Jim's Peak FFR 0576

INITIAL ALLOTMENT AND PERMIT/LEASE REVIEW
and
RANGELAND HEALTH ASSESSMENT

2013 Supplement to the Jim's Peak FFR allotment Initial Allotment Review and Rangeland Health Assessment
The Initial Allotment Review and Rangeland Health Standards and Guidelines Assessment for the Jim's Peak FFR allotment was drafted in 2006 as a portion of the grazing permit renewal process. Until 2013, no rangeland health determination was completed and the permit authorizing grazing use in this allotment has not been fully processed for renewal. The current document consists of the 2006 rangeland health assessment (RHA), 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 this 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: **Jim's Peak FFR 0576**
2. Name(s) of Permittee(s)/Preference Code: **Morgan Properties LP DBA Morgan Ranches / 1101510**
3. Permit Expiration Date(s): **08/21/2011**
4. Allotment acres: Public land-**1090,** Private-**1501,** State-**42,** Other-**None**
5. Percent public land in the allotment: **41**
6. Is public land large contiguous block(s) of public land, isolated parcel(s) or both?

   The public lands are intermixed-isolated blocks.
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 Allotment-**100.** If yes, has the 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? **There are three tracts separated from public land outside the allotment by allotment boundary fences.**
12. What is the livestock grazing management category? (M, I, or C) **M**

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

Owyhee RMP (December 30, 1999). 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.

13. 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, two rangeland health evaluations were completed in Pasture 1 of this allotment. One site was placed in the "Slight to Moderate" category, the other in the "Moderate" departure category. Departures were larger than expected and included: water flow patterns which were often connected; numerous cut areas; resistance to erosion; pedestals common in interspatial areas; and bare ground was slightly more than expected.
Riparian Areas, Wetland (Standard 2)	**X**	The 1999 Owyhee RMP Map RIPN-1 does not identify the Jim's Peak FFR Allotment as an allotment of concern for riparian conditions. Additionally, Table RIPN-1 does not list Minear Creek or Owl Creek as having unsatisfactory riparian conditions. However, the two streams were inventoried in 2000. **Minear Creek -** The headwaters of Minear Creek are in the northern portion of Jim's Peak FFR Allotment. Three branches with a combined length of approximately one mile were inventoried for Proper Functioning Condition in September 2000. Portions of the three segments lacked surface water and were mapped as non-riparian. Combined, the three Creeks were determined to be Nonfunctional. Overall the riparian vegetation was not in good condition. Density, age class and structural diversity of riparian/wetland vegetation were not appropriate. The vegetation was not controlling erosion, stabilizing streambanks or shading water areas. The riparian/wetland vegetation with deep strong binding roots was not sufficient to stabilize streambanks. Bare ground existed on 20-30 percent of the area. Canada thistle existed on 1 to 5 percent of the area. **Owl Creek -** Approximately 0.6 miles of Owl Creek crosses public lands in the Jim's Peak FFR Allotment. Owl Creek was inventoried for Proper Functioning Condition in June of 2000. The segment in Jim's Peak FFR was determined to be Functional-At Risk low/mid. The riparian vegetation was in moderate condition. The vegetation had a diverse composition but lacked appropriate age distribution. The vegetation was not controlling erosion, stabilizing streambanks or shading water areas throughout the segment. Riparian/wetland vegetation with deep strong binding roots was sufficient to stabilize streambanks on only a portion of the segment. Age class and structural diversity of riparian/wetland vegetation were not

Standard, Guideline, or Resource Issue	Check(if applicable)	Comments
		appropriate. Canada thistle was on a small portion of the floodplain. Minear Creek had an average stubble height of 1.5 inches in September 2000 and shrub use was greater than 50 percent. Owl Creek had a stubble height of 7 inches and use on shrubs was moderate to heavy in June of 2000.
Stream Channel, Flood Plains (Standard 3)	**X**	The Jim's Peak FFR Allotment has two creeks that have been inventoried for stream channel and flood plain conditions. The Creeks on this allotment were not identified in the Owyhee RMP riparian management objectives; stream reaches having riparian and/or fishery habitat for management.
Native Plant Communities (Standard 4)	**X**	In 2003, two rangeland health evaluations were completed in this allotment. Invasive grasses are scattered but limited and juniper is present in higher amounts but limited to a small area. While trend data are not available for this site, the photographs show a diverse age class of juniper and its highly competitive ability to maximize resources may be giving way to higher bareground than expected. Concerns from the RHAs completed included the surface layer degradation was common especially around pedestals; some mortality in interspatial grasses; a slight decrease in amount of litter in interspaces; invasive plants; and reduced vigor on the sites. Actual Use Reports were submitted by the grazing permittee in 1990, 1991, 2003, and 2005. Cattle numbers ranged from 20 to 150 head, with a general season of use between 6/10 and 8/31. AUMs ranged from 48 in 2003 to 491 in 1990. 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**	Owl Creek, 0.6 miles, and Minear Creek tributaries, 0.5 and 0.4 miles, flow in the northern portion of the allotment. These creeks are part of IDEQ's Lone Tree Creek assessment unit. The unit has not been assessed nor assigned water quality standards. Pollutants were not listed. Owl Creek was determined to be Low/Mid Functional-At Risk in 2000. The Minear tributaries have portions that are non-riparian and the other portions with water were Nonfunctional. The Creeks on this allotment were not identified in the Owyhee RMP riparian management objectives; stream reaches having riparian and/or fishery habitat for management.
Threatened & Endangered Plant & Animals (Standard 8)	**X**	Owl Creek, and Minear Creek tributaries, in the northern portion of the allotment. Owl Creek was determined to be low/mid Function-At Risk (FAR) in 2000. The Minear tributaries have portions that are non-riparian and the other portions with water were Nonfunctional. The Creeks on this allotment were not identified in the Owyhee RMP riparian management objectives as stream reaches having riparian and/or fishery habitat for management. The 1.5 miles of

Standard, Guideline, or Resource Issue	Check(if applicable)	Comments
		assessed stream riparian habitat in this allotment are FAR and Nonfunctional. Structural diversity, composition and vigor of hydric vegetation are partially lacking in these stream reaches resulting in habitat that is generally not adequately providing for the needs for dependant special status animals. Most of the uplands of the allotment are near reference conditions, departure being "Slight to Moderate." The functional and structural groups are close to expectations for the site and are likely providing habitat that is adequate for the needs of most dependant special status and other wildlife species. A localized lack of large bunchgrasses, reduced shrub cover and increased juniper are limiting cover structure and forage for sage grouse, numerous song birds, pygmy rabbits and others including a diversity of insects, rodents, birds and others that are critical prey for most raptors including prairie falcons, northern harriers and ferruginous hawks. This allotment is within elk, antelope, and mule deer spring/summer/fall habitats. Current rangeland health conditions at RH1B are providing adequate big game habitat at this time. The allotment has some key habitat for sage grouse and some unclassified habitat that is considered to be unsuitable for sage grouse. The breeding habitat assessment determined the habitat to be suitable. The late brood-rearing assessment determined the habitat to be suitable. Both assessments indicated a shrub community with good height and growth form with cover less than desired. Both noted good forb diversity and cover and good grass cover. Active leks are in the vicinity. Habitat is impaired in localized areas where juniper encroachment occurs. **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 (*Spiranthes diluvialis*), 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.	Adequate data exists; and grazing practices appear to be adequate to maintain current soils, plant vigor, and infiltration conditions.
2	Locate livestock management facilities away form 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. Without fencing across private lands, implementation of rest or deferment on public lands is impracticable due to livestock management being controlled by use on private lands.
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.	Adequate data exists; and as was stated under Standard 2, it appears that maintenance within riparian areas is occurring, however, improvement is unlikely.
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.	See Number 5, above.
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.	See Standard 7, above.
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 and Number 1 (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 and Number 1 (above). Current physical and biological conditions are providing for adequate wildlife habitats.
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**	This allotment is identified as a "Maintain" allotment in the 1999 Owyhee RMP. It is a Fenced Federal Range (FFR) allotment. 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. Active Permitted Use – 56 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).
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 no recorded sites within the allotment boundaries.
Fire, Fuel		NA
Fisheries		NA
Forestry		NA
Land		Under Objective LAND 2 of the Owyhee RMP these lands are in Zones 3 and 4 and may be made available for potential disposal.
Minerals		NA
Recreation	**X**	Lands are managed as Extensive Recreation Management Areas (ERMA) - where recreation is unstructured and dispersed with minimal regulatory constraints and where minimal recreation related investments are required.
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.

14. 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.

    The Jim's Peak FFR Allotment contains 1,090 acres of public land. However, public land comprises only 41 percent of the total acres found in the allotment. BLM lands are landlocked by private lands and two of three parcels are inaccessible without acquiring private property permission to cross. Other public lands are separated from public land outside the allotment by boundary fences. One hundred percent of the public lands inside the allotment are identified for disposal in the 1999 RMP.

