

# **WALTERS ALLOTMENT EVALUATION**

**Achieving the Idaho Standards for Rangeland Health  
And  
Conformance with the Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management**



## **Introduction**

This document is an evaluation of Idaho Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management of the public lands administered by the Salmon Field Office (SFO) of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) within the Walters Allotment.

This is the first in a series of documents, including the Walters Allotment Evaluation, and the appropriate National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation and subsequent Decision(s) that would change management where needed on the Walters Allotment.

This evaluation reports the condition and/or function of public land resources within the Walters Allotment to the authorized officer, the Salmon Field Manager. The authorized officer reviews the findings in this evaluation to determine whether the eight Standards for Rangeland Health are being met and whether current livestock management conforms to the Idaho Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management.

The assessed condition/function of the Walters Allotment Evaluation will be used in the NEPA process. An environmental assessment (EA) will be written addressing all resource concerns identified within the Walters Allotment. If existing grazing management practices or levels of grazing use on the Walters Allotment are determined to be a significant factor in failing to achieve one or more of the eight Standards, the BLM is required by regulation (43 CFR 4180.1) to make grazing management adjustments.

Implementation of new management will begin following completion of the NEPA process, but full implementation of revised grazing plans, if needed, and/or range improvement projects associated with these plans may take several years. The new plans will be developed in consultation and coordination with the affected permittees, the agency having lands or managing resources within the area and other interested parties.

The SFO completed a Resource Management Plan (RMP) in 1987 and amended that plan in 2001. The Lemhi RMP will provide program guidance in the SFO until replaced by a new Land Use Plan. The Lemhi Resource Area Ecological Site Inventory of 1983 provides documentation of rangeland conditions.

## **Background**

The Walters Allotment is located in Lemhi County, Idaho and comprises 1,703 acres of public land. The allotment lies within Township 16 North and Ranges 24 East sections 11, 13-15, and 23-25, Boise Meridian (Map 1). This evaluation addresses land health conditions on BLM public lands only.

Elevations range from approximately 6,500 feet to 9,000 feet, and the topography is very gentle with slopes less than 10%. Average annual precipitation ranges from 13-16 inches. Soils in the Walters Allotment are predominantly stony loams and loams ranging from shallow to deep. These soils are affected by climate and parent material, and were formed primarily from alluvium.

Vegetation in the Walters Allotment reflects the diversity of ecological conditions across the landscape. The dominant plant communities and habitat types vary depending upon the soils,

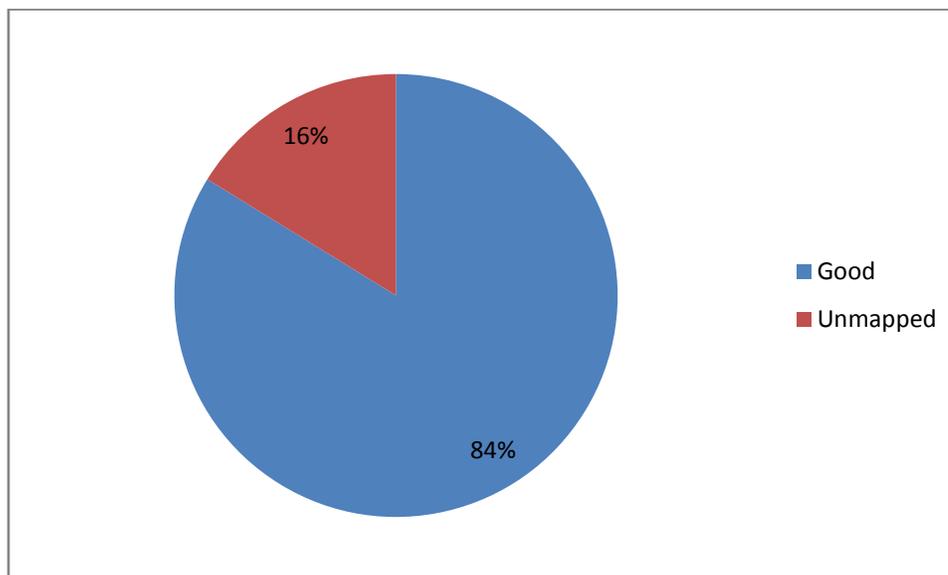
precipitation, elevation, slope, and aspect. Vegetation includes mostly upland rangeland with lesser amounts of riparian and spring complex habitat.

