

Notice of Decision
Grazing Permit Renewals
United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Baker Resource Area
3165 10th Street, Baker City, Oregon 97814

Notice is hereby given that on August 28, 2001, Penelope Dunn Woods, Baker Resource Area Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, issued a decision to authorize the renewal of six (6) grazing permits within Baker County, Oregon. This decision authorizes the renewal of these grazing permits for a 10-year period. New or additional mitigation requirements to authorize livestock grazing under each permit have been identified and will be incorporated into the terms and condition section of each grazing permit. Implementation of this action(s) may start as soon as the appeal/protest period is completed.

This decision is consistent with the BLM's 1989 Baker Resource Management Plan, the Standards For Rangeland Health (August, 1997) and is in accordance with 43CFR 4130.2. The grazing allotments associated with these permits are located within Townships 7 through 13, South, Range 40 through 44 East, of the Baker Resource Area and vary in size from 21 acres to 11,402 acres. A copy of the Decision Record may be obtained by writing to the Baker Resource Area, Bureau of Land Management, 3165 10th Street, Baker City, Oregon 97814 or by calling (541) 523-1438.

For a period of 30 days from the date of publication of this notice in the Baker City Herald, this decision shall be subject to protest and/or appeal (43 CFR Part 4). Interested parties may protest this decision by providing written comment or objections to the Baker Resource Area Field Manager, at the above Baker City address. Protests/appeals must be filed within the 30 day time period to be considered.

Dated: __August 28, 2001_ **Baker Resource Area Field Manager:** _ /s/ Penelope Dunn Woods _

Environmental Assessment for
Grazing Permit #366011

EA #OR035-01-10

Bureau of Land Management
Vale District
Baker Resource Area

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Environmental Assessment For Grazing Lease #366311

North Bridgeport Allotment #11302

Introduction

This environmental assessment addresses the North Bridgeport Allotment and the Ebell Lease #366311, on lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Vale District, and includes Forest Service land, Wallowa Whitman District and Boise Cascade land. The lands are located 20 miles southeast of Baker City, Oregon in Baker County (see map). These lands are within the BLM's Baker Resource Area.

Proposed Action

The proposed action is to re-issue a ten year grazing permit for grazing permit #366311.

- ! Incorporates changes to the terms and conditions of the grazing permit where needed.
- ! Continue grazing utilization standards necessary to meet current management objectives, until the rangeland standard and guides assessments are completed.
- ! Continue grazing rotation, season of use, and stocking rates for the allotment under the Ebell Lease grazing permit.
- ! Continue current management practices (such as riding, salting, project maintenance, etc.) necessary to improve grazing distribution and minimize natural resource impacts.

Purpose and Need

The purpose and need of this Environmental Assessment (EA) is to re-issue a 10 year grazing permit for permittee #366311 in the North Bridgeport Allotment (#11302). The proposed action is needed to continue authorized grazing use pursuant to 43 CFR 4130.2.

Background

The Ebell Lease grazing permit which authorizes livestock grazing within this allotment administered by the BLM, was "renewed" under the authority pursuant to the provisions of section 123 of public law 106-113 (enacted on November 29, 1999). The renewal action authorized the Ebell Lease to graze their permitted livestock on BLM administered lands until their permit could be "renewed" through the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. This grazing permit is subject to renewal at the discretion of the Secretary of the Interior for a period of up to ten years. The BLM has authority to renew livestock grazing permits consistent with the provisions of the Taylor Grazing Act, Public Rangeland Improvement Act, Federal Land Policy and Management Act, and the Baker Resource Management Plan Environmental Impact Statement (subsequently amended by the Oregon/Washington Standards and Guidelines for Rangeland Health).

In the early 1970's, a memorandum of understanding between the BLM and Forest Service authorized the BLM to manage two USFS pastures within the North Bridgeport Allotment.

In 1977 a land exchange between USFS and Boise Cascade resulted in the allotment consisting of the Deer Creek, French Gulch and Dark Canyon pastures. By 1979, Boise Cascade and the USFS relined pasture boundaries which resulted in three pastures, Dark Canyon, Ebell and Blue Springs. In 1998 a cross fence was constructed on Boise Cascade land splitting the Ebell Creek pasture. The North Bridgeport allotment now has six pastures, (Deer Creek, French Gulch, Dark Canyon, Ebell Creek, F.S. Deer Creek & Blue Springs), with a deferred rotation grazing system.

