

## **Environmental Assessment #OR-014-08-05**

**PROJECT TITLE/TYPE:** Rajnus & Son Allotment Grazing Lease Modification

**PROJECT LOCATION:** The Rajnus & Son Allotment consists of 1,440 acres of BLM-administered land in T40S, R12E, Sections 5, 8, 9, 15, 17, 19, 20, and 21. (see attached map).

**BLM OFFICE:** Klamath Falls Resource Area, Lakeview District

**LEASE/SERIAL/CASE FILE #:** Rajnus & Son Allotment #00864, Grazing Lease #3601052

**APPLICANT (if any):** N/A

### **CONFORMANCE WITH APPLICABLE LAND USE PLAN**

This proposed action is subject to one or more of the following land use plans:

- Klamath Falls Resource Area Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan and Rangeland Program Summary (KFRA ROD/RMP/RPS), approved June 1995
- Vegetation Treatment on BLM Lands in Thirteen Western States FEIS and ROD (1991)
- Northwest Area Noxious Weed Control Program FEIS and ROD (1985) and Supplement (1987)
- Integrated Weed Control Plan (IWCP) 1993
- Rangeland Reform '94 FEIS and ROD (1995)
- Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management for Public Lands Administered by the Bureau of Land Management in the States of Oregon and Washington (1997)
- Standards for Land Health for Lands Administered by the Bureau of Land Management in the States of Oregon and Washington (1998)
- National Sage-Grouse Habitat Conservation Strategy (2004)
- Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Strategy and Assessment for Oregon, Draft (2005)

### **PURPOSE AND NEED FOR ACTION**

An assessment and evaluation of resource conditions for the Rajnus & Son Allotment was completed by an interdisciplinary team of BLM resource specialists during 2006. A determination was made on May 11, 2007 that the allotment was not meeting all of the Standards for Rangeland Health as required by 43 Code of Federal Regulations, Subpart 4180 (Rangeland Health). Specifically, Standard 1 Watershed Function-Uplands and Standard 3 Ecological Processes were not met and livestock grazing was identified as a causal factor. As required by the Rangeland Health regulations, appropriate actions must be taken to bring grazing activities into conformance with grazing guidelines or to modify them so that significant progress can be made toward achieving the Standards.

Observations made during the Ecological Site Inventory phase of the assessment indicated that there has been no livestock use on the allotment for several years. The current grazing lease for the allotment expired on 9/30/2007. To continue authorized grazing that is designed to make progress towards meeting the Standards, some modifications to the current grazing lease are necessary prior to renewal.

### **DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION**

The Rajnus & Son Allotment has 1,440 acres in two distinct parcels of 960 and 440 acres with another disconnected 40 acre parcel. The main reason that the allotment did not meet the above mentioned Standards was due to a large infestation of exotic annual grasses, mainly medusahead (*Taeniatherum caput-medusae*), in the south end of the 960 acre parcel of the allotment and scattered occurrences throughout the remainder

of the allotment. The largest concentration of the weed is adjacent to the private property that is the base property for the grazing authorization. The assessment and evaluation recommended that the allotment be rested from grazing with any resumption of grazing being based upon any future weed control results. This action would help decrease the spread of the medusahead to new areas of the allotment. It would also allow some of the native vegetation to reestablish and increase in areas where the medusahead is less dense.

The current grazing lease for the Rajnus & Son Allotment authorizes 55 AUMs of cattle use from May 1 to June 30. The proposed action would be the issuance of a new grazing lease for the Rajnus & Son Allotment authorizing non-use of the allotment. The term of the lease would be March 1, 2008 through February 28, 2018, ten years as authorized by the grazing regulations at 43 CFR §4130.2(d). The Terms and Conditions on the new lease would stipulate that no livestock grazing would be allowed on the allotment until satisfactory control of the medusahead had been achieved.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

### **No Action**

This alternative would issue a new grazing lease with the same parameters as the current lease. The current grazing lease for the Rajnus & Son Allotment authorizes 55 AUMs of cattle use from May 1 to June 30. All areas of the allotment would be open for livestock grazing. A No Action alternative would not meet the requirements of the grazing regulations cited above that require changes to be made when an allotment is not meeting the Standards for Rangeland Health.

