

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

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**A. Background**

**Name of Proposed Action:** Alfalfa Market Road Allotment Grazing Permit Renewal

**DNA Number:** DOI-BLM-OR-P060-2010-0057-DNA

**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; spring/summer grazing system.

**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 (Title 43 CFR 4110.1(1) (i) § 4130.2(d) (4)). The existing permit would be issued unchanged; however, during the two year term the present grazing management system would be modified due to failed Standards for Rangeland Health & Guidelines for Grazing Management Assessment because of livestock grazing. Upon modification of the grazing system, a revised grazing permit would be issued.

**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)*

Page 247, Appendix G, Livestock Grazing Management Summary: “5201 Alfalfa Market Road Allotment, Grazing Matrix Classification indicates Reserve Forage Allotment if the permit is voluntarily relinquished.” The permittee did not relinquish the permit, therefore it can be renewed.

Page 79, Guidelines No. 12: “Grazing operators in good standing can continue to hold or transfer permits to other qualified applicants in all but those allotments in the “Close” category on the Grazing Matrix.”

**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.

There are no wilderness qualities on public lands within the Alfalfa Market Road Allotment Grazing Permit Renewal area. These public lands did not contain wilderness qualities in the past 1978-9 BLM Wilderness Intensive Inventory. There is no new information or circumstances that would result in a finding that these public lands contain Wilderness Characteristics. The past and current findings are based on the small size, a valid Deschutes County road that bisects this area in half, extending throughout these public lands in an east-west direction, numerous primitive vehicle routes and lack of outstanding solitude or primitive, unconfined recreation opportunities.

**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, a new term of two years is appropriate due to the necessity of altering the existing grazing system within that time period.

**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>
Emily Hurd	Rangeland Management Specialist	Range
JoAnne Armson	Biological Science Technician	Botany, Special Status Plants
Rick Demmer	Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife
Terry Holtzapple	Archeologist	Cultural Resources
Ed Horn	Soil Scientist	Soil
Mike McKay	Hydrologist	Hydrology, Riparian, Watershed
Berry Phelps	Recreation Planner	Recreation & Wilderness
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: Molly Brown  
Molly Brown, Deschutes Resource Area Field Manager

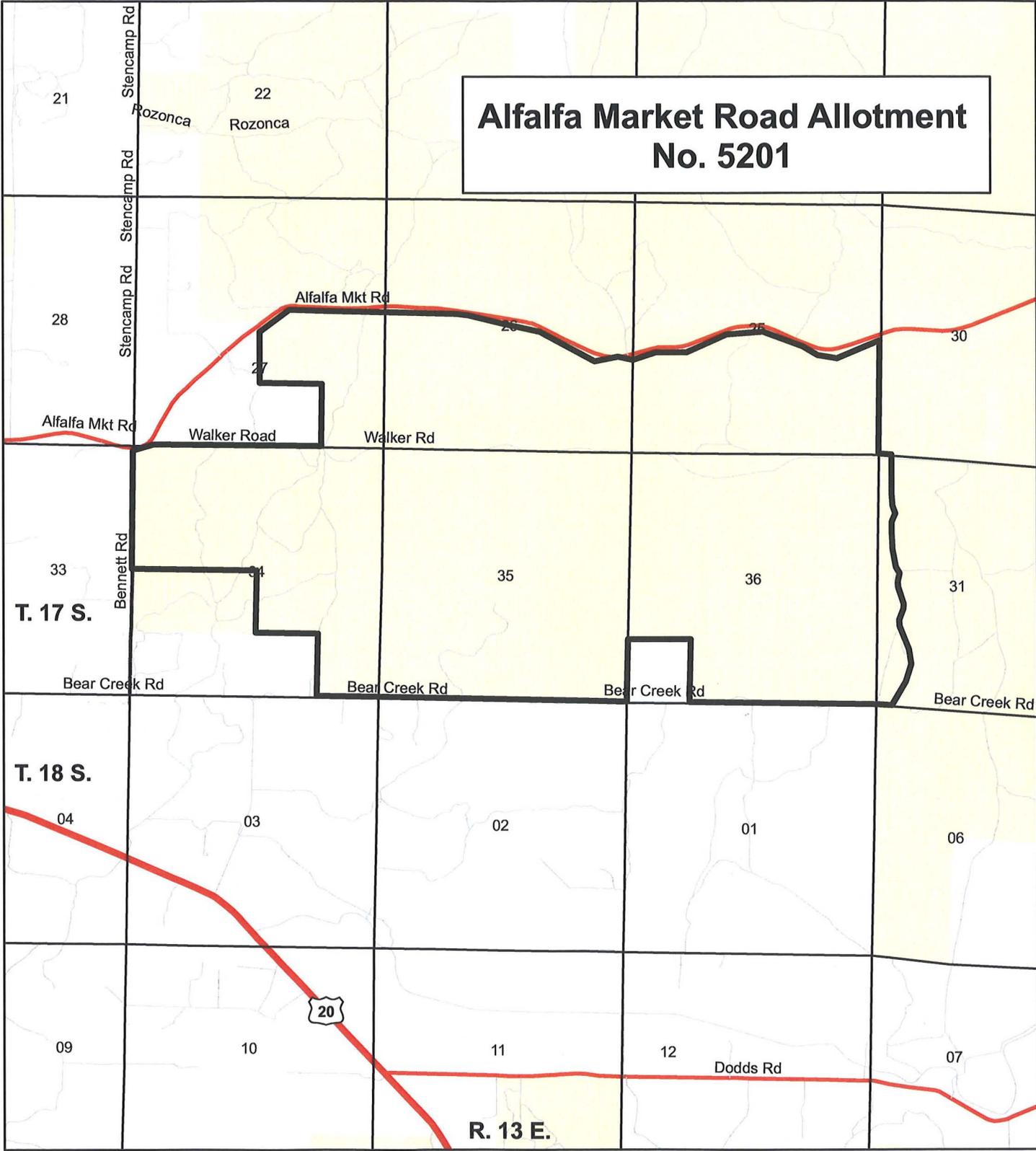
9/12/11  
Date

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: Emily Hurd, Prineville Field Office, 3050 NE 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Prineville, OR 97754, 541-416-6789, Emily\_Hurd@or.blm.gov.

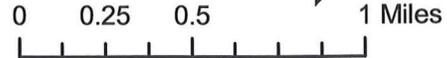
# Alfalfa Market Road Allotment No. 5201



### Legend

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

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