DNA# OR-014-16

Documentation of Land Use Plan Conformance and NEPA Adequacy (DNA)

U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management

A. Describe the Proposed Action

The proposed action is the transfer of a Section 3 grazing permit for the 20,460 acre Willow Valley allotment, #00890 and the 5018 acre Bear Valley allotment, #00876 in accordance with 43 CFR 4100.0-8, 4110.1, 4130.2, and 4130.3. The allotments are located to the south of Gerber Reservoir, in southeastern Klamath County (see attached map). The dependent base property has recently been leased to Les Northcutt. The BLM grazing lease will be transferred to Northcutt in accordance with 43 CFR 4110.2-3.

The new grazing lease will have the parameters that were approved through the Klamath Falls Resource Area Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan and Rangeland Program Summary (KFRA ROD/RMP/RPS) and revised through an agreement in 2001 following completion of a Rangeland Health Standards Assessment. The permit authorizes 744 AUMs of active use from 4/15 to 6/30 in the Willow Valley allotment and 385 AUMs of active use from 7/01-8/09 in the Bear Valley allotment. The term of the BLM lease is 4/15/2004 to 1/1/2007, which coincides with the term of the private land lease.

B. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance

LUP Name:	**Klamath Falls Resource Area Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (KFRA RMP/EIS dated September 1994)**
Date Approved:	**June 1995 via the Klamath Falls Resource Area Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan and Rangeland Program Summary (KFRA ROD/RMP/RPS)**

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUPs because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decisions:

The KFRA RMP/EIS lists the grazing parameters for the Willow Valley allotment on page L-61 and for the Bear Valley allotment on page L-50 of Appendix L. These parameters are also listed in the ROD/RMP/RPS on pages H-61 and H-50 of Appendix H. These parameters do not coincide exactly with those listed in the proposed action above. These are common use allotments with more than one permittee in each allotment. The proposed action parameters reflect the authorized use of only one of the permittees.

The ROD/RMP/RPS states on page 62, Grazing Management, Objectives, "Provide for livestock grazing in an environmentally sensitive manner, consistent with other objectives and land use allocations. Resolve resource conflicts and concerns and insure that livestock grazing use is consistent with the objectives and direction found in Appendix H (Grazing Management)."

The ROD/RMP/RPS states on page 62, Grazing Management, Land Use Allocations, "Provide for initial levels of livestock grazing within the parameters outlined, by allotment, in Appendix H."

C. Identify applicable NEPA documents and other related documents that cover the proposed action.

List by name and date all applicable NEPA documents that cover the proposed action.

Klamath Falls Resource Area Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (KFRA RMP/EIS dated September 1994) approved via the

June 1995 Klamath Falls Resource Area Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan and Rangeland Program Summary (KFRA ROD/RMP/RPS)

D. 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?

The proposed action is consistent with and the same as the grazing management identified in the RMP/EIS Preferred Alternative. Environmental impacts of grazing, for all allotments, is found in Chapter 4 – "Environmental Consequences" (4-1 through 4-143) of the RMP/EIS.

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?

The proposed action lies within the range of alternatives analyzed in the RMP/EIS. These are summarized in table S-1 "Comparisons of Allocations and Management by Alternative", pages 18-50 and in table S-2 "Summary of Environmental Consequences by Alternative", pages 52-53. Since this plan is relatively recent, it more than adequately reflects current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values.

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

A review was conducted to determine if any new information, studies, and analyses were

available that would provide data that would materially differ from the data in the earlier analyses performed in the RMP, ROD, FEIS, and DEIS documents noted above. The following was found:

- In accordance with 43 CFR 4180, the Klamath Falls Resource Area is in the process of implementing the Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Management. A Rangeland Health Standards Assessment was completed for the Willow Valley allotment in 2000 and for the Bear Valley allotment in 2003. These assessments determined that the Willow Valley allotment was not fully meeting, or making significant progress towards meeting some of the 5 Standards for Rangeland Health. Recent changes have been made in the management of the allotment to promote the achievement of these Standards. The assessment for the Bear Valley allotment determined that it was meeting the 5 Standards for Rangeland Health.

The existing analysis performed in the LUP sited in B. above is still considered valid at this time, including the described/analyzed livestock grazing impacts.

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

The RMP was approved in 1995 and prepared under the guidance provided by BLM planning regulations issued under the authority of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) and in conformance with regulations established by the Council on Environmental Quality regarding the preparation of Environmental Impact Statements as required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1970 (NEPA). This guidance is currently considered appropriate. In addition, the rangeland inventory and monitoring methods used at the time of the RMP development are still currently approved as being appropriate for the analysis of the proposed action.

5. Are the direct and indirect impacts of the current proposed action substantially unchanged from those identified in the existing NEPA document(s)? Does the existing NEPA document analyze site-specific impacts related to the current proposed action?

