Prineville District

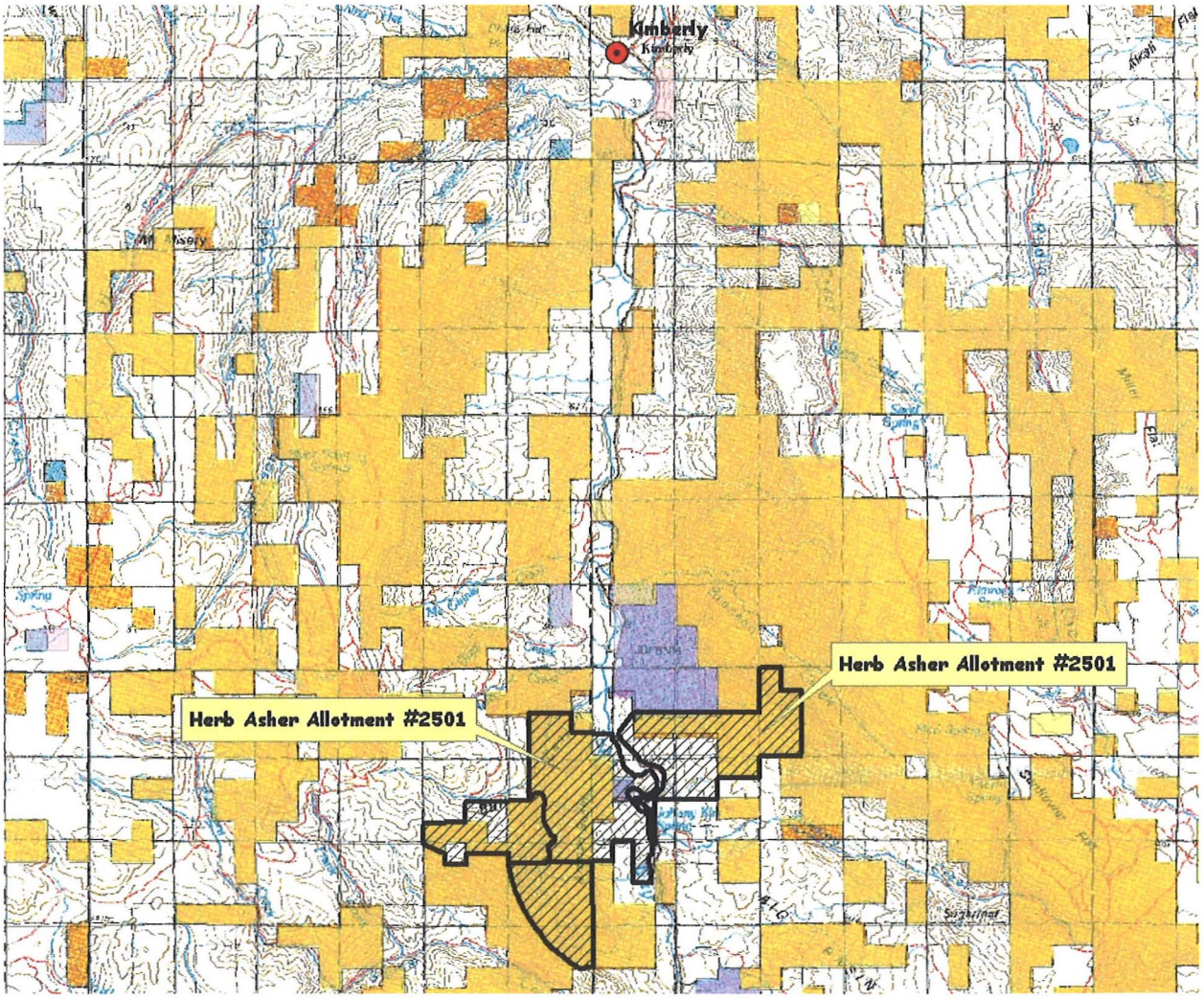
Land Use Plan Conformance and
Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)
Review and Approval

Name of Proposed Action: Herb Asher Allotment #2501 Grazing Lease Renewal

DNA Number: OR-054-08-024

Project or Serial Number: (If applicable)

Location of Proposed Action: Approximately 10 miles south of Kimberly, OR



Purpose of the Proposed Action: Authorize grazing use on public lands in the Herb Asher Allotment #2501. The current grazing lease has expired and has been applied for by the current lessee.

