

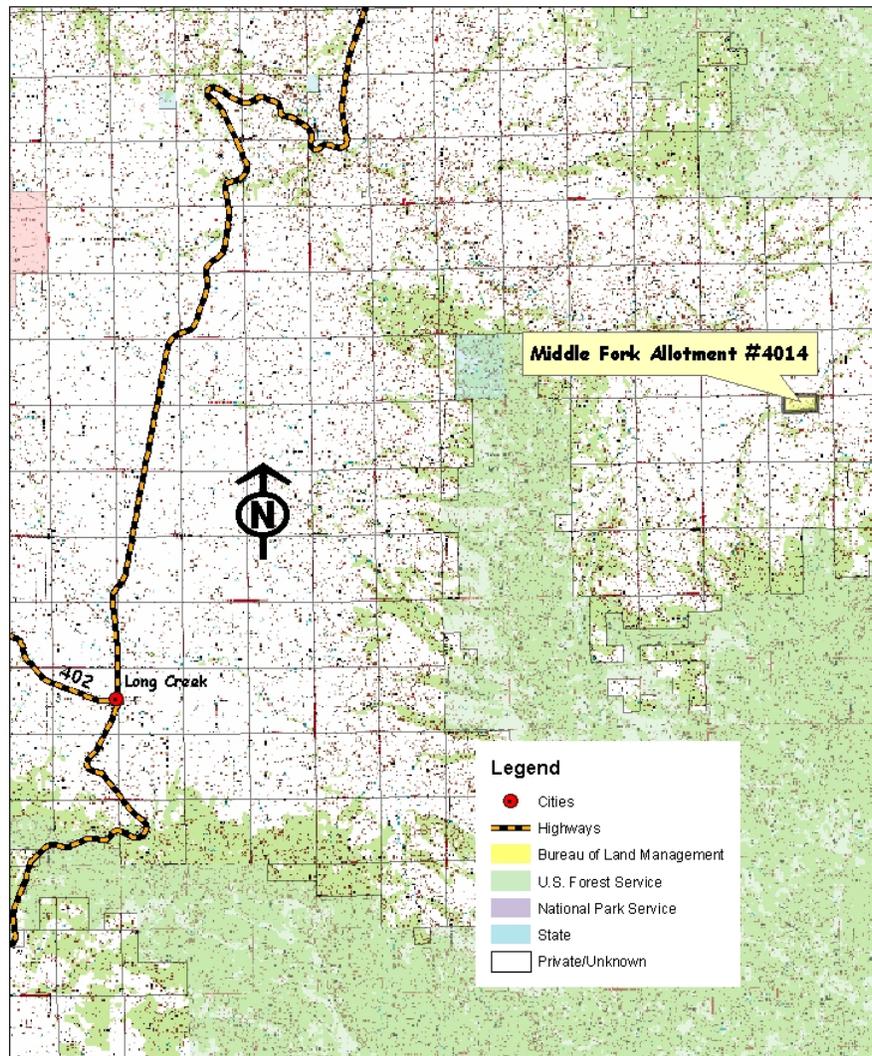
Worksheet
Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)
U.S Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management

A. Background

BLM Office: Central Oregon Field Office NEPA Log #: DOI-BLM-OR-P040-2008-0160-DNA

Grazing Authorization #: 3602012 Applicant: Colvin Cattle Company

Location: 13 miles NE of Long Creek, Oregon



1 inch equals 1.8 miles

Proposed Action Title/Type: Middle Fork Allotment # 04014 Grazing Lease Renewal

Description of the Proposed Action and any applicable mitigation measures:

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 AUMs and season of use.

Permitted Use (AUMs) is:

<u>Permitted Use</u>	<u>Active Use</u>	<u>Suspended Use</u>
16	16	0

Proposed annual grazing use is:

8 cattle	04/01-05/31	100% Public Land	16 AUMs
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Mitigation Measures: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is in the process of implementing the Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for grazing management. Grazing use authorized under this lease is subject to modification as necessary to achieve compliance with these standards and guidelines (43 CFR 4180).

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan Name: John Day Resource Management Plan (RMP)

Record of Decision: August, 1985

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

Forage Management Actions/Grazing Management, page 15

- Continue present management on 127,723 acres (143 allotments) to benefit livestock and wildlife by maintaining or improving ecological condition. The allotments within which this action and other grazing management actions would take place are listed in Appendix B.

-Authorize all grazing use at present levels to maintain and improve present range condition. Monitoring studies will show changes in condition which will determine whether stocking levels should be adjusted or whether grazing management should be refined.

C. Identify applicable National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents and related documents that cover the proposed action

The following NEPA documents cover the proposed action:

John Day RMP Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) (June 1984)

John Day River Proposed Management Plan Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) June 2000

The following other documentation is relevant to the proposed action (e.g., biological assessment, biological opinion, watershed assessment, allotment evaluation, and monitoring report).

