

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-P060-2011-0034-DNA

Project/Lease/Serial/Case File #: 3605845

Applicant: Yager #7586

Location: 1.5 miles south of La Pine, Oregon

Proposed Action Title/Type: Issue 10 year grazing permit

Description of the Proposed Action and any applicable mitigation measures:

The base property for the Yager allotment just sold to an individual who is applying for the 10 year grazing permit. The term for the permit will be for ten years: from 2011-2021. This will be a permit for cattle, and the season of use will remain the same: 7/15 to 10/14. The transfer will be for 33 AUMs. All terms and conditions will remain the same.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan Name: *Upper Deschutes Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan (UD ROD and RMP), September 2005:*

- Page 76, Objective LG-1: “...provide for continued livestock grazing...”
- Page 77, General Uses, No. 5: “Continue to allocate AUMs as shown in Brothers/La Pine RMP (USDI-BLM, 1989) and subsequent Rangeland Program Summaries.”
- 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.”
- Page 248, Appendix G, Livestock Grazing Management Summary: “7586 Yager 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 transferred to other qualified applicants.

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:

Proposed Upper Deschutes Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement, January 2005
Brothers/La Pine Final Environmental Impact Statement, 1988
Brothers/La Pine Draft EIS, October 1987
Brothers Grazing Management Program Draft Environmental Impact Statement, 1982

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, this action has already been analyzed under the existing NEPA documents and is within the same location as before. Objective LG-1 on page 76, “Promote healthy sustainable rangelands, provide for continued livestock grazing, and limit conflicts between livestock grazing and other uses and values of public land and adjacent private land.” There are no changes or differences with this action compared to the action previously analyzed. Grazing was analyzed throughout the Brothers Grazing Management EIS; specific alternatives are discussed on pages 10-14. Most currently, grazing was analyzed under the Proposed Upper Deschutes RMP and Final EIS.

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 are displayed on pages 183 through 192 of the Proposed UDRMP/Final EIS, and ranged from optimizing livestock to drastic reductions of livestock grazing. This range 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, 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?

New information, which would enter into the analysis, includes the Standards for

Rangeland Health & Guidelines for grazing management (43 CFR 4180, available for review at the Prineville District BLM). The BLM is required to assess all public land grazing allotments for compliance with the Standards and Guidelines. This allotment was completed in 2008. The allotment failed standard 1 due to the condition of the logged portion. Standard 3 failed because energy flow and nutrient cycling are hindered by the compacted areas that fail to contribute back into the cycle. Dense stands of lodgepole tend to reduce biodiversity over most of the allotment. Current livestock grazing was not part of the failed standards. This new information indicates that a fuels treatment is needed for this allotment, but does not indicate that grazing will be affected or needs to be changed.

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)?

The direct, indirect and site specific effects of renewing this grazing permit were adequately addressed in the Proposed UDRMP/Final EIS, January 2005. It considered continuing vs. discontinuing grazing in many allotments and described the effects of allotment closures on forage availability, the local economy, BLM management costs, permittee costs, and other factors. The effects of livestock grazing on soil, vegetation, and ecological processes were likewise included. These effects have not substantially changed.

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

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

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Title</u> | <u>Resource/Agency represented</u> |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Steve Castillo | Forester | Forestry |
| Rick Demmer | Natural Resource Specialist | Wildlife |
| Cari Taylor | Rangeland Mgmt Specialist | Range |
| Berry Phelps | Outdoor Recreation Planner | Recreation |
| John Zancanella | Archeologist | Cultural Resources |
| JoAnne Armson | Biological Science Technician | Botany, Special Status Plants |
| Teal Purrington | Planning and Enviro. Coord. | NEPA Compliance |

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:

