

Planning Update

Burns District Planning Update FY 2003

BLM
Burns District Office

December 2004



As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering the wisest use of our land and water resources, protecting our fish and wildlife, preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places, and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The Department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to assure that their development is in the best interest of all our people. The Department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in Island Territories under U.S. administration.

PLANNING UPDATE

BURNS DISTRICT OFFICE
28910 Hwy 20 West, Hines, Oregon 97738

DECEMBER 2004
Web Site: <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/burns>

What You Can Find In This Document

Updates like this one are published annually. While the format is flexible, major sections similar to those described below will be included in each edition.

Summary of Work: This section identifies the FY accomplishments and work proposed for the following year. Usually, only significant work or issues will be discussed. More general information is available to individuals upon request.
Page 5

Rangeland Program
Summary: This section outlines progress being made in implementing the rangeland management objectives identified in the Resource Areas' land use plans, and identifies recent actions in allotments.
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Environmental Assessment (EA) Register: Listed in this section are those EAs expected to be completed this FY. Status of those identified in the last update is noted.
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Introduction

This is the twelfth annual Planning Update published by the Burns District. This issue reports highlights of Fiscal Year (FY) 03 accomplishments and work planned for FY04.

It is our desire to keep you informed on issues, activities, and opportunities we think are of interest to the public. More importantly, we are seeking ideas and comments from those who may be affected by our multiple-use management programs. For general information or for comments regarding the Planning Update, please write to the address shown above.



Summary of Work Accomplishments and Plans

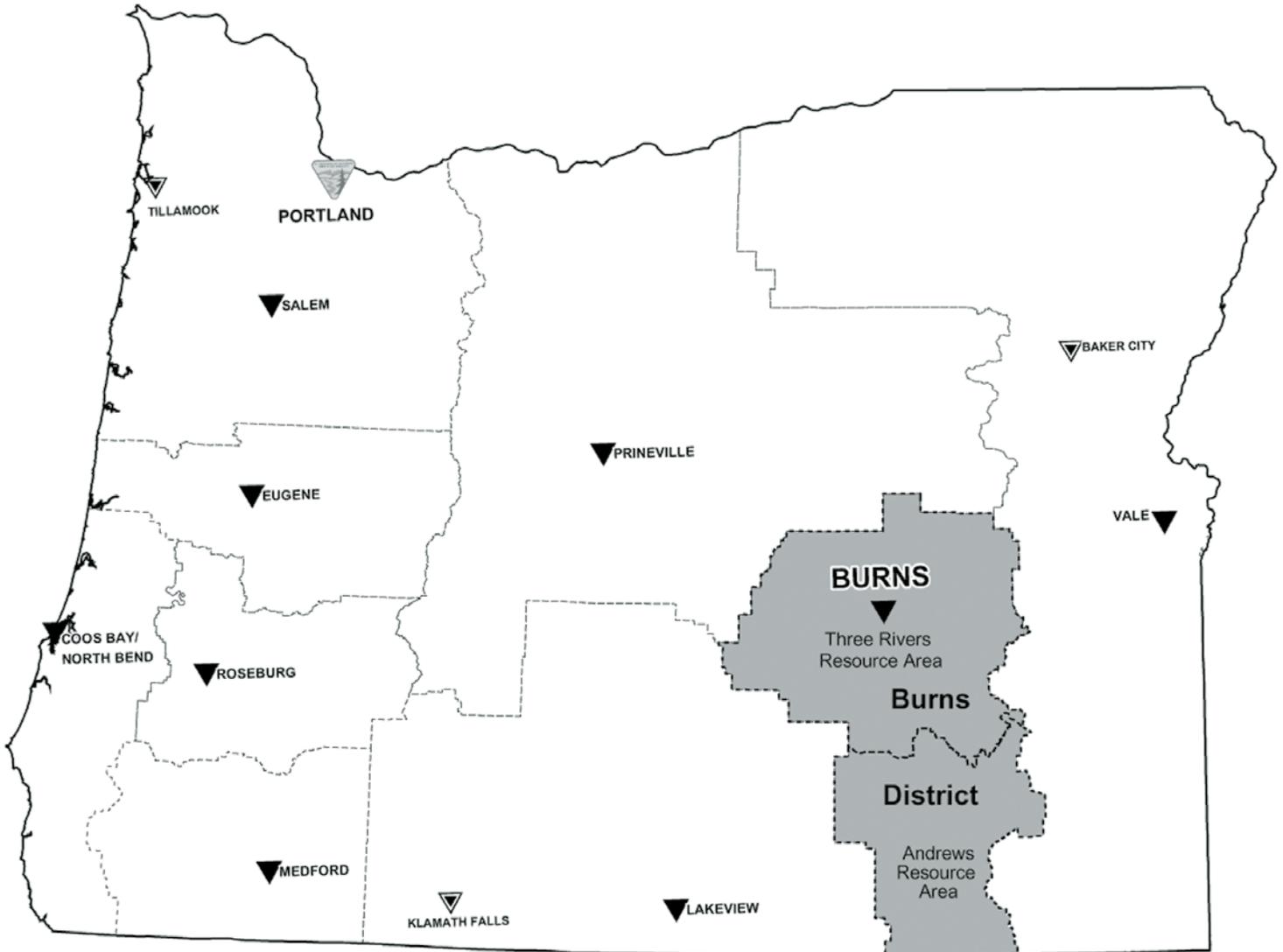
This section is not intended to be a comprehensive description of all activities, but rather a summary of significant activities and land use implementation actions, both accomplished and planned. For additional information, please contact the Burns District Office staff.

This summary includes FY03 accomplishments with FY04 planned work for the following:

- Woodlands and Forest Management
- Terrestrial Habitat and Species Management
- Noxious Weed Program
- Minerals Program
- Andrews/Steens Planning Process
- Lands and Realty Program
- Recreation Program
- Volunteer Program
- Aquatic Habitat and Species Management
- Special Management Areas
- Cultural Resources Program
- Law Enforcement

US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
Burns District, Oregon

FIGURE 1 - GENERAL LOCATION MAP
2004



Legend

-  BLM State Office
-  BLM District Office

SUMMARY OF WORK ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND PLANS

Woodland and Forest Management

Fuels Management

Since the early 1980s, there has been a shift in how wildland fire is viewed by the public and managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Prior to European settlement, fire played a significant role in most Pacific Northwest ecosystems. Plants and animals developed mechanisms to escape, avoid or tolerate periodic fires. European settlement changed the view of periodic wildfires. Fires were viewed as a destructive force and a competitor for resources. Resources consumed by the fire were thought to be lost. In the early part of the 20th century, land management agencies began a campaign to reduce the land and resources lost to wildfires. Reducing the influence of fire in these ecosystems allowed living and dead plant material to accumulate. Prior to the era of fire suppression, periodic fires in forests and rangelands kept the amount of dead and dying trees, or density and cover of shrubs at a level where large, catastrophic wildfires were a rare event. From the early part of the 20th century to the 1950s and 1960s there were little obvious impacts of the fire suppression efforts. In the early 1980s, there appeared to be an increase in the number of acres burned and the average size of fires. This trend became readily apparent in the 1990s, when large catastrophic wildfires began to occur every fire season. Some of these fires received widespread attention because of their damage or threats to businesses and residences in the areas adjacent to forest and wildlands, now called the Wildland Urban Interface. In the latter part of the 1990s, the Federal agencies began to work to reduce these threats.

The Healthy Forest Initiative (HFI) was launched in 2002 to aid in implementation of projects from the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA). The HFRA provides improved statutory processes for hazardous fuel reduction projects on BLM administered lands and also provides other authorities and direction to help reduce hazardous fuel and restore healthy forest and rangeland conditions on lands of all ownerships.

The BLM Fuels Management Program treated less than 60,000 acres nationwide prior to 1998. Since that time, the BLM has treated an average of 188,000 acres a year nationwide. The hazardous fuels reduction projects strive to mitigate threats to public safety, and enhance, restore, and/or maintain critical plant and animal communities.

The Burns District has followed the National direction by increasing the number of acres treated from under 2,500 acres in 1996 to over 10,000 acres in 2003. A combination of prescribed fire and various mechanical treatments have been utilized to reduce the threats to the public and enhance, maintain, and restore plant and animal communities.

The Burns District manages a diverse landscape in the southern Blue Mountains and northern Great Basin of southeastern Oregon. Many vegetation types are represented within this area from timber in the north to sagebrush-steppe in the south. Present and future fuels projects within the Burns District are focused on reducing these hazardous fuel concentrations and restoring native plant and animal communities that rely on periodic disturbance from fire.

A combination of mechanical fuels treatment and prescribed fire are being used to help reduce fuels accumulations in the ponderosa pine forests on the Burns District. The Three Rivers Resource Area has numerous planning efforts taking place such as the Strategic Fuel Breaks, Hazardous Fuels Reduction, SHED Forest Restoration, Lake Creek/ Boone Canyon Forest Restoration, Miller Canyon Rangeland Restoration, and the Forks of Poison creek/ Devine Ridge Vegetation Management Restoration project. The Andrews Resource Area is planning the North Steens Ecosystem Restoration Project which includes 80,000 acres of rangeland management of mechanical treatments and prescribed fire.

The other areas where a majority of the fuels management projects are being conducted are in the sagebrush plant communities that have been, or are being, converted to western juniper woodlands. The primary goals of these projects are protecting life and private property located within and adjacent to these plant communities, and restoring or maintaining

sagebrush plant communities. Many wildlife species rely on these sagebrush plant communities for their life cycles. Western juniper has increased significantly over the last 150 years at the expense of sagebrush and associated plant species. Reduction in the dominance of western juniper will help to reestablish mountain big sagebrush, quaking aspen, and riparian hardwood plant communities.

Two prescribed fire projects were completed in the fall of 2003 on the Burns District for a total of 7,000 acres treated. Kiger and Buzzard prescribed burns occurred between mid-September and mid-October. These projects achieved their goal of reducing the dominance of western juniper in sagebrush and aspen plant communities. Kiger prescribed fire occurred where plant communities were in the later stages of juniper encroachment. In this area a considerable amount of pre-burning treatment was required. The densities of trees were sufficient to out-compete the understory vegetation, limiting the potential for fire spread. Selected trees were either cut, girdled (cut partially through the main stem, tree left standing), or limbed throughout the lower branches. The dead trees or slash provide sufficient fuel to carry the fire and kill the remaining trees. The prescribed burns were conducted in cooperation with adjacent landowners.

In FY 2004, the Burns District will cut 3,000 acres of western juniper across the District. The Buzzard 2 prescribed fire will be conducted in the fall. In the spring of 2004 the District accomplished 1,500 acres of prescribed fire in the forest.

Wild Horse and Burro Program

The Burns District is the lead office for Oregon and Washington's wild horse adoption and gathering program. The District manages eight wild horse Herd Management Areas (HMAs) and provides support for the management of 11 others that are located in Lakeview, Vale, and Prineville Districts. In addition, one herd is managed by the Ochoco National Forest near Prineville, and a second near Dayville is managed jointly by the Prineville District and the Malheur National Forest.



Wild horse and foal on Steens Mountain

Currently, approximately 3,845 horses are on the range in Oregon's 21 HMAs. Each herd is gathered every 3 to 5 years, depending on range conditions and actual population numbers, which are determined by range studies and period consensus. Since the 2002 planning update, the Burns District removed 150 horses from the Kiger HMA and 111 from the Riddle HMA. Another 88 horses were removed from other districts in Oregon.

Gathered excess animals are available to qualified adopters through adoption events held at the Burns Wild Horse Corral Facility and in cities throughout Oregon and Washington. Burros from the southwest are also available at some of the adoption events. Animals are also available to adopters through "Walk Up" appointments at the Burns Corral Facility for the minimum adoption fee of \$125 per animal. In 2003, 287 animals were adopted at three adoption events in Oregon and Washington.

During FY05, the Burns District plans to remove approximately 430 horses, depending on available funding, and will continue to assess drought conditions in HMAs.

Information about the Wild Horse Program is available through the internet at the following sites:

National Wild Horse and Burro Web Page: <http://www.blm.gov/whb>

Burns District Office Home Page: <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/burns>

Adoption applications and information may also be obtained by calling the Burns District Office at (541) 573-4400.

Terrestrial Habitat and Species Management

Inventory

During FY03 searches were conducted for pygmy rabbits along approximately 600 miles of road where brush beating is scheduled over the next several years. This brush beating is taking place in an effort to reduce the size of wildfires in sagebrush habitat using roads as fire breaks. Pygmy rabbits were found and verified with the use of a remote camera and infrared trail monitor at several new sites. Inventory for pygmy rabbits will continue in FY04 and an estimated 25,000 acres will be inventoried in an area where occurrence is suspected.

Goshawk inventory was conducted on 2,000 acres of forested lands in support of future forest health and fuels reduction projects. Four new nests were found and project design will incorporate protection measures for these areas. The same areas that were inventoried last year, as well as 3,000 new acres, will be inventoried in 2004 since a 2-year record is the protocol for goshawk inventory.

Greater sage-grouse lek inventory was cooperatively conducted by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and BLM. In FY03 about one half of the Juniper and Wagontire ODFW management units were inventoried. Those units were completed in FY04 and the Silvies and Malheur River units were started. Several previously unknown leks were discovered during these inventories. This effort is expected to continue into the future.

As part of the North Steens Ecosystem Restoration Project, ferruginous hawk inventory will be conducted this year to detect any nest sites that might exist within the project treatment area. The project includes juniper treatments that could affect nest sites.

Monitoring

Numbers of bald eagles using six communal winter roosts were monitored during March of FY03 and FY04 and total maximum numbers were about the same for both years. More than 100 bald eagles use these roosts during the spring season and the numbers have shown a slow steady increase over the past 20 years. This monitoring will continue into the future as part of the Pacific States Bald Eagle Recovery Plan.

The ODFW and BLM cooperatively monitored about 30 sage grouse leks during March and April of both 2003 and 2004. These counts included some newly discovered leks as well as the core leks that have been monitored for many years. The trend between the two years was up slightly and a slight upward trend has occurred since 1997. This monitoring is expected to continue into the future.

