

**Worksheet**  
**Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**  
**Bureau of Land Management**

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**Office:** Andrews Resource Area, Burns District Office

**Tracking Number (DNA #):** DOI-BLM-OR-B060-2015-0012-DNA

**Case File/Project Number:** RIPS # 018145

**Proposed Action Title/Type:** Neuschwander Well, Pipeline, Trough, and Power Supply within Fenced Area

**Location/Legal Description:** Reicken's Corner Allotment #6030, Reicken's Corner #3 Pasture, W.M., T. 32 S., R. 31 E., sec. 22, NW¼SW¼.

**Applicants:** Bureau of Land Management (BLM)/Reicken's Corner Allotment Permittee

**A. Description of the Proposed Action and Project Design Elements**

The Proposed Action is for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) or Reicken's Corner Allotment Permittee to drill and case a new water well (Neuschwander Well), pipeline, 30-foot bottomless trough, and power supply within a fenced area in Reicken's Corner #3 Pasture of Reicken's Corner Allotment #6030. The water well would be located in W.M., T. 32 S., R. 31 E., section 22, NW¼SW¼. The water well would provide water to a trough through a 500-foot pipeline. It would include a power supply (generator or solar) in a fenced area (20-foot by 20-foot).

The project would not result in an increase in permitted Animal Unit Months (AUM), nor would it alter grazing management specified in the Allotment Management Plan (AMP). This well will ensure that there is a continuous source of water for wildlife and livestock.

Heavy equipment (e.g. drill rigs, trenchers, etc.) and manual labor (two to four BLM employees) would be used during drilling of the well over a two-week period of time, in the summer of 2015. The well would be drilled with a drilling rig requiring a level well pad. If the well site does not have a level pad, an area no larger than 50 feet by 50 feet would be leveled to accommodate the equipment. Any needed materials (rocks or soil for maintenance or construction activities) would be hauled in with a dump truck. The entire disturbed area would be seeded with a non-native seed mix, to increase the rate of recovery. Following seeding and rehabilitation of the disturbed site, the permanent footprint would be no more than 20 feet by 20 feet.

The well would be cased and sealed to prevent cave-ins and contamination, all State of Oregon water well drilling regulations would be adhered to, and a safety device would be installed on any new power source(s) to prevent electrocution of raptors. Solar power, fuel-type generators, or any combination of these would be used to power the pump for the well, in order to ensure the well can continue to operate under differing conditions. Specific design and sizes of the power source would be dependent upon the depth of the well, as would pump size. Panels for solar energy would be installed using a tractor with an auger. Poles would be 8 inches in diameter and concreted in the ground; solar panels would be mounted upon the poles. Pole height would be as

low as possible while still clearing vegetation and functioning properly. Solar panels vary in size from 16 to 40 inches in length and 40 to 70 inches in width. Reduced glare solar panels would reduce visibility. Solar panels would only be utilized if the well has adequate water production. Fuel-powered generators would be 5,000 kilowatts or smaller. Generators would be placed near the well head, possibly on a trailer in order to allow the generator to be removed from the site when not in use. Generators would be expected to run 4 to 16 hours a day depending on water consumption, and may be audible up to one-quarter mile under some conditions. Technology is now available to use satellites to start, stop, and notify when problems arise with the generators; timers are also available to control times when generators operate. To limit the amount of time the generator operates, level switches could be installed in the storage tank (if present). These would only turn the generator on when the storage tank went below one-half full and would turn it off when the tank reached full capacity.

The well head and power source would be fenced, following BLM standards for a four-strand barbed wire fence, to protect them from damage caused by livestock, wild horses, and large wildlife species. The fence would be no more than 250 feet in total length. The fence enclosure would be the minimum needed to provide adequate protection.

All disturbed areas would be reseeded after construction, using a non-native mix. In some areas, it might not be possible to trench in the pipeline due to a rock layer. In these areas, a portion of the black plastic pipe may lie directly on the ground or just beneath the ground's surface. Valve covers and vents would be placed as needed; each would not be more than 1-inch above ground level and would consist of a vertical piece of culvert with a lid.

Following initial construction of the well, pipeline, and fence; maintenance on the new and existing range improvements would occur in order to ensure the system functions and continues to function as designed. This would include replacement of troughs and sections of pipeline as needed.

