

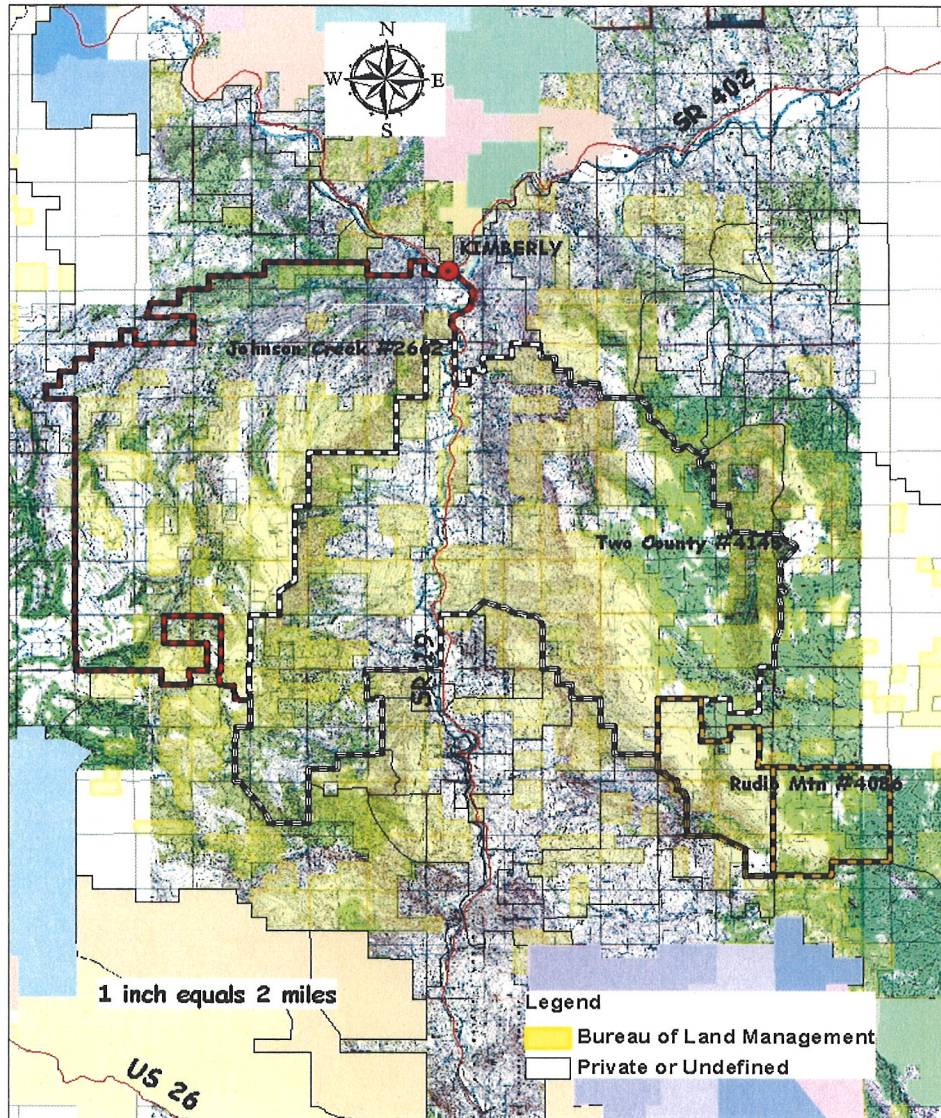
Prineville District
**Land Use Plan Conformance and
Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)**
Review and Approval

Proposed Action Title: Two County Allotment, #4145, Johnson Creek #2662, and
Rudio Mountain # 4086 Grazing Lease Renewals

DNA Number: OR-054-06-109

Location of the Proposed Action: The allotments are located generally south of
Kimberly, Oregon. See map below.

Longview Ranch LLC of Nevada Allotments



Purpose of the Proposed Action: The grazing lease for the Two County Allotment expired in FY07, Johnson Creek will expire in FY08, and Rudio Mountain in FY16. All three leases will be reissued at this time so they have consistent 10 year lease periods and can be consolidated on one grazing lease issued to Longview Ranch LLC of Nevada.

Need for the Proposed Action: BLM regulations require that livestock owners operating on public lands possess a valid grazing permit or lease. 43CFR 4130.2 (a) states: "Grazing permits or leases shall be issued to qualified applicants to authorize use on the public lands and other lands under the administration of the Bureau of Land Management that are designated as available for livestock grazing through land use plans." Further, 43CFR 4130.2 (e) requires that "Permittees or lessees holding expiring grazing permits or leases shall have priority for new permits or leases if: (1) The lands for which the permit or lease is issued remain available for domestic livestock grazing; (2) The permittee or lessee is in compliance with the rules and regulations and the terms and conditions in the permit or lease; (3) The permittee or lessee accepts the terms and conditions to be included by the authorized officer in the new permit or lease.

