Worksheet
Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)

U.S Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management

A. Background

BLM Office: Prineville District
NEPA Log #: DOI-BLM-OR-P040-2010-0064-DNA
Case File #: 3605344
Applicant: Martin and Cherie Nye
Location: Approximately five miles southeast of Ashwood OR, T. 10 S., R. 17 E. (see map).
Proposed Action Title: Norton Ranch (#2655) grazing allotment lease renewal.
Description of the Proposed Action and any applicable mitigation measures: The proposed action is to renew the current grazing lease for the Norton Ranch grazing allotment (3 cattle, April 1 to October 30, 21 AUMs) for a term of ten years. The management actions and present Terms and Conditions for the allotment would remain unchanged. In addition to the standard terms and conditions, other terms and conditions are:

Proper management may require that a grazing management plan be developed and implemented at any time during the lease period.
The BLM is in the process of implementing the Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Management. This lease is subject to future modification as necessary to achieve compliance with the Standards and Guidelines (43 CFR 4180).
Lessees are required to submit actual use grazing records within 15 days of completion of the years grazing use.
Salting of livestock within one-quarter mile of water is prohibited. Supplemental feeding of livestock on public lands is prohibited without prior authorization from the BLM.
Lessees are required to maintain all range improvements for which they have maintenance responsibilities.
Lessees/permittees are to provide reasonable access across private and leased lands to the BLM for the orderly management and protection of the public lands as allowed in 43 CFR 4130.3-2(h).

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan Name: Two Rivers Resource Management Plan, Record of Decision, Rangeland Program Summary.
Date approved (ROD): June 1986.

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable plan because it is specifically provided for in the following land use plan decisions: Two Rivers Resource Management Plan, Record of Decision, Rangeland Program Summary, page 48, Allotment Number '2655', Selective Management Category 'Custodial', Acres of Public Land '356', Livestock Kind 'Cattle', Grazing Period Begin - End '4/01 - 10/30', Active Use '21'.

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

The following NEPA documents (EA, DEIS, FEIS) cover the proposed action: Two Rivers Resource Management Plan, Draft EIS, signed 1985; Proposed Two Rivers Resource Management Plan FEIS, signed September 1985.

The following other documentation is relevant to the proposed action: Consultation for mid-Columbia steelhead has been completed for grazing actions within this allotment. Analysis rated actions within the Norton Ranch allotment as 'No Effect'. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has issued a Biological Opinion and they have concurred with the findings of the BA.

The Two Rivers Resource Management Plan, Record of Decision, Rangeland Program Summary was evaluated in 1998 by an interdisciplinary team from the Oregon State Office. The grazing management decisions were determined to be relevant to current issues, effective in making progress toward achieving desired outcomes, and in no need of revision. The decisions were again evaluated during the preparation of the Draft John Day Basin Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (2008) and were determined to have been proven successful and grazing management direction was carried forward.

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. Livestock grazing in general was addressed on pages 58 - 72 and 105 - 107 of the Two Rivers Resource Management Plan Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), 1985, pages 17 - 20 of the Proposed Two Rivers Resource Management Plan, Final EIS, 1985, and on the Norton Ranch allotment specifically on pages 44 and 48 of the Two Rivers Resource Management Plan, Record of Decision, Rangeland Program Summary.
>
> Grazing use was to be continued in the allotment. No portion of the allotment was proposed for livestock exclusion. The Norton Ranch grazing allotment contains 356 acres of public land and supports 21 AUMs.

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. Alternatives in the planning document (pages 11 - 25 in the Two Rivers Draft EIS) ranged from an emphasis in commodity production to an emphasis of natural values. On the Norton Ranch allotment alternatives proposed authorizing use up to 21 AUMs and decreasing authorized use to 0 AUMs. The range of alternatives is 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, 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 Two Rivers Resource Management Plan, Record of Decision, Rangeland Program Summary was formally evaluated in 1998 and found to provide valid guidance for land use and resource allocations and directions. The guidance was again evaluated during the preparation of the Draft John Day Basin Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (2008) and was determined to have been proven successful and grazing management direction was carried forward.

The BLM has prepared a Biological Assessment (BA) and indicated livestock grazing in this allotment has 'no effect' on populations of the Mid Columbia steelhead, now listed as threatened. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has issued a Biological Opinion and they have concurred with the findings of the BA.

New information may become available through the BLM's requirement to assess all public land grazing allotments for compliance with the Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Management by means of an evaluation. The existing grazing authorization contains stipulations that provide for modifications of the grazing management, as needed, to protect public land.

The public lands contained within this allotment have been evaluated for wilderness characteristics. The evaluation found that the public land parcels do not have wilderness character because they lack sufficient size and do not meet any of the exceptions to the size criteria.

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 Two Rivers Draft EIS. The Draft EIS (pages 57-72) stated grazing would produce no change, or slight to moderate, generally positive, impacts on soils, water quality, vegetation, cultural resources and wildlife habitat, and no impact on air quality, water, forest land, wild horses, recreation, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, visual resources, energy and minerals, or socio-economics. The Two Rivers RMP does not specifically address cumulative impacts of grazing but does address long-term impacts of

the action with the assumption that the Recommendations and objectives in the document reflect the impacts and expected improvements that would continue with ongoing grazing. The proposed action is substantially unchanged from the analyzed impacts.

