Land Use Plan Conformance and NEPA Adequacy

U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management
Prineville District, 3050 NE Third Street, Prineville, Oregon

Proposed Action Title: Scott Creek Allotment, #4061, Grazing Lease

DNA Number: OR-054-06-111

Location of the Proposed Action: Scott Creek Allotment is located 7 1/4 air miles northwest of Dayville, Oregon.

Purpose of and Need for Action: The grazing permit for this allotment will expire in FY07. The purpose of and need for his action is to re-authorize grazing use for another 10-year period.

Description of the Proposed Action: Renew a grazing permit for the permittee in the above listed allotments for a term of ten years. Except for the term shown on the permit, all terms and conditions on the permit will remain the same, including allocated AUM's and season of use.

Plan Conformance:

The above project has been reviewed and found to be in conformance with one or more of the following BLM plans: These documents are available for review at the Prineville District BLM office.

John Day Resource Management Plan (RMP) & Environmental Impact Statement, Record of Decision August, 1985.

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the LUP decision referenced in the *NEPA Adequacy Criteria* section of this document.

Applicable NEPA document and related documents:

The following NEPA documents and related documents address the proposed action: *John Day Resource Management Plan (RMP) & Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), and Record of Decision August, 1985.*

NEPA Adequacy Criteria

1. Is the current proposed action substantially the same action (or is a part of that action) as previously analyzed? Is the current proposed action located at a site specifically analyzed in an existing document/

Livestock grazing in the Scott Creek Allotment is specifically addressed in the RMP/EIS/ ROD referenced above. The Scott Creek Allotment is addressed on page 29 of the

RMP/EIS/ROD referenced above. The grazing preference authorized in the 1,907 acre allotment was 238 AUM's. No portion of the allotment was proposed for livestock exclusion. The grazing season authorized was from April 1 to November 30.

On November 14, 2002, a proposed grazing decision was issued. When the Oregon Land Exchange Act of 2000 was passed, 960 acres in the allotment was conveyed into private ownership. There are 947 acres in the allotment. The grazing preference was changed from 238 AUM's to 119 AUM's. No protests or appeals were received.

On September 30, 2005, Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Management Assessment for the allotment was signed by Christina M. Welch, Field Manager, Central Oregon Resource Area. The assessment recommended that the grazing season be changed from April 1 to November 30 to August 1 to September 30. The grazing preference will be adjusted to 119 AUM's.

2. *Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document appropriate with respect to the current proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values?*

Alternatives in the planning document (page 7 to page 10 of the Record of Decision) ranged from emphasize commodity production to no action. Scott Creek Allotment is classified as a "C" (Custodial) allotment. The grazing preference will be 119 AUM's for the Scott Creek Allotment and appears appropriate given the current issues.

3. *Is the existing analysis valid in the light of any new information or circumstances?*

In 2005 the BLM completed the Standards for Rangeland Health & Guidelines for Grazing Management (43 CFR 4180) assessment for this allotment. The assessment is available for review at the Prineville District BLM. The assessment concluded that the livestock grazing conformed to the guidelines for livestock grazing. The assessment recommended that the authorized grazing season be changed from April 1 to November 30 to August 1 to September 30. In the new term lease the authorized grazing season will be from August 1 to September 30.

4. *Do the methodology and analytical approach used in the existing NEPA documents(s) continue to be appropriate for the current proposed action?*

The John Day RMP/EIS addressed impacts of continued grazing and provided objectives and recommendations to facilitate maintenance of existing ecological condition trends (pages 14-18 and 29-35 of ROD). The approach is still considered vital.

5. *Are the direct and indirect impacts of the current proposed action substantially unchanged from those analyzed in the Draft John Day RMP/EIS)? Does the existing NEPA document analyze site-specific impacts related to the current proposed action?*

Impacts resulting from grazing are essentially unchanged from those analyzed in the Draft John Day RMP/EIS. The Draft John Day RMP/EIS(pages 62-65, 72-73) stated grazing management will beneficially impact soils and water resources, plant diversity, riparian vegetation, wildlife upland habitat, and fish habitat. Under the preferred alternative grazing will have no significant effect on vegetation types and improve ecological condition. Under the preferred alternative there will be a low impact to cultural resources by grazing.

6. Are the cumulative impacts that would result from the implementation of the current proposed action substantially unchanged from those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)?

