

Bogus Creek FFR 0577

INITIAL ALLOTMENT AND PERMIT/LEASE REVIEW and RANGELAND HEALTH ASSESSMENT

2013 Supplement to the Bogus Creek FFR Allotment Initial Allotment Review and Rangeland Health Assessment

The Initial Allotment Review and Rangeland Health Standards and Guidelines Assessment for the Bogus Creek FFR allotment were drafted in 2006 as a portion of the grazing permit renewal process. Until 2013, no rangeland health determination had been completed, and the permit authorizing grazing use in this allotment has not been fully processed for renewal. This document consists of the 2006 rangeland health assessment, in full, supplemented by new information available since the 2006 document was completed. Portions of this 2013 document that supplement the 2006 document are presented in a two-field table format with the header above, while those portions carried forward unchanged from the 2006 document are outside the two-field tables. The 2013 Supplement to the document includes data compiled between 2006 and 2013, as well as the completion of the 2013 evaluation report and determination consistent with the Livestock Grazing Permit Renewal Desk Guide for Idaho Bureau of Land Management, May 2009. The 2013 determination is found at the end of this document.

Field Office: **Owyhee**

Date: **December 2006**

1. Allotment Name & Number: **Bogus Creek FFR - 0577**
2. Name(s) of Permittee(s)/Preference Code: **Morgan Properties LP DBA Morgan Ranches / 1101510**
3. Permit Expiration Date(s): **8/21/2011**
4. Allotment Acres: Public Land **204**, Private **19**, State **6,783**, Other-None
5. Public land in the allotment: **3%**
6. Is public land large contiguous block(s) of public land, isolated parcel(s) or both?
The public lands are in three tracts. The two largest tracts are on the boundary where a large tract of public land meets a large tract of state and private land. The smaller tract is a part of an isolated 120 acres of public land.
7. Is the public land fenced separately from the private land? **No**
8. Is any public land within the allotment identified for exchange/disposal in the land use plan?
Yes Percent of Public land? **60%** If yes, has two-year notification been sent? **No**
9. Does BLM have administrative access separate from the grazing permit/lease? **No**
10. Does public have legal access to the allotment? **Yes**
11. Is the public land physically isolated from the adjoining public land? **Public land along allotment boundary, separated from other public land by allotment boundary fences.**
12. What is the livestock grazing management category? (M, I, or C) **C**

13. List all Land Use Plan (LUP) objectives and decisions (consider resource list for No. 14 for objectives and decisions in the LUP), other grazing decisions, and other NEPA documents pertaining to the allotment:

**Owyhee RMP (December 30, 1999) and Proposed Owyhee RMP and EIS (July 1999).
See Land Use Plan Review**

Idaho Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management (August 12, 1997) - see guidelines 1-20

14. Check the Standards, Guidelines and Resources that are applicable to this allotment. Following ID Team disclosure of information and data (monitoring data, studies, inventories, etc, information from other agencies, local governments, and the public) and the ensuing discussions, briefly describe in the comment section any issues (with supporting information). This information will be used to determine if existing data is adequate, or if more information is needed to determine compliance with the Idaho Standards and Guidelines for Rangeland Health.

Standard, Guideline, or Resource Issue	Check(if applicable)	Comments
Watershed (Standard 1)	X	In 2003, one rangeland health evaluation was completed in this allotment. Overall, the watershed was placed in the "Slight to Moderate" departure category. The indicators relating to watershed function ranged from "None to Slight" to a "Slight to Moderate" departure from reference condition. Bare ground was moderately higher than expected due to numerous trails and reduced vegetation. No rills, gullies, or pedestals were observed. There are short, stable water flow patterns. Resistance to soil surface erosion is slightly to moderately higher than expected due to the amount of bare ground. Although there was no evidence of soil loss, heavy mechanical damage had left the surface horizon degraded.
Riparian Areas, Wetland (Standard 2)	X	Indian Creek (0.4 mi) and Nip and Tuck Creek (0.2 mi). Stream reaches are the extreme head of the drainages and are not identified in the Owyhee RMP riparian management objectives and stream reaches as having riparian habitat and/or fisheries for management. No riparian habitat data has been collected to date due to the fact that the amount of creek found on the two small parcels of public land are very minimal (less than 0.5 miles on each BLM tract) and both reaches are known to exhibit no to little water throughout the year.
Stream Channel, Flood Plains (Standard 3)	X	Indian Creek (0.4 mi) and Nip and Tuck Creek (0.2 mi). Stream reaches are the extreme head of the drainages and are not identified in the Owyhee RMP riparian management objectives and stream reaches as having riparian habitat and/or fisheries for management. See Standard 2 above.
Native Plant Communities (Standard 4)	X	In 2003, one rangeland health evaluation was completed for this allotment. Large bunchgrasses are rarely encountered and smaller bunchgrasses are also less common. Large, perennial grasses recruiting under shrub cover but less in interspaces. Shrub and forb recruitment good. Litter as expected for this site. Trace amounts of bulbous bluegrass, and Western Juniper are common. Actual Use Reports were submitted by the grazing permittee in 1990, 1991, 2003, and 2005. Cattle numbers ranged from 8 to

