

Worksheet
Documentation of Land Use Plan Conformance and NEPA Adequacy (DNA)
 U.S. Department of the Interior
 Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Note: This worksheet is to be completed consistent with the policies stated in the Instruction Memorandum entitled "Documentation of Land Use Plan Conformance and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Adequacy" transmitting this worksheet and the "Guidelines for Using the DNA Worksheet" located at the end of the worksheet. (Note: The signed CONCLUSION at the end of this worksheet is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal analysis process and does not constitute an appealable decision.)

A. BLM Office: Klamath Falls R.A. OR-014 **Permit/Lease:** #3601086

Proposed Action Title/Type: The proposed action is to renew an expiring 10-year grazing permit/lease (#3601086) for Johnson Stock Company for approximately 25,478 acres of BLM administered land known as the Willow Valley allotment (#0890) & the Bear Valley allotment (#0876). The permit/lease expires on 2/28/2006 and is being renewed in accordance with the grazing regulations at 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §4110.1; §4110.2-1(a) (1) & (c); §4110.2-2(a); §4130.2; and §4130.3; and other pertinent policy and guidance.

Location of Proposed Action: The BLM Section 3 (of the *Taylor Grazing Act of 1934*) administered lands that comprise the Willow Valley/Bear Valley allotments are located in T40S, T41S & R14E, 141/2E, R15E (see attached map). In addition to the BLM lands there are private and other federal lands (USFS) that border or are contained within these allotments.

Description of the Proposed Action: The term of the renewed permit/lease will be 3/1/2006 through 2/28/2016; 10 years as authorized by the grazing regulations at §4130.2(d). The parameters of the renewed grazing permit/lease would be the same as the previous permit and as follows:

| <u>ALLOTMENT</u> | <u>LIVESTOCK</u> | <u>GRAZING PERIOD</u> | <u>AUMs</u> |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|
| Willow Valley (#0890) | 36 cattle | 4/15- 6/30 | 90 AUMs |
| Bear Valley (#0876) | 36 cattle | 7/01- 8/07 | 45 AUMs |

Applicant (if any):

Permit/lease renewal application sent on 09/08/05 and has not been returned as of this date 1/12/06.

B. Conformance with the Land Use Plan (LUP) and Consistency with Related Subordinate Implementation Plans

LUP Name*: *Klamath Falls R.A. 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)*

Other document**: None

* List applicable LUPs (e.g., Resource Management Plans or applicable amendments).

**List applicable activity, project, management, water quality restoration, or program plans.

-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 states on page 62 to “*Provide for livestock grazing in an environmentally sensitive manner, consistent with other objectives and land use allocations. Resolve resource conflicts and concerns and **ensure that livestock grazing use is consistent with the objectives and direction found in Appendix H (Grazing Management)**” (emphasis added). Also later on that same page is the following: “*Provide for initial levels of livestock grazing within the parameters outlined, by allotment, in Appendix H.*”*

The 1994 KFRA RMP/EIS listed the parameters for the Willow Valley (#890) allotment on page L-61, for the Bear Valley (#876) allotment on page L-50; parameters which are consistent with the current grazing permit/lease and proposed renewal. The 1995 KFRA ROD/RMP/RPS - Appendix H - listed the grazing parameters for the Willow Valley allotment on page H-61 and the Bear Valley allotment on page H-50. The parameters for the proposed action (permit/lease renewal) were the same as the past grazing permit/lease. That plan also noted that “*All changes...livestock grazing management will be made through the monitoring and evaluation process as outlined in the (the plan)...*” The “*monitoring and evaluation process*” outlined in the plan is now primarily the *Rangeland Health Standards Assessment (RHSA)* process, which as structured in this resource area, includes an evaluation of existing monitoring and related information. The RHSA assessment was completed in FY2000 and determined that some changes in grazing management were necessary in the Willow Valley allotment. These changes were implemented through an agreement with the allotment permittees in 2001.

-The proposed action is in conformance with the LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decisions (objectives, terms, and conditions) and, if applicable, implementation plan decisions:

Not Applicable - the action is specifically provided for in the LUP.

C. Identify the applicable NEPA document(s) 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 R.A. 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). This is the overall land use plan (LUP) for the Klamath Falls Resource Area.

Klamath Falls Resource Area Fire Management EA #OR-014-94-09 (June 10, 1994)

List by name and date other documentation relevant to the proposed action (e.g., source drinking water assessments, biological assessment, biological opinion, watershed assessment, allotment evaluation, rangeland health standard’s assessment and determinations, and monitoring the

report).

