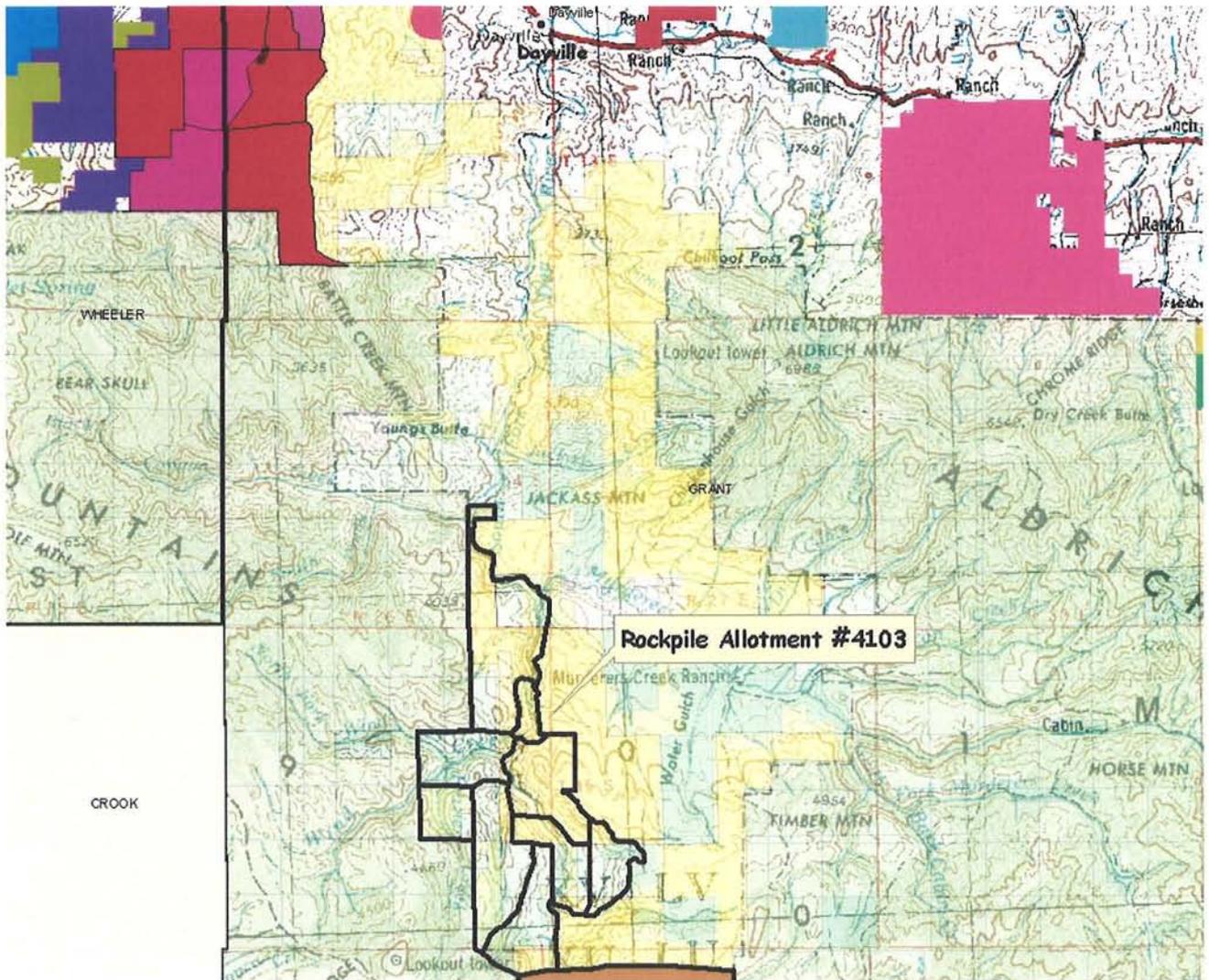


Prineville District
Land Use Plan Conformance and
Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)
Review and Approval

Name of Proposed Action: Rockpile Allotment #4103 Grazing Lease Renewal

DNA Number: OR-054-08-008

Location of Proposed Action: 13 air miles south of Dayville, Oregon



Purpose of the Proposed Action: Authorize grazing use on public lands in the Rockpile Allotment for a ten year period. The current grazing lease has expired and has been applied for by the current lessee.