Standard, Guideline, or Resource Issue	Check(if applicable)	Comments
		235 head, with a general season of use between 6/1 and 10/15. There is no utilization data or trend information for this allotment.
Rangeland Seedings (Standard 5)		NA
Exotic Plant Communities (Standard 6)		NA
Water Quality (Standard 7)	X	Indian Creek (0.4 mi) and Nip and Tuck Creek (0.2 mi). Stream reaches are the extreme head of the drainages and are not identified in the Owyhee RMP riparian management objectives and stream reaches as having riparian habitat and/or fisheries for management. IDEQ has not assessed or assigned beneficial uses and no pollutants identified for the assessment unit.
Threatened & Endangered Plant & Animals (Standard 8)	X	No riparian habitat data has been collected to date due to the fact that the amount of creek found on the two small parcels of public land are very minimal (less than 0.5 miles on each BLM tract) and both reaches are known to exhibit no to little water throughout the year. The "Slight to Moderate" departure of some indicators is not fully meeting the needs of dependant upland species with juniper encroachment being the most inhibiting factor. Sage grouse habitat is unclassified and not considered key habitat. This allotment is within elk and mule deer spring/summer/fall habitats. Current rangeland health conditions at RLH1B are providing adequate big game habitat at this time. Botany - No federally listed plant species are known to occur in this allotment, although the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) considers all of Idaho to be within the potential range of Ute ladies'-tresses (<i>Spiranthes diluvialis</i>), a federally threatened orchid species (USFWS 2002). No BLM special status plants are known to occur within this allotment.

Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management		Data Adequacy, Comments, Concerns
1	Use grazing management practices and/or facilities to maintain or promote significant progress toward adequate amounts of ground cover to support infiltration, maintain soil moisture storage and stabilize soils.	Minimal data exists; and current grazing practices appear to be adequate to maintain soil, plant, and infiltration conditions at the sites evaluated.
2	Locate livestock management facilities away from riparian areas wherever they conflict with achieving or maintaining riparian-wetland functions	NA
3	Use grazing management practices and/or facilities to maintain or promote soil conditions that support water infiltration, plant vigor, and permeability rates and minimize soil compaction appropriate to site potential.	See Number 1, above.

Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management		Data Adequacy, Comments, Concerns
4	Implement grazing management practices that provide periodic rest or deferment during critical growth stages to allow sufficient regrowth to achieve and maintain healthy, properly functioning conditions, including good plant vigor and adequate vegetative cover appropriate to site potential.	See Number 1, above. BLM comprises less than 3% of the total acreage found in this allotment. Rest or deferment grazing management changes are impracticable due to implementation requiring fencing across private and State lands to accomplish these types of management changes.
5	Maintain or promote grazing management practices that provide sufficient residual vegetation to improve, restore, or maintain healthy riparian-wetland functions and structure for energy dissipation, sediment capture, ground water recharge, streambank stability, and wildlife habitat appropriate to site potential.	NA
6	The development of springs, seeps or other projects affecting water and associated resources shall be designed to protect the ecological functions, wildlife habitat, and significant cultural and historical/ archaeological/ paleontological values associated with the water source.	NA
7	Apply grazing management practices to maintain, promote, or progress toward appropriate stream channel and streambank morphology and functions. Adverse impacts due to livestock grazing will be addressed.	NA
8	Apply grazing management practices that maintain or promote the interaction of the hydrologic cycle, nutrient cycle, and energy flow that will support the appropriate types and amounts of soil organisms, plants and animals appropriate to soil type, climate and landform.	See Number 1, above
9	Apply grazing management practices to maintain adequate plant vigor for seed production, seed dispersal, and seedling survival of desired species relative to soil type, climate and landform.	See Numbers 1, above
10	Implement grazing management practices and/or facilities that provide for complying with the Idaho Water Quality Standards.	NA
11	Use grazing management practices developed in recovery plans, conservation agreements, and Endangered Species Act, Section 7 consultations to maintain or improve habitat for federally listed threatened, endangered, and sensitive plants and animals.	See discussions under Standard 8 (above).
12	Apply grazing management practices and/or facilities that maintain or promote the physical and biological conditions necessary to sustain native plant populations and wildlife habitats in native plant communities.	See discussions under Standard 8 (above).
13	On areas seeded predominantly with non-native plants, use grazing management practices to maintain or promote the physical and biological conditions to achieve healthy rangelands.	NA
14	Where native communities exist, the conversion to exotic communities after disturbance will be minimized.	See Number 1, above
15	Use non-native plant species for rehabilitation only in those situations where: a) native species are not readily available in sufficient quantities, b) native plant species cannot maintain or achieve the standards or c) non-native plant species provide for management and protection of native rangelands Include a diversity of appropriate grasses, forbs, and shrubs in rehabilitation efforts.	NA
16	On burned areas, allow natural regeneration when it is determined that populations of native perennial shrubs, grasses, and forbs are sufficient to re-vegetated the site. Rest burned or rehabilitated areas to allow recovery or establishment of perennial plant species.	NA

Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management		Data Adequacy, Comments, Concerns
17	Carefully consider the effects of new management facilities (e.g., water developments, fences) on healthy and properly functioning rangelands prior to implementation.	NA
18	Use grazing management practices, where feasible for wildfire control, and to reduce the spread of targeted undesirable plants (e.g., cheatgrass, medusahead wildrye, and noxious weeds) while enhancing vigor and abundance of desirable native or seeded species.	NA
19	Employ grazing management practices that promote natural forest regeneration and protect reforestation projects until the Idaho Forest Practices Act requirements for timber stand replacement are met.	NA
20	Design management fences to minimize adverse impacts, such as habitat fragmentation, to maintain habitat integrity and connectivity for native plants and animals.	NA

