

**Proposed Decision, Rationale, and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)
For EA#OR135-FY04-EA-03 (East Fishtrap Allotment Management Plan)
Grazing Allotment #0561**

Proposed Decision and Rationale

Proposed Decision: Under the authority of the Code of Federal Regulations (43 CFR 4120.2[c] and [d], 43 CFR 4130.2[a] and [d], and 43 CFR 4160.1[a]), it is my proposed decision to adopt and implement Alternative 1 (Proposed Action). This decision is to issue a 10-year grazing lease renewal for the East Fishtrap Allotment Management Plan, authorizing 132 AUMs of use, subject to the site-specific guidance and management actions described in the attached environmental assessment as a term and condition of the grazing lease. The grazing lease encompasses about 765 acres of public land in Spokane County.

Rationale: The proposed allotment management plan is in conformance with the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Spokane Resource Management Plan (1987) and its amendment (1992). The RMP provides for multiple uses, including grazing, and also provides guidance for developing Allotment Management Plans (AMPs) to establish livestock use levels, grazing systems, seasons of use, and range improvements. This Allotment Management Plan addresses the requirement to take actions to achieve Standards for Rangeland Health (43 CFR 4180.2). The selected alternative (Proposed Action) provides for monitoring to address rangeland health.

Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)

On the basis of environmental assessment #OR135-FY04-EA-03 and other available information, it is my determination that Alternative 1 (Proposed Action) does not constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment (a finding of no significant impact). There is provision in the lease to change the level and times of grazing should monitoring show a need to rest the allotment. Based on these determinations, this action does not require preparation of an environmental impact statement.

Protest

If you wish to protest this proposed decision in accordance with 43 CFR § 4160.2, you are allowed 15 days from receipt of this notice, to file a protest at the above address. The receipt of notice is determined by certified mail or publication of a legal notice as stated in the environmental assessment. A protest must be in writing and specify the reasons, clearly and concisely, as to why you believe the proposed decision is in error. If a protest is filed within the time allowed, the statement of reason and other pertinent information will be considered, and a final decision will be issued with a right of appeal (43 CFR 4160.3[b]).

In the absence of a protest within the time allowed, the above proposed decision will constitute my final decision without further notice in accordance with 43 CFR § 4160.3[a]. If this becomes my final decision and you wish to appeal this decision for the purpose of a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge, in accordance with 43 CFR §§ 4160.4 and 4.470, you are allowed 45 days from receipt of this notice to file an appeal at the above address. The appeal must be in writing and shall state clearly and concisely why you think the decision is in error. Any request for a stay of this decision in accordance with 43 CFR § 4.21 must be filed with the appeal.

/s/ Kevin R. Devitt _____
Field Manager, Border Resource Area

9/13/04
Date