

## Wild Horses vs. Livestock - ONAQUI MOUNTAIN HMA (UTAH), and general west-wide picture.

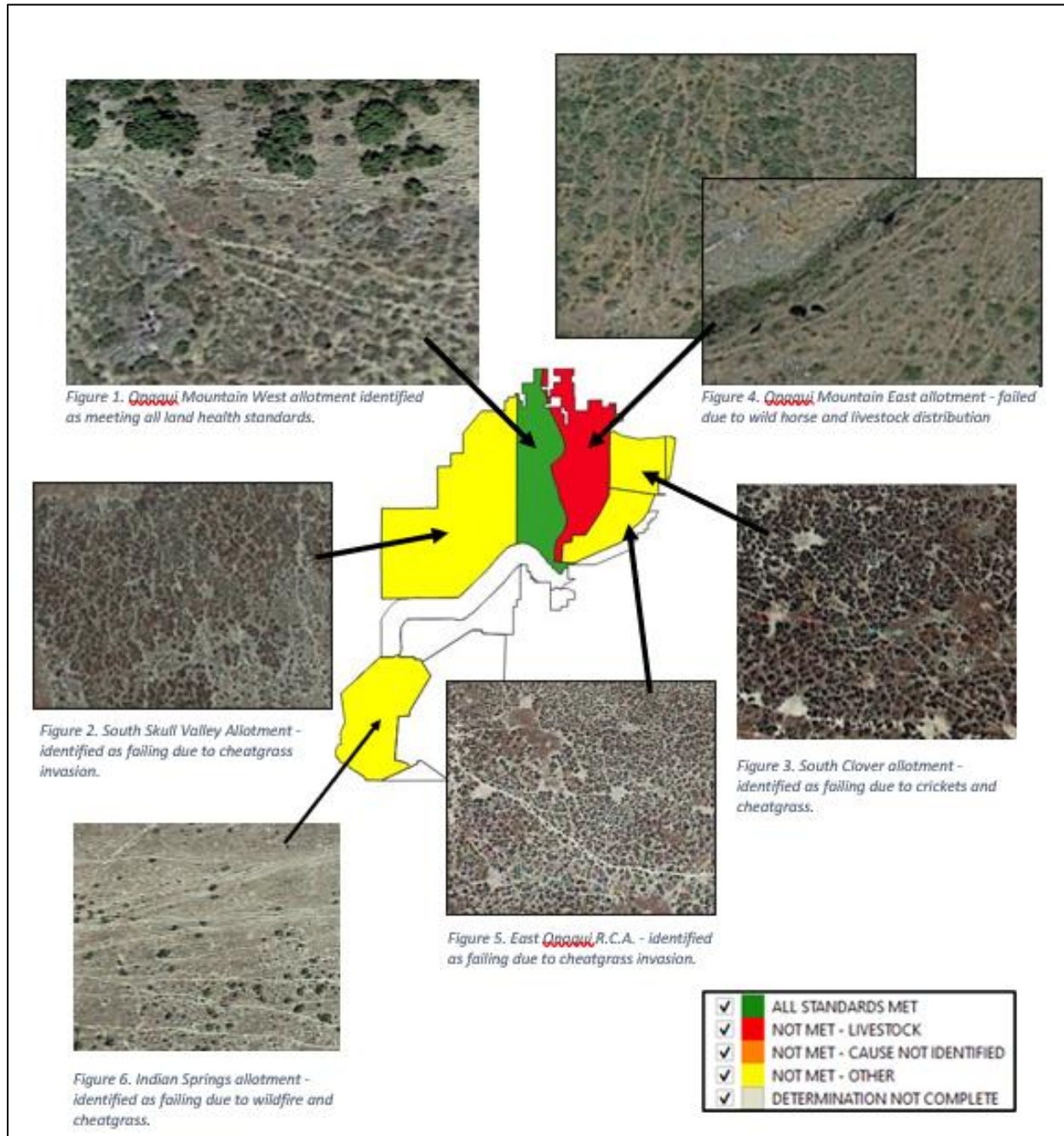


Figure 1. Most of the area of BLM grazing allotments assessed to date within the Onaqui Mountain HMA fail to meet fundamental rangeland health standards. Wild horses are identified as a causal factor for failure in only one allotment, comprising a small fraction of the HMA, although livestock are also recorded as a significant cause. The remainder of the assessed area is within allotments failing to report the obvious importance of livestock as a significant cause. (Imagery from GOOGLE Earth, acquired 2013- 2019)

