

DECISION RECORD

EA LOG NO. OR-010-98-11

Applicant: John Lane

Address: Adel, Oregon

County: Lake

BLM Office Lakeview District

Phone No. 947-2177

Decision Record

**Decision:**

The decision is to construct 3/4 miles of three-strand barbed wire fence replacing an old fence that was down slope from the new proposed site (T. 40S., R. 22E. Section 2). In addition, about two miles of the existing fence will be cleared of shrub and brush to allow for better maintenance of the fence. The project is located on the rim south of Deep Creek on the Lane Plan I Allotment (#0207) which is about 12 miles east of Lakeview (see map).

**Rationale:**

The objective of the new fence and the brush clearing is to prevent cattle from dropping off the rim into deep creek and grazing the riparian area during the summer. This project is in conformance with the Warner Lakes MFP and the 1983 Lakeview Grazing Management Environmental Impact Statement and ROD. During the 30-day public review period, no comments were received. This project will not impact the determinations made in the Standards and Guidelines for Allotment 0207 (2/19/99).

*Scott R. Florence*

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Scott R. Florence, Manager  
Lakeview Field Office

*7/31/00*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT  
Big Valley Fence  
EA No. OR 010-98-11

The Bureau of Land Management, Lakeview Resource Area, has analyzed a proposal and its alternatives to construct about a 0.75 mile three strand barbed wire fence replacing an old fence that was down slope from the new proposed site. In addition about 2 miles of the existing fence will be cleared of shrub and tree growth to allow better maintenance of the fence. The project is located on the rim south of deep creek within the Lane Plan I Allotment (#0207) which is about 12 miles east of Lakeview. The objective of the project is to prevent cattle from the Lane Plan Allotment on top of the rim from dropping down into deep creek. This project is in conformance with the Warner Lakes MFP and the 1983 Lakeview Grazing Management Environmental Impact Statement.

There are no floodplain, wild and scenic rivers, known hazardous waste areas, areas of religious concern, prime or unique farm lands in the immediate project area. The project does not qualify for potential wilderness designation. No adverse or beneficial significant impact is anticipated to lands and minerals. The riparian area along deep creek and therefore fish habitat in deep creek would benefit from this project. Surveys found no threatened or endangered plants or cultural or paleontological resources in the area.

On the basis of the analysis contained in the attached EA and all other available information, it is my determination that none of the alternatives analyzed constitute a major federal action that would adversely impact the quality of the human environment. Therefore an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is unnecessary and will not be prepared.

Scott R. Florence  
Scott R. Florence, Manager  
Lakeview Field Office

6/9/00  
Date

**Big Valley Fence  
Environmental Assessment  
OR-010-98-11**

**INTRODUCTION**

This Environmental Assessment (EA) is being completed for fence improvement and construction of fenceline above the south rim of Deep creek on the northern boundary of the Big Valley pasture.

**I. PURPOSE and NEED**

The purpose of this project is to replace and improve gap fences along the rim to better exclude livestock from the Deep Creek drainage.

**II. PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES**

A. Proposed Action

Replacement of deteriorated wooden fence posts and new three-string fenceline. Moving the gap fence back above the drainage in section 2 (see map). Move two sections back from the rim because of talus slippage. Clearing of approximately two miles of shrub/tree growth along fenceline.

B. Alternatives - No Action

The "no action" alternative would be not constructing or improving the fence above Deep Creek.

**III. AFFECTED ENVIRONMENTS**

A. Range

1. Vegetation

The vegetation in this area is primarily (70% according to E.S.I. data) low sagebrush with a grass understory of bluegrass and Idaho fescue, with a lesser component of juniper, low sagebrush and grass understory.

2. Soils

The soils are shallow loams and clay loams with a claypan layer at 2-8 inches.

B. Wildlife Species

The wildlife potentially impacted by the fenceline include pronghorn antelope and mule deer.

C. Cultural Resources

A site-specific clearance of the Big Valley fence was done prior to impacts.

D Threatened and Endangered Plants

A site-specific clearance was conducted for the Big Valley fence prior to construction.

E Recreation/Visual Resources

The primary recreational uses in the Lane Plan I Allotment is hunting for antelope, deer, and elk.

#### **IV. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES AND MITIGATION**

The following resources are either not found in the project area or would not be impacted by the proposed project: wetlands, floodplains, wilderness, areas of critical environmental concern, paleontological resources, prime or unique farmlands, Wild and Scenic Rivers, visual quality, air quality, traditional cultural uses, forest, land tenure, minerals, noxious weeds, wild horses, or hazardous wastes. Neither alternative would have any impact on minority or low income populations.

##### **A. Proposed Action**

1. Range

The range condition would not significantly be impacted by the improvement of the Big Valley fence. Potential improvements would be made in the condition of the wetlands/riparian system along Deep Creek from more effective livestock management.

2 Wildlife Species

The fence could have some impact on pronghorn and deer movement through the area. The fence would be three wires and built to the BLM specifications to minimize impacts on wildlife movement. The potential riparian improvement would be beneficial to those species that utilize good

quality riparian habitat.

3 Cultural Resources

No impacts to National Register eligible prehistoric and historic sites were detected during the survey. If a previously undetected cultural resource site is identified during project implementation, work would be stopped immediately in order to assess the significance of the resource and formulate mitigation measures.

4. Threatened and Endangered Plant and Animal Species

No Special Status plants or animals were found during clearances.

5 Recreation and Visual Resources

There is little anticipated impact on recreation or visual resources. New sections of fence and sections cleared of overhanging vegetation will be more noticeable.

6 Water Quality

Modest improvements in water quality may result from better containment of livestock on the Big Valley pasture and out of the Deep Creek drainage.

**B. Proposed Alternatives**

1 Range

No significant impacts on allotment, but Deep Creek drainage may continue to have greater use than planned.

2. Wildlife Species

Wildlife habitat would remain unchanged and numbers would remain the same as at present.

3. Cultural Resources

There would be no effect.

4 Threatened and Endangered Plant Species

There would be no effect.

5 Recreation and Visual Resources

There would be no effect.

6 Water Quality

Water quality may continue to be degraded by streambank instability, lack of shade, and cover in the reach of the streams affected by this EA.

**C. Cumulative Impacts**

1. Proposed Action

No cumulative impacts were identified.

2. Alternatives

No cumulative impacts were identified.

**VI. PARTICIPATING STAFF**

Les Boothe, Rangeland Management Specialist  
Tim Kramer, Range Technician

