

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

A. Background

Name of Proposed Action: Criterion Allotment (7583) Grazing Lease Renewal

DNA Number: OR-056-09-003

Location of Proposed Action: 12 miles south of Maupin, Oregon (see attached map)

Allotment Summary: 12,450 acres of public land; 92 AUMs (92 active, 0 suspended); season of use from March 1 to February 28 for upland pastures and November 1 to May 1 for riparian pastures.

Purpose of and Need for Action: This action is part of the required NEPA process to renew an expired grazing lease. The current lessee's lease, for grazing preference in the Criterion Allotment, will expire on June 1, 2009.

Description of the Proposed Action: The proposed action is to issue a grazing lease for the Criterion Allotment for a term of three years in accordance with CFR 4130.2(d)(4), "*the authorized officer determines that a permit or lease for less than ten years is in the best interest of sound land management.*" The public land increased from 1,245 acres to 12,450 in 1997 due to a land exchange, and until an ecological site inventory an allotment management plan are completed, a full ten year grazing lease would not be issued. Additional AUMs would be allowed by the authorized officer due to the increased acres of public land based on CFR 4130.1-2, "... *or where additional forage for livestock or additional acreage becomes available, the authorized officer may authorize grazing use of such land or forage ...*" (In addition, see No. 3 on page 2)

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plans:

Two Rivers Resource Management Plan (RMP), Record of Decision, Rangeland Program Summary, June 1986, page 10 "Maintain current livestock grazing levels...", pages 14 – 16, and pages 42 – 49.

Lower Deschutes River Management Plan, Record of Decision, February 1993, pages 31 – 35; page 32, "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."

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

Two Rivers RMP Record of Decision, Rangeland Program Summary, pages 45 and 48; Allotment Number 7583, Selective Management Category 'Maintain'.

The Lower Deschutes River Management Plan Record of Decision, page 32, restricted livestock use along the river and tributaries, with riparian areas, between November 1 and May 1.

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:

EISs: Two Rivers Resource Management Plan (RMP) Draft EIS dated 1985 and Final EIS dated 1985.

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 those addressed for continued livestock grazing in the Final Two Rivers RMP EIS on pages 17 – 20. In addition, it was addressed in the Lower Deschutes Final EIS pages 20 – 21 and 31 – 35. The project is located within the same area analyzed in the listed 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 alternatives in the Two Rivers EIS ranged from emphasis of commodity production to emphasis of natural values, which included the elimination of livestock grazing. Refer to pages 5 and 17 to 20 of the Final Two Rivers EIS. The Final Lower Deschutes River Management Plan also described a range of alternatives on pages 20 – 21 and for livestock specifically on pages 31 – 35. The range of alternatives appears to be appropriate given the current issues.

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 in the Two Rivers RMP and Lower Deschutes River Management Plan remains valid. The change in ownership status from private to public on 11,450 acres does not change the original analysis or intent to allow grazing. In addition, the interim authorization of AUMs would remain restricted until an ecological site inventory is completed and vegetation trend data are obtained from monitoring studies. The term of the grazing lease would continue to be less than ten years until the inventory and a management plan are completed.

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. Yes. In addition, these effects were analyzed in the Two Rivers Draft EIS, pages 58 – 72.

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 on page 1. A final copy of this DNA and the subsequent Proposed Decision would 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/EA 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

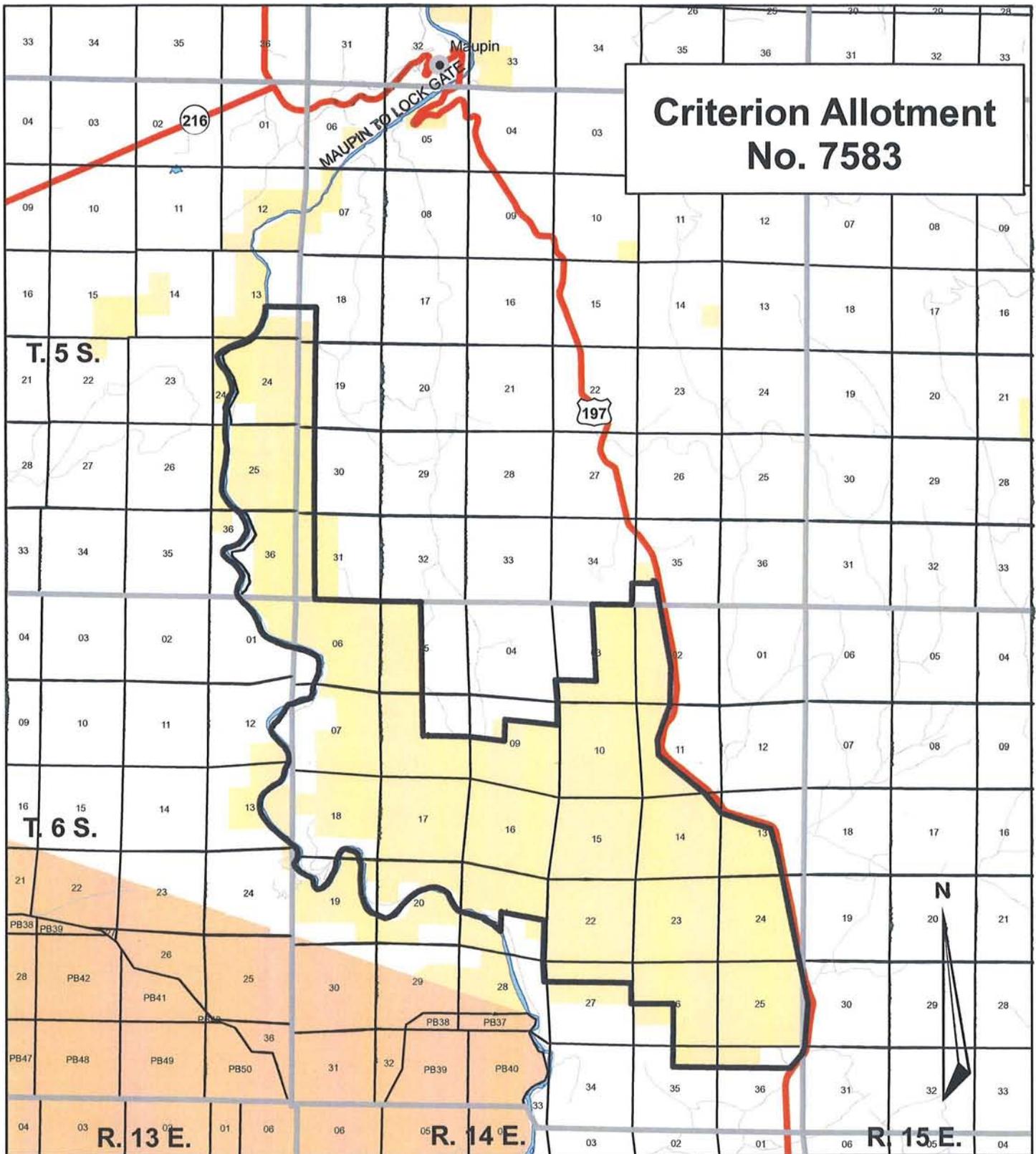
for Responsible Official: Michelle McSwain 1/6/09
 Molly Brown, Deschutes Resource Area Field Manager Date

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.

Criterion Allotment No. 7583



Legend

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------|---|----------------|
|  | Allotment Boundary |  | State Lands |
|  | Bureau of Land Management |  | Major Highways |
|  | Bureau of Indian Affairs |  | Collector |
|  | Private |  | Local |

Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
3050 NE Third Street
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Map created 12/10/2008
Modifications pending