

Documentation of Land Use Plan Conformance and NEPA Adequacy (DNA)

U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management

A. Describe the Proposed Action

The proposed action is the renewal of Section 3 grazing permits for the 2937 acre Timber Hill allotment, #00889 and the 20,460 acre Willow Valley allotment, #00890 in accordance with 43 CFR 4100.0-8, 4110.1, 4130.2, and 4130.3. These allotments are located to the south of Gerber Reservoir, in southern Klamath County (see attached map). The base property for the permits is owned by Dennis and Janis Hitt.

The renewed grazing permits would have the same parameters as the expiring permits. The Timber Hill allotment has 270 active AUMs and 134 suspended AUMs of cattle use from June 21 to July 31. The Willow Valley allotment has 366 active AUMs and 124 suspended AUMs of cattle use from April 15 to June 30. The term of the renewed permits is 3/01/2004 to 2/28/2014, ten years as required by 43 CFR 4130.2(d) of the current grazing regulations. The permits will be issued to Dennis and Janis Hitt, the owners of the recognized base property.

B. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance

LUP Name: **Klamath Falls Resource Area Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (KFRA RMP/EIS dated September 1994)**

Date Approved: **June 1995 via the Klamath Falls Resource Area Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan and Rangeland Program Summary (KFRA ROD/RMP/RPS)**

☐ The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUPs because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decisions:

- The KFRA ROD/RMP/RPS lists the grazing parameters for the Timber Hill and Willow Valley allotments on pages H-60 and H-61 of Appendix H, Grazing Management and Rangeland Program Summary. The season-of-use listed for both allotments is the same as the proposed action. The AUMs shown for the Willow Valley allotment are higher than those in the proposed action. The Willow Valley allotment is currently used by 3 different permittees and the proposed action only represents the renewal of 1 of these permits. The portions of the active, suspended, and total AUMs of the proposed action are the same as those in the ROD/RMP/RPS.
- The ROD/RMP/RPS states on page 62, Grazing Management, Objectives, "Provide for livestock grazing in an environmentally sensitive manner, consistent with other

objectives and land use allocations. Resolve resource conflicts and concerns and insure that livestock grazing use is consistent with the objectives and direction found in Appendix H (Grazing Management)”.

The ROD/RMP/RPS states on page 62, Grazing Management, Land Use Allocations, “Provide for initial levels of livestock grazing within the parameters outlined, by allotment, in Appendix H”.

C. Identify applicable NEPA documents and other related documents that cover the proposed action.

List by name and date all applicable NEPA documents that cover the proposed action.

Klamath Falls Resource Area Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (KFRA RMP/EIS dated September 1994) approved via the **June 1995 Klamath Falls Resource Area Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan and Rangeland Program Summary (KFRA ROD/RMP/RPS)**

D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

1. Is the current proposed action substantially the same action (or is a part of that action) as previously analyzed? Is the current proposed action located at a site specifically analyzed in an existing document?

The proposed action is the same as the grazing management identified in the RMP/EIS Preferred Alternative.

Environmental impacts of grazing, for all allotments, are found in Chapter 4 - “Environmental Consequences” (4-1 through 4-143) of the RMP/EIS.

2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the current proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values?

The proposed action lies within the range of alternatives analyzed in the RMP/EIS. These are summarized in table S-1 “Comparisons of Allocations and Management by Alternative”, pages 18-50 and in table S-2 “Summary of Environmental Consequences by Alternative”, pages 52-53. Since this plan is relatively recent, it more than adequately reflects current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values.

3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances?

A review was conducted to determine if any new information, studies, and analyses were available that would provide data that would materially differ from the data in the earlier analyses performed in the RMP, ROD, FEIS, and DEIS documents noted above. The following was found:

In accordance with 43 CFR 4180, Rangeland Health Standards Assessments were completed for these allotments during FY2000 for the Willow Valley allotment and during FY1999 for the Timber Hill allotment. The assessment for the Timber Hill allotment determined that the existing grazing management and/or levels of grazing use promotes achievement or significant progress toward the Oregon Standards for Rangeland Health and conforms to the Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management. The current season-of-use and authorized AUMs were determined to be appropriate for that allotment.

The Willow Valley assessment determined that the Standard addressing riparian conditions was not being met. A section of Antelope Creek within the Woolen Canyon pasture was determined to be in Nonfunctioning condition. The season-of-use and AUMs were decreased in this pasture to address this. Monitoring of the area has shown that this section is still receiving too much use. Plans are to build an enclosure fence around the creek during FY2004.

