



United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Boise District Office
Four Rivers Field Office
3948 Development Avenue
Boise, ID 83705
<http://www.id.blm.gov/offices/boise>



In Reply Refer To:

4160 (ID-110)

August 17, 2012

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Frank Shirts
PO Box 393
Wilder, ID 83676

Notice of Field Manager's Decision

Dear Mr. Shirts:

I have received your application for a crossing permit to trail livestock across public lands in the: Anderson Creek 00181; Bannister Basin 00312; Beal Individual 00022; Bean Individual 00023; Black Canyon 00176; Black Canyon 00310; Branch Individual 00045; Clipper Flat 00240; Cove Creek 00084; Crane Creek 00361; Dechambeau Individual 00125; Fenced Federal Range 00390; Fenwick Place 00313; Holbrook Individual 00147; Indian Creek 00106; Indian Creek Custodial 00107; Linson Creek 00191; Little Emmett 00391; Little Willow 00295; McCool Individual 00189; Minnie 00059; No Unit 00311; Old Craig 00365; Paddock Valley 00370; Pratt Individual 00222; Smith Black Canyon 00246; Spring Valley 00278; Staley 00366; Stillwell Individual 00028; Sutton Ranches Individual 00256; T.C ada Individual 00063; and Tennison Creek 00063 allotments. Upon review and in accordance with 43 CFR 4130.6-3 and Section 123 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act 2012 (Public Law 112-74), your application for a crossing permit is approved subject to the terms and conditions identified below.

Background

On November 3, 2011, you submitted an application for a crossing permit. In response to your application and the following conversations to clarify and verify routes, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) prepared Environmental Assessment (EA) No. DOI-BLM-ID-B010-2012-0008-EA¹ to analyze the environmental consequences of trailing livestock across those public

¹ EA No. DOI-BLM-ID-B010-2012-0008-EA and its associated Finding of No Significant Impact are available through https://www.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/nepa/nepa_register.do. Select State = **Idaho**, Office = **ID-Four Rivers FO**, Document Type = **EA**, Fiscal Year = **2012**, Program = **All**, then click **Search**. Once you arrive here, click on **DOI-BLM-ID-B010-2012-008-EA**. If you are unable to view the documents on the website, you may request that hard copies be sent

lands within the jurisdiction of the Four Rivers Field Office. This document incorporates by reference the EA and subsequent Finding of No Significant Impacts (FONSI).

BLM analyzed three alternatives (Alternatives A-C) and considered one additional alternative that was not analyzed in detail (see Chapter 2 of EA No.DOI-BLM-ID-B010-2012-0008-EA). Alternative A was the No Action Alternative and would have denied all applications for crossing permits. Alternative B included the proposed trailing activities as submitted in your crossing permit application. Alternative C was developed in response to public comments and in consideration of potential environmental consequences of the trailing activities described in Alternative B.

Decision

I have decided to approve your application, with additional terms and conditions, and issue you a crossing permit for one year. You are authorized to conduct crossing activities, as described in Table 1 and the terms and conditions below, effective August 17, 2012 through December 1, 2013.

Table 1. Approved Livestock Trailing Routes for Frank Shirts

Route A	Map A	Allotments Crossed	Livestock		Timeframe		No. of Groups B	Days per Group C	% PL	AUMs	Herding Method
			Number	Kind	Begin	End					
02-01	C.4	00028, 00125, 00176, 00278, 00310, 00311, 00313, & 00391	1,840	Sheep	3/25	4/25	2	10	100	121	Non-Motorized
02-02	C.4	00023, 00045, 00176, 00189, 00246, 00278, 00310, & 00391	3,400	Sheep	4/15	6/15	2	12	100	268	Non-Motorized
02-03	C.4	00023, 00045, 00176, 00189, 00246, 00278, 00310, & 00391	5,400	Sheep	10/1	11/10	3	10	100	355	Non-Motorized
02-04	C.4	00028, 00125, 00176, 00278, 00310, 00311, 00313, 00391, & 00196	5,400	Sheep	10/1	1/1	3	8	100	284	Non-Motorized
02-05	C.3 and C.4	00022, 00147, 00176, 00181, 00189, 00222, 00246, 00256, 00310, 00390, & 00391	1,700	Sheep	10/1	11/1	1	8	100	89	Non-Motorized
04-01	C.3 and C.4	00059, 00061, 00063, 00074, 00106, 00107, 00191, 00240, 00295, 00312, 00361, 00365,	3,600	Sheep	10/20	12/1	2	10	100	118	Non-Motorized

to you.