Other monitoring that took place in 2003 included waterfowl and shorebird counts at wetland developments, browse transects and some vegetative transects at selected sites.

Monitoring that will take place in 2004 that did not occur in 2003 includes monitoring for Western snowy plover, burrowing owl and pygmy rabbit in areas where these species have been recorded previously.



Sage-grouse

In FY03, Point Reyes Bird Observatory established bird monitoring transects in the area of the North Steens Ecosystem Restoration Project. The purpose of the monitoring transects is to gather data prior to prescribed fire projects in juniper areas and look at previously treated juniper areas (cut and leave or cut and burn) to determine impacts and benefits to sagebrush dependent, woodland and grassland migratory bird species. This monitoring will continue in FY04 and is being funded through Challenge Cost Share (CCS) funds.

Columbia spotted frog inventory and monitoring will be conducted again in FY04 on a district wide basis through CCS. Sites of known spotted frog locations will be monitored and several new areas will be inventoried for the presence of spotted

frogs. This project was conducted during several previous years except FY03 when time was needed to determine if more inventories were necessary.

The inland populations of western snowy plovers, a State of Oregon Threatened species, known in the Andrews resource area, will be intensively monitored this year. The last intensive monitoring was completed in 1990 with annual monitoring trips continuing through FY00 mostly conducted by ODFW. The known populations will be monitored three to four times through June and July for gathering data on numbers of adult and young plovers present. This will be funded through CCS funds.

Projects

In late FY03, a bat grate constructed in a six foot diameter culvert was installed in the entrance to an abandoned mine in the Glass Buttes area to protect a winter roost site for Townsend's big-eared bats. The mine was originally inventoried and thought to be a summer day roost. Further inventory determined that the mine was mainly used as a night roost. A follow up winter survey determined winter use of the mine by bats. The culvert was installed in late September to avoid disturbance to summering bats and before the arrival of wintering bats. A survey of the mine this winter determined that the bats are still using the mine with about the same numbers as seen prior to installation of the grate.

Bigfoot Reservoir is a recreational fishing reservoir and a brood rearing reservoir for waterfowl. The spillway was in need of maintenance and was maintained in FY03. This project entailed pouring a concrete structure in the bottom of the spillway to prevent continued down-cutting of the spillway.

Approximately 35 wildlife guzzlers were inspected district wide during FY03 to determine maintenance needs. The Burns District received \$15,000 for FY04 to complete the required maintenance which ranges from rebuilding exclosure fences around guzzlers to repairing water catchment aprons. Approximately 20 more guzzlers will be inspected during FY04 to determine maintenance requirements

A cooperative project between the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Oregon Hunters Association and BLM for a guzzler on Egli Ridge began in FY03. When National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) work was completed, the design was finalized and the materials were purchased. The project will be completed in FY04.

A fuels break project was started in the Wyoming big sagebrush portions of the Three Rivers Resource Area. This project was designed to create fuel breaks along selected roads in an attempt to reduce the size of wildland fires in the Wyoming sagebrush habitats. The project involves brush beating along one or both sides of the roads. This action will slow fires and give some added time for initial attack crews and single engine air tankers to respond to wildland fire starts in this important habitat. Roadsides were brush beat along approximately 80 miles of road in FY04 and a like amount is scheduled for the next 3 years.

Native Plant and Sagebrush Restoration Projects

The following is a list of project components that together make up the native plant and sagebrush restoration projects. These components have been ongoing, some for 3 years, and are expected to continue in the future. All of these components contribute to the projects as a whole and therefore are difficult to list by year. The projects have been broken down into components that are partially or entirely complete, were worked on in FY03 or will be in FY04, and those that will start in FY04 or perhaps later.

2003 or 2004 Ongoing Work

Snow fences have been constructed to capture additional moisture in three different areas that have burned repeatedly over the past 20 years. Native grasses and Wyoming big sagebrush have been seeded around these fences to establish islands of sagebrush that will act as a seed source to reestablish sagebrush in these areas. Also, a mix of native grasses, forbs and shrubs has been used to rehabilitate two large wildfire areas.

Some of the sagebrush seed that has been used for this project was collected locally. Additional local collections of sagebrush seed are funded for the next two years. Some of these seeds have been sent to the Lucky Peak Nursery to grow seedlings that will be planted in fall of 2004.

Thurber's needlegrass seed has been collected in the wild and is in production in the state of Washington. Burns District personnel have coordinated with the Vale District on this project. The seed produced from this collection will be used in fire stabilization and rehabilitation projects and for native ecosystem restoration.

Burns District personnel have collected seeds from a number of different forb species and currently have two species of forbs under production at three different nurseries. These seeds will be planted at the snow fence sites and in fire rehabilitation projects. The high priority species for collection have been species important as food for sage grouse.

Elderberry seeds were collected in the fall of 2003 and are being grown into seedlings that will be planted in riparian restoration projects.

2004 and Beyond Project Components

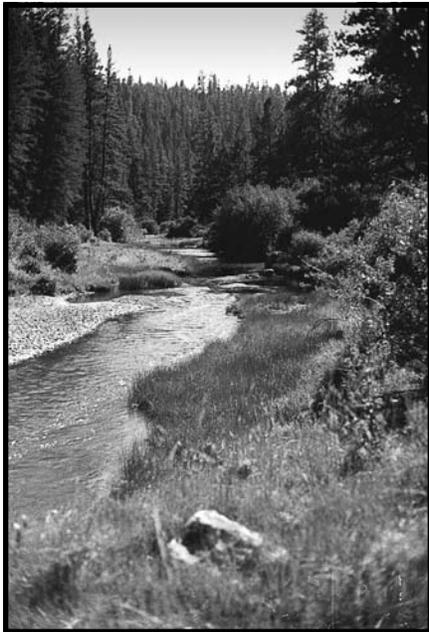
Burns District personnel are expanding the list of species will be collecting to put into production to include additional shrub species such as serviceberry, choke cherry, bitter cherry, bitterbrush and mountain mahogany. These will be produced as both seeds and seedlings for use in upland and riparian restoration projects.

Collecting and producing seeds of important species for sage grouse continues to be a priority for the native plant material development program in the district.

Two new native plant projects are beginning in the district. The East Steens Watershed Restoration Project will work to improve both riparian communities and the upland communities that form the watershed for the riparian area. Seeds of species to use in the restoration will be locally collected and put into production for establishing an area that has been burned repeatedly by wildfire and is dominated by non-native species. The North Steens Ecosystem Restoration Project is an ambitious project that uses a variety of different tools to restore and enhance an entire range of ecosystems, from the Wyoming big sagebrush type to high elevation mountain big sagebrush and aspen utilizing fire, mechanical treatment, and planting of native species.

Forestry Program

The forestry program is primarily confined to the Three Rivers Resource Area, except for minor amounts of special forest product sales in the Andrews Resource Area.



Emigrant Creek.

Forest health treatments and associated hazardous fuels reduction projects continue to be the District's priority for forest management. The national development of the HFI and the President's signing of the HFRA in December of 2003 should provide substantial support for the District's ongoing program of forest restoration work. The Rattlesnake/Squaw Creek/Coffeepot thinning project continued implementation in FY03 with four contracts for 480 acres of non-commercial thinning and piling. The project will continue this year with another 500 acres to be noncommercially thinned and piled. The Dry Mountain Old Growth had 97 acres noncommercially thinned and piled to reduce bark beetle damage. The West Silvies prescribed burn was implemented in spring of 2004 and it involved underburning 1,500 acres of ponderosa pine. See the Fire Management section of this update for other associated projects.

Aspen stands are an important habitat that continues to be a District priority for restoration. The Coffeepot Aspen Rehabilitation Project was implemented early in FY04. It involved removing junipers and pines out of four aspen stands and then fencing them to protect reproduction from browsing animals.

An Environmental Assessment (EA) was written to analyze forest management options for the consolidated block of BLM land in the Silvies Valley that resulted from a recent land exchange. The Newell Forest Health Project proposes to treat 934 acres of overstocked second growth ponderosa pine stands. Treatments

include fencing and/or replanting 24 aspen stands, noncommercial thinning, slash piling and burning, timber harvest, and road relocations and closures.

Special forest products including juniper boughs, posts, and firewood continue to be provided as a service to the public. We continued to participate in the combined Personal Use Firewood Program with the Emigrant Creek Ranger District and Malheur National Forest. This program enables permit holders to use one permit to cut firewood on federal lands managed by both agencies. Juniper control projects have been identified in the Terrestrial Habitat and Species Management section of this update.

Noxious Weed Program

During FY03 the district Integrated Weed Management program actively participated in the on-going Harney County Weed Management Partnership. This partnership focuses and coordinates the management of noxious weeds throughout all the area agencies. These include Harney County Weed Control, Oregon Department of Agriculture, BLM, United States Forest Service (USFS), Malheur National Wildlife Refuge (MNWR), Agricultural Research Service Experiment Station, Oregon Department Of Transportation (ODOT), the cities of Burns and Hines, Burns Paiute Tribe, Harney Soil and Watershed Conservation District, ODFW, and Oregon State University Extension. Activities conducted throughout the year include education/awareness trainings for agency staff and the public, both formal and informal; coordinated inventory and monitoring; coordinated control efforts including cost-share opportunities; and coordinated research and demonstration projects and plots. This partnership has proven to be a very effective way to conduct weed management in our area, which is anticipated to evolve into a formal Cooperative Weed Management Area in FY04.



Weed Awareness Kiosk

Highlights of the Weed Management Partnership in FY03 include: ten appearances of our Fabulous Weed Awareness Mobile around the county; maintained/stocked Weed Awareness Kiosks in seven key locations around the county; Champion Government Display (WEEDS, of course) at the Harney County Fair; continued development of a statewide Weed Curriculum for grades K-12; ground-truthing of aerial inventory and treatment of Dalmatian toadflax on approximately 30,000 acres of checkerboard BLM and private lands including a mule-packing project in an inaccessible drainage; inventory and initial treatment of the first known sighting of purple loosestrife in Harney County; participation in several large “neighborhood weed control projects” involving multiple landowners and large-scale weed infestations; continued participation in several cooperative research projects: a) to quantify impacts of various herbicides for medusa head control on associated vegetation, particularly forbs; b) to evaluate livestock grazing treatments for control of various weed species; and c) continuing research evaluating appropriate management and rehabilitation of various types of weed-infested sites; continued monitoring of demonstration plots for evaluating control methods for Russian knapweed and Dalmatian toadflax; coordinated control projects throughout the county including road Rights-of-Way (ROWs) and areas of mixed ownership; and established six nursery sites for *Mecinus janthinus*, a biocontrol agent for Dalmatian toadflax.

Weed program activities from FY03

- o 28,043 acres inventoried, including extensive inventories of previous year wildfires;
- o 694 acres of treatments applied, including both manual and chemical controls. Benefits of treatments accomplished include 4 miles of riparian habitat and 615 acres of wetland habitat; and
- o Approximately 1,552 acres of treatments were evaluated.

Weed management plans for FY04 include approximately 455 acres of treatment, 5,000 acres of inventory and 500 acres of treatments evaluated. The Burns District BLM will continue to be involved in the Harney County Weed Management Partnership including extensive involvement in Education/Awareness activities, research and demonstration projects, cooperative treatment projects, and cooperative inventory and monitoring projects. As the Partnership evolves into a Cooperative Weed Management Area, the Burns District will actively participate in it as well.

Minerals Program

As of April 2004 there were 379 mining claims on Burns District. Most claims are held in the zeolite mine area south of Harney Lake (260 claims held by Ace Hardwood Floors, Inc.). The zeolite mine has been inactive since January 1998, although the annual claim fees and reclamation bond are current through FY04. The mine is permitted under a 1997 plan of operations and EA, also from 1997.

The next largest claimant is EaglePicher Filtration and Minerals, Inc., which holds 77 claims as part of its diatomite mine area on public, state, and private land northeast of Drewsey. The diatomite mine area continues to be active, the company is preparing an updated plan of operations for expansion of the mine on public land, and this office expects to receive a complete plan of operations from the company in FY04 and begin the EA process on the updated plan of operations in FY05. The mine activity on Federal land is currently permitted under a 1984 plan of operations and 1985 EA and is under a reclamation bond.

A plan of operations for mining at a green obsidian claim north of Burns was received in October 2002. Since then, an area for public collection of green obsidian surrounding that claim was identified. The environmental analysis for mining on the claim was drafted by a contractor and will be completed by BLM in FY04. A management plan and EA for public obsidian collection in the area surrounding the claim will be completed in FY05.

A validity exam for six sunstone claims within the Steens Mineral Withdrawal Area was completed in FY03. The technical review of the validity exam will be completed in FY04. The claimant is conducting exploration activity under grandfathered notices on these claims that are approximately 15 miles east of Fields, and the activities are covered by a reclamation bond.

Approximately 10 to 20 permits continue to be issued annually for purchase or free use of mineral materials including sand and gravel, decorative flat rock, and rock aggregate by the public, the Harney County Road Department, and ODOT. An EA is planned for initial development or expansion of five mineral materials sources in Burns District – three of the mineral materials sources are within the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Area (CMPA) and are specifically identified in the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Act of 2000 (Steens Act) for development for road maintenance use (Neals Hill, Juniper, and Roaring Butte materials sources), one is at Long Hollow Summit northwest of Fields, and one is near Warm Springs Reservoir.

The geothermal lease held by Geo-Culture, Inc. was terminated in April 2004. The lease was adjacent to private land near Crane where the company had wells and greenhouses.