This allotment is a community allotment, with two permittees. This allotment is identified as an I allotment (improve). This allotment encompasses approximately 11,402 acres of BLM lands; 4,390 acres of Forest Service lands; 5,480 acres of Boise Cascade land and 753 acres of other private land. (see attached map). An allotment evaluation was completed in 1992. The major objectives identified, were to improve riparian conditions and maintain and improve uplands.

This allotment and especially the Deer Creek watershed area experienced a major flood event in May of 1999. This area received more than three inches of rain in three days, which resulted in erosion of several portions of the Deer Creek road and Deer Creek itself, experienced loss of some riparian vegetation.

Description of Alternatives

Two alternatives are analyzed in this EA: Alternative 1, (Not to issue Grazing Permit) and Alternative 2 (Continue Present Grazing Plan With Six Pastures).

Alternative 1 - Not to issue Grazing Permit

Under this alternative, grazing permit # 366311 would not be reissued. This would exclude livestock grazing on BLM managed land only. Forest Service, Boise Cascade or private ground would continue to be grazed.

Alternative 2 - Continue Present Grazing Plan (Six Pastures) With Modifications

The proposed action is to reissue grazing permit #366311 for approximately 148 AUMs. The lease would be implemented using a six pasture deferred rotation grazing system, that would authorize 33 head of cattle on all lands from about May 15 to September 28. Season of use and rotation per pasture may vary, depending on climate, yearly plant production and vigor, range readiness and other resource factors, as determined by the BLM Authorized Officer in consultation with the Forest Service staff and grazing lessee.

Affected Environment and Environmental Impacts

Soils, Water, Vegetation and Weeds

Rangeland Soils: The allotment has many soil phases depending on slope, stoniness, degree of erosion and are upland Volcanic and Metamorphic (well over 40 different soil types). Soils range from 2 to 80% slope, receives 9 to 12 inches of precipitation, and are shallow to moderately deep, depending on aspect and elevation.

Water Resources: Two creeks (Ebell Creek and Alder Creek) flow through the north end of the allotment before emptying into the Powder River. Two creeks (Dark Canyon Creek and Deer Creek) flow through the south end of the allotment before draining into the Burnt River. There are nine BLM developed springs in the allotment (see attached map). This allotment is part of two sub basin watersheds. Streams within this allotment are tributaries of 303 (d) listed streams.

Riparian Resources: Riparian habitat throughout this allotment is generally in early to mid-seral condition with respect to vegetation structure and species diversity. Riparian habitat is lacking adequate residual vegetation and structural diversity for site potential on some sites, however some improvement is occurring. Deer Creek supports small aspen stands; however, they appear to lack vigor and recruitment as a result of past grazing by livestock. The hydrology of Deer Creek has been interrupted by previous cutting/entrenchment of the bank and flood plain. This alteration, in conjunction with past grazing practices, may be responsible for the lack of willow, rose, birch and aspen regeneration at this site, however several riparian planting projects are being implemented. A temporary electric fence has been installed by the permittees, to keep livestock off the Deer Creek riparian area. This should allow for riparian improvement in this pasture. Riparian utilization standards would be for ephemeral, intermittent and perennial streams. Cattle would be moved when 45 percent use on herbaceous plant species within the riparian systems is achieved, or if 30 percent browse use on shrubs by livestock is monitored. Grazing utilization would not exceed 50 percent use on key plant species for the current year's growth on upland sites.

Vegetation/Plant Communities: The North Bridgeport Allotment falls within big sage brush/Idaho fescue and big sagebrush/bluebunch wheatgrass zones. Big sagebrush communities with both of these native grass species are common on the allotment. In some areas of past intensive use, such as portions of the pastures along the Burnt River, introduced grasses including cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) have replaced the native bunchgrass where past overgrazing has occurred.