## Livestock Grazing History

Livestock have grazed in the Lemhi valley since the 1860's, after the discovery of gold. Large bands of sheep and herds of cattle grazed the valley, often season long or until winter snows began to limit forage availability. Many areas became depleted due to unregulated grazing and overstocking. The allotment consists of two pastures including the Ferry Creek Pasture and the Walters Pasture. No developed water sources are in either pasture. For the past several years the allotment has been grazed earlier in the season due to limited water sources. In the Walters Pasture, water sources include Ferry Creek and spring complexes associated with Ferry Creek. In the Ferry Creek Pasture, Mill Creek is the only water source. Mill Creek is dewatered early in the season for irrigation prior to crossing BLM, and therefore provides water for a limited period of time.

Walters Allotment is considered an *Improve* (I) allotment, as categorized by the SFO based on resource values and opportunities for improvement, and currently does not have an Allotment Management Plan (AMP). The stocking rate is 3.2 acres/AUM, which is influenced by soils, vegetation type, topography, water availability, and local weather. The kind and class of livestock authorized to graze on the allotment is cattle (cow/calf pairs). The ecological condition of the Walters Allotment is classified as 1,427 acres (84%) in Good condition, and 276 acres (16%) as Unmapped (see Figure 1) (RMP 2001).

**Figure 1:** Ecological conditions of the Walters Allotment (ESI, 1983).



**Table 1:** The current permit/preference on the Walters Allotment:

No. Livestock/Kind	Dates	% Public Land	Permittee
61 cattle	5/11 – 9/20	100	Peterson Land & Livestock Co.
200 cattle	5/16 – 6/15	100	Peterson Land & Livestock Co.
7 horses	5/11 – 12/10	100	Peterson Land & Livestock Co.
<b>Preference:</b>	516 AUMs Active	18 AUMs Suspended	534 Total AUMs

**Table 2:** The objectives for the number of AUMs for the Walters Allotment from the RMP, as well as the average actual grazing use on the allotment from 1999 to 2008 as reported by actual use booklets submitted by the permittees at the end of the grazing season.

AUMs from the RMP:	Average Actual Use for the previous 10 years:
RMP short-term objective: 189	446 AUMs
RMP long-term objective: 208	
RMP Active preference: 524	

## Process

This evaluation was completed in accordance with BLM regulations regarding Rangeland Health Standards. Rangeland Health Standards are described in detail in the *Idaho Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management*. Standards are statements of physical and biological condition or degree of function required for healthy sustainable lands. Achieving or making significant progress towards these functions and conditions is required of all uses of public lands, as stated in 43 CFR 4180.1.

This evaluation will report condition and/or function for the following eight Idaho Standards for Rangeland Health:

- Standard 1: Watersheds
- Standard 2: Riparian and Wetland Areas
- Standard 3: Stream Channel/Floodplain
- Standard 4: Native Plant Communities
- Standard 5: Seedings
- Standard 6: Exotic Plant Communities, Other than Seedings
- Standard 7: Water Quality
- Standard 8: Threatened and Endangered Plants and Animals

### Procedure to determine conformance with the standard(s):

The Walters Allotment was assessed according to Interagency Technical Reference 1734-6 “Interpreting Indicators of Rangeland Health.” This qualitative process evaluates 17 “indicators” to assess three interrelated components of rangeland health: soil/site stability, hydrological function, and biotic integrity. Trend monitoring data, existing inventories, field visits, and historical photographs are used by the ID team to assess condition and function. The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) has developed Ecological Site Descriptions based on

specific soil types, precipitation zones and location. These describe various characteristics and attributes including the vegetative species and relative percentage each are expected to be present on the site. The ID team refers to these site descriptions while completing the Rangeland Health Assessment (RHA), which helps the ID team determine the departure from what is expected for the site assessed based upon soil/site stability, hydrologic function, and biotic integrity.