Need for the Proposed Action: BLM regulations require that livestock owners operating on public lands possess a valid grazing permit or lease. 43CFR 4130.2 (a) states: "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." Further, 43CFR 4130.2 (e) requires that "Permittees or lessees holding expiring grazing permits or leases shall have priority for new permits or leases if: (1) The lands for which the permit or lease is issued remain available for domestic livestock grazing; (2) The permittee or lessee is in compliance with the rules and regulations and the terms and conditions in the permit or lease; (3) The permittee or lessee accepts the terms and conditions to be included by the authorized officer in the new permit or lease.

Description of the Proposed Action: Reissue the grazing lease for the grazing lessee in the above listed allotment for a term of ten years. Except for the term shown on the permit, all terms and conditions on the permit will remain the same; including permitted AUM's and season of use.

Permitted Use is:

	<u>Permitted</u>	<u>Active</u>	<u>Suspended</u>
	928	928	0
Proposed annual grazing use is:			
116 cattle	4/1-11/30	100%PL	931 aums

Due to computer calculation rounding, the above aums may not correspond with the actual permitted use.

Plan Conformance:

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

Land Use Plan Name: John Day RMP Date Approved (ROD): August, 1985;

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP(s) because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decisions:

Page 15- Forage Management Actions: Continue present management on 127,723 acres (143 allotments) to benefit livestock and wildlife by maintaining and improving ecological condition. Appendix B indicates current levels of livestock grazing and present ecological condition for all allotments.

Applicable NEPA document and related documents:

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

John Day River Proposed Management Plan (June 2000)

Endangered Species Act Section 7 Consultation Biological Opinion and Magnuson-Stevens FCMA EFH Consultation, Bureau of Land Management Upper John Day River Basin Grazing Program from 2004-2008 issued July 27, 2004.

Achieving Standards for Rangeland Health Conforming with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management completed September 30, 2004

NEPA Adequacy Criteria

1. Is the current proposed action substantially the same action (or is a part of that action) as previously analyzed? Is the current proposed action located at a site specifically analyzed in an existing document? YES and YES

The Preferred Alternative in the John Day DEIS was to continue to lease this area for grazing use at current authorized use levels. When originally analyzed in 1985, the Rockpile Allotment grazing use was:

108 cattle	4/1 - 11/30	100% PL	870 aums
14 horses	5/1 - 11/30	100% PL	59 aums
		TOTAL	928 aums

Since that time the horse use has been converted to cattle use but total use has remained 928 aums active use. The season of use remains the same. This represents substantially the same action as previously analyzed on the same site as originally analyzed.

2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document appropriate with respect to the current proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values? YES

Four alternatives for Forage Use were analyzed in the John Day RMP DEIS (pages 14 – 20).

Alternative A: Preferred Alternative (Proposed Action) - Authorized livestock use would continue at current levels. Increases or decreases in use would be implemented based on monitoring and/or inventory data. Management changes could be made where the potential existed to improve watershed, wildlife, range condition, and livestock forage.

Alternative B – Authorized livestock use would be increased in 14 I category, primarily where inventory and monitoring data indicate additional forage is available.

Alternative C – Authorized livestock use would be decreased in 14 I category allotments ...

Alternative D (No Action) – Authorized livestock use would continue at current levels.

Appendix F of the DEIS (page 111 – 113) lists current grazing use by allotment.

The Rockpile Allotment is currently being managed in cooperation with the current lessee under a pasture rotation system. This is consistent with the Preferred Alternative in the DEIS. The Rockpile Allotment is currently being managed under a rotation system. This has addressed concerns related to steelhead spawning/rearing which occurs in the drainage addressed in a Biological Opinion issued in 2004. This B.O. analyzed current grazing use and concurred with the use as long as the pasture rotation and utilization standards are met.

**3. Is the existing analysis valid in the light of any new information or circumstances?
YES**

The John Day River Proposed Management Plan FEIS analyzed current grazing use and its impact on river values. Allotment specific analysis resulted in a determination that no management changes were necessary (FEIS, Volume 2, Appendix L, pg. 250).

