

APPENDIX D

RANGE CONDITION METHODOLOGY

The inventory of present vegetation in the Cascade Resource Area was begun in 1983. The inventory was based on Landsat Digital Analysis, remote sensing techniques and an intensive field verification effort.

The various vegetation cover types inventoried were combined into the following types:

1. mixed grass
2. sagebrush/mixed grass
3. mountain brush/perennial grass
4. perennial grass/deciduous brush/or riparian
5. conifer/forest brush/perennial grass
6. conifer closed canopy
7. mixed annual grass
8. dense medusahead grass
9. riparian grassland
10. sparse sagebrush/medusahead grass
11. sagebrush/perennial grass

These 11 types were used to produce a present vegetation map for the entire resource area.

Resource specialists used soil types and species composition of the individual vegetation cover types to determine a condition class range within each type.

Range specialists familiar with the Cascade Resource Area used the best available information from range surveys, Landsat, ground checks, and riparian studies to derive a condition class percent by allotment.

Because time and funding restraints precluded the tabulation and assessment of slope and topography effects on total available forage an assumption has been made that the 5-year average demand is the same as the estimated current available forage production. Monitoring and utilization studies will be used to verify the current carrying capacity and/or to establish the need for a change in active demand.