Prineville District

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

Review and Approval

Name of Proposed Action: Renewal of a Grazing Permit that includes the Weigand Allotment, # 5114.

DNA Number: OR-056-08-026

Location of Proposed Action: Two miles East of Redmond on the south side of Highway 126.

Allotment Summary: 3,084 acres; 177 active, 0 suspended, 177 total AUM's; season of use: deferred rotation

Purpose of and Need for Action: The grazing permit for this allotment will expire in FY-07. 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:

Upper Deschutes Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan, September 2005

Objective LG-1: *...provide for continued livestock grazing*...(p76)

Allocation/Allowable Uses:

8. Livestock grazing will continue to be allowed for allotments in the "Open category on the Grazing Matrix...(p78)

The above allotment is classified as "Open" on the above mentioned Grazing Matrix

Livestock grazing specific to this allotment is on page 246.

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

Brothers Grazing Management Program Draft Environmental Impact Statement, 1982
Brothers/La Pine Resource management Plan, July 1989
Brothers /La Pine Draft EIS, October 1987
Upper Deschutes Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan, September, 2005

Upper Deschutes Final EIS, January,2000.

NEPA Adequacy Criteria:

1. Is the current proposed action substantially the same action (or is a part of that action) as previously analyzed?

Yes. The current proposed action (continuation of grazing in the above allotment) was previously analyzed in the Upper Deschutes FEIS. Alternatives for each allotment are shown in Appendix G, pages 207-211, UD FEIS.

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

Yes. Alternatives in the planning document (page 6-9 of the Upper Deschutes RMP/ ROD) ranged from emphasis of commodity production to emphasis of natural values, which included the elimination of all livestock grazing as an alternative. The range appears to be appropriate given the current issues and the plan was recently updated (September 2005)

3. Is the existing analysis adequate and are the conclusions adequate in light of any new information or circumstances (including, for example, riparian proper functioning condition [PFC] reports; rangeland health standards assessments; Unified Watershed Assessment categorizations; inventory and monitoring data; most recent Fish and Wildlife Service lists of threatened, endangered, proposed, and candidate species; most recent BLM lists of sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that all new information and all new circumstances are insignificant with regard to analysis of the proposed action?

Yes. New information which would enter into the analysis includes the Standards for Rangeland Health & Guidelines for Grazing Management (43 CFR 4180, available for review at the Prineville District BLM). The BLM is required to assess all public land grazing allotments for compliance with the Standards & Guidelines; this allotment is scheduled for evaluation in 2008. Until completion of the evaluation for this allotment, the new term lease will contain stipulations that will provide for modifications of the grazing of the public lands, if needed, on completion of the evaluation. The Fish and Wildlife Service is evaluating species for listing that are present within the RMP/ROD area boundary. If these species are listed as threatened or endangered and are found on federal lands located within this allotment the permit is subject to future modifications to achieve compliance with the listing.

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

Yes. The Upper Deschutes FEIS compared the relative likelihood of grazing conflicts across allotments within the Planning Area, and analyzed the effects of discontinued grazing in areas where potential for conflicts was highest. This approach is appropriate for the current proposed actins, as no new information has become available and condition's in the allotment and planning area have not changed. The Upper Deschutes RMP/ROD (pages 77-79) provide Allocations/Allowable Uses and Guidelines to facilitate maintenance or improvement of existing ecological condition trends

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

specific impacts related to the current proposed action?

The Upper Deschutes FEIS considered continuing vs. discontinuing grazing in many allotments (summary of alternatives for each allotment is on pages 207-211, Volume 3), and described the effects of allotment closures on forage availability, the local economy, BLM management costs, permittee costs, and other factors (pages 183-192). The effects of livestock grazing on soil, vegetation, and ecological processes are summarized on page 14 of Volume 2, and there is an acknowledgment that, "The alternatives do not propose to change stocking levels or grazing systems; therefore there is little variation in effects [to soil, vegetation, ecological processes] among the various alternatives." Similarly on page 31 of Volume 2 the FEIS states, "Specific effects of continuation of current grazing systems on wildlife resources is also not analyzed here because specific grazing systems were not within the scope of this FEIS/RMP."

6. Can you conclude without additional analysis or information that the cumulative impacts that would result from implementation of the current proposed action are substantially unchanged from those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)?

Yes. The Upper Deschutes FEIS addresses the issue of decline in rate of authorized use in Central and Eastern Oregon over the past few decades, pages 191-192. In recent years, there have been steady decreases in the supply of private grazing lands in the region as rapid population growth, resorts and other residential development have reduced or fragmented the existing gland resources, making grazing less attractive or cost-effective.

7. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequately 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 RMP/EIS referenced above. The *Description of the Proposed Action* for this DNA is/will is posted on the Prineville Districts' internet page. A copy of this conformance worksheet will be mailed to all individuals and organizations that request it on the intranet.

Interdisciplinary Analysis:

Name	Resource Represented	Initials/Date
Steve Castillo	Forestry	SC 2/25/08
Bill Dean	Wildlife	WD 3/25/08
Ron Gregory	Cultural Resources	RJG 1/30/08
Ron Halvorson	Botany, Special Status Plants	RWH 2/11/08
Michelle McSwain	Hydrology, Riparian, Watershed	MM 2/4/08
Tom Mottl	Recreation	TM 2/11/08
Jim Eisner	Fisheries	JE 2/8/08
Larry Thomas	Soils, Hazardous Materials	LT 2/28/08 SDS

Mitigation Measures:
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.

Cultural Resources: It is recognized that grazing level decisions, as document in Allotment Management Plans (AMP), Amp amendments, allotment evaluations, and Land Use Plans (LUP) constitute undertakings as defined in 36 CR 800. However, given the normally low level of definable threat to cultural resource values associated with such actions, the following procedure shall be applied:

Allotment Management Plans, AMP amendments, allotment evolutions and similar actions associated with dispersed livestock grazing decisions shall be exempted from the Section 106 procedures except for locations within allotments where specific land disturbing developments are initiated by that action or where sites particularly sensitive to grazing levels are known.

If specific ground-disturbing developments are proposed for the allotment, such as fence construction, spring development, etc, or water trough or salting stations are established that congregate livestock in specific locations, the rangeland management specialist will inform the cultural resource specialist about those proposed actions and the appropriate level of cultural clearances will be completed in accordance with the Oregon Protocol Agreement.

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

Prepared By: Brooke Anderson Date 2-26-08
Range Management Specialist

Plan Conformance/DNA Determination:

The proposed action and any specified mitigation measure(s) has been determined to meet the criteria for a Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA). No additional environmental analysis required. All cultural, T&E plant and T&E wildlife specialists have provided clearances for the proposed project.

Reviewed By: _____ Date: 2-28-08
Environmental Coordinator

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

Approved By: Jeffrey Heting Date 2-28-08
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.