The proposed action is essentially the same action as was analyzed by the existing NEPA documents sited throughout this document. The direct and indirect impacts of livestock grazing on this allotment were analyzed in most of the major sections of Chapter 4 – Environmental Consequences in the RMP/EIS. No new information has been discovered that would indicate that the previous analysis of impacts would change substantially.

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

The cumulative impacts of the proposed action are essentially the same as those analyzed

in the NEPA documents sited throughout this document. No new impacts would result from the proposed action that have not already been analyzed.

7. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current proposed action?

The public involvement associated with the NEPA documents referenced above is outlined on pages R-7 and R-8 of the KFRA ROD/RMP/RPS under Public Involvement. This effort was in conformance with NEPA and FLPMA and is still considered adequate for the proposed action.

E. Interdisciplinary Analysis: Identify those team members conducting or participating in the NEPA analysis and preparation of this worksheet.

Klamath Falls Resource Area, Oregon

Name	Title
Dana Eckard	Rangeland Management Specialist/author
Lou Whiteaker	Botanist
Tim Canaday	Archaeologist
Mike Turaski	Hydrologist
Steve Hayner	Wildlife Biologist
Scott Snedaker	Fisheries Biologist

Conclusion

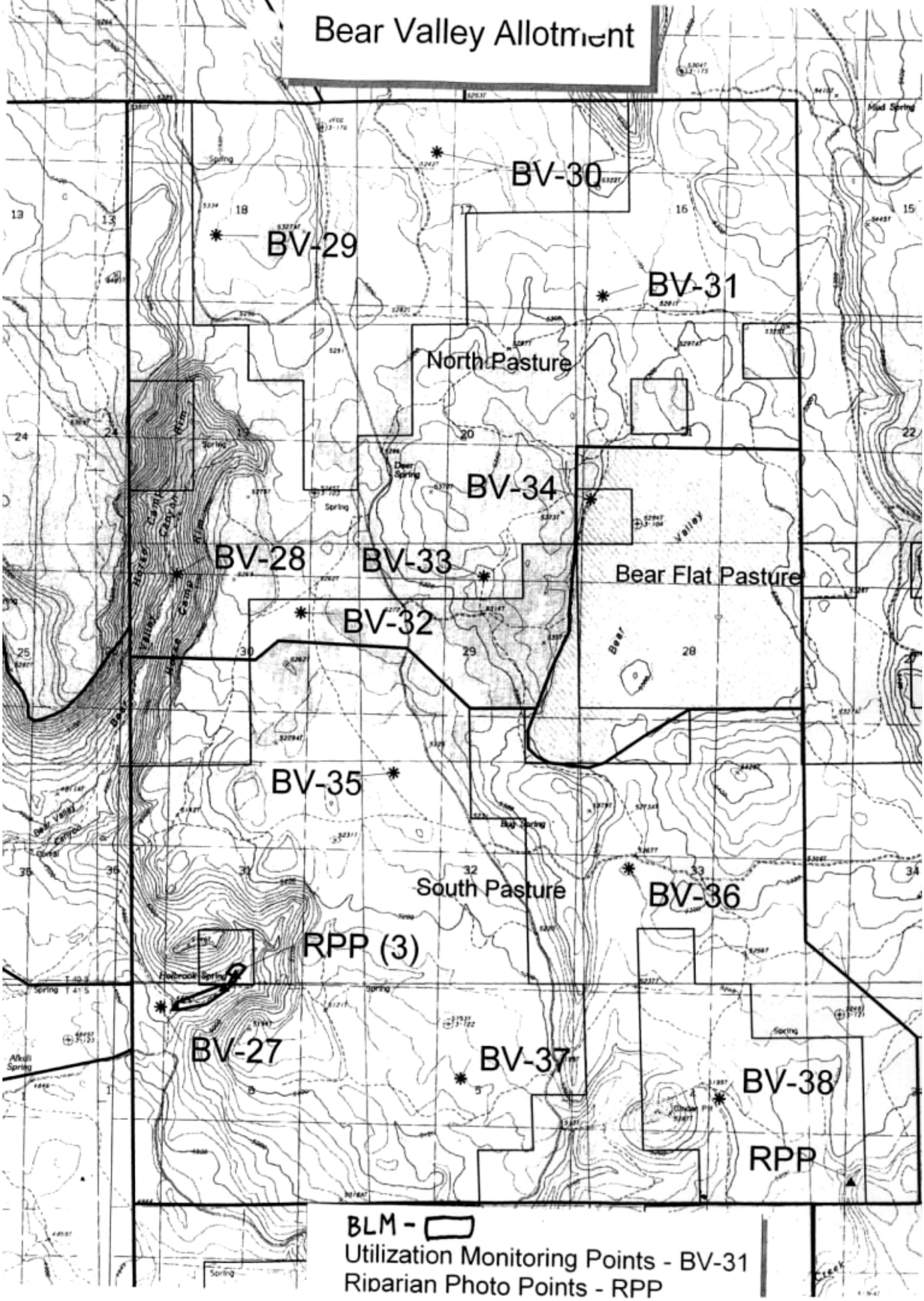
X Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of NEPA

