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

for the

Dick's Creek Allotment #01306

November 2013

The Dick's Creek Allotment is located 13 miles north of Lakeview, OR. It encompasses approximately 366 acres of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) managed lands. The allotment has two pastures, Upper and Lower. The Lower Pasture is west of the road and contains Dick's Creek, and the Upper Pasture is on the east side of the road.

The original Dick's Creek Allotment Rangeland Health Assessment (RHA) was conducted in 2002. This document is an update to the original RHA. The Dick's Creek Allotment is grazed from 5/1-5/31 with 55 AUMs.

Standard	2002 Assessment	**2013 Assessment**	Comments
1. Watershed Function – Uplands	Met	Not Met	Cheat grass, medusahead rye, Mediterranean sage, and North Africa grass are present throughout the allotment. Long-term trend photo monitoring analysis indicates western juniper and ponderosa pine has increased across the allotment. There has also been recruitment of pine and juniper seedlings. Long-term trend photo monitoring site, DC-1, indicates a loss of perennial grass species within the 3X3 plot between 1981 and 1988. Perennial grass species continued to decrease on areas around the 3X3 plot, continuing the downward trend through 2007. Livestock grazing has occurred in the allotment during the month of May without periodic growing season rest. This site has remained unchanged between 2007 and 2013. This site is not meeting this standard due to the following factors: lack of periodic rest from livestock grazing, invasive weeds and juniper/pine expansion.
2. Watershed Function Riparian/ Wetland Areas	Met	Met	Dick's Creek was rated in Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) in 1997. A field visit in 2001 indicated a continuation of the PFC status. Although a formal PFC was not conducted in 2013, recent field visits indicate that Dicks Creek is in PFC, and meeting standard 2.
3. Ecological Processes	Met	Not Met	Cheat grass, medusahead rye, Mediterranean sage, and North Africa grass are present throughout the allotment. Juniper/Pine has expanded across the allotment. Livestock grazing has occurred in the allotment during the month of May without periodic growing season rest. Long-term trend photo monitoring analysis indicates this site is not meeting this standard due to the following factors: lack of periodic rest from livestock grazing, invasive weeds and juniper/pine expansion.
4. Water Quality	Met	Met	No water quality data exists for Dicks Creek. The 2002 RHA stated that Dicks Creek is not on Oregon's 303d list of water quality impaired streams. Dicks Creek has not since been added to the Oregon's 303d list of water quality impaired streams, and continues to meet this standard in 2013.
5. Native, T/E, and Locally Important Species	Met	Met	The 2002 RHA stated surveys for sensitive and endangered plants have been conducted and none have been found. In 2013, all of the allotment was surveyed, and no sensitive or endangered plants were found. The deer and elk populations are healthy and stable in number within the allotment. Habitat quantity and quality do not appear to be limiting population size or health. The allotment also provides habitat for numerous small and nongame birds and mammals common to the Great Basin. There are no known sage grouse leks found within the allotment or pygmy rabbit habitat. The allotment also provides habitat for raptors and other sensitive species; no critical habitat or limitations have been identified for any of these species which include wintering bald eagles, various sensitive bat species, or Peregrine falcons. The only listed or sensitive aquatic species in the allotment is redband trout (sensitive), which occupy habitat in Dicks Creek. The redband population in Dicks Creek is thought to be stable based on standards 2 and 4 above.

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

2013 Determination

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

(X) Existing grazing management practices or levels of grazing use on the Dicks 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 — Date: 11/18/13

Dick's Creek

Monitoring Summary (2013):

The Upper and Lower Pastures are grazed during the spring (5/1-5/31) each year. The total permitted AUMs for the two pastures is 55. The total average actual use over the last 10 years is 49 AUMs . Of the years utilization was collected, utilization was exceeded twice in 10 years in the Lower Pasture.

Dick's Creek Allotment #1306
Actual Use and Utilization

Year	Dick's Creek AUMs	Lower Pasture % Utilization	Upper Pasture % Utilization
2013	55	59	50
2012	55	26.5	9
2011	50		
2010	47		
2009	49	52	27
2008			
2007	40		
2006		3	3
2005			
2004		38	
2003		13	13
2002			
2001			
2000			
1999			
1998			
1997			
1996			
1995			
1994		65	65
1993			
1992			
1991			
1990			
1989		43	39
1988		70	
1987	59		
Average (the last 10 years)	49		

DC-1

Observed Apparent Trend

	2010	2012
Vigor	5	7
Seedlings	5	2
Surface Litter	3	5
Pedestals	4	5
Gullies	5	5
Total	22	24
Rating	*Stable*	*Stable*

This photo plot was established in 1976. This plot is located near the pasture boundary fence of the Lower Pasture. Observed apparent trend was conducted and stable in 2010 and 2012.

Photo analysis indicates western juniper and ponderosa pine, has increased tremendously since the establishment of this plot. There has also been recruitment of pine and juniper seedlings. Juniper has not only increased at this site, but it has increased across the allotment.

Mediterranean sage occurs throughout the allotment. Mediterranean sage has been historically documented in the Crooked Creek drainage and the biological control agent *Phrydiuchus tau* (Mediterranean sage weevil) has been assisting in controlling this species for many years. Infestations of medusahead rye, North Africa grass, and cheatgrass have high potential to spread rapidly through the allotment due to the multiple low density infestations that area scattered across the allotment. This allotment also contains a fair amount of bitterbrush and mountain mahogany, Sandberg's bluegrass, bluebunch wheatgrass, and Idaho fescue.