Land Use Plan Review		
Livestock Grazing	X	<p>This allotment is identified as a "Custodial" category allotment in the 1999 Owyhee RMP. Custodial category allotments are also referred to as Fenced Federal Range (FFR) allotments. Generally, these allotments include less than 50% public lands intermingled with unfenced private and State lands. Livestock grazing is generally authorized as season long (3/1 - 2/28) and at the grazing permittee's discretion, as long as grazing management guidelines are adhered to.</p> <p>Active Permitted Use – 24 AUMs</p> <p>LVST 1: Provide for sustained level of livestock use compatible with meeting other resource objectives. VEGE 1: Improve unsatisfactory and maintain satisfactory vegetation health/condition on all areas. SOIL 1: Improve unsatisfactory and maintain satisfactory watershed health/condition on all areas. SOIL 2: Achieve stabilization of current, and prevent the potential for future, localized accelerated soil erosion problems (particularly on streambanks, roads, and trails).</p>
Botanical	X	SPSS1: Manage special status species and habitats to increase or maintain populations at levels where their existence is not longer threatened and there is no need for listing under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended.
Cultural	X	There are recorded sites within the allotments boundaries. The available data are insufficient to determine their current condition. Site monitoring is needed to assess their condition. All sites are on State land.
Fire, Fuel		
Fisheries	X	FISH 1-Improve or maintain perennial stream/riparian areas to attain satisfactory conditions to support native fish.
Forestry		Not Applicable
Land		The public lands within this allotment have been identified for retention under Zone 1 of the Owyhee RMP.
Minerals		NA
Recreation	X	North Fork Owyhee River Wilderness Study Area. Manage Wilderness Study Areas so as no to impair their suitability for potential designation as wilderness.

Special Status Species	X	SPSS1: Manage special status species and habitats to increase or maintain populations at levels where their existence is not longer threatened and there is no need for listing under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended.
Wild Horses		NA
Wildlife	X	WLDF1: Maintain or enhance the condition, abundance, structural stage and distribution of plant communities and special habitat features required to support a high diversity and desired populations of wildlife.
Water Quality	X	WATR 1-meet or exceed State of Idaho water quality standards
Riparian	X	RIPN 1-maintain or improve riparian-wetland areas to attain proper functioning and satisfactory conditions.
Soils/Watershed	X	SOIL 1-Improve unsatisfactory and maintain satisfactory watershed health/condition on all areas.

15. Describe BLM’s ability or inability to manage the allotment by considering the following, as applicable: Whether there is legal access; whether % federal land comprises majority of the allotment; whether the public land acreage is small (less than 640 acres) and surrounded by private land (isolated); whether the federal land is fenced separate from the private land; etc.

Three-parcels of isolated public land are within the allotment. Public land is minimal, 204-acres, and comprises only 3 percent of the allotment. The BLM has legal access. The public lands in this FFR allotment are separated from other public lands by allotment fences.

BLM is unable to adequately manage this allotment due to its minimal land ownership, and lack of separation from private lands. The actions on the private lands determine how the allotment is used and managed.

<i>2013 Supplement to the Bogus Creek Allotment Initial Allotment Review and Rangeland Health Assessment</i>
Although the total acreage of public land and the percent public land may be minimal in this allotment, public and/or administrative access may be limited, and the absence of high-value resources may lead to the categorization of this allotment of a low priority for management attention, the BLM’s obligation is to manage public lands.

1. ____ Review of existing information indicates that there is no livestock grazing or other issue. Available information is adequate to complete the evaluation and determination. (see numbers 5,6,7,8, 11, and 15 above). **This is the RHA. Complete the evaluation/Determination Form.**
2. X Review of available information indicates that grazing or other issues are known to exist. However, the allotment has no or limited potential for management (see numbers 5,6,7,8,11, and 15 above). Available information is adequate to complete the evaluation and determination. **This is the RHA for this allotment. Complete the Evaluation/Determination form and consider the public land for disposal.**
3. ____ Review of existing information indicates the physical characteristics (e.g., slope, rock, location on the landscape, and lack of livestock forage) of the tract deter livestock grazing use on the public land. **Consider not issuing a new livestock grazing permit or lease. Further documentation is not recommended.**

4. _____ Review of existing information indicates that an issue(s) may or may not exist. The allotment is considered manageable (see #s 5,6,7,8,11, and 15 above). **Available information is adequate to complete the RHA. Complete RHA and the evaluation/determination.**

5. _____ Review of existing information indicates that an issue(s) exists. The allotment is considered manageable (see #s 5,6,7,8,11, and 15 above). More information is needed to determine current conditions. **Gather additional information and data. Complete the RHA and evaluation/determination.**

List the names and title of the member of the ID team involved with this review:

