

CHAPTER 4 – CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

The Forest Service consulted with the following individuals, Federal, State, and local agencies, tribes and non-Forest Service persons during the development of this environmental assessment:

FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL AGENCIES:

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)*
US Fish and Wildlife Service**
Oregon State Historic Preservation Officer***
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Mid-Columbia Field Office
The Dalles Municipal Watershed
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
Hood River County Board of Commissioners

*Consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) was completed for anadromous fish species in the project area and a letter of concurrence was received on June 7, 2005 (reference number for the letter of concurrence is NMFS No. 2005/02210). The letter of concurrence can be found in the project file at the Hood River Ranger District.

Consultation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) was completed for the northern spotted owl. The noise related activities for grazing were consulted on and fall under the *Miscellaneous special uses (low intensity)* category in the *Biological Opinion and Letter of Concurrence for Effects to Bald Eagles and Northern Spotted Owls for fiscal year 2004-2005 disturbance activities within the Willamette Province* (FWS Reference Number 1-7-04-F-0184). Those noise related activities that occur between March 1-September 30 have an effect determination of **May Affect Not Likely to Adversely Affect for spotted owls.

***The National Historic Preservation Act requires consideration be given to the potential effect of federal undertakings on historic resources. This includes historic and prehistoric cultural resource sites. To implement these guidelines, Region 6 of the Forest Service entered an agreement in 2004 with the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. In accordance with the agreement, a survey of the Long Prairie Allotment has been conducted. Based on the results of this survey, a **No Effect** determination has been made for both action alternatives. The SHPO has been consulted as to the determination made and had no objections with this finding.

TRIBES:

Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Indian Reservation

OTHERS:

Hood River Watershed Council
The Dalles Watershed Council
Hood River Soil and Water Conservation District
Wasco County Soil and Water Conservation District

A complete list of those individuals and interest groups who received information regarding this proposal can be found in the project file.

List of Preparers

The following is a list of Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) members who assisted in the development of the Environmental Assessment.

<u>Role</u>	<u>Person</u>
IDT Leader/Writer/Editor	Erin Black
Co-IDT Leader	Linda Cartwright
Range Conservationist/Noxious Weeds	Dan Fissell
Fish Biologist	Darcy Morgan
Wildlife Biologist	Rich Thurman
Soil Scientist	John Dodd
Hydrologist	Mark Kreiter
Recreation	Kevin Slagle
Botany	Susan Nugent
Heritage Resources	Mike Dryden

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Glossary

Allotment: A designated area containing land suitable and available for livestock grazing use upon which a specified number and kind of livestock are grazed under an approved allotment management plan. It is the basic management unit of the range resource on national Forest System lands administered by the Forest Service.

Allotment Management Plan (AMP): A livestock grazing management plan dealing with a specific unit of rangeland and based on multiple-use resource management objectives. The AMP considers livestock grazing in relation to other uses of rangelands and in relation to renewable resources, the watershed, vegetation and wildlife. An AMP establishes the seasons of use, the number of livestock to be permitted on rangelands, and the rangeland improvements needed.

Anadromous Fish: Those species of fish that mature in the sea and migrate into streams to spawn.

Animal Unit: A unit of measure for rangeland livestock equivalent to one mature cow or five sheep or five goats, all over 6 months of age. An animal unit is based on average daily forage consumption of 26 pounds of dry matter per day.

Animal Unit Month (AUM): The amount of forage needed to sustain one cow, five sheep, or five goats for one month. A full AUM's fee is charged for each month of grazing by adult animals if the grazing animal (1) is weaned, (2) is 6 months old or older when entering public land, or (3) will become 12 months old during the period of use. For fee purposes, an AUM is the amount of forage used by five weaned or adult sheep or goats or one cow, bull, steer, heifer, horse, or mule. The term AUM is commonly used in three ways: (1) stocking rate as in X acres per AUM, (2) forage allocation as in X AUMs in allotment A, and (3) utilization as in X AUMs consumed from Unit B.

