

**EVALUATION AND DETERMINATION  
Achieving the Idaho Standards for Rangeland Health  
and  
Conformance with the Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management**

**Field Office:** 110-Four Rivers

**Determination Date:** 09/28/2007

**Grazing Allotment Name and Number:** Gambril Individual Allotment #90

**Name of Permittee:** Kim L. Braun #1101106

**Introduction**

Idaho has eight Standards for Rangeland Health and 20 Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management that are used as management goals for the betterment of the environment, protection of cultural resources, and sustained productivity of the range. These standards and guidelines, which provide the resource measures and guidance needed to ensure healthy, functional rangelands went into effect August 12, 1997 when approved by the Secretary of the Interior. Idaho's Standards and Guidelines were developed by the 45 members of Idaho's three Resource Advisory Councils, with the specific intent of providing for the multiple use of public lands. Indicators of rangeland health for the various standards are a list of typical physical and biological factors and processes that can be measured and/or observed. Only indicators appropriate to a particular site are used to provide information necessary to determine the health and condition of public rangelands.

This document is used to determine if rangeland health standards are being achieved and if livestock management is conforming with applicable guidelines. To step through the determination process, this document has been set up to:

- First, discuss activities associated with all the standards such as grazing permit administration, RMP directions, and how the field assessments were conducted.
- Second, evaluate and determine conformance for the applicable standards. This is done through a series of discussion on rangeland health, the changes to rangeland health, livestock management, and rationale statements.
- Third, present the Field Manager rationale statement and conformance determination of the entire allotment to Idaho's standards for rangeland health.

**Permit Administration**

Current grazing authorization; expires February 28, 2015:

| Permittee    | Livestock | Season of Use  | Percent Public Land <sup>1</sup> | Grazing Preference |           |       |
|--------------|-----------|----------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|-----------|-------|
|              |           |                |                                  | Active             | Suspended | Total |
| Kim L. Braun | 50 Cattle | 04/10 to 05/31 | 11%                              | 9                  | 0         | 9     |

1. Per the grazing regulations, percent public land should be determined by the proportion of livestock forage available on public lands within the allotment compared to the total amount available from both public lands and those land owned or controlled by the permittee. In many cases this percentage was determined on a geographic basis.

The Rangeland Program Summary (RPS) of the RMP indicates there are 120 acres of public land within Gambril Individual Allotment. RMP allotment maps show that public land is fenced in with approximately 300 acres of private land and 600 acres of lands administered by Idaho Department of Lands. Our current data base indicates we have the following range improvement on file:

| <b>Range Improvement</b>           | <b>Legal Description</b> | <b>Documentation</b> | <b>Maintenance</b> |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Gambril Fence Reconstruction #8451 | T14N, R3W, Sec 15, 21    | 1989 Coop Agreement  | Permittee          |

Gambril Individual Allotment is in the “custodial” management category with M-1 moderate use goals and guidelines. Through the RMP, custodial management is defined as management to prevent resource deterioration. General goals and guidelines for M-1 moderate use areas, as described in the RMP, are to provide production and use of forage, timber, minerals and energy, other consumptive resources and recreation while maintaining or enhancing natural systems. These lands provide wildlife and livestock forage. Management is to maintain or enhance forage production for livestock and wildlife while maintaining site productivity, water quality and stream stability, and providing for other uses.

The overall RMP objective is to improve soil, vegetation, watershed, wildlife habitat, other resource values and conditions, and to provide vegetation for livestock, wildlife and other consumptive and non-consumptive uses. Forage production will be balanced with forage consumption to allow scheduled livestock use to occur in a manner that will maintain and/or improve vegetative condition. The range resource management guideline states that grazing preference will be at a level to ensure adequate forage is also available for wildlife and there are sufficient reserves to maintain plant vigor, to stabilize soils, and to provide cover for wildlife and other non-consumptive uses.

### **Field Assessments**

Two rangeland health field assessments were completed on July 16, 2002, using the *Interagency Technical Reference 1734-6, Interpreting Indicators of Rangeland Health*, as the guide. The Adams and Washington Counties Soil Survey, published by NRCS, was used as a base map from which soil polygons were field checked for correlation to ecological site descriptions. Each ecological site has been combined into broader groupings when discussing applicable rangeland health standards.

