

Categorical Exclusion Documentation

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
Prineville District – Deschutes Resource Area

A. Background

Proposed Action Title: Grazing Permit Transfer, Gray Butte Allotment (5050)

CE Number: DOI-BLM-OR-P060-2010-0025-CX

Project or Serial Number: None

Location: Approximately four miles northeast of Terrebonne, Oregon. Map attached.

Description of the Proposed Action: The proposed action is to transfer the grazing authorization for the Gray Butte Allotment (5050) from Thomas and Carol Strand to Lazy Z Partners LLC. In addition, Lazy Z Partners purchased 190 acres of the original 360 acres of base property, which allows them to apply for 53 percent of the authorization, or 15 AUMs out of a total of 28 AUMs. As a result, the Strands are transferring the remaining 13 AUMs from their remaining base property to the Lazy Z Partners base. The existing Terms and Conditions and management practices of the Grazing Permit would remain unchanged.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

The proposed action is in conformance with the following Land Use Plan:

Upper Deschutes Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan (UD ROD and RMP), September 2005

Page 77, General Uses, No. 5: “Continue to allocate AUMs as shown in Brothers/La Pine RMP (USDI-BLM, 1989) and subsequent Rangeland Program Summaries.”

Page 79, Guidelines, No. 12: “Grazing operators in good standing can continue to hold or transfer permits to other qualified applicants ...”

Page 245, Appendix G, Livestock Grazing Management Summary: “5050 Gray Butte Allotment, Grazing Matrix Classifications – Livestock grazing discontinued or RFA if the permit is voluntarily relinquished.”

C. Compliance with NEPA

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.5.D (1), effective August 14, 2007, “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 apply as described in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2, and effective June 21, 2005. See attached CX Extraordinary Circumstances Documentation checklist beginning on page 3.

I considered the above Proposed Action, land use plan, compliance with 516 DM 11.5.D (1), and the lack of extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment information provided. Based on this review, there is no potential for significant impacts so further NEPA analysis is not needed.

D. Signature

Authorizing official: /S/ Molly Brown Date 2/24/10
Molly Brown, Deschutes Field Manager