Weeds: Leafy spurge is the primary noxious weed of concern in this allotment. Known sites have been actively treated the past several years and the total population is on the decline as a result. However, this weed is difficult to eradicate and will require annual monitoring and treatments where needed. Diffuse and spotted knapweed have both been increasing in recent years with most sites in the Deer Creek drainage and the Burnt River Canyon. These sites are being actively treated and monitored.

Impacts on Soils, Water, Vegetation and Weeds

Alternative 1: (No Grazing)

With no grazing, the native species, both upland and riparian, would likely increase in cover. Sites for the invasion of weed would be reduced. Riparian areas could reach a desired future condition, and possibly in a shorter time frame, without livestock grazing compared to grazing. There is minimal potential for upward trend of riparian areas by not grazing.

Alternative 2: Proposed Action:

The proposed action would allow upland plant communities to maintain or advance their current ecological status. Populations of bluebunch wheatgrass and Idaho fescue would be maintained or would increase. Riparian area in Deer creek should increase with the installation of the electric fence and the other riparian areas should improve by setting riparian utilization standards (45 percent use on herbaceous plants and 30 percent on browse species).

Botany

Special Status Plants:

There are no federally listed threatened, endangered, or candidate plant species known or likely to occur within the allotment.

Portions of the allotment are known to contain populations of a BLM "Sensitive" species, *Pyrrocoma radiata*, which is also listed as "endangered" by the state of Oregon, and was a former category 1 candidate species for federal listing. The species in this locality occurs in scattered patches primarily on south aspects within the Burnt River Canyon in open shrub and grassland. It may be found on any topographic position from ridge top to draw bottoms.

Surveys for other special status plant species have not been completed. Perennial and intermittent streams may provide habitat for several BLM special status species which are generally restricted to riparian habitats.

Impacts under Alternative 1:

Data for impacts of grazing on *Pyrrocoma radiata* populations are inconclusive. Grazing during dry conditions in summer increases utilization on this species and reduces flower and seed production. Demographic studies comparing grazed and un-grazed (exclosure) populations indicated a greater likelihood of population extinction under grazing, but the differences between populations were not statistically significant. Competition with cheatgrass may also reduce seedling survival. Portions of occupied habitat in swales and on gentle topography are moderately to severely degraded, tending to be infested with cheatgrass or medusahead rye. Steeper upland sites 100 feet above canyon floors are often in good to excellent condition. Riparian habitats throughout the allotments will continue to be degraded over the near term until or unless utilization standards and compliance with terms and conditions of the grazing permit allow general habitat recovery. Riparian habitats will continue to offer limited capability to support populations of special status plant species.

Bluebunch wheatgrass is the dominant bunchgrass in Wyoming big sage/bluebunch sites. Idaho fescue would be dominant over or co-dominant with bluebunch on Wyoming big sage/Idaho fescue sites (which are probably north or northeast slopes). Idaho fescue sites tend to first decline to dominance by bluebunch, then squirreltail and Sandberg bluegrass, then bluebunch wheatgrass and cheat. Moisture is the single most important natural factor influencing dominance.

Wildlife Habitat

The area within the boundaries of Grazing Permit #366011 contains habitat for deer, elk, bighorn sheep, goshawks, cougar, and many small mammals and bird species.

California bighorn sheep are considered a Species of Concern with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and are considered a Bureau Sensitive Species with the Bureau of Land Management. Management guidelines for Bureau Sensitive species (BLM Manual 6840) dictate that actions on federal lands do not contribute to the need to list wildlife species on the Endangered Species List.

Deer and elk populations in the area are maintaining status and health and may be increasing in numbers. A special "Green Dot" road closure system was implemented in this area to provide additional protection for big game animals during the hunting season without withdrawing the area from hunting altogether.

Impacts to Wildlife Habitat

Alternative 1: (No Grazing)

Impacts associated with the elimination of grazing on BLM lands in the area would be the increase in available forage for elk, deer, and sheep. Competition by cattle would be eliminated and increased use of the area by these wildlife species would occur. Grazing would increase on private and USFS lands in the area, potentially causing an increase in use of BLM lands by big game wildlife species because of the reduced forage on private and USFS lands.

Alternative 2:

Impacts to wildlife species in the area associated with Alternative 2 would be minimal and management proposed would be consistent with wildlife values. The rotation of 33 animals in 6 pastures would not concentrate the impacts from grazing on any one pasture. This would allow the recovery of forage in the area for wildlife species to occur.

