

EVALUATION AND DETERMINATION
Achieving the OR/WA Standards for Rangeland Health
and
Conformance with the Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management

Field Office: Medford Determination Date: 11/19/2008
 Grazing Allotment Name & Number: Reese Creek # 10027

Standard 1 Watershed Function – Uplands Standard doesn't apply

1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meeting the Standard	5 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, cause not determined
2 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, but making significant progress towards	
3 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, current livestock grazing management practices are not significant factors (list important causal agents)	6 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conforms with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management.
4 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, current livestock grazing management practices are significant factors (list important causal agents)	7 <input type="checkbox"/> Does not conform with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management (list Guidelines No(s) in non-conformance)

Rationale: The main soil limitations affecting livestock grazing are erosion, compaction, the depth to bedrock, and the steepness of slope. This season of use and number of cattle using the allotment does not significantly diminish the health and function of the watershed by minimizing use, maintaining adequate vegetative cover, and healthy root systems. The Rangeland Health Field Assessment was conducted on the allotment at a loamy shrub scabland ecological site. Indicators pertaining to Soil/Site Stability revealed that seven indicators (70%) were rated none-to-slight and three indicators (30%) was rated slight-to-moderate departures from the ecological sites reference condition.

Standard 2 Watershed Function – Riparian/Wetland Areas Standard doesn't apply

1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meeting the Standard	5 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, cause not determined
2 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, but making significant progress towards	
3 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, current livestock grazing management practices are not significant factors	6 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conforms with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management.
4 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, current livestock grazing management practices are significant factors	7 <input type="checkbox"/> Does not conform with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management (list Guidelines No(s) in non-conformance)

Rationale: Due to stream diversions and proximity to the Butte Falls Highway, the section of South Fork Reese Creek within the allotment is Functioning-at-Risk with an Upward Trend. Grazing does not appear to negatively influence hydrology. BLM surveys (2008) indicated no active erosion within the allotment.

Standard 3 Ecological Processes Standard doesn't apply

1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meeting the Standard	5 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, cause not determined
2 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, but making significant progress towards	
3 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, current livestock grazing management practices are not significant factors	6 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conforms with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management.
4 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, current livestock grazing management practices are significant factors	7 <input type="checkbox"/> Does not conform with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management (list Guidelines No(s) in non-conformance)

Rationale: In areas of coniferous forest and under the oak canopy we found conditions expected for the sites, which indicate that the energy, nutrient, and hydrologic cycles are balanced. Annual non-native grasses are scattered in patches through out the non-wooded areas within the allotment. The western portion of the allotment is in worse ecological condition than the eastern portion of the allotment. There are large patches of Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus armeniacus*), teasel (*Dispacus fullonum*), and non-native rose (*Rosa sp*) however, the current grazing authorization is not intense enough to contribute to additional conversion of native plant communities to exotic annual grasslands and other non-native species.

Standard 4 Water Quality Standard doesn't apply

1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meeting the Standard	5 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, cause not determined
2 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, but making significant progress towards	
3 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, current livestock grazing management practices are not significant factors	6 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conforms with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management.
4 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, current livestock grazing management practices are significant factors	7 <input type="checkbox"/> Does not conform with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management (list Guidelines No(s) in non-conformance)

Rationale: Within the Reese Creek Allotment, there are no known listed streams on DEQs 2004/2006 303 (d) list. However, the lower reaches of Reese Creek (stream mile 0-3) are listed for summer dissolved oxygen limitation and E. coli contamination. Grazing on the Reese Creek Allotment is not a significant contributing factor to the summer dissolved oxygen limitation and E. coli contamination downstream of the allotment because the livestock are managed in a way that limits access to Reese Creek.

Standard 5 Native, T&E, and Locally Important Species Standard doesn't apply

1 <input type="checkbox"/> Meeting the Standard	5 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, cause not determined
2 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, but making significant progress towards	
3 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, current livestock grazing management practices are not significant factors	6 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conforms with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management.
4 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, current livestock grazing management practices are significant factors	7 <input type="checkbox"/> Does not conform with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management (list Guidelines No(s) in non-conformance)

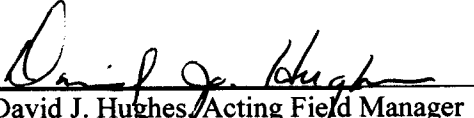
Rationale: The allotment is meeting the Standards and Guidelines for protection of habitat for terrestrial and aquatic wildlife species. Current use levels on this allotment are slight-light therefore; special status species are not likely to be adversely affected by the grazing use. There are no effects to federally listed SONC coho salmon or their critical habitat at the sixth field project level as a result of this action.

The allotment is not meeting the Standards and Guidelines for protection of habitat of special status vascular and non-vascular plant species. The allotment is within the range of one federally endangered plant, *Fritillaria gentneri*; however, no sites have been documented within the allotment. The special status species could be negatively impacted if trampled by cows but do not

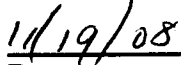
currently appear to be threatened. Approximately one-fourth to one-third of the allotment is covered by Himalayan blackberry. Several yellow star-thistle populations were observed and there is little native grass component. Left untreated these populations could displace special status species.

Field Manager's Determination Rationale:

Because Rangeland Health Standards are being met, or there is adequate rationale that cattle are not the significant factor where standards are not met, I have determined the Rangeland health Assessment (RHA) is being met and livestock grazing conforms with the Oregon/Washington standards for rangeland health.



David J. Hughes, Acting Field Manager



Date