

**NOTICE OF PROPOSED DECISION FOR
TERM GRAZING PERMIT RENEWAL FOR THE
PETER CREEK ALLOTMENT (#00100)**

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The Peter Creek Allotment (#00100) is located approximately 15 miles northeast of Christmas Valley, Oregon (refer to EA Map 1). There is one grazing permit associated with this allotment. The allotment consists of three pastures used under a rest-rotation grazing management system.

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) directs that an environmental analysis be conducted on all proposed Federally-authorized actions. The renewal or initial issuance of term grazing permits is a Federal action to authorize livestock grazing on public land for a specified period of time, and under a set of specified terms and conditions.

The Lakeview Resource Management Plan/Record of Decision (RMP/ROD, 2003) identified the public land within this allotment as available for livestock grazing and specified the initial forage allocation, period of use, grazing system, and management objectives for the allotment (see Table 5, Appendix E, and Map G-3). Additional clarification of this initial management direction has been provided through periodic plan maintenance conducted in accordance with 43 CFR 1610.5-4.

PROPOSED DECISION

It is my proposed decision to reauthorize livestock grazing use in the Peter Creek Allotment (#00100), to Gene Damewood, and to renew his grazing permit for a term of 10 years. Table 1 shows the current permit dates, active preference, and grazing system for the allotment, which would be continued under this permit renewal.

Table 1

<i>Allotment</i>	<i>Permit Dates</i>	<i>Active preference</i>	<i>Grazing System</i>
<i>Peter Creek (#00100)</i>	4/15 to 10/15	329 AUMs	Rest-Rotation

The current three-pasture rest-rotation system, where one pasture is grazed during the growing season, the second is grazed after the growing season, and the third is rested, would be continued (see Table 1, page 2, and Map 2 of the EA).

In addition, I have decided to modify and maintain the Peter Creek Pipeline and associated water troughs, as described in Alternative 3 (page 5 of the EA). This includes:

Replacing approximately two miles of existing buried pipeline from Winter Well to the North Pasture with above ground high density polyethylene (HDPE) overland pipe in the same location.

Relocating approximately three miles of existing buried pipeline in the Middle and South pastures

along the existing pasture fence to the east and using above-ground HDPE plastic pipe.

Removing all exposed or broken PVC pipe.

Closing and rehabilitating approximately 1.75 miles of road associated with the removed pipeline.

Outfitting all new and existing watering troughs on the pipeline with wildlife escape ramps.

Refer to EA Map 4 (attached).

RATIONALE/AUTHORITY

Grazing permits are subject to issuance or renewal in accordance with the provisions of the Taylor Grazing Act (1934), Federal Land Policy and Management Act (1976), Public Rangelands Improvement Act (1978), and applicable grazing regulations at 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 4100 (2005).

The primary authority for this decision is contained in the BLM grazing regulations, which outline in pertinent parts: 43 CFR 4110.1 Mandatory qualifications, 4110.2-1 Base Property, 4110.2-2 Specifying permitted use, 4130.2 Grazing permits or leases, 4130.3(1) through 4130.3(2) Mandatory and Other terms and conditions, 4160.1 Proposed Decisions, and 4180.2 Standards and guidelines for grazing administration.

Grazing permittees who wish to graze livestock on public land must have a grazing permit or lease issued to them under the grazing regulations (43 CFR 4130.1(a)). Grazing permits or leases shall be issued to qualified applicants to authorize use on the public lands and other lands under the administration of the Bureau of Land Management that are designated as available for livestock grazing through land use plans (43 CFR 4130.2(a)). The permit applicant, Gene Damewood, controls the base property associated with the grazing preference on the allotment and has been determined to be a qualified applicant. Grazing permits shall be issued for a term of ten years unless there is some reason which requires a term of less than 10 years under the grazing regulations (43 CFR 4130.2(d)). In addition, grazing permits need to be issued with appropriate terms and conditions designed to “achieve management and resource condition objectives for the public lands... and to ensure conformance with part 4180”... (43 CFR Part 4130.3).