- Most of the area within HMAs that overlap grazing allotments that have been assessed to date fail to meet fundamental rangeland health standards and livestock have been identified as a significant cause of failure.
- Rangeland Health Standards evaluations have been conducted for six BLM grazing allotments that are within or partially within the Onaqui Mountain HMA (figure 1).
- Five of the six allotments were recorded as having failed to meet basic rangeland health standards. One allotment, representing a modest fraction of the area assessed within the HMA was identified as having met all fundamental rangeland health standards.
- None of these five failing allotments were classified as having failed standards due to livestock grazing (BLM's CATEGORY B), although one recorded livestock as a significant factor.
- Only one of the allotments, representing a small portion of the assessed area identified wild horses as a significant cause of failure to meet fundamental rangeland health standards.
- Most of the assessed area within the HMA was reported to have failed due to factors other than livestock, although crickets made it on the list in one allotment.
- An examination of aerial imagery revealed that in all the allotments within the HMA assessed to date, livestock grazing was clearly a significant factor for failure to meet fundamental land health standards, that clearly should have been recorded.
- Across the West, very few of the HMAs containing allotments assessed for rangeland health identify wild horses as a cause of failure without also identifying livestock (figure 2, in black).

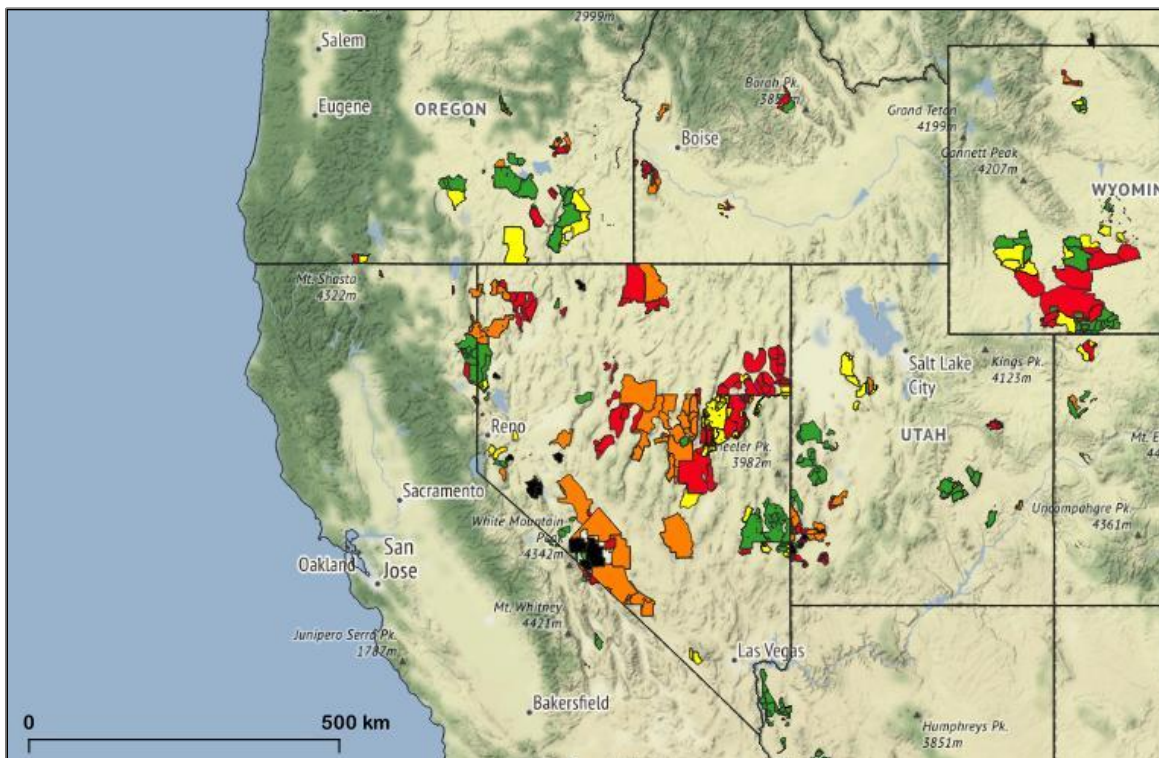


Figure 2. BLM allotments assessed to date within HMAs, identifying allotments meeting all land health standards (green), allotments failing due to livestock and wild horses (orange), allotments failing due to wild horses without livestock (black), and those failing due to factors other than livestock or wild horses (yellow). Note – some areas in yellow are allotments failing to meet standards but report no cause.