Need for the Proposed Action: BLM regulations require that livestock owners operating on public lands possess a valid grazing permit or lease. 43CFR 4130.2 (a) states: "Grazing permits or leases shall be issued to qualified applicants to authorize use on the public lands and other lands under the administration of the Bureau of Land Management that are designated as available for livestock grazing through land use plans." Further, 43CFR 4130.2 (e) requires that "Permittees or lessees holding expiring grazing permits or leases shall have priority for new permits or leases if: (1) The lands for which the permit or lease is issued remain available for domestic livestock grazing; (2) The permittee or lessee is in compliance with the rules and regulations and the terms and conditions in the permit or lease; (3) The permittee or lessee accepts the terms and conditions to be included by the authorized officer in the new permit or lease.

Description of the Proposed Action: Reissue the grazing lease for the grazing lessee in the above listed allotment for a term of two years (4/1/2009-3/31/11). Except for the term shown on the permit, all terms and conditions on the permit will remain the same; including permitted AUM's and season of use.

Permitted Use is:

Permitted Use	Active Use	Suspended Use
101	101	0

Proposed annual grazing use is:

22 cattle	4/1 – 12/31	51%PL	101 AUMs

Plan Conformance:

The above project has been reviewed and found to be in conformance with one or more of the following BLM plan(s):

Land Use Plan Name: Two Rivers RMP Date Approved (ROD): June, 1986

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP(s) because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decisions:

Page 10: Goal and Objective of the Plan- Objective 1- Maintain forage production and livestock use at 17,778 AUMs. Maintain current livestock grazing levels and meet riparian and upland vegetation management objectives.

Page 14: Livestock Grazing- The availability of forage will remain at 17,778 AUMs in the short term. Appendix D indicates current levels of livestock grazing and present ecological condition for all allotments. The Herb Asher Allotment authorized use is 101 AUMs.

Applicable NEPA document and related documents:
The following NEPA documents and related documents address the proposed action:
John Day River Proposed Management Plan (June 2000)

Rangeland Health Standards Assessment, Sept. 2005

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?
YES and YES
The Preferred Alternative in the Two Rivers RMP DEIS (1984) was to continue to lease public lands in the planning area at current livestock grazing levels. When originally analyzed in the Two Rivers RMP (1986) the Herbert Asher Allotment grazing use was:

Cattle	4/1 – 12/31	101 AUM's

Cattle numbers were not specified in the DEIS.
Proposed use is within the same allotment and grazing season as analyzed.

2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA documents appropriate with respect to the current proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values?
YES
Livestock grazing was addressed under all alternatives in the Two Rivers DEIS.
Alternative A (Preferred Alternative) - Forage available for livestock would remain at 17,778 AUMs in the short term and would be increased to 19,920 in the long term (page v).
Alternative B- Forage available for livestock would increase to 19,189 in the short term and 24,217 AUMs in the long term (page v).
Alternative C (No Action) – Forage available for livestock would remain at 17,778 AUMs (page vi).
Alternative D- Forage available for livestock would decrease to 12,309 in the short term and 13,834 AUMs in the long term (page vi).
Alternative E- Livestock grazing would be eliminated from public lands in the planning area (page vi).
Appendix K of the DEIS lists forage use by allotment by alternative for each allotment. The Herbert Asher Allotment is found on page 117 with 101 AUM's use identified for Alternative A (Preferred Alternative).

