

**Worksheet**  
**Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)**  
U.S Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management

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**A. Background**

BLM Office: Prineville District

NEPA Log #: DOI-BLM-OR-P040-2012-0002-DNA

Project/Lease/Serial/Case File #: 3605036

Applicant: Fousek Cattle Company

Location: 12 miles SE of Paulina, Oregon

Proposed Action Title/Type: Windmill, Cold Springs and Dagus Lake permit renewals

Description of the Proposed Action and any applicable mitigation measures:

The permittee of the Windmill, Cold Springs and Dagus Lake Allotments has requested to renew his ten year grazing permit. All terms and conditions will remain the same.

The AUMs will remain the same: 70 for Windmill, 2,142 for Cold Springs and 487 for Dagus Lake.

**B. Land Use Plan Conformance**

Land Use Plan Name: *Brothers/La Pine Resource Management Plan (RMP) (ROD): July 1989.*

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

Brothers/La Pine RMP/ ROD, 1989- Allocate the above mentioned amount of AUMs of forage to livestock per allotment (p. 76). Livestock grazing specific to this allotment is addressed on pages 74 through 86 of this RMP.

**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:

*Brothers/La Pine Final Environmental Impact Statement, 1988*

*Brothers/La Pine Draft EIS, October 1987*

*Brothers Grazing Management Program Draft Environmental Impact Statement, 1982*

*Bureau of Land Management H-8550-1 Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review – 1995*

The following other documentation is relevant to the proposed action (e.g., biological assessment, biological opinion, watershed assessment, allotment evaluation, and monitoring report):

*Results of Assessment from Standards and Guidelines- Windmill Allotment 9.26.03*

*Results of Assessment from Standards and Guidelines- Cold Springs Allotment 9.28.11*

*Cold Springs Allotment Evaluation- 6.14.88*

*Results of Assessment from Standards and Guidelines- Dagus Lake Allotment 9.28.11*

*Dagus Lake Allotment Evaluation- 6.16.88*

#### **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. 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.**

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 10 through 14 of the Brothers Grazing Management Program Draft Environmental Impact Statement, 1982 and ranged from optimizing livestock to the elimination 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, 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?

**New information 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.**

**The Windmill allotment was evaluated in September of 2003 and failed standard 1 due to damage to plants and soil by grazing; standard 2 due to eroding steam bank channels; standard 3 due to extensive grazing on perennial plants; and standard 5 due to a**

lack of residual cover and forbs for sage grouse. The BLM lands within the allotment are isolated tracts amongst a large amount of private land: there are 920 BLM acres and approximately 8,680 private acres. It is a category “c” allotment; “c” allotments are small, unfenced tracts intermingled with larger acreages of non-BLM lands, thus limiting BLM management opportunities. It would not be practical to fence around these isolated pieces to enforce a change. The allotment does have monitoring established on it which can be done jointly with the permittee to identify needed measures to adjust management to make changes on the landscape for the health of the land. A deferred rotation for the allotment was implemented in September 2003. Monitoring and allotment visits will continue to observe trend.

The Cold Springs allotment was evaluated in September of 2011 and was found to be meeting all the standards.

The Dagus Lake allotment was also evaluated in September of 2011. Standards 2 and 4 failed due to an off-site dam and a riparian area that had trespass grazing during the hot season. Standard 5 failed due to juniper encroachment. This allotment will be considered for future juniper reduction projects. Early spring use will be enforced on the riparian area in Dagus Lake to mitigate riparian concerns and to be in-line with the allotment management plan. The allotment management plan specifies spring grazing with cattle off by May 10. There have been a few cases of trespass cattle in the riparian areas after May 10 and compliance checks will be done to enforce the appropriate season of use. Therefore, any issues with grazing discovered from S&G’s on these allotments are being mitigated. Despite the new information, existing analysis for these allotments remains valid.

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 Brothers Grazing Management Program, EIS 1982. 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 (pages 52 through 75). The effects of livestock grazing on soil, vegetation, and ecological processes were likewise included. These effects have not substantially changed.

Portions of the Dagus Lake and Cold Springs Allotments are within the South Fork and Sand Hollow Wilderness Study Areas. Livestock management within these two allotments is subject to the BLM Interim Management Policy (IMP) for lands under wilderness review. This interim management policy regarding livestock management and motorized use will be provided to the grazing permittee by BLM. In addition, the Cold Springs Rodman allotment contains lands with Wilderness Character. Livestock management activities will also be consistent with the protection of wilderness values.

5. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA

document(s) adequately 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.**

In keeping with Bureau of Land Management policy, the Prineville District posts Environmental Assessments, Findings of No Significant Impact, and Decision Records on the district web page under Plans & Projects at <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/prineville/plans/index.php>. Individuals desiring a paper copy of such documents will be provided one upon request.