Prior to issuing this proposed decision, an ID Team prepared an environmental assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) in conformance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. The EA analyzed the impacts of four alternatives including: (1) no action (continued grazing under the current permit terms and conditions), (2) renewing the 10-year permit with a reduced season of use, (3) renewing the 10-year permit with the same terms and conditions and modifying the Peter Creek Pipeline, and (4) no grazing (not renewing the 10-year permit). The results of the Rangeland Health Assessment (RHA), completed in 2002, were considered during this analysis. As noted in the FONSI, the selected alternative (Alternative 3) would not have any significant effects on the human environment. Potentially interested public, agencies, tribes, and the permittee were provided a 30-day review period on the EA and FONSI. The BLM received no comments for consideration during that time.

Decision Factors

Decision factors are a set of criteria used by the decision maker to choose the alternative that best meet the purpose and need for the proposal. These include:

- a) How well does the decision conform to laws, regulations, and policies related to grazing use and protecting other resource values?
- b) How well does the decision conform to the resource management and allotment management plans?
- c) How well does the decision promote maintenance of rangeland health standards?
- d) How well does the decision conform with those Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) 2005 sage-grouse guidelines that were incorporated into the Lakeview RMP/ROD through plan maintenance?
- e) How well does the decision conform with IM 2012-043 regarding interim sage-grouse management?

A discussion addressing these decision factors as they relate to Alternative 3 from the Peter Creek Allotment #00100 Livestock Grazing Permit Renewal EA follows. Generally, implementation of Alternatives 1-3 would conform with all applicable laws, regulations, land use plan direction, allotment management plan direction, and applicable sage-grouse management guidance. However, Alternative 3 was selected over Alternatives 1 and 2 because the improved livestock distribution associated with the pipeline maintenance and relocation project (see EA Map 4, attached) is expected to result in rangeland resources that best meets the desired ecological conditions and management goals and objectives for the allotment, as well as provide for continuance of the permittee's livestock operation.

Alternative 4 was considered within the EA analysis to provide a full range of alternatives and comply with grazing management permit renewal guidance (BLM 2000, 2008b). However, as explained below, implementation of Alternative 4 would only be appropriate if an analysis or evaluation of monitoring data or rangeland health assessment identified a need for adjustments (e.g. reduction) to meet management objectives. In this instance, complete removal of grazing or closing the allotment to grazing use for a ten year period would not be consistent with the management goals and direction contained in this land use plan, as current livestock grazing is not causing any violations of rangeland health standards (BLM 2002). Neither the RHA nor other monitoring data have indicated any resource conflict or problem on the allotment that would require or justify complete removal of livestock. Therefore, BLM has no rational basis for adopting this alternative as the proposed decision.

Conformance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and the Lakeview RMP/ROD (2003)

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act requires that all management decisions be consistent with the approved land use plan (43 CFR 1610.5-3). Renewing this permit and conducting the proposed pipeline project modifications are in conformance with following management goals and direction contained within the Lakeview RMP/ROD (2003; as

maintained):

All public land within this allotment has been identified as available for livestock grazing in Table 5 (Page 46), Appendix E1 (page A-10), and Map G-3. Table 5 and Appendix E1 also specify the initial forage allocation, period of use, grazing system, and management objectives for the allotment.

Livestock Grazing Management Goal—*Provide for a sustainable level of livestock grazing consistent with other resource objectives and public land-use allocations* (Page 52).

“The current licensed grazing levels (presented in Appendix E1) will be maintained until analysis or evaluation of monitoring data or rangeland health assessments identify a need for adjustments to meet objectives. Applicable activity plans (including existing allotment management plans, agreements, decisions and/or terms and conditions of grazing use authorizations) will be developed, revised where necessary, and implemented to ensure that resource objectives are met. The full permitted use level for each allotment has been and continues to be analyzed through individual allotment assessments, such as rangeland health and livestock grazing guidelines....” (Page 52).

Rangeland Improvement Projects

“Rangeland improvement projects will be implemented to meet resource objectives... Range improvement projects that do not enhance resource values and meet management objectives will be abandoned and rehabilitated” (Page 53).

