



United States Department of the Interior  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Four Rivers Field Office  
3948 Development Avenue  
Boise, Idaho 83705-5339



In Reply Refer To:  
4130 (ID110)  
1101604

May 27, 2014

**CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**  
**7011 2970 0002 6309 0717 J.D. Aldecoa & Sons, Inc.**  
**7011 2970 0002 6309 0755 Tree Top Ranches, LP**

J.D. Aldecoa & Sons, Inc.  
C/O John Wilson  
4312 W. Edgemont Street  
Boise, Idaho 83706-2304

Tree Top Ranches, LP  
PO Box 8126  
Boise, Idaho 83707-8126

**Notice of Field Manager's Proposed Decision**

Dear Mr. Wilson and Mr. Williams:

This Proposed Decision is in response to your applications for Permit Renewal (grazing management proposal) and Grazing Preference Transfer for the Camas Creek Field Allotment (01091).

**Introduction**

This Proposed Decision addresses grazing management in the Camas Creek Field Allotment and, if finalized, will serve as the Decision Record for Environmental Assessment (EA) DOI-BLM-ID-B010-2011-0021-EA, which this Proposed Decision incorporates by reference. This Proposed Decision reflects completion of an evaluation and determination, based on 2004 field assessments and subsequent site visits, of the applicable Idaho Standards for Rangeland Health in 2014.

**Background**

The Camas Creek Field Allotment is located approximately 14 miles southwest of Hill City, Idaho, and approximately five miles southeast of Little Camas Reservoir (Map 1). The current Grazing Permit authorizing active use for J.D. Aldecoa & Sons, Inc. in the allotment was issued on March 1, 2007 (Table 1). This authorization will continue until this Proposed Decision becomes final, and a new grazing permit is issued. Tree Top Ranches, LP acquired the base property associated with the allotment and applied for a grazing preference transfer in January 2014.

Current Grazing Authorization

Table 1. Current Mandatory Terms and Conditions for the Camas Creek Field Allotment, Elmore County, Idaho.

Operator Name (Number)	Allotment		Livestock		Season of Use	% Public Land	AUMs		
	Name	No.	No.	Kind			Active	Suspended	Permitted
J.D. Aldecoa & Sons, Inc. (1101604)	Camas Creek Field	01091	14	C	06/16-07/31	100	21	0	42
			6	C	08/15-11/15	100	21		

**Allotment Specific Terms and Conditions**

1. Non-Use may be applied for annually, with on limitation for the duration of this permit.
2. Turn-out is subject to Boise District Range Readiness Criteria.
3. Your certified Actual Use Report is due 15 days after authorized use.
4. Salt and/or Supplement shall not be place within one-quarter (¼) mile of springs, streams, meadows, aspen stands, playas, or water developments.
5. Changes to scheduled use requires prior approval.
6. You are required to coordinate trailing activities with the BLM prior to initiation A Trailing Permit or similar authorization may be required prior to crossing public lands.
7. Livestock exclosure located within your grazing allotment(s) are closed to all domestic grazing use.
8. You are required to maintain rangeland improvements in accordance with the cooperative agreements and improvements permits in which you are a signator or assignee. All maintenance or rangeland improvements within a Wilderness Study Area requires consultatin with the Authorized Officer.
9. All Appropriate documentation regarding Base Property leases, lands offered for Exchange of Use and livestock control agreements must be approved prior to turn-out. Leases of land and/or livestock must be notarized prior to submission and be in compliance with Boise District Policy.

**Idaho Standards and Guidelines**

Rangeland health assessment and monitoring data collected between 2004 and 2011 were used to assess allotment conditions. A 2014 Determination concluded that BLM-administered lands were meeting all applicable Idaho Standards for Rangeland Health (Standards), specifically Standard 1 (Watersheds), Standard 4 (Native Plant Communities), and Standard 8 (Threatened and Endangered Plants and Animals), and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management.

