

Categorical Exclusion Documentation

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Prineville District – Deschutes Resource Area

A. Background

Proposed Action Title: Grazing Lease Transfer, Reckmann Allotment

CE Number: DOI-BLM-OR-P060-2011-0045-CX

Project or Serial Number: None

Location: Approximately five miles west of Grass Valley, Oregon. Map attached.

Description of the Proposed Action: The proposed action is to transfer a portion of the BLM grazing authorization for the Reckmann Allotment (7564) to Jamie Wilson. Karleen M. Perry and Patsy M. Reckmann, Henry E. Reckmann, and Katherine Christiansen all have animal unit months (AUMs) within the allotment. This transfer is a base property lease between Henry E. Reckmann and Jamie Wilson. Henry E. Reckmann has 57 AUMs authorized within the Reckmann Allotment. The existing Terms and Conditions and management practices of the lease would remain unchanged. These include season of use, permitted AUMs, number and kind of livestock, and livestock management along the Deschutes River. The lease agreement would be from October 2011 to October 2016.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

The above proposed action has been found to be in conformance with the following BLM plans.

Two Rivers Resource Management Plan (RMP), Record of Decision (ROD), Rangeland Program Summary, June 1986

Page 10, Goal and Objectives, No. 1: “Maintain forage production and livestock use at 17,778 AUMs.”

Page 44, Appendix C: “7564 Reckmann, J.P., Acres Public Land 3,194, Current Active Use 198 AUMs ...”

Page 49, Appendix D: “7564 , Reckmann, J.P., ... Grazing Period Begin-End 03/01 – 12/05 ...”

Lower Deschutes River Management Plan, Record of Decision, February 1993

Page 21, C.1.a.1. Proposed Decision, No. 3: “The period of livestock use within the planning area will generally be between November 1 and May 1, unless there is a site specific rationale for an exception, such as use in a non-riparian pasture.”

C. Compliance with NEPA

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 necessary.

D. Signature

Authorizing official: _____

Molly Brown

Date _____

1/12/12

Molly Brown, Deschutes Field Manager

Contact Person

For additional information concerning this review, contact Molly Galbraith, Rangeland Management Specialist at the Prineville District Office, 3050 NE 3rd Street, Prineville, OR 97754, 541-416-6714, mgalbrai@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: The proposed action, which would continue livestock grazing on the Reckmann Allotment, would not have any impacts on public health or safety.			
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 the items listed. There are no parks, refuges, wilderness, national natural landmarks, principal drinking water aquifers, prime farmlands, wetlands, national monuments, or ecologically significant or critical areas in the area 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: Current and past livestock grazing within the Reckmann Allotment has not had highly controversial environmental effects or involved unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources. Under the proposed action livestock grazing would continue in a manner consistent with current livestock grazing on the allotment.			
2.4	Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		X
Rationale: Grazing practices, as described in the listed land use planning documents, for the proposed action have shown no highly uncertain, potentially significant, unique or unknown risks.			
2.5	Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		X
Rationale: Thousands of grazing permit/lease 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 Two Rivers Resource Management Plan and Lower Deschutes River Management Plan the proposed action is within the limits of acceptable environmental effects.		
2.6	Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.	X
Rationale: Similar past actions, to the proposed action, did not result in significant direct, indirect or cumulative environmental effects. The proposed action does not alter the magnitude of environmental effects because it is an administrative action which involves people completing forms in an enclosed office environment.		
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 Two Rivers ROD determined that livestock grazing, as described in the Plan, would have a low impact on historic places (see Table 1, page iii).		
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 assessment for the Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management for the Reckmann Allotment, dated September 2005, determined that current grazing practices were not having an unacceptable impact on listed species or their habitat (see pages 5-6).		
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 Two Rivers and Lower Deschutes River RODs/RMPs, which complies with all applicable laws, such as the Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act and others.		
2.10	Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).	X
Rationale: The transfer of an active grazing permit/lease would have no measurable effect on low-income or minority populations; however, it would provide public grazing land for a ranch operation which may employ low income persons or minorities.		
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