Operation and Maintenance Actions

“Maintenance of existing and newly constructed facilities or projects will occur over time... Such activities could include, but are not limited to, routine maintenance of existing...water control structures..., wells, pipelines, waterholes, fences,... and other similar facilities/projects” (Page 100).

Appendix E1 – Allotment Specific Management Direction

Livestock distribution/management - *Improve livestock management and distribution through improved management practices, installation of livestock management facilities (such as fences and water sources), and/or other actions as opportunities arise* (Page A-10).

Improve/maintain range condition - *Use management practices and/or better animal distribution; develop range improvements when appropriate: adjust permitted use as needed* (Page A-10).

General –*Continue livestock management practices under the 1990 allotment management plan. Revise the following objectives as needed to meet multiple use objectives* (Page A-10):

Maintain current allocation of 329 AUMs for livestock and 90 AUMs for wildlife. Wildlife includes 30 AUMs for bighorn sheep, 25 AUMs for deer and pronghorn, 30 AUMs for elk and 5 other.

Provide each pasture of the allotment periodic growing season rest. The growing season is defined as April 1 to peak of flowering on or about June 20.

Manage for an average maximum 50% utilization on key forage species.

Maintain the range condition as measured by existing nested plot frequency monitoring studies.

On (plot) PC-1 maintain Idaho Fescue (FEID) at 50% or greater, maintain squirreltail (ELEL) at 20% or greater and maintain Thurber's needlegrass (ACTH) at 20% or greater.

On (plot) PC-2 maintain Idaho Fescue (FEID), squirreltail (ELEL), and Thurber's needlegrass (ACTH) at 30% each or greater.

On (plot) PC-3 maintain Idaho Fescue (FEID) and squirreltail (ELEL) at 30% or greater, and maintain Thurber's needlegrass (ACTH) at 20% or greater.

Alternative 3 is in conformance with the management objectives addressed in the Peter Creek Allotment Management Plan (AMP) summarized above. The AMP addresses associated base property, forage allocation, utilization levels, desired species composition, and grazing management system.

Wildlife/Wildlife Habitat - Follow the greater sage-grouse Livestock Grazing guidelines (pages 75-76 of ODFW 2005), where appropriate (Page A-10, as maintained). See the sage-grouse sections below.

Conformance with Rangeland Health Standards and Guidelines (43 CFR 4180)

An ID team completed a Rangeland Health Assessment on the Peter Creek Allotment in 2002, in conformance with the requirements of 43 CFR 4180 and determined that all standards applicable to livestock grazing management on the allotment were being met. A small percentage of the allotment was found not to be meeting standard 3, but this was due to past farming practices rather than livestock grazing (see pages 28-29 of EA).

Under Alternative 3, continuing to authorize grazing under the existing terms and conditions, as shown in Table 1, is expected to result in soil, vegetation, wildlife habitat, and rangeland conditions that remain relatively stable or improve over time (see pages 12-24, and 29-30 of the EA). Long-term monitoring study plots have been established in the allotment and include nested frequency trend, photo trend, and utilization (page 3 of EA). These studies will continue in the future and help determine whether management objectives, including Rangeland Health Standards are continuing to be attained. If objectives are not attained, this can be addressed through future grazing management modification.

Conformance with the ODFW Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Assessment and Strategy for Oregon (ODFW 2005)

A substantial portion of this ODFW strategy was adopted by the Lakeview RMP/ROD through plan maintenance. This strategy states "where livestock grazing management results in a level of forage use (use level) that is consistent with Resource Management Plans, Allotment Management Plans, Terms and Conditions of Grazing Permits or Leases, other allotment specific direction, and regulations, no changes to use or management are required if habitat quality meets Rangeland Health Standard and Guidelines" (Page 75). The ODFW strategy also provides guidelines on how to construct or maintain range improvement projects to minimize impacts to sage-grouse habitat (Page 76).

