

See North Buffalo Conditions for Yourself

The Battle Mountain Office has acceded to pressure by ranchers to open the North Buffalo allotment to grazing, despite severe drought conditions. We have examined the landscape-level effects of grazing in the North Buffalo allotment and signs of grazing impacts readily detected in the high resolution imagery include –

- Visible trails and trampling etched across the landscape;
- Degraded vegetation and worn and bare soil associated with trails and trampling; and
- Changes in banks and stream morphology associated with loss of riparian vegetation, as well as gully formation.

The grazing-related disturbance indicators reflect cumulative damage. Although the North Buffalo allotment has not undergone a Land Health Standards assessment, the intensity of damage caused by grazing is comparable to the damage on allotments that have been assessed and found to fail to meet standards due to grazing. Based on this, the North Buffalo allotment would likely fail to meet standards due to grazing.

All images were taken on May 31, 2014.

Figure 1. A typical heavily grazed area in the North Buffalo allotment (NV 02145) located at 40°44' 52.40"N 117° 16' 10.70"W. Land Health Standards assessment status: Determination Not Complete. (Image source: Google Earth)



Figure 2. A typical heavily used trailing area in the North Buffalo allotment (NV 02145) located at 40° 42' 49.64"N 117° 14' 10.39"W. Land Health Standards assessment status: Determination Not Complete. (Image source: Google Earth)

