

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

**UPDATE for the
Lynch-Flynn Allotment #0520**

6/13/13

The original Lynch-Flynn Allotment Rangeland Health Assessment was conducted in 2003. This assessment included all pastures of the allotment. Long term trend plots were read in 1987, 2009, 2011, and 2012. Trend in all plots are currently upwards with appropriate species composition and cover. The Lynch-Flynn Allotment is currently grazed with a total of 881 AUMs authorized on BLM-administered lands. The Lynch-Flynn allotment encompasses about 23,060 acres of which 18,800 are BLM-administered lands. This allotment is grazed by three permittees with one permit holding the majority (91%) of the AUM's authorized in the allotment. This allotment is broken into two pastures the west pasture and the east pasture. The dingo fire burned 300 acres of the east pasture in 1996. Approximately, 100 acres of the burned area were reseeded to a native seed mix. The remaining acres were allowed to recover naturally with two growing season of rest from livestock grazing.

The west pasture is used from 4/1-7/15 with the east pasture providing some relief when water is available. The east pasture is higher in elevation and more sensitive to livestock trampling effects in the spring so livestock are moved onto the pasture after soils have firmed up. The east pasture is also lacking water sources that consistently hold water for the duration of the season. Although several springs exist when soils firm up water holes also dry out quickly with during the dry summer months. Livestock are grazed in the east pasture using best management practices to maintain the health and ecological functioning of riparian and uplands vegetation and soils. The east pasture is used to provide some respite to the west pasture during the grazing season and this is supported by average utilization levels of slight (6-20%) and light (21-40%) for the last 10 years.

Summary of Rangeland Health Assessment for Lynch-Flynn Allotment (00520).

Standard	Assessment Findings 2003	Current Assessment 2012	Comments
1. Watershed Function – Uplands	Met	Met	Upland soils exhibit infiltration and permeability rates, moisture storage, and stability that are appropriate to soil, climate, and landform. Plant composition and community structure of grasses, forbs, and shrubs are what is expected for the site. There is good plant vigor and plants are able to complete their reproductive cycle following grazing use each summer and fall. Organic matter in the form of plant litter is accumulating and being incorporated into the soil. Available trend data show that plant cover and the amount and distribution of bare ground is within the range of variability expected for the ecological sites found in the allotment. Noxious weeds known to occur in both the East and West pastures are, hoary cress, Mediterranean sage, bull thistle, and medusa head. Both noxious weeds mentioned are under an annual weed treatment program.
2. Watershed Function Riparian/ Wetland Areas	Met	Met	There are about 128 acres of palustrine wetlands within the allotment. All wetland are in PFC. Livestock grazing does not appear to be a factor limiting wetland function. There are no riparian areas associated with lotic habitats within the allotment.
3. Ecological Processes	Met	Met	Plant composition and community structure are appropriate for this allotment. Available trend data show that organic matter is accumulating in the form of litter and is being incorporated into the soil. Plant roots appear to be occupying the soil profile, stabilizing the soil. Standard 3 is being met for wildlife populations. There are healthy, productive, and diverse plant populations and communities within the allotment. Trend is upward.
4. Water Quality	NA	NA	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	This allotment supports the current and proposed number of mule deer and pronghorn antelope identified by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) management plans. This allotment contains 98% PPH sage-grouse habitat and 1 active sage-grouse lek as verified by ongoing BLM and ODFW surveys. This allotment also supports numerous small and nongame birds and mammals common to the Great Basin. Locally important cultural plant species in the allotment are calochortus, lomatium, gooseberry chokecherry, bitterroot, and wild onion.

Guidelines for Livestock Management

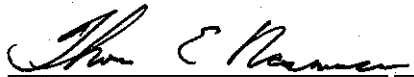
Existing grazing management practices or levels of grazing use on the Lynch-Flynn Allotment are consistent with the Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management (August 12, 1997). The pasture is grazed at an appropriate season coordinated with precipitation, plant growth, and plant form to promote appropriate 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

Determination

- Existing grazing management practices or levels of grazing use in the Lynch-Flynn #520 Allotment promote achievement of significant progress towards the Oregon/Washington Standards and Guidelines for Rangeland Health and conform with the Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management.
- () Existing grazing management practices or levels of grazing use in the Lynch-Flynn #520 Allotment will require modification or change prior to the next grazing season to promote achievement of the Oregon/Washington Standards and Guidelines for Rangeland Health and conform with the Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management.



Lakeview Resource Area Manager

Date

6/19/13

Lynch-Flynn Allotment

Monitoring Summary (2012):

The East and West pastures of this allotment were grazed during the spring and summer of 2012. The East pasture was grazed from 4/18-7/15, and the West pasture was grazed from 4/1-7/14. The total permitted AUMs for the two pastures is 805.

Actual Use and Utilization #0520

Year	Lynch-Flynn AUMs	% Utilization (East)	% Utilization (West)
2012	666	26	40
2011	317	2.5	
2010	538	5	39
2009	566		50
2008	528		30
2007	677	25	22
2006	608		44
2005	608		
2004	787		
2003	775	25	
2002	764	2.5	
2001	601		
2000	627	36	29
1999	527		25
1998	496		8
1997	482		
1996	134		
1995	54	19	
1994	95	18	19
1993	37	29	14
1992			15
1991	412		30
1990	1474	8	20
1989	1246	11	12
1988	698		
1987	619	38	12
1986	621	20	
1985	522		
1984	1000		
1983	655		
1982	1063		
1981	725		
1980	691		
1979	1090		
1977	111		
1971	4423		

1969	689		
1968	861		
Avg 10yrs	616	14	38
Average	725	19	26

Observed Apparent Trend

Lynch-Flynn 0520				
Pasture	Year	Score/35	%	Rating
West : LF1	2008	33	94%	Upward
	2011	30	86%	Upward
East: LF2	2009	22	63%	Static
	2011	30	86%	Upward
West: LF3	2012	26	74%	Upward

% Composition

West	2012 LF1	2012 LF3	East	2011	2009
BRTE	17		BRTE		
ELEL			ELEL	9	18
POSE		22	POSE	16	33
STTH			STTH	4	
FEID	7		FEID	24	14
PUTR	8		PUTR		
ARTR	16		ARTR		
ARAR		13	ARAR	35	29
CHNA	1		CHNA		
Forbs	1	25	Forb	12	6

Cover

West	2012 LF1	2012 LF3	East LF2	2011	2009
Bare Ground	8	3	Bare Ground	6	18
Litter	29	2	Litter	12	11
Rock	13	31	Rock	24	22
Vegetation	50	60	Vegetation	56	42
Crust/Moss	0	4	Crust/Moss	2	4
Gravel	0	0	Gravel	0	3

The trend data and photo analysis indicates an overall upward trend at this site. Percent bare ground and vegetative cover have decreased slightly in 2012 as compared to 2009. Vegetation cover only slightly changed in the East pasture from 2009 to 2012 with a higher incidence for shrub cover.