Since the Rangeland Health Assessment found no violation of standards related to grazing use, renewing the permit under Alternative 3 (which continues grazing under the current terms and conditions) would be consistent with the ODFW strategy. Further, maintaining and relocating the pipeline project would minimize mosquito production by using trough designs that minimize overflow and reduce potential mosquito habitat associated with those troughs (see pages 27-28 of EA) and conform to the appropriate project guidelines (ODFW, 2005; page 76).

Conformance with Greater Sage-Grouse Interim Management Policies and Procedures (IM 2012-043)

This IM represents the current BLM Washington Office interim policy for sage-grouse habitat management until such time as plan amendments can be completed throughout the range of the species that address a comprehensive conservation strategy. This policy provides the following direction for proposed grazing permit renewals and proposed water developments:

Permit Renewals -Plan and authorize livestock grazing and associated range improvement projects on BLM lands in a way that maintains and/or improves Greater Sage-Grouse and its habitat. Analyze through a reasonable range of alternatives any direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of grazing on Greater Sage-Grouse and its habitats through the NEPA process:

Incorporate available site information collected using the *Sage-Grouse Habitat Assessment Framework* when evaluating existing resource condition and developing resource solutions,

Incorporate management practices that will provide for adequate residual plant cover (e.g., residual grass height) and diversity in the understories of sagebrush plant communities as part of viable alternatives. When addressing residual cover and species diversity, refer to the ESD (ecological site data) and “*State and Transition Model*,” where they are available, to guide the analysis.

Evaluate and implement grazing practices that promote the growth and persistence of native shrubs, grasses, and forbs. Grazing practices include kind and numbers of livestock, distribution, seasons of use, and livestock management practices needed to meet both livestock management and Greater Sage-Grouse habitat objectives.

Evaluate the potential risk to Greater Sage-Grouse and its habitats from existing structural range improvements. Address those structural range improvements identified as posing a risk during the renewal process.

Balance grazing between riparian habitats and upland habitats to promote the production and availability of beneficial forbs to Greater Sage-Grouse in meadows, mesic habitats, and riparian pastures for Greater Sage-Grouse use during nesting and brood-rearing while maintaining upland conditions and functions. Consider changes to season-of-use in riparian/wetland areas before or after the summer growing season.

To ensure that the NEPA analysis for permit/lease renewal has a range of reasonable alternatives:

Include at least one alternative that would implement a deferred or rest-rotation grazing system, if one is not already in place and the size of the allotment warrants it.

Include a reasonable range of alternatives (e.g., no grazing or a significantly reduced grazing alternative, current grazing alternative, increased grazing alternative, etc.) to compare the

impacts of livestock grazing on Greater Sage-Grouse habitat and land health from the proposed action.

Water Developments

NEPA analysis for all new water developments must assess impacts to Greater Sage-Grouse and its habitat.

Install escape ramps and a mechanism such as a float or shut-off valve to control the flow of water in tanks and troughs.

Design structures in a manner that minimizes potential for production of mosquitoes which may carry West Nile virus.

With regards to compliance with interim sage-grouse management policy:

The EA analyzed the effects of a reasonable range of alternatives, including a no action (current grazing which includes a rest-rotation system, reduced grazing, and no grazing (see EA pages 4-5). These alternatives addressed residual cover in terms of utilization standards and goals for key plant species (EA pages 3 and 16).

Sage-grouse habitats were assessed in accordance with several protocols, including the *Sage-Grouse Habitat Assessment Framework* (see EA pages 25-26).

Grazing practices addressed within the range of alternatives considered both livestock management and Greater Sage-Grouse habitat objectives.

The allotment is meeting Rangeland Health Standard 5 and would continue to do so under Alternative 3 (EA pages 26-28).

There are no known leks within 1 mile of existing fences which would require modification with bird reflectors. The risk of sage-grouse fence collisions and injury or mortality would be low (see EA pages 25-26).

No riparian or wetland areas exist in the allotment (see Table 4, page 9 of EA).

As noted above, the EA evaluated the potential impacts of proposed pipeline maintenance and relocation on sage-grouse and determined that the project trough design would minimize the potential for mosquito reproduction and associated risk of transmitting West Nile virus (see pages 27-28 of EA).