In 1995, a biological evaluation/assessment was completed for the KFRA's Eastside allotments in which the grazing on this allotment was determined by the BLM to be a "no-effect" impact to the two endangered sucker species in the Klamath Basin. The RHSA was completed for this allotment in FY2000.

D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

1. Is the current proposed action substantially the same action (or is a part of that action) as previously analyzed?

Documentation of answer and explanation:

The proposed action (permit/lease re-issuance) is consistent with, if not identical to, the grazing management identified in the KFRA RMP/EIS Preferred Alternative - called the "Proposed Resource Management Plan" or PRMP (also called the "Final RMP/EIS"). Specifics by allotment are found in Appendix L, with the Willow Valley allotment on page L-61 & Bear Valley allotment on page L50. The preferred alternative was affirmed and implemented by the KFRA ROD/RMP/RPS, where the allotment specific information is found in Appendix H, page H-61 for the Willow Valley allotment and page H-50 for the Bear Valley allotment. Environmental impacts of grazing, for all alternatives, are found in Chapter 4- "Environmental Consequences" (4-1 through 4-143) – of the KFRA RMP/EIS. Since the proposed action (permit/lease renewal grazing parameters) and the Willow Valley/Bear Valley allotments were specifically analyzed in the plan, the answer to this NEPA adequacy question must be "yes".

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, resource values, and circumstances?

Documentation of answer and explanation:

The proposed action (permit/lease renewal) lies within the range of various alternatives identified and analyzed in the KFRA RMP/EIS (summarized in table S-1 "Comparisons of Allocations and Management by Alternative", pages 18-50; and S-2 "Summary of Environmental Consequences by Alternative", pages 52-53). This array and range of alternatives included the No Action alternative (status quo); five other alternatives (A through E) that covered a span of management from a strong emphasis on commodities production to a strong emphasis on resource protection/preservation; and the PRMP that emphasizes a balanced approach of producing an array of socially valuable products within the concept of ecosystem management. Since this plan is relatively recent (1995), it more than adequately reflects "current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values". Recent formal evaluations of the RMP (1999 & 2003) affirmed the validity and adequacy of the plan.

3. Is the existing analysis adequate and are the conclusions adequate in light of any new information or circumstances (including, for example, riparian proper functioning condition [PFC] reports; rangeland health standards assessments; Unified Watershed Assessment categorizations; inventory and monitoring data; most recent Fish and Wildlife Service lists of threatened, endangered, proposed, and candidate species; most recent BLM lists of sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that all new information and all new circumstances are insignificant with

regard to analysis of the proposed action?

Documentation of answer and explanation: A review was conducted to determine if any new information, studies, and/or analyses has been collected/completed since 1995 that would materially differ from that collected/completed during the RMP/EIS process. No new information has been collected or analyzed for this allotment that would change the analysis and conclusions completed during the RMP/EIS process. However, the following information is pertinent to the full addressing of this NEPA adequacy question:

- The science done during the Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Planning (ICBEMP) effort did not indicate any new or significant information that would modify the management direction in this allotment; that effort's broad scale did not allow for the specificity of the KFRA RMP.
- The allotment is an "I" (improve) allotment. And "I" allotments receive the most management attention. Willow Valley/Bear Valley allotments are "Common Use" allotments, these allotments are used by 3 separate permittees during the grazing season of use. The current grazing use is consistent with LUP objectives and appropriate for the perpetuation and/or improvement of the vegetation community.
- During the field seasons of 1997 and 1998 the entire Gerber Block was ecological site inventoried (ESI) which includes an Order 3 soil survey. This survey found that 91% of the Bear Valley (#0876) allotment vegetation was in either late seral ("good") or Potential Natural Community ("PNC or "excellent") condition, indicating high ecological functionality. This same survey found that 72% of the Willow Valley (#0890) allotment vegetation was in mid seral ("fair") condition.
- These allotments - like most areas in the KFRA - have some degree of juniper encroachment or juniper density problems. Western juniper (*Juniperus occidentalis*) has and is increasing on most ecological sites beyond that which is thought ecologically appropriate and threatens the current and future functioning of many areas. This problem is being addressed primarily as a fuels problem and is outside the scope of what can be affected by the grazing permit/lease.
- In accordance with 43 CFR §4180 and related policy direction, the Klamath Falls Resource Area is implementing the *Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Management (S&G's)*, as approved by the Klamath PAC/RAC. A *Rangeland Health Standards Assessment* was completed on Willow Valley/Bear Valley allotments during FY 2000. The Assessment found that the grazing use as currently permitted on the Bear Valley allotment is appropriate for maintaining adequate (or better) rangeland vegetation conditions. The Willow Valley allotment was found to not be meeting all of the Standards. Changes were made to the grazing use to address this through an agreement that was signed by the allotment permittees in 2001.
- The entire Gerber Block was also analyzed in the "Gerber-Willow Valley Watershed Analysis", which was completed in 2003. This analysis also reaffirmed the conditions of the allotments already elaborated on above.
- Recent formal evaluations of the RMP/ROD/EIS (1999 & 2003) affirmed the validity, adequacy, and appropriateness of this Land Use Plan.

