

**Determination  
Standards for Rangeland Health and  
Conformance with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management**

**Field Office:** Jarbidge Field Office

**Watershed Name:**  
Salmon Falls Creek

**Allotment Name/Number:** Antelope Springs / 1096

<b>Public Land (acres)</b>			<b>Streams on Public Land (miles):</b> 0.2
<b>Upland:</b> 45,954	<b>Riparian:</b> 2	<b>Total:</b> 45,966	
<b>Date(s) of Field Assessment:</b> 2002			<b>Name of Permittee(s):</b>

**Assessment Participants (Name & Discipline or Interest):**

Arnie Pike, Rangeland Management Specialist  
James Klott, Wildlife Biologist  
Clare Josaitis, Natural Resource Specialist  
John Ash, Natural Resource Specialist  
Sheri Hagwood, Botanist  
Patricia Courtney, Range Technician

**Standard 1 (Watersheds)**

Check those that apply:[*One or more boxes must be checked.*]

<input type="checkbox"/> Standard doesn't apply	
<input type="checkbox"/> Meeting the Standard.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, Livestock Grazing Management Practices are Significant Factors.
<input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, but making significant progress to meeting the Standard.	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, Livestock Grazing Management Practices are <b>not</b> Significant Factors.
<input type="checkbox"/> Conforms with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Does not conform with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management Guideline No(s). <u>1, 3</u>

Rationale/Information Sources:

There was a high amount of bare ground, soil mounds around shrubs, plant pedestals, and only early seral biological crusts. Also noted were some rills in relatively flat areas with terracettes,

and pedestals. The presence of deep-rooted perennial grasses and native perennial forbs were in low composition. Sandberg bluegrass was the dominant native grass at some sites. Soil compaction and lateral root growth was also present at some sites, as were debris dams, topsoil loss, and poor soil surface resistance to erosion. Wind scouring was evident at a post-burn site which also lacked biological soil crusts and had poor plant root penetration.

Livestock management practices need to provide litter on the ground for cover to reduce bare ground.

**Standard 2 (Riparian Areas and Wetlands)**

Check those that apply:[*One or more boxes must be checked.*]

<input type="checkbox"/> Standard doesn't apply	
<input type="checkbox"/> Meeting the Standard.	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, Livestock Grazing Management Practices are Significant Factors.
<input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, but making significant progress to meeting the Standard.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, Livestock Grazing Management Practices are <b>not</b> Significant Factors.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conforms with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management.	<input type="checkbox"/> Does not conform with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management Guideline No(s).

Rationale/Information Sources:

Bear Creek segment 5.4 to 5.8 is fenced and cattle do not use this portion of the creek. However, sheep trail through this area under the permit issued to Guerry, Inc.

Although there are not many sedges or rushes occupying this stretch of Bear Creek, some mature willows are present, as well as a good component of herbaceous wetland species such as tufted hairgrass (*Deschampia caespitosa*) and fowl mannagrass (*Glyceria striata*). With continued down cutting and loss of stream banks, it can be expected that the water storage capacity of this system will decrease and upland-type species will encroach the area. Sagebrush is currently growing to the edge of the stream bank in many places. Although livestock trailing is present, use along the creek in 2003 was light.

**Standard 3 (Stream Channel/Floodplain)**

Check those that apply:[*One or more boxes must be checked.*]

<input type="checkbox"/> Standard doesn't apply	
<input type="checkbox"/> Meeting the Standard.	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, Livestock Grazing Management Practices are Significant Factors.
<input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, but making significant progress to meeting the Standard.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, Livestock Grazing Management Practices are <b>not</b> Significant Factors.
<input type="checkbox"/> Conforms with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management.	<input type="checkbox"/> Does not conform with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management Guideline No(s).

Rationale/Information Sources:

Bear Creek segment 5.4 to 5.8 is fenced and cattle do not use this portion of the creek. However, sheep trail through this area under the permit issued to Guerry, Inc.

Bear Creek segment 5.4 to 5.8 is not stable vertically or laterally. The channel is down cut and stream banks are largely uncovered and unstable. Although there are some boulders and large wood present to help dissipate water energy, the stream banks are bare and raw and subject to further erosion. Further down cutting can also be expected. A high energy flow earlier this year deposited gravel on the floodplain and carried large wood downstream. Some sections of Bear Creek are aggrading and in one location the active channel has relocated itself. Three springs along this segment of Bear Creek are flowing into the channel; otherwise, this stretch of Bear Creek is dry.

**Standard 4 (Native Plant Communities)**

Check those that apply:[*One or more boxes must be checked.*]

<input type="checkbox"/> Standard doesn't apply	
<input type="checkbox"/> Meeting the Standard.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, Livestock Grazing Management Practices are Significant Factors.
<input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, but making significant progress to meeting the Standard.	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, Livestock Grazing Management Practices are <b>not</b> Significant Factors.
<input type="checkbox"/> Conforms with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Does not conform with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management Guideline No(s). <u>3, 4,9,12</u>

Rationale/Information Sources:

Forbs and climax native perennial grasses are absent in many of the plant communities. Biotic crust is limited in many areas. Soils have a compaction layer which restricts root penetration. Cheatgrass is present at five sites, but it only is dominant at one site. At the other four sites it is only dominant in small areas disturbed by rodents. Invasive plants such as cheatgrass and bur buttercup present in many areas.

Grazing use has been heavy in some of the seeded areas in 1979 with up to 60 percent use; in 2002 with up to 56 percent use; and in 2003 up to 59 percent use.