All water troughs associated with the pipeline would be built or retrofit with small animal escape ramps (see page 5 of EA).

Conformance with Conducting Wilderness Characteristics Inventory on BLM Lands (2012)

An inter-disciplinary team completed wilderness characteristics inventories within the allotment in accordance with the current inventory guidance that existed at the time (USDI-BLM 2007c, 2008c). While *Conducting Wilderness Characteristics Inventory on BLM Lands* (BLM 2012a) was not available at the time the inventories in the area were completed, this latest guidance contained the same requirements to address the same key elements of wilderness character as what was addressed in BLM's inventory updates. BLM did not find wilderness characteristics to be present within the allotment (BLM 2009, 2011a, 2011b) (see Table 5, page 10 of the EA).

RIGHT OF PROTEST AND/OR APPEAL

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other affected interest may protest this proposed decision under Section 43 CFR 4160.1 and 4160.2, either in person or by writing to me at the following address:

Bureau of Land Management
Lakeview District Office
1301 South G Street
Lakeview, OR 97630

within 15 days after receipt of the decision. A written protest that is electronically transmitted (e.g., email, facsimile, or social media) will not be accepted. A written protest must be on paper. The protest should clearly and concisely state the reason(s) as to why the proposed decision is in error. Any protest received will be carefully considered and then a final decision will be issued. In the absence of a protest, the proposed decision will become my final decision without further notice.

Any applicant, permittee, lessee, or other person whose interest is adversely affected by the final grazing decision may appeal the decision to an administrative law judge in accordance with 43 CFR 4.470 and 43 CFR 4160.3 and 4160.4. The appeal must be in writing and filed in my office, at the address above, within 30 days following receipt of the final decision, or within 30 days after the date the proposed decision becomes final. A notice of appeal that is electronically transmitted (e.g., email, facsimile, or social media) will not be accepted. A notice of appeal must be on paper.

The appellant must serve a copy of the appeal, by certified mail, to the:

Office of the Solicitor
U.S. Department of the Interior
805 SW Broadway, Suite 600
Portland, OR 97205

The appellant must also serve a copy of the appeal on any person named in the decision or listed in the "copies sent to" section at the end of this decision.

The appeal must state the reasons, clearly and concisely, why you believe the final decision is in error, and comply with all other provisions of 43 CFR 4.470.

An appellant may also petition for a stay of the final decision by filing a petition for stay together with the appeal in accordance with the provisions of 43 CFR 4.471. Should you wish to file a petition for a stay, you must file within the appeal period. In accordance with 43 CFR 4.471, 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.
4. Whether or not the public interest favors granting the stay.

You bear the burden of proof in demonstrating that the decision is in error and that a stay should be granted.

The petition for stay must be filed in my office, at the address above, and be served in accordance with the requirements of 43 CFR 4.473. A petition for stay that is electronically transmitted (e.g., email, facsimile, or social media) will not be accepted. A petition for stay must be on paper.

Any person named in the decision that receives a copy of a petition for stay and/or an appeal should refer to 43 CFR 4.472(b) for the procedures to follow should you wish to respond.

If you should have any questions regarding this decision, please contact me at 541-947-2177.



