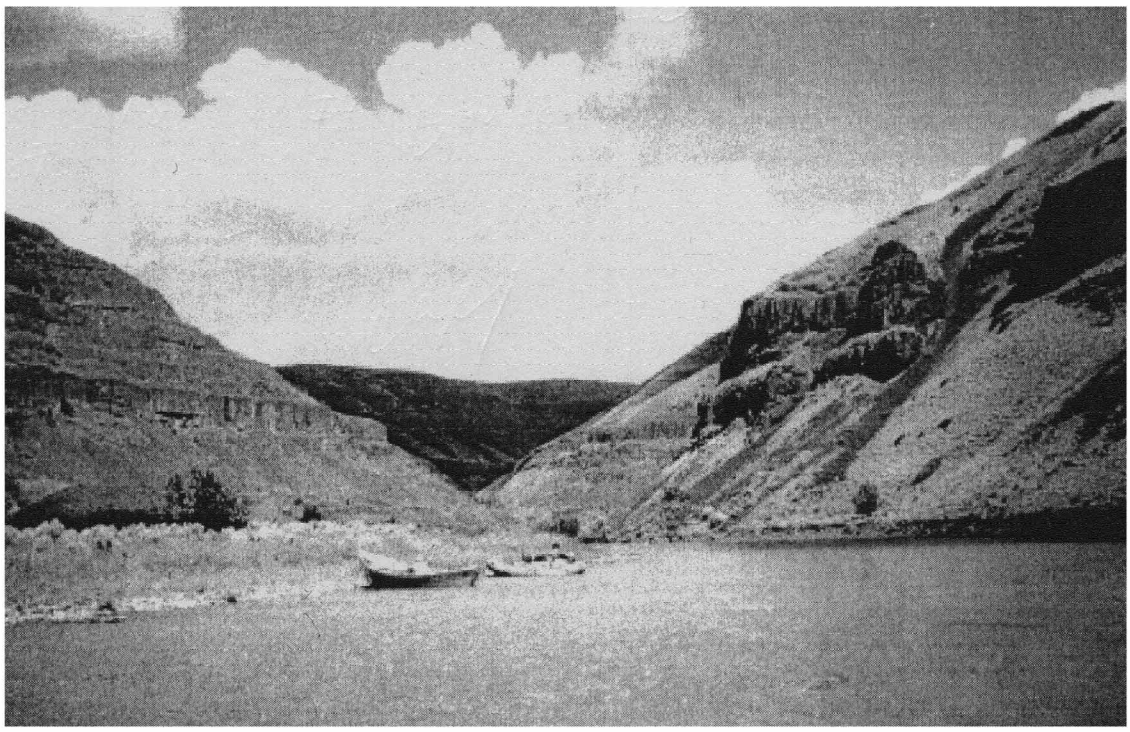
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Prineville District Office
3050 N.E. 3rd Street
Prineville, Oregon 97754

February 2001

Record of Decision

John Day River Management Plan, Two Rivers, John Day, and Baker Resource Management Plan Amendments



As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering the wisest use of our land and water resources, protecting our fish and wildlife, preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places, and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The Department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to assure that their development is in the best interest of all our people. The Department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in Island Territories under U.S. administration.

BLM/OR/WA/PT-01/012+1792

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Prineville District Office
P.O. Box 550 (3050 N.E. 3rd Street)
Prineville, Oregon 97754

IN REPLY REFER TO:
8350.5

MAR 07 2001

Dear Friend of the John Day River:

The attached document is the *Record of Decision (ROD) for the John Day River Management Plan, Two Rivers Resource Management Plan Amendment, John Day Resource Management Plan Amendment, and Baker Resource Management Plan Amendment*. This document was signed by the Oregon/Washington State Director on February 28, 2001. The decisions in this document will protect and enhance the outstandingly remarkable values that motivated Congress to designate portions of the mainstem and South Fork of the John Day River a Wild and Scenic River. The ROD was prepared in conformance with 40 CFR § 1505.2. This regulation requires a concise public record of the manager's decision.

An opportunity to protest proposed decisions occurred after publication of the *John Day Proposed Management Plan, Two Rivers, and John Day Resource Management Plan Amendments and Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS)*. (After publication of the FEIS the BLM realized that the project area included a small portion of the Baker Resource Area. Consequently, this ROD has been expanded to include amending the Baker Resource Management Plan. This does not modify the substance of any proposed decision.) Twenty-two protests were received in a timely manner. As required by 43 CFR § 1610.5-1(b) all protests have been resolved, and there are no significant changes from the proposed decisions. Under 43 CFR § 1610.5-2(3)(b) such decisions are not appealable.

The ROD authorizes certain future non-grazing actions that will require further planning, analysis, and subsequent decisions prior to implementation. Implementation of such decisions may be subject to appeal to the Interior Board of Land Appeals under 43 CFR § 4.411.