Name	Title
Jake Vialpando	Supervisory Rangeland Management Spec.
Bruce Zoellick	Fisheries Biologist
John Doremus	Wildlife Biologist
Kathi Kershaw	Natural Resource Specialist
Mike Mathis (retired)	Wildlife Biologist
Dianna Sampson	GIS Specialist
Brian McCabe	Archaeologist
Kelley Moore	Lands/Realty
Zig Napkora	Hydrologist
Pam Druliner	Fisheries
Pat Kane	Weeds/Range
Ryan Homan	Recreation Specialist
Paul Seronko	Environmental Protection Specialist/Soils

Prepared by: Ecosystem Management Inc., Contractor November 2006

Modified by: Jake Vialpando – Team Lead Date: December 18, 2006

Field Manager’s Finding and Rationale:

Field visits completed in 2003 indicate that healthy, productive, and diverse plant communities are being maintained as they are appropriate to soil type, climate, and landform to provide for nutrient cycling, hydrologic cycling, and energy flow on public lands in this allotment. Based on the monitoring information available, current livestock grazing management in the Bogus Creek FFR Allotment is adequate for maintenance of current conditions, but improvement is unlikely. This allotment includes only 3% Federal land (204 BLM, 6,783 State, and 19 Private) and 60% of these lands are identified for disposal in the 1999 ORMP. Livestock grazing is authorized as season long (3/1-2/28) and at the grazing permittee’s discretion, as long as, grazing management guidelines are adhered to. BLM does not have the ability to appropriately manage this grazing allotment and its associated public land acreage. Therefore, it is my conclusion to: (1) accept the above mentioned recommendation from the ID Team that there are livestock grazing or other issues known to exist. However, the allotment has no or limited potential for management; (2) conclude that the available information is adequate to complete the evaluation and determination; (3) accept this Initial Allotment Review as the Rangeland Health Assessment; and (4), move forward and complete the Evaluation and Determination for this allotment.

Field Manager

Date

*2013 Supplement to the Bogus Creek FFR Allotment Initial Allotment Review and Rangeland Health Assessment
– List of Reviewers*

Name	Title
Jake Vialpando	Project Manager
Bonnie Claridge	Fisheries Biologist
James Priest	Wildlife Biologist
Jayson Murgoitio	GIS Specialist
Brian McCabe	Archaeologist
Carmela Romerio	Rangeland Management Specialist
Ryan Homan	Recreation Specialist
Gina Rone	Soils
Susan Filkins	Botanist
Jessica Gottlieb	Writer-Editor

2013 Supplement to the Bogus Creek FFR Allotment Initial Allotment Review and Rangeland Health Assessment

Livestock Grazing Management

Livestock use in the Bogus Creek FFR allotment is authorized for 24 animal unit months (AUMs) active use annually through a term grazing permit, currently issued to Morgan Ranches. The permit authorizes cattle grazing on the Bogus Creek FFR allotment in accordance with mandatory terms and conditions as presented in Table LVST-1.

Table LVST-1: Terms and conditions of permitted livestock use

Operator Name & No.	Livestock Kind & No.	Season of Use	Public Land	AUMs		
				Active	Suspended	Permitted
Morgan Ranches (1101510)	24 Cattle	12/1-12/31	100 %	24	0	24

The permit includes a term and condition allowing the number of cattle and the season of use to be determined at the permittee's discretion, concurrent with grazing management scheduled for the private land fenced in conjunction with public land in the Bogus Creek FFR allotment.

Actual Use

Actual use data ranged from 21 to 25 AUMs, with an average of 24 AUMs (Table LVST-2).

Table LVST-2: Bogus Creek FFR actual use 2005-2012

	Date	AUMS
2012	4/15-8/15	21
2011	Rest	0
2010	7/1-9/30	24

2009	7/1-10/1	24
2008	6/15-9/15	24
2007	6/15-9/15	24
2006	7/15-8/15	25
2005	7/1-9/30	24

Utilization

Utilization data were collected in 2009; there was slight (0 to 5 percent) use on the BLM portion of the area assessed.

Soils and Watershed

Observations made during a 2013 field visit to assess riparian areas and wetlands (see below) encountered soil compaction and surface erosion. For uplands, the 2003 rangeland health evaluation (see Standard 1 above) identifies trails and their associated physical damage of churned soils, the resulting limited vegetation in interspaces, and biotic degradation as the primary impacts. A shift in the vegetation communities is apparent with the dominance of sagebrush and juniper encroachment adding to the already moderate indicator rating for infiltration and runoff. This review demonstrates that current grazing practices are not adequate to maintain current soil, plant, and infiltration conditions and improvement is not likely under existing grazing management.

Riparian Areas and Wetlands

According to the National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) (BLM Standard; IM 2009-212), approximately 1.3 miles of Nip and Tuck Creek and 0.25 mile of an unnamed tributary (previously named Indian Creek) traverse BLM lands within the Bogus Creek allotment. Nip and Tuck Creek is an ephemeral swale; thus, the PFC protocol was not applied. Information associated with the area is covered under Standard 1. The 0.25 mile of the unnamed tributary was a headwater wet meadow and was rated functioning-at-risk (FAR) (Map RNGE-1). The area had been compacted, causing drying, hummocking, and surface erosion. Because the soils are compacted, spring flows occur quickly and an incised, scoured channel has formed. The riparian vegetation has been grazed and is affecting plant vigor, composition, and age class.

Special Status Species

Botany

No populations of special status plant species are known to occur in this allotment. There is insufficient information to determine site-specific impacts of livestock grazing on any special status plants that may occur in this allotment. Records show no reported special status plants in this allotment for this reason this Standard is not applicable.

