

**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

**NEPA Log #:** DOI-BLM-OR-P060-2012-0051-DNA

**Project/Lease/Serial/Case File #:** N/A

**Location:** Approximately 10 miles north east of Maupin, Oregon in the Deschutes Resource Area of Prineville District BLM. See attached maps.

**Proposed Action Title:** Reckmann Allotment Fence Replacement

**Description of the Proposed Action and any applicable mitigation measures:**

Repair/rebuild approximately 8 miles of fence used to control livestock movement along the Deschutes River. The fence would keep livestock off of the river during the period of May 1 to November 1. Design is a four wire fence with BLM recommended wildlife specifications for wire, post, and stay spacing. Mitigation measure would include the following (as listed on page 5 of EA-OR-056-06-067 for removal, replacement, and reconstruction of existing fences):

Soil/Vegetation/Watershed

1. Contractors or other project entities would be given a noxious weed information pamphlet; be required to ensure their vehicle and equipment were checked for weed matter prior to entering the project area; and requested to report any weed discoveries in their work areas. Any weed sighting information would be forwarded to the District Noxious Weed Coordinator for follow-up action.
2. Surface disturbance would be held to a minimum and be rehabilitated to blend with surrounding soil surfaces. Emphasis would be placed on avoiding repeated entry of vehicles or equipment on sites where this activity previously occurred.
3. Work activities would be scheduled to minimize compaction and rutting to road surfaces.
4. Neither old growth juniper trees nor any other species of tree showing obvious signs of wildlife occupation would be felled.
6. Natural materials (such as vegetative matter from fence line clearing work) would be applied to new vehicle tracks and other vehicle/equipment activity areas.
7. Neither bulldozer nor other heavy equipment use would not be allowed.

Fish and Wildlife

1. Unless otherwise approved by the Field Manager, fencing activities within 4 miles of sage-grouse leks during the sage-grouse nesting period would be avoided. Note: The project area is not within sage-grouse habitat.
2. When possible, treatment activities would occur outside of the reproductive period for neotropical migratory birds (April 15 through July 30), especially in areas near springs or other high-quality nesting areas.
3. Should the fish or wildlife situation change (such as new species found to be present or the status of a species changes), additional operational restrictions might be applied.

4. A BLM Wildlife Biologist would be notified if ferruginous hawks, or goshawk nests or individual birds, are discovered prior to or during fencing project. The biologist would determine appropriate protection measures; treatment activities would be adjusted accordingly.
5. For activities within one mile of eagle nests (during critical reproductive periods), seasonal operating restrictions would be in place between February 1 and August 31.

#### Cultural Resources

1. Cultural resource inventory methods would be in accordance with OR BLM/SHPO standards and protocols.
2. All observed and recorded cultural resources determined to be at risk from project activities would be protected from damage or disturbance.
3. Trees having historical significance (survey trees, blaze trees, juniper structures, etc.) would be retained.

#### Recreation/Visuals Management

1. In visually sensitive areas, efforts would be made to blend the fence in with the surrounding environment. Examples of potential actions include the following:
  - Use of gray or brown fence posts
  - Routing fences behind visual obstacles (such as trees or shrubs), or in front of topographic features, such as rock cliffs or outcroppings.
  - Placement of braces or other fence components away from topographic crests (such as ridgelines and/or rimrocks).
2. In heavy recreation use corridors, gates and stiles would be installed in a manner that facilitates ease of visitor passage.

### **B. Land Use Plan Conformance**

**Land Use Plan Name:** Two Rivers RMP

**Date approved (ROD):** 1986

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable plan, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following land use plan decisions (objectives, terms, conditions):

“Manage upland vegetation to achieve maximum wildlife habitat diversity,” (ROD, Two Rivers RMP, p. 10).

“Manage riparian areas along the Deschutes and John Day rivers and their major tributaries to full potential, with a minimum of 60 percent of the vegetative potential to be achieved within 20 years,” (ROD, Two Rivers RMP, p. 10).

