

2/18/99

**OPTIONAL PLAN CONFORMANCE/NEPA COMPLIANCE RECORD**

BLM Office: Klamath Falls R.A. (OR-014)  
Lease/Serial Case File No.: Grazing Permit #361078

Proposed Action Title/Type: Re-issuance of Section 3 Grazing Permit

Location of Proposed Action: This grazing permit covers a portion of the public land grazing within the Dry Prairie allotment (0887). This is a common use allotment that has 3 permittees (the other two permits do not expire until 2007-08). The allotment is located in the NW portion of the Gerber block, just west and north of Gerber Reservoir and immediately east and south of portions of the Fremont National Forest. The allotment contains 7,231 acres of public land and 3,624 acres of intermingled non-BLM land (primarily private and BOR). The Klamath Falls R.A. has the grazing administration, as well as all other land management responsibility, for the public lands in this allotment.

Description of Proposed Action: Issuance of this 10 year, section 3 grazing permit, is due to the expiration of the existing 10 year permit on 2/28/99. Eldon Kent continues to be the owner of the recognized base property. The term of the renewed lease is 3/1/99 through 2/28/2009; 10 years as required by 43 CFR 4130.2(d) of the current grazing regulations. The season-of-use for this allotment will continue to be 5/1 through 8/31 for 52 cattle/pairs, for a total of 208 active AUMs for the public lands. (There is also some Exchange-of-Use "credit" for the private lands within the allotment that allows the season to extend into mid to late September if resource conditions warrant.) The previous permit had the same grazing use parameters. There is also 132 AUMs of suspended non-use; an essentially permanent 39% reduction in grazing use made during the 1960's after a grazing survey and re-adjudication. The proposed action has the same parameters as outlined and approved in the 1995 Klamath Falls R.A. ROD/RMP.

Applicant (if any): Eldon Kent

**PART I: PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW.** This proposed action is subject to the following land use plan:

Name of Plan: Klamath Falls Resource Area ROD/RMP & RPS  
Date Approved: June 1995

The proposed action has been reviewed for conformance with this plan (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM MS 1617.3). The Dry Prairie allotment is found on page H-56 of Appendix H of this plan. The 208 active AUMs, 132 suspended AUMs, and 5/1 - 8/31 season-of-use are all consistent with the ROD/RMP. Grazing use, as modified, evaluated, and Section 7 (ESA) consulted on during the last 5 years is meeting, or moving significantly towards meeting, all of the objectives listed in the RMP for this allotment.

William Lindsey, 2/18/99  
Surname(s) of Reviewer(s)

Remarks: None

**PART II: NEPA REVIEW**

A. Categorical exclusion review. This proposed action is not categorically excluded.

William Lindsey, 2/18/99  
Surname(s) of Reviewer(s)

B. Existing EA/EIS review. This proposed action is addressed in the following existing BLM EIS:

Name of Document: Klamath Falls R.A. RMP/EIS  
Date Approved: June 1995 (ROD)

This EIS has been reviewed against the following criteria to determine if it covers the proposed action:

1. The proposed action is a feature of, or essentially the same as, the alternative selected and analyzed in the existing document.
2. A reasonable range of alternatives was analyzed in the existing document.
3. There has been no significant change in circumstances or significant new information germane to the proposed action.
4. The methodology/analytical approach previously used is appropriate for the proposed action.
5. The direct and indirect impacts of the proposed action are not significantly different than those identified in the existing document.
6. The proposed action would not change the previous analysis of cumulative impacts.
7. Public involvement in the previous analysis provides appropriate coverage for the proposed action.

William Lindsey, 2/18/99  
Surname(s) of Reviewer(s)

Remarks: Grazing parameters of this permit are the same as the previous permit, are as listed/analyzed in the RMP, and conform with all 7 of the above criteria. See mitigation statement below.

**PART III: DECISION.** I have reviewed this plan conformance and NEPA compliance record and have determined that the proposed permit renewal is in conformance with the approved land use plan and that no further environmental analysis is required. It is my decision to implement the action, as described, with the mitigation measures identified below.

Mitigation Measures/Other Remarks: The Dry Prairie allotment is scheduled for a Standards & Guides (S&G's) Assessment during FY 1999. This allotment has been under Section 7 (ESA) consultation since 1994 and because of that, has had the grazing use and monitoring studies evaluated every year since then. The S&G's assessment will ascertain whether current management of these public lands meets the requirements of the 5 Standards for Rangeland Health. If

existing management is not, or is not making significant progress towards, meeting the Standards, management changes will be made. However, the evaluations and consultations performed to date indicate that the Standards are being met or that the current management is making significant progress towards meeting the Standards. (Or if not met, it is not due to current livestock grazing). The allotment is currently under re-consultation with the USF&WS on the grazing since the prior consultation expired after the 1998 grazing season.

Authorized Official: /s./ Robert G. Hopper      Date: 3/8/99  
Acting Manager, Klamath Falls Resource Area