### **Alternatives Considered But Not Analyzed**

#### Active Management of Medusahead

Resting the allotment from livestock grazing and actively managing the medusahead infestation was also considered. Current treatment methods for medusahead on rangelands involving prescribed burning, herbicide application, and reseeding or a combination of these methods have shown mixed results. Some of the herbicides that have shown good results in controlling medusahead are not currently allowed for use on BLM lands in Oregon and Washington due to a court ordered injunction. Prescribed burning has shown good results in initial control of the weed, but follow-up treatments with herbicides in combination with successful seeding of grass and forb species are usually needed for longer term control. There are currently several research projects on medusahead control and revegetation strategies being conducted by university and agency scientists that will hopefully result in effective prescriptions for control of medusahead. Although it is desirable to actively treat medusahead, it was determined that this alternative will not be analyzed at this time. This alternative would be analyzed in a separate document, as improved methodologies and funding are available.

## **AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT**

### **Soils**

According to the Soil Survey of Klamath County, Oregon (Southern Part), April 1985, the Rajnus & Son allotment has Lorella very stony loam as the dominant soil type. The Lorella series consists of shallow, well drained soils on escarpments and rock benches. Nearly all areas of this soil are used for range and wildlife habitat in Klamath County. Small inclusions of Calimus loam, Stukel-Capona loams, and the Lorella-Calimus association are also present.

### **Watershed**

The Rajnus & Son allotment is within the Lower Lost River and Poe Valley – Yonna Valley 5<sup>th</sup> field watersheds. The two watershed areas are dominated by the Tule Lake basin which is a former closed basin lakebed currently almost entirely in irrigated agricultural production. The valley is surrounded by arid hillslope areas. The allotment area is moderately to steep sloped with primarily southwest exposure. These areas are prone to rill and gully erosion if vegetation cover is inadequate. There are no intermittent or perennial streams in the allotment area.

## **Vegetation**

### Special Status Species

The northern portions of the allotment were surveyed for botanical resources in 1999, and the Buck Butte portions of the allotment were surveyed in 2002. Only the 40 acre parcel in section 15 has not been surveyed for botanical resources. No special status plant species were documented as a result of these surveys or are known from other sources to occur on the allotment.

### Noxious Weeds

Several noxious weed populations in addition to the medusahead have been documented in the area. Four populations of musk thistle (*Carduus nutans*) were documented in the Buck Butte portions of the allotment in sections 20 and 21. A large population of leafy spurge (*Euphorbia esula*) was document in private lands adjacent to the allotment in section 21. A population of yellow starthistle (*Centuarea solstitialis*) was previously documented in section 19 on Buck Butte and was regularly treated as part of the noxious weed management program. No plants have been found for several years.

## **Wildlife**

### Special Status Species

No listed, proposed or candidate species under the Endangered Species Act occur within the grazing allotment. Therefore no impacts to these species would occur from the proposed change in grazing management. There is also no Bureau Sensitive Species known to occur within the grazing allotment.

### Landbirds (Birds of Conservation Concern)

There is only one special status species bird, the Brewer's sparrow, which may use portions of the grazing allotment. The brewer's sparrow is typically associated with big sage brush but utilizes other shrub habitat as well. They typically nest in the upper portion of big sage brush and forage on insects gleaned from sagebrush leaves and branches (Marshal et al 2003). No formal surveys have been completed within the allotment but the brewer's sparrow has been documented on the resource area in similar habitat.

Current habitat conditions, especially those areas infested with medusa head provide little habitat for the brewer's sparrow and other landbirds. The shrub component has been reduced in the area where the medusa head has taken over and therefore provides no nesting structure and reduces foraging opportunities for the brewer sparrow.

### Non Special Status Species

#### **Mule Deer**

The area is classified as mule deer winter range by ODFW and the KFRA ROD/RMP. The area has deer use year round but there is a significant increase in the winter months. Deer move from the high elevations when snow accumulates and their forage becomes covered and spend the winter in the lower elevation where shrubs are still available for browsing.

The portions of the allotment that are infested with medusa head provide little to no forage and cover for mule deer and these infested areas limit shrubs (bitterbrush and sagebrush) from occupying the area

## **Livestock Grazing**

The current grazing lease for the Rajnus & Son Allotment authorizes 55 AUMs of cattle use from May 1 to June 30. The property boundaries of the allotment are fenced although many sections are in disrepair. A small portion of the allotment is currently included into agricultural fields with the adjacent private lands. An irrigation ditch that crosses this area could possibly be used for livestock watering. There are no other sources of livestock water on the allotment.