A Section 7 Consultation for livestock grazing in the Rockpile Allotment was conducted in 2004 with NOAA Fisheries. The Biological Opinion issued by NOAA Fisheries concurred that currently authorized grazing use was Likely to Adversely Affect (LAA) MCR steelhead. Allotment specific analysis resulted in the requirement that the current rotational grazing system be continued, PACFISH standards and guidelines for grazing be implemented and riparian use standards be met (pages 19-20).

Rangeland health was assessed in 2004 relative to Oregon/Washington's Rangeland Health Standards. Livestock grazing was not causing any standards to not be met and no grazing management changes were identified.

Annual monitoring and compliance checks have revealed no resource conflicts or concerns.

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

The John Day RMP DEIS analyzed grazing impacts on resources (pages 60-75). Alternatives ranged from maximum commodity production to no grazing. Analysis in the DEIS indicated that no changes in current authorized forage use levels were required under the Preferred Alternative. Changes in authorized use levels based on inventory/monitoring data and grazing management changes required to improve watershed, wildlife, range condition, and livestock forage were allowed under the preferred alternative. The approach is still considered appropriate.

The John Day River Proposed Management Plan FEIS analyzed impacts of continued grazing and provided recommendations to protect and enhance river values. No changes were identified for the Rockpile Allotment.

5. Are the direct and indirect impacts of the current proposed action substantially unchanged from those analyzed in the Draft John Day RMP/EIS and the John Day River Plan? Do the existing NEPA documents analyze site-specific impacts related to the current proposed action? YES

Impacts resulting from grazing are essentially unchanged from those analyzed in the John Day RMP DEIS. Proposed grazing management as analyzed in the DEIS (pages 62-65, 72-73) will beneficially impact soils and water resources, plant diversity, riparian vegetation, wildlife upland habitat, and fish habitat. Under the preferred alternative grazing will have no significant effect on vegetation types and improve ecological condition. Under the preferred alternative there will be a low impact to cultural resources by grazing.

Allotment specific analysis for the Rockpile Allotment found in Appendix L of the John Day River Management Plan FEIS resulted in a decision that no grazing management changes were necessary.

6. Are the cumulative impacts that would result from the implementation of the current proposed action substantially unchanged from those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? YES

The John Day RMP DEIS does not specifically address cumulative impacts of grazing but does address long term impacts of the action with the assumption that the grazing activity would continue (impact analysis is on page 63 of DEIS). AUM's throughout the John Day areas will change from 25,323 to 25,734 over time. Recommendations and objectives in the document reflect the impacts and expected improvements that will continue with the ongoing grazing. The proposed action is substantially unchanged from those analyzed impacts.

The John Day River Plan FEIS analyzes cumulative impacts on page 336 in Volume 1, Executive Summary and Chapters 1-5.

7. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with the existing NEPA document(s)? YES

Many of the individuals/organizations on our current "interested publics" list are the same as those on the mailing lists for the NEPA documents referenced above. A copy of this DNA worksheet will be mailed to a representative of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and to other individuals and organizations that have expressed an interest in this or similar actions.

Interdisciplinary Analysis:

The following Prineville District BLM employees reviewed this analysis for accuracy in their area of expertise.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Resource Represented</u>
Don Zalunardo	NRS	Wildlife, Special Status Animals
Jim Eisner	Fisheries Bilogist	Fisheries
John Zancanella	Archeologist	Cultural Resources
Ron Halvorson	Botanist	Botany, Special Status Plants
Colleen Wyllie	RMS	Range, Livestock Grazing

Mitigation Measures:

The BLM is in the process of implementing the Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for grazing management. This lease is subject to modification as necessary to achieve compliance with these standards and guidelines (43 CFR 4180).

Conclusion

Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of the NEPA.

Signature

Responsible official: Christina M. Welch
Christina Welch, Field Manager, CORA

3/17/2009
Date

Note: The signed Conclusion on this Worksheet is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal decision process and does not constitute an appealable decision. However, the lease, permit, or other authorization based on this DNA is subject to protest or appeal under 43 CFR Part 4 and the program specific regulations.

Contact Person

For additional information concerning this review, contact: Colleen Wyllie, Rangeland Management Specialist, Prineville District Office, 3050 NE 3rd Street, Prineville, OR 97754, telephone (541) 575-3146, Colleen_Wyllie@blm.gov.