

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

A. Background

Name of Proposed Action: Alfalfa Market Road Allotment (5201) Grazing Permit Renewal

DNA Number: OR-056-08-087

Location of Proposed Action: Six miles east of Bend, Oregon (see attached map)

Allotment Summary: 2,468 acres of public land; 141 AUMs (141 active, 0 suspended); season of use from May 15 to October 1; grazing system is spring/summer.

Purpose of and Need for Action: This action is part of the required NEPA process to renew an expired grazing permit. The current lessee's permit, for grazing preference in the Alfalfa Market Road Allotment, expires on February 28, 2009.

Description of the Proposed Action: The proposed action is to renew the grazing permit for the Alfalfa Market Road Allotment for a term of two years. The existing permit would be initially issued unchanged; however, during the two year term a management plan is scheduled for completion which would result in the creation of a modified permit. The management plan is needed due to failure of the Standards for Rangeland Health & Guidelines for Grazing Management.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan:

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

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable plan because it is specifically provided for in the following land use plan decision:

Objective LG-1: ...provide for continued livestock grazing... (Page 76)

Allocations/Allowable Uses: No. 8. Livestock grazing will continue to be allowed for allotments in the "Open" category on the Grazing Matrix (Table3). (Pages 78 - 86)

C. Applicable National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document and related documents to the Proposed Action

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

Proposed Upper Deschutes RMP and Final EIS (FEIS), January 2005

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, the proposed action is essentially the same as the Preferred Alternative analyzed in the Upper Deschutes RMP FEIS, Volume 2, pages 183 – 192 and Volume 3, Appendix G pages 207 – 211. The proposed action is located within the same geographic area previously analyzed in the listed NEPA documents.

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

Yes, the Upper Deschutes RMP FEIS compared the relative likelihood of grazing conflicts across allotments within the Planning Area, and analyzed the effects of discontinued grazing in areas where potential for conflicts was highest. This approach is still appropriate for the proposed action.

3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances (such as rangeland health standard assessment, recent endangered species listings, and 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, the existing analysis is essentially valid; however, the Alfalfa Market Road Allotment failed the Standards for Rangeland Health & Guidelines for Grazing Management (S&Gs) assessment which was completed in 2007. Due to this deficiency, the current grazing management practices are required to be modified to meet the Guidelines for Grazing Management. In light of the failed S&Gs, the existing grazing permit should be renewed for a period of two years during which a management would be developed.

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, the same effects that would result from the proposed action were analyzed in the Upper Deschutes RMP FEIS for the alternatives in Volume 2, pages 5 – 154 and pages 183 – 192.

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

Yes, the list of “interested publics” is updated on a regular basis and many of the individuals and organizations on the current “interested publics” list are the same as those on the mailing list for the planning and NEPA documents listed. A final copy of this DNA and the subsequent Proposed Decision will be posted on the Prineville District’s internet page for public review. A printed copy of these documents would be available on request.

E. Persons/Agencies/BLM Staff Consulted

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Resource Represented</u>
Lyle Andrews	Rangeland Management Specialist	Range
Steve Castillo	Forester	Forestry
Jan Hanf	Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife
Jim Eisner	Fisheries Biologist	Fisheries
Ron Gregory	Archeologist	Cultural Resources
JoAnne Armson	Natural Resource Specialist	Botany, Special Status Plants
Ed Horn	Soil Scientist	Soil
Michelle McSwain	Hydrologist	Hydrology, Riparian, Watershed
Tom Mottl	Recreation Planner	Recreation
Teal Purrington	Planning and Environmental Coordinator	NEPA Compliance
Michelle McSwain	Assistant Field Manager, DRA	Management

Note: Refer to the listed 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 constitute BLM's compliance with the requirements of the NEPA. In addition, the term of the renewed grazing permit should be a maximum of two years due to the failure to meet the Standards for Rangeland Health & Guidelines for Grazing Management.