### **Rangeland Health Assessment Site Selection:**

The sites selected for the RHAs were chosen based upon representative soil type and ecological sites of the allotment, and are representative of rangeland conditions occurring on the Walters Allotment. Digital mapping of ecological sites, soil types, distances to developed and undeveloped water sources were also used by the ID team to examine potential sites to conduct the RHA. Soil type was determined by digging soil pits and comparing soils maps of the area, ensuring that the ID team collected data for the RHAs on soils representative of that portion of the allotment.

### **Standard 1 (Watersheds)**

Standard doesn't apply

Evaluation and Information Sources (*required regardless of which box is checked*): RHAs including visual observations and line-point intercept data in Walters and Ferry Creek pastures on 7/08/2008. Field visits and project inspections throughout the allotment in 2008, and ID team meetings on 4/23/2008 and 11/12/2008.

Watersheds should provide proper infiltration, retention, and water release that are specific to the soil type, vegetation, climate, and landform in order for proper nutrient and hydrological cycling as well as energy flow, to occur.

No rills or water-flow patterns were present at the site. No gullies, wind-scoured areas, blowouts, or depositional areas occurred. The soil surface was resistant to erosion resulting from the vegetative, rock, and litter cover, and no surface loss or degradation was apparent. No compaction layer was present on the soil surface. Large woody litter was not moving far from its origin; however the slope on the site was not such that woody or fine litter would be expected to move far from the source. Plant community composition and distribution relative to infiltration was as expected for the site, with adequate composition of deep-rooted bunchgrasses and shrubs to increase snow accumulation and promote infiltration. The amount of fine litter and woody debris was as expected for the site. Bare ground was 16%, which was lower than expected for the site (25-45%), due to the amount of vegetative and litter cover.

**Table 3.** Hydrologic and soil and site stability indicators for watersheds on the Mill Creek Allotment.

Hydrologic Function		Soil and Site Stability	
	Rating	Rating	
Indicators:	Walters RHA	Indicators:	Walters RHA
Rills	<i>none to slight</i>	Rills	<i>none to slight</i>
Water-flow patterns	<i>none to slight</i>	Water-flow patterns	<i>none to slight</i>
Pedestals and/or terracettes	<i>none to slight</i>	Pedestals and/or terracettes	<i>none to slight</i>
Bare ground	<i>none to slight</i>	Bare ground	<i>none to slight</i>
Gullies	<i>none to slight</i>	Gullies	<i>none to slight</i>
Soil surface resistance to erosion	<i>none to slight</i>	Wind Scour	<i>none to slight</i>
Soil surface loss or degradation	<i>none to slight</i>	Litter movement	<i>none to slight</i>
Plant community composition and distribution relative to infiltration	<i>none to slight</i>	Soil surface resistance to erosion	<i>none to slight</i>
Compaction layer	<i>none to slight</i>	Soil surface loss or degradation	<i>none to slight</i>
Litter Amount	<i>none to slight</i>	Compaction layer	<i>none to slight</i>
<b>Overall Ratings:</b>	<b><i>none to slight</i></b>	<b>Overall Ratings:</b>	<b><i>none to slight</i></b>

The watershed within the Walters Allotment provides for water infiltration, retention, and release appropriate for the soils, vegetation, climate, and land forms present. Indicators for watersheds were overall a *none to slight* departure from the expected, indicating that water retention and soils processes were in balance with the watershed.

1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meeting the Standard	4 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, current livestock grazing management practices are significant factors
2 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, <b>but making significant progress towards</b>	
3 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, current livestock grazing management practices are <b>not</b> significant factors	5 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, cause not determined

## Standard 2 (Riparian Areas and Wetlands)

Standard doesn't apply

Evaluation and Information Sources (*required regardless of which box is checked*): Stream Condition Rating by drainage for the Salmon River (BLM 2001), ID team field visits and stream and spring assessments on 07/08/2008, and ID team meetings on 4/23/2008 and 11/12/2008.