Molly Brown,

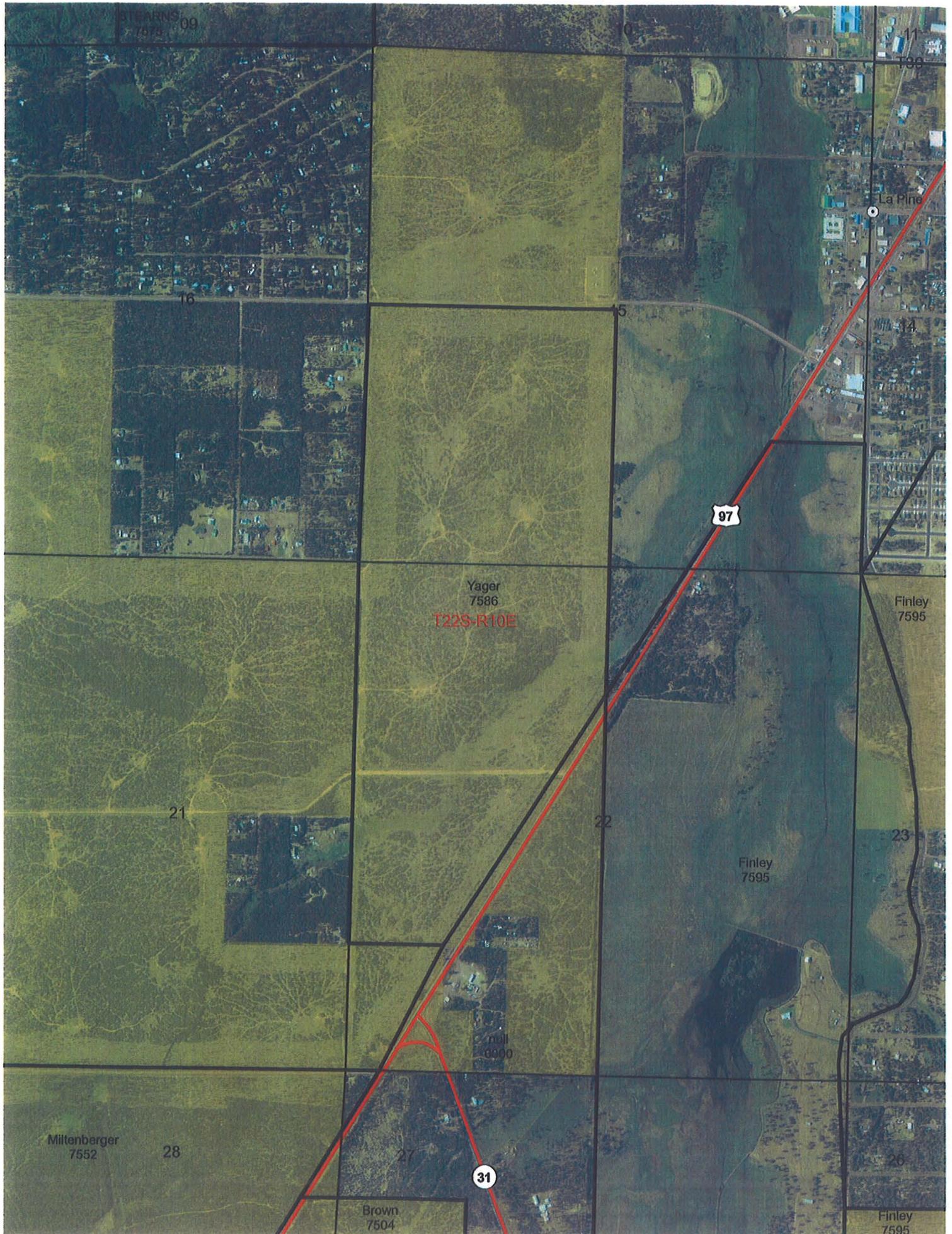

Deschutes Resource Area Manager

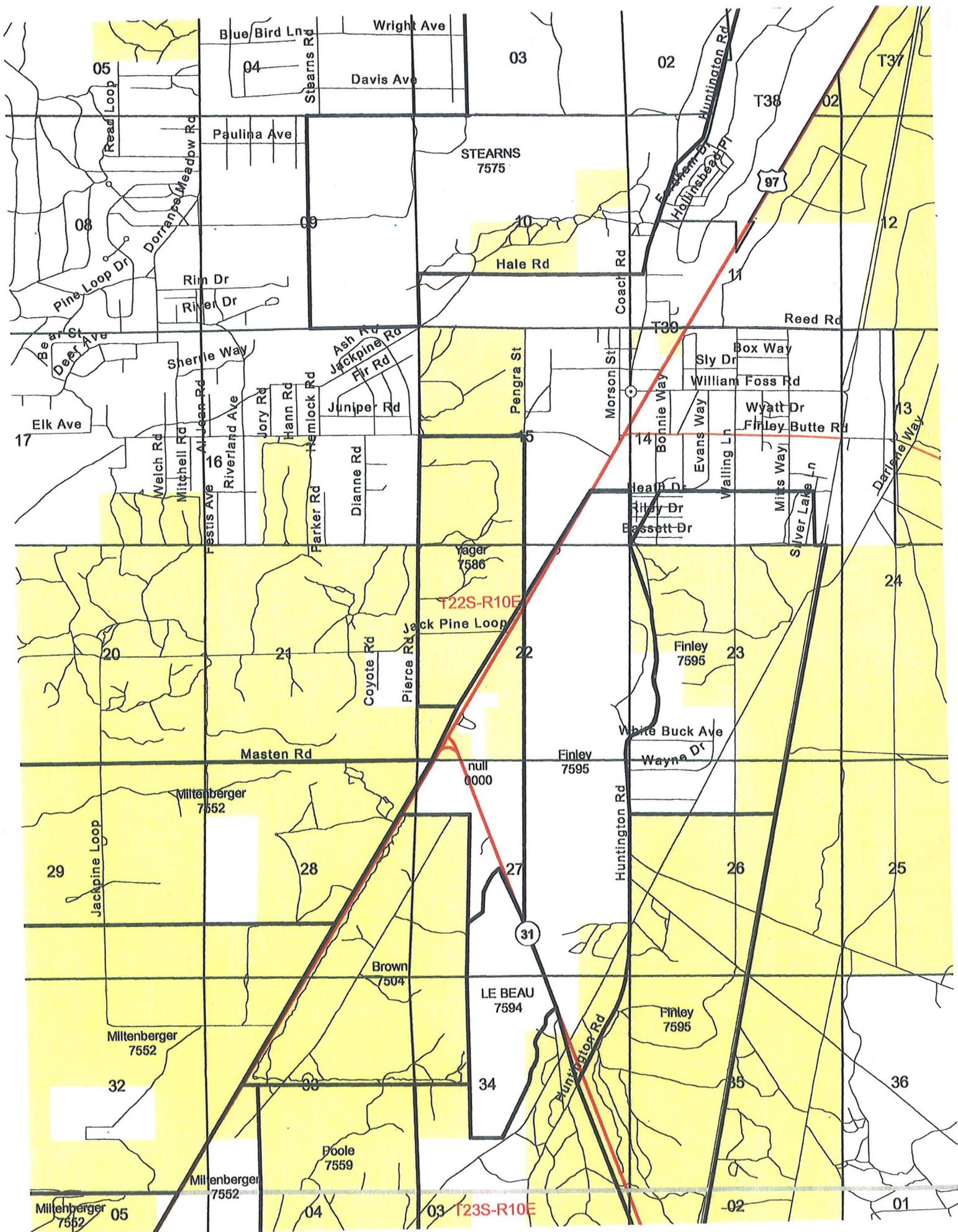

Date

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: Cari Taylor, Rangeland Management Specialist, Prineville Field Office, 3050 NE 3rd Street, Prineville, OR 97754, telephone (541) 416.6790, cari_taylor@blm.gov.





STEARNS
7575

Yager
7586

Finley
7595

LE BEAU
7594

Miltenberger
7552

Brown
7504

Poole
7559

Miltenberger
7552

T23S-R10E

T22S-R10E

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