Thomas E. Rasmussen
Lakeview Resource Area, Field Manager

9/13/12
Date

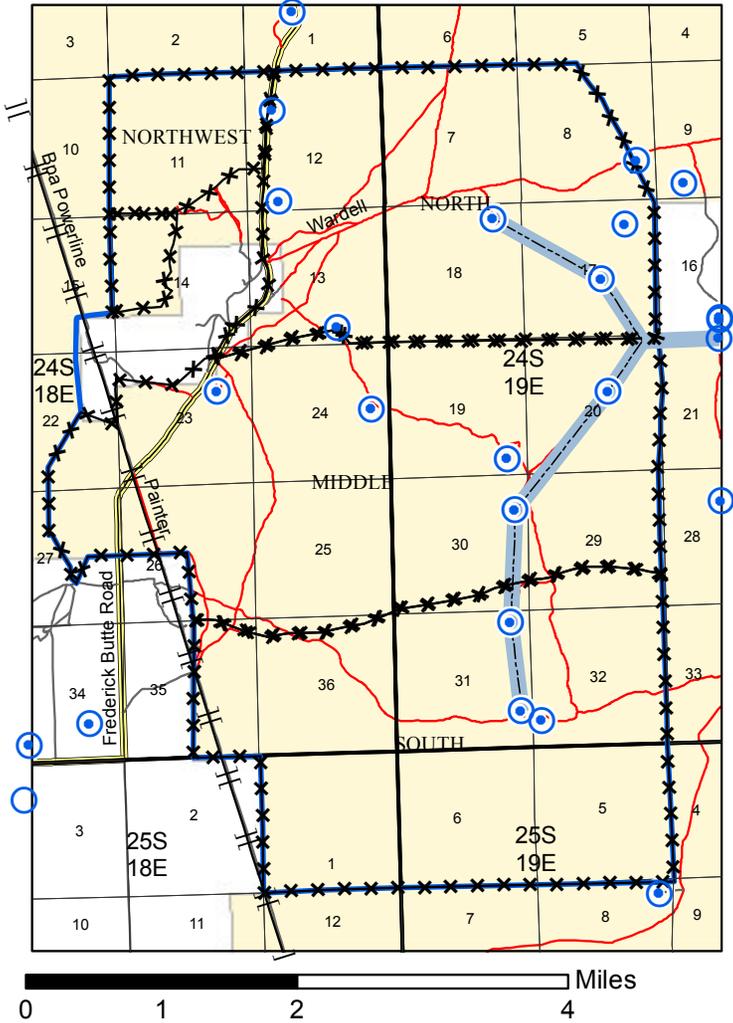
Copies sent to:

Gene Damewood
C/O Dan D. Damewood
P.O. Box 326
Christmas Valley, OR 97641

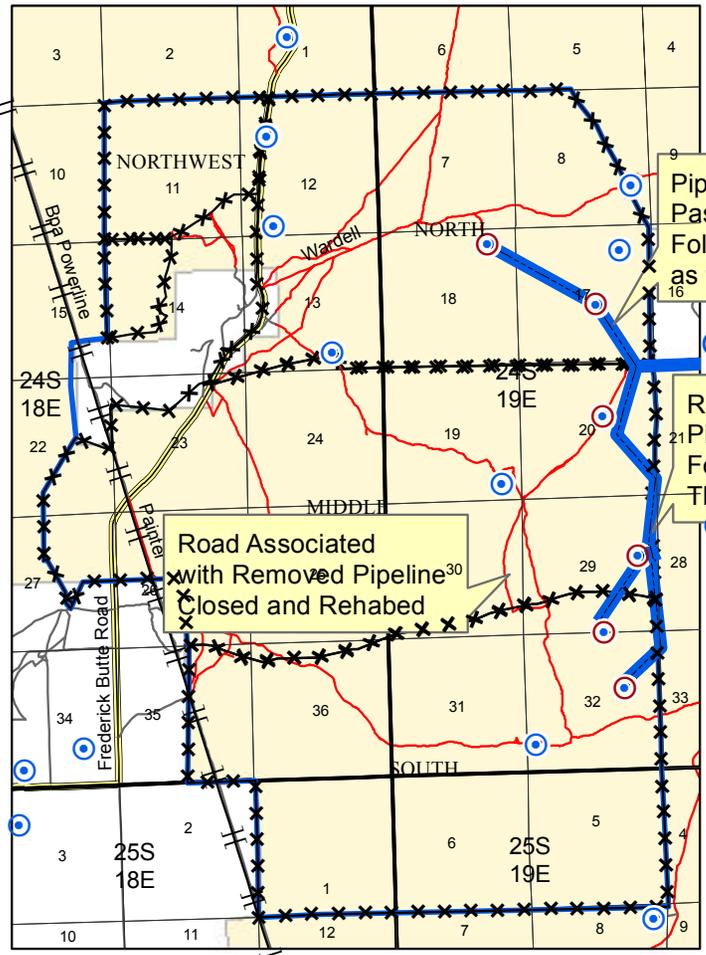
Peter Lacy
Oregon Natural Desert Association
917 SW Oak Street, Suite 408
Portland, OR 97205