    BLM is unable to adequately manage the allotment due to its limited land ownership; public lands being landlocked by private lands; and lack of access to public lands.

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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 with a low priority for management attention, the BLM's obligation is to manage public lands.

Based on the information above the following is recommended to the field manager: (check the appropriate category)

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 December 18, 2006

Field Manager's Finding and Rationale:
Field visits completed in 2000 and 2003 indicate that resource issues related to Standards 1, 2, 3, and 8 exist. This allotment includes key sage grouse habitat which was rated as providing suitable breeding, late broad-rearing habitats, along with shrub community structure as being adequate. The unclassified sage grouse habitats were considered unsuitable. Juniper encroachment was identified as being a contributing factor affecting wildlife habitats. Based on the monitoring information available, current livestock grazing management in the Jim's Peak FFR Allotment is adequate for maintenance of current conditions, but improvement is unlikely.

This allotment includes 41% Federal land (1090 BLM, 42 State, and 1501 Private) and 100% 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 Jim's Peak 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	Range Management Specialist
Ryan Homan	Recreation Specialist
Gina Rone	Soils
Susan Filkins	Botanist
Jessica Gottlieb	Writer-Editor

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Livestock Grazing Management

Livestock use in the Jim's Peak FFR allotment is authorized for 56 animal unit months (AUMs) active use annually through a term grazing permit, currently issued to Morgan Ranches. The permit authorizes cattle grazing on the Jim's Peak 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)	55 Cattle	12/1-12/31	100 %	56	0	56

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 Jim's Peak FFR allotment.

Actual Use
Actual use ranged from 43 to 58 AUMs, with an average actual use of 54 AUMs (Table LVST-2).

Table LVST-2: Jims Peak FFR actual use on pasture 1 2005 to 2012

	Date	AUMS
2012	7/15-9/30	51
2011	Rest	0
2010	6/20-8/18	55
2009	6/15-9/20	58
2008	7/5-9/5	58
2007	6/10-8/10	57
2006	6/15-9/15	43
2005	7/1-8/31	58

Utilization
No utilization data were reported for this allotment.

Upland Watersheds

2013 Field Observations
A field visit in 2013 (see Owyhee Field Office project file) revealed evidence of historic and recent soil degradation similar to the 2003 assessments. Side hill trails are common and widespread. While some areas are stable and show good cover, others lack surface protection and contain large patches of bare ground that show connected water flow paths and erosion relics, such as pedestals. Where surface fines have been moved, coarser fragments often remain but are lacking the continuous cover to reduce rainfall splash. Biologic soils crusts are reduced and primarily found under the protection of shrubs.

This corresponds with previous findings in 2003 rangeland health field observations, summarized in Standard 1 above, where departures from expected conditions were larger than anticipated. 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
Approximately 0.5 mile of Minear Creek that was assessed in 2000 and discussed above was re-assessed in 2011 and was non-functioning (NF). There was excessive trampling, causing the riparian area to lose extent, as well as and erosion and deposition. Removal of vegetation was causing a lack of desired deep-rooted vegetation and plants with low vigor; thus, streambanks had little protection.

A short reach of Pole Bridge Creek was visited in 2011. The PFC protocol was not applied because the stream was not reliant on vegetation for stability and was well armored with boulders and conifer trees.

In 2011, a MMIM site was established on the reach of Owl Creek that was assessed FAR in 2000 and discussed above. The mean stubble height was 8.8 inches, woody browse was 4.8 percent, and streambank alteration was 28 percent. Only the bank alteration exceeded the criteria for healthy and sustainable streams.

Additionally, five springs that occur within the allotment were assessed in 2004 and 2011. Minear Spring was NF in 2004 because the lentic area was losing extent due to a lack of surface water to support riparian species. The area lacked species composition and age class, and the species present were not stabilizing the soils. Owl Creek Spring and Pole Bridge Spring were both functioning-at-risk (FAR) in 2004 because there was a lack of stabilizing species present and the flow patterns had been altered by livestock trailing and trampling. Two unnamed springs were assessed FAR in 2011 because both occur on relatively steep slopes where livestock trailing and trampling has altered the flow patterns and caused drying of the wetland soils. Both the woody and herbaceous riparian species had been heavily utilized and had low vigor (Table RIPN-1 and Map RNGE-1).

Table RIPN-1: Jim's Peak FFR pasture 1 riparian information summary

Stream Name	**Miles Assessed**	**Assessment Issues/ Impacts Identified**	**Total Miles *Assessed***
Minear Creek	0.4 (NF- 2000) 0.5 (FARU- 2000/ NF- 2011)	2000- density, age class and structural diversity of riparian/wetland vegetation were not appropriate/ vegetation was not controlling erosion, stabilizing streambanks or shading water areas/ riparian/wetland vegetation with deep strong binding roots was not sufficient to stabilize streambanks/ are ground existed on 20-30 percent of the area and Canada thistle existed on 1 to 5 percent of the area 2011- excessive removal of vegetation and trampling/ plants had low vigor/ area is losing extent/ species with desired root masses were sparse/	0.9
Owl Creek	0.6 (FARS- 2000)	riparian vegetation was in moderate condition/ vegetation had a diverse composition but lacked appropriate age distribution/ vegetation was not controlling erosion, stabilizing streambanks or shading water areas/ riparian/wetland vegetation with deep strong binding roots was not sufficient to stabilize streambanks on portions of the segment/ age class and structural diversity of riparian/wetland vegetation were not appropriate/ Canada thistle occurred on a small portion of the floodplain.	0.6
Pole Bridge Creek	0.3 (pictures only/ not reliant on veg- 2011)	armored with boulders and shaded out with fir trees	0.3

MMIM Metrics

Stream Name	Mean Stubble Height (inches)	Woody Use (%)	Streambank Alteration (%)	Stable Bank (%)	Covered Bank (%)
Owl Creek (2011)	8.8	4.8	28	49	99

Spring Name	Pasture/ Assessment Year	PFC Condition	Assessment Issues/ Impacts Identified
Minear Spring	1/ 2004	NF	lack of surface water-losing extent/ one woody species with low vigor/ altered flow patterns from trampling/ lack of stabilizing species
Owl Creek Spring	1/ 2004	FAR	altered flow patterns from trailing and shearing of soils/ mechanical damage apparant
Pole Bridge Spring	1/ 2004	FAR	lack of herbaceous stabilizing species/ altered flow patterns from tramping and road crossing/
Unnamed Spring 1	1/ 2011	FAR	trampling caused altered flow patterns and drying of riparian area and excessive erosion and deposition/ plants have low vigor from heavy utilization/
Unnamed Spring 2	1/ 2011	FAR	trampling caused altered flow patterns and drying of riparian area and excessive erosion and deposition/ plants have low vigor from heavy utilization/

Special Status Species

Wildlife

Upland Habitat

The Jim's Peak allotment is managed as a native plant community. Plant community information in Standard 4 identified a departure in abundance of bluebunch wheatgrass from reference site conditions to a community dominated by shallow-rooted bunchgrasses and annual invasive species (see Standard 4). The transition in the plant community composition is favoring more grazing-tolerant grass species such as Sandberg bluegrass and invasive 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.

Riparian Habitat

Evaluation of Standards 2 and 3 identified that Minear Creek and several spring complexes have been assessed as functioning-at-risk (see Standards 2 and 3). Riparian issues identified include

lack of appropriate vegetation age classes to stabilize streambanks and control erosion and provide shade to the channel, altered surface flows, and reduced surface water to support hydric vegetation.

Evaluation of Standard 7 identified streams on the IDEQ's 303(d) list of impaired steams and that water quality parameters are not being met for the watershed's beneficial uses. The list of beneficial uses includes water quality standards for cold-water aquatic life (see Standard 7).

Plants
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, so this standard is not applicable.

Information sources
Elemental Occurrences (EOs) for special status plant (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 Idaho rare plant observation reports through the Idaho Natural Heritage Program. Other sources that were used to assess and evaluate the composition and condition of SSP habitats within the Jim's Peak FFR allotment include RHAs, photographs, field notes, Plants database (USDA NRCS, 2013), literature search, and information summarized above in Standards in this document. Records show no reported special status plants in this allotment.

Focal Species
Sage-grouse
On March 5, 2010, the USFWS (USDI USFWS, 2010) published a finding in the Federal Register found that listing the greater sage-grouse was warranted but precluded by the need to take action on other species facing more immediate and severe extinction threats. The finding has changed the status of sage-grouse from a BLM Type 2 sensitive species to a candidate species under the ESA.

This allotment lies within the regional Snake River Plain Management Zone for sage-grouse. In 2012, preliminary priority habitat (PPH) and general priority habitat (GPH) were modeled to identify lands in Idaho important to sage-grouse sustainability. PPH includes breeding, late brood-rearing, and winter concentration areas. General priority habitat are lands that may serve as important corridors between PPH and habitat islands within corridors, or occupied habitats characterized by low lek densities (Makela & Major, 2012). The BLM collaborated with respective state wildlife agencies to identify these areas. Modeling results indicate that all of the Jim's Peak FFR allotment (100 percent) lies within PPH/GPH for sage-grouse (Table WDLF-1, Map WDLF-1). No active leks are known to occur within this allotment. This allotment provides seasonal breeding, upland summer, riparian, and winter habitat for sage-grouse.