The RMP does not specifically address cumulative impacts of grazing but does address long term impacts of the action with the assumption that the grazing activity would continue (impact analysis is on page 63 of Draft RMP/EIS). AUM's throughout the John Day areas will change from 25,323 to 25,734 over time. Recommendations and objectives in the document reflect the impacts and expected improvements that will continue with the ongoing grazing. The proposed action is substantially unchanged from those analyzed impacts.

7. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with the existing NEPA document(s)?

Many of the individuals/organizations on our current "interested publics" list are the same as those on the mailing list for the RMP/EIS referenced above. A copy of this DNA worksheet will be mailed to a representative of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and to other individuals and organizations that have expressed an interest in this or similar actions.

Interdisciplinary Analysis:
The following Prineville District BLM employees reviewed this analysis for accuracy in their area of expertise.

Name	Resource Represented	Intials/Date
Don Zalunardo	Wildlife, Special Status Animals	(*) DRZ 6/14/07
Heidi Mottl	Recreation, Wilderness	HM 3/25/07
John Morris	Fisheries	JJM 5/1/07
John Zancanella	Cultural Resources	JZ 3/26/07
Ron Halvorson	Botany, Special Status Plants	RMH 3/29/07
Kenneth Primrose	Range, Livestock Grazing	KP 5/2/07
Larry Thomas	Soils, Hazardous Materials	LT 5/4/2007
Dan Tippy	NEPA Coordinator	DT 5/2/07
Bill Pieratt	Noxious Weeds	WJP 5-4-07

(*) Three species of Federally listed, Federal Candidate, or Bureau Sensitive wildlife found when a search of the districts sightings database was done for the general area of this allotment. List is attached. DRZ

Mitigation Measures:
The BLM is in the process of implementing the Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for grazing management. This lease is subject to modification as necessary to achieve compliance with these standards and guidelines (43 CFR 4180).

The following mitigation measures will be implemented as part of the proposed action: A Manual Supplement, entitled "Rangeland Monitoring in Oregon and Washington", was developed and adopted by the BLM as a guidance document. The Prineville District also developed a district-monitoring plan. Both of these documents receive periodic review and revision. These documents provide a framework and minimum standards for choosing the timing and study methods to collect information needed to issue decisions which affect grazing management as well as watershed, wildlife and threatened and endangered species

Recommendations:
I recommend that the grazing lease for the Scott Creek Allotment be renewed.

Prepared By: Mike Titmuger Date 12-18-2007
Title: Rangeland Management Specialist

Plan Conformance/DNA Determination
The proposed action and any specified mitigation measures (s) were determined to meet the criteria for a Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA). No additional environmental analysis is required. All cultural, T & E plant, and T & E wildlife specialists have provided clearance for the proposed project.

Reviewed By: Danny L. Tipping Date 1/22/08
Environmental Coordinator

Approval:
Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal confirms to the applicable land use plan and the NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of NEPA.

Approved By: Danny L. Tipping Date 1/22/08
Christina M. Welch
Central Oregon Resource Area Field Manager

Note: The signature on this Worksheet is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal decision process and cannot be appealed.