As noted in the Purpose and Need section above, the allotment did not meet all of the Oregon Standards for Rangeland Health when it was assessed in 2006. This was mainly due to the presence of the exotic annual grasses medusahead and cheatgrass. There are several ecological sites present on the allotment that provide

various levels of forage for livestock. A complete description of these ecological sites can be found in the Rangeland Health Standards Assessment for the Rajnus & Son Allotment found in the grazing files in the Klamath Falls BLM office.

## **Cultural Resources**

Archaeological information indicates a continuous Native American presence in the region beginning at least 10,000 years ago (Minor et al. 1979:102). Traditionally, the area was utilized by the Modoc peoples. The Modoc practiced an annual subsistence round in response to local food resource availability and would have utilized the Buck Butte area for summer deer hunting, berry picking, and seed gathering. Spring was the time of exploiting fish runs and meadow root crops. During the winter, the tribe built earth lodges at lower elevations along Lost River (Ray 1963:182). In his Modoc Ethnography, Ray (1963:207,211) noted that there once existed a Modoc fishing village along Lost River in Poe Valley. The village was called *Niya/ntkis*. The Modoc and their neighbors, the Klamath and the Yahooskin band of the Snake, signed over this portion of their ancestral lands to the United States in The Treaty of 1864.

Euro-American's began to explore Poe Valley in the mid 1840s. John C. Fremont led the 1<sup>st</sup> expedition in the area. He traveled from Tule Lake California through Poe Valley Oregon to Olene Gap in 1846 (Beckham 2000:10). The Pacific Railroad Surveys came through Poe Valley in 1855 (Williamson and Abbott 1857). Cadastral surveyors, Applegate and McCall, for the General Land Office worked in The Rajnus & Son Allotment area in the spring of 1871. The area was resurveyed by Fred Mensch in 1904 and 1913 (GLO records).

Settlement of Poe Valley started in the 1860s. It was spurred on by the opening of the Oregon Central Military Wagon Road which traveled from the Middle Fork of the Willamette River into the Upper Deschutes to the Williamson and Sprague Rivers (Beckham 2000). The road was the primary route for the movement of cattle herds. The opening of this road brought stock raisers and their cattle into the Lost River Basin and Poe Valley, such as the Horton Cattle Ranch.

The Horton Cattle Ranch was established in Poe Valley in 1868. Mr. William H. Horton married Elizabeth Poe, daughter of James M. Poe, the man for whom the valley is named. Mr. Poe homesteaded and lived in the valley during the Modoc War of 1872-73 (McArthur 1982:595). Horton Rim, the ridge that flanks the northern edge of the valley is named after the Hortons.

Settlement in the valley was spurred again in the early 1900s due to the construction of the Klamath Irrigation Project by the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR). The BOR built the North Poe Valley Lateral Canal or "E" Canal and the South Poe Valley Lateral Canal or "F" Canal in 1912 (BOR 2008). The tiny town of Bedfield once served the settlers of Poe Valley. The Bedfield Post Office operated from 1892-1909 on the Fruer property located in Township 40 South, Range 11 East, Section 3 (Dicken and Dicken 1985:4-12). The school house ran from 1884 to 1911 when it burned down. A new school was built on the Old Kester Ranch in 1914 and ran until the county demolished it after the adoption of the county unit plan (Stone et al. 1960:76). Today all that remains of the town is the Poe Valley Grange Hall located near the original town site and the Bedfield pioneer cemetery located in Township 40 South, Range 11 East, Section 1. The economy of the area today still revolves around the agriculture industry.

## **Recreation**

Existing recreation uses include dispersed motorized use, mainly ATV use, hunting, hiking and sight seeing. This allotment has limited motorized access which greatly reduces the overall amount of recreation uses to the properties.

## **Fuels**

The expansion of exotic annual grasses such as medusahead has substantially increased frequency of fire in the western United States. Medusahead has a fine structure and its herbage dries completely; therefore, its standing dead biomass is extremely flammable. The hazard of wildfire is further increased by considerable litter. Medusahead litter decomposes more slowly than that of most plants, therefore making stands of this

annual grass a fire hazard. The long-lasting litter formed by medusahead is easily ignited and burns readily. Invasion can initiate a cycle where a non-native grass colonizes an area and provides the fine fuel necessary for the initiation and propagation of fire. Fires then increase in frequency and extent. Following these grass-fueled fires, non-native grasses recover more rapidly than native species and cause a further increase in fire. Frequent fires destroy the shrub component of the plant community, and potentially part of the bunchgrass community, without destroying significant amounts of medusahead seed. (Archer, 2001)

The allotments are located within Malin's Wildland Urban Interface. They have been identified as Fire Regime II, Condition Class III using the Standard Landscape method. The condition class is primarily due to the extensive presence of invasive exotic species.

## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

The potential environmental impacts resulting from the alternatives relative to the following critical resource values were evaluated. The following is a summary of the results:

Critical Element/ Resource Value	Affected		Critical Element/ Resource Value	Affected	
	Yes	No		Yes	No
Air Quality		X	T & E Species		X
ACEC/RNAs		X	Wilderness		X
Cultural Resources		X	Wild & Scenic Rivers		X
Farmlands, Prime/Unique		X	Hazardous Wastes		X
Floodplains		X	Water Quality		X
Native American Cultural/ Religious Concerns		X	Wetlands/Riparian Zones		X
Low Income/ Minority Populations		X	Noxious Weeds	X	

## DESCRIPTION OF OTHER IMPACTS

### Soils

#### Proposed Action

The proposed action should result in both short term and long term positive impacts to the soils in the allotment. In the short term, resting the allotment from livestock grazing would reduce soil surface disturbance from livestock hooves. This would result in less soil displacement from wind and water induced erosion. Soil compaction resulting from livestock use during wet soil periods would also be reduced. In the long term, a vegetation shift from the shallow rooted exotic annual grass species to more native perennials would provide improved soil stability and increased infiltration rates resulting in less soil movement.

#### No Action

The no action alternative would result in continued soil surface disturbance from livestock which would increase the possibility for water and wind induced soil erosion. Soil compaction from livestock grazing on wet soils would also continue. The existing exotic annual grasses would also likely increase on the allotment resulting in less stable soils that would be more susceptible to erosion.

### Watershed

#### Proposed Action

Under the proposed action, watershed processes will be improved to the extent that annual grasses are replaced by more erosion resistant plants such as perennial grasses and shrubs. In general, soils covered with shrubs and grasses have higher water infiltration rates and are resistant to erosion and rain induced compaction and hence. It is unlikely that these effects will be measurable at the sub-watershed scale or in

any nearby perennial surface water bodies due to the limited extent of the area and the position in the watershed, and the lack of intermittent or perennial streams within the allotment.

#### No Action

Under no action alternative, the continued spread of annual grasses would reduce watershed function by increasing surface runoff, increasing erosion, and decreasing water and nutrient infiltration.

### **Vegetation – Special Status Species**

#### Proposed Action

No special status plant species are known to occur in the allotment; therefore the proposed action would have no direct effect on special status plant species. However, reducing the amount of disturbance from grazing activities would reduce the competitive advantage that noxious weeds and other invasive species have over native plant species, including special status plant species, under these conditions.

#### No Action

No special status plant species are known to occur in the allotment; therefore the no action alternative would have no direct effect on special status plant species. However, the continued disturbance from grazing activities would continue to provide the conditions under which noxious weeds and other invasive species have a competitive advantage relative to native plant species, including special status plant species.

### **Vegetation – Noxious Weeds**

Targeted noxious weed species would be treated through the resource area integrated noxious weed program as they are discovered. Neither the proposed action nor the no action alternative uses machinery or equipment that may introduce noxious weeds from outside the allotment; therefore, no prevention measures are necessary.

#### Proposed Action

The proposed action would reduce the amount of disturbance from grazing activities in the allotment and gradually reduce the disturbed environmental conditions under which noxious weeds and other invasive species have a competitive advantage relative to native species and other desirable vegetation. The potential for new noxious weeds to establish and the potential for the spread of existing noxious weeds would be reduced.

#### No Action

The continued disturbance from grazing activities would continue to provide the conditions under which noxious weeds and other invasive species have a competitive advantage relative to native plant species. There would continue to be a potential for the establishment of new noxious weeds and the spread of existing noxious weeds.

### **Wildlife – Special Status Species (Landbirds)**

#### Proposed Action

Under the proposed action there would be potential benefits to the Brewer sparrow and other sage brush associated species by temporarily removing grazing from the allotment. This would reduce the spread of medusa head from cattle into uninfested areas and maintain current habitat conditions were they are currently suitable. The removal of cattle would also allow the native vegetation to get a stronger hold on the area and again reduce the rate of spread. In the concentrated medusa head patches the reestablishment of sagebrush and other native shrub species would benefit the Brewer's sparrow by providing both nesting and foraging habitat (Marshall et al 2003). The reestablishment of native vegetation in infested areas would most likely be done under a subsequent action of active management and not under the proposed action.