Table WDLF-1: Acres[1] and portions of preliminary priority and general priority habitat within the Jim's Peak allotment (Map WDLF-1)

Allotment/Pasture Name	Acres of PPH Sagebrush Habitat in Allotment[2]	Acres of PPH Perennial Grassland in Allotment	Acres of PPH Juniper Encroachment in Allotment	Acres of PGH in Allotment	Portion of Allotment in PPH/PGH
Pasture 1	407 (16%)	0	1557 (60%)	632 (24%)	2595 (100%)

[1]PPH/PGH habitat acreage totals include public lands, state lands, and private property.
[2]PPH sagebrush can also include small amounts of perennial grasslands, conifer encroachment, and non-habitat.

Pasture 1
Three sage-grouse upland summer habitat assessment were conducted on August 15, 2012. Two were conducted on Loamy 12-16" Wyoming big sagebrush / bluebunch wheatgrass site and the third was conducted on Loamy 16"+ Mountain sagebrush / Idaho fescue site. This allotment is managed as a native plant community (Standard 4).

<u>Loamy 12-16" Wyoming big sagebrush / bluebunch wheatgrass</u>

Breeding Habitat Assessment
This information was collected as part of an upland summer habitat assessment conducted on August 15, 2012. Because the sagebrush community is not expected to change substantially over the course of a few months and the data collection protocols are the same, this information can provide insight into breeding habitat conditions earlier in the spring, although the forb information is not used because of the time year the data was collected would influence their numbers and abundance.

The sagebrush overstory is characterized by a marginal canopy cover (43 percent) and marginal height (112 cm) with a suitable spreading shape. The understory is characterized by a suitable canopy cover of perennial grasses (15 percent) (Table WDLF-2). Although the canopy cover and height of sagebrush is generally higher than those identified in the guidelines for sage-grouse and were given a marginal rating, overall, overstory/understory conditions are providing suitable nesting and hiding cover values for breeding and early brood-rearing sage-grouse.

Upland Summer Habitat Assessment
The sagebrush overstory is characterized by a marginal canopy cover (43 percent) and marginal height (112 cm). The understory is characterized by a suitable combined canopy cover of perennial grasses and forbs (31 percent) (Table WDLF-2). The number of preferred forb species (8) recorded is suitable with a suitable canopy cover (16 percent) along the transect line. Although the canopy cover and height of sagebrush is generally higher than desired for sage-grouse and were given a marginal rating, overall, overstory/understory conditions are providing suitable upland summer habitat values for late brood-rearing sage-grouse.

Winter Habitat Assessment
This information was collected as part of a breeding habitat assessment conducted on August 15, 2012. Because the sagebrush community is not expected to change substantially over the course of a few months, this information can provide insight into winter habitat conditions later in the year. The sagebrush overstory is characterized by a suitable canopy cover (43 percent) and

suitable height (112 cm). Overall, sagebrush occurrence and height are providing suitable winter cover and forage conditions for sage-grouse and is not a limiting factor in this pasture (Table WDLF-2).

Table WDLF-2: Sage-grouse habitat indicators and pasture ratings (Refer to Appendix A and Figure WDLF-1A for full assessment information and habitat indicator value ranges)

Habitat Indicator	Data	[1]Breeding	Upland Summer	[1]Winter
Sagebrush Canopy Cover (%)	43.0	marginal	marginal	suitable
Sagebrush Height (cm)	112.9	marginal	marginal	suitable
Sagebrush Form	spreading	suitable		
[2]Perennial Grass Canopy Cover (%)	15.0	suitable		
Combined Grass/Forb Canopy Cover (%)	31.0		suitable	
Preferred Forb Availability (#)	8		suitable	
Overall Pasture Evaluation Rating		**suitable**	**suitable**	**suitable**

[1]Breeding and winter habitat ratings extrapolated from upland habitat assessment information collected on 8/15/2012.
[2]Perennial grass canopy cover does not include Poa species.

Loamy 16”+ Mountain sagebrush / Idaho fescue

Breeding Habitat Assessment
This information was collected as part of an upland summer habitat assessment conducted on August 15, 2012. Because the sagebrush community is not expected to change substantially over the course of a few months and the data collection protocols are the same, this information can provide insight into breeding habitat conditions earlier in the spring, although the forb information is not used because of the time year the data was collected would influence their numbers and abundance.

The sagebrush overstory is characterized by a marginal canopy cover (46 percent) and marginal height (89.4 cm) with a suitable spreading shape. The understory is characterized by a suitable canopy cover of perennial grasses (22 percent) (Table WDLF-3). Overall, although the sage canopy cover rated marginal, the spreading shape combined with favorable understory perennial grasses are providing adequate (suitable) nesting and hiding cover values for breeding, nesting, and early brood-rearing sage-grouse.

Upland Summer Habitat Assessment
The sagebrush overstory is characterized by a marginal canopy cover (46 percent) and marginal height (89.4 cm). The understory is characterized by a suitable combined canopy cover of perennial grasses and forbs (32 percent) (Table WDLF-3). The number of preferred forb species (9) recorded is suitable with a suitable canopy cover (22 percent) along the transect line. Overall, although the sage canopy cover rated marginal, the spreading shape combined with favorable understory perennial grasses are providing adequate (suitable) upland summer habitat cover values for late brood-rearing sage-grouse.

Winter Habitat Assessment
This information was collected as part of a breeding habitat assessment conducted on August 15, 2012. Because the sagebrush community is not expected to change substantially over the course of a few months, this information can provide insight into winter habitat conditions later in the year. The sagebrush overstory is characterized by a suitable canopy cover (43 percent) and suitable height (89.4 cm). Overall, sagebrush occurrence and height are providing suitable winter cover and forage conditions for sage-grouse and is not a limiting factor in this pasture (Table WDLF-3).

Table WDLF-3: Sage-grouse habitat indicators and pasture ratings (Refer to Appendix A and Figure WDLF-1A for full assessment information and habitat indicator value ranges)

Habitat Indicator	Data	[1]Breeding	Upland Summer	[1]Winter
Sagebrush Canopy Cover (%)	46.0	marginal	marginal	suitable
Sagebrush Height (cm)	89.4	marginal	marginal	suitable
Sagebrush Form	spreading	suitable		
[2]Perennial Grass Canopy Cover (%)	22.0	suitable		
Combined Grass/Forb Canopy Cover (%)	32.0		suitable	
Preferred Forb Availability (#)	9		suitable	
Overall Pasture Evaluation Rating		**suitable**	**suitable**	**suitable**

[1]Breeding and winter habitat ratings extrapolated from upland habitat assessment information collected on 8/15/2012.
[2]Perennial grass canopy cover does not include Poa species.

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, 4, 8_

Rationale for Evaluation Finding and Determination

Current and historic livestock grazing management practices are significant causal factors for not meeting watershed Standard 1 in the Jim's Peak allotment. Accelerated erosional processes and water flow patterns have caused an increase in bare ground and pronounced pedestaling of plants; mechanical disturbance along trails is common and has reduced the protective vegetative and persistent cover component needed to provide soil stability and infiltration.

A shift from deep-rooted bunchgrasses to more shallow-rooted species is occurring that, along with grazing during the active growing season, provides less cover in the shrub interspaces. As a result, soil degradation is common, especially when associated with trampling on exposed soils. The decreased ecological function and impaired soils indicate that soil and hydrologic function are compromised. Current and historic livestock management are the primary contributing factors for not meeting Standard 1 and the ORMP soil management objectives of improving unsatisfactory watershed health/conditions for the Jim's Peak 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

Standard 2 is not being met in the Jim's Peak FFR allotment. Approximately 0.9 mile of Minear Creek was most recently assessed NF because the riparian area had lost extent, plants had low vigor from excessive utilization, and stabilizing species were sparse. Approximately 0.6 mile of Owl Creek was FAR in 2000 because riparian vegetation lacked appropriate age distribution and was not controlling erosion, stabilizing streambanks or shading the channel, the riparian/wetland vegetation with deep strong binding roots was not sufficient to stabilize streambanks on portions of the segment, age class and structural diversity of riparian-wetland vegetation were not appropriate, and Canada thistle occurred on a small portion of the floodplain. Subsequent to the

FAR rating, a MMIM site was established on the same reach in 2011. The streambank alteration was 28 percent and exceeded the criteria established in the ORMP. However, both the stubble height and the woody use were within appropriate limits for healthy and sustainable riparian areas.