California bighorn sheep are in the area; no grazing permit should ever be issued for domestic sheep grazing in this allotment.

Fisheries

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

Burnt River Watershed

Deer Creek, Dark Canyon Creek and Alder Creek are all fish bearing tributary streams that flow into the Burnt River. Historically, the Burnt River system supported native runs of steelhead and chinook salmon. Construction of the dams on the Burnt River and Snake River currently prevents any passage of anadromous fish. Bull trout, historically were present in the headwaters of most forested stream systems in Northeast Oregon, but are probably extinct in the Burnt River system (Ratliff and Howell 1992).

For many years the Burnt River has been stocked with rainbow trout, especially directly below and in Unity Reservoir. Redband trout, however, is the principal native fish that exists in the Burnt River and its tributaries, especially since the tributaries have never been stocked with fish. Redband trout is listed as “sensitive” by the BLM

Presence and absence surveys have not been completed for Dark Canyon or Deer Creek by ODFW but they have been done for Alder Creek and different reaches in the Burnt River (ODFW 1990) watershed. There has been a recent stream survey on Dark Canyon (1998) completed by ODFW for the BLM which includes stream habitat information and fish presence information along 3.9 miles of stream. A temperature study was completed by the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR, March 1999) that contains stream temperature information for the Burnt River and many of the tributaries.

ODFW completed fish presence and absence surveys in 1990 on many of the reaches in the upper tributaries of the Burnt River. The survey indicates a very low number of redband trout at each surveyed area, with usually only one age class represented. Most fish were under 6 inches in length. Brook trout, sculpins and dace were also present in many of the streams. Loss of quality fish habitat and poor water quality limit the ability for fish to survive and reproduce. Only one reach was sampled on Alder Creek, just before the confluence with the Burnt River. Redband trout were not identified in the sample. Only dace, redband shiners and suckers were captured.

Continuous stream temperature monitoring was completed by the BOR in 1998 for the Burnt River. The stream temperature recorded was 71.8 degrees F. for the 7-day max/average. The river was measured in the Burnt River near the Pine Creek confluence. The Burnt River was over the 64 degree F. standard from June 24, 1998 to September 21, 1998.

Stream temperatures were measured by the BOR in 1998 in Dark Canyon Creek, Deer Creek and Alder Creek, once a day, periodically throughout the summer months. The highest stream temperature measured for Dark Canyon Creek was 72 degrees F. on August 4, 1998. The flow was near 1 cfs. The highest stream temperature measured for Deer Creek was 66 degrees F. on August 4, 1998. The flow was < 0.50 cfs. The highest stream temperature measured for Alder Creek was 66 degrees F. on July 24 and August 25, 1998. The flow was 6.40 cfs in July and 2.09 cfs in August.

ODFW stream survey for Dark Canyon Creek(1998) indicated a very low number of pools 1-3% for the entire stream. Silt and organic comprised 15% of the substrate. The percentage of actively eroding banks was high 32-75%, with many areas of bare soil in the floodplain. Shade was 50-70% in reaches 2,3 and 4 and was 37-47% in the other two reaches. Riparian areas were comprised of grasses and shrubs. The gradient was 2.8-7.2%. Redband trout were seen the entire length of the stream.

Powder River Watershed

Ebell Creek is a fish bearing tributary to the Powder River. Ebell Creek flows into Sutton Creek, which flows into the Powder River, below Mason Dam. Historically, the Powder River system supported native runs of steelhead and chinook salmon. Construction of the dams on the Powder River (Thief Valley and Mason Dams) and the Snake River (Brownlee, Oxbow and Hells Canyon Dams) currently prevents any passage of anadromous fish. Bull trout, historically were present in the headwaters of most forested stream systems in Northeast Oregon, and presently exist in isolated areas in the headwaters (Pine Creek, Silver Creek, Little Cracker and Lake Creek subwatersheds) of the Powder River watershed (Ratliff and Howell 1992).

