

# Decision Record

EA Number: **OR-054-01-023**

Title of Action: **Combined Lower John Day WSA Emergency Fire Rehabilitation Project**

Serial Case File or Project Number: **Grazing Allotments Sid Seale # 2619, Willow Spring # 2553, Miller # 2591, Dipping Vat # 2631, and Belshe # 2509**

BLM Office: **Prineville District**

**Decision:** It is my decision to approve the rehabilitation and seeding of 1.8 miles of dozer line, the reconstruction of 7.0 miles of fence, and the reconstruction of two spring developments as proposed in Alternative A as stated in EA # OR-054-01-023. The fences will be constructed to the specifications described in III.A of the environmental assessment (EA). The fencing will be in compliance with the requirements for managing WSAs as directed by the Interim Management Policy for Lands Under Wilderness Review (pg. 41). The spring developments would be constructed to closely resemble their original condition. During fence and spring reconstruction within the WSA boundary, vehicle travel will be limited to designated ways.

In addition, 100 acres of low seral rangeland will be seeded in the Willow Spring Allotment # 2553 with native species similar to what would be expected to grow naturally in the area (using the same native seed mix identified for the dozer line seeding in Table A of the EA). The seed will be applied either by horseback or by helicopter, depending on available funding. By seeding desirable species we hope to improve the condition of the vegetation, increase the soil stability of the site, and in the long term add organic matter to the soil, providing protection from raindrop impact. A successful seeding would improve water capture and storage in the watershed, contributing to water quality and late season water quantity. The effects of seeding on the WSA would be to increase the naturalness of the vegetation.

**Alternatives Considered:** Two additional alternatives were considered; one to reconstruct the fences and the spring developments, but not rehabilitate or seed the dozer lines, and the other a no action alternative.

**Rationale for Decision:** The decision to proceed with the proposed action will result in improvement of the public land resources and is in conformance with the Two Rivers Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision (1986), the Record of Decision for the John Day River Management Plan, Two Rivers, John Day, and Baker Resource Management Plan Amendments (2001), and the Interim Management Policy for Lands Under Wilderness Review (IMP) (1995). No public comments were received during the public review period. The other two alternatives were not selected because without rehabilitation efforts, the dozer lines would be prone to erosion and weed invasion, and without the reconstructed fences, livestock would have unrestricted access to the burned areas resulting in stress to recovering vegetation.

**Compliance and Monitoring:** Dozer line rehabilitation and aerial seeding will be completed by BLM staff. Fence and spring reconstruction will be monitored by a BLM project inspector. Following implementation, vegetation and wilderness resources will be monitored at least annually by BLM staff to assess the results of the project.

**Terms / Conditions / Stipulations:**

- 1) Projects constructed on public land become public property.
- 2) After installation, the grazing permittee shall provide labor and materials to maintain the project in working condition.
- 3) Grey metal fence posts will be used to further prevent impacts to visual resources.
- 4) Live juniper trees will not be used as fence corner posts.
- 5) Within the WSA boundary, vehicle travel (including the use of ATVs) is restricted to designated ways, and cross-country vehicle travel is not permitted.
- 6) In the event of wilderness designation, motorized access for maintenance would be prohibited.
- 7) Burned areas will be rested from livestock grazing for two growing seasons.
- 8) The seeded area within the Willow Spring allotment will be excluded from livestock grazing for two growing seasons following the seeding.

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Christina M. Welch,  
CORA Field Manager

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Date