

## ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

**EA Number:** OR-014-00-03

**BLM Office:** Redding, California Field Office - Managing office  
Klamath Falls, Oregon Resource Area - Administering office

**Proposed Action Title/Type:** Renewal of the Section 15 grazing lease for the Laubacher Lease grazing allotment , # 00155.

**Location of Proposed Project:** Northern Siskiyou County, California along the south side of the Klamath River Canyon, T.48N., R.03W., Section 14, all, Section 24, all, and Section 23, S½, N½. (see attached map).

**Applicant:** Robert E. Miller

**Conformance With Applicable Land Use Plan:**

**Name of Plan:** Proposed Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/EIS), July 1992, approved through the Redding Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision, June 1993 (RMP).

**Remarks:** This lease falls within the Klamath Management Area which neither promotes nor discourages grazing. All public lands within this lease have been identified for disposal or another use through the RMP.

**Need for Proposed Action:** The Redding RMP Management Guidance states: Existing leases, contracts or other authorizations will be continued until specifically canceled or terminated under the terms of the authorizing Code of Federal Regulations sections. No such Terms are applicable to cancel or terminate this lease. Further guidance under Livestock Grazing within the same portion of the RMP and dealing with manageability, have also been met and are in conformance with this plan.

**Description of Proposed Action:** To authorize renewal of the grazing lease for the Laubacher Lease grazing allotment for a 1 year term.

Operator #	Number	Kind	Season of Use	% Public Land	AUM's
360155	32	Cattle	04/15 to 06/14	100	64

The above information is the same as the previous lease.

**Environmental Impacts:**

<u>Critical Elements</u>	<u>Affected</u>		<u>Critical Elements</u>	<u>Affected</u>	
	Yes	No		Yes	No
Air Quality	—	<u>x</u>	T&E Species	*	—
ACECs	—	<u>x</u>	Wastes,Hazardous/Solid	—	<u>x</u>
Cultural Resources	*	—	Water Quality	—	<u>x</u>
Farmlands,Prime/Unique	—	<u>x</u>	Wetlands/Riparian Zones	—	<u>x</u>
Floodplains	—	<u>x</u>	Wild & Scenic Rivers	—	<u>x</u>
Native Am.Rel.Concerns	—	<u>x</u>	Wilderness	—	<u>x</u>
Cave Resources	—	<u>x</u>	Survey and Manage Species	*	—

\* - See Description of Impacts section below.

**Environmental Document Tiering:** This EA is being tiered to the following documents:

1. Redding Livestock Grazing Management EIS - 1984
2. Redding Resource Management Plan RMP/EIS - 1992

These documents can be found at the Redding Field Office and are being used in total to address the environmental issues associated with the renewal of this lease. The only portions of these documents which fail to completely address impacts are those portions which deal with Cultural Resources, T&E Wildlife, S&M Species, and Rangeland Health. These items will be further discussed below.

**Description of Impacts:**

**Cultural Resources**

Sixty five percent or 800 acres of this lease have had extensive, Class III type inventories and the remaining 440 acres have had intuitive controlled inventories which were concentrated mainly along the Klamath River corridor. The results of these surveys have produced a few historic sites that are associated with the early cattle operations, i.e. rock and split rail fences and a possible corralling structure, but by far, the majority of the sites are associated with Native American habitation and use. Of these type of sites, ten have been documented and involve the time periods that extend from prehistoric up to early historic. These sites consists of 2 isolates, 5 lithic scatters ranging in size and density, 1 upland camp and lithic scatter, 1 bedrock milling feature, and 1 large habitation and ceremonial site.

It is this last site, which is being called “Coyote’s Paw”, that is currently being impacted. This is a large house pit village with 17 house pits, 2 house rings, 3 stone walls, 68 rock cairns, 16 girdled trees which are associated probably with the Earthlodge Cult of the late 1800's or Bole Maru ceremonies , 2 possible Shaman’s pits, a cupule boulder, 2 possible petroglyphs on boulders and a historic house foundation. This action would have minor short-term impacts to this site but could possible have significant long-term impacts. The majority of impacts that are presently occurring, appear to derive from activities of

recreationalists, wood cutters and hunters. It is felt that this site needs to be fenced and therefore the following Term and Condition needs to be added to this lease:

If the integrity of a significant cultural site is being degraded, it can be removed from this lease to protect this resource.