Information sources

Elemental Occurrences (EOs) for special status species (SSP) populations is recorded in the Idaho Fish and Wildlife Information System (IFWIS) Species Diversity database (IDFG, 2011). EOs are derived by completion and review of an Idaho Rare Plant Observation Report through the Idaho Natural Heritage Program. Other sources that were used to assess and evaluate the composition and condition of SSP habitats within the Bogus Creek allotment include RHAs,

photographs, field notes, Plants database (USDA NRCS, 2013), literature search and information summarized above in this document. Records show no reported special status plants in this allotment.

Wildlife

Upland Habitat

The Bogus Creek FFR allotment is managed as native plant community. Plant community evaluation of Standard 4 identified a reduced abundance of bluebunch wheatgrass from reference site conditions with an increase in annual invasive species. An increased dominance of sagebrush and juniper was also noted. The apparent downward trend in the plant community composition is favoring more grazing-tolerant annual species. These understory species do not have the robust growth form or stature such as bluebunch wheatgrass and do not provide the plant composition, structure, and function for sagebrush steppe-dependent species. Juniper encroachment can be anticipated to continue.

Riparian Habitat

A headwater wet meadow on an unnamed tributary to Nip and Tuck Creek was functioning-at-risk (Standards 2 and 3). The spring is experiencing surface erosion, hummocking, and soil compaction, along with the development of an incised channel. Riparian plant composition, age class, and vigor are being negatively affected.

Focal Species

Columbia Redband Trout

Nip and Tuck Creek, Bogus Creek, Combination Creek, Rose Creek, and Anne Valley Creek are identified as Columbia redband trout streams and occur within the Bogus Creek FFR allotment. Only Nip and Tuck Creek occurs on BLM lands within the allotment. This portion of Nip and Tuck Creek is an ephemeral swale above any perennial or intermittent flow and is not capable of supporting redband trout (Map WDLF-2).

Columbia Spotted Frog

The southern and the eastern portions of the Bogus Creek allotment lie within the mapped distribution of the Columbia spotted frog. Spotted frog habitat is identified on BLM lands within the Nip and Tuck drainage (Map WDLF-2).

Evaluation Findings and Determination

Standard 1 (Watersheds)

Watersheds provide for the proper infiltration, retention, and release of water appropriate to soil type, vegetation, climate, and landform to provide for proper nutrient cycling, hydrologic cycling and energy flow.

Standard

- Standard does not apply
- Meeting the Standard
- Not meeting the Standard; Current livestock grazing management practices are significant factors

- Not Meeting the Standard; Making significant progress toward
- Not Meeting the Standard; Current livestock grazing management practices are not significant factors

Guidelines

- Conforms with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management
- Does not conform with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management; Guideline No(s). 1, 3, 8

Rationale for Evaluation Finding and Determination

Current and past livestock grazing management practices are significant causal factors for not meeting upland watershed Standard 1 in the Bogus Creek FFR allotment. Elevated bare ground and associated impacts from mechanical hoof action on abundant trails and within interspaces have left soils churned and exposed.

Non-mechanical impacts are associated with altered plant community composition and distribution from a decrease in relative abundance of large, deep-rooted native perennial bunchgrasses. Although soil surface loss is minimal thus far, the reduction in small-scale variations of height and roughness of the ground surface resulting from absent vegetation and persistent cover increases the susceptibility to erosion, especially when soils are churned and bare.

The encroachment of western juniper also contributes to altered hydrologic function and to the deviation in functional structural groups expected within this sagebrush community. Limited vegetation found in interspatial areas and scattered grasses in trace amounts have resulted in the departure from reference conditions and affect infiltration and runoff. Taken together, the decreased ecological function and impaired soils indicate that soil and hydrologic function are compromised. Current and past livestock management are the primary causal factor in failing to meet Standard 1 and ORMP soil management objectives of improving unsatisfactory watershed health conditions in the Bogus Creek FFR allotment.

Standard 2 (Riparian Areas and Wetlands)

Riparian-wetland areas are in properly functioning condition appropriate to soil type, climate, geology, and landform to provide for proper nutrient cycling, hydrologic cycling, and energy flow.

Standard

- Standard does not apply
- Meeting the Standard
- Not meeting the Standard, Current livestock grazing management practices are significant factors
- Not Meeting the Standard; Making significant progress toward
- Not Meeting the Standard; Current livestock grazing management practices are not significant factors

Guidelines

- Conforms with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management

- Does not conform with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management; Guideline No(s).
5

Rationale for Evaluation Finding and Determination

Approximately 1.3 miles of Nip and Tuck Creek and 0.25 mile of an unnamed tributary (previously named Indian Creek) traverse BLM lands within the Bogus Creek allotment. Nip and Tuck Creek is an ephemeral swale; thus, the PFC protocol was not applied. Information associated with the area is covered under Standard 1. The 0.25 mile of the unnamed tributary was a headwater wet meadow and was rated FAR. The area had been compacted, causing drying, hummocking, and surface erosion. Because the soils are compacted, spring flows occur quickly and an incised, scoured channel has formed. The riparian vegetation has been grazed and is affecting plant vigor, composition, and age class.

