

BLM - Vale District

Baker, Jordan, and Malheur Resource Areas
Project and Planning Focus- 2002

Introduction

This bulletin is the latest in an on-going dialogue between you and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Vale District office. We hope that this Project and Planning focus will increase your awareness of BLM activities and your opportunities to discuss these activities with us. Through this bulletin we hope to continue our ongoing relationship with you. We will publish this bulletin each year to provide updates on our progress. This edition is also posted on our web site (www.or.blm.gov/vale).

Understanding NEPA

What is NEPA? NEPA is the National Environmental Policy Act. When we propose management actions that might affect the quality of the environment, the district uses an inter-disciplinary approach to develop alternative proposals, including the proposed action, and to provide environmental analysis (EA) of possible effects of proposed actions. Another important aspect of NEPA is its requirement for public involvement in the planning process.

Categorical Exclusions (CE)

Under NEPA some proposed actions do not require EAs. These are called categorical exclusions (CE). These actions do not individually or cumulatively have significant environmental effects and may be excluded from environmental analysis if they qualify under BLM or Department of the Interior guidelines.

Environmental Assessments (EA)

Some proposed actions require an Environmental Assessment. These are management actions that are not exempted as categorical exclusions and are not covered under an existing NEPA document such as an EA or EIS.

When the EA is completed it is determined whether the proposed action will significantly affect the quality of the environment. If impacts are determined to be significant, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be prepared. If impacts are determined to be insignificant, a Finding Of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will be prepared.

Environmental Impact Statements (EIS)

Major federal actions significantly affecting the environment require an EIS. The analysis and resulting document describes an array of management alternatives including the preferred alternative, the environmental impacts of implementing the alternatives, adverse environmental effects that cannot be avoided if the proposed action is implemented.

How Can I be Involved?

You can let us know your views and concerns as comments on completed EAs and EISs during the formal comment periods. Resource management within the BLM and other government agencies is process oriented. In order to influence the decision, you must be a part of the process, and the earlier in the process the better. For many of the EAs, this project bulletin and the Vale District Internet website (www.or.blm.gov/vale) may be the only scoping notice you will receive prior to the notice of availability of the EA for public review. If you wish to comment on the proposed projects in the early planning stages, you should contact the designated project coordinator.

The following EA's are for projects that are completed or expected to be completed in fiscal year 2002. A notice is published in local newspapers when each EA is available for review by the public and a date when the comment period ends. A notice will be published in the Baker City Herald or La Grande Observer for EAs completed in the Baker Resource Area, and the Ontario Argus Observer paper for EAs done in the Malheur and Jordan Resource Areas. EAs when completed will also be available for downloading or viewing on the Vale District Internet website (www.or.blm.gov/vale). The website will also provide updated information on the status of EAs and planning documents including those that may not have been anticipated when this document was completed. If you are interested in receiving a copy of an EA or want to get involved in the NEPA process, please contact the designated project coordinator at one of the addresses/phone numbers listed below:

BLM Vale District

100 Oregon Street
Vale, Oregon 97918
(541) 473-3144
7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (MST or MDT)
Monday through Friday

Baker Resource Office

3165 10th Street
Baker City, Oregon 97814
(541) 523-1256
7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (PST pr PDT)
Monday through Friday

An update on the status of these EAs will appear in the next Project and Planning Focus.

Malheur Resource Area

Environmental Assessments Planned for FY 2002

Name: Freezeout Allotment Management Plan Revision

Location: Freezeout Allotment

Contact: Tom Dabbs

Status: Decision signed 04/04/02

Name: Shell Bark/Oxyoke Spring Reconstruction

Location: Nyssa Allotment

Contact: Tom Dabbs

Status: Pending

Name: Malheur Land Exchange

Location: Various throughout Malheur County

Contact: Tom Dabbs

Status: Pending

Name: Kitten Canyon Fence

Location: Rail Canyon Allotment

Contact: Tom Dabbs

Status: Pending

Name: Victor Industries Inc. Zeolite Mine

Location: Near Sheaville, Oregon

Contact: Tom Dabbs

Status: Decision signed 06/04/02

Name: Dago Gulch Road Repair

Location: Dago Gulch

Contact: Tom Dabbs

Status: Decision signed 04/15/02

Name: Crowley Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation (ESR) Plan

Location: 26S., R.39E., W.M.