Map4-- Peter Creek Proposed Pipeline Work (Alternative 3)

Peter Creek Pipeline - Current Location



Peter Creek Pipeline - Alternative 3



Legend

	GTRN Roads	
	OwnerDesg	

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use with other data. Original data were compiled from various sources. This information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This product was developed through digital means and may be updated without notification.



FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

PETER CREEK ALLOTMENT #00100 LIVESTOCK GRAZING PERMIT RENEWAL

DOI-BLM-OR-L050-2012-0014-EA

The Bureau of Land Management, Lakeview District, Lakeview Resource Area (BLM), has analyzed several alternative proposals related to renewing term grazing permit number 3601503 and maintaining or improving one range improvement project for the Peter Creek Allotment. The allotment is located about 15 miles northeast of Christmas Valley, Oregon, and encompasses approximately 14,440 acres (including 13,800 acres of BLM-administered lands). An environmental assessment (EA) was prepared that analyzed the potential direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts of four alternatives (see attachment). The alternatives analyzed included No Action (continue current grazing), Reduced Season, Renew Grazing Permit and Modify Existing Pipeline, and No Grazing (see pages 2-5 of attached EA).

The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations state that the significance of impacts must be determined in terms of both context and intensity (40 CFR 1508.27). The context of the proposed project is the Peter Creek grazing allotment (0515). For this reason, the analysis of impacts in the attached Environmental Assessment (EA) is focused appropriately at this scale. The CEQ regulations also include the following ten considerations for evaluating the intensity of impacts:

- 1) Would any of the alternatives have significant beneficial or adverse impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(1)?
() Yes (X) No

Rationale: Based on the analysis contained in the attached EA, none of the four alternatives would have either significant beneficial or adverse impacts on the human environment. There are no prime or unique farmlands, wetlands, riparian areas, water quality, wild horse management areas, wild and scenic rivers, significant caves, designated wilderness areas, wilderness study areas, other areas with wilderness characteristics, ACEC/RNAs, or hazardous waste sites located in the project area. No measureable impacts would occur to climate, low income or minority populations, air quality, floodplains, land tenure, or mineral and energy resources (pages 9-12).

The potential impacts to soils, biological soil crusts, upland vegetation, wildlife, special status species, livestock grazing management, native American concerns, cultural resources, recreation, visual resources, or social and economic values anticipated by the various alternatives have been analyzed in detail within Chapter 3 of the attached EA and found not to be significant (pages 12-38).

- 2) Would any of the alternatives have significant adverse impacts on public health and safety (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(2)? () Yes (X) No

Rationale: None of the four alternatives analyzed in detail in the attached EA would have significant impacts on public health or safety because the project area is not located near any populated rural or urban area. For this reason, there would also be no impacts to low income or minority populations (Table 4, page 9). Further, there are no known hazardous waste sites in the project area (Table 5, page 10). There would be no measureable impacts to air quality within and surrounding the project area (Table 4, page 9). There are no perennial streams or surface drinking water sources located in the project area (Table 4, page 9).

- 3) Would any of the alternatives have significant adverse impacts on unique geographic characteristics (cultural or historic resources, park lands, prime and unique farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, designated wilderness or wilderness study areas, or ecologically critical areas (ACECs, RNAs, significant caves)) (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(3)? () Yes (X) No

Rationale: There are no park lands, prime or unique farmlands, wetlands or riparian areas, wild and scenic rivers, significant caves, designated wilderness areas, WSAs, or ACEC/RNAs located in the project area (Table 4, page 9).