Five springs that occur within the allotment were assessed in 2004 and 2011. Minear Spring was NF in 2004 because the lentic area was losing extent due to a lack of surface water to support riparian species. The area lacked species composition, age class, and the species present were not stabilizing the soils. Owl Creek Spring and Pole Bridge Spring were both FAR in 2004 because there was a lack of stabilizing species present and the flow patterns had been altered by livestock trailing and trampling. Two Unnamed Springs were assessed FAR in 2011 because both occur on relatively steep slopes where livestock trailing and trampling has altered the flow patterns and caused drying of the wetland soils. Both the woody and herbaceous riparian species had been heavily utilized and had low vigor.

Current livestock grazing management practices are significant causal factors for not meeting Standard 2. The recent grazing schedule has not provided periodic rest or deferment, and sufficient residual vegetation has not been maintained to provide for healthy riparian-wetland areas. Therefore, current livestock grazing management practices are not in conformance with the Idaho Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management applicable to Standard 2.

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

Standard 3 is not being met in the Jim's Peak FFR allotment. Approximately 0.9 mile of Minear Creek was most recently assessed NF because the riparian area had lost extent, plants had low vigor form excessive utilization, and stabilizing species were sparse. Approximately 0.6 mile of Owl Creek was FAR in 2000 because riparian vegetation lacked appropriate age distribution and was not controlling erosion, stabilizing streambanks or shading the channel, the riparian/wetland vegetation with deep strong binding roots was not sufficient to stabilize streambanks on portions

of the segment, age class and structural diversity of riparian-wetland vegetation were not appropriate, and Canada thistle occurred on a small portion of the floodplain. Subsequent to the FAR rating, a MMIM site was established on the same reach in 2011. The streambank alteration was 28 percent and exceeded the criteria established in the ORMP. However, both the stubble height and the woody use were within appropriate limits for healthy and sustainable riparian areas.

Current livestock grazing management practices are significant causal factors for not meeting Standard 3. The recent grazing schedule has not provided periodic rest or deferment, and stream channel morphology and function have not been maintained. Therefore, current livestock grazing management practices are not in conformance with the Idaho Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management applicable to Standard 3.

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 Jim's Peak FFR allotment. Although 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 increaser species (e.g., Sandberg bluegrass and squirreltail), historic grazing and invasive annuals are causal factors in not meeting Standard 4.

Qualitative rangeland health assessment data indicate that Standard 4 is not met due to departure of functional-structural groups in the RHAs with more than expected shallow-rooted bunchgrass and invasive annuals, moderate departure ratings in litter and reproductive capabilities of perennial plants. 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 shallow-rooted bunchgrasses, with the expansion of annual invasive grasses and moderate ratings of reproductive capabilities of perennial plants lead to a conclusion that the vegetation management objective is not 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

Guidelines

□ Conforms with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management
■ Does not conform with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management; Guideline No(s). _10_

Rationale for Evaluation Finding and Determination

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) designates basins, sub-basins, and assessment units in order to manage the state's waterways. The 2010 Integrated Report (303(d)/305(b)) uses assessment units within the sub-basin. Assessment units are groups of similar streams within a sub-basin that have similar land use practices, ownership, or land management. Assessment units are assessed for pollutants and assigned beneficial uses with associated Water Quality Standards. The Beneficial Use Reconnaissance Program (BURP) is a field assessment of stream segments (all IDEQ data and standards mentioned here are available on the IDEQ web site http://www.deq.idaho.gov).

Current IDEQ information identifies that the BLM portions of the Jim's Peak allotment contains approximately 1.0 mile of stream that are not supporting the watershed's beneficial uses, and 0.3 mile that has not been assessed. The allotment contains portions of two AUs with associated beneficial uses and pollutants (Table RIPN-2). AU # ID17050108SW002_02 is currently not supporting the beneficial uses, and all of the streams that occur within the AU are on the 303(d) list of impaired waters based on the pollutants listed below.

Standard 7 is not being met in the Jim's Peak allotment and the allotment is not in conformance

with the Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management because livestock contribute to the pollutants identified.

Table RIPN-2: IDEQ water quality summary

AU #	AU Name	Beneficial Use Not Meeting	Pollutant/ Pollution	TMDL
ID17050108SW003_02	Williams Creek - 1st and 2nd order	fully supporting	NA	NA
ID17050108SW002_02	Lone Tree Creek and tributaries - 1st and 2nd order	CWAL[1] SS[2] SCR[3]	combined biota/ habitat bioassessments E. Coli	No

[1]CWAL = cold water aquatic life
[2]SS = salmonid spawning
[3]SCR = secondary contact recreation

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, 10, 11, and 12

Rationale for Evaluation Finding and Determination

Botany

Standard 8 for botany is met in the Jim's Peak 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.

Upland Habitat

The Jim's Peak FFR allotment is managed as native plant community and is determined to be failing to meet Standard 4 due to past livestock grazing practices and annual invasive species (see Standard 4). Currently, the herbaceous understory component is transitioning from a reference community dominated by bluebunch wheatgrass to an herbaceous community dominated by Sandberg bluegrass and annual invasive grass species. The downward trend in the

plant community composition is favoring more grazing tolerant, shallow-rooted grass species. These 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. Due to the downward trend and shift in the plant community, it can be anticipated that upland habitat conditions will depreciate further overtime; therefore, this allotment is failing to provide adequate upland habitat conditions for sagebrush steppe species, and therefore is not meeting Standard 8 due to historic and current livestock practices and annual invasive species.

However, this determination is not consistent with the vegetation information recorded in sage-grouse assessments that rated this allotment as meeting Standard 8 for sage-grouse. In this particular case, the rangeland assessment information was collected on low sagebrush sites (Shallow Claypan) that represented a majority of the habitat type on public lands; in contrast, the sage-grouse assessments were collected on two different Wyoming big sagebrush and mountain big sagebrush Loamy sites that comprised a smaller portion of the allotment.

Riparian Habitat

Evaluation of Standards 2, 3, and 7 identified streams and springs within this allotment that are not properly functioning or meeting water quality parameters due to current grazing practices (see Standard 2, 3, and 7) and therefore do not meet Standard 8. Streams, springs, and wetlands that are FAR are lacking adequate riparian vegetation composition and distribution to provide the structure and function to support a productive riparian environment. Because Standards 2, 3, and 7 are not being met, this allotment is failing to provide adequate riparian conditions to support viable aquatic and terrestrial species populations and therefore is not meeting Standard 8 due to historic and current grazing practices.

Field Manager's Determination

I have determined that Standards 1, 2, 3, 4, 7 and 8 of the applicable Standards for Rangeland Health are not being met in the Jim's Peak FFR allotment, whereas Standards 5 and 6 are not applicable to resources present within the allotment. Current livestock grazing management practices are significant factors in not meeting Standards 1, 2, 3, 7 and 8. Livestock management practices do not conform with the applicable Livestock Grazing Management Guidelines 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, and 12.

Yvette V Crawford — 8/22/13

Field Manager — **Date**
Owyhee Field Office

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APPENDIX A – SAGE-GROUSE ASSESSMENTS

Sage-grouse breeding and upland summer habitat assessments were conducted using the BLM Sage-grouse Habitat Assessment Framework, Multi-scale Habitat Assessment Tool, August 2010 (Stiver, Rinkes, & Naugle, 2010). This assessment tool has been going through slight modifications since 2001 to present as information and findings come forward to better capture and characterize sage-grouse habitat indicators.

The sage-grouse assessment information collected in 2012 can be reviewed below. Assessment teams collected breeding habitat and upland summer habitat assessment information during the spring and summer of 2012.

In interpreting the breeding and upland summer habitat information, where it is applicable, because the composition and structure of the sagebrush steppe community is not expected to change significantly over the course of a few weeks to a couple of months, except in situations affected by wildfire or mechanical manipulation, the information can provide insight into habitat conditions during other times of the year.

For example, the breeding habitat assessment can provide sagebrush canopy cover and height to assess winter habitat potential and conditions. However, an assessment of upland summer habitat conditions could not be clearly made because the forb information was not representative of the time of year the data was collected and removing the forb information eliminated two critical habitat indicators in making a clear assessment of potential habitat conditions later in the year. Therefore, upland summer habitat was not evaluated using breeding habitat assessment information.

However, because the data collection methods are the same, upland summer habitat assessment information could provide insight into breeding habitat conditions earlier in the year. Largely due to the collection of information specific to sagebrush physical shape and perennial grass canopy cover. Consistent with the discussion above, forb information was not used because it did not represent any other assessment except for the time of year it was collected. Upland summer habitat conditions also provided insight into winter habitat conditions. Therefore, upland summer habitat assessment and supplemental information collected in the summer season were used to assess and evaluate breeding and winter conditions earlier and later in the year.