Annual Plant: A plant that completes its life cycle and dies in 1 year or less.

Apparent Trend: An interpretation of trend based on observation and professional judgment at a single point in time.

Biological Assessment (BA): Information prepared to determine whether a proposed action is likely to: adversely affect listed species or designated critical habitat; jeopardize the continued existence of species that are proposed for listing; or destroy or adversely modify proposed critical habitat. Biological assessments must be prepared for "major construction activities." The outcome of this BA determines whether formal consultation with regulatory agencies (USFWS and NMFS) is necessary.

Biological Opinion: Document containing the opinion and rationale of the USFWS or the NMFS as to whether or not a Federal action is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species, or result in the destruction or adverse modification of designated critical habitat.

Buck-Pole Fence: A fence constructed of wooden poles fastened horizontally to wooden cross-members. Such fences withstand heavy snows in mountainous regions, and eliminate the need for digging holes for posts in rocky terrain.

Carrying Capacity: The maximum stocking rate possible without damaging vegetation or related resources. Carrying capacity may vary from year to year on the same area due to fluctuating forage production.

Climax Vegetation: The final vegetation community and highest ecological development of a plant community that emerges after a series of successive vegetational stages. The climax community perpetuates itself indefinitely unless disturbed by outside forces.

Code of Federal Regulations (CFR): The listing of various regulations pertaining to management and administration of the National Forest in the Federal Register.

Corral: A small enclosure for handling livestock.

Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ): An advisory council to the President established by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. It reviews Federal programs for their effect on the environment, conducts environmental studies, and advises the President on environmental matters.

Cow-Calf Operation: A livestock operation in which a base breeding herd of mother cows and bulls is maintained. The cows produce a calf crop each year, and the operation keeps some heifer calves from each calf crop for breeding herd replacements. The rest of the calf crop is sold between the ages of 6 and 12 months along with old or nonproductive cows and bulls.

Cow-Calf Pair: A cow/calf pair is defined as a mature cow with a nursing calf, less than six months old.

Critical Habitat: For threatened or endangered species, the specific areas within the geographical area occupied by the species (at the time it is listed, in accordance with provisions of Section 4 of the Endangered Species Act) on which are found those physical or biological features essential to the conservation of the species. This habitat may require special management considerations or protection. Protection may also be required for additional habitat areas outside the geographical area occupied by the species at the time it is listed based up on a determination of the Secretary of the Interior that such areas are essential for the conservation of the species.

Cumulative Effects: The combined effects of two or more management activities. The effects may be related to the number of individual activities, or to the number of repeated activities on the same piece of ground. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time.

Deferred Rotation Grazing Scheme: Any grazing system which provides for a systematic rotation of the delay or discontinuance of livestock grazing on an area to provide for plant reproduction establishment or restoration of vigor.

Desired Plant Community (DPC): The plant community that has been determined through a land use or management plan to best meet the plan's objectives for a site. A real, documented plant community that embodies the resource attributes needed for the present or potential use of an area, the desired plant community is consistent with the site's capability to produce the required resource attributes through natural succession, management intervention, or a combination of both.

Drift Fence: An open-ended fence used to retard or alter the natural movement of livestock; generally used in connection with natural barriers.

Ecological Site: A distinctive kind of rangeland that differs from other kinds of rangeland in its ability to produce a characteristic natural plant community.

Ecological Status: The present state of vegetation and soil protection of an ecological site in relation to the potential natural community for the site. Vegetation status is the expression of the relative degree to which the kind, proportions, and amounts of plants in a community resemble that of the potential natural community.

Ecological Succession: An ecosystem's gradual evolution to a stable state. If, through the ability of its populations and elements, an ecosystem can absorb changes, it tends to persist and become stable through time.