Description of the Proposed Action: Reissue the grazing leases for the grazing lessee in the above listed allotments for a term of ten years. Except for the term shown on the permit, all terms and conditions on the leases will remain the same; including allocated AUM's and season of use. Grazing use would be:

Two County #4145	137 cattle	04/01-11/30	100%PL	1099 aums
Johnson Creek #2662	58 cattle	04/01-11/15	100%PL	437 aums
Rudio Mountain #4086	39 cattle	07/01-10/15	100%PL	137 aums

Plan Conformance:

The above project has been reviewed and found to be in conformance with one or more of the following BLM plans

The proposed decision is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decisions: See explanations under the NEPA Adequacy Criteria, items 1-7, pages 2 and 3.

Applicable NEPA document and related documents:

The following NEPA document and related documents address the proposed action. These documents are available for review at the Prineville District BLM office:

John Day Resource Management Plan (RMP) & Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), and Record of Decision August, 1985.

John Day River Management Plan Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and Record of Decision, February, 2001.

Two Rivers Resource Management Plan (RMP) Record of Decision Approved June 6, 1986.

NEPA Adequacy Criteria

1. *Is the current proposed action substantially the same action (or is a part of that action) as previously analyzed? Is the current proposed action located at a site specifically analyzed in an existing document?*

YES

Livestock grazing in the **Two County Allotment** is specifically addressed in the John Day RMP/EIS/ ROD referenced above. The allotment is addressed on pg. 30 of the John Day Resource Management Plan Record of Decision and on pg. 244 of the John Day River Plan Record of Decision. The grazing preference authorized was 1,105 aums active use from April 1 to November 30. The riparian areas are proposed for livestock exclusion in the river plan.

Livestock grazing in the **Rudio Mountain Allotment** is specifically addressed in the John Day RMP/EIS/ ROD referenced above. The allotment is addressed on pg. 30 of the John Day Resource Management Plan Record of Decision. The grazing preference authorized is 590 aums active use from June 1 to October 15. Subsequent to approval of the John Day RMP the active use in the allotment was revised due to a base property sale, grazing lease transfer, and allotment evaluation. Current active use is 397 aums for 3 grazing leases with Longview Ranch LLC of Nevada's portion being 137 aums active use.

Livestock grazing in the **Johnson Creek Allotment** is specifically addressed in the Two Rivers RMP/EIS/ ROD referenced above. The allotment is addressed on pg. 47 of the Two Rivers Resource Management Plan Record of Decision as the J. M. Stirewalt Allotment #2626. Subsequent to the approval of the Two Rivers RMP this allotment was split into the Harper Mountain Allotment #2626 and the Johnson Creek Allotment #2662 due to a base property sale and grazing lease transfer. Total active grazing preference was split proportionately between the allotments. The grazing preference authorized in the Johnson Creek Allotment is 436 aums active use from April 1- November 15. Additionally, the Johnson Creek Allotment #2662 is addressed on pg. 244 of the John Day River Plan Record of Decision. Riparian areas are proposed for livestock exclusion in the river plan.

2. *Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document appropriate with respect to the current proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values?*

YES

The **Draft John Day RMP/EIS** analyzed 4 alternatives; emphasize management, production and use of renewable resources (Preferred Alternative), emphasize production of commodities, emphasize enhancement of natural resources, and No Action or continue existing management. The Preferred Alternative provides for management which would be directed toward providing a flow of renewable resources from the public lands on a sustained yield basis.

Resource conditions in the Two County and Rudio Mountain allotments were analyzed under this alternative and it was determined that continuing to allow grazing use in the Two County Allotment and the Rudio Mountain Allotment was appropriate given the current issues and meets the intent of the Preferred Alternative.

The **Draft Two Rivers RMP/EIS** analyzed 5 alternatives; emphasize commodity production and enhancement of economic benefits, continue existing management-no action, emphasize natural values while accommodating commodity production, and emphasize natural values. A 5th alternative, the Preferred Alternative incorporates parts of the other 4 alternatives. It was determined that continuing to allow grazing use in the Johnson Creek Allotment was appropriate given the current issues and meets the intent of the Preferred Alternative.

Grazing management for the Two County and Johnson Creek allotments which contain John Day River tracts was addressed in the **John Day River Plan ROD**. These ranged from excluding grazing to continuing current management. The alternative selected was to "Manage grazing to protect and enhance Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs). This alternative is summarized in Table 2 on page 37 of the document.

3. *Is the existing analysis valid in the light of any new information or circumstances?*

YES

The BLM is required to assess all public land grazing allotments for compliance with the Standards for Rangeland Health & Guidelines for Grazing Management (43 CFR 4180). The assessments for these allotments are not currently completed but will be in the future. The term lease will contain stipulations that will provide for modification of the grazing of the public lands, if needed, after the completion of the allotment assessments.

4. Do the methodology and analytical approach used in the existing NEPA documents(s) continue to be appropriate for the current proposed action?

YES

The John Day RMP/EIS addressed impacts of continued grazing and provided objectives and recommendations to facilitate maintenance of existing ecological condition trends (pages 14-18 and 29-35 of ROD). The approach is still considered valid.

