

EVALUATION AND DETERMINATION

Achieving the Idaho Standards for Rangeland Health and Conformance with the Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management

Field Office: Shoshone

Determination Date(s):

Grazing Allotment Name/Number: Station Allotment #80716

Name of Permittee(s): Steven and Kathy Wilkie

Standard 1 (Watersheds)

Standard doesn't apply

Evaluation and Information Sources (*required regardless of which box is checked*):

Overall, the watershed condition in the Station Allotment is adequate for maintaining soil stability and hydrologic cycling. Site 1 and 2 were in a seeded area. Major rills and gullies were not found on any of the evaluation sites which indicates that soils are stable. The overall rating for Standard 1 is none to slight. One indicator (5%) was marked moderate, nine indicators (41%) were marked slight to moderate, and twelve indicators (54%) were marked none to slight.

[Check box 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5, and either box 6 or 7.]

1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meeting the Standard	5 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, cause not determined
2 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, but making significant progress towards	
3 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, current livestock grazing management practices are not significant factors (list important causal agents)	6 <input type="checkbox"/> Conforms with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management.
4 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, current livestock grazing management practices are significant factors (list important causal agents)	7 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Does not conform with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management (list Guidelines No(s) in non-conformance) 4, 9, 12, 13

Standard 2 (Riparian Areas and Wetlands)

Standard doesn't apply

Evaluation and Information Sources (*required regardless of which box is checked*):

There are no natural riparian areas or wetlands in the Station Allotment.

[Check box 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5, and either box 6 or 7.]

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

Standard 3 (Stream Channel/Flood plain)

Standard doesn't apply

Evaluation and Information Sources (*required regardless of which box is checked*):

There are no perennial streams and no active flood plains within the Station Allotment.

[Check box 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5, and either box 6 or 7.]

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

Standard 4 (Native Plant Communities)

Standard doesn't apply

Evaluation and Information Sources (*required regardless of which box is checked*):

This standard does not apply to this allotment because all of the BLM acres in this allotment have been seeded.

[Check box 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5, and either box 6 or 7.]

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

Standard 5 (Seedings)

Standard doesn't apply

Evaluation and Information Sources (*required when boxes 1 – 7 are checked*):

Crested wheatgrass and Sandberg bluegrass are the most abundant plant species in the west pasture (S-1). This pasture has only scattered traces of basin big sagebrush (2%) due to a fire in 1997. The actual cover of crested wheatgrass was (22%) for S-1. Sandberg bluegrass cover was (30%) for S-1. There was no bluebunch wheatgrass observed in this transect. The S-1 transect only had 2% canopy cover for forbs, and abundance and diversity of forbs observed was surprisingly high for a crested wheatgrass seeding. Cheatgrass cover for this pasture was 4%.

Crested wheatgrass and Sandberg bluegrass are the most abundant plant species in the east pasture (S-2). This pasture had more basin big sagebrush cover (10%) than the west pasture. The actual cover of crested wheatgrass was (36%) for S-2. Sandberg bluegrass cover was (11%) for S-2. Bluebunch wheatgrass was not observed in this transect either. The S-2 transect had (7%) canopy cover of forbs, however lower forb abundance and diversity was observed compared to S-1. Cheatgrass cover was 4% in this pasture also.

The overall rating for Standard 5 is Slight to Moderate. Five indicators (28%) were marked moderate. Ten indicators (56%) were marked slight to moderate, and three indicators (16%) were marked none to slight.

[*Check box 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5, and either box 6 or 7.*]

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2 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, but making significant progress towards	
3 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, current livestock grazing management practices are not significant factors	6 <input type="checkbox"/> Conforms with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management.
4 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, current livestock grazing management practices are significant factors	7 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Does not conform with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management (list Guidelines No(s) in non-conformance) 4, 9, 12, 13

Standard 6 (Exotic Plant Communities, Other than Seedings) Standard doesn't apply

Evaluation and Information Sources (*required regardless of which box is checked*):

There are no areas within this allotment that are dominated by exotic plant communities other than seedings.

[*Check box 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5, and check either box 6 or 7.*]

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

Standard 7 (Water Quality) Standard doesn't applyEvaluation and Information Sources (*required regardless of which box is checked*):

There are no perennial streams or natural surface water within the allotment.

[Check box 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5, and either box 6 or 7.]

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

Standard 8 (Threatened and Endangered Plants and Animals) Standard doesn't applyEvaluation and Information Sources (*required regardless of which box is checked*):

Public land in the Station Allotment occurs near, but is not included within, the areas currently mapped as sage-grouse habitat. There are no active or historic sage grouse leks documented within the allotment. There are four active sage-grouse leks and one historic lek located within 10 miles of the allotment. The closest active sage-grouse lek is located approximately 7 miles north of the allotment. Sage grouse activity was recorded at all four of the active leks in 2003. Currently, the allotment may provide marginal sage-grouse brood rearing values. The allotment does not contain suitable sage-grouse nesting habitat conditions. A portion of the allotment in the east pasture may contain suitable sage-grouse winter habitat.

Picabo milkvetch (*Astragalus oniciformis*) is a BLM sensitive species that grows in deep, stable, sandy soils with flat topography and underlying basalt. It grows best in areas from 4100 to 4700 feet of elevation. The primary range of this species stretches from the foothills of the Pioneer Mountains to the central Snake River Plain. The nearest known population of this plant is approximately 4 miles north of the Station Allotment.

The allotment does not contain suitable or potential habitat for any known threatened or endangered animals

[Check box 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5, and either box 6 or 7.]

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2 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, but making significant progress towards	
3 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, current livestock grazing management practices are not significant factors	6 <input type="checkbox"/> Conforms with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management.
4 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, current livestock	7 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Does not conform with Guidelines for

grazing management practices are significant factors	Livestock Grazing Management (list Guidelines No(s) in non-conformance) 4, 9, 12, 13
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Field Manager's Determination Rationale:

I have determined that Standard 1-Watersheds, and Standard 5-Seedings, are being met but not in conformance to all applicable Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management in the Station Allotment #80607. Standard 8-Threatened and Endangered Plants and Animals is not being met but is not livestock caused. Standard 2-Riparian Areas and Wetlands, Standard 3-Stream Channel and Floodplains, Standard 4-Native Plant Communities, Standard 6-Exotic Plant Communities, and Standard 7-Water Quality do not apply to the Station Allotment.

/s/ Codie Martin

Field Manager

10/9/2015

Date

Station Allotment Assessment and Determination Public Comments and BLM Responses

The following comments were received after public review of the Station Allotment Assessment.

Comment: SFW-Idaho's major projects is the Cooperative Wildlife Management Tracts program. Our mission is to increase hunting and fishing opportunities and the Tracts program is major step in achieving that goal.

Response: The multiple-use mandate of the BLM requires that our management considerations include all aspects of use for the federal lands we manage. This includes wildlife, recreation, livestock, mining, aesthetics, etc.

Comment: The lack of use in the southern unit should be basis to remove it from the allotment.

Response: Your comments will be considered in the permit renewal EA and Field Office Manager's Decision.

Comment: Reassessing the amount of available forage in the north unit is warranted in developing more realistic grazing plans that also take into consideration that one of the primary purposes of this allotment is its designation as Cooperative Wildlife Management Tract.

Response: The BLM is managing the Station Allotment to maintain and improve wildlife habitat. The permit renewal EA and Field Office Manager's Decision will consider all practical alternatives for supporting the needs of mule deer, pronghorn, and other wildlife species.