### **Broad Ecological Types**

| <b>Ecological Type</b>                              | <b>NRCS Ecological Site</b> |            | <b>Number of Assessments</b> | <b>Public Lands Assessed</b> |                |
|---|-----------------------------|------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|
|   | <b>New</b>                  | <b>Old</b> |                              | <b>Percent</b>               | <b>Acreage</b> |
| Loamy<br>16-22 inch precipitation zone              | 010XY003I                   | B10-03     | 1                            | 30%                          | 36             |
| Shallow Stony Loam<br>16-22 inch precipitation zone | 010XY026I                   | B10-26     | 1                            | 70%                          | 83             |
| <b>Totals</b>                                       |                             |            | <b>2</b>                     |                              | <b>119</b>     |

Field mapping showed on-the-ground boundary fences do not match allotment boundaries as described in the RMP. Therefore, assessment data is based on field mapping which showed 119 acres of public land (12 percent), 300 acres of private land (31 percent) and 590 acres of land administered by Idaho Department of Lands (57 percent) within the existing fencelines. Since the field assessment was based on existing fencelines, written assessments, evaluations, and determinations reflect what was mapped, not the RMP figures. These percentages indicate composition of public land, and other lands, within the allotment boundary on a geographic basis, which is different from the percent public land term of the grazing permit.

In addition to rangeland health field assessments, the following data was used to evaluate conformance with applicable Standards and Guidelines for this allotment, and can be found in the allotment specific appendix of the April 2005, Goodrich Watershed Assessment (allotments with blocked units of public land):

1. 100-point ground cover transects.
2. Estimated canopy cover of plant groups.

3. Two 3-foot by 3-foot photo trend plots
4. Actual Grazing Use Reports
5. Coordination with current livestock grazing permittees
6. Range Readiness monitoring

Range readiness is an estimation of the appropriate time when livestock grazing may begin without causing permanent damage to soils and vegetation. Range readiness field exams in the general Goodrich area were conducted for three years, following public review of the Goodrich Watershed Assessment. Beginning in 2004, range readiness sites were visited periodically (between mid-March through mid-June) to determine when soils became firm following spring thaw, and when key forage species have reached the stage of growth where livestock grazing would not harm the plant.

**Standard 1: Watersheds**

Standard doesn't apply

*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.*

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

To examine watershed indicators, all ecological sites were grouped into a moderately deep to deep soils group and a shallow to very shallow stony soils group. Results from field assessment are displayed in the following tables, by indicator then by ecological grouping.

**Rangeland Health**

*Moderately Deep to Deep Soils Group*

*Number of assessments: 1 Represents 30 % of public land in the allotment*

| Indicators   | Extreme | Moderate to Extreme | Moderate | Slight to Moderate | None to Slight |
|--|---------|---------------------|----------|--------------------|----------------|
| Rills  |         |                     |          |                    | 1              |
| Water Flow Patterns  |         |                     | 1        |                    |                |
| Pedestals/Terracettes  |         |                     | 1        |                    |                |
| Bare Ground  |         |                     | 1        |                    |                |
| Gullies  |         |                     |          |                    | 1              |
| Wind Erosion   |         |                     |          |                    | 1              |
| Soil Surface Resistance to Erosion   |         |                     |          | 1                  |                |
| Soil Surface Loss or Degradation   |         |                     |          | 1                  |                |
| Compaction Layer   |         |                     | 1        |                    |                |
| Plant Community Composition and Distribution Relative to Infiltration and Runoff |         |                     |          |                    | 1              |
| Reproductive Capability of Native Plants   |         |                     |          |                    | 1              |
| <b>Total</b>   |         |                     | <b>4</b> | <b>2</b>           | <b>5</b>       |

Over the approximate 36 acres within this soils group, four rangeland health indicators were found to be moderately dissimilar to the ecological site. Bare ground, pedestals, compaction and flow patterns are greater than what would be expected, as described by NRCS for a Potential Natural Community.

