

from the State of Oregon, but many have not. PWR 107 are the result of an executive order made by Calvin Coolidge in 1926. This order withdrew every smallest legal subdivision of the public land surveys and all lands within one quarter mile of important springs and waterholes on unsurveyed lands. The primary purpose of this withdrawal was for current or future livestock watering and human consumption. This withdrawal includes springs and waterholes on land that was vacant and unappropriated and unreserved as of April 17, 1926. This constitutes a federal reserve right with a 1926 priority date. Springs and waterholes do not need to be currently inventoried in order to qualify, but it is useful to have the inventory completed to ensure that the water right is appropriately tracked during land tenure adjustments.

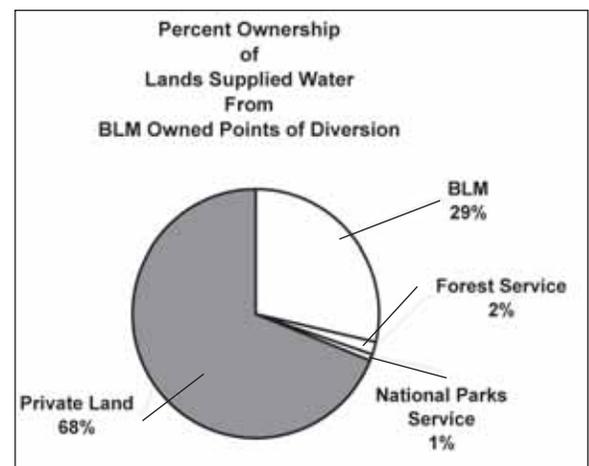
LIVESTOCK GRAZING

Grazing is one of the most visible and established uses of BLM managed lands. The public lands are an integral part of ranching in the area because of their scattered distribution and ability to provide forage during a critical time of the year. There are many ranches with several hundred acres of public grazing land scattered throughout. Generally these lands are best managed with the adjacent private lands since it is not practical to fence them separately. The larger blocks of several thousand acres are easily managed separately from private lands. These blocks of BLM managed lands are generally located at elevations where they provide excellent forage from early spring to early summer. This is an important transition period as livestock move from winter feeding areas to summer ranges. It also has utility as livestock return in the fall. Livestock grazing is authorized on 432,600 acres or 95 percent of public land managed by the BLM in the planning area. Because BLM lands in the John Day Basin consisted of mostly scattered tracks these lands were not included in a grazing district and are managed under Section 15 of the Taylor Grazing Act.