Standard 3 (Stream Channel/Floodplain)

Stream channels and floodplains are properly functioning relative to the geomorphology (e.g., gradient, size shape, roughness, confinement, and sinuosity) and climate to provide for proper nutrient cycling, hydrologic cycling, and energy flow.

Standard

- Standard does not apply
- Meeting the Standard
- Not meeting the Standard, Current livestock grazing management practices are significant factors
- Not Meeting the Standard; Making significant progress toward
- Not Meeting the Standard; Current livestock grazing management practices are not significant factors

Guidelines

- Conforms with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management
- Does not conform with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management; Guideline No(s).
7

Rationale for Evaluation Finding and Determination

Approximately 1.3 miles of Nip and Tuck Creek and 0.25 mile of an unnamed tributary (previously named Indian Creek) traverse BLM lands within the Bogus Creek allotment. Nip and Tuck Creek is an ephemeral swale; thus, the PFC protocol was not applied. Information associated with the area is covered under Standard 1. The 0.25 mile of the unnamed tributary was a headwater wet meadow and was rated FAR. The area had been compacted causing drying, hummocking, and surface erosion. Because the soils are compacted, spring flows occur quickly and an incised, scoured channel has formed. The riparian vegetation has been grazed and is affecting plant vigor, composition, and age class.

Standard 4 (Native Plant Communities)

Healthy, productive, and diverse native animal habitat and populations of native plants are maintained or promoted as appropriate to soil type, climate, and landform to provide for proper nutrient cycling, hydrologic cycling, and energy flow.

Standard

- Standard does not apply
- Meeting the Standard
- Not meeting the Standard, Current livestock grazing management practices are significant factors
- Not Meeting the Standard; Making significant progress toward
- Not Meeting the Standard; Current livestock grazing management practices are not significant factors

Guidelines

- Conforms with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management
- Does not conform with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management; Guideline No(s).

Rationale for Evaluation Finding and Determination

Rangeland Health Standard 4 is not met in the Bogus Creek FFR allotment. Evidence of historic grazing impacts are present throughout the allotment, with the reduced composition of deep-rooted native perennial bunchgrasses (e.g., bluebunch wheatgrass and Idaho fescue) from reference site conditions and a greater dominance by sagebrush and juniper encroachment; historic grazing and invasive annuals are the causal factors in failing to meet Standard 4.

Qualitative rangeland health assessment data indicate that Standard 4 is not being met due to moderate departure of structural functional group and plant community composition in the with increases in annual invasives and juniper encroachment. This conclusion is supported by current ecological site descriptions and correlation to vegetation inventories.

The Owyhee Resource Management Plan management objective to improve unsatisfactory and maintain satisfactory vegetation health/condition on all areas is also not met. Vegetation communities shifting to dominance of sagebrush, juniper encroachment, and moderate departure of structural functional group in the plant community composition all lead to a conclusion that the vegetation management objective is not being met.

Rangeland Seeding

This standard does not apply in this allotment.

Exotic Plant Communities

This standard does not apply in this allotment

Standard 7 (Water Quality)

Surface and ground water on public lands comply with the Idaho Water Quality Standards.

Standard

- Standard does not apply
- Meeting the Standard

- Not meeting the Standard, Current livestock grazing management practices are significant factors
- Not Meeting the Standard; Making significant progress toward
- Not Meeting the Standard; Current livestock grazing management practices are not significant factors

Rationale for Evaluation Finding and Determination

Although the National Hydrologic Dataset identifies reaches of Nip and Tuck and an unnamed Creek that occur on BLM lands within the Bogus Creek FFR allotment, IDEQ has not assessed the streams. Therefore, Standard 7 is not applicable to the allotment because IDEQ has not assessed the water body, beneficial uses have not been assigned and pollutants have not been identified.

Standard 8 (Threatened and Endangered Plants and Animals)

Habitats are suitable to maintain viable populations of threatened and endangered, sensitive, and other special status species.

Standard

- Standard does not apply
- Meeting the Standard
- Not meeting the Standard, Current livestock grazing management practices are significant factors
- Not Meeting the Standard; Making significant progress toward
- Not Meeting the Standard; Current livestock grazing management practices are not significant factors

Guidelines

- Conforms with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management
- Does not conform with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management; Guideline No(s). 5, 7, 8, 11, and 12

Rationale for Evaluation Finding and Determination

Upland Habitat

Evaluation of rangeland trend information determined that the Bogus Creek FFR allotment is not meeting Standard 4 due to past livestock grazing and an increase of annual invasive species (see Standard 4). The increase in annual invasive species and juniper and the decrease in bluebunch wheatgrass suggest that community composition is transitioning to more grazing-tolerant species. Primarily, the annual invasive species lack the robust growth form or stature of bluebunch wheatgrass and do not provide the understory plant composition, structure, and function for sagebrush steppe-dependent species. The encroachment of junipers will overtime become a dominant species and further drive a change in the community as well. Because the plant community transition can be anticipated to deteriorate further overtime, this allotment is not providing adequate upland habitat conditions for sagebrush steppe species and is not meeting Standard 8 due to historic grazing practices, the increase in annual invasive species, and the encroachment of junipers.