**Proposed Decision**

In accordance with 43 CFR 4110.1(b) and 43 CFR 4110.2 and upon my review of the records of performance for J. D. Aldecoa & Sons, Inc. and Tree Top Ranches, LP, I have determined that they have satisfactory records of performance. Therefore, it is my Proposed Decision to issue a new 10-year grazing permit to Tree Top Ranches, LP for the Camas Creek Field Allotment. This would reflect the preference transfer from J.D. Aldecoa & Sons, Inc. to Tree Top Ranches, LP that is currently in progress. Livestock grazing management would be as described in Alternatives B and C in DOI-BLM-ID-B010-2011-0021-EA and as shown below in Table 2.

The permit would include the Mandatory Terms and Conditions and maximum livestock numbers that match the U. S. Forest Service (USFS) permit. Additionally, the Proposed Decision would:

- Adjust the historic boundaries of the Camas Creek Field Allotment to incorporate USFS, Idaho Department of Lands, and private lands located within the defined boundaries of the USFS Cat Creek Cattle & Horse "On-Off" Allotment (Map 1).
- Authorize 42 AUMs of Active Use.

Proposed Grazing Authorization

Table 2. New Mandatory Terms and Conditions for the Camas Creek Field Allotment, Elmore County, Idaho.

Operator Name	Allotment		Livestock		Season of Use	% Public Land	AUMs		
	Name	No.	No.	Kind			Active	Suspended	Permitted
Tree Top Ranches, LP	Camas Creek Field	01091	10	C	06/16-07/15	100	15	0	42
			8	C	07/25-10/31	100	26		
			6	C	11/01-11/5	100	1		

Other Terms and Conditions

1. Livestock grazing must be conducted in accordance with the Terms and Conditions described in the Final Decision dated \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Livestock turn-out would be subject to District Range Readiness Criteria.
3. Changes to the scheduled use would require prior approval by the authorized officer.
4. You are required to submit a signed and dated Actual Grazing Use Report form (BLM Form 4130-5) for each allotment you graze. The completed form(s) must be submitted to this office within 15 days from the last day of your authorized annual grazing use.
5. Salt and/or supplements shall not be placed within one-quarter (1/4)-mile of springs, streams, meadows, aspen stands, playas, special status plant populations, eligible historic properties, or water developments. Use of supplements other than the standard salt or mineral block on public land requires annual authorization by the authorized officer.
6. A crossing permit may be required prior to trailing livestock across public lands. Crossing activities must be coordinated with the BLM prior to initiation. Permittee would also notify any/all affected permittees in advance of crossing.
7. Livestock exclosures located within your grazing allotment(s) would be closed to all domestic grazing use.
8. Range improvements must be maintained in accordance with the cooperative agreement and range improvement permits in which you are a signatory or assignee. All maintenance activities which may result in ground disturbance require prior approval from the authorized officer.
9. Bird ladders that meet BLM standards must be installed and functioning on water troughs located on public lands. The permittee would inform BLM if bird ladders are needed on permanent troughs, and BLM would supply bird ladders. The permittee would be responsible for providing bird ladders for temporary troughs. It would be the permittee's responsibility to maintain and install all bird ladders.
10. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(b), you must notify the BLM Field Manager, by telephone with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony on federal lands. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c),

you must immediately stop any ongoing activities connected with such discovery and make a reasonable effort to protect the discovered remains or objects.

11. Permittees or lessees shall provide reasonable administrative access across private and leased lands to the BLM for the orderly management and protection of public lands.

### **Allotment Specific Terms and Conditions**

1. Livestock numbers in the Camas Creek Field Allotment would be coordinated between BLM, USFS, and the permittee/lessee and may vary, provided the season of use and AUMs are not exceeded. The maximum number of livestock present at any one time would not exceed those specified on the USFS permit.

### **Rationale**

BLM analyzed three alternatives for livestock grazing in the Camas Creek Field Allotment in DOI-BLM-ID-B010-2011-0021-EA.

Combining the BLM and USFS allotments and implementing the USFS grazing system would have negligible effect on vegetative communities. Impacts would be similar to those described in Alternative C because the timing and use levels would be essentially unchanged. The health of perennial grasses and shrubs would generally be maintained due to their high resiliency and productivity associated with the 16 to 24 inches/year precipitation zone. Minor impacts could occur in concentrated use areas; however, most BLM-administered lands are >0.15 miles from water sources. Standards 1, 4, and 8 would be met over the long term (EA 3.1.2.4, 3.2.2.5, and 3.6.2.4).

