

Categorical Exclusion Review

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Boise District Office
Four Rivers Field Office

Indian Head Mountain and Minnie Snyder Allotments Grazing Preference Transfer

CE No.: DOI-BLM-ID-B010-2011-0056-CX	Lease/Serial/Case File Number: 1104148																												
<p>Purpose and Need for Action: To address the Grazing Preference Application and Preference Transfer Application filed by Cody Jepsen in accordance with the grazing regulations (43 CFR 4110.2-3 Transfer of grazing preference) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).</p> <p>Cody Jepsen (Authorization: #1104148) has acquired the base property and grazing preference AUMs for the Indian Head Mountain (#00225) and the Minnie Snyder (#00348) allotments. Loss of ownership and control of the base property terminates the previous grazing permit immediately (43 CFR 4110.2-1. (d), (Authorization #1101253). Therefore, the acceptance and approval of the valid Application for Transfer of Grazing Preference (Form 4130-1a) would transfer the grazing preference from Robert and Cynthia Jepsen, (Authorization: #1101253) to Cody Jepsen (Authorization: #1104148).</p>																													
<p>Description of Proposed Action: Transfer of the active grazing preference within the Indian Head Mountain and Minnie Snyder allotments from Robert and Cynthia Jepsen to Cody Jepsen due to transfer of the base property. The terms and conditions of the new permit (Authorization #1104148) would remain the same as the existing permit (Authorization: #1101253) and are identified below.</p> <p>The actual issuance of a grazing permit would be through a separate action under the authority of Section 416, Public Law 111-88 and contains the same mandatory terms and conditions as the expired or transferred permit or lease. The transfer of grazing preference would occur as shown below:</p>																													
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<p>Project Location: The Indian Head Mountain (00225) and Minnie Snyder (00348) allotments are located approximately 9 miles west of Weiser, Idaho. Public Land found in portions of: T. 11 N., R. 07 W., Sections 10, 13, 21, 22, 23, 24, 26, 27, and 28. (See Attachment 1-Map of Indian Head Mountain and Minnie Snyder Allotments)</p>																													
Applicant: Cody Jepsen																													

Part I – Plan Conformance Review

This proposed Action is subject to the following land use plan: Cascade Resource Management Plan (CRMP)
Date Plan Approved: July 1, 1988

Remarks: The proposed action is in conformance with the LUP, because it is clearly consistent with the Range Program Objectives and Recommendations within the Range Management Section of the Cascade RMP.

Part II – NEPA Review

- A. Categorical Exclusion Review: This proposed action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 11.9 D (Rangeland Management) for the (1) approval of transfers of grazing preference.
- B. Exceptions Review (Departmental List of Extraordinary Circumstances Review): Review the 12 exceptions which apply to individual actions within categorical exclusion. Environmental documents (EA or EIS) must be prepared for any actions involving these exceptions. The following Departmental List of Extraordinary Circumstances applies to individual actions. Departmental instructions mandate that environmental documents **MUST BE PREPARED** for actions which may: (Mark applicable answer for each item. If “yes”, prepare an EA/EIS and append this form to it.)

List of Exceptions

1. Have significant impacts on public health or safety.

Yes	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Specialist Signature/Date: /s/ <i>Christina Handy</i> 6/28/2011
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Comments/Explanation: This administrative transfer would not have any significant impacts on public health or safety. Livestock grazing is a recognized and authorized use, as identified in the CRMP.

2. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; or ecologically significant or critical areas, or is not in compliance with the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act.

Yes	No	Specialist Signature/Date: Water Quality & Wetlands/Floodplains: /s/ <i>J. Allen Tarter</i> 6/30/2011 Sensitive Plants: /s/ <i>Mark E. Steiger</i> 7/5/2011 Wildlife: /s/ <i>Christa Braun</i> 7/6/2011
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Comments/Explanation: The allotment contains no unique natural or cultural features that would be affected by this transfer. Key sage-grouse habitat occurs in this area but the transfer will not increase the current impacts occurring to this vegetation. No perennial flow regime streams or wetlands exist on this allotment. Water Quality & Wetlands/Floodplains: One 0.7-mile-long intermittent stream has a healthy population of arroyo willows. No water quality issues exist. Any migratory birds that use the Indian Head Mountain and Minnie Snyder allotments will not be affected by the grazing transfer.

3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].

Yes	No	Specialist Signature/Date: /s/ <i>Christina Handy</i> 6/28/2011
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Comments/Explanation: This administrative action would not have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2) (E)]. All known conflicts and controversial effects (such as OHV/livestock grazing) are managed under the CRMP and the grazing permit’s terms and conditions.

4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.