“Range developments will be designed to achieve both wildlife and range objectives. Existing fences may be modified, and new fences will be built to allow wildlife passage,” (ROD, Two Rivers RMP, p. 11).

### **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:**

Environmental Assessment (EA) No. OR-056-06-067 Removal, Replacement, Reconstruction of Existing Fences – Prepared Oct. 2, 2006 (Decision Record signed Feb. 1, 2007)

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

Lower Deschutes River Management Plan and Environmental Statement and Record of Decision (February 1993)

#### **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 the same as the Selected Alternative of Prineville District's Removal, Replacement, and Reconstruction of Existing Fences EA #OR-050-06-067 (District Fence EA). The proposed action (p. 2 of EA#OR-050-06-067) included removal, reconstruction and removal of existing fences. In addition, the Proposed Action included moving the replacement fence if an old fence is located along a circuitous route and building the new fence on a more direct route could reduce the net mileage (and cost); or an existing fence does not follow land ownership or allotment boundaries. By building the replacement fence consistent with recognized boundaries, potential land tenure issues could be resolved (p. 4 of EA#OR-050-06-067). The proposed action is located within the same geographic area previously analyzed in the listed NEPA 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 District Fence EA addressed the appropriate range of alternatives given the proposed action, and current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values. The District Fence EA included a No Action and a range of Proposed Actions including removal, reconstruction and replacement of existing fence (p. 2-4 of EA#OR-050-06-067). The current Proposed Action would have a similar range of alternatives. Issues addressed in the District Fence EA included impacts to wildlife and visuals management. These are similar issues associated with the current Proposed Action. Resources analyzed in the District Fence EA included soil, vegetation, watershed, riparian, water quality, wetland areas, fish and wildlife, special management areas, historic and archaeological resources, fire and fuels, recreation, visual quality, livestock grazing, human safety and critical elements. The analysis of these resources is applicable to the current Proposed Action given current environmental concerns, interests and resource values.

**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?**

The Prineville BLM District completed a Lands with Wilderness Characteristics update for public lands in the Lower Deschutes Unit #7 (area encompassed within the Reckmann Allotment), north of Maupin, Oregon and west of state Highway 197. On June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2007, it was determined that lands within the Lower Deschutes Unit #7 (OR-5-7) do not have wilderness characteristics. Medusahead, an invasive annual grass, is present in the area of fence construction. Although medusahead is not specifically listed in the District Fence EA, the EA does mention that current noxious weed importation and spread rates would not be expected to change as a result of construction activities (p. 6 EA OR-050-06-067). The current Proposed Action is not expected to increase the current spread of medusahead in the project area.

**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 District Fence EA (p.6-10) under Soil/Vegetation/Watershed/Riparian/Water Quality/Wetland Areas, Fish and Wildlife, Special Management Areas (SMAs), Historic/Archaeological Resources, Fire and Fuels, Recreation, Visual Quality, Livestock Grazing and Human Safety. Cumulative effects of the new proposed action would be similar to those listed on page 10 of the District Fence EA.

**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**

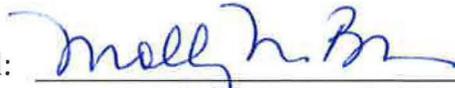
<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Resource/Agency represented</u>
Molly Galbraith	ID Team Leader/Range	BLM
Theresa Holtzapple	Heritage Resources	BLM
Cassandra Hummel	Wildlife	BLM
Teal Purrington	NEPA	BLM
Berry Phelps	Wilderness/Recreation	BLM
Kristin Williams	Botany	BLM

**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.

**Signature**

Responsible official:

  
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*Molly M. Brown, Field Manager*

7/16/13  
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: Molly Galbraith, Team Leader, Prineville Field Office, 3050 NE 3rd Street, Prineville, OR 97754, telephone (541) 416-6714, mgalbrai@blm.gov.