

Range Management Plan and Environmental Assessment

DNR-Range, Agriculture and Forestry Program is proposing to develop a Rangeland Management Plan (RMP) with an associated Environmental Assessment (EA) to meet requirements of the Federal American Indian Agricultural Resource Management Act (AIARMA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The intent of the EA and RMP is to provide guidance and direction for management of range and pasture issues on the Umatilla Indian Reservation (UIR) and all Tribal fee and Trust lands outside of the UIR. An EA will evaluate potential impacts of range and pasture management actions on the human and natural environments of lands managed by the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR). The corresponding management plan will detail the selected alternative or combination of alternatives described in the EA. The desired outcomes are healthy natural ecosystems to support the First Food Mission of protecting range, pasture and associated riparian systems for the perpetual cultural, economic, and sovereign benefit of the CTUIR.

The Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) will use a three-step process to formulate a reasonable range of management alternatives in the EA: (1) identification of issues, (2) formulation of goals and objectives that address the issues and concerns and concerns, and (3) development of management alternatives. The IDT will solicit input from the public in the form of an article in the Confederated Umatilla Journal (CUJ), and from CTUIR Committees/Commissions and the Board of Trustees (BOT) through planned presentations. The IDT will then develop goals and objectives that address key community derived issues and concerns. The IDT will develop standards and guidelines for the physical, biological, and social conditions necessary for any alternative to meet the goals and objectives. Finally, the IDT will formulate management alternatives that reasonably could be expected to meet the goals and objectives. In formulating the management alternatives, the IDT will consider the effects of management on CTUIR culture and natural resource values. The RMP will assist the DNR with actively managing rangeland that is consistent with both cultural and natural resource values. The Superintendent of the Bureau of Indian Affairs Umatilla Indian Agency and the BOT will provide decision making support concerning alternative selection and approval of the final RMP.

Contractor

Elkhorn Resource Solutions

Jerry Lauer, Project Manager

CTUIR Interdisciplinary Team

DECD: Kelly George

DNR: Robin Harris (Water Resources) Mike Lambert (Fisheries), Lindsey Chiono (Wildlife), Carey Miller (Cultural Resources) Gordy Schumacher, Amanda Lowe, Cheryl Shippentower (RAF)

GIS: Stacy Schumacher

Planning: Patty Perry

Tribal Involvement

DNR seeking involvement from CTUIR committee, commissions and membership

- identify issues and concerns specific to rangeland management and within the geographical scope of the management plan
- review and approve EA management alternatives that meet stated standards and guidelines and respond to stated goals and objectives.

Schedule

Identification of Issues and Concerns	May 31, 2021
Identification of Goals and Objectives	August 31, 2021
Development of Standards and Guidelines	August 31, 2021
Identification of Range of Reasonable Management Alternatives	October 31, 2021