The well, including the trough and pipeline system, would be operated even after livestock are removed, when possible, to provide water for wildlife. Upon affirmative final decision to implement the construction of the new well and associated range improvements, a cooperative range agreement between the Reicken's Corner Allotment permittee and Burns District BLM would be completed to address each partner's responsibilities for labor, construction, maintenance, operation, and/or supplies.

Project Design Elements (PDE) were developed to aid in meeting project goals and objectives. These construction PDEs may be slightly modified based on site-specific terrain characteristics (topography and vegetation).

- Proposed rangeland improvement sites were surveyed for cultural values and none were found. If cultural sites were found during implementation, their condition and National Register eligibility would be evaluated. If sites were determined to be National Register eligible and under threat of damage, mitigation measures to protect cultural materials would be determined. Mitigation plans would be developed in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) if necessary. Mitigation measures could include

protective fencing, surface collection and mapping of artifacts, subsurface testing, and complete data recovery (full-scale excavation).

- Proposed rangeland improvement sites would be surveyed for Special Status plant species prior to implementation. Special Status plant sites would be avoided.
- New livestock facilities (livestock troughs, fences, and pipeline) would be constructed at least 1 km (0.6 mile) from leks, in order to avoid concentration of livestock near leks, reduce collision hazards to flying birds, and eliminate avian predator perches.
- All proposed wire fences constructed within 1.25 miles of a lek or known seasonal use area (i.e. spring enclosure), would include plastic reflective clips on the wire to reduce mortality from sage-grouse hitting the fence.
- No project construction or maintenance would occur April 1 through June 15 during sage-grouse nesting.
- Proposed range improvement sites would be surveyed for noxious weed populations prior to implementation. Weed populations identified in or adjacent to the proposed project area would be treated using the most appropriate methods, in accordance with the 1998 Burns District Noxious Weed Management Program Environmental Assessment (EA)/Decision Record (DR) OR-020-98-05 or subsequent decision.
- The risk of noxious weed introduction would be minimized by ensuring all equipment (including all heavy equipment, 4-wheelers, and vehicles) is cleaned prior to entry to the sites, minimizing disturbance activities, and completing follow-up monitoring to ensure no new noxious weed establishment occurs. Should noxious weeds be found, appropriate control treatments would be performed in conformance with the 1998 Burns District Noxious Weed Program Management EA/DR OR-020-98-05 or subsequent decision.

## **B. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance**

Andrews Management Unit (AMU) Record of Decision (ROD) and Resource Management Plan (RMP).

Date Approved: August 2005.

The proposed action is in conformance with the LUP/RMP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP/RMP decisions (objectives, terms, and conditions):

“Implement administrative solutions and rangeland projects to provide proper management for livestock grazing while meeting resource objectives and requirements for S&Gs [Standards and Guides]” (Grazing Management Program, August 2005, AMU ROD/RMP, page 54).

**C. Identify applicable National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents and other related documents that cover the proposed action.**

- Andrews/Steens Proposed RMP and Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), 2004
- Keg Springs Well EA, DOI-BLM-OR-B060-2013-0023-EA, 2013
- Reicken's Corner Allotment Management Plan, 2007
- Reicken's Corner Allotment Evaluation, 2005

**D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria**

**1. Is the new proposed action a feature of, or essentially similar to, an alternative analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? Is the project within the same analysis area, or if the project location is different, are the geographic and resource conditions sufficiently similar to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? If there are differences, can you explain why they are not substantial?**

The proposed action for Neuschwander Well is a feature of and essentially similar to the proposed action analyzed in the Keg Springs Well EA, DOI-BLM-OR-B060-2013-0023-EA. The Keg Springs Well EA analyzed the proposed action to drill and case a new water well (Keg Springs Well) and included a power supply (generator or solar) in a fenced area. Keg Springs Well did not result in an increase in permitted AUMs, nor did it alter grazing management specified in the AMP. In addition, all the PDEs identified in the Keg Springs Well EA would also be required for the Neuschwander Well (see section A, above).

