



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Prineville District Office
3050 N.E. 3rd Street
Prineville, Oregon 97754

IN REPLY REFER TO:

DOI-BLM-OR-P000-2014-0033-EA
4130 (ORP000)

MAY 22 2014

Dear Permittee/Lessee or Interested Public:

The Prineville District BLM will begin preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) in the fall/winter of 2014/2015 for the purpose of responding to applications to renew 10-year grazing permits and leases on 16 allotments. The list of allotments and map are attached. The EA will analyze management actions necessary to meet or make significant progress towards the Oregon/Washington Standards and Guidelines for Healthy Rangelands, and as required by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and the Taylor Grazing Act. Actions that may be considered, based on the results of our on-the-ground information collection, include changing season of use and adjusting Animal Unit Months (AUMs) to meet resource objectives; constructing new or maintaining existing range developments like fences, cattle guards, and water developments; and assigning range development maintenance responsibilities to permittees for allotments that have grazing permits/leases renewed.

Based on recent analyses for similar permit/lease renewal actions, we anticipate the following issues:

- Effects of changing season of use, adjusting AUMs, and constructing/maintaining range developments on:
 - Recreation in Wilderness Study Areas, Lands with Wilderness Character, visual resources, and river recreation sites;
 - Special status plant populations;
 - Noxious weeds and invasive plants, and;
 - Height and density of riparian vegetation and water quality.
- Effects of fence construction on sage grouse habitat, and mule deer and antelope critical range and migration corridors.
- Effects of changes to season of use and adjusting AUMs in allotments containing fish within the Upper Crooked, Beaver-South Fork Crooked, Upper Deschutes, Upper John Day, and Willow sub-basins.
- Effects of new ground disturbing actions, hoof action, and cattle congregation areas (i.e., live streams, troughs, fence lines, and salting areas) on cultural and paleontological resources.
- Effects of changes to season of use and adjusting AUMs on local economies dependent upon grazing.
- Effects to rangeland health from changing season of use and adjusting AUMs.

We are asking you and the interested public to provide us with information and concerns related to grazing management for the respective allotments and invite you to join us as we collect information on the ground. If you are interested in joining us for the field visits to the allotments and to find out the scheduled field dates, please contact the Rangeland Management Specialist for the allotment as indicated at the bottom of the map. In addition, please provide comments or information concerning

this project by **October 1, 2014** through the U.S. Mail, electronically, or fax to the BLM Prineville District Office at the addresses noted below. All comments and information are welcome as we start the renewal process for these 16 allotments. Comments will be most useful if they provide additional information about the actions that may be proposed that were discussed above, propose alternative actions, or identify issues or concerns not already identified above pertaining to this project.

Please send electronic comments to BLM_OR_PR_Grazing_Renewal@blm.gov with "Grazing Renewal" in the subject line.

Send U.S. Mail comments to: ATTN: Grazing Renewal FY15
BLM Prineville District Office
3050 NE Third Street
Prineville, OR 97754

Fax comments to: ATTN: Grazing Renewal FY15
BLM Prineville District Office
(541) 416-6798

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

If you have any allotment specific questions, please contact the range specialist associated with the specific allotment as shown on the map, or feel free to call Matt Shaffer, Natural Resource Specialist at (541) 416-6743 for more general questions about the project.

Sincerely,



for Molly M. Brown
Field Manager, Deschutes Resource Area



for H.F. "Chip" Faver
Field Manager, Central Oregon Resource Area

Enclosure

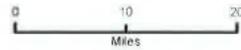
Data Collection for FY15 Permit Renewal EA

Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Prineville District



3050 NE Third Street
Prineville, Oregon 97754
Phone: 541-416-6700

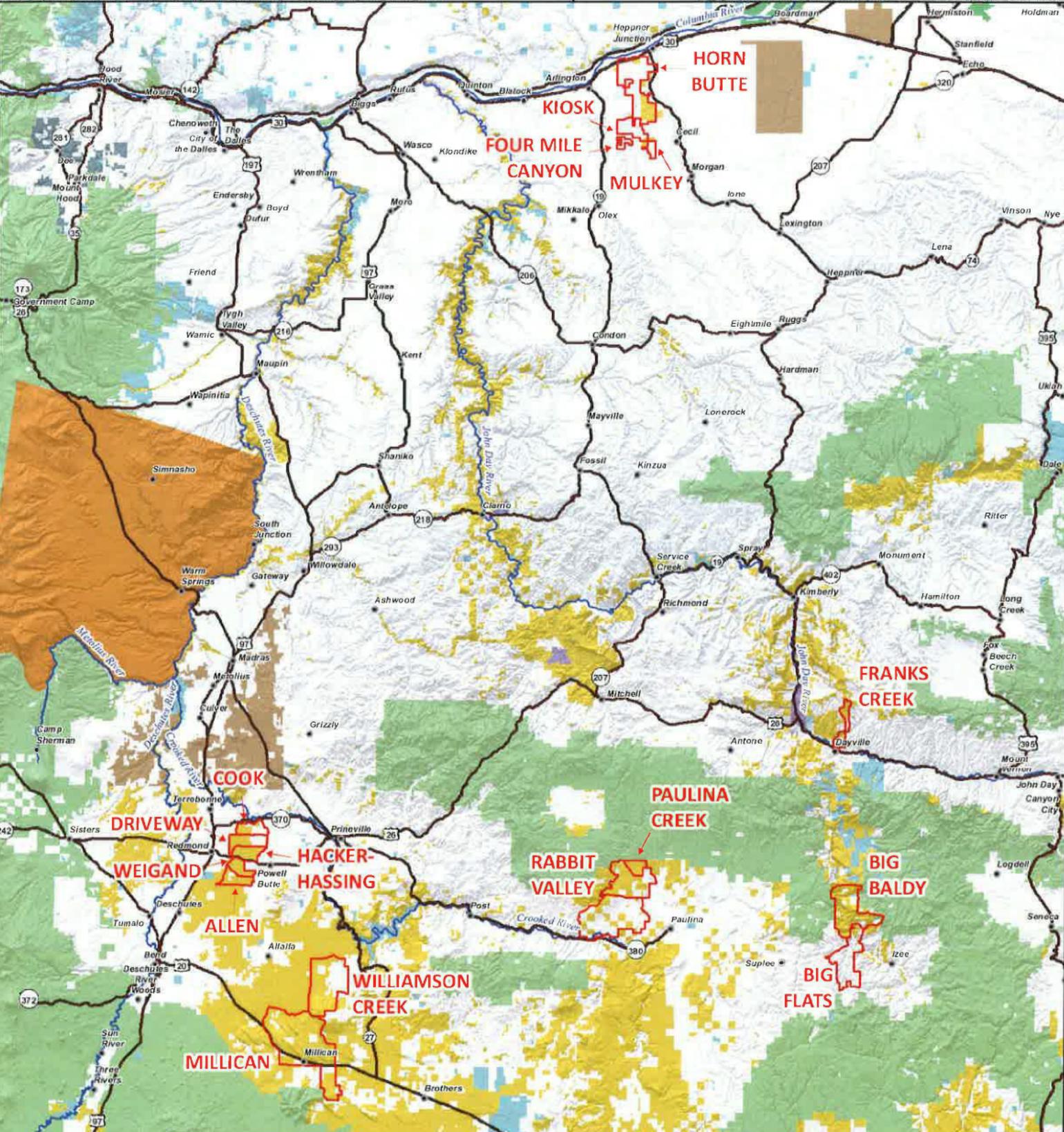
May 2014



Legend

- Cities
- Allotment Name
- Highways
- Rivers
- BLM
- U.S. Forest Service
- National Park Service
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife
- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Other Federal
- State
- Local Government
- Private

Prineville District\prineville\545 Data Collection FY15 Permit Renewal EA.mxd 545 Data Collection FY15 Permit Renewal EA.mxd



Allotments: Franks Creek, Big Baldy, Big Flats Rangeland Specialist: Justin Rodgers (541-416-6749)	Allotments: Horn Butte, Kiosk, 4-Mile, Mulkey Rangeland Specialist: Craig Obermiller (541-416-6761)	Allotments: Williamson Creek, Millican, Rabbit Valley, Paulina Creek Rangeland Specialist: Cari Taylor (541-416-6790)	Allotments: Driveway, Hacker-Hassing, Cook, Allen, Weigand Rangeland Specialist: Molly Galbraith (541-416-6714)
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