Riparian and wetland areas should be in properly functioning condition appropriate to the soil types, climate, geology, and landform to provide for proper nutrient and hydrologic cycling, as well as, energy flow. The ID team members evaluated undeveloped springs and used data from stream condition class ratings to determine the vigor, age-class distribution, and composition of riparian and wetland vegetation present on the allotment. Riparian and wetland vegetation should also control erosion, stabilize streambanks, provide shading, filter sediment, aid floodplain development, dissipate energy, delay flood water, and increase groundwater recharge.

The riparian/wetland stream habitat on the allotment is limited to about ¼ mile of the Mill Creek stream channel and about ¾ mile of Ferry Creek. Mill Creek is dewatered for irrigation for almost the entire irrigation season and rarely makes it to the allotment. Additionally, the porous soils and stream channel substrate cause much of the water to flow subsurface and reappear in large springs downstream of the allotment. The stream channel is very rocky, and lacks riparian vegetation due to insufficient water flow during the growing season. BLM does not have discretion over the water withdrawal on Mill Creek.

Ferry Creek is a small spring-fed stream with multiple seeps and springs adjacent to the channel. It originates upstream of the public land on the adjacent Forest Service allotment from a spring complex. It immediately flows onto public land and then approximately ¾ mile downstream, it crosses an irrigation ditch from Mill Creek and is captured in the ditch. The remaining lower ¼ mile is dewatered and does not have riparian vegetation. The upper portion of the creek has a gentler slope than the lower portion near the ditch, which is heavily armored with rocks.

Riparian vegetation on Ferry Creek, near its source on BLM, is continuing to expand, as well as in many other areas of the stream. Multiple age-classes of riparian shrubs are present, though mostly comprised of younger and older age-classes of trees and shrubs. Both woody and herbaceous riparian species exhibit high vigor, and have root masses capable of withstanding high stream flow events. The riparian habitat along the stream and associated springs is overall in good condition and in Proper Functioning Condition. The riparian areas are comprised of many different riparian and wetland species including beaked sedge (*Carex utriculata*), Nebraska sedge (*Carex nebraskensis*), brookgrass (*Catabrosa aquatica*), monkeyflower (*Mimulus guttatus*), multiple species of rushes (*Juncus*), and other riparian grasses. Riparian trees and shrubs that are also found include aspen (*Populus tremuloides*), booth willow (*Salix boothii*), geyer willow (*Salix geyeriana*), coyote willow (*Salix exigua*), and alder (*Alnus incana*). Early spring grazing in the past 5 years has contributed to the riparian improvements and expansion of riparian vegetation in the pasture.

Two undeveloped springs exist in the allotment outside of Ferry Creek and have riparian herbaceous vegetation and are in Functioning at-Risk condition. Deep-rooted vegetation is present but some trampling damage occurs.



2008-Ferry Creek BLM/F.S. boundary



2008-Spring along Ferry Creek

Overall, the condition of riparian vegetation is very good, and the spring complex supports a diverse riparian community capable of maintaining the hydric soils and wetland characteristics. Grazing management of the Walters Allotment for early season use in the Walters Pasture helps maintain and improve the conditions of the riparian vegetation.

1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meeting the Standard	4 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, current livestock grazing management practices are significant factors
2 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, <b>but making significant progress towards</b>	
3 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, current livestock grazing management practices are <b>not</b> significant factors	5 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, cause not determined

**Standard 3 (Stream Channel/Flood plain)**

Standard doesn't apply

Evaluation and Information Sources (*required regardless of which box is checked*): Stream Condition Rating by drainage for the Salmon River (BLM 2001), ID team field visits and stream assessments on 07/08/2008, and ID team meetings on 4/23/2008 and 11/12/2008.