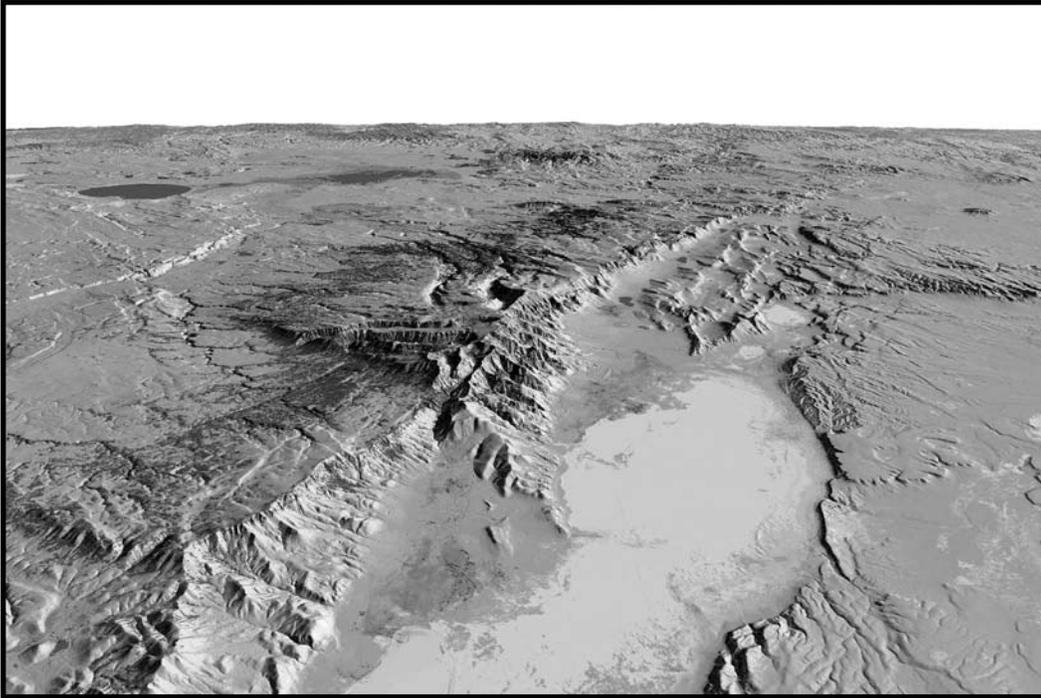
Glass Buttes Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation

In FY03 a contractor removed an additional cubic yard of mercury-contaminated soil from the two retort sites. In FY04 no work is being done. In FY05 the remaining approximately 15 cubic yards of mercury-contaminated soil at the two retort sites will be removed. The removed soil is taken to a commercial hazardous waste retort for extraction and recycling of the contained mercury. After FY05 no soil or debris remaining at Glass Buttes will be classified as hazardous material although the area may contain up to 260 parts-per-million mercury or may be naturally occurring in rock with elevated levels of mercury typical of a mineralized area. After FY05 the remaining debris will be buried and the area will be reshaped as abandoned mine land funds become available.

Andrews Management Unit/Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Area Planning

During FY03 the Andrews Management Unit/Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Area Draft Resource Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DRMP/DEIS) were prepared. These documents were written with considerable input from the Steens Mountain Advisory Council and the Cooperating Agencies. The Andrews Management Unit (AMU) encompasses all of the Andrews Resource Area lying outside the boundary of the CMPA.

In October 2003, a 90-day public comment period on the DRMP/DEIS was initiated. During that time, four public meetings were held to provide the public opportunities to meet with BLM managers and specialists to discuss the content of the document, to allow for an additional avenue for comment, and opportunity to make suggestions for the Proposed Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/FEIS). Meetings were held in Burns, Frenchglen, Bend and Portland.



Digital picture created from actual satellite imagery of Steens Mountain and the surrounding area

By the conclusion of the comment period (January 5, 2004), 5,563 letters and comment forms, as well as formal comments from the public meetings, had been received, the vast majority being form-type emails and letters. Comments were considered and are being addressed in the Proposed RMP/FEIS which is scheduled for printing and distribution in summer 2004. Following release of the document there will be a 30-day protest period in which protests to the

document or portions thereof may be submitted to the BLM Director. Also during the same 30-day period the public will be given opportunity to comment on the *Steens Mountain Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers Plan*. The latter has been written as a “stand alone” document but will be attached to the Proposed RMP/FEIS as an appendix.

After resolution of any protests, two Final RMPs will be written in conjunction with two Records of Decision—one each for the AMU and for the CMPA. The CMPA Record of Decision will also amend the Three Rivers Resource Area RMP for affected lands.

Lands & Realty Program

2003 Major Accomplishments

Two inholdings totaling 40 acres within the Steens Mountain Wilderness were purchased using Land and Water Conservation Fund monies. Other acquisition work continued on securing legal administrative access for a future timber sale in the Three Rivers Resource Area with two road easements acquired.

Rights-of-way, road use agreements and permits were issued in the District for development and use of roads, small scale electric power lines, telephone facilities and other public land uses. Several rights-of-way were issued to record and document long existing County and private roads to protect the public and private access rights during land conveyances. Subsequent monitoring was implemented on new public land uses to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the appropriate permits.

The District completed final requirements and issued patents on nine public land parcels offered for sale in the previous year. In addition, 23 parcels, totaling 2,200 acres of difficult and uneconomic to manage public lands were offered and auctioned this year. At the purchaser’s option, most of this acreage would not be patented until 2004.

During 2003 three unauthorized use cases were resolved by terminating the illegal uses, or, as in one of the cases, authorizing the use.

Significant effort was expended by the District's lands and realty staff in 2003 in preparation of the lands, realty and transportation sections of the Andrews/Steens Proposed RMP/FEIS.

2004 Planned Accomplishments

Negotiations will continue with willing landowners in the Steens Mountain CMPA to secure key parcels in public ownership and to protect and conserve other properties in the CMPA. Exchanges, purchases and Cooperative Management Agreements (CMAs) are all tools that can be used to meet these objectives. One wilderness inholding parcel totaling 20 acres is proposed for acquisition this year. Also, additional negotiations and feasibility studies will be undertaken on the Miller, Clemens, Campbell and Brandis land exchanges. If successful, these exchanges would ultimately result in the acquisition of several additional wilderness inholdings and other land on the east face of the Steens with rural residential development potential. The District is also currently negotiating with wilderness inholders to provide them with reasonable access to their property while protecting wilderness values. An EA and Decision Record (DR) are being prepared this year to analyze the impacts and alternatives for this access.

Much of the District's lands and realty support will continue through the year in preparing the lands, realty, and transportation portions of the Andrews/Steens RMP. Outputs from this planning process will include a transportation plan, required by the Steens Act, and land tenure zoning which will focus future land disposal and acquisition efforts.

The District's land sale program will continue in 2004 and 2005. Although no offering of public land sale parcels is proposed in 2004, work will continue so that an offering can be scheduled for 2005. In addition to new parcels being screened and inventoried for possible sale, other parcels retained during earlier sale efforts will be reviewed and, if necessary, re-inventoried so that they may be included in the 2005 sale.

Work will continue on developing administrative access into the Pine Creek area for a future BLM timber sale. At least three new easements would be secured from private landowners in the area this year. Most of these easements will be acquired by exchanging reciprocal rights-of-way across public lands to the landowners who may need legal access to their lands. In addition, an easement will be processed and a right-of-way granted to provide legal administrative and landowner access up the bottom of Kiger Gorge for construction and maintenance of the Kiger fence. This fence project was developed under a CMA between BLM and the Otley Brothers and is necessary to ensure livestock do not stray into the No Livestock Grazing Area within the Steens Mountain Wilderness.

The feasibility of rerouting an existing road around private land adjacent to the CMPA will be explored to ensure public access is continued on the Miners Field road, an open route within the CMPA.

Effort will continue on an EA and plan amendment to sell public lands currently under lease for a shooting range operated by the Burns Butte Sportsman Club under the provisions of the Recreation and Public Purposes Act. The club has fully developed the range and has shown interest in seeking fee title to the lands.

Rights-of-way and land use permit applications will continue to be processed as they are received and unauthorized use dealt with as it is discovered. It is anticipated that Right-of-Way activity may remain stable with no significant increases expected. Compliance inspections on authorized land uses will be conducted to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the authorization.

Recreation Program

On December 11, 2003 the Oregon Tourism Commission and the Oregon Transportation Commission unanimously approved and designated the High Desert Discovery Scenic Byway and three adjoining Tour Routes. The Byway travels from Burns south to the town of Fields on Highway 205. The route provides access to three Tour Routes that, in turn, connect with area attractions such as Steens Mountain, Diamond Craters, the Alvord Desert area, and others on state and wildlife refuge lands. The High Desert Discovery Scenic Byway will be in the 2004 edition of the "Discover Oregon Scenic Byways and Tour Routes-A Driving Guide" brochure.

The Zone Interagency Recreation Program agreement between the Emigrant Creek Ranger District of the USFS and the Burns BLM continued through 2003. Oregon Youth Conservation Corps crews also helped with clean-up and maintenance.

Other accomplishments in FY03 include: ten Special Recreation Permits (SRPs) were issued; five Annual Authorizations issued; continuing visitor use monitoring; paving at Chickahominy Reservoir, and work on the Andrews/Steens RMP.

Continuing work in FY04 includes maintenance of all recreation sites, finalizing a Burns District SRP guidebook, installing additional road and trail counters in the Andrews Resource Area, and finishing the Andrews/Steens RMP. Recreation site planning under a CMA is expected to begin in summer 2004 for the Pate Lake area. The Zone Interagency Recreation Program is also expected to continue through FY04.



Volunteer Program

In 2003, volunteers and hosted workers dedicated over 6,700 hours of service to public lands on the Burns District, valuing almost \$112,000 worth of work. Major efforts included restoration work in the Steens Mountain Wilderness and archaeological inventories and excavations.

Restoration work in the Steens Mountain Wilderness continued in 2003 thanks to two volunteer groups: the Steens-Alvord Coalition and the Wilderness Volunteers. In late August, eight volunteers from the Steens-Alvord Coalition backpacked into the Mud Creek/Ankle Creek divide to breakdown and remove developments at three springs which had been used as livestock watering areas. The work project was initiated to restore these springs to their natural condition by taking down barbed wire fencing surrounding the spring sites and removing large metal troughs and water pipes. As the developments were removed the sites were rehabilitated and naturalized.



Wilderness Volunteers removing fence.

The second volunteer work project of the season in Steens Mountain Wilderness involved the removal of approximately two miles of barbed-wire fence near the mouth of scenic Little Blitzen Gorge. A crew of 12 volunteers from the organization "Wilderness Volunteers" clipped and rolled a four-strand wire fence, pulled steel and wood posts and packed the materials to the nearest road or trail for later removal. As part of an ongoing effort to return the Wilderness to a more natural condition, up to 100 miles of unneeded fences will be taken down and removed from a 97,000 acre section of the Wilderness which was designated by Congress as a "No Livestock Grazing Area" meaning commercial livestock grazing will no longer take place in that area. In addition to the fence removal project, the volunteers spent another day rehabilitating a section of an old road leading into Big Indian Gorge into a single track trail.

Four archeological projects were completed in 2003 with major support from volunteers. A total of 1,454 hours were donated and valued at approximately \$24,000. None of these projects would have been completed without the contributed labor.

- *High Lakes Archaeological Inventory:* This inventory was organized by a part time volunteer/temporary employee who spent 8 days with up to 12 volunteers inventorying archaeological sites in the high lakes area of the District. The inventory crew found nine new sites and covered 225 acres. A number of the sites they found were at least 10,000 years old.
- *Mortar Riddle Site Excavation:* This excavation was led by a University of Wisconsin graduate student. The Mortar Riddle site is a very rich prehistoric summer camp in Riddle Brothers Ranch National Historic District on Steens Mountain. Up to four volunteers spent 2 weeks water screening and sorting bone, charcoal, artifacts and obsidian flakes from the water screens. The work at the site revealed at least 100 hopper mortar grinding stones, at least 100 arrow points and unearthed two hearth deposits that contained burned game bones, charcoal and burned seeds. A preliminary report on the 2003 findings will be presented at the Society of American Archaeologists meetings and Northwest Anthropological Conference in 2004.
- *High Steens Inventory:* This inventory, led by Burns District Archaeologist Scott Thomas, covered 700 acres of the top of Steens Mountain (9,500' elevation). Two volunteers camped with the field crew at South Steens Campground and helped with the project. Prehistoric campsites, rock art and vision quest sites were recorded as well as historic sheep herding camps.



Excavation volunteer

Throughout the year, volunteers on the Burns District also assisted various disciplines, including: communications (radio installations), personnel/front desk, Information Resource Management (IRM), recreation (campground hosts, recreation site maintenance, trash removal and trail maintenance), law enforcement, wild horse and burro (adoptions, Wild Horse Corrals hosting), wildlife (spotted frog observations, pygmy rabbit surveys, sage grouse monitoring, and sage grouse lek counts.), wilderness (monitoring and signing), and at the annual John Scharff Migratory Bird Festival.

	FY 2003 Volunteer Hours	FY 2003 Hosted Worker Hours	Totals
Recreation	1512	960	2472
Biological Resources	129	0	129
Wild Horse	770	0	770
Wilderness	790	0	790
Cultural/Historical	1454	0	1454
Support Services	467	248	715
Riparian/Watershed	20	0	20
Law Enforcement	400	0	400
Totals	5542	1208	6750
Funds Expended (\$)	4788	2100	6410
Value of Work (\$)	\$91,664.68	\$19,980.32	\$111,645.00

For FY04, planned volunteer projects include: fence removal in the Steens Mountain Wilderness, campground hosts, Riddle Brothers Ranch host, office support, wilderness monitoring, weed inventory, data collection, and cultural resource recording. Other projects may become available and interested persons are always welcome to volunteer.

Aquatic Habitat & Species Management

In FY03, many accomplishments were made for aquatic habitat and species management. Several Clean Water Action Plan projects were implemented to protect and restore streams, riparian areas and watershed functions, including eight riparian exclusions and one culvert removal. Approximately 70 populations of wildlife, plants and fish, 60 water quality sites, 40 miles of stream, 800 acres of wetlands, and 10,000 acres of terrestrial habitat were monitored, and approximately 25 miles of streams and 10,000 acres of wildlife and plant habitat were inventoried.