The Powder River has been stocked with rainbow trout, at the reservoirs and upstream and down stream of Sutton Creek.. Redband trout, however, is the principal native fish that exists in the Powder River and its tributaries. Redband trout is listed as “sensitive” by the BLM

A fish presence and absence survey was completed for Ebell Creek in Creek by ODFW in 1996. No fish were found in the reach they surveyed from the Boise Cascade land to the forks. Fish have been seen in the creek on the USFS managed land upstream. There were 13 pools in 380 feet that they surveyed. The water temperature in May 1996 was 46 degrees F. The bankfull channel width was 5 feet and the wetted width was 4 feet. The channel gradient was 3%.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

All riparian areas adjacent to fish bearing streams and all riparian areas/wetlands should be managed for the desired native plant communities that best support riparian health, stream stability and the best water quality and quantity.

Alternative 1: (No Grazing)

This alternative would eliminate any impacts to fish habitat and the riparian areas from grazing.

Alternative 2: Continued Use of Allotment

This alternative will reissue the grazing permit for 148 AUMS for May 15 through September 28. Suggested changes could include adjustments to time and use dependent on utilization. It is important that there is improvement in the fish habitat and riparian areas in this allotment through range management. It will be important to maintain the 45% use on herbaceous plant species and 30% browse on shrubs to see an improvement of the riparian vegetation.

Grazing use of these areas must not retard or prevent attainment of Riparian Management Objectives (RMO's). Grazing management practices must be modified when attainment of the RMO's are not being met with adjustment of season, fencing, timing, stocking levels, etc. Locate all facilities and limit trailing, bedding, watering, salting, and loading to those areas that will not prevent attainment of RMO's.

Cultural Resources/Native American Values

Most of the BLM allotment has not been intensively surveyed for cultural resources. Proposed ground disturbing range projects are inventoried and typically designed to avoid potential impacts to cultural resources. Seven lithic scatters are recorded within the allotment.

Alternative 1: (No Grazing)

This alternative would avoid impacts of stock grazing on any archaeological materials in the area.

Alternative 2:

Riparian fences and rotation of cattle reduce trampling of streambanks, which avoids disturbance to areas having more likelihood for cultural occurrence. Although dispersed livestock grazing generally has little observable effect on cultural resources, livestock congregation may trample surface sites, especially near older spring developments which are not well maintained or properly functioning. Depending upon the season of use for a particular pasture, stock may congregate at or near sites proximate to water sources for short periods of time during the grazing rotation. Known sites would be monitored for such impacts. Key riparian areas and older spring developments (for example those installed in the early 1970s) would be examined for cultural resources and proper functioning as part of the review for standards and guidelines for rangeland health. If disturbance to important sites is observed, the location would be removed from grazing or protected by enclosure fencing, salting, riding or other corrective measures such as ensuring that older range developments are properly located and maintained to achieve cultural resource objectives.

Cultural Plant Habitat (Include as a separate section, substitute for "Plants of Cultural Importance")

The allotment is located within the traditional use area of the Paiute, Umatilla, Walla Walla and Cayuse tribes. Habitat for riparian berry-producing plants occurs along stream bottoms and for dry land native root plants on south trending rocky ridges in the Burnt River watershed.

Alternative 1: (No Grazing)

This alternative would avoid impacts of grazing on native plants.

Alternative 2:

Rotation of cattle and riparian fencing lessens impacts on native food plants, although grazing may remove distinctive root plant foliage. This area is not a regular known plant gathering site, so impacts on opportunities for harvesting native food plants are expected to be minimal.

Recreation

The area within this allotment is used for dispersed recreation (wildland recreation area) and is also highly valued for its scenic qualities. The primary recreational use on this parcel of land has been upland hunting of birds and big game. During this time the main conflict with grazing is leaving the gates open and a minor conflict with pushing the cows down into the bottom areas.

Impacts on Recreation

Alternatives 1 and 2: Are not expected to impact any of the recreational uses of the area, since there are no developed sites.

Socioeconomics

Impacts on Socioeconomics

Alternative 1:

Would impact the permittee, in that he would have to find other land in order to graze their livestock.

Alternative 2:

Is not expected to have any impact. The propose action will enable the permittee to continue his operation without adverse effects that may be caused by elimination of grazing.