Signature

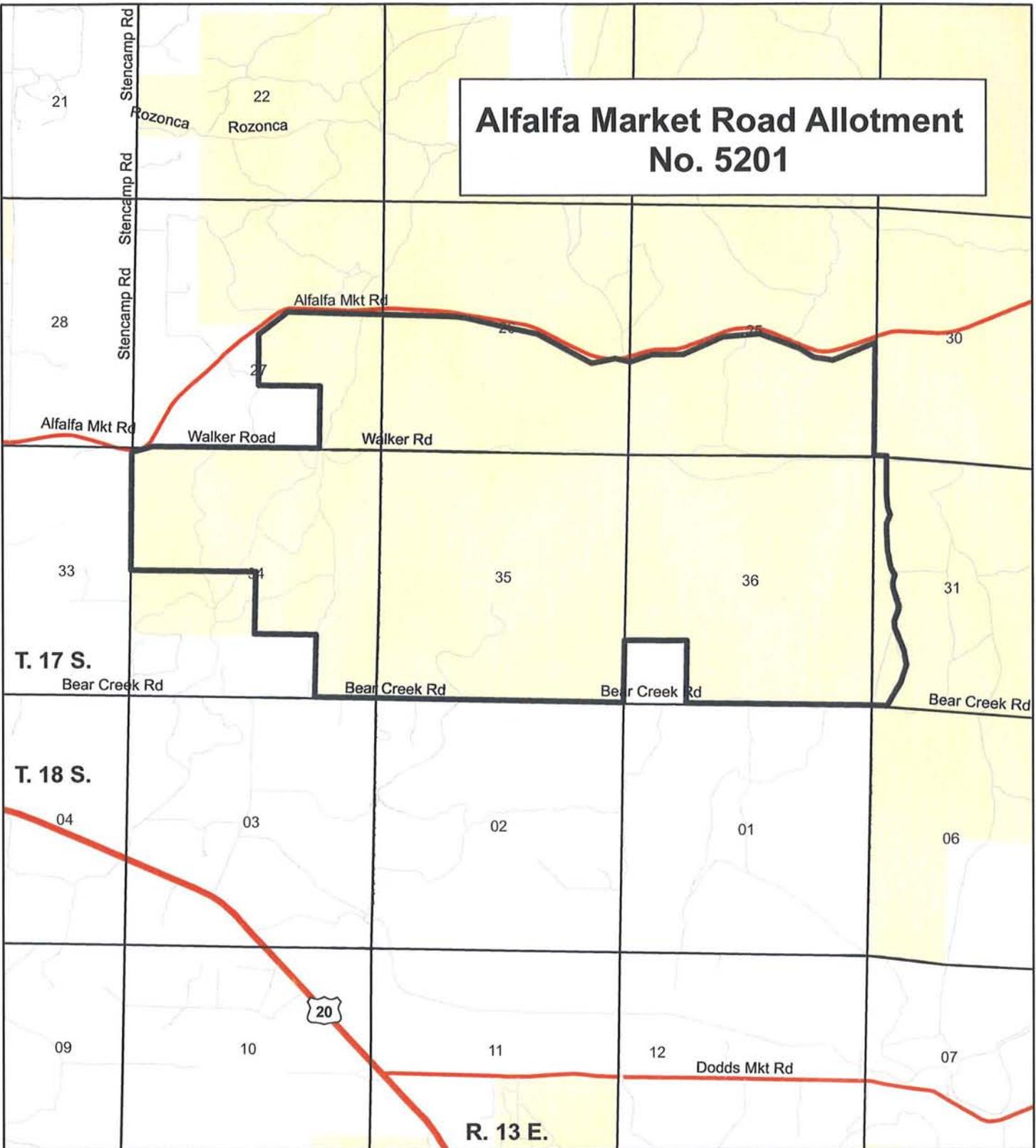
Responsible Official: Michelle McSwain 1/6/09
for Molly Brown, Deschutes Resource Area Field Manager Date

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: Lyle Andrews, Prineville Field Office, 3050 NE 3rd Street, Prineville, OR 97754, 541-416-6715, Lyle_W_Andrews@or.blm.gov.

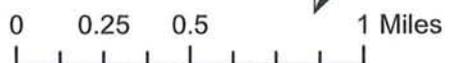
Alfalfa Market Road Allotment No. 5201



Legend

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|---|---------------------------|---|---------------|
|  | Allotment Boundary |  | Arterial |
|  | Bureau of Land Management |  | Collector |
|  | Private |  | Local |
|  | State Lands |  | Resource Road |

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Bureau of Land Management
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No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use with other data. Original data were compiled from various sources and may be updated without notification.

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Map created 12/10/2008
Modifications pending