

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

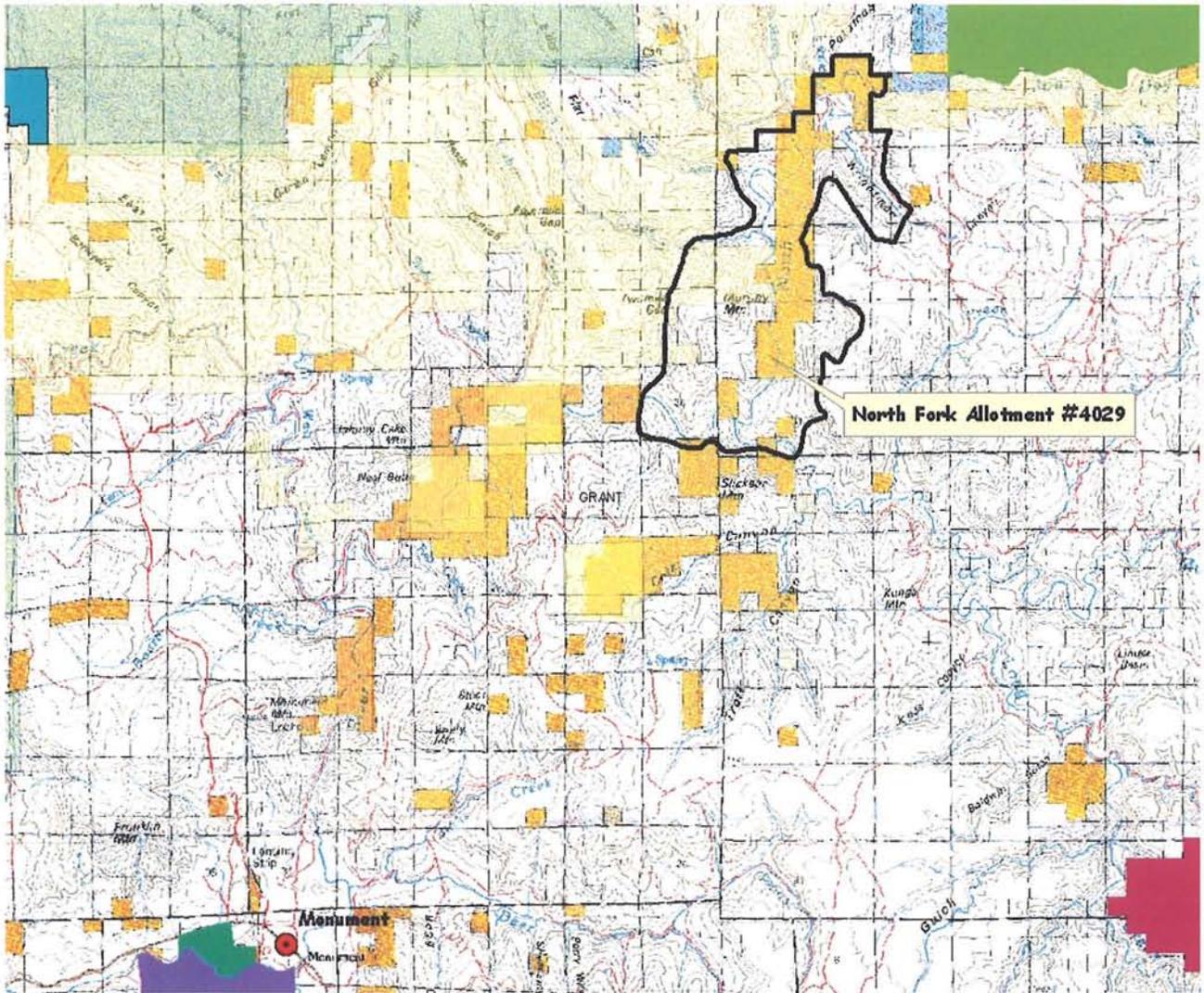
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**Name of Proposed Action:** Grazing Lease Renewal for the North Fork Allotment #4029

**DNA Number:** OR-054-08-110

**Project or Serial Number:** (If applicable)

**Location of Proposed Action:** Approximately 10 miles NE of Monument, Oregon





**Applicable NEPA document and related documents:**

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

**John Day River Proposed Management Plan FEIS (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.**

**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 North Fork Allotment grazing use was:

52 cattle      5/1 – 10/31      316 AUMs

Currently proposed use is for a shorter grazing season but the same total use as previously analyzed. The proposed grazing season is designed to maintain/improve riparian conditions along the North Fork of the John Day River. This represents essentially the same action as previously 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 North Fork Allotment was classified as a “C2” (Custodial) allotment. Custodial allotments would be more intensively managed if landowner cooperation could be secured. The North Fork Allotment is currently being managed for improved riparian condition on the North Fork John Day River. Grazing use on public lands on the river proper will be limited to 5/1-5/31 annually. This has addressed concerns related to steelhead spawning/rearing which occurs in the drainage

addressed in a Biological Opinion issued in 2004. This is consistent with the Preferred Alternative in the DEIS.

**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 this allotment in light of grazing impacts to river values. This resulted in the recommendation in the FEIS that no management changes were necessary (pg. 226, Volume 2, Appendix L, Allotment Summaries).

A Section 7 Consultation for livestock grazing in the North Fork Allotment was conducted in 2004 with NOAA Fisheries. The Biological Opinion issued by NOAA Fisheries agreed that grazing use would continue on BLM lands along the North Fork John Day with the current season of use (5/1-5/31) and riparian habitat standards (B.O. pages 12-13). This is consistent with the Preferred Alternative in the DEIS.

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 (FEIS, Volume 2, Appendix L).

**5. Are the direct and indirect impacts of the current proposed action substantially unchanged from those analyzed in the Draft John Day RMP/EIS? Does the existing NEPA document 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 North Fork Allotment found in John Day River Proposed Management Plan FEIS resulted in a recommendation that no management changes were necessary (FEIS, Volume 2, Appendix L).

**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. Impacts are unchanged.

**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 list for the RMP/EIS 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.

Endangered species consultation will continue with NOAA Fisheries so long as Middle Columbia River steelhead and Chinook salmon are listed species

**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 Biologist	Fisheries
John Zancanella	Archeologist	Cultural Resources
Ron Halvorson	Botanist	Botany, Special Status Plants
Colleen Wyllie	RMS	Range, Livestock Grazing
Heidi Mottl	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Wilderness

**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

2/9/2009  
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: Mike Tietmeyer, Rangeland Management Specialist, Prineville Field Office, 3050 NE 3rd Street, Prineville, OR 97754, telephone (541) 575-3145, Mike\_Tietmeyer@blm.gov.