*Shallow to Very Shallow Stony Soils Group*

*Number of assessments: 1 Represents 70% of public land in the allotment*

| Indicators          | Extreme | Moderate to Extreme | Moderate | Slight to Moderate | None to Slight |
|---------------------|---------|---------------------|----------|--------------------|----------------|
| Rills               |         |                     |          |                    | 1              |
| Water Flow Patterns |         |                     |          |                    | 1              |

| Indicators   | Extreme | Moderate to Extreme | Moderate | Slight to Moderate | None to Slight |
|--|---------|---------------------|----------|--------------------|----------------|
| Pedestals/Terracettes  |         |                     |          |                    | 1              |
| Bare Ground  |         |                     |          |                    | 1              |
| Gullies  |         |                     |          |                    | 1              |
| Wind Erosion   |         |                     |          |                    | 1              |
| Soil Surface Resistance to Erosion   |         |                     |          |                    | 1              |
| Soil Surface Loss or Degradation   |         |                     |          |                    | 1              |
| Compaction Layer   |         |                     |          |                    | 1              |
| Plant Community Composition and Distribution Relative to Infiltration and Runoff |         |                     |          |                    | 1              |
| Reproductive Capability of Native Plants   |         |                     |          |                    | 1              |
| <b>Total</b>   |         |                     |          |                    | <b>11</b>      |

Majority of Gambрил Individual Allotment, or approximately 83 acres, is in this soils group. All indicators of this soils group are within expectations of the reference ecological site, as described by NRCS.

### Rangeland Health Changes

#### *Moderately Deep to Deep Soils Group*

The deep soils group represents 30 percent of the public lands within this allotment, or approximately 36 acres. The eleven rangeland health indicators were found to be within an acceptable range of similarity to the reference ecological site description. Indicators that were found having a moderate departure were water flow patterns, pedestalled bunchgrasses, patches of bare ground, and a compaction layer on the flatter areas.

#### *Shallow to Very Shallow Stony Soils Group*

Watershed health over the shallow soils group is stable as demonstrated by the similarity to the reference ecological site description.

Ground cover was measured through a 100-point transect conducted at the field assessment sites.

| Ecological Site | Litter | Standing Dead Vegetation | Bare Ground | Rock/Gravel | Cryptogams | Vascular Plants |
|-----------------|--------|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|------------|-----------------|
| Deeper Soils    | 14%    | 6%                       | 2%          | 4%          | 0          | 74%             |
| Shallow Soils   | 11%    | 21%                      | 3%          | 33%         | 2%         | 32%             |

“Standing Dead Vegetation” includes both annual and dead perennial plants that have not been broken at the soil surface level. If broken, it becomes a form of litter.

“Cryptogams” are microorganisms (eg., lichens, algae) and non-vascular plants (eg., moss, lichens) that grow on or just below the soil surface.

“Vascular Plants” include canopy cover, as well as basal cover.

### Livestock Grazing Management

A description of each Guideline for Livestock Grazing Management is attached to this Evaluation and Determination. Following are guidelines applicable to Standard 1:

Guidelines 1, 3, and 8 (grazing management practices): Livestock grazing of the allotment is authorized for spring use, between mid-April to the end of May over 120 acres of public land for 9 AUMs. Based on ecological site descriptions and estimated suitability, stocking rate is estimated to be 10.10 acres/AUM.

Guidelines 6 and 17 (development of management facilities): At this time there are no known proposals for new range improvements. If projects are proposed in the future, these guidelines will be followed, however at this time these guidelines do not apply to livestock management

Guideline 16 (burned area rehabilitation): If possible, natural regeneration will be allowed following a wildfire. If a seeding would be needed, future wildfire rehabilitation projects will include native seeds, as

much as economically possibly and as seed availability permits. Seed mixes will represent the appropriate ecosystem diversity. If projects are proposed in the future, these guidelines will be followed. At this time this guideline does not apply to livestock management.

It is documented on the Rangeland Health Evaluation Summary Worksheet that there is evidence of deer use and old cattle trails.