4. Do the methodology and analytical approach used in the existing NEPA document(s) continue to be appropriate for the current proposed action?

The RMP was approved in 1995 and prepared under the guidance provided by BLM planning regulations issued under the authority of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) and in conformance with regulations established by the Council on Environmental Quality regarding the preparation of Environmental Impact Statements as required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1970 (NEPA). This guidance is currently considered appropriate. In addition, the rangeland inventory and monitoring methods used at the time of the RMP development are still currently approved as being appropriate for the analysis of the proposed action.

5. Are the direct and indirect impacts of the current proposed action substantially unchanged from those identified in the existing NEPA document(s)? Does the existing NEPA document analyze site-specific impacts related to the current proposed action?

The proposed action is essentially the same action as was analyzed by the existing NEPA documents cited throughout this document. The direct and indirect impacts of livestock grazing on this allotment were analyzed in most of the major sections of Chapter 4 - "Environmental Consequences" in the RMP/EIS. No new information has been discovered that would indicate that the previous analysis of impacts would change substantially. The completion of the Rangeland Health Standards Assessments for both allotments provided additional site specific analysis of the current grazing management and the changes cited in D., 3. above were implemented.

6. Are the cumulative impacts that would result from implementation of the current proposed action substantially unchanged from those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)?

The cumulative impacts of the proposed action are essentially the same as those analyzed in the NEPA documents and other analyses cited throughout this document. No new impacts would result from the proposed action that has not already been analyzed.

7. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current proposed action?

The public involvement associated with the NEPA documents referenced above is outlined on pages R-7 and R-8 of the KFRA ROD/RMP/RPS under Public Involvement. This effort was in conformance with NEPA and FLPMA and is still considered adequate for the proposed action.

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

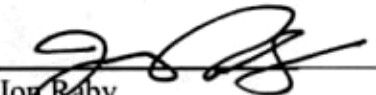
Klamath Falls Resource Area, Oregon

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>
Dana Eckard	Rangeland Management Specialist/author

For a list of the team members that reviewed this document, see the signature sheet attached to the front of this document.

