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

UPDATE for the

FRF Flynn Allotment #501

5/31/13

The FRF Flynn Allotment #501 is located approximately 30 miles northeast of Lakeview, Oregon. Land status within the allotment is a total 8,6962 acres on the allotment of which 2,780 acres are public land. The allotment is categorized as a C=Custodial and "Fenced Federal Range" (FRF) is used to describe the allotment because it has a high percentage of private land fenced in with public land acres.

The allotment has a total of 120 AUMs authorized on public lands separated into three different use areas however no pasture names are defined. Three permittee's utilize this allotment in conjunction with their private land. The current management is spring use on two of the three fenced in areas. In the southern most fenced in area containing drake creek a change was made to primarily winter grazing in 2004.

In 2012, Jack Flynn used 12 active AUMs and 12 AUMS were applied for during the period of 5/1-6/30. Joe and Julia Flynn had 83 active AUMs, applied for 84 AUMs and had 1 non-use AUM during the period of 3/1-2-28. NJN Flynn Investments LLC had 26 active AUMs and applied for 26 AUMs during the period of 3/1-2/28.

The original Rangeland Health Assessment (RHA) for the FRF Flynn Allotment was conducted in 2003. In 2012, a trend plot was established in the allotment and includes line intercept, observed apparent trend, pace 180, 3x3 photos, and general photos. No other historical monitoring vegetation data was available prior to 2012 for comparison on this allotment

Standard	Not Met 2003	**Current Assessment 2012 Met/Not Met**	Comments
1. Watershed Function – Uplands	Met	Met	The 2003 Rangeland Health Assessment stated 17% of the allotment (479 acres) were classified in stable condition, 29 % (819 acres) in the slight condition class, and 53% (1,482 acres) unknown. Approximately 3% (36 acres) in the early seral stage, 88% (1,142 acres) in the mid seral stage, and 9% (120 acres) in the late seral stage. The most recent photos (2012) show adequate vegetation cover with little or no evidence of soil erosion. Upland soils exhibit infiltration and permeability rates, moisture storage, and stability appropriate to soil, climate and landform.
2. Watershed Function Riparian/ Wetland Areas	Not Met	Met	In 1996, the portion of Drake Creek in this allotment on public land was rated as Proper Functioning Condition on the lower reach for ¼ mile and Functional at Risk with an upward trend on the upper ½ mile. In 2003, an ID team determined that Drake Creek was rated as Functional at Risk with No Apparent Trend, because there was no apparent improvement in stream condition since 1996, and grazing was a contributing factor to the trend rating and the failure to meet Standard 2. A change in grazing occurred in 2004 from mostly spring grazing to almost complete winter grazing. Livestock grazing no longer was a contributing factor to the stream condition. In 2013, conditions on Drake Creek were reassessed and another PFC survey was completed. Drake Creek was found to be Functioning At Risk with an upward trend. Trend photos showed adequate riparian vegetation and stream channel characteristics appropriate for the landscape
3. Ecological Processes	Met	Met	There are healthy, productive, and diverse plant populations and communities within the allotment. Plant reproduction is high and copious plant litter is present. There are several different vegetation types within the allotment ranging from sagebrush scrub to saltgrass margins to bulrush wetlands. The dominant species, *Artemesia tridentata*, has an understory dominated by *Bromus tectorum* with components of various native grasses and forbs. *Juniperus occidentalis* is present, but few and scattered. Introduced species include large roadside populations of *Lepidium perfoliatum* and scattered *Agropyron cristatum*. There are healthy, productive, and diverse plant populations and communities within the allotment. Plant reproduction is high and copious plant litter is present. *Juniperus occidentalis* is present, but few and scattered. Three noxious weeds currently occur within the allotment *Lepidium latifolium, cardaria draba,* and *Cirsium arvense.*
4. Water Quality	Met	Met	Drake Creek from the mouth to the headwaters does not meet state standards for temperature. The portion of Drake Creek in the allotment is a minor part of the watershed and channel, therefore it is determined that the current management of livestock is not a reason for temperature status.
5. Native, T/E, and Locally Important Species	Met	Met	Habitats support healthy, productive, and diverse native plant populations. No known sensitive plants are present. Wildlife: the allotment provides habitat for numerous small and nongame birds and mammals common to the Great Basin. There are no known active sage grouse leks in the allotment, however PPH habitat is found within the allotment. Sagegrouse populations are stable. Wildlife: the deer and pronghorn populations are healthy and increasing in numbers. Coyote predation is thought to be depressing