Stream channels and floodplains should be properly functioning relative to the geomorphology and climate in order to provide proper nutrient and hydrologic cycling, and energy flow. Indicators that ID team members used to evaluate this standard include whether stream channels and floodplains dissipate energy and transport sediment, have access to floodplains, have limited compaction from human activities, and have stable streambanks.

See Standard 2 above. Mill Creek is dewatered for irrigation for almost the entire irrigation season and rarely makes it to the allotment. Additionally, the porous soils and stream channel substrate cause much of the water to flow subsurface and reappear in large springs downstream of the allotment. The stream channel is very rocky, and lacks riparian vegetation due to insufficient water flow during the growing season. BLM does not have discretion over the water withdrawal on Mill Creek.

The Ferry Creek stream channel is vertically stable, and also has stable streambanks capable of withstanding high run-off events and dissipating energy. Ferry Creek has access to its floodplain, which is vegetated with desirable riparian species capable of maintaining desirable stream channel and floodplain characteristics. The lower, steep gradient portion is heavily

armored with rocks. The remainder of Ferry Creek on BLM (bottom ¼ mile) is dewatered due to irrigation and lacks stream channel characteristics.

The overall condition of the stream channels in the Walters Allotment is good with stable streambanks and deep-rooted vegetation able to maintain wetland conditions and keep erosion in balance with the channel type, soils, and landform.

1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meeting the Standard	4 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, current livestock grazing management practices are significant factors
2 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, <b>but making significant progress towards</b>	
3 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, current livestock grazing management practices are <b>not</b> significant factors	5 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, cause not determined

**Standard 4 (Native Plant Communities)**

Standard doesn't apply

Evaluation and Information Sources (*required regardless of which box is checked*): Rangeland Health Assessments including visual observations and line-point intercept data in Walters and Ferry Creek pastures on 7/08/2008. Field visits and project inspections throughout the allotment in 2008, and ID team meetings on 4/23/2008 and 11/12/2008.

Healthy, productive, and diverse native animal habitat and populations of native plants should be maintained or promoted that appropriate to the soil types present on the Walters Allotment, and should provide for proper nutrient cycling, hydrologic cycling, and energy flow. Native plant communities were evaluated throughout the allotment based upon indicators of biotic integrity (Table 4) of the native plant communities present, which includes information from the RHA completed in the Walters Pasture. The ID team evaluated upland health conditions in all native plant communities including sagebrush and grassland areas, forested areas, noxious weed and cheatgrass infestations, and special status plants occurring in the Walters Allotment. Special status plants will be discussed in detail under Standard 8: Threatened and Endangered Plants and Animals.

Approximately 88% of the allotment is comprised of soil complexes and associations that support various upland habitat types. Three-tip sagebrush/Idaho fescue (*Artemisia tripartite/Festuca idahoensis*) ecological site comprises approximately 24% of the allotment. An additional 64% of the allotment is mountain big sage/Idaho fescue ecological site, which was the site where the RHA was completed. The prominent herbaceous species throughout, which are cool season grasses and provide the understory vegetation in the sagebrush habitat types, included in these uplands are bluebunch wheatgrass (*Pseudoroegneria spicata*), Idaho fescue, and Sandberg bluegrass (*Poa secunda*). Forbs such as sego lily (*Calochortus nutallii*), cushion phlox (*Phlox hoodii*), Indian paintbrush (*Castilleja spp.*), buckwheat (*Eriogonum spp.*), tapertip hawksbeard (*Crepis acuminata*), lupine (*Lupinus spp.*) and fleabane (*Erigeron spp.*) also occur in the sagebrush understory. Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) encroachment was also noted in the upper elevation portion of the Walters Pasture.

