

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

<b>Field Office:</b> Jarbidge Field Office	<b>Watershed Name:</b> Bruneau River
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**Allotment Name/Number:** Bruneau Hills / 1057

<b>Public Land (acres)</b>			<b>Streams on Public Land (miles):</b> 0
<b>Upland:</b> 40,062	<b>Riparian:</b> 0	<b>Total:</b> 40,062	

<b>Date(s) of Field Assessment:</b> 2002	<b>Name of Permittee(s):</b> Dickshooter Cattle Co.
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**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 checked="" 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 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:

Most of the indicators for this Standard are met.

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

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:

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

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:

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**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 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.	X 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:

Many of the native plant communities are lacking the perennial bunch grasses that should be in these communities. The perennial and annual native forbs are in low composition. Cheatgrass has local and widespread presence in these communities. Biological crust was common in these communities and served as a deterrent to invasion of cheatgrass

Historic wildfire frequency is found to be the greatest cause of the current vegetation condition in the allotment.

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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.	<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.	X 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:

The seeding in Pasture 4 has a low composition of crested wheatgrass plant with a dominance of cheatgrass. The thickness of cheatgrass litter is such that it inhibits the establishment of perennial vegetation. In other pastures with crested wheatgrass, cheatgrass is widespread at low composition with small localized dominance. These area increase or decrease in size depending on the vigor of the crested wheatgrass.

Current grazing practices are found not to be contributing to the current condition of the seeding in Pasture 4.

**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:

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**Standard 7 (Water Quality)**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 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:

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**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.	<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:

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. BLM has no information regarding whether or not pygmy rabbits are present or were historically present in this allotment. No bat inventory has been conducted in this allotment. The most concern with the sensitive animal species is the lack of plant diversity as shown by the limited forb and mid-sized perennial bunchgrasses in the Blackrock Pocket (proper) and the low composition of big sagebrush. Wildfire in the mid 1990's removed sagebrush cover from several thousand acres of sagebrush steppe.

There are six plant species presently classified as sensitive known to be in the allotment. Only limited surveys for sensitive plants have been conducted in this allotment and sensitive species may occur. It is unknown whether the standard is being met for special status plant species.

### **Determination**

I have determined that Standard for Rangeland Health 1 is being met. Standards for Rangeland Health (Standards 4, 5 and 8) are not being met and are not making significant progress in the Bruneau Hills Allotment. Current livestock grazing practices are found not to be a significant factor in the achieving these Standards.

/s/ E. Guerrero  
Field Manager

5/12/04  
Date