Figure WDLF-1A: 2012 sage-grouse assessment summaries

Form H-3	Sage-grouse Habitat Suitability Worksheet –		BREEDING	R025XY003ID			
Allotment-Pasture Names:	Jims Peak FFR	**Allotment-Pasture Number:**	0576-01	**Number of Transects:**	2	**Subpopulation:**	NC NV/ SE OR/ SW ID
Ecological Site ID:	R025XY003ID	**Ecological Site Name:**	Loamy 12-16" ARTRW8/PSSPS			**Home Range Name:**	Pleasant Valley
Site IDs:	**Land Cover Type/s:**		**Area Sampled (ha):**	**Date:**		**Associated Leks:**	2O577
0576-1-07S06W24a-2012	ARTRW8/PSSPS		1.5	8/15/2012			
0576-1-07S06W24b-2012	ARTRW8/POSE		0.6	8/15/2012		**Site Info:**	Mesic

Habitat Indicator Suitability Range (Primary)

Habitat Indicator	X	Suitable	✓	Marginal	✓	Unsuitable	✓
Sagebrush Canopy Cover (mean)	**43.0**	15-25%		5-<15% or >25%	X	<5%	
Sagebrush Height Mesic Site (mean) Arid Site (mean)	**112.0**	40-80 cm 30-80 cm		20-<40 cm or >80 cm 20-<30 cm or >80 cm	X	<20 cm <20 cm	
Predominant Sagebrush Shape (mode)	**Spreading**	Spreading	X	Mix of Spreading and Columnar		Columnar	
Perennial Grass and Forb Height (mean)		≥18 cm		10-18 cm		<10 cm	
Perennial Grass Canopy Cover Mesic Site (mean) Arid Site (mean)	**15.0**	≥15% ≥10%	X	5-<15% 5-<10%		<5% < 5%	
Perennial Forb Canopy Cover Mesic Site (mean) Arid Site (mean)		≥10% ≥5%		5-<10% 3-<5%		<5% <3%	
Preferred Forb Availability (relative to site potential)		Preferred forbs are common with several species present		Preferred forbs are common but only a few species are present		Preferred forbs are rare	
Number of Preferred Forb Species (*n*)							

Habitat Indicator Suitability Range (Supplemental)

Habitat Indicator	X	Suitability	Rationale
Other Shrub Canopy Cover (mean)	**25.0**	Suitable	Appropriate for reference site description.
Other Shrub Height (mean)	**37.2**	Suitable	Appropriate for reference site description.
Sagebrush and Other Shrub Canopy Cover (mean)	**68.0**	Marginal	A diversity of shrubs occur on these sites. Other shrubs contribute to the marginal canopy cover of the overstory.
Sagebrush and Other Shrub Height (mean)	**84.6**	Marginal	A diversity of shrubs occur on these sites. Other shrubs contribute to the marginal height of the overstory.
Perennial Grass Height (excluding Poa spp.) (mean)	**13.3**	Marginal	Height of perennial grasses is between 10-18cm.
Poa Spp. Canopy Cover (mean)	**24.0**	Marginal	Poa is an increasing sub-dominant species.
Annual Grass Canopy Cover (mean)	**2.0**	Suitable	Annual grasses are occurring at low levels.
Annual Forb Canopy Cover (mean)			
Bare Ground Canopy Cover (relative to site potential) (mean)	**14.0**	Marginal	Bareground for this site is identified between 20-40%. A low bareground measure is indicative of smaller grazing tolerant species (i.e. Poa and annual grasses) occupying the inner spaces.

Does ecological site potential limit suitability potential?	**YES**	**NO**
		X

Drought Condition:	**Extreme Drought**	**Severe Drought**	**Moderate Drought**	**Mid-Range**	**Moderately Moist**	**Very Moist**	**Extremely Moist**
			X				

Evidence of sage-grouse use?	
Evidence of recent livestock use?	

Rationale for Overall Suitability Rating:

This information was collected as part of a summer upland assessment on 8/15/2012. Because the sagebrush community is not expected to change substantially over the course of a few months and because the data collection protocols are the same, this information can provide insight into breeding habitat conditions in the spring; however, the forb information was not used due to the time of year the assessment was collected which would inlfuence the occurrence and distribution of forb species. The overstory is characterized by a marginal canopy cover (43%) and height (112.0) of sagebrush with a predominantly spreading shape. The understory is characterized by a suitable canopy cover of perennial grasses (15%). Although the sites are similar and the sagebrush composition is comparable, a distinct contrast in understory perennial grasses exists. Notable is that all of the perennial grass occurrence and height is generated from only one site (0576-1-07S06W24a-2012). The other site (0576-1-07S06W24b-2012) did not record any occurrence of perennial grasses. Overall, although the sagebrush overstory is more heavily stocked than desired, the understory composition of perennial grasses is providing adequate nesting and hiding cover (suitable) habitat for breeding sage-grouse.

	Suitable	**Marginal**	**Unsuitable**
Site-Scale Suitability	X		

Form H-4	Sage-grouse Habitat Suitability Worksheet –		UPLAND SUMMER	R025XY003ID			
Allotment-Pasture Names	Jims Peak FFR	**Allotment-Pasture Number:**	0576-01	**Number of Transects:**	2	**Subpopulation:**	NC NV/ SE OR/ SW ID
Ecological Site ID:	R025XY003ID	**Ecological Site Name:**	Loamy 12-16" ARTRW8/PSSPS			**Home Range Name:**	Pleasant Valley
Site IDs:	**Land Cover Type/s:**		**Area Sampled (ha):**	**Date:**		**Associated Leks:**	2O577
0576-1-07S06W24a-2012	ARTRW8/PSSPS		1.5	8/15/2012			
0576-1-07S06W24b-2012	ARTRW8/POSE		0.6	8/15/2012		**Site Info:**	Mesic

Habitat Indicator Suitability Range (Primary)

Habitat Indicator	χ	Suitable	✓	Marginal	✓	Unsuitable	✓
Sagebrush Canopy Cover (mean)	**43.0**	10-25%		5-<10% or >25%	X	<5%	
Sagebrush Height (mean)	**112.0**	40-80 cm		20-<40 cm or >80 cm	X	<20 cm	
Perennial Grass and Forb Canopy Cover (mean)	**31.0**	≥15%	X	5-15%		<5%	
Preferred Forb Availability (relative to site potential)	**Common**	Preferred forbs are common with several species present	X	Preferred forbs are common but only a few species are present		Preferred forbs are rare	
Number of Preferred Forb Species (*n*)	**8.0**						

Habitat Indicator Suitability Range (Supplemental)

Habitat Indicator	χ	Suitability	Rationale
Predominant Sagebrush Shape (mode)	**Spreading**	Suitable	Favorable shape contributes to adequate overstory hiding and escape cover.
Perennial Grass and Forb Height (mean)	**19.7**	Suitable	Perennial grass/forb height is >18cm.
Perennial Grass Canopy Cover (mean)	**15.0**	Suitable	Perennial grass/forb height is between >15%. Generated from only one site.
Perennial Forb Canopy Cover (mean)	**16.0**	Suitable	Perennial forb canopy cover is >10%
Other Shrub Canopy Cover (mean)	**25.0**	Suitable	Appropriate for reference site description.
Other Shrub Height (mean)	**37.2**	Suitable	Appropriate for reference site description.
Sagebrush and Other Shrub Canopy Cover (mean)	**68.0**	Marginal	A diversity of shrubs occur on these sites. Other shrubs contribute to the marginal canopy cover of the overstory.
Sagebrush and Other Shrub Height (mean)	**84.6**	Marginal	A diversity of shrubs occur on these sites. Other shrubs contribute to the marginal height of the overstory.
Perennial Grass Height (excluding Poa spp.) (mean)	**13.3**	Marginal	Height of perennial grasses is between 10-18cm.
Poa Spp. Canopy Cover (mean)	**24.0**	Marginal	Poa is an increasing sub-dominant species.
Annual Grass Canopy Cover (mean)	**2.0**	Suitable	Annual grasses are occurring at low levels.
Annual Forb Canopy Cover (mean)	**3.0**	Suitable	Appropriate for reference site description.
Bare Ground Canopy Cover (relative to site potential) (mean)	**14.0**	Marginal	Bareground for this site is identified between 20-40%. A low bareground measure is indicative of smaller grazing tolerant species (i.e. Poa and annual grasses) occupying the inner spaces.

Does ecological site potential limit suitability potential?	**YES**	**NO**
		X

Drought Condition:	**Extreme Drought**	**Severe Drought**	**Moderate Drought**	**Mid-Range**	**Moderately Moist**	**Very Moist**	**Extremely Moist**
			X				

Evidence of sage-grouse use?	None noted
Evidence of recent livestock use?	None noted

Rationale for Overall Suitability Rating:

The overstory is characterized by a marginal canopy cover (43%) and height (112.0) of sagebrush. The understory is characterized by a suitable combined canopy cover of perennial grasses/forbs (31%). Forbs are common with several species identified. Although the sites are similar and the sagebrush composition is comparable, a distinct contrast in understory perennial grasses exists. Notable is that all of the perennial grass occurrence and height is generated from only one site (0576-1-07S06W24a-2012). The other site (0576-1-07S06W24b-2012) did record any occurrence of perennial grasses. Overall, although the sagebrush overstory is more heavily stocked than desired, the understory composition of perennial grasses and forbs are providing adequate hiding cover and forage (suitable) habitat for summer upland late brood-rearing sage-grouse.

