

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

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**Name of Proposed Action:** Renewal of a Grazing Permit for the Sheep Mountain Individual Allotment (# 0014) in the Central Resource Area.

**DNA Number: OR-054-06-091**

**Location of Proposed Action:** Forty five miles east of Prineville Oregon.

**Purpose of and Need for Action:** The current permit has expired and the permittee has requested a renewal (Benise Shepherd, GRN# 3605030).

**Description of the Proposed Action:** Renew a grazing permit for the permittee in the above listed allotment for a term of ten years.

**Plan Conformance:**

The above project has been reviewed and found to be in conformance with one or more of the following BLM plans:

Brothers/La Pine Resource Management Plan (RMP)/ Record of Decision ROD dated July, 1989.  
Cooperative Rangeland Management Agreement for the Sheep Mountain Individual Allotment (# 0014) dated 2/27/89.

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the LUP decisions referenced in the *NEPA Adequacy Criteria* section of this document.

**Applicable NEPA document and related documents:**

The following NEPA documents and related documents address the proposed action:

1. Draft Brothers/ La Pine Resource Management Plan (RMP) / Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), October 1987. 2. Brothers/La Pine Resource Management Plan (RMP)/ Record of Decision ROD) dated July, 1989. 3. Periodic Prineville District Land Use Plan Evaluation and Environmental Analysis Procedures Review dated April 1998.

**NEPA Adequacy Criteria:**

*1. is the current proposed action substantially the same action (or is a part of that action) as previously analyzed?*

Yes. Livestock grazing in general is discussed in pages 74-91 in the RMP/ROD. Livestock grazing specific to the Sheep Mountain Individual Allotment (# 0014) was addressed on page 76 of the RMP /

ROD referenced above. Grazing use in the allotment, 1,820 acres, was to be continued with active AUM's remaining the same at 240. There are no proposed changes for this allotment from what is shown the RMP/ROD in the current proposed action.

*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 in the planning document (page 8 of the RMP/ROD) ranged from emphasis of commodity production to emphasis of natural values, which included the elimination of all livestock grazing as an alternative. The 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?*

Yes. 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 & Guidelines; this allotment is scheduled for evaluation in 2008. Until completion of the evaluation for this allotment, the new term lease will contain stipulations that will provide for modifications of the grazing of the public lands, if needed, on completion of the evaluation. The Fish and Wildlife Service is evaluating species for listing that are present within the RMP/ROD area boundary. If these species are listed as threatened or endangered and are found on federal lands located within this allotment the permit is subject to future modifications to achieve compliance with the listing.

*4. Do the methodology and analytical approach used in the existing NEPA document(s) continue to be appropriate for the current proposed action?*

Yes. The Brothers/La Pine RMP/ROD addressed impacts of continued grazing and provided objectives and recommendations to facilitate maintenance of existing ecological condition trends (page 76 of RMP/ROD). This approach is still considered valid as this document was formally evaluated in 1998 and found to still provide valid guidance for land use and resource allocations and directions.

*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?*

Yes. Impacts resulting from grazing are essentially unchanged from those analyzed in the *Draft* Brothers/La Pine RMP/EIS. The RMP/EIS (pages 90-102) stated grazing would produce a slight short-term negative impact on soils, water quality, vegetation, a beneficial impact on wildlife, and no impact on air quality, water, forest land, wild horses, recreation, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, visual resources, energy and minerals, or socio-economics.

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. Although the RMP/EIS does not specifically address cumulative impacts of grazing it does address long term impacts of the action with the assumption that the grazing activity would continue (impact analysis is on pages 90-102 of *Draft RMP/EIS*). Recommendations and objectives in the document reflect the impacts and expected improvements that would continue with the ongoing grazing. The proposed action is substantially unchanged from those analyzed impacts.

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

Yes. Many of the individuals/organizations on our current "interested publics" list are the same as those on the mailing list for the RMP/EIS referenced above. The *Description of the Proposed Action* for this DNA is/will be posted on the Prineville Districts' internet page. A copy of this conformance worksheet will be mailed to all individuals and organizations that request it on the intranet.

**Interdisciplinary Analysis:**

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Resource Represented</u></b>	<b><u>Initials/Date</u></b>
Steve Castillo	Forestry	/S/ SC 8/26/06
Mike Allen	Wildlife, Special Status Animals	/S/ MA 8-22-06
Berry Phelps	Recreation	/S/ BP 9/5/06
Jeff Moss	Fisheries, Riparian	/S/ JDM 8/24/06
John Zancanella	Cultural Resources	/S/ JZ 8/23/06
Ron Halvorson	Botany, Special Status Plants	/S/ RH 8/22/02
Mike Turaski	Hydrology, Riparian, Watershed	/S/ MRT 8/25/06
Don Zalunardo	Range, Livestock Grazing	/S/ DRZ 8/22/06
Larry Thomas	Soils, Hazardous Materials	/S/ LCT 8/23/06
Bill Pieratt	National Environmental Policy Act	/S/ WJP8/23/06

**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.

**Recommendation:**

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 BLMs' compliance with the requirements of NEPA

Prepared By: /S/ Don Zalunardo Date: 8/22/06  
Title: Range Management Spec.

**Plan Conformance/DNA Determination:**

The proposed action and any specified mitigation measure(s) has been determined to meet the criteria for a Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA). No additional environmental analysis required. All cultural, T&E plant, and T&E wildlife specialists have provided clearances for the proposed project.

Reviewed By: /S/ Teal Purrington  
Environmental Coordinator

Date: 8/25/06

**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: /S/ Christina M. Welch  
Field Manager

Date: 8/26/2006

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