### **E. Persons/Agencies/BLM Staff consulted**

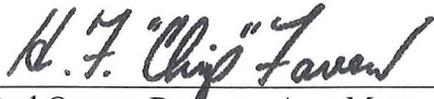
<u>Name</u>	<u>Resource/Agency represented</u>
Rick Demmer	Wildlife
Jeff Moss	Fisheries
Cari Taylor	Range
Berry Phelps	Recreation/Wilderness
John Zancanella	Cultural Resources
JoAnne Armson	Botany, Special Status Plants
Richard Pastor	Hydrology
Teal Purrington	NEPA Compliance

Note: Refer to the Draft 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, Central Oregon Resource Area Manager

1.31.12  
Date

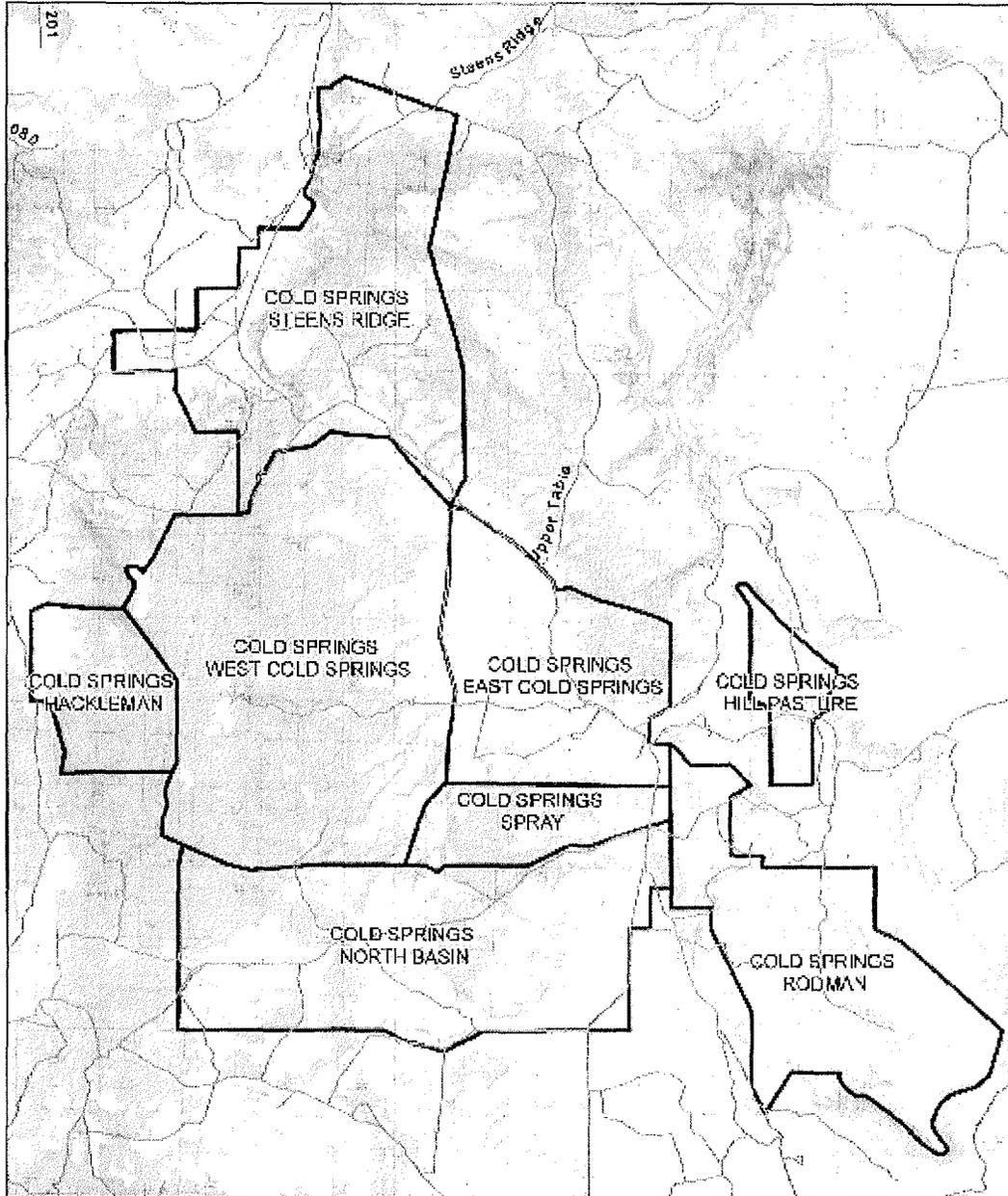
Note: The signed Conclusion on this Worksheet is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal

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.

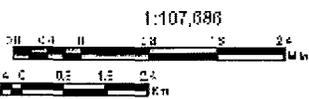
Contact Person

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, ctaylor@blm.gov.

# Cold Springs Allotment and Pastures



No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management for the use of this information for purposes not intended by the Bureau.



Legend

- Sub-allotment boundary
- Pasture boundary
- Water
- Public Road