Effects: Environmental consequences as a result of a proposed action. Included are direct effects, which are caused by that action and occur at the same time and place, and indirect effects, which are caused by the action and are later in time or further removed in distance, but which are still reasonably foreseeable.

Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973: The purpose of ESA is to provide for conservation of ecosystems upon which threatened and endangered species of fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats depend. Section 7 of ESA requires Federal agencies to ensure that any federal action is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or modify their critical habitat.

Environmental Assessment (EA): A concise public document for which a federal agency is responsible. An EA serves (1) to briefly provide enough evidence and analysis for determining whether to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) or a finding of no significant impact; and to aid an agency's compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act when no EIS is needed; and (3) to facilitate preparation of an EIS when one is needed.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS): An analytical document that portrays potential impacts on the human environment of a particular course of action and its possible alternatives. Required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), an EIS is prepared for use by decision makers to weight the environmental consequences of a potential decision.

Ephemeral Stream: A stream or portion of a stream that flows only in direct response to precipitation or snow melt. It receives little or no water from springs and no long-continued supply from snow or other sources.

Erosion: The wearing away or detachment of the land surface by running water, wind, ice, or other geological agents, including such processes as gravitation creep.

Evolutionarily Significant Unit (ESU): A set of populations that is morphologically and genetically distinct from other similar populations or a set of populations with a distinct evolutionary history.

Exclosure: An area fenced to exclude animals.

Executive Order 12898—Environmental Justice: Under Executive Order 12898, Federal agencies are required to identify and address potential environmental effects, including human health, economic, and social effects of Federal actions, specifically on minority and low-income populations, and Indian tribes.

Fee Year: The 12-month period covered by a fee charged by the Forest Service.

Forage: All browse and herbaceous growth available and acceptable to grazing animals or that may be harvested for feeding purposes. Forage includes pasture, rangelands, and crop aftermath. Feed includes forage, hay and grains.

Forbs: Non-woody, herbaceous plants, other grass, sedge, or rush. Term refers to feed used by both wildlife and domesticated animals.

Forest Plan: Documents required by the National Forest Management Act and developed on each National Forest to define the kinds of use, goals and objectives, management practices, and activities that will be allowed to occur on an individual or group of parcels of land.

Granger-Thye Act of 1950: This act established the direction for National Forest System allotment management, including: the authorization to issue grazing permits for terms up to 10 years; the authorization to use grazing fee receipts for rangeland improvement; and, the establishment of grazing advisory boards.

Grazing: Consumption of native forage from rangelands or pastures by livestock or wildlife.

Grazing Allotment: An area where one or more livestock operators graze their livestock. An allotment generally consists of federal land but may include parcels of private or state-owned land.

Grazing Fee: A charge, usually on a monthly basis, for grazing a specific kind of livestock.

Grazing Permit: Official written permission to graze a specific number, kind, and class of livestock for a specified time period on a defined rangeland.

Grazing Season: On federal lands, an established period for which grazing permits are issued.

Grazing System: A systematic sequence of grazing use and nonuse of an allotment to meet multiple use goals by improving the quality and amount of vegetation.

Guzzler: A device for collecting and storing precipitation for use by wildlife or livestock. Usually, consists of an impenetrable water collecting area, a storage facility and a trough from which animals can drink.

Headmonth (or Animal-Month): A month's tenure upon range by one animal. Must specify kind and class of animal. Not synonymous with *animal-unit* month.

Interdisciplinary Team: A team of varied land use and resource specialists formed to provide a coordinated, integrated information base for overall land use planning and management.

Interested public: An individual, group or organization that is interested in being involved and informed in the decision-making process for the management of livestock grazing on specific grazing allotments, or has submitted written comments to the authorized officer regarding the management of livestock grazing on a specific allotment.

Intermittent stream: A stream that flows above ground at intervals or only flows periodically during the year. In contrast to ephemeral drainages, intermittent streams generally have well-defined channels.

