

**Finding of No Significant Impact
Camas Creek Pocket Allotment
Environmental Assessment ID-120-2009-EA-3838**

I have reviewed the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (CEQ) for significance (40 CFR 1508.27) and have determined the actions analyzed in ID-120-2009-EA-3838 would not constitute a major Federal action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment; therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. This finding was made by considering both the context and intensity of the potential effects, as described in the Environmental Assessment (EA), using the following factors defining significance:

1) Impacts that may be both beneficial and adverse.

The proposed action will have beneficial impacts and minimal direct or indirect adverse impacts to soils and watersheds, upland vegetation, special status plants, wildlife (including special status species). The proposed action will maintain or slightly improve rangeland health over the long-term within the Camas Creek Pocket Allotment (Sections 3.1 through 3.5 of EA ID-120-2009-EA-3838). The allotment will continue to meet the Idaho Standards for Rangeland Health.

The proposed action will have no effects to heritage or cultural resources known to occur in the allotment (Section 3.7). The proposed action would slightly reduce the quality of recreational opportunities and have no effects to visual resources. Potential alterations in the grazing season of use may be slightly burdensome to the permittee, but the proposed action will have no economic impacts upon the current grazing permit value. The proposed action will have negligible impacts to the overall economy of Owyhee County, over the long-term. The proposed action would have no effects to low income or minority populations. Maintenance of existing projects, such as fences will limit grazing management impacts.

2) The degree to which the proposed action affects public health or safety.

No effects to public health or safety were identified in the EA.

3) Unique characteristics of the geographic area, such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmland, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas.

The EA identifies no unique characteristics within the Camas Creek Pocket Allotment geographic area other than the Camas and Pole Creeks National Register Archaeological District, which is described in item 8 below.

4) The degree to which the effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be highly controversial.

The effects caused by livestock grazing, in general, have been studied and well documented. While some disagreement exists regarding the effects of specific grazing practices and environments, the grazing management proposed for the Camas Creek Pocket Allotment in EA # ID-120-2009-EA-3838 is neither exceptional nor controversial. Scoping didn't reveal any issues resulting from current grazing practices.

- 5) *The degree to which the possible effects on the human environment are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks.*

The effects of livestock grazing in this area are well documented. The effects of livestock grazing are variable, depending on many factors, but the overall scale of the grazing operation is often of primary importance. The grazing management proposed for Camas Creek Pocket Allotment is relatively small scale, and not so unique that it exposes the human environment to unacceptable levels of risk. The degree of risk is relatively low.

- 6) *The degree to which the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration.*

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) issues grazing permits as matter of routine operation. The grazing management proposed for the Camas Creek Pocket Allotment in EA # ID-120-2009-EA-3838 sets no precedent for future actions nor would it become the basis for BLM to issue any future decision. Any future decision making would proceed with full and proper consideration of the effects to the human environment, and would be unencumbered by any legacy of the grazing management proposed for the allotment in the EA.

- 7) *Whether the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts.*

The effects of the grazing management proposed for the Camas Creek Pocket Allotment, taken together with the effects of cumulative actions for the respective resources, are not significantly adverse. The EA identifies no other actions that would be connected with the proposed action.

- 8) *The degree to which the action may adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in or eligible for listing in the NRHP or may cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources.*

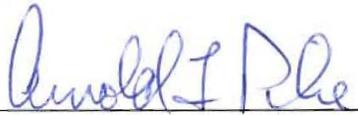
Portions of the Camas Creek Pocket Allotment are located within the Camas and Pole Creeks National Register Archaeological District. The EA indicates that the proposed action would have no effect on known cultural or historic sites in the allotment.

9) *The degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.*

The Camas Creek Pocket Allotment supports no habitat for any threatened or endangered species with potential to occur in the region (Sections 3.3.1 and 3.5.5.1). The allotment supports suitable nesting habitat for greater sage-grouse, a candidate species for listing under the Act. Implementing the proposed action would not appreciably change the availability or condition of sage-grouse nesting habitat in the allotment, and it would continue to support suitable nesting habitat for greater sage-grouse (Section 3.5.3.1.).

10) *Whether the action threatens a violation of Federal, State, and local laws or requirements imposed for protection of the environment.*

The analysis in EA # ID-120-2009-EA-3838 shows that the proposed action is consistent with Federal, State, and local laws or requirements imposed for protection of the environment (Sections 1.10 and 3.1 through 3.9).



/s/ Arnold Pike
Bruneau Field Manager

Date 6/10/11