D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

1. Is the new proposed action a feature of, or essentially similar to, an alternative analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? Is the project within the same analysis area, or if the project location is different, are the geographic and resource conditions sufficiently similar to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? If there are differences, can you explain why they are not substantial? YES and YES

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

9 cattle 04/01-11/30 100%PL 77 AUMs

In 2000, a land exchange occurred which conveyed 442 of 522 public acres into private ownership. This resulted in the reduction of leased grazing use to the current:

8 cattle 04/01-05/31 100%PL 16 AUMs

The season of use was shortened to comply with the John Day River Plan. This season of use limits cattle use of the river bank due to high flows during the time period. Even with these changes, proposed use 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(s) appropriate with respect to the new 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 AUMs would be proposed for I category allotments where inventory or monitoring data indicates the need. Range improvements and management systems on I category allotments would be implemented where the greatest potential exists for the improvement watershed, wildlife, range condition, and livestock forage. Additional management systems may be implemented where potential for resource improvement and sufficient manageability exists for M and C category allotments.

Alternative B: Production of Commodities – Authorized livestock use would be increased in 14 I Category allotments, primarily where inventory and monitoring data indicate additional forage is available. Additional management systems would be implemented where potential for resource improvement and sufficient manageability exists. Any additional competitive forage available would be used by livestock whenever present wildlife population targets are exceeded.

Alternative C: Enhancement of Natural Resources – Authorized livestock use would be decreased in 14 I category allotments; 7 allotments would realize reductions linked to wild horse forage use level increases. Range improvements would be implemented where cost effective and where improvements would enhance natural values. Management systems would be designed to achieve wildlife, watershed, and range condition objectives.

Alternative D (No Action) – Authorized livestock use would continue at current levels. Increases or decreases in livestock use would be proposed for allotment where inventory and monitoring data indicates the need or where previously planned range improvements create additional forage. Existing management systems would be maintained.

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

The rationale for the Preferred Alternative was to provide for improvement of vegetation, wildlife habitat, and riparian habitat conditions while causing minimal disruptions in livestock use. This alternative strikes a balance between the enhancement of natural values and the production of additional livestock forage (John Day RMP DEIS, page 21).

The proposed action is to continue permitted grazing use on the Middle Fork Allotment essentially as it was analyzed in the DEIS Preferred Alternative. Environmental concerns, interests, and resource values are unchanged from those that existed at the time of the DEIS. The Alternatives analyzed in the John Day RMP DEIS continue to represent an appropriate range of management options for public land resources. There is no reason to believe that the JDRMP DEIS preferred alternative would not be selected after issue analysis at the current time.

3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances (such as rangeland health standard assessment, recent endangered species listings, updated lists of BLM sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that all new information and new circumstances would not substantially change the analysis of the new proposed action?
YES

Grazing use in this allotment was analyzed in the John Day River Proposed Management Plan FEIS specifically for its impact on river values. Allotment specific analysis for the Middle Fork Allotment found in Appendix L of the FEIS resulted in a recommendation to continue grazing use but limit the grazing season to April 1 – May 31 annually (pg. 241, Appendix L, Allotment Summaries).

A Section 7 Consultation for livestock grazing in the Middle Fork Allotment was conducted in 2004 with NOAA Fisheries. The Biological Opinion issued by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries agreed with BLM's assessment that grazing use was Not Likely to Adversely Affect (NLAA) Middle Columbia River (MCR) steelhead due to high flows during the allowed grazing season. Subsequent monitoring and compliance checks have revealed no resource conflicts or concerns. This area was recently found to contain wilderness characteristics. However, the proposed action would have no effect on these characteristics.

4. Are the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects that would result from implementation of the new proposed action similar (both quantitatively and qualitatively) to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? 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 Middle Fork Allotment found in Appendix L of the John Day River Proposed Management Plan FEIS resulted in a recommendation to limit the grazing season to April 1 – May 31. This action has been implemented.

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.

5. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequately for the current proposed action? YES

Many of the individuals/organizations on our current "interested publics" list are the same as those on the mailing list 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.

Endangered species consultation will continue with NOAA Fisheries so long as Middle Columbia River Steelhead is a listed species.

E. Persons/Agencies/BLM Staff consulted

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>
Jim Eisner	Fisheries Biologist	Fisheries
John Zancanella	Archeologist	Cultural Resources
JoAnne Armson	NRT	Botany, Special Status Plants
Mike Tietmeyer	RMS	Range, Livestock Grazing
Heidi Mottl	Recreation Planner	Recreation, Wilderness
Teal Purrington	Planning & Enviro. Coord.	NEPA Compliance
John Zancanella	Assistant Field Manager	CORA
Rick Demmer	Natural Resource Specialist	Wildlife

Note: Refer to the EA/EIS for a complete list of the team members participating in the preparation of the original environmental analysis or planning documents.

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: /S/ Christina M. Welch 8/11/2009
Christina M. Welch Date
Field Manager, Central Oregon Resource Area

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: Vicki Van Sickle, Rangeland Management Specialist, Prineville Field Office, 3050 NE 3rd Street, Prineville, OR 97754, telephone (541) 575-3145.