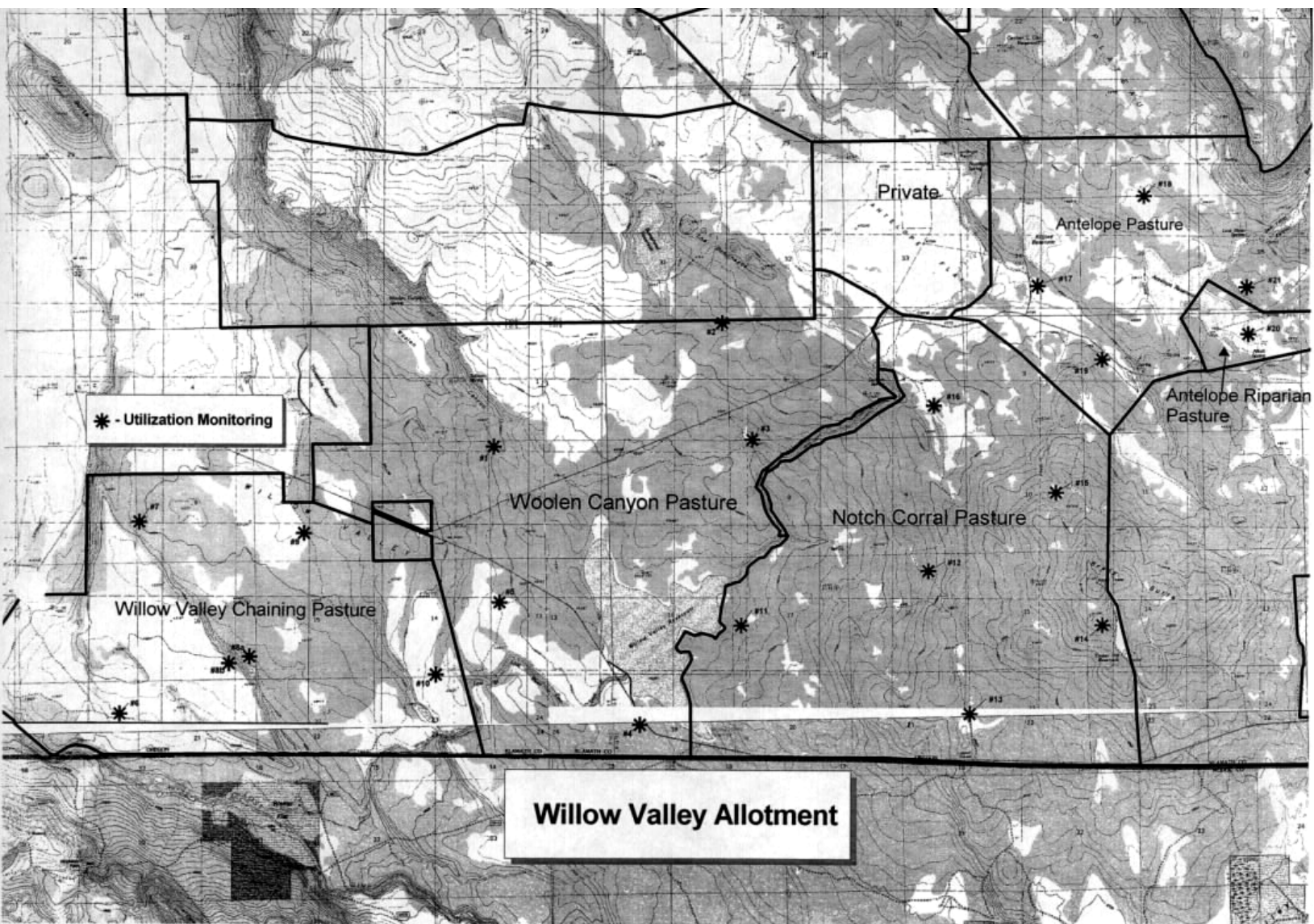
Conclusion

- ☐ Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of NEPA


Jon Raby
Manager, Klamath Falls Resource Area

12/15/03
Date

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.





Klamath Falls Resource Area Project Proposal Routing Slip for Internal Review

Project Name: DNA 04-04 Hitt Permit Renewals **Date Initiated:** 11/25/03

Resource or Staff Responsible	Review Priority	Preliminary Review Date/Initials	Comments Attached/Incorporated	Final Review Date/Initials
Manager: Jon Raby	Last			<u>JR 12/15</u>
Branch Chief: Barbara Ditman	Second to Last		<u>GOOD! WILLIAM VALLEY RIPARIAN PROGS ARE ADDRESSING!</u>	<u>Bar 12/10</u>
Branch Chief: Larry Frazier				
Branch Chief:				
Planner/EC: Don Hoffheins Kathy Lindsey	Third from Last			<u>KL 12/8</u>
Range: Bill Lindsey Range: Dana Eckard — <u>author</u>				<u>DE 12/8</u>
Wild Horses: Tonya Pinckney				
Fire/Air Quality: Joe Foran				
Silviculture: Bill Johnson				
Timber: Mike Bechdolt				
Botany/ACEC/Sensitive Plants/Noxious Weeds: Lou Whiteaker		<u>12/1/03 JW</u>	<u>Majority of area surveyed.</u>	<u>JW 12/1/03</u>
Soils:				
Cultural: Tim Canaday		<u>12/5/03 TC</u>	<u>most has been surveyed additional surveys would need to be done if improvements are made (fences, water systems etc)</u>	<u>12/5/03</u>
Lands/Realty/Minerals/HazMat: Tom Cottingham				
Recreation/Visuals/Wilderness: Scott Senter				
Hydrology/Riparian: Mike Turaski		<u>MRT 11/25/03</u>	<u>Plans for E. Br. Lost River?</u>	
Wildlife/T&E: Steve Hayner		<u>SH 12/01/03</u>		<u>12/01/03 SH</u>
Fisheries/T&E: Scott Snedaker				
W&S Rivers: Grant Weidenbach				
Engineering: Brian McCarty				

Clearances/Surveys	Needed	Done/Attached
Cultural		<u>TC 12/05/03</u>
Botanical		<u>Done JW 12/1/03</u>
T&E, BA & or Consultation	<u>SH 12/1/03</u>	
404 Permit		
R-O-W Permits		

*This document will not sit on your desk for more than 8 hours

**Some resource areas may not apply for all projects. If so, just mark AN/A@ and date reviewed.