Other Resource Elements Analyzed

Environmental Justice: No disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority or low-income populations are expected to result from implementation of any of the alternatives addressed in this EA.

The following resources were all considered in preparation of this EA and are either not present or would not be affected by the proposed action or alternative:

<u>CRITICAL ELEMENTS</u>	<u>AFFECTED</u>	
	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
ACEC/WILDERNESS		X
WASTES, HAZARDOUS/SOLID		X
WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS		X

Cumulative Impacts

The cumulative effects analysis considers past, present and future actions within the allotment. Cumulative impacts of the proposed action, when considered within the larger region, or across a longer time period may occur. The most pronounced impacts would be related to continued removal of a portion of the annual palatable plant production. This may impact the number of wildlife species that can survive in the region which rely on the forage, seeds, or cover that the palatable plants provide. A second impact may be to the frequency and size of fires that occurs in the region. Continued removal of the fine fuels could reduce the fire size and frequency, and promote the dominance by woody species, which may be detrimental to the herbaceous species and wildlife species that are associated with their presence however could enhance habitat for woody dependent wildlife species. Managed grazing that allows rest during some periods throughout the grazing season, and provides for good livestock distribution may limit adverse cumulative impacts to vegetation from grazing.

Mitigation Measures/Remarks

No more than 45% use of current year's growth shall occur on riparian grass and forb species.

No more than 30% use of current year's growth shall occur on riparian shrub species.

Utilization on upland grass species shall not exceed an average of 50% use.

Two growing seasons rest will be required for areas that receive vegetation treatments or wildland fire events.

The BLM range conservationist will work with the Permittee to find opportunities to allow portions of the allotment to receive occasional rest in order to increase plant vigor and/or to allow fine fuels to accumulate to help natural burns to perpetuate the desired landscape mosaic.

If human remains or historic, archaeological, or paleontological materials are found in the course of any allotment activities, the operator shall refrain from further activities that might impact the materials and contact the BLM.

Contact the BLM prior to any rangeland maintenance activity which would require soil surface disturbing activities.

Grazing will be done in a manner that does not encourage the establishment or spread of noxious weeds, or significant degradation of the native plant community.

Permittee is not authorized to use chemical nor biological methods of control unless he has received prior approval from the Authorized Officer and have an approved Pesticide/Biological Use Proposal.

Grazing management changes will take place as needed to comply with Rangeland Health Standards and Guides Assessment

Weeds

Existing weed populations and areas of new infestations should be treated with herbicides as soon as found to contain them and prevent their spread. The BLM should include these areas in annual pesticide application plans and where healthy stands of native vegetation is not present, restoration should be done to restore these stands.

Range

This permit was renewed in 2000 under the Documentation of Land Use Plan Conformance and Nepa Adequacy (DNA process). At that time the concerns were raised over livestock use in the Deer creek riparian area. Since that time, permittee has installed an electric fence on the west side of the creek and is in the process of installing a electric fence on the east side to keep livestock from impacting riparian vegetation and stream channels.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring would be done each year during the grazing season to ensure compliance with the grazing time frames and to check the condition of resource values for possible changes in the grazing use.

A Rangeland Health Determination addressing the five Rangeland Standards will be conducted in the year 2003. Other new data on resource values or concerns would be used for evaluation.

Consultation and Coordination

Boise Cascade
Forest Service
Grazing permittee (Segundo Arriola)

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

Name	Title
Rubel Vigil	Supervisory Natural Resource Specialist
Greg Miller	Wildlife Biologist
Clair Button	Botanist
Todd Kuck	Hydrologist
Mary Oman	Cultural/Archeologist
Kevin McCoy	Recreation/Wilderness Specialist
Jackie Dougan	Fisheries Specialist
Mike Woods	Weeds Specialist
Gary Guymon	Rangeland Management Specialist

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS/DECISION RECORD

On the basis of the information contained in this EA (OR-035-01-10), it is my determination that the proposed alternative and potential environmental and human consequences and mitigation measures does not constitute a major Federal action affecting the quality of the environment. Therefore, an EIS is not necessary and will not be prepared. I have determined that the proposed action is in conformance with the District's land use plan.