The District continued participation on the Harney County Watershed Council and recorded a major achievement in FY03 – completion of the Donner und Blitzen Watershed Sub basin Assessment. The District also participated as a member of the Malheur River Bull Trout Workgroup along with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services, ODFW, Burns Paiute Tribe, USFS and Bureau of Reclamation to write a Bull Trout Recovery Plan, provide input to the Proposed Designated Critical Habitat for bull trout, and assist with bull trout inventory and monitoring activities. Along with ODFW, the District assisted the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) in producing the draft Alvord Lake Total Maximum Daily Load (currently out for public comment) to address streams that are on the DEQ 303(d) list for water temperature. As a member of the Lahontan Cutthroat Trout Northern Distinct Population Segment Workgroup, the District also participated in implementing the Lahontan Cutthroat Trout Recovery Plan.

A *Carex* Identification Workshop was sponsored in partnership with the Carex Working Group, which was the culmination of a three year cost share project. The District also sponsored a native plant growing workshop, which served to provide community members with an opportunity to learn about growing native plant material that the BLM, and possibly other agencies, would purchase for public land restoration activities such as fire rehabilitation.

Special Management Areas

Steens Mountain Wilderness

The Steens Act established the Steens Mountain CMPA to conserve, protect, and manage the long-term ecological integrity of Steens Mountain for future and present generations. This included designation of the Steens Mountain Wilderness. Section 201(a) of the Steens Act also requires that the Steens Mountain Wilderness be managed in accordance with the Wilderness Act of 1964.



Kiger Gorge.

Some of the most unique attributes of the Steens Mountain Wilderness are the scenic vistas and spectacular geology. Visitors can experience a diversity of habitats where above the trees, severe climate and thin soils result in a belt of grasses, low-growing plants, and stunted, wind-formed shrubs. At the base of the mountain where water is scarce, sagebrush is common. Stands of quaking aspen can be seen along inviting streams. Mountain mahogany occupies the drier ridge tops. Observant visitors may also catch glimpses of large raptors such as golden eagles, mammals such as the pronghorn antelope, or even a piece of living history, the South Steens wild horse herd, which descended from horses that escaped from early explorers, settlers, miners,

Indians, and ranchers. Many other unique features within the Steens Mountain Wilderness are described below as part of the outstanding remarkable values of the designated Wild and Scenic Rivers.

Wilderness Management Areas

A key premise in the BLM's management strategy is the recognition that all wilderness areas are not the same. Further, within any given wilderness, not all areas provide the same visitor experience or require the same management practices.

There can, in fact, be a variety of wilderness settings present based on physical layout, visitor use and patterns of use, degree of past human influences, and management issues. Within the Steens Mountain Wilderness, two different settings or areas are identified. These are not rigid, on-the-ground allocations, nor do they originate solely from specific conditions in these areas. Rather, they are theoretical descriptions of the range of resource, social, and managerial conditions that the BLM intends to maintain and/or restore in the Steens Mountain Wilderness. Below is a description of each Management Area and information regarding present and future wilderness monitoring.

Gorges Management Area

Within the Gorges Management Area are five separate canyons: Little Blitzen, Big Indian, Little Indian, Wildhorse, and Kiger. Management actions can be initiated in each of the canyons separately to accommodate the individual management situation of each canyon. This portion of the Wilderness Area is adjacent to primary access points and/or popular destination points. Both overnight and day use occurs. Encounters with other users would be moderate to frequent, due to the popularity of the gorges for recreational visits. Areas are monitored to protect natural conditions while providing for use and enjoyment of the recreational and natural features.

Uplands Management Area

This includes all other areas of the wilderness outside the gorges. Natural environmental conditions exist and a moderate to high degree of solitude can be expected. Area natural processes and conditions generally have not been and will not be affected by human activity (use). Areas are monitored to protect ecological conditions with effects of human activities minimized.

Monitoring

FY03: The establishment of baseline data regarding recreation use and social impacts was initiated in 2003. Indicators to be monitored include; campsite condition, campsite density, perception of solitude, trail conditions, length of stay, recreational stock use, and motor and mechanized vehicle intrusions. Current condition of the resource will be evaluated in order to identify any problems which may exist.

FY04: Baseline data collection and monitoring will continue through this use season. Information collected will be used for purposes of ongoing monitoring in the wilderness.

Cultural Resources Program *Archaeological Research*

Three universities, Oregon Archaeological Society (OAS) and BLM staff were involved in archaeological projects in FY03. University of Nevada graduate students Alyce Branigan and Theresa Wriston completed and successfully defended their Master's thesis in spring 2003. Ms. Branigan completed a GIS analysis of large tracts of land in the Alvord Valley. Ms. Wriston completed her description and interpretation of materials uncovered at a site near Harney Lake.

University of Wisconsin graduate student Emily Mueller, with help of BLM staff and OAS volunteers, completed initial testing of the Mortar Riddle Site on Steens Mountain. Preliminary analysis of the materials from the site indicates it was occupied between 1,400 and 550 years ago, and was probably a summer camp where small (rabbits, ground squirrels and marmots) and large (deer) game were butchered and eaten. Additional data on the types of charcoal found in hearths at the site show a wide range of soft and hard wood species were being burned in the hearths. Obsidian sourcing studies showed obsidian artifacts from as far away as 100 miles were discarded at the site. Obsidian hydration dating reinforced the radio carbon dates and showed it can be used at the site where charcoal is not available for dating. All of these analyses were reported at the Northwest Anthropology Conference in Eugene, Oregon in March 2004 and the Society for American Archaeology meeting in Montreal, Canada in April 2004. Printed copies of the report have been disseminated since the meetings.



Oregon Archaeology Society volunteers.

BLM Archaeological Technician Dianne Ness supervised two inventories with Oregon Archaeological Society volunteers in 2003. Both inventories were centered in the high lakes region of the District near Wagontire. Her inventory team recorded 6 new sites and inventoried 250 acres. Ness has organized three surveys in the Silver Creek lakes region for spring 2004.

Burns BLM archaeologists and OAS volunteers completed 1,400 acres of inventory atop Steens Mountain and recorded 12 sites in summer 2003. An additional 1,000 acres are scheduled for inventory in summer 2004.

Portland State University graduate student Nicole Stutte worked with the District Archaeologist in FY03 on her Master's thesis project. The project entails radiocarbon dating prehistoric bison (buffalo) specimens from southeast Oregon. The chronological data will be interpreted in light of prehistoric environmental data from the region. Ms. Stutte's dating project began in FY03 and was reported at the 2003 Northwest Anthropological Conference and in her Master's thesis in March 2004.

Historic Restoration

FY03 was a busy year in historic restoration on Burns District. Funding was received to complete one restoration project. The Trout Creek School House was completely restored in coordination with the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office.



Trout Creek School before and after restoration - 2002.

Law

Enforcement Program

Burns District has one full-time BLM Law Enforcement Ranger and, through a law enforcement agreement with the Harney County Sheriffs Office, the service of one half-time sheriff's deputy. Law enforcement efforts for FY03 included the following:

- o Responding to and investigating natural resource crimes throughout the district;
- o Investigating occupancy trespass cases and fire trespass cases;
- o Investigating drug/narcotic offenses;
- o Coordinating law enforcement actions with other federal, state and local departments including the Harney County Sheriffs Office, Burns Police Department, Hines Police Department, Burns Paiute Tribal Police, Oregon State Police, United States Forest Service, United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the United States Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement; and
- o Investigating crimes against federal employees and federal property.

Cases and incidents have resulted in written warnings, citations, physical arrests and the referral of cases to other agencies. There were major wildfires within the district. Negligent human caused fires resulted in damages of excess of \$40,000. The Burns District Law Enforcement Office entered 61 incidents into the BLM LAWNET System in 2003. As of this printing, that number has been surpassed.

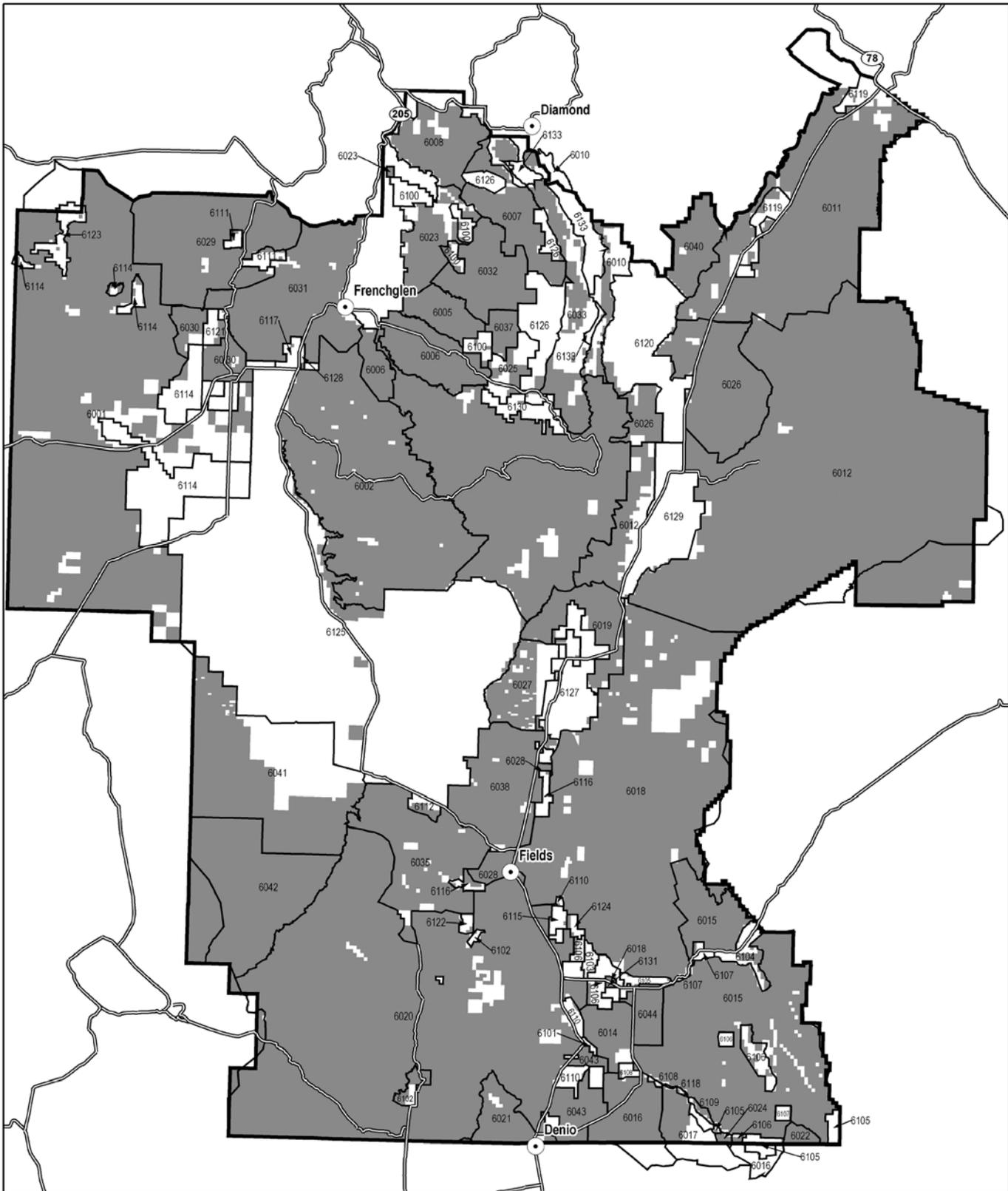
Burns District Rangeland Program Summary

The purpose for the Rangeland Program Summary (RPS) is to outline the progress being made in implementing the rangeland management objectives of each resource as identified in current land use plans.

Since 1998, the District has been on a 10-year schedule to complete NEPA analyses on all 10-year grazing permits, and to do an assessment of each allotment to see if they are in conformance with the “Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management for Public Lands in Oregon/Washington (dated August 12, 1997)” (Standards and Guidelines). In accordance with the regulations (43 CFR 4180), if these assessments identify one or more of the five standards not being met, appropriate action is taken that will result in progress toward meeting these Standards and Guidelines.

Due to the workload, it is not possible to complete an assessment of Standards and Guidelines for each allotment as the term permit expires. Therefore, the District process has been to do the assessments on a priority schedule. If necessary, the permit may be reissued prior to the assessment, with the condition that it may be canceled later, if necessary, to add conditions or management changes to ensure progress toward meeting the failed standard(s).

In FY03 the District completed Standards and Guidelines assessments on 34 allotments (84,902 acres). Two of these allotments were found to not meet the standards – one due to livestock, and the other due to fire and medusa head invasion. Since 1998, the District has completed a total of 191 allotment assessments on 1,475,325 acres (approximately 45 percent complete). Most of the permits issued were analyzed in NEPA documents, however, due to various reasons; some were issued under the Appropriation Act and/or the Administrative Procedure Act (USC 558 (c)). Permits are subject to any modification as a result of final completion of the analysis.



Andrews Resource Area Range Allotments Burns District BLM

- Andrews Resource Area Boundary
- Major Roads
- Allotment Boundaries
- BLM Lands



US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
Burns District, Oregon



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Andrews Resource Area – Range Allotment Information

FY 04 Plans

During FY04, monitoring data will be analyzed, interpreted, and evaluated to document the progress of management to meet resource objectives for the following allotments. An assessment of Standards for Rangeland Health will be included in the evaluation.

Planned evaluations including Standards and Guidelines Assessment

Allotment Name	Allotment Number	Allotment Name	Allotment Number
Keg Springs	6029	Chimney	6033
Mann Lake	6026	Dunbar Fenced Federal Range (FFR)	6111

Allotment Management Plans (AMPs) to be developed or revised

Allotment Name	Allotment Number	Allotment Name	Allotment Number
Lavoy Tables	6031	Mann Lake	6026
Alvord	6012	Chimney	6033

Grazing Permit/Lease Renewals

Four grazing permits were renewed in FY03. The EAs were deferred until the Standards and Guidelines evaluations are completed. Grazing permits or leases will expire between October 1, 2004 and September 30, 2006 in the allotments listed below. There may be other permittees in an allotment whose permits or leases are not expiring this year.