			mule deer recruitments, however, deer and pronghorn populations continue to fluctuate at or slightly below ODFW's Management Objective for the units. This allotment provides habitat for numerous small and nongame birds and mammals common to the Great Basin. There are no known sage grouse leks or identified habitat found within these allotments. Fisheries: a 2012 ocular survey found redband trout within about 1/8 mile of the allotment; the estimated upper distribution limit was the fence line at the downstream end of the allotment (unpublished data on file at Lakeview BLM). Warner suckers occur in Deep Creek, over 12 miles downstream, near the town of Adel. Native Plant Species: *Artemesia tridentata, Aster scopularum, Astragalus filipes, Astragalus purshii, Astragalus* sp., *Atriplex spinosa, Calochortus macrocarpum, Chaenactis douglasii, Chrysothamnus viscidiflorus, Crepis* sp., *Delphinium* sp., *Distichlis spicata* var. *stricta, Elymus cinereus, Elymus elymoides, Epilobium* sp., *Erigeron* sp., *Eriogonum ovalifolium, Festuca idahoensis, Hordeum jubatum, Juniperus occidentalis, Lygodesmia spinosa, Madia glomerata, Microsteris gracilis, Penstemon* sp., *Phacelia heterophylla* var. *heterophylla, Plectritis* sp., *Poa secunda, Sarcobatus vermiculatus, Scirpus* sp., *Tetradymia canescens, Tragopogon dubius*, and *Urtica dioica*.

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

Guidelines for Livestock Management

Existing grazing management practices or levels of grazing use on the FRF Flynn Allotment are consistent with the Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management (August 12, 1997). The three pastures are 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 Determination

(X) Existing grazing management practices of levels of grazing use on the FRF Flynn 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 FRF Flynn 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 6/16/13

FRF Flynn Allotment
Monitoring Summary (2012):

The allotment has a total of 120 AUMs of which three permittees utilize. In 2012, Flynn, Jack, and Brenda used 12 active AUMs and 12 AUMS were applied for during the period of 5/1-6/30. Flynn, Joe and Julia had 83 active AUMs, applied for 84 AUMs and had 1 non-use AUM during the period of 3/1-2-28. NJN Flynn Investments LLC had 26 active AUMs and applied for 26 AUMs during the period of 3/1-2/28. Due to the C categorization of this allotment and considered fenced range federal actual use is not required to be submitted annually.

Actual Use and Utilization

	FRF Flynn AUMs					%Utilization
Permittee	**Nora Flynn**	**Joe Flynn**	**Jack Flynn**	**NJN Flynn Investments LLC**	**Total AUMs**	
Year						
2012		84				21.5
2011			Non-use			
2010			12	26		
2009		84	12	Non-use		
2008	Non-use		Non-use			
2007		84	12			
Average						

FRF Flynn Pasture:

Observed Apparent Trend

FRFF-01	**2012**
Vigor	8
Seedlings	8
Surface Litter	4
Pedestals	3
Gullies	5
Total	28
Rating	*Upward*

Cover

FRFF-01	**2012**
Bare Ground	17

Litter	13
Rock	24
Vegetation	44
Crust/Moss	2

% Composition

FRFF-01	**2012**
POSE	33
STTH	5
SIHY	1
BRTE	3
Crepis	1
Antennaria	9
Clover	1
Aster	1
Phlox	12
ARAR	34

Line and Intercept

FRFF-01	**% cover**		
	LI-1	**LI-2**	**LI-3**
ARAR	24	13	15
PUTR	1		4
JUOC		1	
Total % cover	25	14	19
Average Total % cover	19		
Average height (ft)	<1 ft		

Trend plot FRFF-01 was established in 2012. A line and intercept, observed apparent trend, and pace 180 data was included. Photos included are of 3x3, line -intercept, and general photos. In 2012, precipitation was below average and vegetation growth was limited. This long term trend site was located in a dry low sagebrush vegetation type with rocky clay soil.