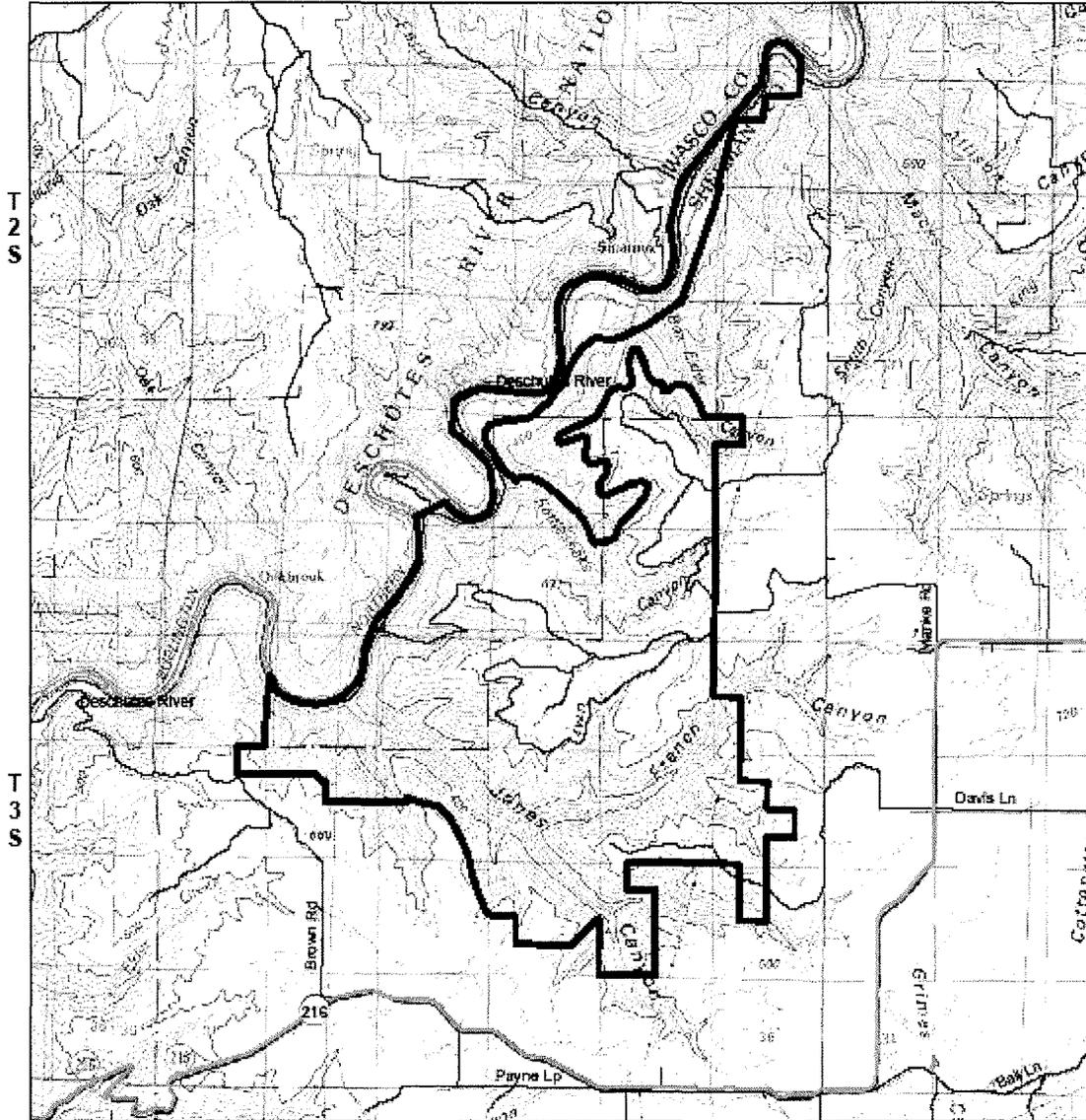
Rationale: There is no documentation of limited access or use of sacred Indian ceremonial sites regarding the proposed action. In addition, there is no documentation that the physical integrity of such sites, if they exist, would be adversely affected. Should an adverse situation arise, action would be taken to ameliorate the problem.

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 remote.

R 15 E



Reckmann Allotment 7564

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 Map Created 07/13/2009
 Map Modifications Pending
 MOOT: K:\gis\work\land\oreg\gms\prineville_7564.mxd



0 0.5 1 2 Miles

Scale: 1:80,000

Legend

- Allotment Boundary
- Highways
- Collector
- Local
- Resource Road
- BLM
- State
- Private