**Conformance Rationale for Standard 1 and applicable Guidelines for Watersheds:**

Based on GIS mapping, the 119 acres of public land within Gambрил Individual Allotment constitute approximately 12 percent of the allotment. Moderately deep to deep soils group, 30 percent of the public lands, displayed a majority of rangeland health indicators to be similar to the reference ecological site description. Four indicators indicated a moderate dissimilarity by having well-defined flow patterns, more bare ground than expected and pedestalled plants. However, no exposed roots were observed. The largest portion of public lands is found on the shallower soils, over which all rangeland health indicators were found to be within the “none to slight” departure. Overall, the Gambрил Individual Allotment is meeting the watershed health standard.

[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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Does not conform with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management (list Guidelines No(s) in non-conformance) |

**Standard 2: Riparian Areas and Wetlands**

Standard doesn't apply

*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.*

and

**Standard 3: Stream Channel/Floodplain**

Standard doesn't apply

*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 4 (Native Plant Communities)**

Standard doesn't apply

*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.*

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

To examine native plant community indicators, ecological sites were grouped into Loamy, Shallow Stony, Very Shallow, and unclassified (forested areas) sites. The Loamy and Shallow Stony Loam ecological sites are found within Gambрил Individual Allotment. Information collected from field assessments are displayed in the following tables by ecological grouping.

## Rangeland Health

*Loamy Ecological Sites, 16 to 22 inch precipitation zone; Ecological Site #010XY003I*

*Number of assessments: 1 Represents 30% of public land in the allotment*

| Indicators                               | Extreme | Moderate to Extreme | Moderate | Slight to Moderate | None to Slight |
|--|---------|---------------------|----------|--------------------|----------------|
| Soil Surface Resistance to Erosion       |         |                     |          | 1                  |                |
| Soil Surface Loss or Degradation         |         |                     |          | 1                  |                |
| Compaction Layer                         |         |                     | 1        |                    |                |
| Functional/Structural Groups             |         |                     |          |                    | 1              |
| Plant Mortality/Decadence                |         |                     |          |                    | 1              |
| Litter Amount                            |         |                     |          |                    | 1              |
| Annual Production                        |         |                     |          |                    | 1              |
| Invasive Plants                          |         |                     | 1        |                    |                |
| Reproductive Capability of Native Plants |         |                     |          |                    | 1              |
| <b>Total</b>                             |         |                     | <b>2</b> | <b>2</b>           | <b>5</b>       |

This site, approximately 36 acres of public land, has a sparse to moderate canopy cover of xeric big sagebrush, bitterbrush, and minor amounts of chokecherry and service berry. The understory is dominated by bluebunch wheatgrass. Sandberg bluegrass, lupine, yarrow, bulbous bluegrass are associated species. Two indicators were found to have a moderate departure from the ecological site.

| Life Form                        | Current Composition (biomass production estimation) | Composition at PNC* |
|----------------------------------|---|---------------------|
| Graminoids (grass and grasslike) | 55%   | 50% to 60%          |
| Forbs                            | 25%   | 15% to 25%          |
| Shrubs                           | 20%   | 15% to 25%          |

\* PNC = Potential Natural Community as described in the NRCS ecological site description

*Shallow Stony Loam Ecological Sites, 16 to 22 inch precipitation zone; Ecological Site #010XY026I*

*Number of assessments: 1 Represents 70% of public land in the allotment*

| Indicators                               | Extreme | Moderate to Extreme | Moderate | Slight to Moderate | None to Slight |
|--|---------|---------------------|----------|--------------------|----------------|
| Soil Surface Resistance to Erosion       |         |                     |          |                    | 1              |
| Soil Surface Loss or Degradation         |         |                     |          |                    | 1              |
| Compaction Layer                         |         |                     |          |                    | 1              |
| Functional/Structural Groups             |         |                     |          |                    | 1              |
| Plant Mortality/Decadence                |         |                     |          |                    | 1              |
| Litter Amount                            |         |                     |          |                    | 1              |
| Annual Production                        |         |                     |          |                    | 1              |
| Invasive Plants                          |         |                     |          |                    | 1              |
| Reproductive Capability of Native Plants |         |                     |          |                    | 1              |
| <b>Total</b>                             |         |                     |          |                    | <b>9</b>       |