Riparian Habitat

Evaluation of Standards 2 and 3 determined that a headwater wet meadow on an unnamed tributary to Nip and Tuck Creek was functioning-at-risk and that historic and current livestock grazing is a casual factor (see Standards 2 and 3). Streams, springs, and wetlands that are functioning-at-risk are lacking adequate riparian vegetation composition and distribution to provide the structure and function to support a productive riparian environment. Because Standards 2 and 3 are not being met, this allotment is failing to provide adequate riparian habitat conditions to support viable aquatic and terrestrial species populations, and therefore is not meeting Standard 8 due to historic and current grazing practices.

Botany

Standard 8 for botany is met in the Bogus Creek FFR allotment. There are no federally listed plant species and there is insufficient information to determine site-specific impacts of livestock grazing on any special status plants that occur in this allotment.

Focal Species

This allotment is within the mapped distribution of the Columbia spotted frog. Evaluation of Standards 2 and 3 identified an unnamed headwater spring that is functioning-at-risk (see Standard 2 and 3). Spotted frogs are usually found along vigorous grassy/sedge margins of streams, lakes, ponds, springs, and marshes not far from sources of quiet permanent water. They migrate along these vegetation corridors between habitats used for spring breeding, summer foraging, and winter hibernation. Because the unnamed headwater spring habitat characteristics are functioning-at-risk, this allotment is not providing adequate aquatic conditions to sustain viable populations of spotted frogs, and therefore is not meeting Standard 8 due to historic and current livestock grazing practices.

Determination

I have determined that Standards 1, 2, 3, 4 and 8 of the applicable Standards for Rangeland Health are not being met in the Bogus Creek allotment, whereas Standards 5, 6, and 7 are not applicable to resources present within the allotment. Current livestock grazing management practices are significant factors in not meeting Standards 1, 2, 3 and 8. Livestock management practices do not conform with the applicable Livestock Grazing Management Guidelines 1, 3, 5, 7, 8, 11, and 12.



Field Manager
Owyhee Field Office



Date

Works Cited (2013 Supplement)

IDFG. (2011). *Idaho Fish and Wildlife Information System*. Retrieved from <https://fishandgame.idaho.gov/ifwis/portal/>

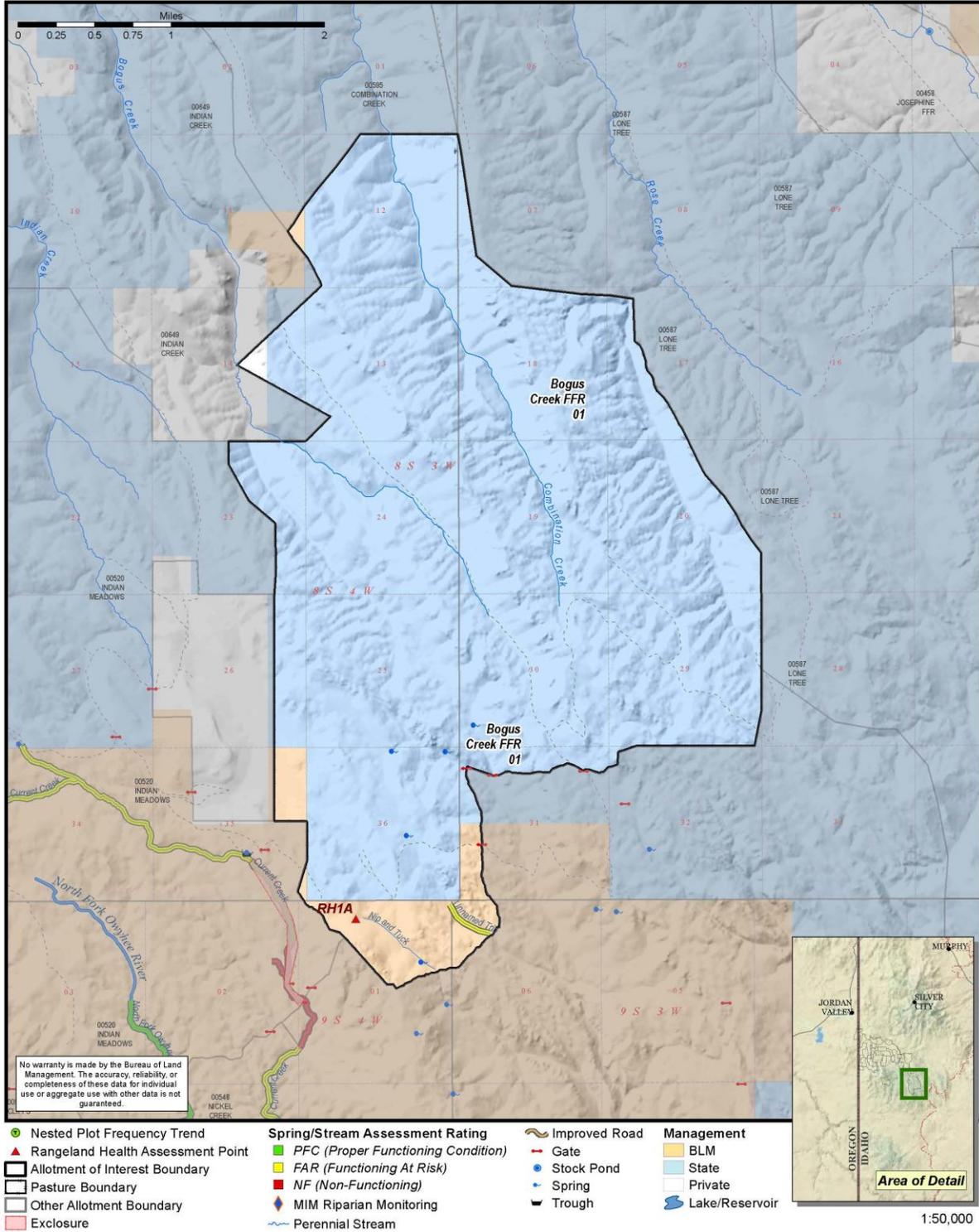
USDA NRCS. (2013). *Natural Resource Conservation Service Fact Sheets & Plant Guides*. Retrieved 2013, from <http://plants.usda.gov/>