Allotments with permits expiring in FY04

Allotment Name	Allotment Number	Allotment Name	Allotment Number
North Catlow	6001	Reicken's Corner	6030
South Steens	6002	Hammond FFR	6100
Mud Creek	6005	Dunbar FFR	6111
Ruby Springs	6007	Rock Creek FFR	6114
Trout Creek Mountain	6015	Neuschwander FFR	6121
Hammond	6023	Roaring Springs FFR	6125
Hardie Summer	6025	Otley FFR	6126
Miners Field	6028	Konek FFR	6128
Keg Springs	6029	Scharff FFR	6130

Allotments with permits expiring in FY05

Allotment Name	Allotment Number	Allotment Name	Allotment Number
Pollock	6011	Pollock FFR	6119

Allotments with permits expiring in FY06

Allotment Name	Allotment Number	Allotment Name	Allotment Number
Lupher FFR	6118	Sandhills	6016

Standards and Guidelines assessments were completed and met by these allotments in FY03

Allotment Name	Allotment Number	Allotment Name	Allotment Number
Defenbaugh FFR	6104	Crump/Cald FFR	6107
Starr FFR	6122	Wrench Ranch FFR	6105
Neuschwander FFR	6121	Casey FFR	6109
Henricks FFR	6108	Long Hollow FFR	6012
Oregon End FFR	6102		

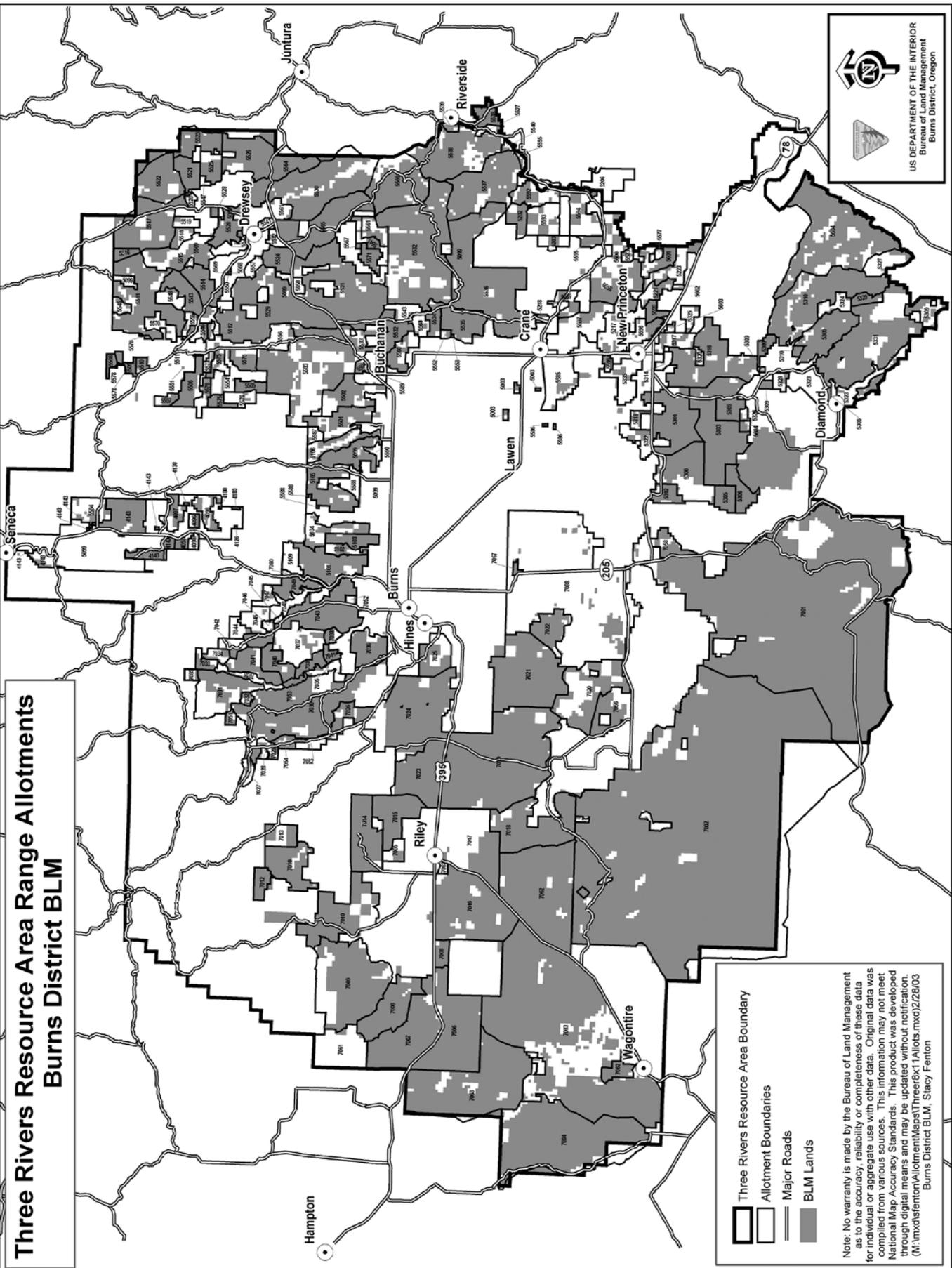
FY 03 Accomplishments

Allotment Name	Allotment Number	Category*	Implementation Progress
* I = Improve; M = Maintain; C = Custodial			
Trout Creek Mountain	6015	I	An EA proposed for 2 miles of fence in the Stoney Pasture for 2003 was not completed. The EA is in progress and will be completed in 2004. The Lower Antelope Allotment #6044 was created out of the Trout Creek Mountain Allotment and an AMP is in development. Two cattle guards are planned for installation at Sherman Field to allow public access for hunting. This project would be completed in cooperation with ODFW.
Sandhills	6016	M	An evaluation was completed and recommended an increase of 373 Annual Unit Months (AUMs) and additional fencing. The AMP has not been developed to implement this.
Pueblo-Lone Mountain	6020	I	Two allotments have been separated from the Pueblo-Lone Mountain Allotment. These are Pueblo Slough #6043 and Basque Hills #6042. AMPs are currently under development.
Alvord	6012	I	The Standards and Guidelines Assessment planned for completion in 2003 has been postponed until 2005 due to the need for collection of additional data.
East Ridge	6010	I	In the fall of 2003, 2400 acres were treated with prescribed fire. During summer 2004, based on a CMA with the landowners and BLM, ¾ mile of fence is planned for construction to exclude livestock from the No Livestock Grazing Area within the Steens Mountain CMPA.
South Steens	6002	I	The Catlow Conservation Agreement was reviewed by the cooperating parties, whom all agreed to terminate the agreement. A wild horse gather in the South Steens Allotment is scheduled for fall 2004.
Stonehouse	6040	I	An AMP is scheduled to be completed in late FY04 or early FY05.



Irish Lake

Three Rivers Resource Area Range Allotments Burns District BLM



Three Rivers Resource Area Boundary
 Allotment Boundaries
 Major Roads
 BLM Lands

Note: No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use with other data. Original data was compiled from various sources. This information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This product was developed through digital means and may be updated without notification. (M:\mxd\stfenton\AllotmentMaps\ThreeRivers\11Allots.mxd\2/28/03 Burns District BLM, Stacy Fenton

Three Rivers Resource Area – Range Allotment Information

FY 04 Plans

During FY04, monitoring data will be analyzed, interpreted, and evaluated to document the progress of management to meet resource objectives for the following allotments. An assessment of Standards and Guidelines will be included in the evaluation.

Planned evaluations including Standards and Guidelines assessments

Allotment Name	Allotment Number	Allotment Name	Allotment Number
Mountain	5532	River	5530
Skull Creek	7030	Miller Canyon	5535
Hay Creek	7031	William Dripp	5509
Slocum	5593	East Warm Springs	7001
Smyth-Kiger	5331	Hat Butte	7007
Upton Mountain	5565	Packsaddle	7012
East Davies	5223	Sheeplake - Shields	7008
Texaco Basin	5566	Wheeler Basin	5564
Beaver Creek	5600	Birch Creek	5516

Planned Fenced Federal Range, including Standards and Guidelines assessments

Allotment Name	Allotment Number	Allotment Name	Allotment Number
Malheur Slough	5003	Smith FFR	5590
Riddle FFR	5324	Thompson FFR	5217
Cooper Field FFR	5577	Bulger	7061
Quier FFR	5602	Hat Butte	5317
Reed FFR	5588	Zoglmann	7013

Allotment Management Plans to be developed

Allotment Name	Allotment Number	Allotment Name	Allotment Number
Moffet Table	5511	Beaver Creek	5600
West Wagontire	7004	West Davies	5221
West Warm Springs	7002	East Davies	5223
Virginia Valley	5316	River	5530
Texaco Basin	5566	Palamino Butte	7019
Upton Mountain	5565	East Warm Springs	7001
Slocum	5593	Pack Saddle	7012

Grazing Permit/Lease Renewals

Grazing permits or leases are scheduled to expire between February 28, 2003 and September 30, 2006 in the following allotments. Allotments are listed if the permit/lease for any permittee is expiring. There may be other permittees in an allotment whose permits or leases are not expiring. The required NEPA analysis will be prepared prior to renewal of these permits. There were 20 permits issued in FY03.

Allotments with permits expiring in FY04

Allotment Name	Allotment Number	Allotment Name	Allotment Number
Beaver Creek	5600	Luce Field	5540
W & C Blaylock FFR	5539	Forks of Poison Creek	7049
House Butte	5529	Coal Mine Creek	5514
East Sagehen	7024	Palamino Buttes	7019
Double O	7056	Mule Creek	5515
Jordan's FFR	5550	Sunshine Field	5545
Alkali	5300	Howards FFR	5549
Moffet Table	5511	West Warm Springs	7002
Muddy Creek	5506	Claw Creek	7010
Druitt Field	5546	Miller Canyon	5535
Miller FFR A	5552	Miller FFR B	5553
Divine Flat Field	5543	Lamb Ranch	5571
Vickers FFR	5560	Mountain	5532

Allotments with permits expiring in FY05

Allotment Name	Allotment Number	Allotment Name	Allotment Number
Weaver Lake	7021	Juniper Ridge	7016
Double O	7056	Sawtooth – MNF	7051
Forks of Poison Creek	7049	Peabody	7047
East Warm Springs	7001	Clarks River	5512
Lone Pine	7043	Alkali	5300
Varien Canyon	7048	Pine Creek	5503
Carp	7059	Pine Creek FFR	5556
Slocum Field	5593	Cowing	7044
Skull Creek	7030	Virginia Valley	5316
Hay Creek	7031	White	4138
Hotchkiss Individual	7032	West Wagontire	7004
Gouldin	7025	Alder Creek	5536
Dry Lake	7009	House Butte	5529

Allotments with permits expiring in FY06

Allotment Name	Allotment Number	Allotment Name	Allotment Number
House Butte	5529	Home Ranch Enclosure	5541
Forks of Poison Creek	7046	Virginia Valley	5316
Riddle FFR	5324	Buchanan	5533
Riddle Mountain	5310	Temple's FFR	5589
Alkali	5300	Double O	7056
Mountain	5532	Skull Creek	7030
Malheur Slough	5003	Spring Creek	7029
Catterson Section 13	5586	State Field	5504
Princeton	5301	Fisher FFR	5328
Shelly	5513	Happy Valley	5309
Sword's FFR	5559	Alder Creek	5536
Griffin	5548	Riverside	5538
Wilber FFR	5561	Buck Mountain	5537
Malheur Lake	0010	Ott FFR	5555
Thompson FFR	5217	Burnt Flat	5604
Mahon Ranch	5519	Dry Lake	5503
Jenkins' N. Lake FFR	5326	Jenkins' B. Flat FFR	5327
Moffet Table	5511	Coal Mine Creek	5514
Prather Creek	5102	Divine Ridge	5101
Emmerson	5596	Bennett FFR	5218
Jones Dripp Spring	5510	Lone Pine	7043
Riverside FFR	5527	Rock Creek	5502
East Warm Springs	7001		

Standards and Guidelines assessments were completed and met by these allotments in FY03

Allotment Name	Allotment Number	Allotment Name	Allotment Number
Sword FFR	5559	Jenkins' Burnt Flat	5327
Muddy Creek FFR	5574	Malheur Slough	5003
Catterson FFR	5203	Ott FFR	5555
Catterson Section 13	5586	Pat Wilber FFR	5561
Devine Flat	5543	River FFR	5570
Riverside FFR	5527	Sunshine Field FFR	5545
Vickers FFR	5560	Arnold FFR	5563
Luce Field	5540	Miller FFR A	5552
Miller FFR B	5553	W.C. Blaylock FFR	5539
Miler FFR	5567	Griffen FFR	5548
J & G Kane FFR	5557		

The following term permits were renewed in FY03

Name	Name	Name	Name
Tom and Barbara Howard	Harney Hay Company	Bell A Grazing Cooperative	Martin Davies
Lou Davies	Don Opie	Don Toelle	Richard Raney
Tom C. Davies	John and Jody Ahmann	Naomi Arnold	David Reed
Andy Root	R.K. Edmunson	Jack Smith	James Shephard
Jack Drinkwater			

FY 03 Accomplishments

Allotment Name	Allotment Number	Category*	Implementation Progress
* <i>I = Improve; M = Maintain; C = Custodial</i>			
Cow Creek	5106	M	<p>The Cow Creek AMP was completed on October 29, 2002 to incorporate the findings of the April 2002 evaluation. The findings included using a graze/defer/rest rotation over a five year period, which will meet the allotment objectives. Conditions are fair across the allotment and western juniper control was recommended as the only improvement. The objectives developed in the AMP are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cause an upward trend, within the next 10 years, in the low and mid-seral big sagebrush/cheatgrass, Wyoming big sagebrush/cheatgrass, mountain big sagebrush/bluebunch wheatgrass, and low sagebrush/bluegrass sites. • Increase the availability and production of upland forbs for sage grouse from April through mid-July in the allotment every year. • Cause an upward trend in the riparian and wetland habitat conditions on Cow Creek.
Silvies River	7033		<p>The Silvies River AMP was completed on December 31, 2002. The evaluation was conducted to analyze, interpret and evaluate whether or not present management was meeting resource objectives. The results indicated that the present grazing system was not capable of meeting resource objectives and that a change in management was necessary. The evaluation proposed grazing on the riparian corridor Federal pasture prior to June 15th yearly, and the upland pasture, with bitterbrush, prior to July 15th yearly to meet the allotment objectives. Improvements to the allotment include movement of fences to place them on private/public land boundaries to better enable management of the public lands and to reconstruct exterior fences to assist in livestock trespass prevention.</p>
Sand Hollow	7020	M	<p>The Sand Hollow AMP was completed on April 28, 2003 to incorporate the findings of the January 2002 evaluation. The findings included using an early graze/defer rotation over a five year period which modified the present system and will meet the allotment objectives. Improvements included the addition of one pipeline and trough off of the present Double O well system to facilitate grazing within the Freeman Butte pasture. The objectives developed in the AMP are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain the upward trend in the early and mid-seral bluebunch wheatgrass, big sagebrush/cheatgrass, and big sagebrush/bluegrass sites and maintain the crested wheatgrass seedings for the next five years. • Increase the availability and production of upland forbs for sage grouse from April through mid-July in the allotment every year.

