Title
Lori Crumley	Rangeland Management Specialist
John Owens	Wildlife Biologist
Theresa Romasko	Assistant Field Manager
Grace Haskins	Weed Management Specialist
Jimmy Leal	Fisheries Biologist
Jami Ludwig	Assistant Field Manager
Ian Grinter	Botanist
Paul Whitman	Planning and Environmental Coordinator

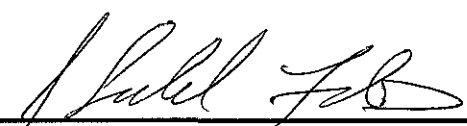
**Recommendations:**

The IDTeam determined the Coglan Hills allotment to be meeting all rangeland health standards and guidelines and do not have any recommendations.

**2014 Determination**

Existing grazing management practices on the Coglan Hills Allotment promote achievement of, or significant progress towards, meeting the Oregon Standards for Rangeland Health and conform with the applicable Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management.

Existing grazing management practices on the Coglan Hills 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 applicable Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management.

  
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J. Todd Forbes, Field Manager

4/23/15  
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Date

Coglan Hills Allotment #400  
**Monitoring Summary (2014):**

The Coglan Hills Allotment is grazed during the spring (4/01-5/31). The total permitted AUMs are 116. The average actual use over the last 10 years is 114 AUMs, and target utilization level of 50% has not been exceeded. Use in each pasture has been within the permit dates.

**Specified Grazing Use**

Allotment	Pasture	LIVESTOCK		GRAZING PERIOD		TYPE USE	% Public Land	AUMS
		Number	Kind	Begin Date	End Date			
Coglan Hills (00400)	Coglan Hills	58	CATTLE	4/01	5/31	Active	100	116

**Actual Use and Utilization for Coglan Hills**

Year	Coglan Hills	
	AUM	% use
2013	96	12
2012	113	39
2011	110	12
2010	114	41
2009	140	34
2008	92	26
2007	109	35
2006	102	15
2005	102	27
2004	161	24
<b>Average</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>27</b>

**Key Species and Target Utilization Levels for the Coglan Hills Allotment (00400)**

Pasture	BLM Acres	Trend Plot	Key Species	Utilization Target %
Coglan Hills	12,774	PC-71 CH-01	Indian Ricegrass ( <i>Oryzopsis hymenoides</i> ), Squirreltail ( <i>Sitanion hystrix</i> ), Thurber Needlegrass ( <i>Stipa thurberiana</i> ), Basin Wildrye ( <i>Elymus cinereus</i> ), Sandberg Bluegrass ( <i>Poa secunda</i> ), Big Sage ( <i>Artemisia tridentata</i> ), Low Sage ( <i>Artemisia arbuscula</i> )	50

## Summaries by trend monitoring site

There are two long-term monitoring sites in the Coglan Hills Allotment pasture.

### PC-71

Years Data Recorded – 1978, 1982, 1991, 2001, 2010

The dominant species are ARTR, BRTE, and SIHY. Photo trend and observed apparent trend are stable.

#### Observed Apparent Trend

PC-71	2010
Vigor	3
Seedlings	4
Surface Litter	4
Pedestals	5
Gullies	5
Total	21
Rating	<i>stable</i>

#### Cover

PC-71	1978
Bare Ground	41
Litter	26
Rock	13
Vegetation	15
Crust	-

### CH-1

Established 2014

Species present are STTH, POSE, SIHY, ARAR. This is a low sagebrush site. Possible due to the very dry year cheatgrass is not heavily present.

#### Observed Apparent Trend

CH-01	2014
Vigor	8
Seedlings	9
Surface Litter	5
Pedestals	5
Gullies	5
Total	32
Rating	<i>upward</i>

#### Cover

Ch-01	2014
Bare Ground	39

<b>Litter</b>	27
<b>Rock</b>	6
<b>Vegetation</b>	28