#### No Action

The no action would continue the spread of noxious weeds into areas currently not infested with medusa head. Livestock, wildlife, water, and air have all been shown to move the medusa head seed. However seeds are primarily spread from the coats and intestinal tracts of grazing animals (Furbush 1953). As medusa head

spreads the quality and quantity of habitat for landbirds, particularly sagebrush associated species, would continue to decline. As medusa head spreads the fire frequency within the sagebrush habitat would increase, therefore increasing the risk of habitat loss from fire.

### **Wildlife – Non Special Status Species (Mule deer)**

#### **Proposed Action**

Under the proposed action removing grazing temporarily would likely slow the spread of medusa head within the allotments. Medusa head is only modestly palatable and is the least desirable forage plant for mule deer (Bodurtha et al 1989). Medusa head has been shown to out compete the native vegetation therefore limiting the amount of forage available for mule deer. Additionally medusa head has been shown to increase the fire frequency therefore increasing the risk of a stand replacing fire (Knapp 1998). In the sagebrush ecosystem frequent fires can remove the shrub component and produce a monoculture of medusa head.

Limiting its spread and actively managing known populations would slow the spread, maintain the current fire frequency and reduce the source population. The proposed action (without active management of the source population) would at a minimum reduce the spread and maintain the current fire frequency which would both be beneficial to mule deer winter range habitat. However the source population would continue to spread by grazing animals such as mule deer and by wind and water. Controlling the source population should be considered in future management for both allotments.

Additionally limiting the spread of medusa head and other invasive species would also benefit other sagebrush associated wildlife by limiting the loss of other native vegetation.

#### **No Action**

Under the no action, the medusa head distribution and density will likely increase overtime. Since livestock and other grazing animals distribute the seed (Furbush 1953) it is probable that the medusa head sources within these two allotments will increase at a faster rate than without cattle. Both of the allotments are classified as winter range. The objective in the Klamath Falls Management Plan for winter range is to maintain or improve habitat. (KFRA EIS 2-30). As medusa head increases the quality and quantity of mule deer habitat will continue to decrease therefore not meeting the objectives of the RMP for deer winter range.

### **Grazing**

#### **Proposed Action**

The proposed action would result in no livestock grazing on the Rajnus & Son allotment for a period of 10 years. If the rest period results in decreased levels of medusahead, then the forage base for livestock grazing would be improved for future use.

#### **No Action**

The no action alternative would allow for the possible spread and increase in the levels of medusahead on the allotment. This would have a negative impact on the amounts of livestock forage in the allotment.

### **Cultural Resources**

#### **Proposed Action**

In accordance with Section 110 and 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended (Public Law 89-665; 16 USC 470-470w-6), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (Public Law 91-190; 42 USC 4321-4347 and applicable regulations (36 CFR Part 60, 63, 800 and 40 CFR Parts 1500-08), a BLM Class I literature review was conducted. Findings indicated that the Rajnus & Son Allotment project area has been partially surveyed following current BLM Class III survey standards. All portions of the allotment have been surveyed except for the pieces on Buck Butte located in Sections 19, 20 and 21. Two cultural sites, one prehistoric lithic scatter (35KL2175) and one historic can dump (35KL2595) have been recorded within the previously surveyed areas.

Allowing Rajnus & Son Allotment to rest and amending the Grazing Lease to reflect this action should not impact cultural resources either in the surveyed or unsurveyed areas. Impacts caused by the short-term

increase of fine fuels load, and corresponding wildfire hazard, is minimum. Cured fine fuels, also called flash fuels, are consumed rapidly by fire and have no effect on sub-surface artifacts and minimal to no effect on surface artifacts.

#### No Action

Under the no action alternative, known archaeological sites would continue to be protected from ground disturbing activities. Known sites within the project area include one prehistoric lithic scatter (35KL2175) and one historic can dump (35KL2595).

#### **Recreation**

##### Proposed Action

The proposed alternative would not likely change the types or amount of recreation use.

##### No Action

The No Action alternative would not likely change the types or amount of recreation use

#### **Fuels**

##### Proposed Action

The proposed alternative would result in a short-term increase in fine fuel load and corresponding wildfire hazard. However, the vegetation composition shift from annual invasive grasses to native perennials would reduce wildfire hazard below current levels.