The Neuschwander Well is not in the same analysis area however, the geographic and resource conditions are sufficiently similar. They are both at 4400-4800 feet in elevation, in salt-desert shrub grassland habitat with Wyoming big sagebrush, located more than three miles away from the nearest lek, and located in preliminary general habitat (PGH) for sage-grouse; all of which factors were fully analyzed in the Keg Springs Well EA in Chapter 3, pages 7 and 8.

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

The Keg Springs Well EA analyzed three alternatives listed in Chapter 2, pages 9 and 10; a no action alternative, the proposed action alternative, and a water hauling alternative. The no action alternative would not drill a new well and install associated range improvements. The proposed action alternative would drill and case a new well (Keg Springs Well) within Keg Springs Allotment. The well would provide water to two new 30-foot bottomless troughs (one in Keg Springs Pasture and one in Native Pasture) through new inlet pipes (800 feet each from the well to the troughs for a total of 1600 feet of pipeline). The bottomless troughs would have a two to four foot concrete apron around them. The project would not result in an increase in AUMs during the authorized period of use, nor would it alter grazing management specified in the AMPs. The water hauling alternative involved using 3,000 gallon water

tankers to fill troughs and was found to be more damaging to the ground than the proposed action.

Yes, the range of alternatives from the Keg Springs Well EA is appropriate given the current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values and based on the nature of this proposed action. The same equipment, staff, timelines, and project design features would be required for the Neuschwander Well as those analyzed in the Keg Springs Well EA. No issues were identified in the existing Keg Springs Well EA that would have generated additional alternatives and none were identified for this proposed action for the Neuschwander Well.

Issues and current environmental concerns have not changed since the Key Springs decision was signed in 2013, nor have they changed since the 2006 Allotment Evaluation of Reicken's Corner Allotment (such as lack of water for livestock resulting in poor distribution in Reicken's Corner #3 pasture). The lack of water sources in this pasture result in heavy use in the south east corner of the pasture where the single water source is located. This is stated on page eleven of the 2006 evaluation. Interdisciplinary team (IDT) meetings and scoping meetings with the permittee raised no new issues.

**3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances (such as, rangeland health standard assessment, recent endangered species listings, and updated lists of BLM-sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that new information and new circumstances would not substantially change the analysis of the new proposed action?**

The Keg Springs Well EA DR was signed on June 21, 2013; there has been no new information or circumstance since that would substantially change the analysis of the new proposed action for Neuschwander EA. Both the Keg Springs well and the Neuschwander well are located in Sage-Grouse PGH and the nearest leks are more than three miles away from the wells in both locations. The only new information needed for the Neuschwander Well would be a botanical survey or waiver. The survey or a project waiver would be conducted in the spring of 2015, prior to project activities occurring. If any botanical concern is identified, avoidance of the area of concern will be required. Cultural clearances were completed in 2012. There are no streams affected by the new proposed project, which means water quality, riparian areas, and fish would not be affected.

**4. Are the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects that would result from implementation of the new proposed action similar (both quantitatively and qualitatively) to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document?**

The proposed locations for the Neuschwander Well and Keg Springs Well are in similar areas in regards to elevation, vegetation types (Wyoming big sage desert salt shrub), sage-grouse habitat (PGH), distance from nearest sage-grouse lek (greater than three miles), and disturbance regime. The direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of the current proposed action are unchanged from those identified in the Keg Springs EA. There are no known reasonably foreseeable future actions (RFFA) in the Neuschwander Well project area. The

specific impacts related to the current proposed action. The site-specific impacts can be found in chapter 3 of the EA starting on page 11. These impacts are summarized in Table 1 on page 11 and discussed in further detail throughout the chapter (under each resource, as applicable).

**5. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current proposed action?**

Yes, public involvement is adequate: the Keg Springs Well EA included public notices both in the newspaper and posted on the BLM website.

Yes, the Keg Springs EA went through a 30-day comment period and 45-day protest and appeal period in 2013. There were no protests or appeals of the proposed decision.

The Neuschwander Well had an IDT look at the project which determined there were no new issues and, in addition, the Burns BLM met with the permittee to address any concerns or issues; there were none identified. This DNA and Decision Record will be posted on the BLM Burns District website at: <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/burns/plans/index.php>.