To summarize, the existing analysis and subsequent conclusions in the LUP are still considered valid at this time, including the described and analyzed livestock grazing impacts. Likewise, it is reasonable to conclude that the new information and new circumstances are insignificant with regard to the analysis of the proposed action.

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

Documentation of answer and explanation:

The KFRA RMP/EIS, and subsequent ROD/RMP/RPS, designated domestic livestock grazing as a principle or major use for this allotment under the principle of multiple-use on a sustained yield basis in accordance with FLPMA. The development of the Proposed Resource Management Plan in the RMP/EIS, as adjusted or affirmed by the ROD/RMP/RPS, meets NEPA standards for impact analysis. The methodology and analyses employed in the RMP/EIS are still considered valid as this planning effort is relatively recent (ROD - June 1995) and considered up to date procedurally. Recent formal evaluations of the RMP/ROD/EIS (1999 & 2003) affirmed the validity, adequacy, and appropriateness of this Land Use Plan. Litigation related or induced direction since the ROD has not indicated that the LUP “methodology and analytical approach” is dated, obsolete, or in need of amendment. The plan is “maintained” regularly to keep it current by incorporating new information, updating for new policies and procedures, and correcting errors as they are found. In addition, all the rangeland monitoring, studies, and survey methods (i.e. ESI) utilized in the resource area prior to and during the planning process continue to be accepted (or required) BLM methods and procedures. These accepted methods continue to be utilized where and as needed.

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 sufficiently analyze site-specific impacts related to the current proposed action?

Documentation of answer and explanation:

The proposed action is consistent with the impact analysis KFRA RMP/EIS, as affirmed or adjusted by the ROD/RMP/RPS. The impacts of livestock grazing were analyzed in most of the major sections of Chapter 4 - Environmental Consequences (pages 4-1 through 4-143) in the RMP/EIS. No new information has come to light since completion of the plan that would indicate that the previously analyzed direct/indirect impacts would be substantially different. Recent formal evaluations of the RMP/ROD/EIS (1999 & 2003) affirmed the validity, adequacy, and appropriateness of this Land Use Plan, including its impact analysis.

The details of the proposed action were also covered specifically in Appendix H - *Grazing Management and Rangeland Program Summary* (page H-40) of the KFRA ROD/RMP/RPS. During the pre-RMP process in 1990-91, a series of IDT meetings were held to specifically address the formulation of objectives for every grazing allotment in the KFRA. These objectives were based on the monitoring (or related) data collected, past allotment categorization efforts (1982, as subsequently revised), as well as professional judgment based on field observations up to that time. As noted earlier a Rangeland Health Standards Assessment was completed for these allotments during FY 2000. The Assessment found that the grazing use as currently permitted in the Bear Valley allotment is appropriate for maintaining adequate (or better) rangeland vegetation conditions and no changes in management were or are needed. The Willow Valley allotment was found to not be meeting all of the Standards. Changes were made to the grazing use to address this through an agreement that was signed by the allotment permittees in 2001.

In summary, it is thought at this time, based on current information and judgment, that this NEPA Adequacy “question” is in the affirmative; that the direct and indirect impacts of re-issuing this grazing permit are unchanged from that identified in the LUP and that plan also adequately analyzes the site-specific impacts.

6. Can you conclude without additional analysis or information that the cumulative impacts that would result from implementation of the current proposed action are substantially unchanged from those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)?