The shallow stony ecological site, approximately 85 acres of public land, has a sparse canopy cover of xeric big sagebrush and bitterbrush. The understory is a mixture of bluebunch wheatgrass and Sandberg bluegrass. Bottlebrush squirreltail, Japanese brome, and biscuitroot are associated species. All biotic rangeland health indicators were found to be none to slight departure from what is expected for the ecological site.

| Life Form                        | Current Composition<br>(biomass production estimation) | Composition at PNC* |
|----------------------------------|--|---------------------|
| Graminoids (grass and grasslike) | 70%  | 50% to 60%          |
| Forbs                            | 20%  | 15% to 25%          |
| Shrubs                           | 10%  | 20% to 30%          |

\* PNC = Potential Natural Community as described in the NRCS ecological site description

## Rangeland Health Change

### *Loamy Ecological Sites, 16 to 22 inch precipitation zone; Ecological Site #010XY003I*

Seven of the nine rangeland health indicators were rated similar to the reference ecological site description. Soil compaction was noted, as well as encroachment of rush skeletonweed and scotch thistle.

### *Shallow Stony Loam Ecological Sites, 16 to 22 inch precipitation zone; Ecological Site #010XY026I*

All indicators had none to slight dissimilarity to the referenced ecological site description.

### *Photo-Trend Study Site*

Two three-foot by three-foot photo-trend study sites were established in 1991. One site is on lands administered by Idaho Department of Lands (#14N03W16); the other is on public land (#14N03W22). An effort was made to relocate study site #14N03W22, but the site location stakes were not found. Historic photos were used to establish a field assessment and ground cover transect in close proximity of the original photo trend study site.

Photo plot monitoring in 2002 showed a more vigorous plant community than in 1991.

## Livestock Grazing Management

A description of each Guideline for Livestock Grazing Management is attached to this Evaluation and Determination. Following are guidelines applicable to Standard 4:

Guidelines 4, 9, 12, and 18 (grazing management practices): Livestock grazing of the allotment is authorized for spring use, between mid-April to the end of May over 120 acres of public land for 9 AUMs. Based on ecological site descriptions and estimated suitability, stocking rate is estimated to be 10.10 acres/AUM.

Guidelines 6, 17, and 20 (development of management facilities): At this time there are no known proposals for new range improvements. If projects are proposed in the future, these guidelines will be followed, however at this time these guidelines do not apply to livestock management

Guidelines 14, 15, and 16 (rehabilitation): If possible, natural regeneration will be allowed following a wildfire. If a seeding would be needed, future wildfire rehabilitation projects will include native seeds, as much as economically possible and as seed availability permits. Seed mixes will represent the appropriate ecosystem diversity. If projects are proposed in the future, these guidelines will be followed. At this time this guideline does not apply to livestock management.

It is documented on the Rangeland Health Evaluation Summary Worksheet that there is evidence of deer use and old cattle trails.

## Conformance Rationale for Standard 4 and applicable Guidelines for Native Plant Communities:

Based on GIS mapping, the 119 acres of public land within Gambriel Individual Allotment constitute approximately 12 percent of the allotment. Comparison of photo-plot monitoring between 1991 and 2002 showed rangelands currently have a more vigorous plant community. All rangeland health indicators for

the shallow stony loam ecological site, covering the majority of public lands within this allotment, were being met, majority of the indicators for the loamy site were met. Overall, Gambriel Individual Allotment is meeting the standard for native plant communities.

[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 checked="" 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 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

*Rangelands seeded with mixtures, including predominately non-native plants, are functioning to maintain life form diversity, production, native animal habitat, nutrient cycling, energy flow, and the hydrologic cycle.*

**Evaluation and Information Sources (required, when boxes 1 through 7 are checked)**

Based on field assessments, aerial photos, and file information, no seedings were found on this allotment.