**E. Interdisciplinary Analysis**

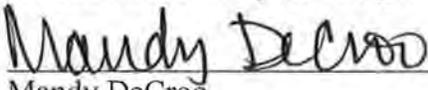
Identify those team members conducting or participating in the NEPA analysis and preparation of this worksheet.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jared Lemos,  
Fisheries Biologist

2/25/15  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Catyn Burri,  
Natural Resource Specialist (Botany)

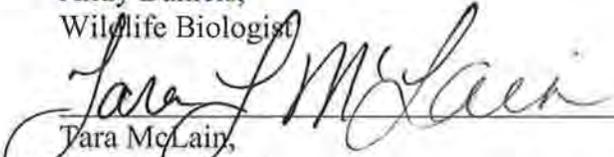
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Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mandy DeCroo,  
Outdoor Recreation Planner

2/25/15  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Andy Daniels,  
Wildlife Biologist

2/25/15  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Tara McLain,  
Realty Specialist

3/9/15  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Lesley Richman  
Lesley Richman,  
Natural Resource Specialist (Noxious Weeds)

3/2/2015  
Date

Scott Thomas  
Scott Thomas,  
Archaeologist

3-2-15  
Date

**Note:** Refer to the EA for a complete list of the team members participating in the preparation of the original environmental analysis or planning documents.

**F. Others Consulted**

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and the Reicken's Corner Allotment Permittee were consulted about this proposed project.

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

Justin DeCroo  
Justin DeCroo,  
Project Lead

03/09/2015  
Date

Holly Orr  
Holly Orr,  
Planning and Environmental Coordinator

03/09/2015  
Date

Rhonda Karges  
Rhonda Karges,  
Andrews/Steens Field Manager

3/12/15  
Date

**Proposed Decision:** It is my proposed decision to implement the proposed action with project design elements as described above.

**PROTEST AND APPEAL PROCEDURES**

Any applicant, permittee, lessee, or other interested public may protest a Proposed Decision under Section 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 4160.1 and 4160.2, in person or in writing to Burns District Office, 28910 Highway 20 West, Hines, Oregon 97738, within 15 days after receipt of such Decision. The protest, if filed, should clearly and concisely state the reason(s) as to why the Proposed Decision is in error.

In the absence of a protest, the Proposed Decision will become the Final Decision of the authorized officer without further notice unless otherwise provided in the Proposed Decision. Any protest received will be carefully considered and then a Final Decision will be issued.

Any applicant, permittee, lessee, or other person whose interest is adversely affected by the Final Decision may file an appeal in accordance with 43 CFR 4.470 and 43 CFR 4160.4. The appeal must be filed within 30 days following receipt of the Final Decision. The appeal may be accompanied by a petition for a stay of the Decision in accordance with 43 CFR 4.471, pending final determination on appeal. The appeal and petition for a stay must be filed in the office of the authorized officer, Rhonda Karges, Andrews/Steen Resource Area Field Manager, 28910 Highway 20 West, Hines, Oregon 97738.

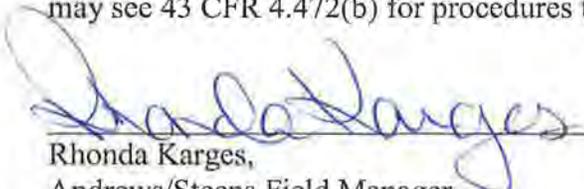
The appeal shall state the reasons, clearly and concisely, why the appellant thinks the Final Decision is in error and shall comply with the provisions of 43 CFR 4.470. The appellant must serve a copy of the appeal by certified mail on the Office of the Solicitor, U.S. Department of the Interior, 805 SW Broadway, Suite 600, Portland, Oregon 97205, and on any person(s) named (43 CFR 4.421[h]) in the Copies sent to: section of this Decision.