All grazing related decisions that were specifically described and/or defined in the RMP are considered final land use plan decisions and are not appealable under 43 CFR § 4160 or 43 CFR § 4.470. This includes decisions such as adjustments in season of use due to seasonal water flow restrictions and exclusion of livestock from campgrounds. Under 43 CFR § 4100.0-5 individuals, groups, or organizations who have an interest in livestock management on specific allotments must identify themselves in writing to the Central Oregon Resource Area Field Office Manager. Such interested publics will be notified of any future grazing decisions and provided the opportunity to comment or appeal as appropriate.

This document has been sent to all individuals and groups on the mailing list for the proposed plan. In addition, public notice regarding the ROD will be published in the *Federal Register* and in the following Oregon newspapers: *Baker City Herald*, *The Record Courier* (Baker), *The Observer* (La Grande), *The East Oregonian* (Pendleton), *The Hermiston Herald*, *Heppner Gazette-Times*, *The Blue Mountain Eagle* (John Day), *The Times-Journal* (Condon), *Central Oregonian* (Prineville), *Wheeler County News* (Spray), and *The Bulletin* (Bend). Copies of the draft and final EISs will be available for inspection at the Prineville District Office and on the District's website at http://www.or.blm.gov/Prineville.

Thank you for your interest in the John Day River. I encourage you to stay informed and involved as the BLM and its planning partners implement this plan.

Sincerely,

Christina M. Welch

Christina M. Welch
Field Manager, Central Oregon Resource Area

Record of Decision

for the

John Day River Management Plan, Two Rivers Resource Management Plan Amendment, John Day Resource Management Plan Amendment, & Baker Resource Management Plan Amendment

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RECORD OF DECISION
JOHN DAY RIVER MANAGEMENT PLAN, TWO RIVERS, JOHN DAY, AND BAKER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENTS

Central Oregon and Baker Resource Areas Field Managers Recommendation

We recommend the John Day River Plan and associated amendments to the Two Rivers, John Day, and Baker Resource Management Plans (RMP), as described in this Record of Decision. The approved river plan addresses all issues raised that are relevant for resolution by the Bureau of Land Management and State of Oregon and meets the requirements of BLM Manual 8351 for Wild and Scenic Rivers. The RMP amendments were prepared in accordance with 43 CFR 1610.5-5 and will provide land use allocations and management direction for Bureau administered lands and resources that will protect and enhance river values adjacent to the John Day River.

Christina M. Welch,
Central Oregon Resource Area Field Manager

Penelope Dunn Woods,
Baker Resource Area Field Manager

Prineville District Manager Concurrence

I approve the John Day River Plan and recommend, for State Director approval, the associated amendments to the Two Rivers, John Day, and Baker Resource Management Plans, as described in this Record of Decision.

A Barron Bail, Prineville District Manager

Sandy L. Guches, Vale District Manager, Acting

Oregon/Washington State Director Approval

I concur with the decisions in the John Day River Plan and approve the associated amendments to the Two Rivers, John Day, and Baker Resource Management Plans, as described in this Record of Decision. This document meets the requirement for agency analysis and decisionmaking as provided in 40 CFR 1500. All planing protests filed with the Director under administrative review procedures in 43 CFR 1610.5-2 have been resolved. No inconsistencies were identified after review by the Governor of Oregon, as provided by 43 CFR 11610.3.2.

FEB 28 2001

Elaine Y. Zielinski, Oregon/Washington State Director

The Bureau acknowledges the contributions of the partners in this effort. We encourage continued cooperation in the implementation by the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, John Day River Coalition of Counties, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, Oregon State Marine Board, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and USDI, Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Errata

ROD, Appendix L, page 235, Allotment #2656, Segment 3, Restricted grazing, necessary actions, Remove: "c. Allotment will be subject to the special seasonal flow restrictions."

ROD, Appendix L, page 265, Allotment #4104, Segment 11, Restricted grazing, necessary actions, Remove: "b. Allotment will be subject to the special seasonal flow restrictions."

ROD, Appendix L, page 267, Allotment #4067, Segment 11, Restricted grazing, necessary actions, Remove: "b. Allotment will be subject to the special seasonal flow restrictions."

ROD, Appendix L, page 267, Allotment #4106, Segment 11, Restricted grazing, necessary actions, Remove: "b. Allotment will be subject to the special seasonal flow restrictions."

ROD, Appendix L, page 268, Allotment #4186, Segment 11, Restricted grazing, necessary actions, Remove: "Allotment will be subject to the special seasonal flow restrictions."

These corrections will make appendix L consistent with the FEIS, Vol. 1, page 170 that specifically states that the special seasonal limitation would not apply to scattered tracts of public land in all of Allotment #2656 and all of Segment 11. The above errors were in Appendix L of Vol. 2 of the FEIS and were carried forward into the Appendix L of the ROD . This correction does not change the decision in the ROD.