**Uplands:** The uplands are in good ecological condition and the overall rating for the native plant communities within the Walters Allotment was a *none to slight* departure from the conditions expected for the soil type and ecological sight (Table 4). The order of functional structural groups for the mountain big sage/Idaho fescue ecological site should have been cool season

bunchgrasses dominant to shrubs, shrubs dominant forbs, and forbs dominant to shallow rooted grasses. Shrubs were actually dominant to cool season perennial bunchgrasses; however the remaining functional structural groups were as expected. Cover of mountain big sage has increased to 32% from the line-point intercept data collected at the site, and the range of mountain big sage for the ecological site should have been between 15-25%. No soil loss or degradation was occurring at the RHA site and no compaction layer was present. The amount of coarse and fine litter on the site was as expected (44%), with fine litter accumulation present under shrubs. Plant mortality and decadence in perennial grasses and shrubs was not more than expected for the ecological site. All functional groups were visibly producing seeds, and seedlings were also present. Biological crusts at the RHA site from the line-intercept data collected indicated that cover of biological crusts was undetectable; however the estimates from the ID team throughout the allotment indicated that a trace was present. Biological crust cover should be 3-15% in this vegetation type.

**Table 4.** The biotic integrity ratings for the nine indicators of rangeland health that is associated with plant health and function.

<b>Biotic Integrity</b>	
<b>Indicators:</b>	
Soil surface resistance to erosion	<i>none to slight</i>
Soil surface loss or degradation	<i>none to slight</i>
Compaction layer	<i>none to slight</i>
Functional/Structural Groups	<i>slight to moderate</i>
Plant Mortality/Decadence	<i>none to slight</i>
Litter Amount	<i>none to slight</i>
Annual Production	<i>none to slight</i>
Invasive plants	<i>none to slight</i>
Reproductive capability of perennial plants	<i>none to slight</i>
<b>Overall Ratings:</b>	<b><i>none to slight</i></b>

**Noxious weeds and cheatgrass:** A trace of cheatgrass was observed in the Walters Creek Pasture, but cheatgrass was more prevalent in the Ferry Creek Pasture. Knapweed (*Centaurea maculosa*) was found at the juncture of Ferry Creek and the irrigation ditch, but was isolated to the area along the ditch.

Overall conditions of the native vegetation within the allotment are very good. Herbaceous species and shrubs are reproducing and generally vigorous throughout the allotment, although due to a lack of fire and grazing, cover of mountain big sage has increased above that expected for the ecological site. Cheatgrass is not expanding, and spot treatments of knapweed along the ditch will keep it from spreading to other areas on the allotment.

1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meeting the Standard	4 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, current livestock grazing management practices are significant factors
2 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, <b>but making significant progress towards</b>	
3 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, current	5 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, cause not

livestock grazing management practices are <b>not</b> significant factors	determined
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Overall, the native plant communities within the Walters Allotment are healthy, productive, and provide diverse animal habitat and populations of native plants.

**Standard 5 (Seedings)**

**X** Standard doesn't apply

1 <input type="checkbox"/> Meeting the Standard	4 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, current livestock grazing management practices are significant factors
2 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, <b>but making significant progress towards</b>	
3 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, current livestock grazing management practices are <b>not</b> significant factors	5 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, cause not determined

**Standard 6 (Exotic Plant Communities, Other than Seedings)**

**X** Standard doesn't apply

1 <input type="checkbox"/> Meeting the Standard	4 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, current livestock grazing management practices are significant factors
2 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, <b>but making significant progress towards</b>	
3 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, current livestock grazing management practices are <b>not</b> significant factors	5 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, cause not determined

**Standard 7 (Water Quality)**

Standard doesn't apply

Evaluation and Information Sources (*required regardless of which box is checked*): State of Idaho; Department of Environmental Quality “Lemhi River Watershed Assessment” and 303d stream list/Idaho 2002 305(B) Integrated Report (Final).

Mill Creek and Ferry Creek are not listed as water quality impaired stream segment by DEQ and are meeting the standard.

1 <b>X</b> Meeting the Standard	4 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, current livestock grazing management practices are significant factors
2 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, <b>but making significant progress towards</b>	
3 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, current livestock grazing management practices are <b>not</b> significant factors	5 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, cause not determined

**Standard 8 (Threatened and Endangered Plants and Animals)**

Standard doesn't apply

Evaluation and Information Sources: Lemhi Resource Management Plan (1987), and Idaho Conservation Data Center (CDC) database. Rangeland Health Assessments including visual

observations and line-point intercept data. Field visits were completed throughout the allotment in 2008. Sage grouse habitat assessment completed on July 8, 2008.