4) Would any of the alternatives have highly controversial effects (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(4))? Yes No

Rationale: The BLM has extensive expertise planning, analyzing impacts, and implementing range management actions such as those proposed by the four alternatives addressed in the attached EA. The potential impacts of these range management actions on soils, biological soil crusts, upland vegetation, wildlife, special status species, livestock grazing management, native American concerns, cultural resources, recreation, visual resources, or social and economic values can be reasonably predicted based on existing science and professional expertise. The attached EA analyzed these impacts (pages 12-38). The nature of these impacts is not highly controversial, nor is there substantial dispute within the scientific community regarding the nature of these effects.

The public has been given an opportunity to review and comment on the analysis of effects. The BLM is not currently aware of any potential highly controversial effects, as defined under 40 CFR 1508.27(b)(4), but will review any comments received and address any substantive comments prior to signing this FONSI.

5) Would any of the alternatives have highly uncertain effects or involve unique or unknown risks (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(5))? Yes No

Rationale: The BLM has extensive expertise planning, analyzing impacts, and implementing range management actions such as those proposed by the four alternatives addressed in the attached EA. The potential impacts of these range management actions on soils, biological soil crusts, upland vegetation, wildlife, special status species, livestock grazing management, native American concerns, cultural resources, recreation, visual resources, or social and economic values can be reasonably predicted based on existing science and professional expertise. The attached EA analyzed these impacts (pages 12-38). The nature of these impacts is not highly uncertain nor does it involve unique or unknown risks.

6) Would any of the alternatives establish a precedent for future actions with significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(6))? Yes No

Rationale: The BLM has extensive expertise planning, analyzing impacts, and implementing range management actions such as those proposed by the four alternatives addressed in the attached EA. None of the alternative actions represents a new, precedent-setting range management technique or would establish a precedent for future similar actions with potentially significant effects.

7) Are any of the alternatives related to other actions with potentially significant cumulative impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7))? Yes No

Rationale: Based on the analysis contained within the Cumulative Effects section of Chapter 3 of the attached EA, none of the four alternatives would have significant cumulative effects within the project area, even when added to the effects of other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions (pages 34-38).

8) Would any of the alternatives have significant adverse impacts on scientific, cultural, or historic resources, including those listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Resources (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(8))? Yes No

Rationale: There are no areas of native American religious concern in the project area (page 27). Potential impacts to cultural resources have been analyzed in Chapter 3 of the attached EA and found not to be significant (pages 29-31).

9) Would any of the alternatives have significant adverse impacts on threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(9))? Yes No

Rationale: There are no threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitat within the project area (Table 4, page 9 and page 23).

10) Would any of the alternatives have effects that threaten to violate Federal, State, or local law or

requirements imposed for the protection of the environment (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(10)? () Yes (X) No

Rationale: All of the four alternatives analyzed in the attached EA comply with all Federal, State, and local environmental laws or other environmental requirements, including the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act.

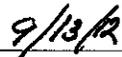
The Federal Land Policy and Management Act requires that any action that BLM implements must also conform with the current land use plan and other applicable plans and policies. The purpose and need for the proposed action conforms with the management direction contained in the *Lakeview Resource Management Plan/Record of Decision* (BLM 2003b). The alternatives that were analyzed in the EA conform to the management direction requirements of this plan and the *Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management for Public Lands Administered by the Bureau of Land Management in the States of Oregon and Washington* (BLM 1997), the *Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Strategy and Assessment for Oregon* (ODFW 2005), the *Rosebud/Edmunds Well Habitat Management Plan* (BLM 1993a), the *Greater Sage-Grouse Interim Management Policies and Procedures* (BLM 2011c), and the grazing regulations (43 CFR Part 4100) in varying degrees (EA pages 5-8). Conformance with this direction will be addressed in more detail within the proposed decision as it represents important decision factors that must be considered in making the final decision (EA page 2).

Finding

On the basis of the analysis contained in the attached EA, the consideration of intensity factors described above, and all other available information, my determination is that none of the alternatives analyzed would constitute a major federal action which would have significant adverse or beneficial impacts on the quality of the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is unnecessary and will not be prepared.



Thomas E. Rasmussen, Field Manager
Lakeview Resource Area



Date