The understory at this trend site was composed of Sandberg's bluegrass and thurber's needlegrass. The 3X3 plot contained perennial grass species in 1976, and is currently comprised of forbs. This loss of perennial grass species is due to juniper expansion and the development of a cattle trail near the trend site and the lack of periodic growing season rest from livestock grazing across the allotment. Photo analysis indicates that a cattle trail developed near the trend site between 1978 and 1981. The trail developed in this location because is a natural path for livestock to travel from the upper pasture to Dicks Creek for water, which increased livestock concentration near the site. A loss of perennial grass species within the 3X3 plot occurred between 1981 and 1988. Perennial grass species continued to decrease on areas around the 3X3 plot, continuing the downward trend through 2007. This site has remained unchanged between 2007 and 2013. This allotment is not meeting standard 1 and 3 due to a combination of livestock grazing, invasive weeds and juniper expansion.

Future actions are recommended and they include the following: adding an additional upland trend monitoring site, provide periodic growing season rest from livestock grazing, treating noxious weed, and juniper/pine removal.

Periodic growing season rest, juniper removal, and winter annual grass control/noxious weed treatment would improve the uplands across the Dicks Creek Allotment.

Dick's Creek Long-Term Riparian Monitoring

Observed Apparent Trend at DC-2

	2012
Vigor	10
Seedlings	10
Surface Litter	5
Pedestals	5
Gullies	5
Total	35
Rating	*Upward*

DC-2 long-term plot monitoring plot was established along the riparian area on Dicks Creek in 1972, within the Lower Pasture. The riparian area has improved considerably since 1972.

Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) assessments and stream photo monitoring (all on file at the Lakeview BLM office), and field reconnaissance generally indicate improving trends in riparian conditions on Dicks Creek throughout the allotment. Photos points established in the 1970's and 2000's that were retaken in 2012 show increases in native riparian vegetation, including willows, sedges and rushes, as well as stream channel narrowing and deepening, and increases in stream bank stability.

Photo monitoring, along Dicks Creek, indicates western juniper has expanded within the riparian area and adjacent uplands. Recommended juniper removal coupled with periodic rest would help to maintain and/or improve stream condition into the foreseeable future.

Although a formal PFC was not conducted in 2013, a field visit indicates that Dicks Creek is in PFC, and meeting standard 2.

Watershed Function Uplands (Standard 1)

Cheat grass, medusahead rye, Mediterranean sage, and North Africa grass are present throughout the allotment. Long-term trend photo monitoring analysis indicates western juniper and ponderosa pine has increased across the allotment. There has also been recruitment of pine and juniper seedlings. Long-term trend photo monitoring site, DC-1, indicates a loss of perennial grass species within the 3X3 plot between 1981 and 1988. Perennial grass species continued to decrease on areas around the 3X3 plot, continuing the downward trend through 2007. Livestock grazing has occurred in the allotment during the month of May without periodic growing season rest. This site has remained unchanged between 2007 and 2013. This site is not meeting standard 1 and 3 due to the following factors: lack of periodic rest from livestock grazing, invasive weeds and juniper/pine expansion.

Future actions are recommended and they include the following: adding an additional upland trend monitoring site, provide periodic growing season rest from livestock grazing, treating noxious weed, and juniper/pine removal.

Watershed Function Riparian/ Wetland Areas (Standard 2)

Dick's Creek was rated in Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) in 1997. A field visit in 2001 indicated a continuation of the PFC status. Although a formal PFC was not conducted in 2013, recent field visits indicate that Dicks Creek is in PFC, and meeting standard 2.

Ecological Processes (Standard 3)

Cheat grass, medusahead rye, Mediterranean sage, and North Africa grass are present throughout the allotment. Juniper/Pine has expanded across the allotment. Livestock grazing has occurred in the allotment during the month of May without periodic growing season rest. Long-term trend photo monitoring analysis indicates this site is not meeting this standard due to the following factors: lack of periodic rest from livestock grazing, invasive weeds and juniper/pine expansion.

Water Quality (Standard 4)

No water quality data exists for Dicks Creek. The 2002 RHA stated that Dicks Creek is not on Oregon's 303d list of water quality impaired streams. Dicks Creek has not since been added to the Oregon's 303d list of water quality impaired streams, and continues to meet this standard in 2013.

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

The 2002 RHA stated surveys for sensitive and endangered plants have been conducted and none have been found. In 2013, portions of the allotment were surveyed, and no sensitive or endangered plants were found.

The Dicks Creek Allotment represents a small portion of the surrounding wildlife habitat and, as such, the allotment alone is limited in the amount of habitat capable of supporting wildlife populations. The deer and elk populations are healthy and stable in number within the allotment. Habitat quantity and

quality do not appear to be limiting population size or health. The allotment also provides habitat for numerous small and nongame birds and mammals common to the Great Basin. There are no known sage grouse leks found within the allotment or pygmy rabbit habitat. The allotment also provides habitat for raptors and other sensitive species; no critical habitat or limitations have been identified for any of these species which include wintering bald eagles, various sensitive bat species, or Peregrine falcons.

The only listed or sensitive aquatic species in the allotment is redband trout (sensitive), which occupy habitat in Dicks Creek. The redband population in Dicks Creek is thought to be stable based on standards 2 and 4 above.