**Standard 6: Exotic Plant Communities, other than Seedings**

Standard doesn't apply

*Exotic plant communities, other than seedings, will meet minimum requirements of soil stability and maintenance of existing native and seeded plants.*

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

Rush skeletonweed and scotch thistle were found on the allotment. Since these invasive species did not comprise a community of themselves the Exotic Plant Community standard does not apply.

**Standard 7: Water Quality**

Standard doesn't apply

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

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

Based on field assessments, and the use of topographic maps and aerial photos, no riparian areas or wetlands were found, therefore water quality does not apply to public lands within this allotment.

## **Standard 8: Threatened and Endangered Plants and Animals**

Standard doesn't apply

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

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

#### Plants

There are currently no known populations of threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species in Gambрил Individual Allotment.

#### Wildlife

There are currently no known populations of threatened, endangered, or sensitive wildlife species in public lands within Gambрил Individual Allotment.

#### Fisheries

There are no riparian areas or waterway through this allotment, as documented in Standards 2 and 3, therefore condition of special status fish species or their habitat does not apply to Gambрил Individual Allotment.

### **Rangeland Health**

#### Wildlife

Two active sage grouse leks exist within two miles, to the southwest, of this allotment. Therefore, public land within Gambрил Individual Allotment is potential sage grouse nesting habitat; however, the majority of public land is too steep to provide preferred nesting habitat.

### **Rangeland Health Change**

#### Wildlife

Approximately one-third of the allotment offers suitable sage grouse nesting habitat with adequate quantities of big sagebrush, native grasses, and forbs. The balance of the allotment affords marginal sage grouse nesting habitat due to low densities of big sagebrush, but is near the site potential for other wildlife species. Riparian habitat, adjacent to Weiser River, was not rated but does offer sage grouse with late-brood rearing habitat.

### **Livestock Grazing Management**

A description of each Guideline for Livestock Grazing Management is attached to this Evaluation and Determination. Following are guidelines applicable to Standard 8:

Guidelines 6, 17, and 20 (development of management facilities): At this time there are no known proposals for new range improvements. If projects are proposed in the future, these guidelines will be followed, however at this time these guidelines do not apply to livestock management

Guidelines 11, 12, and 18 (grazing management practices): Livestock grazing of the allotment is authorized for spring use, between mid-April to the end of May over 120 acres of public land for 9 AUMs.

Guidelines 14, 15, and 16 (rehabilitation): If possible, natural regeneration will be allowed following a wildfire. If a seeding would be needed, future wildfire rehabilitation projects will include native seeds, as much as economically possibly and as seed availability permits. Seed mixes will represent the appropriate ecosystem diversity. If projects are proposed in the future, these guidelines will be followed. At this time this guideline does not apply to livestock management.

It is documented on the Rangeland Health Evaluation Summary Worksheet that there is evidence of deer use and old cattle trails.

**Conformance Rationale for Standards 8 and applicable Guidelines for Threatened and Endangered Plants and Animals**

Suitable sage grouse nesting habitat is available due to adequate big sagebrush, native grasses, and forbs over approximately one-third of the allotment. The remainder of the allotment provides marginal sage grouse nesting habitat, but is near site potential for other wildlife.

[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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Does not conform with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management (list Guidelines No(s) in non-conformance) |

**Field Manager’s Determination Rationale**

Based on information detailed in Appendix B, Assessment 10 of the April 2005, Goodrich Watershed Assessment (allotments with blocked units of public land) and summarized above, I have determined that all applicable Standards for Rangeland Health (1, 4, and 8) and applicable Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management are being met.

Rangeland health data was collected through two field assessments. Determinations of rangeland health and conformance with applicable standards and guidelines are made on an allotment as a whole unit. Therefore, Gambрил Individual Allotment is meeting standards for watershed health and plant community health. While livestock may have historically contributed to the introduction and/or spread of invasive and noxious weeds in this area, removal of livestock would have no beneficial effect on the area’s weed populations. Conversely, continuing livestock grazing at current levels and seasons of use would not exacerbate the current weed issue.

/s/ *Rosemary Thomas*

9/28/2007

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rosemary Thomas  
Four Rivers Field Manager

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date