	Suitable	**Marginal**	**Unsuitable**
Site-Scale Suitability	**X**		

Form H-6	Sage-grouse Habitat Suitability Worksheet –		WINTER	R025XY003ID			
Allotment-Pasture Names:	Jims Peak FFR	**Allotment-Pasture Number:**	0576-01	**Number of Transects:**	2	**Subpopulation:**	NC NV/ SE OR/ SW ID
Ecological Site ID:	R025XY003ID	**Ecological Site Name:**	Loamy 12-16" ARTRW8/PSSPS			**Home Range Name:**	Pleasant Valley
Site IDs:	**Land Cover Type/s:**		**Area Sampled (ha):**	**Date:**		**Associated Leks:**	2O577
0576-1-07S06W24a-2012	ARTRW8/PSSPS		1.5	8/15/2012			
0576-1-07S06W24b-2012	ARTRW8/POSE		0.6	8/15/2012		**Site Info:**	Mesic

Habitat Indicator Suitability Range (Primary)

Habitat Indicator	**x**	**Suitable**	✓	**Marginal**	✓	**Unsuitable**	✓
Sagebrush Canopy Cover (mean)	**43.0**	>10%	X	5-10%		<5%	
Sagebrush Height above Snow 0 cm snow (annual mean) 15 cm snow (annual mean) 30 cm snow (annual mean)	**112.0**	>25 cm >40 cm >55 cm	X	10-25 cm 25-40 cm 40-55 cm		<10 cm <25 cm <40 cm	

Habitat Indicator Suitability Range (Supplemental)

Habitat Indicator	**x**	**Suitability**	**Rationale**
Predominant Sagebrush Shape (mode)	**Spreading**	Suitable	Favorable shape contributes to adequate overstory hiding and escape cover.
Other Shrub Canopy Cover (mean)	**25.0**	Suitable	Appropriate for reference site description.
Other Shrub Height (mean)	**37.2**	Suitable	Appropriate for reference site description.
Sagebrush and Other Shrub Canopy Cover (mean)	**68.0**	Marginal	A diversity of shrubs occur on these sites. Other shrubs contribute to the marginal canopy cover of the overstory.
Sagebrush and Other Shrub Height (mean)	**84.6**	Marginal	A diversity of shrubs occur on these sites. Other shrubs contribute to the marginal height of the overstory.

Does ecological site potential limit suitability potential?	**YES**	**NO**
		X

Drought Condition:	**Extreme Drought**	**Severe Drought**	**Moderate Drought**	**Mid-Range**	**Moderately Moist**	**Very Moist**	**Extremely Moist**
			X				

Evidence of sage-grouse use?	None noted
Evidence of recent livestock use?	None noted

Rationale for Overall Suitability Rating:

This information was collected as part of a summer upland assessment on 8/15/2012. Because the sagebrush community is not expected to change substantially over the course of a few months, this information can provide insight into winter habitat conditions. The overstory is characterized by a suitable canopy cover (43%) and height (112.0) of sagebrush. Overall, the canopy cover and height of sagebrush are providing adequate (suitable) winter habitat conditions for sage-grouse.

	Suitable	**Marginal**	**Unsuitable**
Site-Scale Suitability	**X**		

Form H-3	Sage-grouse Habitat Suitability Worksheet –		BREEDING	0576- 1-07S05W31c-7	Jim's Peak FFR		
Date:	8/15/2012	**County:**	Owyhee	**State:**	Idaho	**Subpopulation:**	NC NV/ SE OR/ SW ID
Evaluators:	Schroeder, Ferguson, Harmon					**Home Range Name:**	Pleasant Valley
Legal Description:	T07SR05WS31QSEQQNW					**Associated Leks:**	2O293
Land Cover Type:	ARTRV/Agropyron spp.					**Ecological Site:**	Loamy 16"+ ARTRV/FEID
Number of Transects:	1	**Area Sampled (ha):**	1.5			**Site Info:**	Mesic
List UTM Coordinates:							
Starting (NAD83)	502417E	4735265N					
Ending (NAD 83)	4735254N	502367E					

Habitat Indicator Suitability Range (Primary)

Habitat Indicator	x	Suitable	✓	Marginal	✓	Unsuitable	✓
Sagebrush Canopy Cover (mean)	**46.0**	15-25%		5-<15% or >25%	X	<5%	
Sagebrush Height Mesic Site (mean) Arid Site (mean)	**89.4**	40-80 cm 30-80 cm		20-<40 cm or >80 cm 20-<30 cm or >80 cm	X	<20 cm <20 cm	
Predominant Sagebrush Shape (mode)	**Spreading**	Spreading	X	Mix of Spreading and Columnar		Columnar	
Perennial Grass and Forb Height (mean)		≥18 cm		10-18 cm		<10 cm	
Perennial Grass Canopy Cover Mesic Site (mean) Arid Site (mean)	**22.0**	≥15% ≥10%	X	5-<15% 5-<10%		<5% <5%	
Perennial Forb Canopy Cover Mesic Site (mean) Arid Site (mean)		≥10% ≥5%		5-<10% 3-<5%		<5% <3%	
Preferred Forb Availability (relative to site potential)		Preferred forbs are common with several species present		Preferred forbs are common but only a few species are present		Preferred forbs are rare	
Number of Preferred Forb Species (*n*)							

Habitat Indicator Suitability Range (Supplemental)

Habitat Indicator	x	Suitability	Rationale
Other Shrub Canopy Cover (mean)	**36.0**	Suitable	Appropriate for reference site description.
Other Shrub Height (mean)	**42.4**	Suitable	Appropriate for reference site description.
Sagebrush and Other Shrub Canopy Cover (mean)	**82.0**	Suitable	Site is heavily stocked with a diversity of shrubs. Appropriate for north facing slope.
Sagebrush and Other Shrub Height (mean)	**68.8**	Suitable	Site is heavily stocked with a diversity of shrubs. Appropriate for north facing slope.
Perennial Grass Height (excluding Poa spp.) (mean)	**12.9**	Marginal	Perennial grass height is between 10-18cm.
Poa Spp. Canopy Cover (mean)	**2.0**	Suitable	Poa is a minor component in this community.
Annual Grass Canopy Cover (mean)	**0.0**	Suitable	Appropriate for reference site description.
Annual Forb Canopy Cover (mean)			
Bare Ground Canopy Cover (relative to site potential) (mean)	**28.0**	Suitable	Bareground for this reference site ranges from 30-60%.

Does ecological site potential limit suitability potential?	YES	NO
		X

Drought Condition:	Extreme Drought	Severe Drought	Moderate Drought	Mid-Range	Moderately Moist	Very Moist	Extremely Moist
			X				

Evidence of sage-grouse use?	None noted
Evidence of recent livestock use?	Cattle observed

Rationale for Overall Suitability Rating:

This information was collected as part of an summer upland habitat assessment on 8/15/2012. Because composition of the sagebrush community is not expected to change over the course of a few months and because the data protocols are the same, this information can provide some insight into breeding habitat conditions earlier in the spring; however the forb information was not used because of the time of year it was collected which would the distribution and occurrence of forb species. The overstory is characterized by a marginal canopy cover (46.0%) and height (89.4cm) of sagebrush with a predominantly spreading shape. The understory is characterized by suitable canopy cover of perennial grasses (22.0%). Overall, although the sagebrush overstory occurrence and height is less than desirable, the understory herbaceous component is adequate for nesting sage-grouse and therefore is providing suitable breeding habitat conditions.