Should you wish to file a petition for a stay, see 43 CFR 4.471(a) and (b). In accordance with 43 CFR 4.471(c), a petition for a stay must show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

- (1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied,
- (2) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits,
- (3) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted, and
- (4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

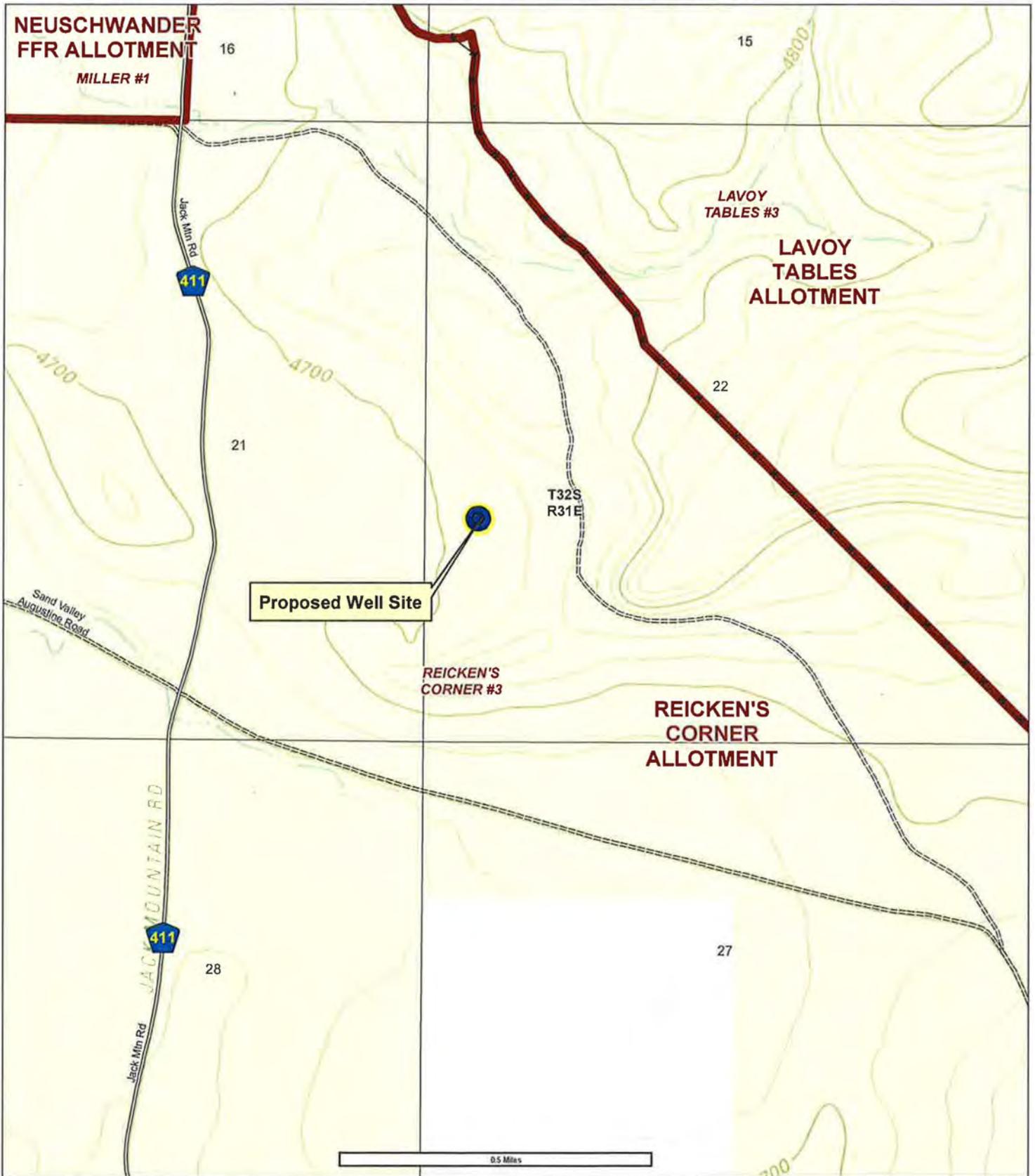
The appellant requesting a stay bears the burden of proof to demonstrate that a stay should be granted.

Any person named in the Decision who receives a copy of a petition for a stay and/or an appeal may see 43 CFR 4.472(b) for procedures to follow if that person wishes to respond.

  
Rhonda Karges,  
Andrews/Steens Field Manager

3/12/15  
Date

# Neuschwander Well DNA



-  Neuschwander Well
-  Bureau of Land Management
-  Non-Paved Improved Road
-  Allotment
-  Private/Unknown
-  Natural/Unknown Road Surface
-  Pastures
-  Existing Fence


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 Bureau of Land Management  
 Burns District, Oregon  
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 DOI-BLM-OR-B060-2015-0020-DNA