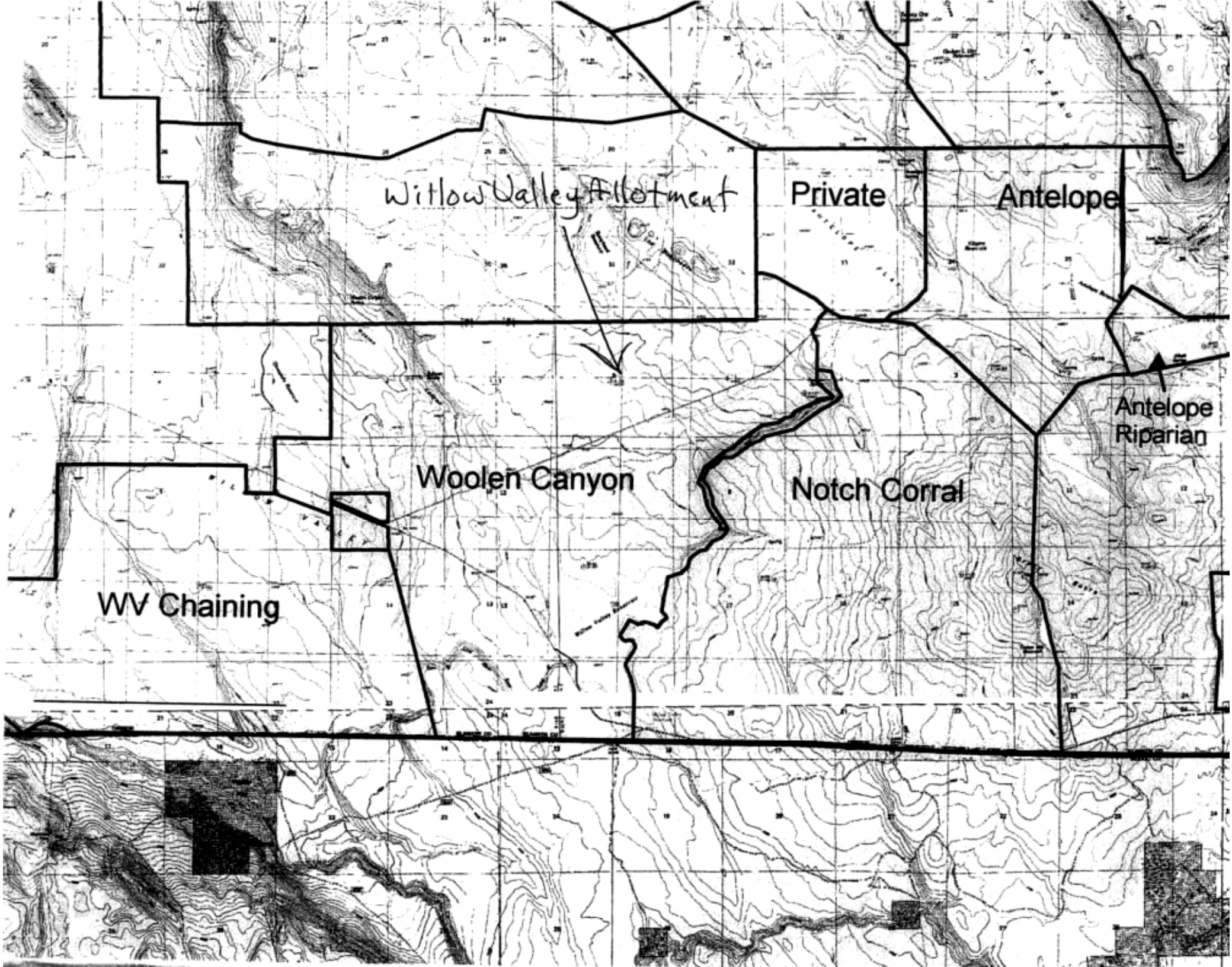
Note: If you found that one or more of these criteria is not met, you will not be able to check this box.

Manager

5/4/04
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.


Bear Valley Allotment
BV-30
BV-29
BV-31
North Pasture
BV-34
BV-28
BV-33
Bear Flat Pasture
BV-32
BV-35
South Pasture
BV-36
RPP (3)
BV-27
BV-37
BV-38
RPP
BLM -
Utilization Monitoring Points - BV-31
Riparian Photo Points - RPP


Willow Valley Allotment
Private
Antelope
Antelope Riparian
Woolen Canyon
Notch Corral
WV Chaining