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SUMMARY

The Malheur National Forest proposes to continue authorization of grazing on the House, West Malheur and Wolf Mountain Allotments. The project area is located in the Wolf Creek, Bear Creek and Trout Creek Watersheds and is within the boundary of the Emigrant Creek Ranger District, Malheur National Forest, Oregon. This action is needed, because: Within the House Creek, West Malheur and Wolf Mountain Allotments management is generally adequate, except for isolated areas that are problematic. In these isolated areas, vegetation and other resource conditions are not always consistent with the Malheur Forest Plan as amended, and livestock distribution and utilization can be modified to better contribute to desired conditions. Because, management is not always consistent with forest plan standards, guidelines, goals, and objectives, minor adjustments from current management are needed. Adjustments from current management are proposed where existing conditions are not moving or are not moving at an acceptable rate towards desired conditions.

The proposed action is expected to maintain and improve desired resource conditions on key management sites within the House, West Malheur and Wolf Mountain Allotments. These sites are:

- Aspen stands throughout the three allotments
- Riparian conditions in House Creek, Squaw Creek, Van Gulch, East Fork Wolf Creek, Middle Fork Wolf Creek, West Fork Wolf Creek, Bridge Creek, and Beaverdam Creek
- Improve unsatisfactory range conditions at identified sites
- Enhance and maintain *Botrychium* species (moonworts) and its habitat in Pierpont, Antelope and Wolf Creek pastures.

In addition to the Proposed Action (Alternative 2), the Forest Service also evaluated the following alternatives:

- Alternative 1 - Current Management
- Alternative 3 - No Grazing

Based upon the effects of the alternatives, the responsible official will decide whether or not to authorize grazing on the House Creek, West Malheur and Wolf Mountain Allotments and if the decision is to continue authorization of grazing, then to decide any specific standards and guidelines that would be used with this action.