		00366, & 00370									
A	Route and map numbers correspond to routes and maps depicted as Alternative C in EA No. DOI-BLM-ID-B010-2012-0008-EA.										
B	Indicates the number of groups in which the total number of livestock would be split for trailing.										
C	Indicates how long it would take each group of livestock to travel the length of the trailing route.										

All terms and conditions described in the crossing permit are incorporated by reference into this decision and must be followed. Terms and conditions that are specifically identified to reduce environmental effects are:

Terms and Conditions

- Permittee will submit an application, to the Authorized Officer, describing the trail route to be followed, the number of livestock to be trailed, and the date(s) on which the trailing event(s) will occur at least seven working days prior to the intended date of initiation. Receipt of payment of the ensuing bill will constitute your authorization to trail livestock across public land via the designated route.
- Trailing livestock will be authorized within 0.125 miles on either side of designated trailing routes, except where subsequent stipulations apply that reduce the width in order to avoid or reduce resource conflicts.
- Trailing will be active, with livestock moving toward their final destination, except at night.
- Trailing will not be authorized during times when soils are saturated (i.e., there will be no evidence of puddles and soils will be firm).
- Bedding will occur only at designated locations as displayed on permit specific maps.
- No bedding will occur within burned and/or treated areas until ESR or other treatment objectives are met or criteria for opening the area to grazing are met.
- Motorized vehicles will remain on existing vehicle routes. Cross-country use of motorized vehicles will not be authorized.
- Livestock trailing on routes in or adjacent to burned areas will be kept within 50’ of the identified route centerline until vegetation recovery objectives are met.
- Livestock trailing on routes in or adjacent to vegetation treatments (e.g., fuels projects, restoration treatments, or noxious weed spraying) will be kept within 50’ of the identified route centerline until the treatment objectives are met, unless the specific trailing event will not conflict with treatment objectives.
- Livestock trailing on routes in or adjacent to vegetation treatments (e.g., fuels projects, restoration treatments, or noxious weed spraying) will be kept within 50’ of the identified route centerline until the treatment objectives are met, unless the specific trailing event will not conflict with treatment objectives.
- Trailing livestock will avoid identified priority noxious weed occurrences or stay within 50’ of the identified route centerline.
- Temporary water troughs will not be placed in sagebrush habitats; previously disturbed sites will be used, such as areas around stock ponds or troughs, past seedings, or other grassland sites.
- From April 1 to June 15, cattle bedding areas will not be located in sagebrush habitat. If this is not feasible, previously-disturbed sites will be used such as areas around stock ponds or troughs or in past seedings, or other grassland sites.

- Areas used for staging vehicles, horse trailers, fence panels, etc. will avoid sagebrush habitats; if this is not possible, previously disturbed sites will be used, such as areas around stock ponds or troughs, past seedings, or other grassland sites.
- Staging, bedding, or portable trough areas will not be placed on known historic property sites.
- Per the Final Supplementary Rules published in the *Federal Register* on July 21, 2011 (76 FR 43706), all supplemental feeding of livestock during trailing, including feeding of horses used for the purposes of herding, must use certified noxious-weed-free forage to prevent the spread of noxious weeds on BLM-administered public lands in Idaho.
- Any conflicts that occur due to livestock mixing will be the responsibility of the crossing permittee, in cooperation with the grazing permittee, to mitigate and resolve.
- Trailing applicant will contact all grazing permittees at least 24 hours prior to beginning trailing operations.
- Livestock trailing will be avoided where it has the potential to affect occupied Special Status Plant habitat.
- Trailing in critical/proposed critical habitat and occupied habitat will be authorized only on existing improved roads. Cross-country trailing will not be authorized in critical/proposed critical habitat or occupied habitat at any time.
- Trailing will not be authorized when soils within slickspots are saturated [there will be no evidence of puddles (i.e. standing water) and the soil within slickspots will be firm (i.e. a boot heel will not penetrate >0.5 inches)].
- Bedding will not be authorized within critical/proposed critical habitat and occupied habitat.
- For special status plant species, trailing will avoid known element occurrences where possible. If this is not feasible, trailing will be restricted to within 50' of the identified route centerline of improved or unimproved roads.
- When conducting livestock trailing on or across designated recreation trails, operators will be required (to the extent practicable) to return trails to pre-trailing conditions, primarily removing rocks or other debris that are knocked down on the trail surfaces.