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 will be posted on the Prineville District's internet page for public review. A printed copy of these documents will be available on request.

E. Persons/Agencies/BLM Staff consulted

Name	Title	Resource/Agency represented
JoAnne Armson	Biological Science Technician	Botany and Special Status Plants
Henry Goodman	Archeologist	Cultural Resources
Rick Demmer	Natural Resource Specialist	Wildlife
Jeff Moss	Fisheries Biologist	Fisheries
Heidi Mottl	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Recreation and Wilderness
Craig Obermiller	Rangeland Mgt. Specialist	Range
Teal Purrington	Planning & Environ. Coordinator	NEPA Compliance
Michelle McSwain	Assistant Field Manager, CORA	Management

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

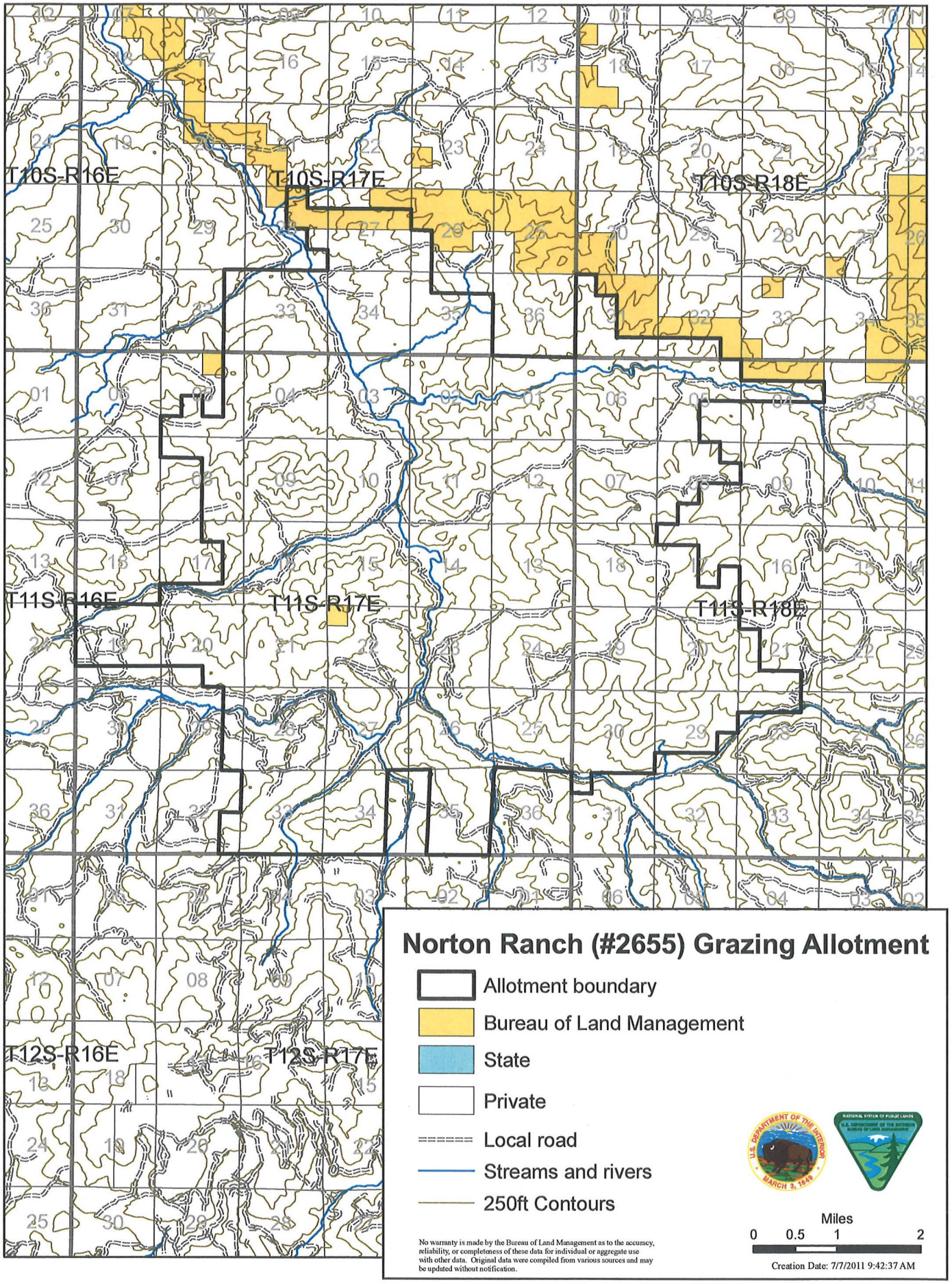
Responsible official: H. F. "Chip" Faver — 12·13·11

H. F. "Chip" Faver — 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: Craig Obermiller, Prineville Field Office, 3050 NE 3rd Street, Prineville, OR 97754, telephone (541) 416-6761, Craig_Obermiller@or.blm.gov.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Norton Ranch (#2655) Grazing Allotment
Allotment boundary
Bureau of Land Management
State
Private
Local road
Streams and rivers
250ft Contours
Miles
0 0.5 1 2
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