

2/25/99

OPTIONAL PLAN CONFORMANCE/NEPA COMPLIANCE RECORD

BLM Office: Klamath Falls R.A. (OR-014)
Lease/Serial Case File No.: Grazing Lease #361033

Proposed Action Title/Type: Re-issuance of Section 15 Grazing Lease

Location of Proposed Action: This grazing lease covers the public land grazing within the Hungry Hollow allotment (0830). This allotment is located approximately 3-4 miles north of Bonanza, Oregon and consists of 280 acres of public land in 3 discrete parcels, intermingled with a much larger area of private property. The BLM lands are scattered on the ridge above the private bottom lands. The Klamath Falls R.A. has the grazing administration, as well as all other land management responsibility, for the public lands that comprise this allotment.

Description of Proposed Action: Renewal of this 10 year, Section 15 grazing lease is due to the expiration of the prior 10 year lease on 2/28/99. The base property is still owned/controlled by the Hungry Hollow Youth Ranch. 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 will continue to be 6/1 through 8/30 for 13 horses - a total of 40 active AUMs. The parameters of the renewed lease are as in the previous lease and substantially as outlined and approved in the 1995 Klamath Falls R.A. ROD/RMP, although the season-of-use is different (see next section).

Applicant: Hungry Hollow Youth Ranch (Robert Graham)

PART I: PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW. This proposed lease renewal 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 Hungry Hollow allotment (#0830) information is found on page H-30 of Appendix H. All of the grazing parameters of the renewed lease are largely consistent with the ROD/RMP. The only variation is that the Plan's proposed grazing season is listed as 5/1 to 6/15 and the lease as reissued is 6/1 to 8/30.

The Plan states that "...all changes in grazing use on an allotment will be based on the results of an interdisciplinary evaluation of rangeland monitoring studies..." (Page H-73). Since an allotment evaluation/assessment has yet to be completed on this allotment, the lease is being re-issued with the same season-of-use as the past lease. The allotment also has no listed "Identified Resources Conflicts/Concerns", making it questionable whether a change in season-of-use is needed. See the mitigation statement on next page.

William Lindsey, 2/25/99
Surname(s) of Reviewer(s)

PART II: NEPA REVIEW

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

William Lindsey, 2/25/99
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, 2/25/99
Surname(s) of Reviewer(s)

Remarks: The grazing parameters of the re-issued lease are essentially the same as that proposed in the Plan and conform to the 7 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 lease 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 Hungry Hollow allotment is currently scheduled for a Rangeland Health Standards Assessment in FY 2003. It is scheduled for assessment some years out due to its low priority status, i.e. few or no known resource problems or issues and "C" selective management category.

The future assessment will ascertain whether current management of these public lands meets the requirements of the 5 Standards for Rangeland Health and RMP objectives. If existing management is not meeting, or is not making significant progress towards meeting the Standards and/or RMP objectives, management will be adjusted and the lease changed.

Authorized Official: /s./ Robert G. Hopper Date: 3/10/99
Acting Manager, Klamath Falls Resource Area