### **Conclusion**

In conclusion, it is my decision to select portions of Alternatives B and C for the Camas Creek Field Allotment. I have determined the renewal of this grazing permit would be in conformance with the Jarbidge Resource Management Plan (RMP) dated March 23, 1987, and the proposed livestock grazing would meet applicable Standards and Guidelines.

### **Authority**

The authorities under which this decision is being issued include the Taylor Grazing Act of 1934, as amended, and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as promulgated through Title 43 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Subpart 4100 Grazing Administration - Exclusive of Alaska. My decision is issued under the following specific regulations:

- 4100.0-8 Land use plans. The Jarbidge RMP designates the Camas Creek Field Allotment available for livestock grazing;
- 4110.3 Changes in permitted use;
- 4130.2 Grazing permits or leases. Grazing permits may be issued to qualified applicants on lands designated as available for livestock grazing. Grazing permits shall be issued for a term of 10 years unless the authorized officer determines that a lesser term is in the best interest of sound management;

- 4130.3 Terms and conditions. Grazing permits must specify the term and conditions that are needed to achieve desired resource conditions, including both mandatory and other terms and conditions; and
- 4180 Fundamentals of Rangeland Health and Standards and Guidelines for Grazing Administration. Implementation of the Proposed Decision would result in the continuation of the subject public lands meeting Idaho Standards for Rangeland Health.

### **Right of Protest and/or Appeal**

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other interested public may protest the Proposed Decision under 43 CFR §§ 4160.1 and 4160.2, in person or in writing within 15 days after receipt of such decision to:

Tate Fischer  
Four Rivers Field Manager  
3948 S. Development Avenue  
Boise, Idaho 83705-5339

The protest, if filed, should clearly and concisely state the reason(s) why the Proposed Decision is in error.

In accordance with 43 CFR § 4160.3(a), in the absence of a protest, the Proposed Decision will become the Final Decision of the authorized officer without further notice unless otherwise provided in the Proposed Decision.

In accordance with 43 CFR § 4160.3(b), upon a timely filing of a protest, after a review of protest received and other information pertinent to the case, the authorized officer shall issue a Final Decision.

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other person whose interest is adversely affected by the Final Decision may file an appeal in writing in for the purpose of a hearing before an administrative law judge in accordance with 43 CFR §§ 4160.3(c), 4160.4, 4.21, and 4.470. The appeal must be filed within 30 days following receipt of the Final Decision or within 30 days after the date the Proposed Decision becomes final. The appeal may be accompanied by a petition for a stay of the decision in accordance with 43 CFR § 4.471 pending final determination on appeal. The appeal and petition for a stay must be filed in the office of the authorized officer, as noted above. In accordance with 43 CFR § 4.401, the BLM does not accept fax or email filing of a notice of appeal and petition for stay. Any notice of appeal and/or petition for stay must be sent or delivered to the office of the authorized officer by mail or personal delivery.

Within 15 days of filing the appeal, or the appeal and petition for stay, with the BLM officer named above, the appellant must also serve copies on other persons named in the *copies sent to* section of this decision in accordance with 43 CFR § 4.421 and on the Office of the Field Solicitor located at the address below in accordance with 43 CFR §§ 4.470(a) and 4.471(b).

Boise Field Solicitor's Office  
University Plaza  
960 S. Broadway Avenue Suite 400  
Boise, Idaho 83706-6240

The appeal shall state the reasons, clearly and concisely, why the appellant thinks the Final Decision is in error and otherwise complies with the provisions of 43 CFR § 4.470.

Should you wish to file a petition for a stay, see 43 CFR 4.471 (a) and (b). In accordance with 43 CFR 4.471(c), a petition for a stay must show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

1. The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied.
2. The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits.
3. The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted, and
4. Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

As noted above, the petition for stay must be filed in the office of the authorized officer and served in accordance with 43 CFR 4.471. In accordance with 43 CFR 4.401, BLM does not accept fax or email filing of a notice of appeal and petition for stay. Any notice of appeal and/or petition for stay must be sent or delivered to the office of the authorized officer by mail or personal delivery.