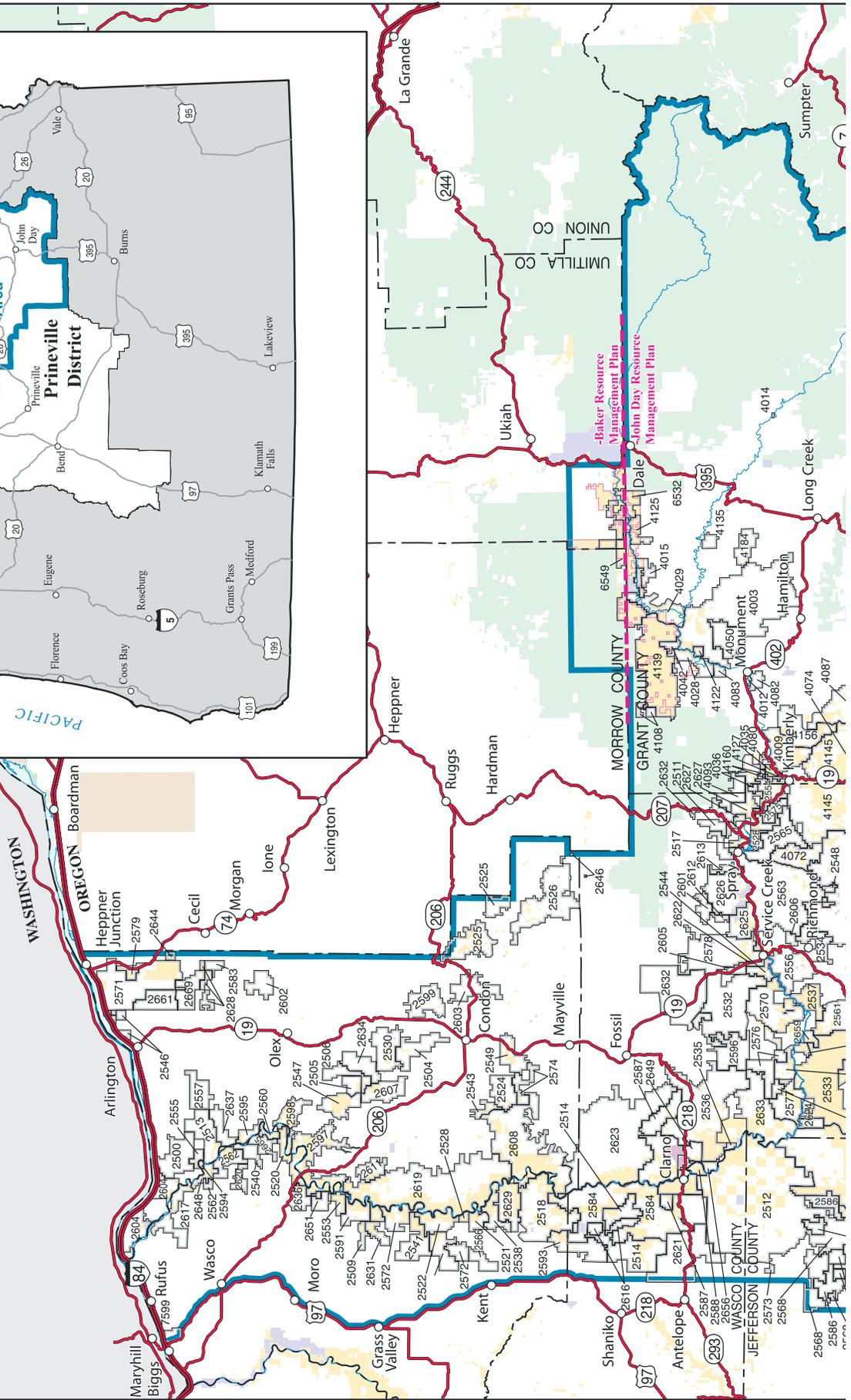
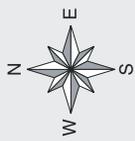
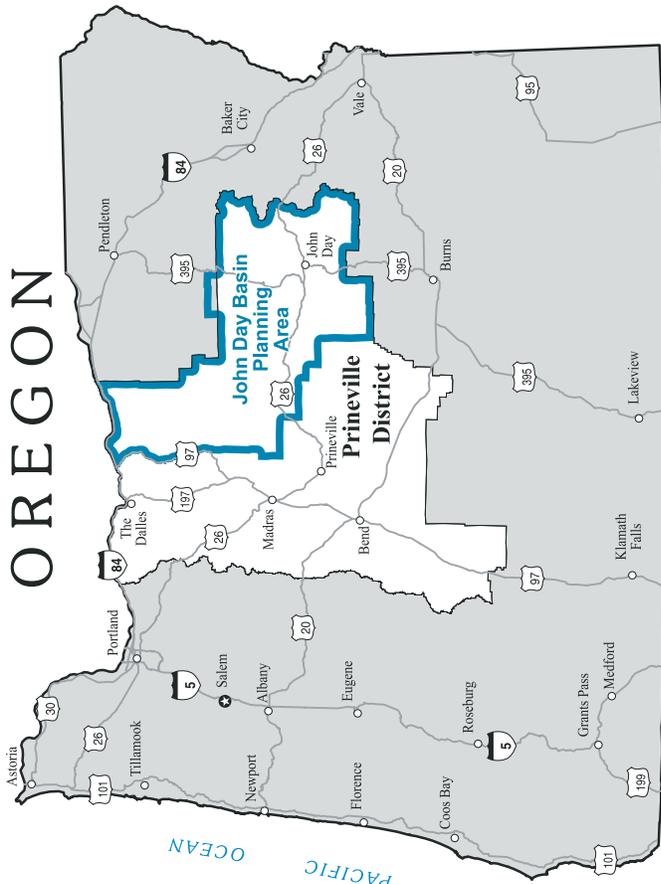
Under Section 15 of the Taylor Grazing Act BLM lands within the planning area are now leased for grazing on an AUM (animal unit month) basis. The number of AUMs available was determined by range surveys completed between 1967 and 1974 in the John Day River basin. These surveys established the grazing use levels that continue to be authorized today.