##### No Action

The No Action alternative would likely result in continued expansion of exotic annuals and a corresponding increase in wildfire hazard.

#### **Air Quality**

Neither alternative would have a significant impact on air quality.

#### **CUMULATIVE IMPACTS**

Cumulative impacts on a watershed scale are expected to be negligible for any resource under either alternative.

#### **PREPARER(S)**

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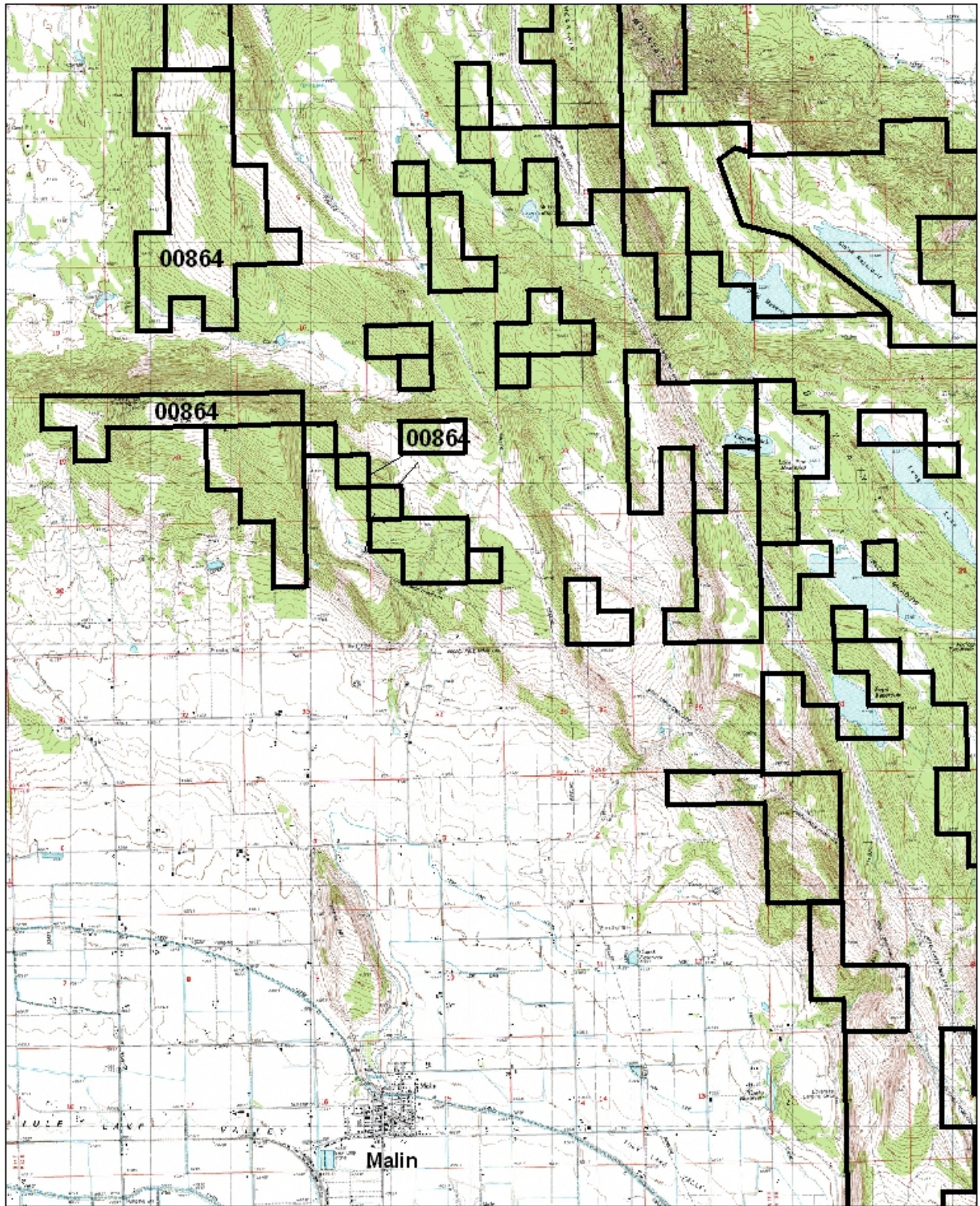
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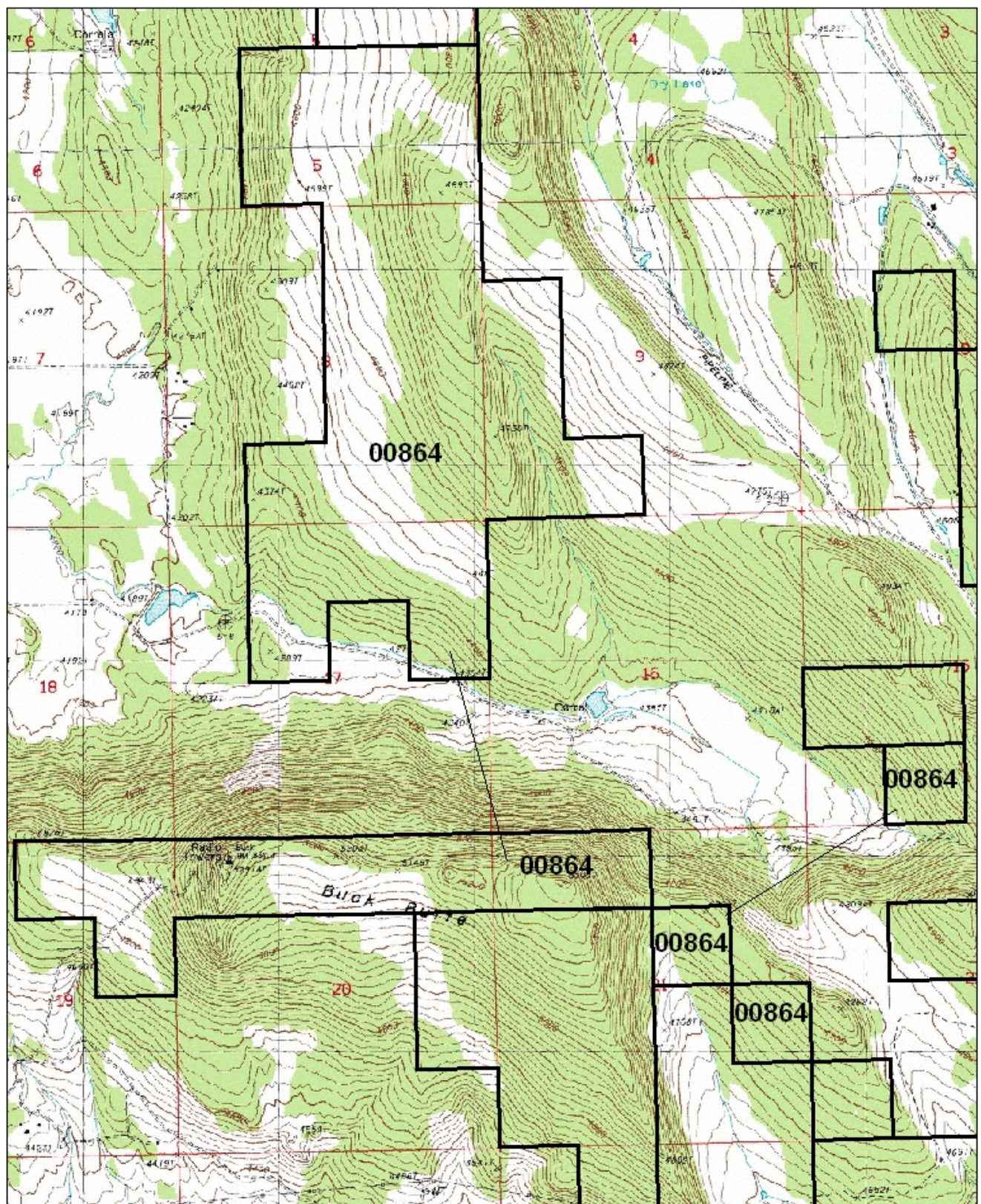
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**Rajnus and Son Allotment #00864  
Vicinity Map**