Rationale

My decision is in conformance with the 1988 Cascade Resource Management Plan (CRMP).

My reasons for approving your application with additional terms and conditions are to:

- Provide for the orderly movement of livestock to and from the allotments where you hold an active grazing preference;
- Reduce the potential effects of trailing on vegetation by avoiding burned areas and recent vegetation treatments;
- Reduce the potential risk of introducing or spreading noxious weeds;
- Reduce the potential effect to sage-grouse and sage-grouse habitat;
- Reduce the potential effects to special status plants; and
- Reduce the potential impacts to recreational trail users.

The BLM archaeologist determined the impacts to cultural resources from granting a trailing permit and assessing the possible impacts to sites evaluated as eligible to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The archaeologist recommended permitting this trailing event because it will

not adversely impact any known cultural resource sites or historic trail segments that are listed or eligible to be listed on the NRHP, per Section 3.9 of EA No. DOI-BLM-ID-B010-2012-0004-EA. However, if monitoring and additional inventories find that impacts from trailing livestock are occurring to NRHP-eligible sties, additional mitigation measures will be identified and implemented.

As described in the Finding of No Significant Impact for EA No. DOI-BLM-ID-B020-2012-0008-EA, I found none of the impacts associated with these trailing events to be significant, either individually or cumulatively.

Authority

My decision is issued under the authority found in:

Title 43 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Subpart 4100 Grazing Administration, specifically sections 4100.0-3, 4130.6-3, 4130.3, 4160.1, 4160.3, and 4130.8-1b; the 2012 Appropriations Omnibus Act Sec. 123; and the 1988 Cascade Resource Management Plan (RMP), which allocates livestock uses in the affected allotments.

Protest and/or Appeal

My decision is not subject to protest or appeal in accordance with Section 123 of the 2012 Appropriations Omnibus Act. If you have any questions, please contact me at (208) 384-3430 or Martin Espil, Rangeland Management Specialist at (208) 384-3224.

Sincerely,

/s/ Terry A. Humphrey

Terry A. Humphrey
Four Rivers Field Office Manager

Enclosures:
Maps of trailing events

Crossing Permit Application Decision Map

Operator: Frank Shirts

Route ID Number(s):
02-01, 02-02, 02-03, 02-04

Legend:

- Bedding
 - Route
 - Priority Noxious Weed
 - Recently Burned Area (2010-2012)
 - Special Status Plant
 - Slickspot Peppergrass Proposed Critical Habitat
 - Slickspot Peppergrass Occupied Habitat
 - Grazing Allotment
 - Township
- Surface Management Agency:
- Bureau of Land Management
 - Forest Service
 - Military
 - Other Federal
 - State of Idaho