Any person named in the decision that receives a copy of a petition for a stay and/or an appeal, see 43 CFR 4.472(b) for procedures to follow if you wish to respond.

If you have any questions, please contact either Matt McCoy Four Rivers Assistant Field Manager at (208) 384-3343, or myself at 208-384-3430.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Tate Fischer*

Tate Fischer  
Four Rivers Field Manager

1 Enclosure:

1. Map 1

Copies sent to:

ADVOCATES FOR THE WEST  
PO BOX 1612  
BOISE, ID 83701-1612

J.D. ALDECOA & SONS, INC.  
4312 W. EDGEMONT STREET  
BOISE, ID 83706-2304

KATHRYN ALDER  
6522 BASE LINE ROAD  
MELBA, ID 83641-5120

AMERICAN WILDLANDS  
PO BOX 6669  
BOZEMAN, MT 59771-6669

STACEY BACZKOWSKI  
1221 W. IDAHO STREET  
BOISE, IDAHO 83702-5627

BARBER CAVEN RANCHES  
911 E. WINDING CREEK DRIVE STE 150  
EAGLE, IDAHO 83616-6973

SAMUEL BLACKWELL  
5486 W. WINTERCAMP LANE  
GLENN'S FERRY, ID 83623-5061

ALAYNE BLICKLE  
7235 SOUTHSIDE BOULEVARD  
NAMPA, IDAHO 83686-9431

BOISE NATIONAL FOREST  
2180 AMERICAN LEGION BLVD.  
MOUNTAIN HOME, ID 83647-3140

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION  
1150 NORTH CURTIS ROAD, SUITE 100  
BOISE, ID 83706-1234

BURNS PAIUTE TRIBE  
TRIBAL CHAIRMAN  
100 PASIGO STREET  
BURNS, OR 97720-2442

CASA DEL NORTE LP  
11204 N BAR 21 DRIVE  
GLENN'S FERRY, ID 83623-5028

COMMITTEE FOR IDAHO'S HIGH DESERT  
PO BOX 2863  
BOISE, ID 83701-2863

CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE  
UMATILLA INDIAN RESERVATION  
TRIBAL CHAIRMAN  
46411 TIMINE WAY  
PENDLETON, OR 97801-9467

STEVE DAMELE  
928 E. RUMSEY LANE  
MOUNTAIN HOME, ID 83647-5719

L. G. DAVISON & SONS  
1969 PRAIRIE ROAD  
PRAIRIE, ID 83647-8435

DOUBLE ANCHOR RANCH  
5714 W. DOUBLE ANCHOR DRIVE  
GLENN'S FERRY, ID 83623-5022

ELMORE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
150 SOUTH 4TH EAST, SUITE 302  
MOUNTAIN HOME, ID 83647-3060

FAULKNER LAND & LIVESTOCK  
C/O JOHN FAULKNER  
1989 SOUTH 1875 EAST  
GOODING, ID 83330-5330

GOLDEN EAGLE AUDUBON  
PO BOX 8261  
BOISE, ID 83707-8261

GENE GRAY  
2393 WATTS LANE  
PAYETTE, ID 83661-5326

RICHARD HALL  
101 S. CAPITOL BOULEVARD STE 1900  
BOISE, ID 83702-7705

HONORABLE MIKE CRAPO  
251 E. FRONT STREET STE 205  
BOISE, ID 83702-7312

HONORABLE RAUL LABRADOR  
33 E. BROADWAY AVENUE STE 251  
MERIDIAN, IDAHO 83642-2619

HONORABLE C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER  
PO BOX 83720  
BOISE, ID 83720-0003

HONORABLE JIM RISCH  
350 NORTH 9TH STREET, SUITE 302  
BOISE, ID 83702-5470

HONORABLE MIKE SIMPSON  
802 W. BANNOCK STREET, SUITE 600  
BOISE, ID 83702-5843

TED HOWARD  
CULTURAL RESOURCES DIRECTOR  
SHOSHONE-PAIUTE TRIBES  
PO BOX 219  
OWYHEE, NV 89832

IDAHO AIR & ARMY NATIONAL GUARD  
4040 WEST GUARD STREET  
BOISE, ID 83705-5004

IDAHO CATTLE ASSOCIATION  
PO BOX 15397  
BOISE, ID 83715-5397

IDAHO CONSERVATION LEAGUE  
PO BOX 844  
BOISE, ID 83701-0844

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
PO BOX 790  
BOISE, ID 83701-0790