Documentation of answer and explanation:

The proposed action as analyzed in the PRMP of the KFRA RMP/EIS, as affirmed or adjusted by the ROD/RMP/RPS, would not change analysis of cumulative impacts. Any adverse cumulative impacts are the same as, and within the parameters of, those identified and accepted in that earlier planning effort for this allotments grazing use, since the proposed action was specifically analyzed in the RMP/EIS. Recent formal evaluations of the RMP/ROD/EIS (1999 & 2003) affirmed the validity, adequacy, and appropriateness of this Land Use Plan, including the cumulative impact analysis. In addition, the recent analyses in the Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Plan (ICBEMP) have not indicated any cumulative impacts beyond those anticipated in the earlier analyses. (In addition, the ICBEMP, due to its regional approach, does not have the specificity of the RMP.)

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

Documentation of answer and explanation:

The KFRA RMP/EIS and ROD/RMP/RPS were distributed to all interested publics and other government agencies for review. Since this proposed permit/lease issuance is essentially as listed in the LUP - and that plan went through all of the appropriate and legally required public/agency review - public involvement is considered at least adequate.

All of those publics/agencies have also been kept informed of plan implementation through periodic planning update reports (i.e. May 1995, October 1997, February 1999, July 2000, August 2002, January 2004 (for FY 2003), FY 2004 (undated but published in 2005), with the 2005 version pending at the time of writing this DNA. These planning updates, or Annual Program Summaries as they are now called, include information on range program and project accomplishments, updates to the RPS, monitoring accomplishment reports, planned activities for the upcoming year, allotment evaluation and Rangeland Health Standards Assessment scheduling, and other information necessary to allow for adequate public involvement opportunities.

No specific public involvement or “interested public” status (under the grazing regulations at 43 CFR 4100.0-5) has been requested for this allotment, with the exception of the existing permittee, who is granted automatic status.

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

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Title</u> | <u>Resource Represented</u> |
|----------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Tonya Pinckney | Rangeland Technician | Author/Grazing Mgmt. |

(See cover sheet for other participants and/or reviewers)

F. Mitigation Measures: List any applicable mitigation measures that were identified, analyzed, and approved in relevant LUPs and existing NEPA document(s). List the specific mitigation measures or identify an attachment that includes those specific mitigation measures. Document that these applicable mitigation measures must be incorporated and implemented.

There are no specific mitigation measures recommended or needed at this time. This fact was affirmed in the 2003 Gerber-Willow Valley WA. Which contain the RHSA for Willow Valley and Bear Valley.