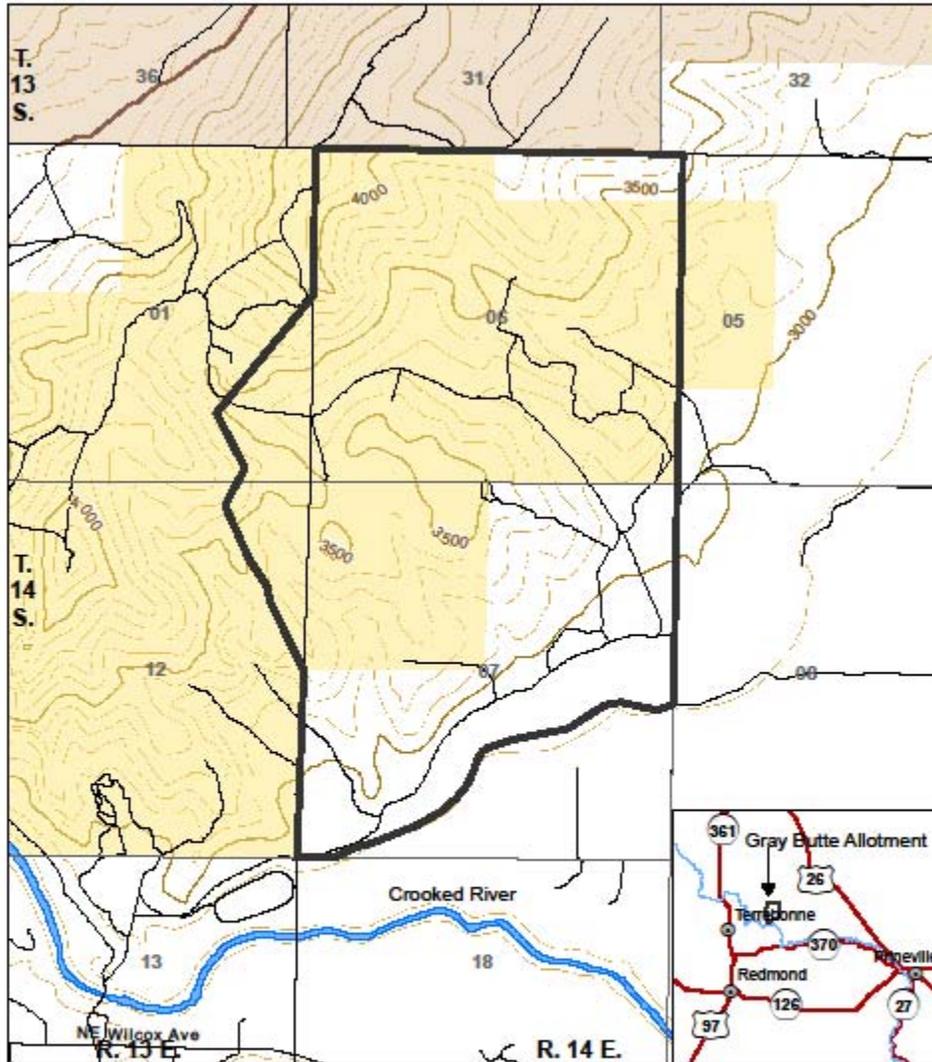
Contact Person

For additional information concerning this review, contact Lyle Andrews, Rangeland Management Specialist at the Prineville District Office, 3050 NE 3rd Street, Prineville, OR 97754, 541-416-6715, lyle_w_andrews@or.blm.gov.

CX EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES DOCUMENTATION			
The proposed categorical exclusion action will:		YES	NO
2.1	Have significant impacts on public health or safety.		X
Rationale: The administrative action of transferring a grazing lease has not been associated with having significant impacts on public health or safety, as of yet. In addition, the end result of a grazing lease transfer is the continuation of a land use which is in conformance with the Upper Deschutes Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Record of Decision (ROD), 2005.			
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: The proposed action would not have significant impacts on park, refuge, wilderness, national natural landmarks, principal drinking water aquifers, prime farmlands, wetlands, national monuments, and ecologically significant or critical areas. None of these resources of concern are within the geographical boundaries of the proposed action.			
2.3	Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2) (E)].		X
Rationale: The proposed action is administrative, but the result is continued grazing on public land. Grazing on this allotment is in conformance with the UDRMP/ROD, 2005.			
2.4	Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		X
Rationale: The administrative action of transferring a grazing lease from one person to another does not have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks. The continuation of grazing on public land is in conformance with the UDRMP/ROD, 2005.			
2.5	Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		X
Rationale: Hundreds of grazing permit/lease and base property transfers have occurred every year since 1935 so the proposed action would not be regarded as precedent setting			

with potentially significant environmental effects. Due to the management constraints imposed by the UDRMP/ROD, the proposed action is within the limits of acceptable environmental effects. To date, this type of action has not been viewed as establishing a precedent for future actions or representing a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		
2.6	Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.	X
Rationale: The proposed action does not change the already existing uses in the planning area. The proposed action provides no new effect.		
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: The UDRMP/ROD did not identify impacts, from continued grazing in the Cline Buttes Allotment, to properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places.		
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: The proposed action is not within an area where sensitive, endangered or threatened species have been found.		
2.9	Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.	X
Rationale: The proposed action conforms to the direction given for the management of public lands in the UDRMP/ROD which complies with all applicable laws, such as the Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act.		
2.10	Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).	X
Rationale: The proposed action would have no measurable effect on low-income or minority populations. A base property transfer allows for the continuation of livestock grazing which can provide employment to various sectors of the population.		
2.11	Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or cause significant adverse affect on the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).	X
Rationale: The proposed action does not limit access to or the ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or cause significant adverse		

affect on the physical integrity of such sacred sites.		
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 (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).	X
Rationale: The proposed action would not measurably change the rate of introduction, continued existence or spread of noxious weeds or invasive species. Livestock entering public lands have the potential to transport some viable undesirable seed via hide or gut; however, the possibility of introducing undesirable plants, not already in the area, is minimal.		



Gray Butte Allotment 5050

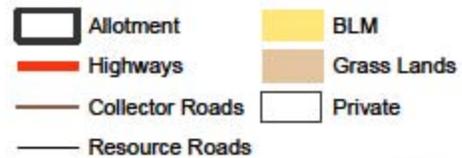
Department of Interior
 Bureau of Land Management
 3050 NE Third Street
 Prineville, OR 97754
 541-416-6700

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Map created 01/27/2010
 Map modifications pending



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