allot #4061

	Date	ID	Species	T	R	S	1/4	1/16	Acc	Observer	M	F	UA	Y	Un	T	Notes	Nearest Landmark
	8/3/1992	3352	AMERICAN CROW	13S	27E	6	SW	SW	TR40	Rick Demmer	0	0	0	0	1	1	ROBIN	
	7/1/1981	2506	AMERICAN KESTREL	13S	27E	1	n/a	n/a	TR640	Kuritsubo	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	8/5/1991	3189	BIGHORN SHEEP	13S	27E	3	SW	NW	TR40	Crateau	0	0	0	0	2	2		
	8/5/1991	3190	BIGHORN SHEEP	13S	27E	3	SE	NE	TR40	Crateau	0	0	0	0	3	3		
	6/28/1993	2426	BLUE GROUSE	13S	28E	3	SE	n/a	TR160	Scott Cooke	0	0	0	0	1	1	FLUSHED WHILE WALKING THROUGH PIPO STAND	
	6/4/1998	1745	BROWN CREEPER	12S	28E	4	NE	NE	TR40	Sherrill	0	0	0	0	2	2		
	8/5/1991	3191	CHUKAR	13S	27E	3	SW	NW	TR40	Crateau	0	0	0	0	20	20		
	6/11/1996	802	COOPER'S HAWK	13S	28E	3	NW	SE	TR40	Sherrill	0	0	0	0	1	1	1 COOPER'S HAWKIN A TREE	
	9/21/1981	1174	ELK	12S	28E	2	NE	NW	TR40	Jech	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	7/17/1991	3162	ELK	13S	27E	3	SW	SW	TR40	Crateau	0	0	0	0	5	5		
	7/17/1991	3165	MULE DEER	13S	27E	3	SW	NW	TR40	Crateau	1	0	0	0	0	1		
+	5/28/1996	73	NORTHERN GOSHAWK	12S	27E	2	SE	SW	TR40	Sherrill	1	0	0	0	0	1	1 MALE GOSHAWK SIGHTED ADJACENT TO PLOT	
+	5/1/1997	75	NORTHERN GOSHAWK	12S	28E	6	SW	NE	TR40	Sherrill	0	1	0	0	0	1	Sixteenth was entered as "N" - changed to NE.	
+	5/1/1997	76	NORTHERN GOSHAWK	12S	28E	8	SW	n/a	TR160	Sherrill	2	0	0	0	0	2		
+	5/21/1998	77	NORTHERN GOSHAWK	12S	28E	7	SE	SW	TR40	Sherrill	1	0	0	0	0	1	GOSHAWK WAS OBSERVED HERE IN '97 & '98	
+	5/21/1998	78	NORTHERN GOSHAWK	12S	28E	7	NW	NW	TR40	Sherrill	0	1	0	0	0	1	GOSHAWK WAS OBSERVED AT THIS SITE IN '97	
	5/23/1998	74	NORTHERN GOSHAWK	12S	28E	8	NE	SE	TR40	Sherrill	1	0	0	0	0	1		
	6/28/1995	774	PILEATED WOODPECKER	12S	28E	4	n/a	n/a	TR640	Olson	0	0	0	0	1	1		
	6/5/1996	799	PILEATED WOODPECKER	12S	28E	5	NE	SW	TR40	Sherrill	0	0	0	0	1	1	HILLSIDE	
+	9/14/1995	793	PYGMY NUTHATCH	12S	27E	4	n/a	n/a	TR640	Sherrill	0	0	0	0	2	2		
	8/3/1992	3377	RACCOON	13S	27E	6	SW	SW	TR40	Rick Demmer	0	0	0	0	0	0	ROBIN	
	9/7/1981	1173	RED-TAILED HAWK	13S	27E	1	n/a	n/a	TR640	Kuritsubo	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	8/3/1992	3380	RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD	13S	27E	6	SW	SW	TR40	Rick Demmer	0	0	0	0	1	1	ROBIN	
	8/3/1992	3385	SONG SPARROW	13S	27E	6	SW	SW	TR40	Rick Demmer	0	0	0	0	1	1	ROBIN	
	9/21/1981	1175	STELLER'S JAY	12S	28E	2	NE	NW	TR40	Jech	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	6/4/1998	1746	WESTERN BLUEBIRD	12S	28E	4	NE	NE	TR40	Sherrill	0	1	0	0	0	1		
	8/5/1991	3192	WESTERN RATTLESNAKE	13S	27E	3	SW	NW	TR40	Crateau	0	0	0	0	1	1		
	6/3/1996	797	WESTERN TANAGER	12S	28E	6	NE	NE	TR40	Sherrill	0	0	0	0	1	1	CREEK	
	6/5/1996	800	WESTERN TANAGER	12S	28E	5	NE	SW	TR40	Sherrill	0	0	0	0	1	1	HILLSIDE	
	6/28/1995	775	WHITE-HEADED WOODPECKER	12S	28E	4	n/a	n/a	TR640	Sherrill	1	0	0	0	0	1		
+	6/11/1996	803	WHITE-HEADED WOODPECKER	13S	28E	3	SW	SW	TR40	Sherrill	0	0	0	0	1	1		
	9/21/1981	1176	YELLOW WARBLER	12S	28E	2	NE	NW	TR40	Jech	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	6/3/1996	798	YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER	12S	28E	6	NE	NE	TR40	Sherrill	0	0	0	0	2	2	CREEK	

All Bureau Sensitive species.