Authorized Official: _____ **Date:** _____
Penny Dunn Woods
Field Manager
Baker Field Office

Mitigation Measures/Remarks

MITIGATION MEASURES:

No more than 45% use of current year's growth shall occur on riparian grass and forb species.

No more than 30% use of current year's growth shall occur on riparian shrub species.

Utilization on upland grass species shall not exceed an average of 50% use.

Two growing seasons rest will be required for areas receiving vegetation treatments or wildland fire events.

The BLM range conservationist will work with the Permittee to find opportunities to allow portions of the allotment to receive occasional rest in order to increase plant vigor and/or to allow fine fuels to accumulate to help natural burns to perpetuate the desired landscape mosaic.

If human remains or historic, archaeological, or paleontological materials are found in the course of any allotment activities, the operator shall refrain from further activities that might impact the materials and contact the BLM.

Contact the BLM prior to any rangeland maintenance activity which would require soil surface disturbing activities.

Grazing will be done in a manner that does not encourage the establishment or spread of noxious weeds, or significant degradation of the native plant community.

Permittee is not authorized to use chemical nor biological methods of control unless prior approval from the Authorized Officer and have an approved Pesticide/Biological Use Proposal.

Grazing management changes will take place as needed to comply with Rangeland Health Standards and Guides Assessment

Weeds

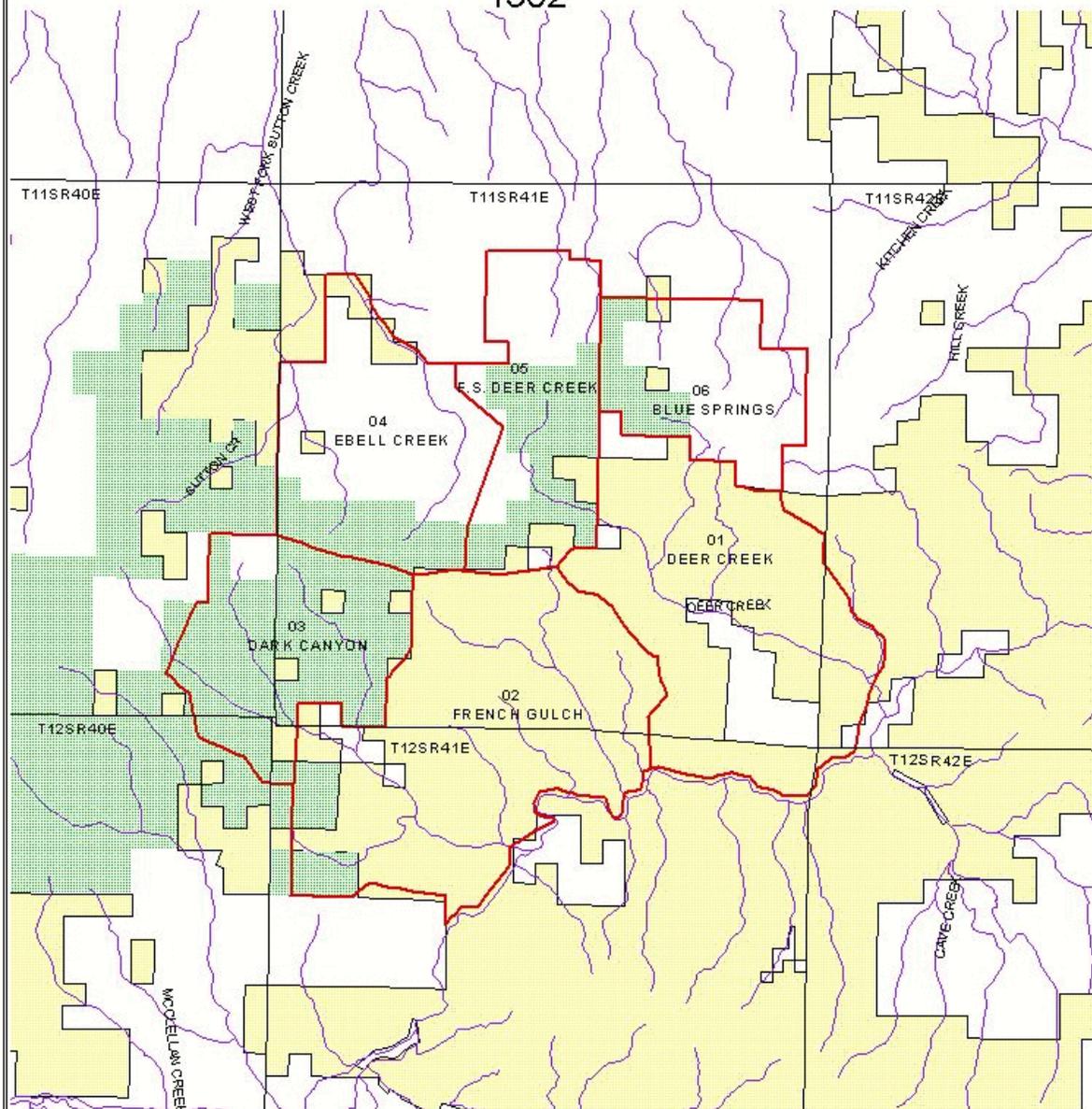
Existing weed populations and areas of new infestations should be treated with herbicides as soon as found to contain them and prevent their spread. The BLM should include these areas in annual pesticide application plans and where healthy stands of native vegetation is not present, restoration should be done to restore these stands.