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME  
3101 SOUTH POWERLINE ROAD  
NAMPA, ID 83686-8520

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF LANDS  
8355 W. STATE STREET  
BOISE, ID 83714-6071

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION  
PO BOX 83720  
BOISE, ID 83720-0003

IDAHO FARM BUREAU FEDERATION  
500 W. WASHINGTON  
BOISE, ID 83702-5965

IDAHO GRAZING BOARD  
ATTN: STAN BOYD  
PO BOX 2596  
BOISE, ID 83701-2596

IDAHO STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
210 W. MAIN STREET  
BOISE, ID 83702-7264

IDAHO WILDLIFE FEDERATION  
PO BOX 6426  
BOISE, ID 83707-6426

DENNIS & DEBRA JOOST  
1316 S. PINE FEATHERVILLE ROAD  
MOUNTAIN HOME, ID 83647-8719

CHARLES LYONS  
11408 E. HIGHWAY 20  
MOUNTAIN HOME, ID 83647-5316

MOUNTAIN HOME AIR FORCE BASE  
BASE COMMANDER COLONEL DAVID R. IVERSON  
336TH GUNFIGHTER AVENUE  
MOUNTAIN HOME AFB, ID 83648

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY  
950 WEST BANNOCK, SUITE 210  
BOISE, ID 83702-6093

THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY  
950 W. BANNOCK STREET STE 605  
BOISE, ID 83702-6106

NEZ PERCE TRIBES  
TRIBAL CHAIRMAN  
PO BOX 365  
LAPWAI, ID 83540-0365

DAVID E. OWEN JR.  
1959 SE ROSS ROAD  
GLENN'S FERRY, ID 83623-5032

GAYLE POORMAN  
5230 N BLACK CAT ROAD  
MERIDIAN, ID 83646-5012

RICHARD RAYMONDI  
5670 N. COLLISTER DRIVE  
BOISE, ID 83703-3826

TINA REAY  
78 STONE LANE  
HORSESHOE BEND, ID 83629-9006

RESOLUTION ADVOCATES  
C/O DOUG MCCONNAUGHEY  
405 CREEKSIDE PLACE  
NAMPA, ID 83686-8133

COL W.M. RICHEY  
SPECIAL ASSISTANT MILITARY AFFAIRS  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
PO BOX 10  
MOUNTAIN HOME, ID 83647-0010

DR. NEIL RIMBEY  
1904 E. CHICAGO SUITE A & B  
CALDWELL, ID 83605-5599

SARA SCHMIDT  
PO BOX 16468  
BOISE, ID 83715-6468

SHOSHONE-BANNOCK TRIBES  
TRIBAL CHAIRMAN  
PO BOX 306  
FORT HALL, ID 83203-0306

SHOSHONE-PAIUTE TRIBES  
TRIBAL CHAIRMAN  
PO BOX 219  
OWYHEE, NV 89832-0219

SIERRA CLUB  
MIDDLE SNAKE GROUP  
PO BOX 552  
BOISE, ID 83701-0552

KAREN STEENHOF  
18109 BRIAR CREEK ROAD  
MURPHY, ID 83650-5006

TREE TOP RANCHES LP  
PO BOX 8126  
BOISE, ID 83707-8126

US FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
1387 S. VINNELL WAY  
BOISE, ID 83709-1657