Trend photos, ground cover data, and plant composition data indicate ground is clay soils and very rocky. There is good shrub cover and a good diversity of native forbs and grasses present. The average total shrub cover is 19% low sagebrush, bitterbrush, and juniper. The allotment looked very productive and excellent regrowth in the spring of 2013 on the portion of this allotment containing Drake Creek.

Standard Checklist

upstream downstream photo 9&10
113-0004-5

Name of Riparian-Wetland Area: Drake Creek

Date: 5/21/13 Segment/Reach ID: 5.75 - 5.2

Miles: _____ Acres: _____

ID Team Observers: L. Cumley, J. Beal, V. Stofleth

Yes	No	N/A	HYDROLOGY
X			1) Floodplain above bankfull is inundated in "relatively frequent" events
		X	2) Where beaver dams are present they are active and stable
X			3) Sinuosity, width/depth ratio, and gradient are in balance with the landscape setting (i.e., landform, geology, and bioclimatic region)
X			4) Riparian-wetland area is widening or has achieved potential extent
X			5) Upland watershed is not contributing to riparian-wetland degradation

Yes	No	N/A	VEGETATION
X			6) There is diverse age-class distribution of riparian-wetland vegetation (recruitment for maintenance/recovery)
X			7) There is diverse composition of riparian-wetland vegetation (for maintenance/recovery)
X			8) Species present indicate maintenance of riparian-wetland soil moisture characteristics
X			9) Streambank vegetation is comprised of those plants or plant communities that have root masses capable of withstanding high-streamflow events
X			10) Riparian-wetland plants exhibit high vigor
X			11) Adequate riparian-wetland vegetative cover is present to protect banks and dissipate energy during high flows
		X	12) Plant communities are an adequate source of coarse and/or large woody material (for maintenance/recovery)

Yes	No	N/A	EROSION/DEPOSITION
X			13) Floodplain and channel characteristics (i.e., rocks, overflow channels, coarse and/or large woody material) are adequate to dissipate energy
X			14) Point bars are revegetating with riparian-wetland vegetation
X			15) Lateral stream movement is associated with natural sinuosity
X			16) System is vertically stable
X			17) Stream is in balance with the water and sediment being supplied by the watershed (i.e., no excessive erosion or deposition)

(Revised 1998)

future do 2009 photos

6-7
8

Remarks

3) still expanding laterally in some areas. 6) No old willows, but lots of recent recruitment;
10) some heavy willow browse; some isolated dead willows, but mostly good vigor
11) too many bare streambanks in upper reaches
15) see #3
17) some deposition, but natural for this depositional/low gradient reach

*Willows have increased much since 1999 photos.

In 2003 Mulnhall noticed heavy spring grazing causing a detriment to the improvement of this stream reach. The permittee shifted spring grazing to winter grazing after Nov 1st & in December which was continued the last 10 years. The stream is recovering & improving but is still at risk.

Summary Determination

Functional Rating:

Proper Functioning Condition	___
Functional—At Risk	X
Nonfunctional	___
Unknown	___

Trend for Functional—At Risk:

