

DETERMINATION & RECOMMENDATIONS

Achieving Standards for Rangeland Health And Conforming with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management

Resource Area: BAKER GU: UNITY RESERVOIR-BALD EAGLE HABITAT #9

Grazing Allotment Name/Number/Pastures: NORTH FORK #05235

Public Land (acres): 235

Streams on Public Lands (miles): 0.5

Assessment Participants (Name & Discipline or Interest):

_____	Melissa Yzquierdo	Wildlife Biologist
_____	Jackie Dougan	Fisheries Biologist
_____	Zona Irby	Biological Technician
_____	Todd Kuck	Hydrologist
_____	Clair Button	Botanist
_____	Gary Guymon	Rangeland Management Specialists
_____	Sue Badgley	Rangeland Management Specialists

Standard 1: Watershed Function - Uplands

Standard Met X Standard Not Met _____ Standard Not Present _____
Livestock not a significant factor _____
Livestock a significant factor _____

This pasture has a good component of the key species identified for the soil sites and the ecosystem is intact. Most soil sites exhibit good infiltration and permeability rates. When you combine the soil structure with the cover of plant species and litter component, the moisture storage and stability is good. All the indicators are showing the watershed is functioning properly.

Standard 2: Watershed Function – Riparian/Wetland Areas

Standard Met X Standard Not Met _____ Standard Not Present _____
Livestock not a significant factor _____
Livestock a significant factor _____

Livestock use in the riparian area (south fork of burnt river ½ mile) indicates that the utilization level is not exceeding 50% in part of the riparian area. Some trailing and trampling is occurring, but the impact is minimal.

Standard 3: Ecological Processes

Standard Met X Standard Not Met ____ Standard Not Present ____
Livestock not a significant factor ____
Livestock a significant factor ____

This standard is being met even though there has been historical grazing at the same time has reduce the numbers of forbs. Change in livestock numbers and grazing time would benefit the upland areas. Evidence of a healthy, productive and diverse plant communities are supported by a working ecological process of nutrient cycling, energy flow and the hydrologic cycle. The pasture has evidence of a substantial increase in juniper and sagebrush, which could eventually reduce the ecological process.

Standard 4: Water Quality

Standard Met X Standard Not Met ____ Standard Not Present ____
Livestock not a significant factor ____
Livestock a significant factor ____

Evidence and assessment information indicates surface water and groundwater quality is not influenced by agency actions and generally this watershed complies with State Water quality standards and is not having a negative effect on the Burnt River that has been listed as a 303d stream. Some fluctuations may be occurring off of private ground.

Standard 5: Native, T&E, and Locally Important Species

Standard Met X Standard Not Met ____ Standard Not Present ____
Livestock not a significant factor ____
Livestock a significant factor ____

Assessment information determined no negative impacts and that habitats support healthy, productive and diverse populations and communities of nature plants and animals appropriate to soil, climate and landform.

Recommendations:

1. Make minor changes to grazing plan:
 - a. Continue to monitor time to meet utilization standards.
2. Juniper/sagebrush treatments:
 - a. Burn or cut either species to enhance other native species within the ecosystem.
3. Make sure forest health plan of operation is implemented. This should be addressed in the WUI project for this area.

Prepared by _____

Supervisory Natural Resource Specialist concurrence _____

Authorized Officer concurrence with findings _____

Date _____