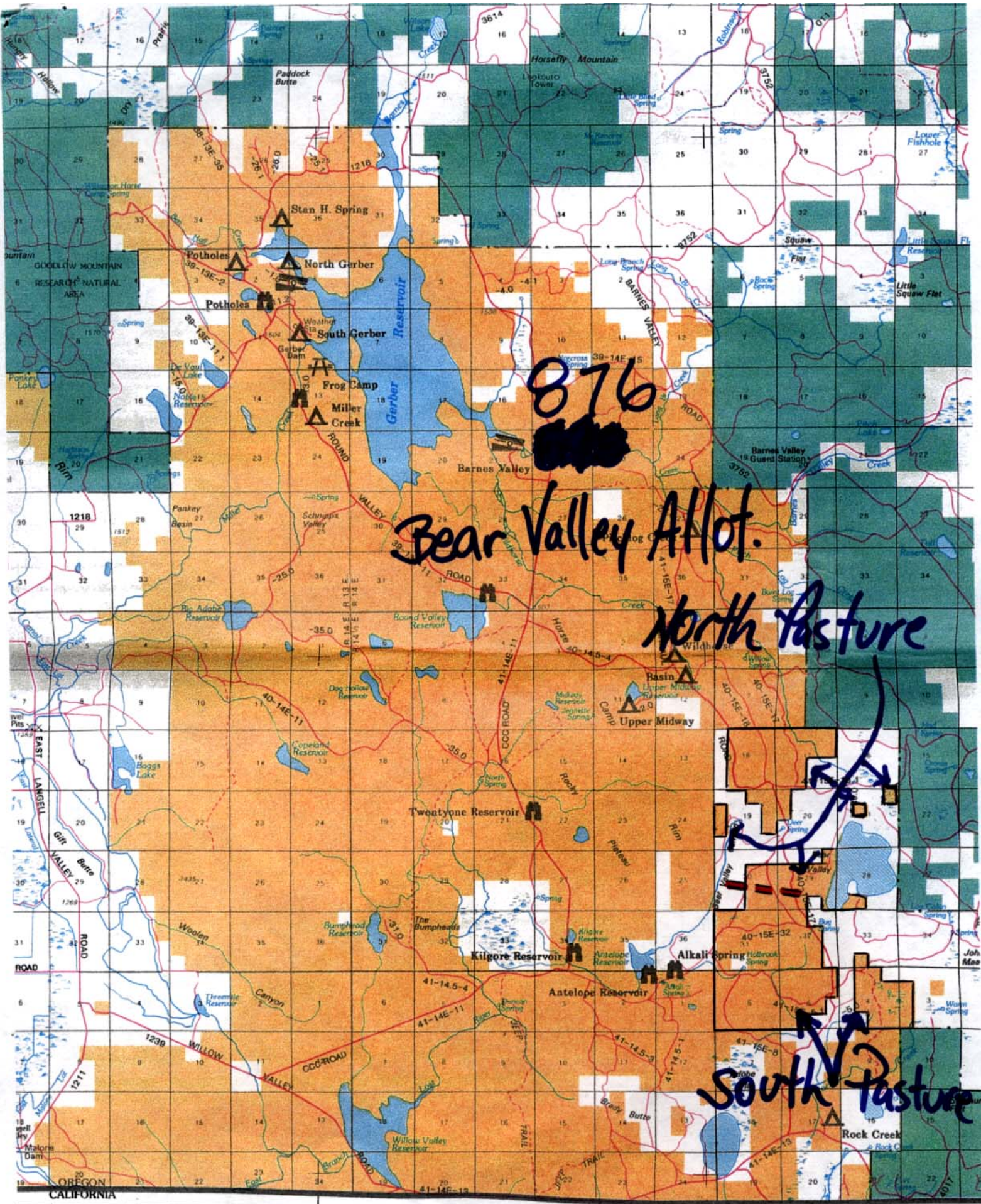
CONCLUSION

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



Field Manager, Klamath Falls Resource Area

Date: 2/2/06



876



Bear Valley Allot.

North Pasture

South Pasture

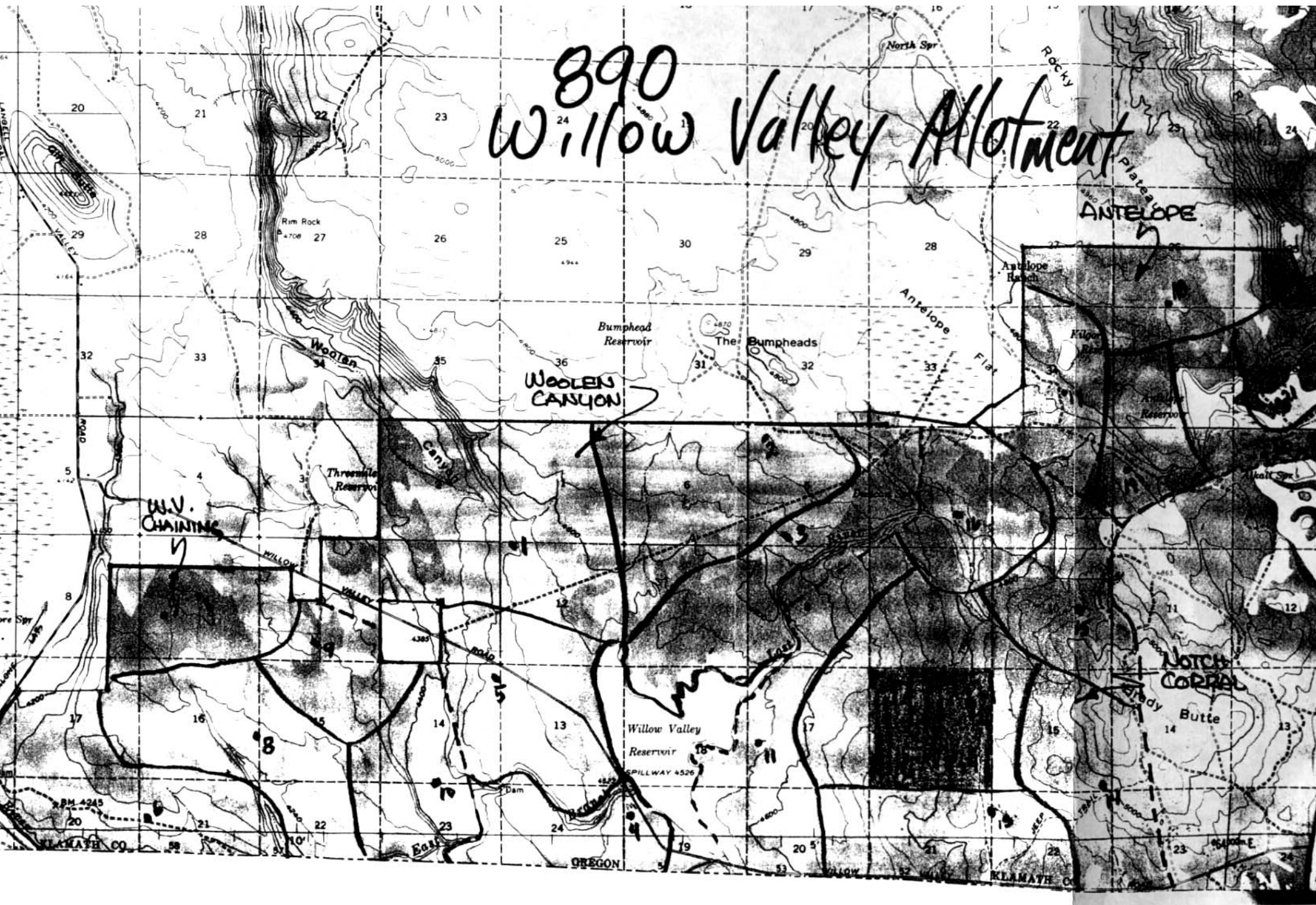
R. 14 E.

