

APPENDIX J

NEPA Design Group

NEPA Design Group provides 30 years of experience in customized NEPA consulting services designed to heighten a customers' ability to influence complex, federal land use planning and environmental analysis processes. Our speciality is personalized guidance designed to influence federal agencies' ultimate decision-making and, thereby, enhancing the potential for mission realization of paying and pro bono customers.

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Professional Credentials

Michael L. Walker, President of NEPA Design Group, and his family are avid recreational rafters and campers of the Hellgate Recreation Area finding aesthetic enjoyment in these outdoor recreational activities. He has a lifetime of credentials and professional expertise with the National Environmental Policy Act, the BLM's planning system, and the BLM's EIS program standards.

Walker has over 20 years of operational experience with the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM's) resource planning processes and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) design programs as an interdisciplinary (ID) team member, team leader, or program leader of environmental assessments (EAs), environmental impact statements (EISs), and land-use planning efforts [i.e., management framework plans (MFPs) and resource management plans (RMPs)].

Education. B.S. - Natural Resources, Oregon State University (OSU), 1966; M.S. - Resource Geography, OSU, 1974; and Ph.D. - All but dissertation in Urban Planning/Resource Geography from University of Oregon/OSU in 1975.

Work Experience. 1966 - 1967. Assistant County Planner, Josephine County, Oregon. Planner specializing in the development of the county's first comprehensive land use plan.

1968 - 1971. Naval Aviator in the United States Navy. Pilot during the Vietnam Conflict.

1975 - 1978. Community Planner, BLM Alaska Outer Continental Shelf Office. ID team member on three different EIS teams who was specifically responsible for analyzing land use and population effects of developing oil and gas on the outer continental shelf of Alaska. This included being the Project Inspector for a three year, multi-million dollar, socioeconomic studies program.

1979 - 1980. Environmental Protection Specialist, BLM Nevada State Office. EIS coordinator accountable for three grazing EISs (i.e. Tonopah, Paradise-Denio, and Sonoma-Gerlach), and as the EIS team leader for the open-pit Anaconda Moly mining and transmission line project. The Moly EIS project was contracted out for \$800,000 [40 CFR 1506.5 (a) and (c)].

1981 - 1982. Planning Coordinator, BLM Medford District Office (MDO). Team Leader responsible for amendments to the MDO's MFPs (i.e., Jackson/Klamath SYUs and the Josephine SYU). The amendments were developed using the EA process and covered the resources of grazing, areas of critical environmental concern, and wilderness.

1981 - 1984. Technical Publications Writer, BLM MDO. ID team member responsible for NEPA when annually writing from 15 - 20 major timber sale EAs (i.e. over 100 million board feet per year) for the Klamath, Jacksonville, and Butte Falls resource areas, including annually writing 20 - 30 minor EAs and finding of no significant impacts (FONSI)s).

1985 - 1986. Environmental Specialist, BLM MDO. Team Leader for the MDO RMP/EIS effort and Team Leader of a supplemental EIS for the Jackson/Klamath and Josephine Timber Management EISs. The issue of the supplement was clear cutting versus shelterwood prescriptions.

1986 - 1990. Environmental Specialist, BLM MDO. ID team member responsible for the Technical Coordinator functions of developing the BLM MDO's RMP/EIS and as an ID team member responsible for writing the section on the rural interface areas (RIAs). The section covering the RIA issue was new and without precedent in federal planning.

1991 - 1998. Outdoor Recreation Planner, BLM MDO. Team Leader of a controversial complex river planning process to revise the Hellgate Recreation Area Management Plan through an EIS process.

1998 - 2001. Founder and President of NEPA Design Group