

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

Field Office: Jarbidge Field Office			Watershed Name: Devil Creek
Allotment Name/Number: Noh Field / 1140			
Public Land (acres)			Streams on Public Land (miles): 0
Upland: 6,122	Riparian: 0	Total: 6,122	
Date(s) of Field Assessment: 2002			Name of Permittee(s): Cedar Creek Cattle Co.

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.	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 not 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>8</u>

Rationale/Information Sources:

In the native plant communities, flow patterns were few with slight deposition and surface litter was in place. There was little evidence of plant pedestals due to water or wind erosion. There was minimal soil crusting and no evidence of a compaction layer. There was some evidence of

hoof prints, but deep hoof prints were uncommon. Rills were rare and widely spaced while gullies were not noted.

In the bareground plant communities there is a slight to moderately deviated from the expected. Bareground was higher than expected in the seedings, as was soil erosion. This was evidenced by the wind scour and soil deposition area, and poor aggregation of the soil surface. This, in part, can be attributed to the fire and seeding. A soil compaction layer was also present at a shallower depth than expected which reduces infiltration capability of the soils.

Grazing use occurs in the Allotment during the early spring when soils are wet. Livestock trampling during this period may contribute to soil compaction. Livestock are managed so as not to graze during the critical growth period two consecutive years.

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 not 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:

No natural wetlands are known to be present in the Noh Field Allotment. Saylor Creek rarely contains water, only during high runoff events, and does not support riparian vegetation along its length.

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 not 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:

(Refer to Standard 2)

Standard 4 (Native Plant Communities)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 not 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:

Wildfires have resulted in the low composition of shrubs. It is re-establishing into the plant community.

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 not 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>9,13</u>

Rationale/Information Sources:

Production is greater than 50 percent of what is expected for the areas. In the West Pasture there is a 2 inch compaction layer with horizontal roots indicating a barrier to roots; legumes (nitrogen fixers) are low in composition; and Sandberg bluegrass plants have low vigor. In the East Pasture, cheatgrass is mostly sparse in the plant community with small areas of dominance such as rodent disturbed areas and crested wheatgrass plants show low vigor.

Standard 6 (Exotic Plant Communities, Other than Seedings)Check those that apply:[*One or more boxes must be checked.*]

X 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 not 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 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 not 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:

For the most part, this Standard is not applicable - see Standard 2. However, Saylor Creek, from its head water to the Snake River, is on DEQ's 1996-98 303(d) list for water quality limitations of sediments with a severity rating of low. Though listed, this water course is currently under review (2004-06) by the State for delisting due to its intermittent nature and rare flows. For this reason, the BLM has never done any monitoring of this creek.

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 not Significant Factors.
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Rationale/Information Sources:

A number of species presently designated as Sensitive species are present in the allotment. The main concern in this allotment is the limited amount of sagebrush and its slow recovery. Wildfires are the primary reason this Standard is not met. Native plant communities are

providing adequate habitat for sensitive animal species with there sagebrush cover and diverse forb component. Seeded communities area have lower shrub and forb component. This is a result of wildfire, however and not current livestock grazing practices.

There are no 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 the applicable Standards for Rangeland Health 4 is being met in the Noh Field Allotment. Standard 1, 5 and 8 are not being met or are they making significant progress toward meeting the Standard. Current livestock grazing practices are found to be a significant factor in meeting Standard 1 and 5, it is not a significant factor in meeting Standard 8.

/s/ E. Guerrero
Field Manager

5/12/04
Date