Yes	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Specialist Signature/Date: /s/ <i>Christina Handy</i> 6/28/2011
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<i>Comments/Explanation:</i> Livestock grazing is an ongoing activity, the continuation of which poses no unique or unknown environmental risks.		
5. Establish a precedent for future actions or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		
Yes	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Specialist Signature/Date: /s/ <i>Christina Handy</i> 6/28/2011
<i>Comments/Explanation:</i> Transfer of grazing preference which is consistent with the previous permit, is a routine administrative procedure. This action neither establishes a precedent for future actions nor represents a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		
6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		
Yes	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Specialist Signature/Date: /s/ <i>Christina Handy</i> 6/28/2011
<i>Comments/Explanation:</i> This administrative action does not have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant environmental effects. The impacts of livestock grazing in conjunction or cumulatively with other on-the-ground activities are already occurring, and would continue at the current rate and intensity as the existing permitted actions. Transferring existing grazing preference is consistent with the current authorization and is neither individually nor cumulatively significant.		
7. Have significant impacts on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.		
Yes	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Specialist Signature/Date: /s/ <i>Dean C. Shaw</i> 6/30/2011
<i>Comments/Explanation:</i> The affected grazing allotment contains no known properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places.		
8. Have significant impacts on species listed or proposed to be listed on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or on designated Critical Habitat for these species.		
Yes	No	Specialist Signature/Date for Plants: /s/ <i>Mark E. Steiger</i> 7/5/2011 Specialist Signature/Date for Wildlife: /s/ <i>Christa Braun</i> 6/30/2011 Specialist Signature/Date for Fisheries/Aquatics: /s/ <i>J. Allen Tarter</i> 6/30/2011
<i>Plants Comments/Explanation:</i> No known federally listed, or candidate, plant species are known to occur on public lands within the area of the proposed action. However, Tolmie's onion, a BLM Type 3 sensitive species, was documented within the action area in 1986, and has not been documented since. This species may still occur within the action area although the exact location of this occurrence is unknown as the occurrence was documented prior to the common use of GPS technology. This action is a transfer of use only and does not involve any new disturbance to any previously undisturbed areas. As a consequence, it is unlikely that this action would result in any significant negative effects to this occurrence if it still exists. <i>Wildlife Comments/Explanation:</i> Southern Idaho ground squirrels, a candidate wildlife species, occupy both Indian Head Mountain and Minnie Snyder allotments. Other BLM special status wildlife species may occur within the affected area as well; however, the proposed transfer would not increase the current impacts to these special status wildlife species because the proposed transfer of grazing privileges would result in no changes to current livestock grazing management. <i>Aquatics Comments/Explanation:</i> No fisheries are present as no perennial flow regime streams exist on this allotment.		
9. Violate a Federal, State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		
<input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Specialist Signature/Date: /s/ <i>Dean C. Shaw</i> 6/30/2011
<i>Comments/Explanation:</i> This routine administrative procedure is consistent and compatible with all known Federal, State, local and Tribal laws or requirements imposed for protection of the environment.		
10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).		
<input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Specialist Signature/Date: /s/ <i>Christina Handy</i> 6/28/2011

<i>Comments/Explanation:</i> There are no known low income or minority populations in the area of the proposed action. However, if low income or minority populations do exist, the transfer of existing grazing privileges would not be expected to have a disproportionately high or adverse effect on these populations.		
11. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).		
Yes	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Specialist Signature/Date /s/ <i>Dean C. Shaw</i> 6/30/2011
<i>Comments/Explanation:</i> There are no known ceremonial and/or sacred sites on public land in this allotment. However if sites were to be discovered in the future, the continuation of an ongoing activity would not limit access for ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites by Indian religious practitioners; nor would there be adverse affects to the physical integrity of sacred sites.		
12. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).		
Yes	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Specialist Signature/Date: /s/ <i>Lonnie Huter</i> 6/28/11
<i>Comments/Explanation:</i> Transferring grazing privileges, for the continuation of current authorized grazing, would not cause additional influences to existing noxious weeds or non-native invasive species.		
I certify that none of the Departmental exceptions (Extraordinary Circumstances) listed in the above Part II (516 DM 2, Appendix 2) apply to this action; therefore, this categorical exclusion is appropriate for this situation.		
Remarks: The transfer of grazing preference would allow for continued management of livestock grazing on an existing allotment, is consistent with the previous grazing authorization, terms and conditions, and on-the-ground management. Transfer of grazing preference to Cody Jepsen (Authorization: #1104148), will be compliant with CFR 4110.2-3.		
Authorizing Official: /s/ <i>Terry A Humphrey</i>		Date: July 14, 2011
Name: Terry A. Humphrey		
Title: Four Rivers Field Manager		