

Categorical Exclusion Documentation

A. Background

BLM Office: Prineville Field Office

NEPA Log #: DOI - BLM - OR – P040 - 2009 - 0069 - CX

Project/Lease/Serial/Case File #: N/A

Proposed Action Title: McKinnon Transfer

Location: Location is approximately 16 miles NE of Brothers, Oregon. Map included.

Description of the Proposed Action: GI Ranch Corporation has requested a transfer of AUMs from the Owens Water Community and GI Allotments to Mike McKinnon. Mike McKinnon will receive 9 AUMs of the Owens Water Community Allotment, and it will retain that name. Mike McKinnon will also receive 20 AUMs of the GI Allotment, of which make up the majority of the Bright/Morton pasture. This will become the Bright/Morton Allotment, and GI will no longer have grazing preference on this portion of the GI allotment. All terms and conditions on the existing permit will be carried forward to the new permit: all that is changing are the names on the permits, the name on the allotment, and the allocation of AUMs between parties.

Legal Description of BLM lands to which the AUM's are to be transferred:

Owens Water Community-

T19S R20E Sec. 35

T20S R20E Sec. 1, 2

Bright/Morton Allotment-

T20S R20 E Sec. 13, 22, 23

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan Name: Brothers/La Pine

Date approved (ROD): July 1989

The proposed action is in conformance with the above plan because it is specifically provided for in the following land use plan decisions:

“Grazing management in the Brothers portion will continue so as to maintain or improve ecological status on all grazing allotments...This is accomplished by the amount of forage allocated for livestock grazing, the grazing management system utilized and the range treatments or developments implemented. (75)”

Brothers/LaPine Resource Management Plan, ROD July 1989

Specific allotment information can be found on page 76 of the *Brothers/LaPine RMP*.

C. Compliance with NEPA

The following Bureau action(s) normally does not require the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS): *516 Departmental Manual 11.9 D(1)*:

(1) Approval of transfers of grazing preference.

This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM 2 apply.

D. Signature

Authorizing official: /S/ Jill S. Silvey _____ 2/3/2010 _____
 Jill Silvey Date
 Field Manager, Central Oregon Resource Area

Contact Person

For additional information concerning this review, contact Cari Taylor, Rangeland Management Specialist, Prineville Field Office, 3050 NE 3rd Street, Prineville, OR 97754, telephone (541) 416.6790, cari.Taylor@blm.gov.

CX EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES DOCUMENTATION		YES	NO
The proposed categorical exclusion action will:			
2.1	Have significant impacts on public health or safety.		x
Rationale: Public health and safety is not impacted by this transfer; there will be no changes made to the grazing management.			
2.2	Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.		x
Rationale: None of the above things occur in the area where the transfer will take place.			
2.3	Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].		x
Rationale: Neither of these occur in this area.			
2.4	Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or		x

involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		
Rationale: No. These grazing allotments have existed for many years. In 2009 the GI allotment passed all the Standards and Guides; there are no known significant effects from Owens Water Community Allotment to the environment.		
2.5 Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		x
Rationale: No, same as above.		
2.6 Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		x
Rationale: No, same as above.		
2.7 Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.		x
Rationale: No, there are no known properties.		
2.8 Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.		x
Rationale: No known species listed.		
2.9 Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		x
Rationale: No		
2.10 Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).		x
Rationale: No. The permittee legally qualifies for this transfer, and has already been a tenant of GI Ranch.		
2.11 Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).		x
Rationale: Same as above.		
2.12 Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species		x

(Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).		
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<p>Rationale: This individual is great about preventing them, and getting rid of weeds, including post-settlement/invasive juniper.</p>
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