USDI, Bureau of Land Management
Burns District
28910 Hwy 20 West
Hines, Oregon 97738

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
FOR
WILLIAM R. TAYLOR GRAZING PERMIT RENEWAL
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

OR-05-025-013

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The National Environmental Policy Act directs that an environmental analysis be conducted on all proposed Federally-authorized actions. The renewal or initial issuance of term grazing permits is a Federal action to authorize livestock grazing on public land for a specified period of time, under a set of specified terms and conditions.

The Three Rivers Resource Management Plan (RMP) of 1992, identified public land that is available for livestock grazing. The land in the East Warm Springs Allotment (#7001), for which
William R. Taylor has a grazing permit, meets the criteria set forth in the RMP under GM 1.4, Page 2-37. This proposed action is also in conformance with applicable Tribal, State, and County Land Use Plans.

Attached is Environmental Assessment (EA) OR-05-025-013 which was prepared to analyze the continuance of livestock grazing under the existing terms and conditions of the expiring permit. (This analysis is tiered to the Three Rivers RMP and incorporates by reference, the information and analysis contained within the RMP.) This analysis was also preceded by an interdisciplinary evaluation which determined that the current livestock management is meeting the standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Management for Public Lands Administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in Oregon/Washington (August 1997).

The EA analyzed a proposed action to reissue the term grazing permit with existing terms and conditions which is the same as a no action alternative for analysis purposes. A no grazing alternative was considered and not analyzed because the standards for rangeland health, guidelines for livestock management, and the allotment-specific objectives are being met with current livestock management.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the EA and all other available information, I have determined that the proposal and alternatives analyzed do not constitute a major Federal action that would adversely impact the quality of the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement is unnecessary and will not be prepared. This determination is based on the following factors:

1. Beneficial, adverse, direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental effects discussed in the EA have been disclosed. Analysis indicated no significant effects on society as a whole, the affected region, the affected interests, or the locality. The physical and biological effects are limited to the Burns District, Three Rivers Resource Area and adjacent land.

2. Public health and safety would not be adversely impacted. There are no known or anticipated concerns with project waste or hazardous materials.

3. There would be no adverse impacts to regional or local air quality, prime or unique farmlands, known paleontological resources on public land within the area, wetlands, floodplains, areas with unique characteristics, ecologically critical areas or designated Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. There would be no adverse impacts from invasive, nonnative vegetation species.

4. There are no highly controversial effects on the environment.

5. There are no effects that are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risk. Sufficient information on risk is available based on information in the EA and other past actions of a similar nature.

6. This alternative does not set a precedent for other projects that may be implemented in the future to meet the goals and objectives of adopted Federal, State or local natural resource-related plans, policies or programs.

7. No cumulative effects related to other actions that would have a significant adverse impact were identified or are anticipated.

8. Based on previous and ongoing cultural resource surveys, and through mitigation by avoidance, no adverse impacts to cultural resources were identified or anticipated. There are no known American Indian Traditional practices or persons or groups who might be disproportionately and adversely affected as defined by the Environmental Justice executive order.

9. No adverse impacts to any threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat, as defined by the Endangered Species Act, were identified.

10. This proposed action is in compliance with relevant Federal, State, Tribal, and

local laws, regulations, and requirements for the protection of the environment.

11. There would be no known effect on migratory birds.

RATIONALE/AUTHORITY

Grazing permittees who graze their livestock on BLM land shall have grazing permits issued to them under the grazing regulations (43 CFR 4130.2(a)). Grazing permits shall be issued for a term of 10 years unless there is some reason which requires a term of less than 10 years under the grazing regulations (43 CFR 4130.2(d)).

It was determined that the multiple-use allotment objectives and the Standards for Rangeland Health are currently being met.

All land affected by this decision is land that has been identified as available for livestock grazing in the Three Rivers RMP.

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Joan M. Suther Date
Three Rivers Resource Area Field Manager