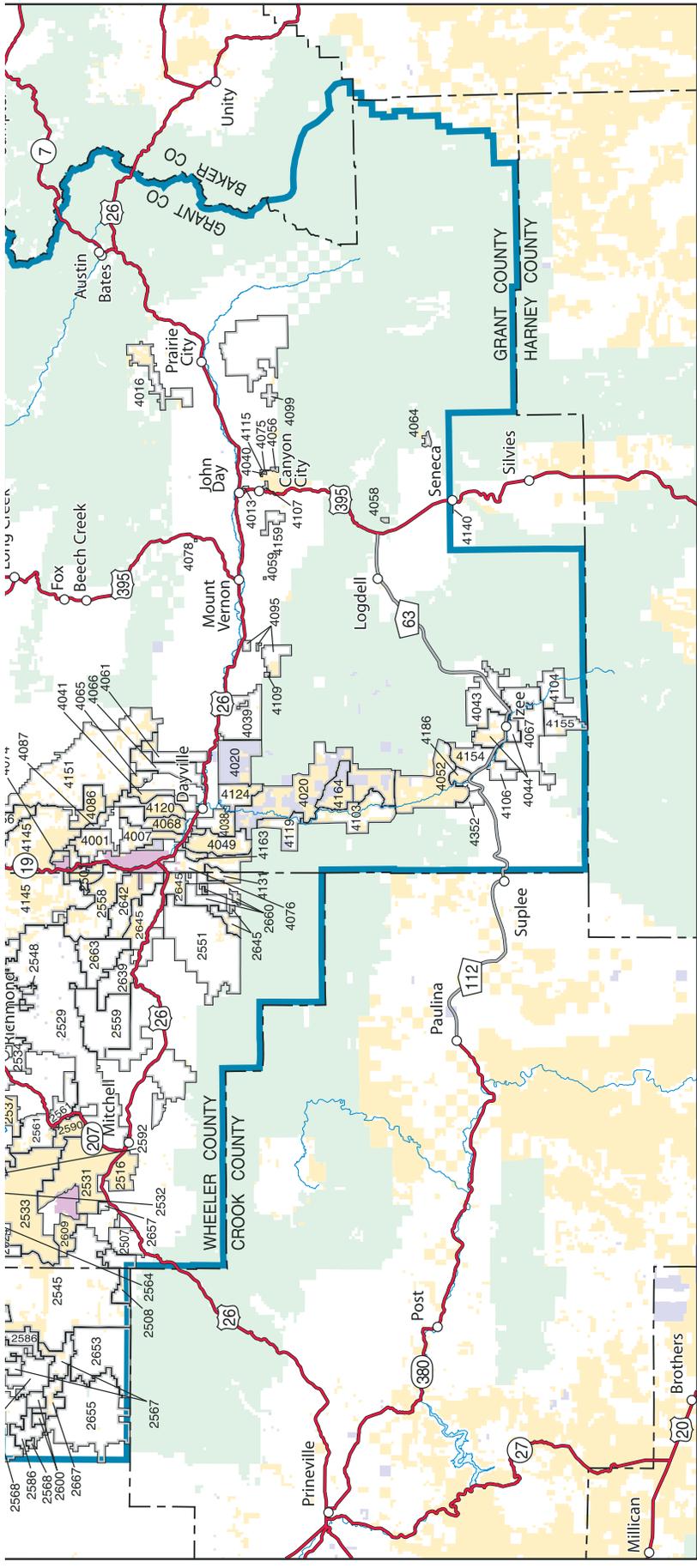
There are 229 grazing allotments which vary in size from 22 acres of public land to over 25,000 (Map 16). Since the distribution of public land is generally scattered, the number of acres in any one allotment tends to be small. The majority of allotments, 63 percent of the total, contain less than 1,000 acres of public land. A listing of the allotments and