Meadow: A tract of grassland where productivity of indigenous or introduced forage is modified due to characteristic of the landscape position or hydrology.

Mitigation: Actions to avoid, minimize, reduce, eliminate, or rectify the impact of a management practice.

Monitoring: The orderly collection, analysis, and interpretation of resource data to evaluate progress toward meeting management objectives. This process must be conducted over time in order to determine whether or not management objectives are being met.

Multiple Use: A combination of balanced and diverse resource uses that considers long-term needs for renewable and nonrenewable resources, including recreation, rangeland, timber, minerals, watershed, and wildlife, along with scenic, scientific, and cultural values.

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA): NEPA requires federal agencies to consider environmentally sound decisions and to disclose their effects. This law details requirements for public participation, environmental analysis, and sound decision-making for all appropriate federal actions. In 1978, the Council on Environmental Quality wrote the regulations for implementing NEPA. They can be found at 40 Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 1500-1508.

National Forest Management Act (NFMA): An act passed in 1976 amending the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act. NFMA requires the preparation of Regional and Forest Plans and the preparation of regulations to guide that development.

National Forest System Lands: All National Forest lands reserved or withdrawn from the public domain of the United States, acquired through purchase, exchange, donation, or other means which are administered by the Forest Service or are designated for administration through the Forest Service as a part of the system.

National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966: NHPA requires Federal agencies to consult with American Indian Tribes, state and local groups before nonrenewable cultural resources, such as archaeological and historic structures, are damaged or destroyed. Section 106 of this act requires federal agencies to review the effects project proposals may have on the cultural resources in the analysis area.

Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP): The NWFP was a result of analysis included in the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement on Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl (1994). This analysis established certain standards and guidelines to Forest Plan land allocations for protection of late-successional species.

Noxious Weeds: A plant species that is undesirable because it conflicts, restricts, or otherwise causes problems under management objectives.

Pasture: (1) A grazing area enclosed and separated from other areas by fencing or other barriers; the management unit for grazing land. (2) A group of subunits grazed within a rotational grazing system.

Permittee: One who holds a permit to graze livestock on state, federal, or certain privately-owned lands.

Perennial Plant: A plant that has a life cycle of 3 or more years.

Perennial Stream: A stream that flows throughout the year.

Photopoint: An identified point from which photographs are taken at periodic intervals.

Pool Habitat: That portion of the stream with reduced current velocity, often with water deeper than the surrounding areas, and which is frequently usable by fish for resting and cover.

Potential Natural Communities (PNC): The stable biotic community that would become established on an ecological site if all successional stages were completed without human interference under present environmental conditions.

Prairie: Nearly level or rolling grassland, originally treeless, and usually characterized by fertile soil.

Primary Range: Areas which animals prefer to use when management is limited. Primary range will be overused before *Secondary Range* is fully used.

Public Lands: As defined in Public Law 94-79, public lands are any land and interest in land outside of Alaska owned by the United States and in this case administered by the Secretary of Agriculture through the Forest Service. In common usage, public lands may refer to all federal land no matter what agency has responsibility for its management.

Range Condition: The current productivity of a rangeland relative to what it could naturally produce.

Range Improvement: Any activity or program on or relating to rangelands which is designed to improve production of forage, change vegetation composition, control patterns of use, provide water, stabilize soil and water conditions, or provide habitat for livestock and wildlife.

Range Readiness: The defined stage of plant growth at which grazing may begin under a specific management plan without permanent damage to vegetation or soil. Usually applied to seasonal range.

Rangeland: A kind of land on which the native vegetation, climax or natural potential consists predominately of grasses, grasslike plants, forbs, or shrubs. Rangeland includes lands revegetated naturally or artificially to provide a plant cover that is managed like native vegetation. Rangelands may consist of natural grasslands, savannas, shrub lands, moist deserts, tundra, alpine communities, coastal marshes, and wet meadows.