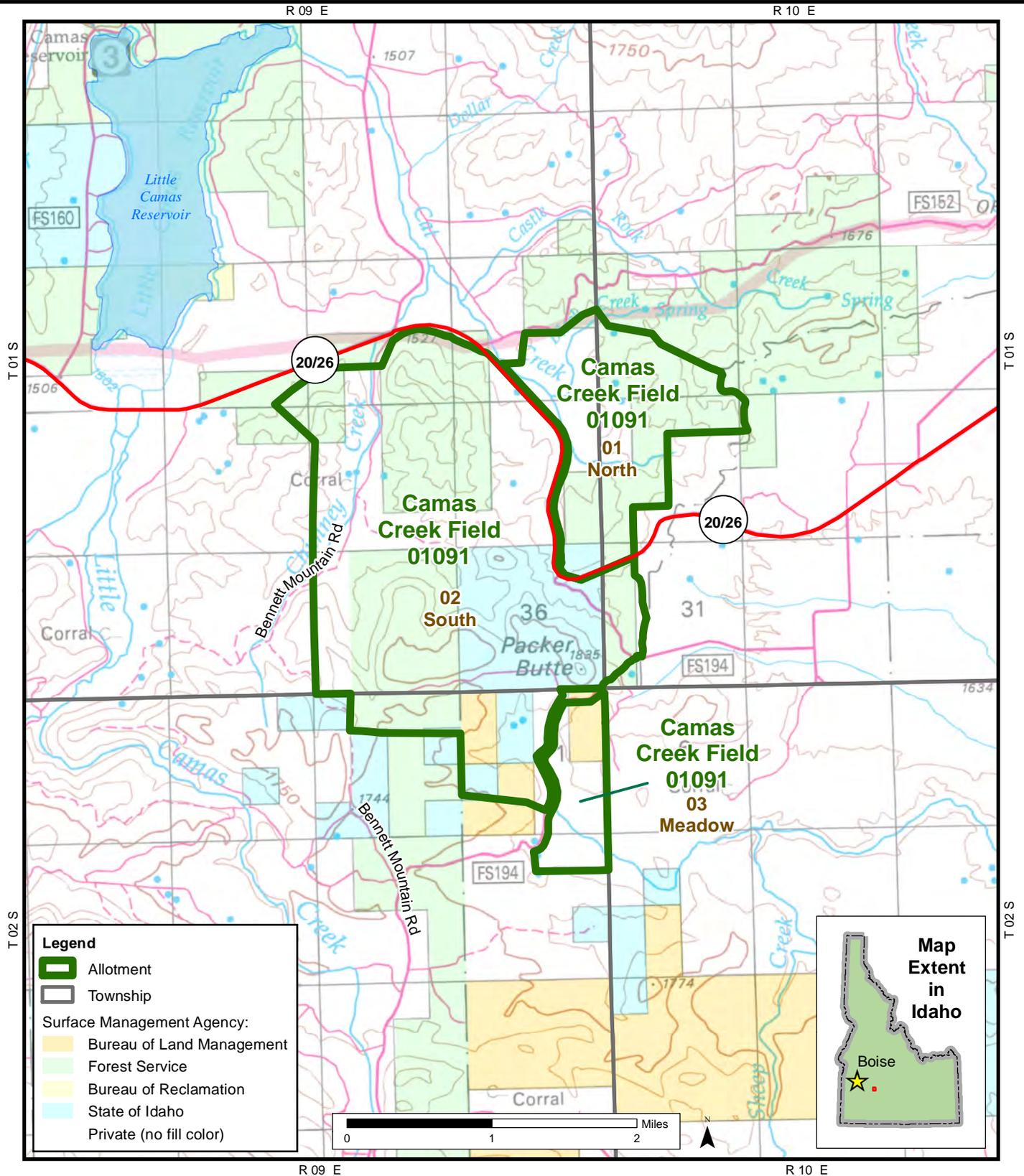
BILL WALSH  
205 SOUTH 20TH AVENUE  
CALDWELL, ID 83605-4320

WESTERN WATERSHEDS PROJECT  
PO BOX 1770  
HAILEY, ID 83333-1770

WESTERN WATERSHEDS PROJECT  
ATTN: KATIE FITE  
PO BOX 2863  
BOISE, ID 83701-2863

WOOL GROWERS ASSOCIATION  
ATTN: STAN BOYD  
802 W. BANNOCK STREET STE 205  
BOISE, ID 83702-5839

# Map 1. Camas Creek Field Allotment (01091)



U.S. Department of the Interior  
 Bureau of Land Management, Idaho  
 Boise District, Four Rivers Field Office  
 Map date: May 26, 2014



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