

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

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**Name of Proposed Action:** Newsome Allotment (#11037) Grazing Permit Renewal

**DNA Number:** OR-054-08-108

**Location of Proposed Action:** 4 1/2 miles southeast of Post, Oregon; T17S, R19 E, sec. 9; see map.

**Allotment Summary:** 80 acres; 8 AUMs; their current permitted use dates are from 04/15 to 8/14.

**Purpose of and Need for Action:** A Range Line Agreement was completed to create the Newsome allotment. It was part of the Foster allotment as a community allotment and the permittees requested their allotments be separated. A new permit will be issued to the permittees of the Newsome allotment, which will have 8 AUM's and the Foster allotment will retain 7. Due to the expiration date of February 28, 2009, the Newsome permit will be renewed at the same time a new permit is issued to them.

**Description of the Proposed Action:** Renew a grazing permit for the permittee in the Newsome allotment for a term of ten years. All terms and conditions on the permit will remain the same.

**Plan Conformance:**

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUPs because it is specifically provided for in the following-

*Brothers/La Pine Resource Management Plan (RMP), Rangeland Program Summary (RPS) and Record of Decision (ROD) dated July 1989:*

Allocate 8 AUM's of forage to livestock (p. 76). Livestock grazing specific to this allotment is addressed on pages 74 through 86 of this RMP.

**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, grazing in the Newsome Allotment, was previously analyzed in the Brothers Grazing Management EIS (pages 1 through 40). Alternatives are shown on pages 10 through 14 of this EIS.

**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 are displayed on pages 10 through 14 of the EIS, and ranged from optimizing livestock to the elimination of livestock grazing. This range appears to be appropriate, given the current issues.

**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?** 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 and Guidelines. A Rangeland Health Assessment is scheduled to be completed in this allotment for sometime in the near future.

**4. Do the methodology and analytical approach used in the existing NEPA document(s) continue to be appropriate for the current proposed action?** Yes. This EIS's approach is appropriate for the current proposed action, as no new information has become available, and conditions in the allotment and planning area have not changed.

**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 direct, indirect and site specific effects of renewing this grazing permit were adequately addressed in this EIS. It considered continuing vs. discontinuing grazing in many allotments and described the effects of allotment closures on forage availability, the local economy, BLM management costs, permittee costs, and other factors (pages 52 through 75). The effects of livestock grazing on soil, vegetation, and ecological processes are likewise included. These effects and impacts have not substantially changed.

**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 degree and range of impacts associated with the proposed action would remain within the range of those described in the EIS.

**7. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequately for the current proposed action?** Yes. A copy of this DNA will be mailed to the permittee.

**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 documented in Allotment Management Plans (AMP), AMP amendments, allotment evaluations, and Land Use Plans (LUP) constitute undertakings as defined in 36 CFR 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 evaluations 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.

**Approval:**

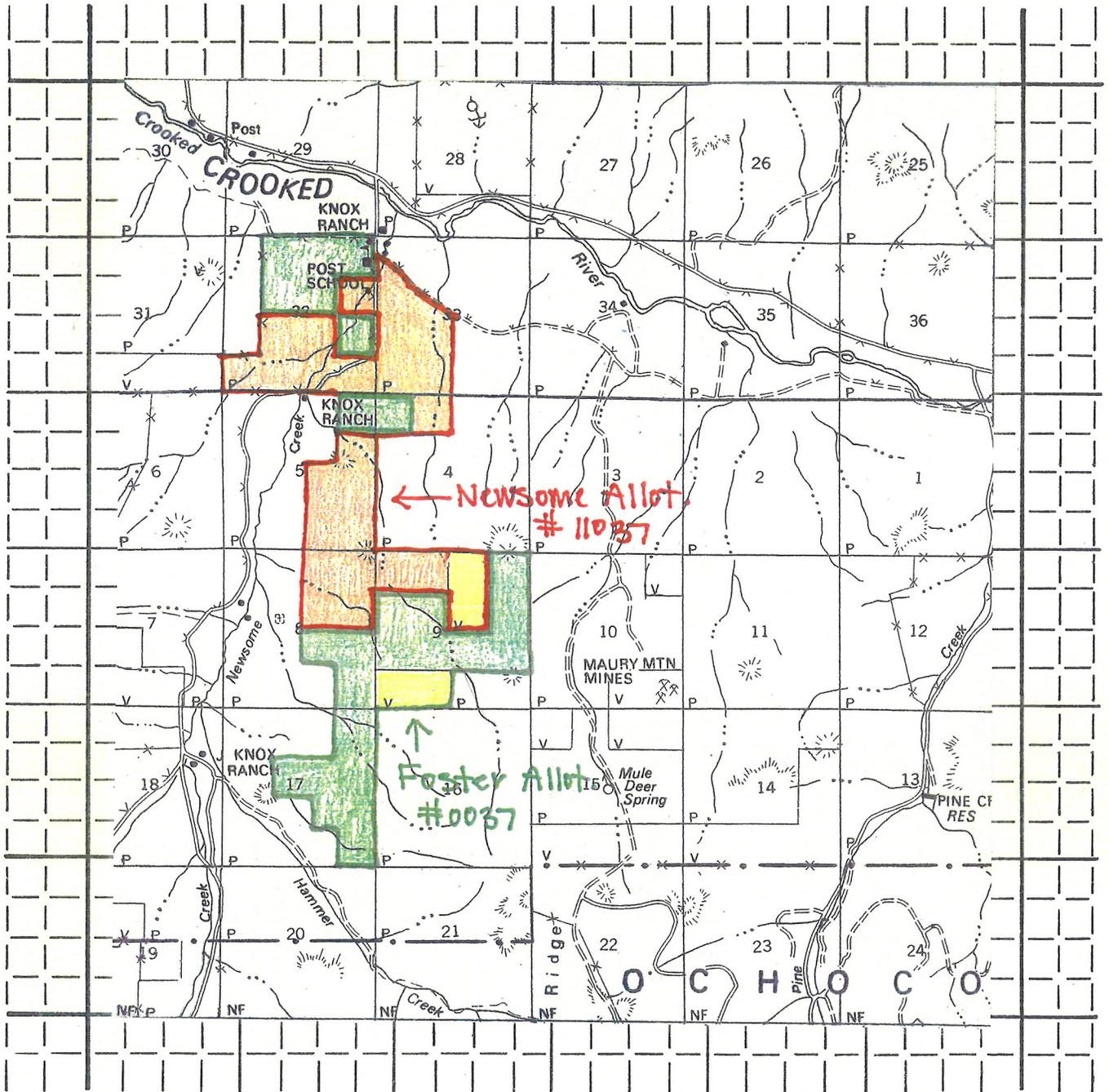
Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of NEPA

Approved By: Christina M. Welch Date 2/14/08  
Central Oregon Resource Area Field Manager, Christina Welch

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

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LOCATION PLAT



T17S R19E WM

Scale: | inch(es) equals one mile

- Moerschell's Base
- Foster's Base
- BLM