Contact: Ron Rembowski

Status: Decision signed 12/18/01

Name: Freezeout AMP Revision
Location: Freezeout Allotment
Contact: Steve Christensen
Status: **Decision signed 04/04/02**

Malheur, FY 2001 EA Status

Name: Jonesboro AMP Revision
Location: Jonesboro Allotment
Contact: Steve Christensen
Status: **Pending**

Name: North Fork Malheur Landscape Plan EIS
Location: North Fork Geographic Area
Contact: Tom Dabbs
Status: **Pending**

East Rim North Fork Malheur River Fence
Status: **Decision signed 05/21/01**

Name: Warm Springs Irrigation Pump and Power line Right of Way
Status: **Decision signed 05/14/01**

Name: Ritchie Flat Allotment Revised Grazing Schedule
Status: **Decision signed 06/01/01**

Name: Allotment #2 Revised Grazing Schedule
Status: **Cancelled**

Name: Mountain Pasture Holding Fence
Status: **Pending**

Name: Lower Succor Creek Noxious Weed Control and Restoration Project
Status: **Decision signed 10/01/01**

Name: Lytle Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Plan
Status: **Decision signed 09/25/01**

Name: Cow Hollow ESR Plan
Status: **Decision signed 08/13/01**

Name: Bully Creek ESR Plan
Status: **Decision signed 07/31/01**

Name: Upper Hunter Creek Fence Construction
Status: **Decision signed 09/05/01**

Malheur, FY 2000 EA Status

Owyhee Ridge Complex Communications Site Plan
Status: **Pending**

Name: Mackenzie Water Pipeline
Status: **Pending**

BAKER RESOURCE AREA

Environmental Assessments planned for 2001

Name: Rick May Weather Station EA
Location: 5 miles east of Baker City
Contact: Steve Davidson
Status:

Name: NHTIC 10th Aniversity Wagon Train
Location: From Oxman to Ruckles Creek Road Well
Contact: Gregory Miller
Status: ROD May 2, 2002

Name: Sticies Gulch Interface Project
Location: Sticies Gulch
Contact: Scott Rotman
Status: FONSI March 19, 2002

Name: Haberman Road (right-of-way for an existing road)
Location: Grande Ronde River in Asotin County, Washington
Contact: Steve Davidson
Status:

Name: Morgan Mtn Emergency Fire Rehabilitation Plan
Location: Morgan Mtn
Contact: Scott Rotman
Status: ROD November 23, 2001

Name: Courtney Creek Forest Health Project

Location: T5N, R43E, sec 23,24 and 25; T5S, R44E, sec19,20,31,32 and 33
Contact: Dick Watson
Status: ROD November 13, 2001

Name: Pine Telephone System Halfway-Brownlee Fiberoptic Line
Location: Public lands between the Pine community and Brownlee Village
Contact: Steve Davidson
Status:

City of Irrigon R&PP Conveyance
Location: Irrigon, Oregon
Contact: Steve Davidson
Status:

Name: Lookout Mtn Landscape Area Management Plan
Location: Lookout Mtn Geographic Unit
Contact: Dick Watson
Status:

Name: Beamers Landing Sale
Location: Heller Bar, Asotin County Washington
Contact: Steve Davidson
Status:

Name: Voile Farmstead Sale
Location: T8S, R42E, Sec 28
Contact: Steve Davidson
Status:

Name: Oregon Trail Rut Access
Location: US Hwy 86, Oregon Trail Historical Marker Turnout
Contact: Pricilla Franco, 541-523-1845
Status:

Baker, FY 2000 EA Status

Name: Ebell Lease Grazing Lease#366011
Status: ROD August, 2001

Name: Bunch Family Trust Grazing Lease#366105
Status: ROD August, 2001

Name: Patterson Grazing Lease#366119
Status: ROD August, 2001

Name: Langley Grazing Lease #366122
Status: ROD August, 2001

Name: Colton Grazing Lease #366210
Status: ROD August, 2001

Name: Jacobs Grazing Lease#366224
Status: ROD August, 2001

Name: Bieber Road Right-of-Way OR-035-01-05
Status: ROD July, 2001

Name: Pleasant Valley Quarry Site OR-035-01-04
Status: ROD July, 2001

Name: Northern Rangelands Assembled Land Exchange
Status: Pending

Name: Panhandle Unit Restoration project.
Status: ROD July, 2001

Name: Dixie Creek Fence
Status:

Name: Keystone Mine Spring
Status:

Name: Denny Flat Reservoir projects
Status:

Name: Grouse Creek Stream Resoration
Status: ROD May, 2001

Irrigon Land Puchase
Status: ROD July, 2001

JORDAN RESOURCE AREA

Environmental Assessments Planned for 2001

Name: McDermitt Complex Upland Restoration

Location: Near McDermitt, Nevada

Contact: Jerry Taylor

Status: Pending

Name: Sheepline Rx Electric Fence

Location: T40S, R40E, Sec 6,7

Contact: Cameron Rasor

Status: Completed, April, 2002

Jordan, FY 2000 EA Status

Name: Birch Creek Ranch Water Storage Tank Replacement

Status: EA Completed October, 2000

Name: Southern Trout Creek Habitat Maintenance Prescribed Burn

Status: Completed October, 2001

Name: Jackies Butte/Jordan Creek ESR Plan

Status: Completed, September 2001