Allotment Name	Allotment Number	Category*	Implementation Progress
<i>* I = Improve; M = Maintain; C = Custodial</i>			
Silvies Canyon	7053	I	<p>The Silvies Canyon AMP was completed on October 29, 2002 to incorporate the findings of the February 2002 evaluation. The findings included using a two-day trail through the allotment over a five year period which maintained the present system and will meet the allotment objectives. The objectives developed in the AMP are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain the late seral stage in the mountain big sagebrush/bluebunch wheatgrass vegetation type, and cause an upward trend in the poor condition early and mid-seral tufted hairgrass/shrubby cinquefoil, Douglas fir/bluegrass species vegetation types. • Cause an upward trend in the riparian habitat condition along this section of Silvies River.
Venator	5594	M	<p>The Venator rangeland evaluation and Standards and Guidelines Assessment were completed in 1999. In September 2003 the Venator AMP was completed to address allotment objectives. This plan outlines fall winter use with some early spring grazing. Noxious weeds are impacting rangeland health in the Road Flat pasture. The BLM has an active treatment program in process.</p>
Moffet Table	5511	I	<p>An allotment evaluation was conducted in 2003 to analyze, interpret and evaluate whether or not present management was meeting resource objectives. The results indicated that the present grazing system was capable of meeting resource objectives if the permitted use stocking rate was reduced from 1,885 AUMs to approximately 1,500 AUMs. There has been four years of rest on Bluebucket Creek and the Middle Fork Malheur River. Riparian conditions are improving for bull trout habitat, but water quality objectives have not yet been achieved. It was determined that past grazing, road building and logging practices were the primary cause for water quality objectives not being met.</p> <p>The evaluation recommended that the River pasture be permanently removed from grazing use. The Bluebucket pasture would be used only during the month of May, after one more year of rest in 2004. It was recommended that the AMP be revised as soon as possible. Approximately 200 acres of juniper were felled on the allotment in 2003.</p>

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West Wagontire	7004	I	<p>An allotment evaluation was conducted in 2003 to analyze, interpret and evaluate whether or not present management was meeting resource objectives. All Standards for Rangeland Health were met except Ecological Processes, where 75 percent of the allotment met this standard. There was season long use on approximately 25 percent of the allotment, where conditions are not improving. The evaluation recommended changes in the grazing treatments to provide more growing season rest. A change to increased later season or winter use has been proposed. The carrying capacity still remains at approximately two-thirds permitted use over 3,075 AUMs.</p> <p>A new well has been proposed for the Tired Horse pasture to improve livestock distribution. Permittees differed turnout in 2003 by two months due to drought and in anticipation of trying a new system. A 1 ¾ mile long pipeline was extended from the Rams Butte Well with a 1,500 gallon trough placed at the end.</p>
Double O	7056	M	<p>An allotment evaluation was conducted in 2003 to analyze, interpret and evaluate whether or not present management was meeting resource objectives. This is a community allotment that is used on an as needed basis to resolve resource issues and conflicts in the resource area. The evaluation showed the stocking level to remain at approximately 600 AUMs and the treatment to continue under a graze/defer rotation.</p> <p>All Standards for Rangeland Health were achieved and allotment specific objectives were met. After completion of the evaluation, the AMP was updated to reflect permitted use of each permittee and spell out conditions for qualifying to use the allotment.</p>
Hayes	7036	I	<p>The AMP was revised in 2003 to incorporate the recommendations from the allotment evaluation and to incorporate resource concerns identified in the Three Rivers RMP. Those recommendations were to adjust the permitted use from 329 AUMs to 431 AUMs based on long term monitoring studies and a change in the grazing system. The grazing system is being changed to a graze/rest treatment. Range conditions are very good across the allotment and the only recommended improvement was to control western juniper in the future.</p>
Riddle Mountain	5510	I	<p>A pipeline extension ¾ mile in length was installed from the Paul Well into the Riddle Mountain pasture. An 800 gallon trough was installed at the end.</p>
Virginia Valley	5316	M	<p>Six miles of pipeline were replaced and three water troughs were replaced.</p>
Princeton	5301	M	<p>The redwood storage tank was replaced with two 10,000 gallon steel tanks. One mile of pipeline was replaced.</p>
Skull Creek	7030	M	<p>A cattle guard was installed between the Boulder Springs and Lake Creek pastures to help resolve recreation and livestock issues.</p>
Mountain	5532	I	<p>Elk proof exclosures were placed around three aspen stands.</p>

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Virginia Valley	5316	M	<p>An AMP was prepared to address a change in management due to the incorporation of a fence to better manage the New Field pasture as modified by the 2002 EA and address the Three Rivers RMP. The objectives developed in the AMP are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage for a stable trend in the good and excellent condition crested wheatgrass communities. • Manage for a stable trend in the good and excellent Wyoming big sagebrush/bluebunch wheatgrass plan communities during the next evaluation period. • Manage for an upward trend in the Wyoming big sagebrush/bottlebrush squirrel tail plant communities during the next evaluation period. • Manage for an upward trend in the crested wheatgrass seedings which are in poor to fair condition during the next evaluation period. <p>A grazing system has been designed to meet these objectives. Key forage species and utilization levels have been identified for each pasture.</p>
Slocum		M	<p>An allotment evaluation was conducted in 2003 to analyzed, interpret and evaluate whether or not present management was meeting resource objectives. The results indicate that one of the objectives had no monitoring to determine progress towards and two objectives in the AMP were not met. The system identified in the AMP has not been followed, and treatments do not follow the guidelines for livestock grazing management. Monitoring indicates a static trend in the allotment.</p> <p>The assessment of Standards for Rangeland Health found that the standards for upland watershed function, ecological processes and native, Special Status, and locally important species was not met. The standards for water quality and riparian watershed function had no information to evaluate. The determination was that livestock was not a significant factor in the failure to meet the standards and the encroachment of the noxious weed Medusahead rye is the main factor in not meeting the standards. The evaluation recommended revising the AMP and incorporating a new grazing system that the permittee will follow.</p>

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Sand Hollow	7020	M	<p>An AMP was revised to incorporate the recommendation from the allotment management evaluation and address the conflicts and concerns identified in the Three Rivers RMP. The conflicts and concerns include the special status species greater sage grouse or its habitat, and the current range condition, level or pattern of utilization. The objectives developed in the AMP are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain the upward trend in the early and mid-seral bluebunch wheatgrass, big sagebrush/cheatgrass, and big sagebrush/bluegrass sites and maintain the crested wheatgrass seedings for the next 5 years. • Increase the availability and production of upland forbs for sage-grouse from April through mid-July in the allotment every year. <p>A grazing system has been designed which to meet these objectives. Key forage species and utilization levels have been identified for each pasture.</p>

Environmental Assessment Register

The following are EAs which were scheduled but were not completed and new EAs recently initiated. The EAs for these projects are expected to be completed in FY04. A notice is published in the Burns Times-Herald when each new EA is available for review by the public and the date when the comment period ends. The EA will also be posted on the Web site.

Additional EAs, not currently scheduled, may be initiated throughout the year. Examples of these are EAs for Special Recreation Permits (SRPs), motorized access into the Steens Wilderness Area, etc. If you would like copies of these or other unscheduled EAs, notify this office.

If you would like to be involved in the planning process for any particular project or would simply like to receive a copy of an EA for review, note the EA register number and contact the District or the project's primary contact listed below. This should be done as early as possible to allow for full consideration of your input.

EA Register Number	Project Name	Proposed Action	Location	Affected Resource(s) and/or Area	Completion Date/ Decision/ Action
* 020 = Burns District, 025 = Three Rivers Resource Area, 026 = Andrews Resource Area, 027 = Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Area					
EA OR-020-03-036 Primary Contact: Evelyn Treiman	Broken Trails SRP	The proposed action is to issue an SRP authorization. The purpose of this action is to allow continuation of the SRPs hunting, fishing, and tour activities through the completion of the RMP.	Districtwide	Wilderness, WSA, ACECs, WSRs, Birds, Weeds, T&E Species, Riparian, Cultural	EA initiated February 7, 2003. Decision signed September 24, 2003.
EA OR-020-03-037 Primary Contact: Evelyn Treiman	Oregon Llamas SRP	The proposed action is to issue an SRP authorization. The purpose of this action is to allow continuation of the SRPs llama treks and fishing activities through the completion of the RMP.	Districtwide	Wilderness, WSA, ACECs, WSRs, Birds, Weeds, T&E Species, Riparian, Cultural	EA initiated February 7, 2003. Decision signed September 24, 2003.
EA OR-020-03-038 Primary Contact: Evelyn Treiman	Steens Mountain Packers SRP	The proposed action is to issue an SRP authorization. The purpose of this action is to allow continuation of the SRPs current activities through the completion of the RMP.	Districtwide	Wilderness, WSA, ACECs, WSRs, Birds, Weeds, T&E Species, Riparian, Cultural	EA initiated February 7, 2003. Decision signed September 24, 2003.
EA OR-020-03-039 Primary Contact: Evelyn Treiman	High Desert Outfitters SRP	The proposed action is to issue an SRP authorization. The purpose of this action is to allow continuation of the SRPs hunting, fishing, and tour activities through the completion of the RMP.	Districtwide	Wilderness, WSA, ACECs, WSRs, Birds, Weeds, T&E Species, Riparian, Cultural	EA initiated February 7, 2003. Decision signed September 24, 2003
EA OR-020-03-040 Primary Contact: Evelyn Treiman	Brett Jantze Guiding Service SRP	The proposed action is to issue an SRP authorization. The purpose of this action is to allow continuation of the SRPs hunting activities through the completion of the RMP.	Districtwide	Wilderness, WSA, ACECs, WSRs, Birds, Weeds, T&E Species, Riparian, Cultural	EA initiated February 7, 2003. Decision signed September 24, 2003.

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EA OR-020-03-041 Primary Contact: Evelyn Treiman	Pro Hunting and Fishing SRP	The proposed action is to issue an SRP authorization. The purpose of this action is to allow continuation of the SRPs scouting, hunting, and fishing activities through the completion of the RMP	Districtwide	Wilderness, WSA, ACECs, WSRs, Birds, Weeds, T&E Species, Riparian, Cultural	EA initiated February 7, 2003. Decision signed September 24, 2003.
EA OR-020-03-042 Primary Contact: Evelyn Treiman	Spot Country Outfitters SRP	The proposed action is to issue an SRP authorization. The purpose of this action is to allow continuation of the SRPs hunting activities through the completion of the RMP	Districtwide	Wilderness, WSA, ACECs, WSRs, Birds, Weeds, T&E Species, Riparian, Cultural	EA initiated February 7, 2003. Decision signed September 24, 2003
EA OR-025-99-014 Primary Contact: Jon Reponen	Newell Forest Health Project	The proposed action is to reduce road density, to reconstruct road segments causing sedimentation into creeks, to rehabilitate riparian areas, to improve aspen and mountain mahogany stands, to reduce hazardous fuel loadings, to improve forest health through stocking control by using precommercial thinning and harvesting of commercial size material. The purpose of this action is to improve water quality, to reduce the risk of wildfire, to improve wildfire habitat, and to improve the health and vigor of the area's timber stands.	East side of Silvies Valley	Riparian	EA completed February 2000. Decision Record is pending.
EA OR-025-00-37 Primary Contact: Eric Haakenson	Venator AMP Revision	The proposed action is to reverse the AMP to clearly define allotment objectives. The purpose of this action is to ensure management which meets allotment objectives	Venator Allotment	None	EA approved September 19, 2003
EA OR-025-01-04 Primary Contact: Skip Renschler	Wright's Point Communication Site Management Plan	The proposed action is to construct a 10-foot by 12-foot building with a 30-foot antenna for low power. The purpose of this action is to improve communication system for the Burns District BLM and USFS	T. 24 W., R. 31 E., Section 33 or 35	None	EA is complete. Decision pending