	Suitable	Marginal	Unsuitable
Site-Scale Suitability	X		

Form H-4	Sage-grouse Habitat Suitability Worksheet –		UPLAND SUMMER	0576- 1-07S05W31c-:	Jim's Peak FFR		
Date:	8/15/2012	**County:**	Owyhee	**State:**	Idaho	**Subpopulation:**	NC NV/ SE OR/ SW ID
Evaluators:	Schroeder, Ferguson, Harmon					**Home Range Name:**	Pleasant Valley
Legal Description:	T07SR05WS31QSEQQNW					**Associated Leks:**	2O293
Land Cover Type:	ARTRV/Agropyron spp.					**Ecological Site:**	Loamy 16"+ ARTRV/FEID
Number of Transects:	1	**Area Sampled (ha):**	1.5			**Site Info:**	Mesic
List UTM Coordinates:							
Starting (NAD83)	502417E	4735265N					
Ending (NAD 83)	4735254N	502367E					

Habitat Indicator Suitability Range (Primary)

Habitat Indicator	χ	Suitable	✓	Marginal	✓	Unsuitable	✓
Sagebrush Canopy Cover (mean)	**46.0**	10-25%		5-<10% or >25%	X	<5%	
Sagebrush Height (mean)	**89.4**	40-80 cm		20-<40 cm or >80 cm	X	<20 cm	
Perennial Grass and Forb Canopy Cover (mean)	**32.0**	≥15%	X	5-15%		<5%	
Preferred Forb Availability (relative to site potential)	**Common**	Preferred forbs are common with several species present	X	Preferred forbs are common but only a few species are present		Preferred forbs are rare	
Number of Preferred Forb Species (*n*)	**9.0**						

Habitat Indicator Suitability Range (Supplemental)

Habitat Indicator	χ	Suitability	Rationale
Predominant Sagebrush Shape (mode)	**Spreading**	Suitable	Favorable sagebrush shape.
Perennial Grass and Forb Height (mean)	**13.7**	Marginal	Combined height is between 10-18cm.
Perennial Grass Canopy Cover (mean)	**22.0**	Suitable	Perennial grass canopy cover is >15%.
Perennial Forb Canopy Cover (mean)	**10.0**	Suitable	Perennial forb canopy cover is >15%.
Other Shrub Canopy Cover (mean)	**36.0**	Suitable	Appropriate for reference site description.
Other Shrub Height (mean)	**42.4**	Suitable	Appropriate for reference site description.
Sagebrush and Other Shrub Canopy Cover (mean)	**82.0**	Suitable	Site is heavily stocked with a diversity of shrubs. Appropriate for north facing slope.
Sagebrush and Other Shrub Height (mean)	**68.8**	Suitable	Site is heavily stocked with a diversity of shrubs. Appropriate for north facing slope.
Perennial Grass Height (excluding Poa spp.) (mean)	**12.9**	Marginal	Perennial grass height is between 10-18cm.
Poa Spp. Canopy Cover (mean)	**2.0**	Suitable	Poa is a minor component in this community.
Annual Grass Canopy Cover (mean)	**0.0**	Suitable	Appropriate for reference site description.
Annual Forb Canopy Cover (mean)	**16.0**	Suitable	Appropriate for reference site description.
Bare Ground Canopy Cover (relative to site potential) (mean)	**28.0**	Suitable	Bareground for this reference site ranges from 30-60%.

Does ecological site potential limit suitability potential?	**YES**	**NO**
		X

Drought Condition:	**Extreme Drought**	**Severe Drought**	**Moderate Drought**	**Mid-Range**	**Moderately Moist**	**Very Moist**	**Extremely Moist**
			X				

Evidence of sage-grouse use?	None noted
Evidence of recent livestock use?	Cattle observed

Rationale for Overall Suitablity Rating:	The overstory is characterized by a marginal canopy cover (46.0%) and height (89.4cm) of sagebrush. The understory is characterized by suitable combined canopy cover of perennial grasses/forbs (32.0%). Forbs are common with several species represented. Overall, although the sagebrush overstory occurrence and height is less than desirable, the understory herbaceous component is adequate for late brood-rearing sage-grouse and therefore is providing suitable summer upland habitat conditions.

	Suitable	**Marginal**	**Unsuitable**
Site-Scale Suitability	**X**		

Form H-6	Sage-grouse Habitat Suitability Worksheet –		WINTER	0576- 1-07S05W31c-/	Jim's Peak FFR		
Date:	8/15/2012	**County:**	Owyhee	**State:**	Idaho	**Subpopulation:**	NC NV/ SE OR/ SW ID
Evaluators:	Schroeder, Ferguson, Harmon					**Home Range Name:**	Pleasant Valley
Legal Description:	T07SR05WS31QSEQQNW					**Associated Leks:**	2O293
Land Cover Type:	ARTRV/Agropyron spp.					**Ecological Site:**	Loamy 16"+ ARTRV/FEID
Number of Transects:	1	**Area Sampled (ha):**	1.5			**Site Info:**	Mesic
List UTM Coordinates:							
Starting (NAD83)	502417E	4735265N					
Ending (NAD 83)	4735254N	502367E					

Habitat Indicator Suitability Range (Primary)

Habitat Indicator	**X**	**Suitable**	✓	**Marginal**	✓	**Unsuitable**	✓
Sagebrush Canopy Cover (mean)	**46.0**	>10%	X	5-10%		<5%	
Sagebrush Height above Snow 0 cm snow (annual mean) 15 cm snow (annual mean) 30 cm snow (annual mean)	**89.4**	>25 cm >40 cm >55 cm	X	10-25 cm 25-40 cm 40-55 cm		<10 cm <25 cm <40 cm	

Habitat Indicator Suitability Range (Supplemental)

Habitat Indicator	**X**	**Suitability**	**Rationale**
Predominant Sagebrush Shape (mode)	**Spreading**	Suitable	Favorable sagebrush shape.
Other Shrub Canopy Cover (mean)	**36.0**	Suitable	Appropriate for reference site description.
Other Shrub Height (mean)	**42.4**	Suitable	Appropriate for reference site description.
Sagebrush and Other Shrub Canopy Cover (mean)	**82.0**	Suitable	Site is heavily stocked with a diversity of shrubs. Appropriate for north facing slope.
Sagebrush and Other Shrub Height (mean)	**68.8**	Suitable	Site is heavily stocked with a diversity of shrubs. Appropriate for north facing slope.

Does ecological site potential limit suitability potential?	**YES**	**NO**
		X

Drought Condition:	**Extreme Drought**	**Severe Drought**	**Moderate Drought**	**Mid-Range**	**Moderately Moist**	**Very Moist**	**Extremely Moist**
			X				

Evidence of sage-grouse use?	None noted
Evidence of recent livestock use?	Cattle observed

Rationale for Overall Suitability Rating:

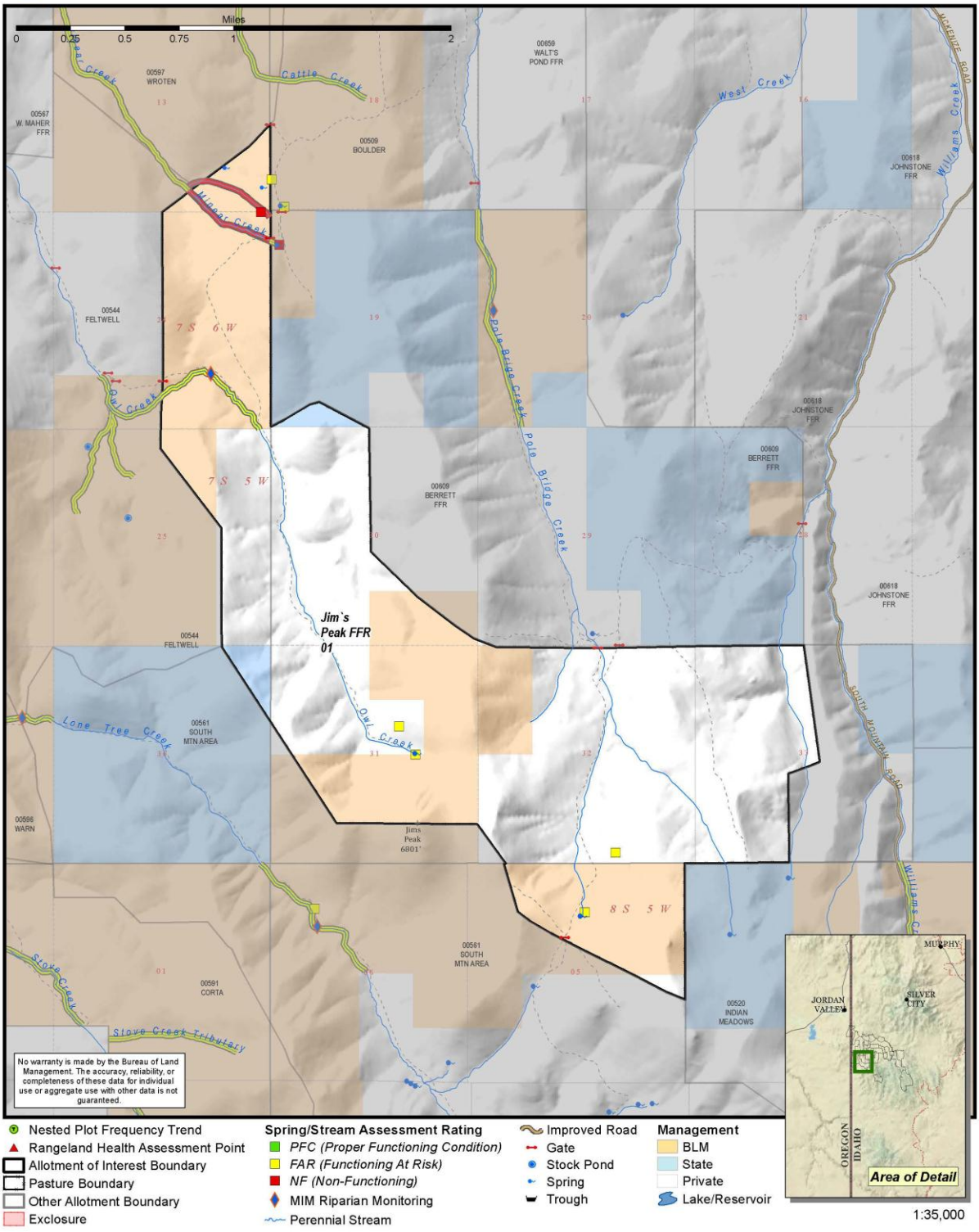
This information was collected as part of an summer upland habitat assessment on 8/15/2012. Because composition of the sagebrush community is not expected to change over the course of a few months this information can provide some insight into winter habitat conditions later in the year. The overstory is characterized by a suitable canopy cover (46.0%) and height (89.4cm) of sagebrush. Overall, because sagebrush occurrence and height are favorable, this site is providing suitable winter habitat conditions for sage-grouse.