Range

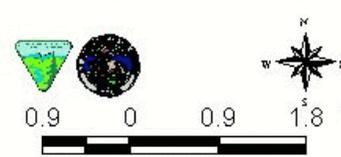
This permit was renewed in 2000 under the DNA process. At that time concerns were raised over livestock use in the Deer creek riparian area. Since that time permittee has installed electric fence on the west side of the creek and is in the process of installing a electric fence on the east side to help keep livestock out of the creek bottom.

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.

North Bridgeport Allotment 1302



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. This information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This product was developed through digital means and may be updated without notification.



- Range allotment 1302
- ~ Streams
- Ownership
- Federal Regulatory Commission
- U.S. Forest Service
- Bureau of Land Management

APPENDIX

Redband Trout Life History Characteristics

The entire group of redband/rainbow trout have been recently classified into the rainbow grouping *Oncorhynchus mykiss gibbsi*. Redband/rainbow trout is the interior (inland) rainbow trout which can be differentiated from the coastal rainbow both electrophoretically and by meristic character differences such as the very fine scales and extra row of teeth on the tongue. The redband/rainbow's coloration is highly variable, most often there is a brick red coloring around the lateral line and dark colored parr marks (spots). The rainbow trout has a rainbow color around the lateral line and light colored parr marks. Spawning behavior appears to be most similar to that of rainbow and golden trout. All are spring spawners and require gravel riffles in which the female excavates a redd. Redband/rainbow trout have been listed as a sensitive species because their populations have diminished from historical levels.

Redband/rainbow are similar to brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*) in that both are assumed to riffles and small pools of headwater streams (Bacon et al. 1980). The redband/rainbow appears to tolerate higher siltation conditions and select lower water velocity situations than typical for most trout.

The redband/rainbow trout appear to be more tolerant of high water temperatures than other salmonids. Some redband/rainbow populations in the desert basins of southeast Oregon have adapted to very high water temperatures through a survival mechanism and are known to inhabit intermittent, stagnant streams with temperatures as high as 83 degrees F. (Behnke 1979).

They once inhabited the entire upper Columbia River system, areas of British Columbia and Northern California (Lusch 1985). Behnke (1979) suggests that the redband/rainbow trout was originally native throughout the interior reaches of the Columbia River basin except where blocked by major falls, to lakes existing in the present Oregon basins.

Introductions of hatchery rainbow trout and subsequent hybridization have largely eliminated pure redband trout populations in most of their original range (Bacon, Brouha, Rode, Staley 1980). Now the redband/rainbow is found only in isolated sections of their historical habitat.

Currens (1991) looked at the genetic variation within and among populations of redband/rainbow trout in the Burnt and Powder Rivers. The population from the Burnt River system showed consistent genetic characteristics of inland redband/rainbow trout of the Columbia and Snake River. There were local population differences among the two populations tested in the Burnt River. Currens (1991) concluded that the Burnt River populations are inland redband/rainbow trout.

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