R. 14 1/2 E.

121°00'

R. 15 E.

890 Willow Valley Allotment



Klamath Falls Resource Area NEPA Document Routing Slip for Internal Review

Project Name: DNA Willow Valley/Bear Valley 3601086 Permit/lease
 Date Initiated: 1/19/06 Project Lead/Contact: Tonya Pinckney

| Resource or Staff Responsible | Review Priority | Preliminary Review Initials / Date | Comments Attached / Incorporated | Final Review Initials / Date |
|---|------------------------|------------------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| Manager: Jon Raby | Last | <u>JR 1/27/06</u> | | <u>JR 1/27/06</u> |
| Branch Chief: Heather Bernier | Second to Last | | | <u>HAB 1/31/06</u> |
| Branch Chief: Larry Brooks | Second to Last | | | |
| Planner/EC: Don Hoffheins, Kathy Lindsey | Third from Last | | <u>suggested edits-minor</u> | <u>KL 1/27/06</u> |
| Range: Bill Lindsey, Dana Eckard | | <u>DL 1/23/06</u> | <u>none</u> | |
| Wild Horses: Tonya Pinckney | | | | |
| Fire/Air Quality: Eric Johnson Joe Foran | | | | |
| Silviculture: Bill Johnson | | | | |
| Timber: Mike Bechdolt | | | | |
| Botany/ACEC//Noxious Weeds: Lou Whiteaker | | <u>LW 1/26/06</u> | <u>Weed & special status species lists altered</u> | <u>LW 1/24/06</u> |
| Cultural: Tim Canaday, Michelle Durant | | <u>TC 1/27/2006</u> | | <u>TC 1/27/2006</u> |
| Safety/HazMat: Tom Cottingham | | | | |
| Lands/Realty/Minerals: Linda Younger | | | | |
| Recreation/Visual/Wilderness: Scott Senter | | | | |
| Hydrology/Riparian: Liz Berger | | | | |
| Wildlife/T&E: Steve Hayner | | <u>SH 1/26/06</u> | <u>SH 1/26/06</u> | <u>SH 1/26/06</u> |
| Wildlife/Fuels: Matt Broyles | | | | |
| Fisheries/T&E: Scott Snedaker | | | | |
| W/S Rivers: Grant Weidenbach | | | | |
| Engineering: Brian McCarty | | | | |
| Soils/Veg Surveys: Molly Juillerat Amber Knoll | | | | |
| Wood River Wetlands: Wedge Watkins | | | | |
| Clearances/Surveys | Needed | Done/Attached | <p>*This document will not sit on your desk for more than 8 hours. Please check on calendar to make sure that the next person will be available to review the document.</p> <p>**Some resource areas may not apply for all projects. If so, just mark "N/A" in "Review Priority" column.</p> | |
| Cultural | <u>No TC 1/27/2006</u> | | | |
| Botanical | | <u>LW 1/26/06</u> | | |
| T&E, BA & or Consultation | <u>No SH 1/26/06</u> | | | |
| R-O-W Permits | | | | |

→ Range improvements (fences, water tanks, etc.) will require cultural resource clearance. TC 1/27/2006