Being that short-term impacts from this action to continue grazing are presently considered to be minimal, it is felt that this renewal action could be implemented. As mitigation of impacts are implemented on Coyote's Paw or any other yet undetermined degraded, significant cultural site, the long-term impacts to such sites would be reduced.

### **T&E Wildlife**

Based on the low number of cattle and the short period of utilization, i.e. 32 head for 2 months, and the fact that the riparian was fenced off in 1998 to exclude grazing, it is anticipated this proposed action to renew this lease for one year will have no effects on short or long-term viability of the 8 BLM California Special Status Wildlife Species identified as potentially occurring in the area. These species follow:

Osprey, Bald Eagle, Northern Goshawk, Prairie Falcon, Northern Spotted Owl, Klamath Large Scale Sucker, Shortnose Sucker, Lost River Sucker

Therefore, this action can be implemented.

### **T&E Plants**

All three land parcels included in this grazing lease have had intuitive controlled plant inventories conducted in 1995 and 1996 (see SSP Report #96-38 and other documentation filed in the Redding FO). The only Special Status Plant species recorded for these lands are two occurrences of *Calochortus greenii*, a California Native Plant Society list 1B plant. This species arises from bulbs and blooms after the cattle are taken off. Even though cattle have some effects on this species through sporadic grazing, the proposed action would not be expected to result in significant impacts.

### **S & M Species**

Being that this area falls within the scope of the President's Northwest Forest Plan, the following mollusk species have the potential of being impacted from this action:

*Ancotrema voyanum*, *Monadenia fidelis klamathica*, *Monadenia fidelis ochromphalus*,  
*Fluminicola seminalis*

No surveys for these species have occurred as of yet and will need to be done sometime during 2000.

Due to the brief period of the proposed action and the relatively light use being authorized, it is felt that the renewal of this lease for one year will have no effects on short or long-term viability of these species,

therefore this action can be implemented.

### **Rangeland Health Standards**

This allotment will be assessed before 2008 to determine conformance with 43 CFR 4180. The terms and conditions of the lease will be modified if this assessment determines that grazing management is not meeting the Standards of Rangeland Health. A statement to this effect will be included in the renewed lease.

**Description of Mitigation Measures and Residual Impacts** The following stipulations will be added as Terms & Conditions of this lease to mitigate residual impacts and concerns.

1. Portions of the public lands associated with this livestock grazing lease have been identified for disposal through the Redding Resource Management Plan dated 07/27/93. You have been given your 2-year prior notification (43 CFR 4110.4 B) and all notification rights have lapsed. Portions of this lease & permitted use can be canceled at any time as these lands are transferred.
2. The Term & Conditions of your lease may be modified if additional information indicates that revision is necessary to conform with 43 CFR 4180 (Rangeland Health Standards and Guidelines).
3. If the integrity of a significant cultural site is being degraded, it can be removed from this lease to protect this resource.

### **Person/Agencies Consulted:**

Eric Ritter - BLM Archeologist  
Keith Hughes - BLM Wildlife Biologist  
Lori White-Bagnaschi - BLM Environmental Coordinator  
Joe Molter - BLM Botanist  
Dana Eckard - BLM Rangeland Management Specialist

**Preparer:** /s/ Dana L. Eckard **Date:** 3/16/2000

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## FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT/DECISION RECORD

I have reviewed this environmental assessment including the explanation and resolution of any potentially significant environmental impacts. I have determined that the proposed action with the mitigation measures described below will not have any significant impacts on the human environment and that an EIS is not required. I have determined that the proposed project is in conformance with the approved land use plan. It is my decision to implement the project with the mitigation measures identified below.

**Mitigation Measures/Remarks:** The following Terms and Conditions would be added to this lease:

1. Portions of these public lands associated with this livestock grazing lease have been identified for disposal through the Redding Resource Management Plan dated 07/27/93. You have been given your 2-year prior notification (43 CFR 4110.4 B) and all notification rights have lapsed. Portions of this lease & permitted use can be canceled at any time as these lands are transferred.
2. The Term & Conditions of your lease may be modified if additional information indicates that revision is necessary to conform with 43 CFR 4180 (Rangeland Health Standards and Guidelines).
3. If the integrity of a significant cultural site is being degraded, it can be removed from this lease to protect this resource.

**Field Manager, Redding Field Office:** /s/ Charles M. Schultz

**Date:** 3/29/2000

**Field Manager, Klamath Falls Resource Area:** /s/ Teresa A. Ramf

**Date:** 4/5/00