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use, with other data. Original data were compiled from various sources and may be updated to their full extent.



**Rajnus and Sons Allotment #00864**  
**T40S, R12E**

Miles  
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**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)**  
**for the**  
**Rajnus & Son Allotment Grazing Lease Modification Environmental Assessment**  
**EA #OR-014-08-05**

**Introduction**

As a result of the completion of a Rangeland Health Standards Assessment for the Rajnus & Son Allotment (#00864), a determination was made that the allotment was not meeting all of the Standards for Rangeland Health as required by 43 Code of Federal Regulations, Subpart 4180 (Rangeland Health). Specifically, Standard 1 Watershed Function-Uplands and Standard 3 Ecological Processes were not met and livestock grazing was identified as a causal factor. The Rajnus & Son Allotment has 1,440 acres in two distinct parcels of 960 and 440 acres with another disconnected 40 acre parcel. The main reason that the allotment did not meet the above mentioned Standards was due to a large infestation of exotic annual grasses, mainly medusahead (*Taeniatherum caput-medusae*), in the south end of the 960 acre parcel of the allotment and scattered occurrences throughout the remainder of the allotment.

As required by the Rangeland Health regulations, appropriate actions must be taken to bring grazing activities into conformance with grazing guidelines or to modify them so that significant progress can be made toward achieving the Standards. The current grazing lease for the allotment expired on 9/30/2007. To continue authorized grazing that is designed to make progress towards meeting the Standards, some modifications to the current grazing lease were determined necessary prior to renewal. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Lakeview District, Klamath Falls Resource Area (KFRA), has completed an Environmental Assessment (EA #OR-014-08-05) to analyze a proposal to modify the current grazing lease. The EA considered two alternatives:

Alternative A – Proposed Action

The proposed action would be the issuance of a new grazing lease for the Rajnus & Son Allotment authorizing non-use of the allotment. The term of the lease would be March 1, 2008 through February 28, 2018, ten years as authorized by the grazing regulations at 43 CFR §4130.2(d). The Terms and Conditions on the new lease would stipulate that no livestock grazing would be allowed on the allotment until satisfactory control of the medusahead has been achieved.

Alternative B – No Action

This alternative would issue a new grazing lease with no changes in the parameters of the current lease. The current grazing lease for the Rajnus & Son Allotment authorizes 55 AUMs of cattle use from May 1 to June 30. All areas of the allotment would be open for livestock grazing. A No Action alternative would not meet the requirements of the grazing regulations cited above that require changes to be made when an allotment is not meeting the Standards for Rangeland Health.

**Determination**

The proposed action and no action alternatives were analyzed for significant effects as per the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations - 40 CFR § 1508.27. The following criteria listed under 40 CFR § 1508.27(b) were considered and found to be not applicable to this action: significant beneficial or adverse effects; significant effects on public health or safety; effects on the quality of the human environment that are likely to be highly controversial; anticipated cumulatively significant impacts; highly uncertain or unknown risks; and precedents for future actions with significant effects.

The following unique characteristics (Critical Elements of the Human Environment), listed in 40 CFR § 1508.27(b)(3), are not present and will not be affected: Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs); prime or unique farmlands; floodplains; wilderness; solid or hazardous waste; and Wild and Scenic Rivers.

In regard to 40 CFR § 1508.27 (b)(8), no adverse impacts are expected to cultural, scientific, or historical resources. The Rajnus & Son Allotment project area has been partially surveyed following current BLM Class III survey standards. Allowing Rajnus & Son Allotment to rest and amending the Grazing Lease to reflect this action should not impact cultural resources either in the surveyed or unsurveyed areas.

There will be no significant impacts to any special status terrestrial species or habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act [40 CFR § 1508.27 (b)(9)]. No Designated Critical Habitat or known sites of special status terrestrial species occur within the project area.

As per 40 CFR § 1508.27(b)(10), this action conforms with all applicable Federal, State, and local laws and regulations. The action is consistent with Executive Order 12898 which addresses Environmental Justice. No potential impacts to low-income or minority populations have been identified internally by the BLM or externally through public involvement.

Pursuant to Executive Order 13212, the BLM must consider effects of this decision on the National Energy Policy. There will be no known adverse effect on the National Energy Policy or on energy resources.

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the environmental assessment, it is my determination that neither alternative analyzed constitutes a significant impact affecting the quality of the human environment greater than those addressed in the following:

- Final - Klamath Falls Resource Area Management Plan and EIS (FEIS), 1994
- Klamath Falls Resource Area Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan and Rangeland Program Summary, 1995 (KFRA ROD/RMP)

I have determined that this action will not have any significant impact on the human environment within the meaning of Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and an environmental impact statement is not required. I have further determined that the proposed action conforms to management direction from and will contribute to meeting the objectives of the Klamath Falls Resource Area Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan, as amended. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement, or a supplement to the existing RMP or Environmental Impact Statement, is not necessary and will not be prepared.

Signed: /s/ Donald J. Holmstrom  
Donald J. Holmstrom, Field Manager  
Klamath Falls Resource Area

Date: 3/26/08