Ranger District: An administrative subdivision of the Forest, supervised by a District Ranger who reports to the Forest Supervisor.

Rescission Act of 1995: The Rescission Act of 1995 requires the Forest Service to establish and adhere to a schedule for the completion of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis and decisions on all allotments within the National Forest System for which NEPA analysis is needed.

Rest Rotation Grazing Scheme: A system of grazing management in which rest periods for individual pastures or grazing units (generally for the full growing season) are incorporated into a grazing rotation.

Riparian: Areas of wetland transition between permanently saturated wetlands and upland areas. These areas exhibit vegetation or physical characteristics reflective of permanent surface or subsurface water influence.

Riparian Reserves: A riparian reserve is a land designation from the Northwest Forest Plan which sets specific reserve widths for perennial and intermittent streams.

Salt Mineral Blocks/Salting: (1) Providing salt as a mineral supplement for animals. (2) Placing salt on the range in such a manner as to improve distribution of livestock grazing. These sites are often relocated periodically to achieve improved animal distribution.

Season of Use: The time during which livestock grazing is permitted on a given range area, as specified in the grazing permit.

Secondary Range: Range which is lightly used or unused by livestock under minimal management and will ordinarily not be fully used until the primary range has been overused.

Sedimentation: Fragmentation material that originates from weathering of rocks and is transported by, suspended in, or deposited by water or air or is accumulated in beds by other natural agencies.

Sensitive Species: A species not formally listed as endangered or threatened, but listed by the Regional Forester as needing special management to prevent their being placed on Federal or State lists.

Seral: A biotic community which is a developmental, transitory stage in an ecological succession.

Seral (Successional) Community: One of a series of biotic communities that follow one another in time on any given ecological site.

State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO): The State Historic Preservation Officer is the official appointed or designated pursuant to Section 101(b)(1) of the National Historic Preservation Act to administer the State historic preservation program or a representative designated to act for the SHPO.

Stocking Rate: The number of specific kinds and classes of animals grazing or using a unit of land for specified time. May be expressed as animal units per unit of land area (animal units over a described time period/area of land). Not the same as carrying capacity.

Stubble Height: The objective of stubble height measurements is to determine the residual vegetation (key species) height remaining following a period of grazing. The measurements may be used in two ways: first, to determine when livestock should be moved from the riparian area, and second, at the end of the grazing season to determine whether changes to livestock grazing management are needed the following year.

Sustained Use (Production): The continuation of livestock grazing at a uniform level while maintaining a healthy desired plant community.

Sustained Yield: The continuation of a healthy desired plant community.

Term Permit: A document authorizing grazing for a stated number of years (usually 10) as contrasted to an annual or temporary permit.

Term Permit Modification: An authorization to build a rangeland improvement on public land.

Threatened Species: Any species of animal or plant which is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range and which has been designated in the Federal Register by the Secretary of Interior as a threatened species.

Tier 1 Key Watersheds: Those watersheds to be managed for at-risk anadromous salmonids, bull trout, and resident fish.

Transitory Range: Land that is suitable for grazing use of a nonenduring nature over a period of time. For example, on particular disturbed lands, grass may cover the area for a period of time before being replaced by trees or shrubs not suitable for forage.

Trend (Range Trend) Classes and Successional Status Ratings: Trend in range condition or successional status should be described as up, down, or not apparent. Up represents a change toward climax or potential natural community; down represents a change away from climax or potential natural community; and not apparent indicates there is no recognizable change. This category is often recorded as static or stable.

Turnout: Act of turning livestock out on the range at the beginning of the grazing season. Can also refer to the location cattle are turned out.

Utilization: The proportion of current year's forage production that is consumed or destroyed by grazing animals. May refer either to a single species or to the vegetation as a whole.

Watering Troughs/Water Guzzler: A device for collecting and storing precipitation or spring water for use by wildlife or livestock. See also *Guzzler*.