FIGURE 34: PERCENT OF OWNERSHIP OF LANDS SUPPLIED WATER FROM BLM OWNED POINTS OF DIVERSION



OREGON





LEGEND

-  Range Allotments
-  Range Allotments
-  Planning Area Boundary
-  Bureau of Land Management
-  Forest Service
-  John Day Fossil Beds National Monument
-  Other Federal
-  State
-  Private or Other

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management



PRINEVILLE DISTRICT John Day Basin Resource Management Plan

2006

Map 16: Range Allotments

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associated acres and AUMs is found in Appendix C. The total number of active AUMs is 28,500 . As with the acreages, the number of AUMs per allotment is generally small, 71 percent or 163 allotments contain 100 or less AUMs. Fifty allotments contain 10 or less AUMs.

The BLM Prineville District completed an Ecological Site Inventory of the public lands in the lower John Day River basin in 1982. This inventory identified ecological sites, delineated geographical areas across the basin on the basis of these ecological sites, and assessed the ecological condition of the geographical areas with respect to what was believed to be their potential.

The Two Rivers (USDI-BLM, 1986a) and the John Day (USDI-BLM, 1985) Resource Management Plans (RMP) prescribed monitoring, evaluation, and planning efforts to improve resource conditions in these scattered tracts. The RMPs prescribed priorities based on the presence of sensitive public resources, rating grazing allotments as "Improve" (I), "Maintain" (M) or "Custodial" (C). There are presently 79 Improve allotments, 25 Maintain, 125 Custodial, and three not assigned to a category. Generally, the resource conditions in the majority of allotments have been steadily improving. Grazing practices have changed for the benefit of vegetation, but juniper encroachment continues even with changes in grazing management.

A total of 100 allotments in the planning area have completed assessments, which is 44 percent of the total number. Out of the ones completed, 40 percent are meeting all standards and 60 percent are failing one standard or more. Of allotments that are failing, only 14 (23 percent) have livestock as a causal factor and 46 (77 percent) have some other factor(s) contributing to the failure. The main reasons for allotments not meeting standards, where livestock are not the cause, are increasing juniper stands, noxious weed infestations, and water quality. Overall it appears livestock are a primary contributor in a minority of the grazing allotments not meeting the Standards for Rangeland Health. In these allotments the BLM is required to take corrective action so livestock will not be the cause in the future. Once all the grazing allotments are assessed, there will be a clear picture of where problem areas exist and in most cases, why.

Urbanization and changes in ranch management are moving the emphasis on livestock grazing to one of hunting and recreation pursuits. More ranches are being acquired by individuals from large metropolitan areas who either hire a ranch manager, lease grazing to a neighboring rancher, or take nonuse. The trend is still small in the John Day Basin, but it appears to be growing.

FOREST PRODUCTS

To the casual visitor traveling through the John Day Basin forest resources on BLM lands are not immediately visible. And it true that commercially valuable trees are not as widespread on BLM managed lands as on some private and Forest Service managed lands. Nevertheless these resources are valuable. Forest vegetation has the potential to provide both biological/physical and socioeconomic benefits.

This section of the AMS will address Forest Products: timber production (sawlogs), biomass (wood chips and hog fuel), and small vegetative products (firewood, posts, poles, etc.). The size, location, accessibility, and type of material available vary throughout the analysis area. Based on these limitations generating Forest Products is not feasible on all areas of forest vegetation. Map 6: Key Vegetation Elements shows timber management zones. These zones have sufficient forested resources to provide forest products if production is consistent with management objectives.