- Underreporting of livestock impacts is common. Several offices in Utah, for example, clearly underreport livestock as a causal factor in allotments within the Central Basin and Range ecoregion when compared to Nevada (figure 3). This remarkable contrast reveals a serious lack of oversight of Field Offices by both the State and National Offices.
- We have been able to assess the relative significance of wild horses and livestock impacts on rangeland health within the Onaqui Mountain HMA and in allotments across the West only through the records compiled from scratch by the Agency to comply with Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests. Agency records reveal livestock grazing to be the single most frequently cited and ubiquitous significant cause of failure of allotments to meet rangeland health, including those within wild horse and burro HMAs.

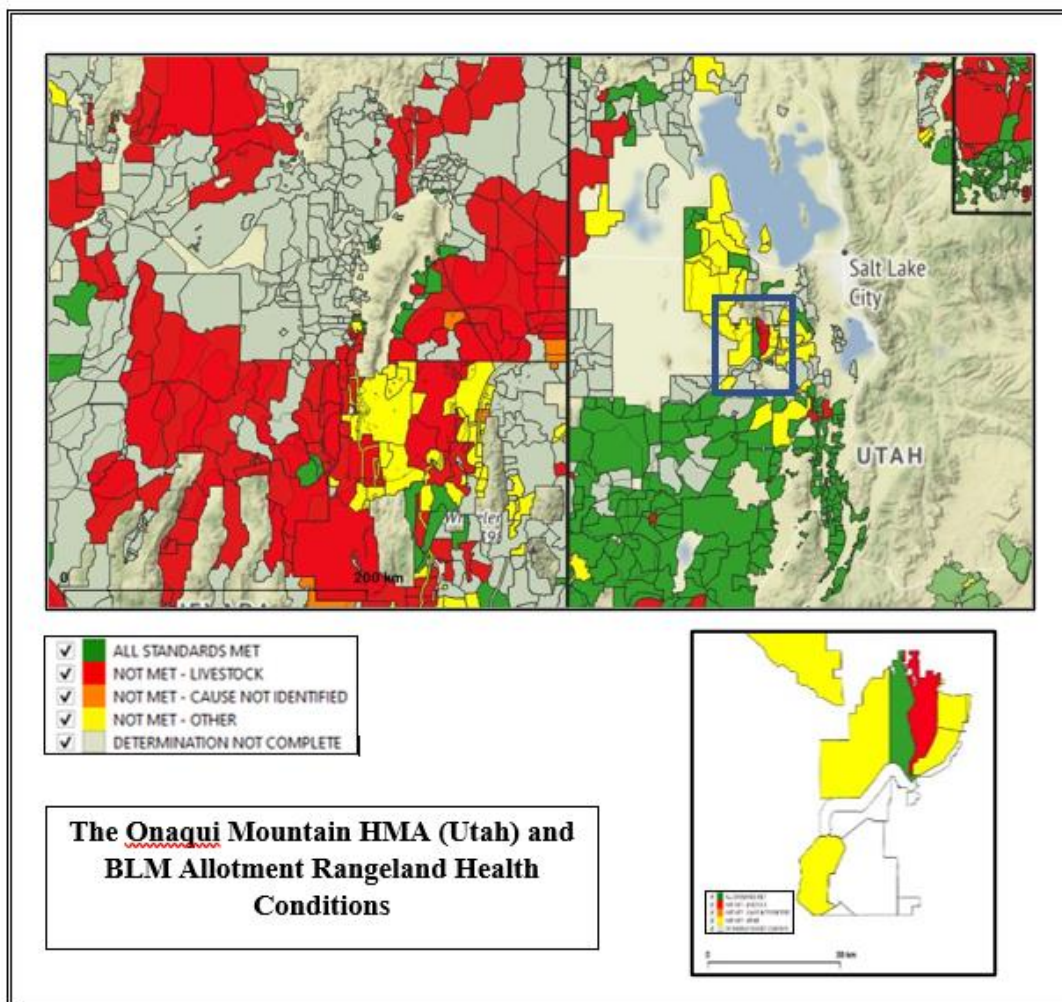


Figure 3. Livestock grazing within the Central Basin and Range ecoregion within Utah greatly underreport the significance of livestock grazing as a cause of failure to meet basic rangeland health compared to Nevada. In one field office (lower left), few allotments are even reported to have failed to meet standards