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**Standard 5 (Seedings)**

Check those that apply:[*One or more boxes must be checked.*]

<input type="checkbox"/> Standard doesn't apply	
<input type="checkbox"/> Meeting the Standard.	X Not Meeting the Standard, Livestock Grazing Management Practices are Significant Factors.
<input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, but making significant progress to meeting the Standard.	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, Livestock Grazing Management Practices are <b>not</b> Significant Factors.
<input type="checkbox"/> Conforms with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management.	X Does not conform with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management Guideline No(s). <u>3, 8</u>

Rationale/Information Sources:

Low biomass production indicating low vigor. Biotic crusts low in composition. Cheatgrass widespread throughout plant communities. Low native forbs, however, that is not uncommon for a plant community seeded to crested wheatgrass. Perennial native grasses are maintaining their presence.

Grazing use has been heavy in some of the seeded areas in 1979 with up to 59 percent use and in 2002 with up to 64 percent use.

**Standard 6 (Exotic Plant Communities, Other than Seedings)**

Check those that apply:[*One or more boxes must be checked.*]

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Standard doesn't apply	
<input type="checkbox"/> Meeting the Standard.	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, Livestock Grazing Management Practices are Significant Factors.
<input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, but making significant progress to meeting the Standard.	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, Livestock Grazing Management Practices are <b>not</b> Significant Factors.
<input type="checkbox"/> Conforms with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management.	<input type="checkbox"/> Does not conform with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management Guideline No(s).

Rationale/Information Sources:

**Standard 7 (Water Quality)**

Check those that apply:[*One or more boxes must be checked.*]

<input type="checkbox"/> Standard doesn't apply	
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conforms with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management.	<input type="checkbox"/> Does not conform with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management Guideline No(s).

Rationale/Information Sources:

The three main perennial surface waters associated with the Antelope Spring allotment include Salmon Falls Creek (3 miles below the dam), Lower Cedar Creek (4 miles below the dam), and about ½ mile of Bear Creek in the far upper reaches of the allotment. Recent fence construction prohibits livestock use in Rocky and Timber Canyons from cattle in Antelope Springs Allotment. Only the North Fork Field Allotment cattle have use of Rocky and Timber Canyon Creeks. Of the major water bodies, the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has identified and nominated the segment of Salmon Falls Creek from the dam to the Snake River and the lower segment of Cedar Creek from Roseworth to Salmon Falls Creek as “water quality limited”.

Both creeks are included on the 1996-98 303(d) lists in Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) #17040213 for concerns of nutrients, sediments, DO, pathogens and flow alterations, however severity of these concerns were rated as low for both creeks. Neither one of these creek segments have been water quality monitored by the BLM mainly for the reason that there is no livestock access into these creeks from the allotment because the canyon rims form the allotment boundary around the complete northern end.

None of the other mentioned creeks have been listed as water quality limited by DEQ, nor have they been intensely monitored by the BLM. The only water quality monitoring that has been done were two single day recordings in Bear Creek on August 29, 1997 and July 7, 2000. On neither occasion was any water quality criteria exceeded.

Although monitoring data is very limited for Bear Creek, it appears to be meeting the temperature, pH, DO, and fecal coliform standards for the beneficial uses of a cold water biota and a secondary recreational stream. The main reason for this assumption is that the stream is directly fed by springs and is well covered with forested canopy along its entire stretch. Also, livestock do not have access to this creek in the Antelope Spring allotment thus eliminating any moderate to high coliform counts or other concerns that may be generated by livestock impacts.

Additionally, there are a few other open waters within the allotment consisting mainly of small springs and ponds. The quality of these waters have not been monitored or is known by the BLM except for the high volume spring known as Antelope Spring, the allotment's name sake. The BLM has done some very periodic and limited monitoring of this spring and have found it to be meeting State standards. This monitoring data is retained in a Field Office WQ file and can be reviewed upon request.

For most of the allotment, the water for livestock use is distributed throughout much of the northern and southern areas by means of pipelines and troughs. The source for these pipeline systems either comes from Antelope spring on public land or a well on private land. The quality of the private well is not monitored by the BLM because of its private land status, but it is assumed to be of high quality since it comes directly from a ground source.

**Standard 8 (Threatened and Endangered Plants and Animals)**

Check those that apply:[*One or more boxes must be checked.*]

<input type="checkbox"/> Standard doesn't apply	
<input type="checkbox"/> Meeting the Standard.	X Not Meeting the Standard, Livestock Grazing Management Practices are Significant Factors.
<input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, but making significant progress to meeting the Standard.	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, Livestock Grazing Management Practices are <b>not</b> Significant Factors.
<input type="checkbox"/> Conforms with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management.	X Does not conform with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management Guideline No(s). <u>3, 5, 8</u>

Rationale/Information Sources:

A number of species presently designated as Sensitive species are present in the allotment. For the most part, the allotment has not been inventoried for sensitive species. Sensitive species occurrences are frequently from incidental observations.

Also a number of wildlife species presently designated as “watch” are also present. Watch species are **not** presently designated as Sensitive species, but may be added to the sensitive list in future years. The most concern with the sensitive animal species is the lack of plant diversity as shown by the limited forb and dominant perennial native grasses.

Two plants presently classified as sensitive species are known to be in the allotment. It is unknown whether the standard is being met for special status plant species. There is no information available to determine whether livestock grazing management is having a significant impact on sensitive plant species or not.

**Determination**

I have determined that all of the applicable Standards for Rangeland Health ( Standards 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8) are not being met and are not making significant progress in the Antelope Springs Allotment. Livestock grazing practices are a significant factor in the achieving Standards for Rangeland Health 1, 4, 5 and 8 and do not conform with the Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management. Current livestock management practices were not found to be a significant factor in not meeting Standard 2, 3 and 7.

/s/ E. Guerrero  
Field Manager

5/12/04  
Date