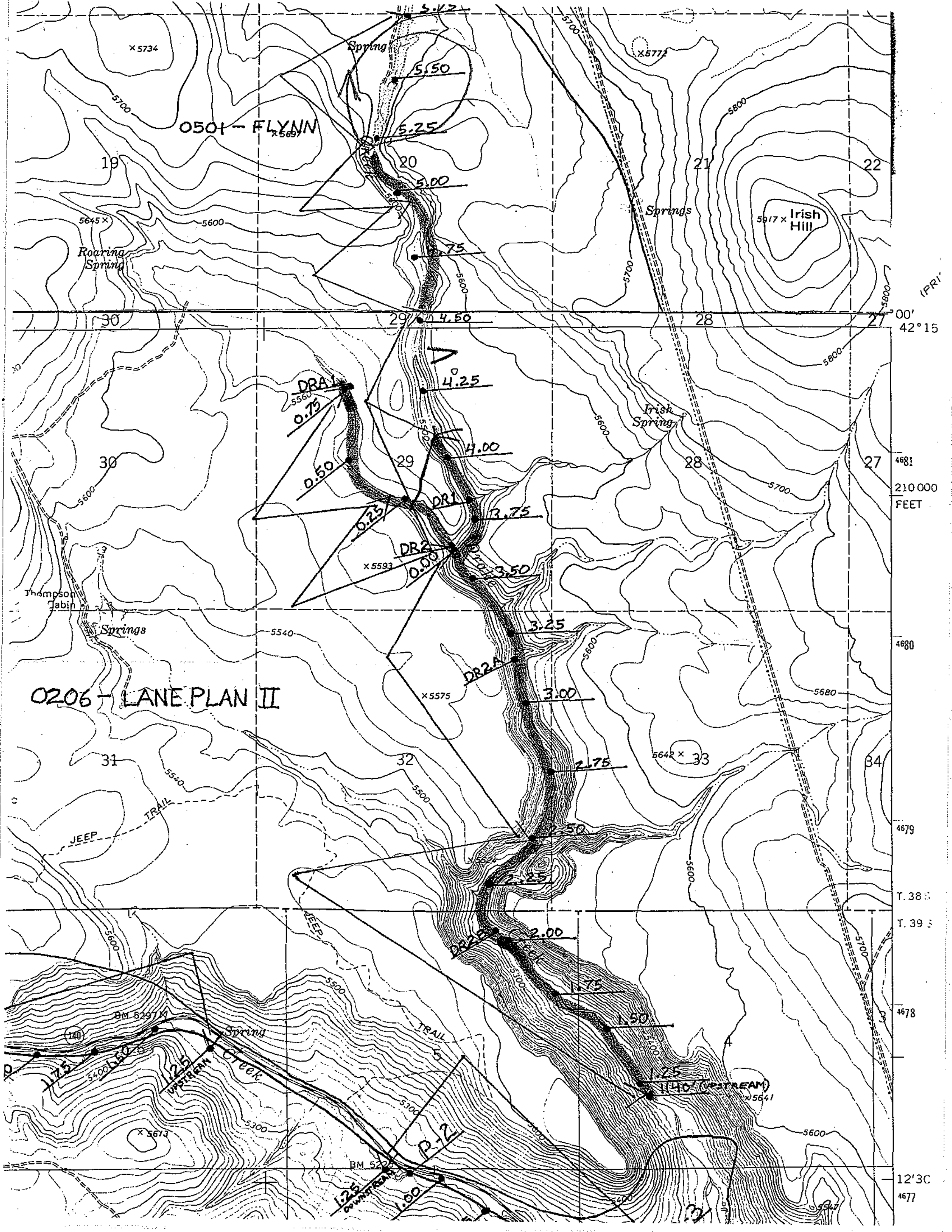
Upward	X
Downward	___
Not Apparent	___

Are factors contributing to unacceptable conditions outside the control of the manager?

Yes	___
No	X

If yes, what are those factors?

___ Flow regulations ___ Mining activities ___ Upstream channel conditions
___ Channelization ___ Road encroachment ___ Oil field water discharge
___ Augmented flows ___ Other (specify)___________________


0501 - FLYNN
0206 - LANE PLAN II
Spring
Springs
Roaring Spring
Irish Hill
Irish Spring
Thompson Cabin
Springs
JEEP TRAIL
Creek
DRA1
DR1
DR2
DR2A
DR2B
5.50
5.25
5.00
4.75
4.50
4.25
4.00
3.75
3.50
3.25
3.00
2.75
2.50
2.25
2.00
1.75
1.50
1.25
1.40 (UPSTREAM)
0.75
0.50
0.25
0.00
1.25 UPSTREAM
1.25 DOWNSTREAM
1.00
P.2
BM 5297
BM 5200
140
42°15
00'
12'30
210 000 FEET
T. 38 S.
T. 39 S.
4681
4680
4679
4678
4677

May 21, 2013 Drake Creek

SOS FLF Flynn Allotment