2013 Supplement to the Bogus Creek FFR Allotment Initial Allotment Review and Rangeland Health Assessment – Maps

APPENDIX A – Maps (see below)

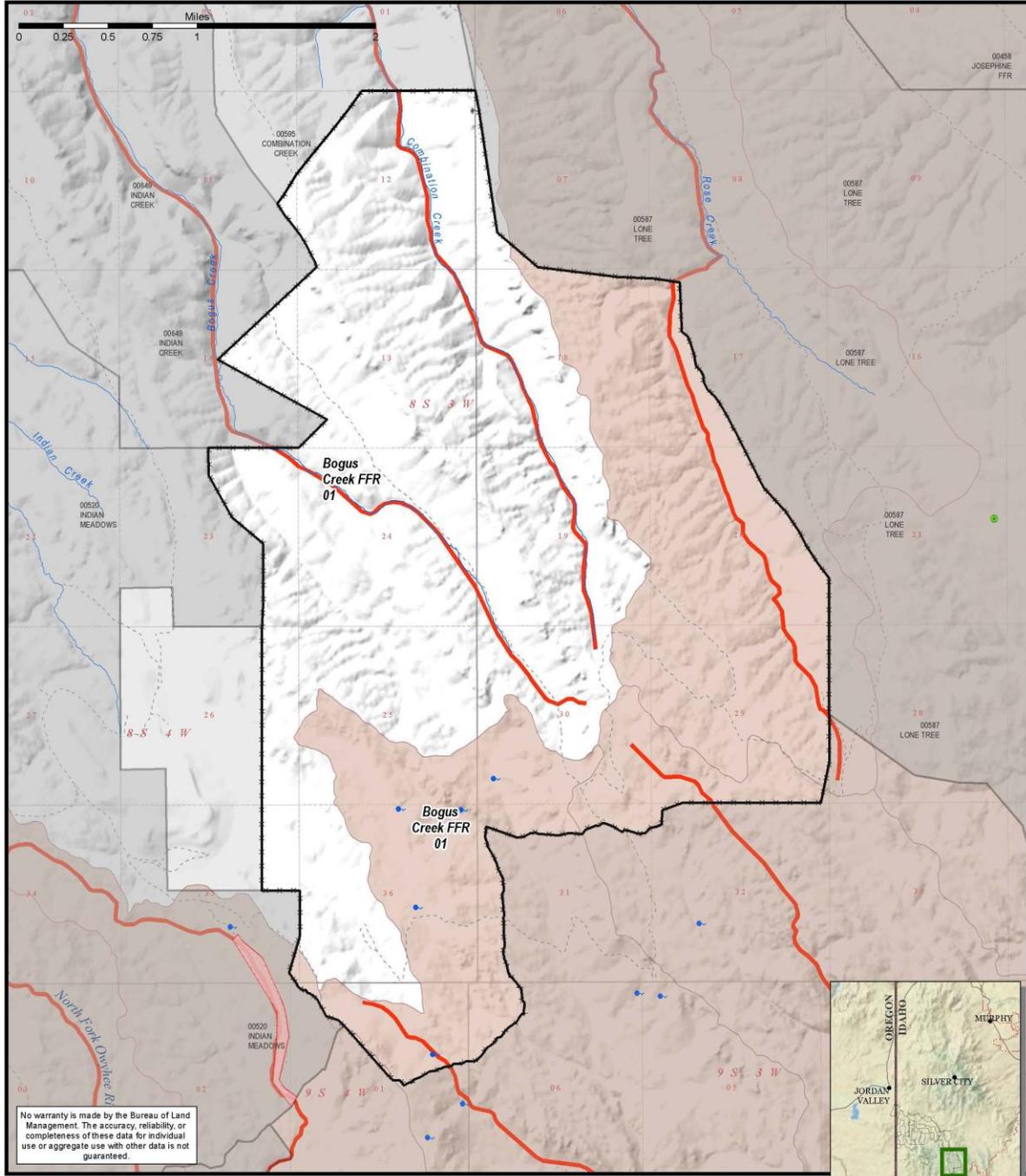


RNGE-1: Bogus Creek FFR (00577) Range and Riparian Overview





WDLF-2: Bogus Creek FFR (00577) Columbia Spotted Frog Distribution and Columbia River Redband Trout Presence



No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management. The accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data is not guaranteed.

- Allotment of Interest Boundary
- Pasture Boundary
- Other Allotment Boundary
- Improved Road
- Lake/Reservoir
- Perennial Stream
- Columbia River Redband Trout Presence
- Columbia Spotted Frog Habitat
- Columbia Spotted Frog Presence



1:45,000