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EA OR-025-01-17 Primary Contact: Doug Linn	Hazardous Fuels Reduction	The proposed action is to reduce hazardous fuels in juniper cutting areas through mechanical treatments. The purpose of this action is to reintroduce the natural role of fire into fire dependent plant communities to restore watershed health, wildlife habitat, and ecological processes, and to reduce hazardous fuels.	Juniper cutting areas throughout the Three Rivers Resource Area	None	EA is in progress
EA OR-025-01-37 Primary Contact: Bill Andersen	Rams Butte Well/ Pipeline and Paul Well Pipeline	The proposed action is to drill a well and to bury 2 miles of pipeline. The purpose of this action is to improve livestock/wildlife water and to provide better distribution to livestock.	T. 27 S., R. 23 E.	None	EA is in progress. Decision signed March 14, 2003.
EA OR-025-02-030 Primary Contact: Jim King	Landing Creek Habitat Improvement	The proposed actions are to construct approximately 1-mile of new fence, reconstruct approximately 7 miles of fence, 300 acres of juniper control, and one spring development. The purpose of these actions is to improve the riparian areas of Landing Creek, Squaw Creek, and Cherry Springs, and to improve aspen stands in the area.	Landing Creek and Silvies River	None	EA initiated March 4, 2002. EA is in progress
EA OR-025-02-048 Primary Contact: Willie Street	Packsaddle Allotment Projects	The proposed actions are to realign portions of the existing pasture fences to improve livestock management within the allotment and to develop spring sources to protect the spring source and provide water for wildlife and livestock. The purpose of these actions is to improve management in the Wickiup Pasture and to improve riparian and meadow conditions. Development and protection of springs would reduce livestock impacts to spring sources	Wickiup Creek/Mineral Canyon	T&E Species, Riparian	EA initiated June 11, 2002. EA is in progress

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EA OR-025-02-063 Primary Contact: Terri Geisler	Green Obsidian Plan of Operations	The proposed action is to conduct small-scale mining for several years using an excavator and 5 cubic-yard dump truck, May to October, within a 20-acre claim area; each excavation would be refilled within 5 days of initial excavation, overburden would be piled within 50 feet of the excavation and is expected to consist of less than 100 cubic yards at any one time; no blasting. The purpose of this action is to permit a mining claimant to operate a small-scale mine on his mining claim.	Skull Creek Road north of Burns	None	EA initiated September 17, 2002. EA is in progress
EA OR-025-03-005 Primary Contact: Doug Linn	Wyoming Sagebrush Beating for Fuel Breaks	The proposed action is to reduce fuels adjacent to existing roads to optimize suppression of wildfire in Wyoming big sagebrush communities which are important sage-grouse habitat (and other sagebrush obligate species). The project area encompasses about 600,000 acres of Wyoming big sagebrush habitats, with approximately 2 percent of that area to be treated (if fully implemented). The purpose of this action is to increase the likelihood of containment of wildfire in Wyoming big sagebrush; to protect areas of high resource value from catastrophic wildfire; to attempt to minimize wildlife and Bureau sensitive species habitat loss; and to reduce the cost of rehabilitation by reducing the size of wildfires.	Glass Butte, Harney Lake (South of Hwy 20 and east and west of Hwy 395 about 20 miles)	None	EA initiated December 12, 2002. Decision signed July 24, 2003
EA OR-025-03-007 Primary Contact: Skip Renchler	Whiskey Pine Springs Project	The proposed actions are to thin juniper trees and construct an aspen enclosure and a spring development. The purpose of these actions is to improve the aspen stands by cutting the juniper trees, fence out grazing animals, and to develop water for wildlife and livestock.	WM T. 22 S., R. 32 E., S.2, Whiskey Pine Spring Project	None	EA initiated December 18, 2002. EA is in progress

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EA OR-025-03-009 Primary Contact: Willie Street	Drinkwater Permit Renewal	The proposed action is to issue a new grazing permit. The purpose of this action is to authorize livestock grazing to continue	East at Silvies Rim	None	EA initiated January 6, 2003. Decision signed April 18, 2003
EA OR-025-03-010 Primary Contact: Nick Miller	Coleman Creek/ Fir Gulch Fuel Reduction	The proposed actions are a combination of thinning, raking duff, piling fuel, and pile burning. A maximum of 397 acres would be treated. The purpose of these actions is to reduce surface fuel loading, to reduce over-stocked Douglas-fir stands to improve overall forest health, to reduce the risk of stand replacing fires, and to maintain the health and vigor of the area's larger trees.	Stinkingwater Mountains T. 19 S., R. 31 E, Sections 1 and 2.	None	EA initiated January 16, 2003. Decision signed September 3, 2003.
EA OR-025-03-013 Primary Contact: Jim King	Toelle Permit	The proposed action is to issue a new grazing permit. The purpose of this action is to authorize livestock grazing to continue.	Cow Creek	None	EA initiated January 17, 2003. Decision signed April 18, 2003
EA OR-025-03-014 Primary Contact: Jim King	Opie Permit	The proposed action is to issue a new grazing permit. The purpose of this action is to authorize livestock grazing to continue	Slocum Allotment	None	EA initiated January 17, 2003. Decision signed April 18, 2003.
EA OR-025-03-015 Primary Contact: Jim King	Reed Permit	The proposed action is to issue a new grazing permit. The purpose of this action is to authorize livestock grazing to continue.	Soldier Creek Allotment	None	EA initiated January 17, 2003. Decision signed April 18, 2003
EA OR-025-03-016 Primary Contact: Jim King	Marshall Permit	The proposed action is to issue a new grazing permit. The purpose of this action is to authorize livestock grazing to continue	Marshall FFR	None	EA initiated January 17, 2003. Decision signed April 18, 2003.
EA OR-025-03-017 Primary Contact: Joe Glascock	Borelli/Jones Dripp Springs	The proposed action is to issue a new grazing permit. The purpose of this action is to authorize livestock grazing to continue	Drewsey/Van	Sage-grouse	EA initiated February 21, 2003. Decision signed April 18, 2003
EA OR-025-03-018 Primary Contact: Joe Glascock	Poison Creek	The proposed action is to issue a new grazing permit. The purpose of this action is to authorize livestock grazing to continue.	Silvies Valley	Riparian	EA initiated January 21, 2003. Decision signed April 18, 2003.

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EA OR-025-03-019 Primary Contact: Joe Glascock	Forks of Poison Creek	The proposed action is to treat 1,850 acres of juniper woodland using a combination of mechanical and prescribed fire practices. The purpose of this action is to improve the upland health of the system	West of Devine Canyon	Sage-grouse	EA initiated January 21, 2003. Decision signed April 18, 2003.
EA OR-025-03-020 Primary Contact: Joe Glascock	Devine Ridge	The proposed action is to treat 3,750 acres of juniper woodland using a combination of mechanical and prescribed fire practices. The purpose of this action is to improve the upland health of the system	3 miles northeast of Burns	Sage-grouse	EA initiated January 21, 2003. Decision signed April 18, 2003.
EA OR-025-03-021 Primary Contact: Joe Glascock	Stinger Creek	The proposed action is to issue a new grazing permit. The purpose of this action is to authorize livestock grazing to continue.	41 Road	None	EA initiated January 21, 2003. Decision signed April 18, 2003.
EA OR-025-03-022 Primary Contact: Joe Glascock	Horton Mill	The proposed action is to issue a new grazing permit. The purpose of this action is to authorize livestock grazing to continue.	41 Road	None	EA initiated January 21, 2003. Decision signed April 18, 2003
EA OR-025-03-023 Primary Contact: Willie Street	Tom Davis	The proposed action is to issue a new grazing permit. The purpose of this action is to authorize livestock grazing to continue.	New Princeton	None	EA initiated January 21, 2003. Decision signed April 18, 2003
EA OR-025-03-025 Primary Contact: Skip Renchler	Burns Butte Shooting Range Recreation and Public Purposes Conveyance and RMP Amendment	The proposed action is to sell 240 acres under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act to the Burns Butte Sportsman's Club for an existing shooting range currently under lease to the Club. The plan amendment would adjust the land into a disposal zone to facilitate the sale. The purpose of this action is to authorize additional expansion of the range by the Club, to eliminate BLM's administration of the lease and associated buffer zone, and to minimize the United States' liabilities associated with operation of the range.	Shooting Range northwest of Burns	None	EA initiated January 23, 2003. EA is in progress

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EA OR-025-03-026 Primary Contact: Jim King	Jack Smith	The proposed action is to issue a new grazing permit. The purpose of this action is to authorize livestock grazing to continue.	West of Cow Creek	None	EA initiated January 23, 2003. Decision signed April 18, 2003.
EA OR-025-03-028 Primary Contact: Eric Haakenson	Capehart Lake Reservoir	The proposed action is to construct one reservoir pond in the Capehart Lake Allotment. The purpose of this action is to provide more water for livestock.	Capehart Lake Allotment	None	EA initiated January 24, 2003. Action canceled
EA OR-025-03-029 Primary Contact: Eric Haakenson	Arnold Ranches	The proposed action is to issue a new grazing permit. The purpose of this action is to authorize livestock grazing to continue.	Stinkingwater Mountain Range	None	EA initiated January 24, 2003. Decision signed April 18, 2003.
EA OR-025-03-030 Primary Contact: Doug Linn	Three Rivers Strategic Fuel Break	The proposed action is to divide a major portion of the Three Rivers Resource Area into 14 strategic fuel break zones and then further divide each zone into smaller units. These zones would be defined primarily by major (and some lesser) roads and trails. These roads and trails currently function as limited fire breaks and with some additional fuels reduction treatment (100 feet on either side of the road or trail) they would be safer for firefighters, cooler in temperature and strategically more valuable to wildland fire suppression efforts. The purpose of this action is to make populated areas, small towns, ranches, dispersed recreation sites, and other human-made resources as well as natural resources more defensible from erratic fire behavior.	Entire Three Rivers Resource Area	Firefighter and Public Safety, Resource Protection	EA initiated January 24, 2003. Decision signed July 20, 2004.
EA OR-025-03-031 Primary Contact: Eric Haakenson	Bell A Grazing Cooperation	The proposed action is to issue a new grazing permit. The purpose of this action is to authorize livestock grazing to continue.	Crane	Sage-grouse	EA initiated January 27, 2003. Decision signed April 18, 2003.
EA OR-025-03-032 Primary Contact: Eric Haakenson	Andy Root Spring Creek and Skull Creek	The proposed action is to issue a new grazing permit. The purpose of this action is to authorize livestock grazing to continue.	Skull Creek	None	EA initiated January 27, 2003. Decision signed April 18, 2003.

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EA OR-025-03-033 Primary Contact: Eric Haakenson	Andy Root State Field	The proposed action is to issue a new grazing permit. The purpose of this action is to authorize livestock grazing to continue.	Stinkingwaters	Sage-grouse	EA initiated January 27, 2003. Decision signed April 18, 2003.
EA OR-025-03-043 Primary Contact: Eric Haakenson	East Davies AMP	The proposed action is to change the grazing management to a rotational grazing system. The purpose of this action is to meet allotment objectives and the Standards for Rangeland Health.	East Davies Allotment	Cultural, Migratory Birds, Noxious Weeds	EA initiated February 10, 2003. EA is in progress.
EA OR-025-03-044 Primary Contact: Bill Andersen	Harney Hay Company Allotment Permit Renewal	The proposed action is to issue a new grazing permit. The purpose of this action is to authorize livestock grazing to continue.	Rock Creek Allotment	None	EA initiated February 18, 2003. Decision signed April 18, 2003.
EA OR-025-03-045 Primary Contact: Eric Haakenson	West Davies AMP	The proposed action is to change grazing management to fall/winter grazing. The purpose of this action is to meet allotment objectives and the Standards for Rangeland Health.	West Davies Allotment	Cultural Resources, Migratory Birds, Noxious Weeds	EA initiated February 27, 2003. EA is in progress.
EA OR-025-03-048 Primary Contact: Don Rotell	Forks of Poison Creek/Devine Ridge Juniper Abatement Project	The proposed action is to implement prescribed burning and juniper cutting. The purpose of this action is to reestablish mountain sagebrush communities by reducing juniper encroachment and to improve health of ponderosa pine communities through thinning.	Forks of Poison Creek/Devine Canyon Allotments	Cultural Resources, Migratory Birds, Noxious Weeds	EA initiated March 3, 2003. EA is in progress.
EA OR-025-03-057 Primary Contact: Eric Haakenson	Ramsey Riparian Fence	The proposed action is to construct one-quarter mile of fence. The purpose of this action is to enhance the management of the riparian plant communities on a portion of the South Fork of the Malheur River.	South Fork of the Malheur River	Riparian, Noxious Weeds	EA initiated April 1, 2003. EA is in progress
EA OR-025-03-064 Primary Contact: Terri Geisler	Neals Hill Material Source	The proposed action is to develop a rock source identified in the Steens Act. The purpose of this action is to supply mineral materials to upgrade and maintain the East Steens road.	T. 29 S., R. 36 E., Section 26	Steens Mountain CMPA	EA initiated April 21, 2003. EA is in progress.

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EA OR-025-03-066 Primary Contact: Terri Geisler	Stinkingwater Road Materials Source	The proposed action is to develop a rock source. The purpose of this action is to provide rock for roads in the vicinity.	Near Warm Springs Reservoir	None	EA initiated April 21, 2003. EA is in progress.
EA OR-025-03-070 Primary Contact: Nick Miller	Egli Ridge Guzzler	The proposed action is to install a wildlife guzzler in the Egli Ridge area. The purpose of this action is to provide dependable year-round water to wildlife in the area where that resource is limiting.	Egli Ridge T. 26 S., R. 25 E., Section 6	Cultural Heritage, Migratory Birds, Noxious Weeds	EA initiated May 5, 2003. Decision signed July 31, 2003
EA OR-025-03-082 Primary Contact: Jim King	West Warm Springs AMP	The proposed action is to analyze proposed grazing management alternatives. The purpose of this action is to implement grazing management to meet Standards and Guidelines and allotment-specific objectives.	West Warm Springs Allotment	Sage-grouse, wild horses	EA initiated September 4, 2003. EA is in progress
EA OR-025-04-01 Primary Contact: Casey Pevey	Purple Loosestrife Treatment (Noxious Weed)	The proposed action is to treat areas in the riparian zone with herbicide (Rodeo). The purpose of this action is to improve riparian habitat.	Stinkingwater Creek and Lamb Ranch	None	EA initiated October 21, 2003. Decision signed January 30, 2004.
EA OR-025-04-04 Primary Contact: Bill Andersen	Tired Horse Well and Trough	The proposed action is to drill a well and install a 16-foot round trough. The purpose of this action is to implement a grazing rotation system in a new AMP.	West Wagontire Allotment	None	EA initiated October 23, 2003. Decision signed December 15, 2003.
EA OR-025-04-07 Primary Contact: Bill Andersen	Tree Top Ranch Grazing Permit Renewal	The proposed action is to analyze transfer of permit and issue a 10-year period. The purpose of this action is to authorize livestock grazing to continue.	Dry Lake, Hunter, Catterson, and Buck Mountain Allotments	None	EA initiated November 17, 2003. Decision signed April 19, 2004.
EA OR-025-04-08 Primary Contact: Bill Andersen	Young Land and Livestock Co.	The proposed action is to analyze a Section 15 grazing lease. The purpose of this action is to authorize grazing use to continue.	Poison Creek Allotment	None	EA initiated November 19, 2003. Decision signed April 19, 2004.
EA OR-025-04-015 Primary Contact: Willie Street	Cronin Grazing Permit Renewal	The proposed action is to analyze existing term grazing permit. The purpose of this action is to authorize grazing use to continue.	Coal Mine Creek, Horse Butte Allotments	Biscuitroot ACEC, T&E Species	EA initiated December 4, 2003. Decision signed March 19, 2004.