Maintaining habitat that is suitable for viable populations of special status species, including threatened, endangered and BLM sensitive species is an important component of managing public lands. The ID team used several parameters to assess the existing and potential habitat of these species, including annual population monitoring of sensitive plant species, and field observations of fisheries and wildlife habitat and species presence.

The allotment provides habitat for various Special Status Species. Type 1 Special Status Species are those species that were listed as threatened or endangered, or were proposed or candidates for listing under the Endangered Species Act in 2003. Type 2 Special Status Species are species that are experiencing significant declines throughout their range with a high likelihood of being listed in the foreseeable future due to their rarity and/or significant endangerment factors. Type 3 Special Status Species are species that are experiencing significant declines in population or habitat and are in danger of regional or local extinctions in Idaho in the foreseeable future if factors contributing to their decline continue.

The portion of the Walters Creek allotment in the vicinity of Mill Creek is within the South Hayden/Little Sawmill Canada Lynx Analysis Unit. Canada lynx are a Type 1 species, and while a small portion of the allotment, along Mill Creek, is mapped as suitable habitat for Canada lynx they have not been documented in the Allotment, or on the USFS land immediately up the drainage. The habitat along Mill Creek would provide cover of Canada lynx moving through the area. Gray wolves, another Type 1 species, are increasing in the Lemhi Sub-basin and may at some point cross the allotment. The BLM has no documentation of wolves on the allotment.

Mill Creek above the diversions on National Forest Land has bull trout and cutthroat trout. The stream channel is almost completely dewatered as it reaches public land both from irrigation withdrawal and porous soils and substrate. Fish have not been found in Mill Creek on the allotment and it is a dry channel for most of the year. The grazing allotment is not impacting the water flows or habitat. Ferry Creek does not have fish.

Both pygmy rabbits and sage grouse (Type 2 species) have been documented on the allotment. Pygmy rabbits have been found in both pastures, though the majority of the population, and their habitat, is in the Walters Creek pasture. The Ferry Creek Pasture is dominated by three-tip sagebrush and the soil is rockier than in the Walter's Creek Pasture. Sage grouse use the allotment for late brood rearing. A sage grouse lek is located within a mile of the allotment and some nesting could be occurring in the Ferry Creek Pasture of the allotment. The Ferry Creek Pasture provides suitable habitat for sage grouse. Cheatgrass has invaded the site, which is a concern. While the pasture is providing suitable sage grouse nesting habitat, most of the nesting is likely occurring on the adjacent allotment within the big sage brush habitat versus the three-tip sage brush habitat found in the Ferry Creek Pasture.

The only Type 3 species that has been documented in the area is the northern goshawk. Goshawks have been documented on the USFS land above the allotment, and there may be some foraging occurring on the corner of the allotment along Mill Creek.

Surveys and field visits in 2008 indicated that no Threatened, Endangered, or BLM Sensitive plant species are present in the allotment.

1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meeting the Standard	4 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, current livestock grazing management practices are significant factors
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3 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, current livestock grazing management practices are <b>not</b> significant factors	5 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, cause not determined

ID Team:

Tanya Thrift	Rangeland Management Specialist
Vince Guyer	Natural Resources Specialist (T&E)
Craig Nemeth	Supervisory NRS
Jude Trapani	Fisheries Biologist
Alexia Cochrane	Botanist
Tricia Miller	Fisheries Biologist SCEP

# Walters Allotment



### Legend

- WATER DEVELOPMENT
- ROADS
- FENCES
- ENCLOSURES
- GRAZING ALLOTMENTS
- PASTURES

This map depicts the Walters Allotment vicinity of the Salmon Field Office, BLM.

The sources of the data are from Idaho-BLM Corporate data and the USGS.

Datum: NAD 83, UTM Zone 12 N  
 No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data is not guaranteed.

Map Created by  
 BLM/Idaho  
 8/2007