	Suitable	**Marginal**	**Unsuitable**
Site-Scale Suitability	**X**		

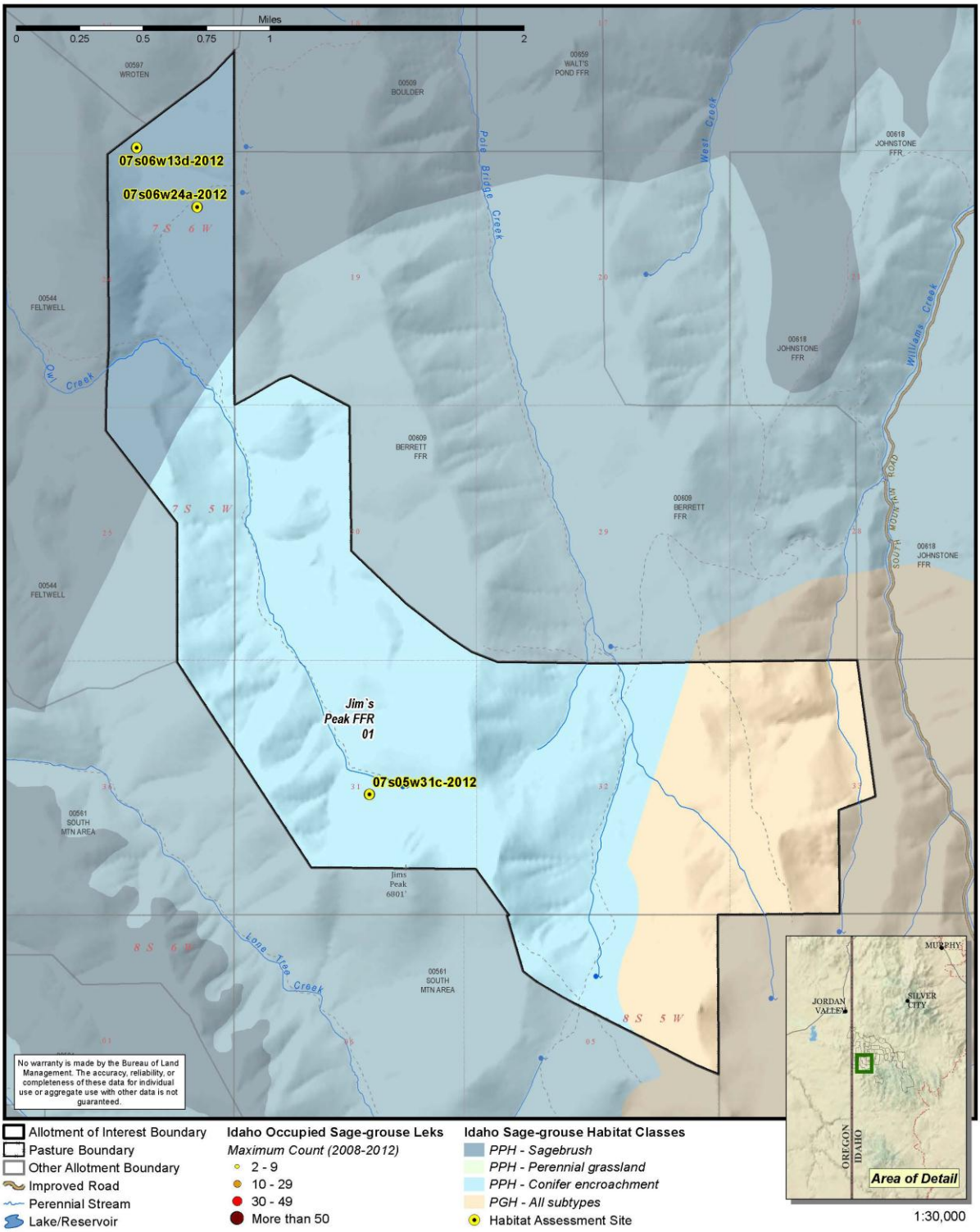
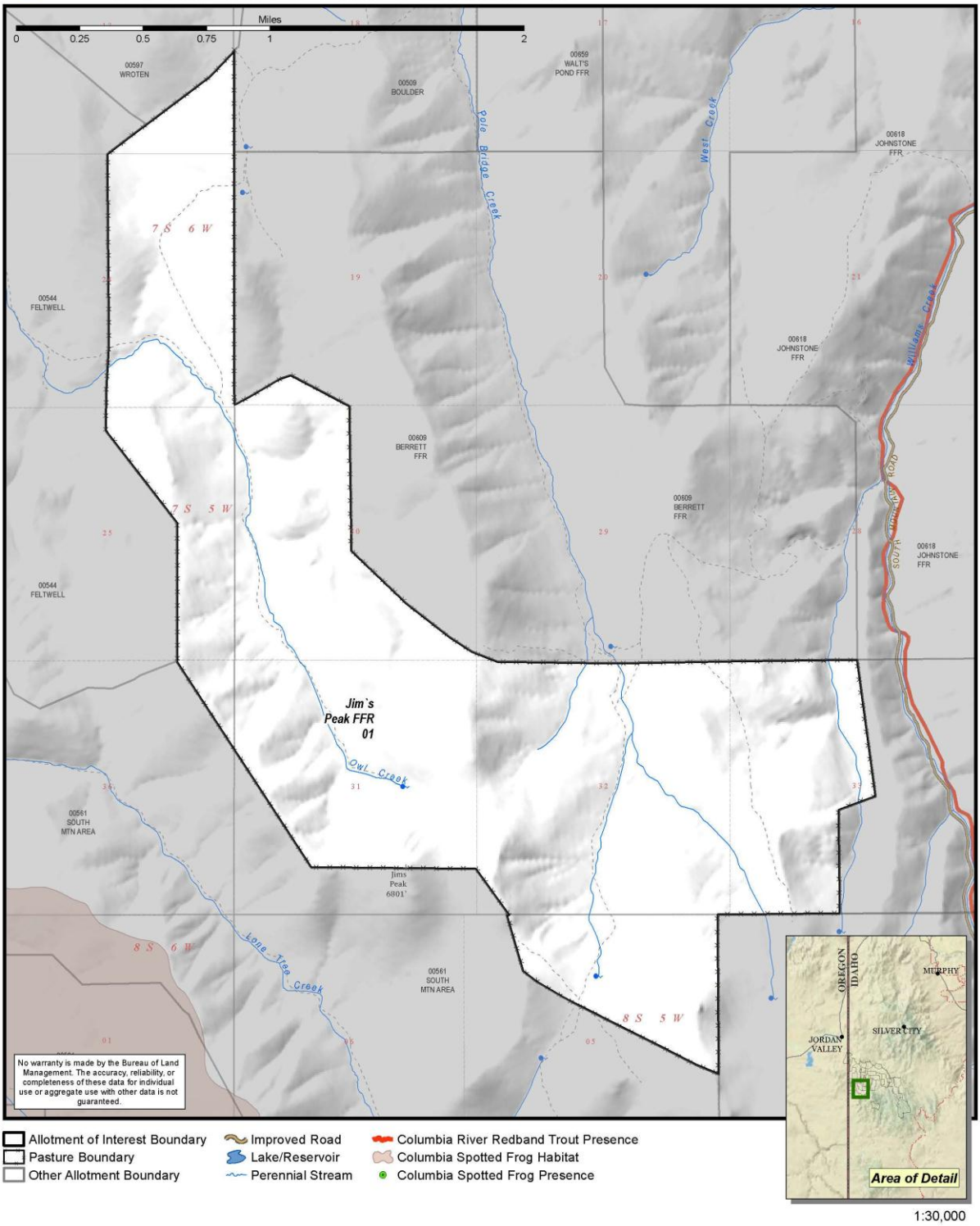
2013 Supplement to the Jim's Peak FFR allotment Initial Allotment Review and Rangeland Health Assessment-Maps

APPENDIX A - MAPS

RNGE-1: Jim`s Peak FFR (00576) Range and Riparian Overview



WDLF-1: Jim`s Peak FFR (00576) Sage-grouse Habitat and Leks



WDLF-2: Jim`s Peak FFR (00576) Columbia Spotted Frog Distribution and Columbia River Redband Trout Presence