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EA OR-025-04-016 Primary Contact: Willie Street	D.J. Miller Ranches Grazing Permit Renewal	The proposed action is to analyze existing grazing. The purpose of this action is to authorize grazing use to continue, renew term permit.	Palomino Butte and East Sagehen Allotment	T&E Species	EA initiated December 4, 2003. Decision signed March 19, 2004
EA OR-025-04-017 Primary Contact: Willie Street	Raney Grazing Permit Renewal	The proposed action is to analyze existing grazing. The purpose of this action is to authorize grazing use with a new 10-year permit.	Hat Butte Allotment	T&E Species	EA initiated December 4, 2003. Decision signed March 19, 2004
EA OR-025-04-018 Primary Contact: Eric Haakenson	Rickman Ranches Grazing Permit Renewal	The proposed action is to analyze existing grazing. The purpose of this action is to authorize grazing use with a new 10-year permit.	Dry Mountain and Claw Creek Allotments	Silver Creek ACEC/RNA	EA initiated December 18, 2003. Decision signed March 19, 2004.
EA OR-025-04-018-1 Primary Contact: Nick Miller	Lake Creek/Boone Canyon Forest Restoration	The proposed action is to analyze the removal/thinning of trees. The purpose of this action is to improve forest health and protect aspen.	Silvies River T. 21 S., R. 29 E., Sections 14, 15, 22-27	Air Quality, Water Quality, Wetlands, Riparian, Migratory Birds, Special Status Plants, Special Status Wildlife Species, Noxious Weeds, Cultural Heritage	EA initiated December 28, 2003. EA is in progress.
EA OR-025-04-020 Primary Contact: Nick Miller	John and Vicki Clemens Grazing Permit Renewal	The proposed action is to analyze existing grazing. The purpose of this action is to authorize grazing use with a new 10-year permit.	Forks of Poison Creek Allotment	Special Status Wildlife Species, Migratory Birds	EA initiated January 5, 2004. Decision signed March 19, 2004.
EA OR-025-04-021 Primary Contact: Nick Miller	John and Vicki Clements (Dimick Lease) Grazing Permit Renewal	The proposed action is to analyze existing grazing. The purpose of this action is to authorize grazing use with a new 10-year permit.	Forks of Poison Creek Allotment	Special Status Wildlife Species, Migratory Birds	EA initiated January 5, 2004. EA is in progress.
EA OR-025-04-030 Primary Contact: Bill Andersen	Riddle Creek Fence Realignment	The proposed action is to change the fence line and allotment boundary. The purpose of this action is to replace forage due to realignment of fence along private land due to Steens Act implementation.	Riddle Creek Area	Within Steens Mountain CMPA boundary	EA initiated January 20, 2004. EA is in progress.
EA OR-025-04-032 Primary Contact: Eric Haakenson	Wayne Blaylock Grazing Permit Renewal	The proposed action is to analyze existing grazing. The purpose of this action is to authorize grazing use with new 10-year permit.	Warm Springs Reservoir Allotment	None	EA initiated March 19, 2004. Decision signed March 19, 2004.

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EA OR-025-04-033 Primary Contact: Angie Foster	Miller Canyon Fuels Treatment	The proposed action is to implement prescribed burns and juniper cutting. The purpose of this action is to reduce juniper encroachment to restore mountain sagebrush plant communities.	Stinkingwater Mountain	Cultural, Migratory Birds	EA initiated January 26, 2004. EA is in progress.
EA OR-025-04-037 Primary Contact: Jim King	Slocum AMP	The proposed action is to implement changes to livestock management. The purpose of this action is to meet Standards and Guidelines and allotment-specific objectives.	Slocum Allotment located 37 miles SE of Burns	Noxious Weeds, Migratory Birds	EA initiated February 9, 2004. EA is in progress.
EA OR-025-04-038 Primary Contact: Angie Foster	SHED Restoration Project	The proposed action is to conduct 1,500 acres of thinning and piling. The purpose of this action is to improve restore ponderosa pine ecosystems and to reduce fuel hazards.	Silvies Area T. 17 S., R. 31 E., Sections 11, 14, 15, 22 Hopper T. 18 S., R. 32 E., Sections 3 and 4	Special Status Wildlife Species, Noxious Weeds, Migratory Birds	EA initiated February 11, 2004. EA is in progress.
EA OR-025-04-040 Primary Contact: Lindsay Aschim	Egli Reservoir Waterfowl Habitat Improvement	The proposed action is to fence the reservoir and build a road around the site. The purpose of this action is to protect the habitat from livestock and vehicles.	East Wagontire Allotment	Migratory Birds, Special Status Wildlife Species	EA initiated February 13, 2004. EA is in progress.
EA OR-025-04-043 Primary Contact: Lindsay Aschim	Lake Pasture Exclosure Fence	The proposed action is to construct 3 ½ miles of fence and install one cattle guard. The purpose of this action is to restore riparian habitat.	Middle Fork Malheur Allotment	Riparian, Special Status Wildlife Species, Noxious Weeds	EA initiated March 3, 2004. EA is in review.
EA OR-025-04-044 Primary Contact: Don Rotell	Divine Ridge/ Forks of Poison Creek Vegetation Management	The proposed action is to prescribe burn and juniper cutting mechanical thinning and burning in forested sites. The purpose of this action is to restore mountain sagebrush communities from juniper encroachment, to restore forest health, and to reduce fire hazard.	Divine Ridge/ Forks of Poison Creek 6 miles north of Burns	Air Quality, Special Status Wildlife Species, Special Status Plants, Riparian, Noxious Weeds, Cultural	EA initiated March 4, 2004. EA is in progress.
EA OR-025-04-067 Primary Contact: Willie Street	Jack Creek Restoration Project	The proposed action is to exclude 1.25 miles of Jack Creek, drill a well, construct pipeline, build 6 miles of fence, and change the management on 3,000 acres. The purpose of this action is to improve riparian habitat, provide periodic rest for 3,000 acres of native range.	East Warm Springs Allotment	HMA, Sage-grouse	EA initiated May 18, 2004. EA is in progress.

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EA OR-026-94-059 Primary Contact: Joe Glascock	Stonehouse AMP	The proposed action is to implement a grazing system and prescribed fire on the Stonehouse Allotment. This will be based on the evaluation. The purpose of this action is to improve riparian and upland range condition and plant diversity on sagebrush and juniper-dominated sites	T. 30 and 31 S., R. 34 and 35 E., northeast side of Steens Mountain	WSA; Riddle Creek and Headwaters of Deep Creek	Allotment evaluation was completed May 2000, revised and sent for public review March 2001. The Decision was revised to only include the prescribed fire and was appealed to IBLA. The Manager's Decision was upheld by IBLA. The prescribed burn was completed September 2002. The AMP/EA proposal was modified as recommended by the Steens Mountain Advisory Council. This will be provided to the interested public who commented on the March 2002 edition, for additional comments.
EA OR-026-01-24 Primary Contact: Rick Hall	Lower Grassy Pipeline Extension	The proposed action is to bury 1¼ mile of pipeline and to install trough. The purpose of this action is to improve livestock distribution and to implement projects identified in the AMP.	Grassy Basin Allotment	None	EA is in progress.
EA OR-026-02-025 Primary Contact: Cam Swisher	LaVoy Table AMP	The proposed actions are to renew the 10 year permit, make the Highway Pasture trailing only, remove the South Duhaime Pasture from the allotment, and increase wildlife AUMs. The purpose of these actions is to continue multiple-use objectives, to reduce safety concerns, to put South Duhaime Pasture into the North Catlow Allotment to fit with the rancher's operations, and to adjust the AMP to correspond to ODFW big game estimated forage requirements.	Southwest of Frenchglen	Blitzen River WSA, South Steens HMA, ACEC, Special Status Plants	EA initiated February 2, 2002. EA is in progress.

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EA OR-026-02-043 Primary Contact: Dave Ward	Defenbaugh Fence	The proposed action is to construct 2-5 miles of fence in the Trout Creek Mountain Allotment. The purpose of this action is to change livestock access to the Mahogany Ridge Pasture to allow for continued riparian improvement on the lower reach of Big Trout Creek.	Trout Creek Mountain	WSA	EA initiated April 10, 2002. EA is in progress.
EA OR-026-02-047 Primary Contact: Rick Hall	Sandhills Allotment	The proposed action is to assess the Sandhills Allotment and projects to implement the AMP as proposed in the evaluation. The purpose of this action is to continue multiple-use objectives and improve livestock management.	Trout Creek/ Bilk Creek, Sandhills Allotment	None	EA initiated May 30, 2002. EA is in progress.
EA OR-026-03-065 Primary Contact: Terri Geisler	Long Hollow Summit Material Site Expansion	The proposed action is to develop a rock source. The purpose of this action is to provide rock for roads in the vicinity.	Adjacent to Steens CMPA T. 37 S., R. 32¼ E. Section 21	None	EA initiated April 21, 2003. EA is in progress.
EA OR-026-03-084 Primary Contact: Doug Linn	Andrews Management Unit Strategic Fuels Break	The proposed action is to manipulate vegetation by use of brushing, juniper cutting, and burning. The purpose of this action is to optimize fire suppression and protection of resources.	Andrews Resource Area excluding CMPA	WSA	EA initiated September 8, 2003. EA is on hold.
EA OR-027-02-011 Primary Contact: Mark Sherbourne	Steens Mountain Wilderness Inholding Access	The proposed action is to authorize reasonable motorized access for landowners to private land completely surrounded by wilderness. The purpose of this action is to comply with the directives of the Steens Act.	Designated Wilderness	Wilderness, WSR	EA is in progress. Decision issued June 28, 2004. Additional analysis and decision expected in fall 2004.
EA OR-027-02-12 Primary Contact: John Neeling	Steens Mountain Wilderness Grazing Access	The proposed action is to allow occasional motorized vehicle access for grazing permittees. The purpose of this action is to comply with the directives of the Steens Act.	Designated Wilderness	Wilderness	EA is in progress.

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EA OR-027-03-034 Primary Contact: Holly LaChapelle	Miller Land Exchange	The proposed action is to conduct a land exchange with Rock Creek Ranch in which the BLM acquires 233 acres within the CMPA and disposes of approximately 600 acres in Catlow Valley adjacent to Rock Creek Ranch. The purpose of this action is to acquire land within the CMPA and adjacent to Stonehouse WSA. The offered private land is excellent wildlife habit for chukars and mule deer. Land adjacent to Rock Creek Ranch is primarily suited for agriculture. Two small wilderness inholdings totaling 30 acres may also be acquired by BLM.	CMPA ñ East Steens/Catlow Valley	WSA	EA to be initiated in fall/winter 2004.
EA OR-027-03-064 Primary Contact: Terri Geisler	Steens Act Materials Sources	The proposed action is to develop three rock sources identified in the Steens Act. The purpose of this action is to provide rock for roads in the vicinity.	Within the Steens CMPA	Steens CMPA	EA initiated April 21, 2003. EA is in progress.
EA OR-027-03-068 Primary Contact: Joe Glascock	South Steens Wild Horse HMA Gather Plan	The proposed action is to gather wild horses in the Steens Mountain HMA in fall of 2004. The purpose of this action is to return the herd to AML.	West side of Steens south of Fish Creek	Steens CMPA	EA initiated April 24, 2004. EA is in progress, and is currently out for public comment (summer 2004)..
EA OR-027-03-075 Primary Contact: Jim Buchanan	Kiger/Riddle Wild Horse HMA Gather	The proposed action is to gather wild horses in the Kiger and Riddle HMA in fall of 2003. The purpose of this action is to return the herd to AML.	North Steens/Riddle Mountain	Steens CMPA	EA initiated June 11, 2003. Decision signed September 3, 2003.
EA OR-027-03-085 Primary Contact: Doug Linn	CMPA Strategic Fuels Break	The proposed action is to control vegetation by use of brush beating, juniper cutting, and burning. The purpose of this action is to optimize fire suppression and protection of resources.	Various locations in the CMPA	Steens CMPA	EA initiated September 8, 2003. EA is on hold.
EA OR-027-04-031 Primary Contact: Scott Thomas	Mortar Riddle Site Excavation	The proposed action is to do a scientific excavation of an archaeological site. The purpose of this action is to fully describe contents and condition of the site.	Riddle Brothers Ranch T. 33 S., R. 32¼ E. Section 31	Steens CMPA, Donner und Blitzen WSR	EA initiated January 21, 2004. EA signed June 1, 2004.

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<p>EA OR-027-04-039</p> <p>Primary Contact: Cam Swisher</p>	<p>New Hog Wallow Well (Otley Well)</p>	<p>The proposed action is to drill new well, install one-quarter mile pipeline and a 30-foot trough.</p> <p>The purpose of this action is to supplement water from Hog Wallow Well and keep livestock well distributed in reseeded area.</p>	<p>Krumbo Crested Wheatgrass Seeding</p>	<p>Steens CMPA Special Status Species, Wild Horses, ACEC, RNA</p>	<p>EA initiated February 11, 2004.</p> <p>Decision signed April 6, 2004.</p>

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

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