The Two Rivers RMP/EIS addressed impacts of continued grazing and provided objectives and recommendations to facilitate maintenance of existing ecological condition trends (pages 14-16 and 35-50 of ROD). The approach is still considered valid.

The John Day River Management Plan FEIS analyzed impacts of grazing management on riparian resources by alternative in the Environmental Consequences section, pages 274-281.

5. *Are the direct and indirect impacts of the current proposed action substantially unchanged from those analyzed in the existing NEPA documents? Do the existing NEPA documents analyze site-specific impacts related to the current proposed action?*

YES

The Draft John Day RMP/EIS analyzed grazing use in the Two County and Rudio Mountain allotments. Grazing impacts are essentially unchanged from those analyzed in the Draft John Day RMP/EIS. The Draft John Day RMP/EIS(pages 62-65, 72-73) stated grazing management will beneficially impact soils and water resources, plant diversity, riparian vegetation, wildlife upland habitat, and fish habitat. Under the preferred alternative grazing will have no significant effect on vegetation types and improve ecological condition. Under the preferred alternative there will be a low impact to cultural resources by grazing. Allotment specific information is presented in Appendices C and F of the Draft John Day RMP/EIS.

The Draft Two Rivers RMP/EIS analyzed grazing use in the Johnson Creek Allotment. Grazing impacts are essentially unchanged from those analyzed in the Draft Two Rivers RMP/EIS. The Draft Two Rivers RMP/EIS(pages 58-72) stated grazing management and associated vegetative manipulations and management facility construction as described for Alternative A, Preferred Alternative, will beneficially impact soils and water resources, plant diversity, riparian vegetation, wildlife upland habitat, and fish habitat. Under the preferred alternative grazing will have no significant effect on vegetation types and improve ecological condition. Under the preferred alternative there will be a low impact to cultural resources by grazing. Allotment specific information is presented in Appendices E, K, and L of the Draft Two Rivers RMP/EIS.

The John Day River Management Plan FEIS stated that grazing management as implemented in Alternative B (Proposed Decision) would result in improved vegetation conditions. Allotment specific information is presented in Table 3-E and Appendix L.

6. *Are the cumulative impacts that would result from the implementation of the current proposed action substantially unchanged from those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)?*

The RMPs do not specifically address cumulative impacts of grazing but do address long term impacts of the action with the assumption that the grazing activity would continue. These impacts are summarized for the John Day Draft RMP/EIS on pages 63-64 and the Two Rivers Draft RMP/EIS on pages 59-60. Recommendations and objectives in the documents reflect the impacts and expected improvements that will continue with the ongoing grazing. The proposed action is substantially unchanged from those analyzed impacts.

The John Day River Management Plan FEIS analyzes Cumulative Impacts on page 336.

7. *Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with the existing NEPA document(s)?*

Many of the individuals/organizations on our current "interested publics" list are the same as those on the mailing list for the plans referenced above. A copy of this DNA worksheet will be mailed to a representative of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and to other individuals and organizations that have expressed an interest in this or similar actions.

Interdisciplinary Analysis:

The following Prineville District BLM employees reviewed this analysis for accuracy in their area of expertise.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Resource Represented</u>	<u>Intials/Date</u>
Don Zalunardo	Wildlife, Special Status Animals	DRZ 2/20/08
Heidi Mottl	Recreation, Wilderness	HMM 2/13/08
Jim Eisner	Fisheries	JE 2-11-08
John Zancanella	Cultural Resources	JZ 1-22-08
Ron Halvorson	Botany, Special Status Plants	RH 1/22/07
Mike Tietmeyer	Range, Livestock Grazing	MT 12/18/07
Larry Thomas	Soils, Hazardous Materials	LT 1/22/08
Bill Pieratt	Noxious Weeds	
Dan Tippy	NEPA Coordinator	

Mitigation Measures:

These allotments will be assessed for rangeland health conditions by the BLM during the process of implementing the Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for grazing management. This lease is subject to modification as necessary to achieve compliance with these standards and guidelines (43 CFR 4180). Additionally, scheduled rangeland monitoring will continue.

Recommendations:

I recommend that the grazing lease for the Two County, Rudio Mountain, and Johnson Creek Allotments be reissued.

Prepared By: Walter T. Sawyer Date 12/10/2007
Title: Rangeland Management Specialist

Plan Conformance/DNA Determination

The proposed action and any specified mitigation measures (s) were determined to meet the criteria for a Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA). No additional environmental analysis is required. All cultural, T & E plant, and T & E wildlife specialists have provided clearance for the proposed project.

Reviewed By: Danny Spring Date 1/28/08
Environmental Coordinator

Approval:

Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and the NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of NEPA.

Approved By: Danny Spring Date 2/28/08
Christina M. Welch Acting
Central Oregon Resource Area Field Manager

Note: The signature on this Worksheet is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal decision process and cannot be appealed.