3. Is the existing analysis valid in the light of any new information or circumstances?
YES
The John Day River Management Plan FEIS (2000) analyzed grazing use in the river corridor with decisions made to protect and enhance river values. The management change identified for the Herbert Asher Allotment was "Adjust use authorizations to prohibit grazing on public lands within riparian exclosure" (FEIS, Volume2, Appendix L, page 198).

A Rangeland Health Assessment conducted in 2005 identified no concerns with current grazing use.

Monitoring and compliance checks have revealed no resource conflicts or concerns.

4. Do the methodology and analytical approach used in the existing NEPA documents continue to be appropriate for the current proposed action?
YES
The Two Rivers RMP DEIS analyzed impacts of the alternatives to livestock grazing (DEIS-page 64). Alternative ranged from maximum commodity production to no grazing. Analysis in the DEIS indicated that no changes in current forage use were required under the Preferred Alternative (Appendix K). Rangeland developments required to implement Alternative A (Preferred Alternative) are found in Appendix L.

The John Day River Management Plan FEIS analyzed grazing use in the river corridor (Volume 1, pages 162-173). Allotment specific management actions were identified for maintaining and enhancing river values (FEIS, Volume 2, Appendix L). The current proposed action meets the identified allotment requirements.

5. Are the direct and indirect impacts of the current proposed action substantially unchanged from those analyzed in the NEPA document(s)? Does the existing NEPA document analyze site-specific impacts related to the current proposed action?

YES
Impacts resulting from grazing are essentially unchanged from those analyzed in the Two Rivers RMP DEIS. The DEIS (Environmental Consequences, pages 57-72) analyzed impacts to soil, water, vegetation, wildlife, and livestock grazing of the Alternatives. Analysis indicated that under the preferred alternative no livestock grazing reductions would be necessary to maintain current livestock grazing levels and current acceptable ecological condition (page 60).

The John Day River Management Plan FEIS analyzed grazing impacts in the river corridor (Volume 1, pages 162-173). The current proposed action will result in substantially the same impacts as those identified in these NEPA documents. The proposed action is a continuation of existing management.

The 2005 Rangeland Health Assessment assessed allotment specific conditions.

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)?

YES
The Two Rivers RMP DEIS 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 begins on page 58 of DEIS). AUM's throughout the Two Rivers area will change from 17,778 to 19,920 under the Preferred Alternative over time. Recommendations and objectives in the document reflect the impacts and expected conditions that will continue with the ongoing grazing. The proposed action is substantially unchanged from those analyzed impacts.

The John Day River Plan FEIS addresses Cumulative Impacts in Volume 1, page 336. This analysis notes that management of BLM lands adjacent to the river will have limited impact on instream conditions due to the preponderance of private lands not included in the plan. The proposed action affects only livestock grazing on public lands in the allotment.

7. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with the existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current proposed action?
YES
Many of the individuals/organizations on our current "interested publics" list are the same as those on the mailing list for the documents 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	Title	Resource Represented
Don Zalunardo	NRS	Wildlife, Special Status Animals
Jim Eisner	Fisheries Bilogist	Fisheries
John Zancanella	Archeologist	Cultural Resources
Ron Halvorson	Botanist	Botany, Special Status Plants
Colleen Wyllie	RMS	Range, Livestock Grazing

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).

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

Signature
Responsible official: Christina M. Welch 3/27/2009
Christina Welch, Field Manager, CORA Date

Note: The signed Conclusion on this Worksheet is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal decision process and does not constitute an appealable decision. However, the lease, permit, or other authorization based on this DNA is subject to protest or appeal under 43 CFR Part 4 and the program specific regulations.

Contact Person
For additional information concerning this review, contact: Colleen Wyllie, Rangeland Management Specialist, Prineville District Office, 3050 NE 3rd Street, Prineville, OR 97754, telephone (541) 575-3146, Colleen_Wyllie@blm.gov.