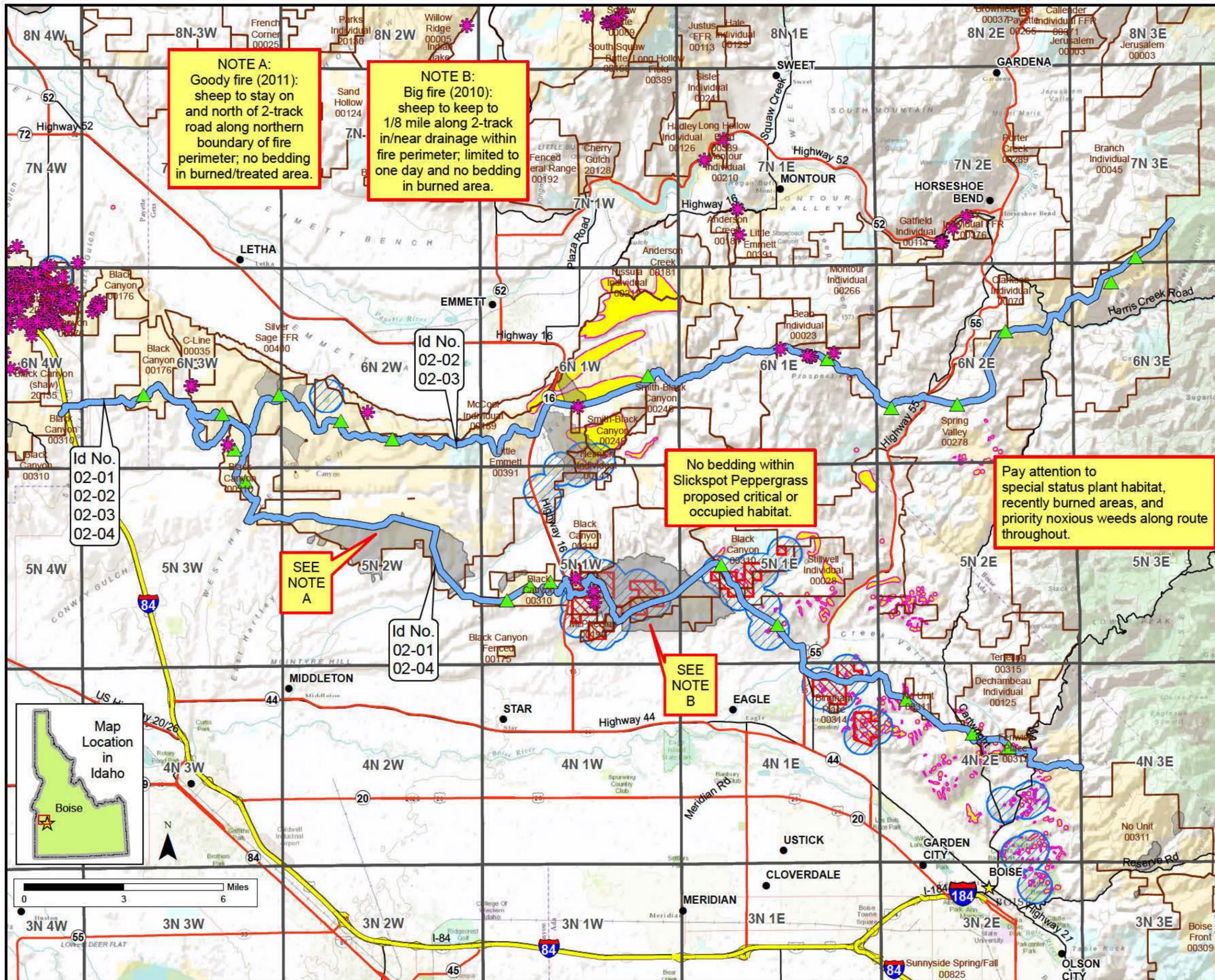


U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management, Idaho
Boise District, Four Rivers Field Office

Map date: August 16, 2012

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management. The accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data is not guaranteed. This map cannot be made Section 508 compliant. For help with its data or information, please contact the BLM Idaho State Office webmaster at (208) 373-4000.

Background: "Topographic" basemap, ESRI.



NOTE A:
Goody fire (2011):
sheep to stay on
and north of 2-track
road along northern
boundary of fire
perimeter; no bedding
in burned/treated area.

NOTE B:
Big fire (2010):
sheep to keep to
1/8 mile along 2-track
in/near drainage within
fire perimeter; limited to
one day and no bedding
in burned area.

No bedding within
Slickspot Peppergrass
proposed critical or
occupied habitat.

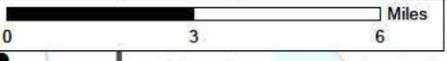
Pay attention to
special status plant habitat,
recently burned areas, and
priority noxious weeds along route
throughout.

SEE NOTE
A

SEE NOTE
B

Id No.
02-01
02-02
02-03
02-04

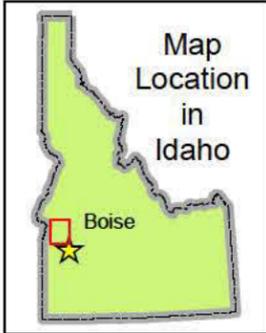
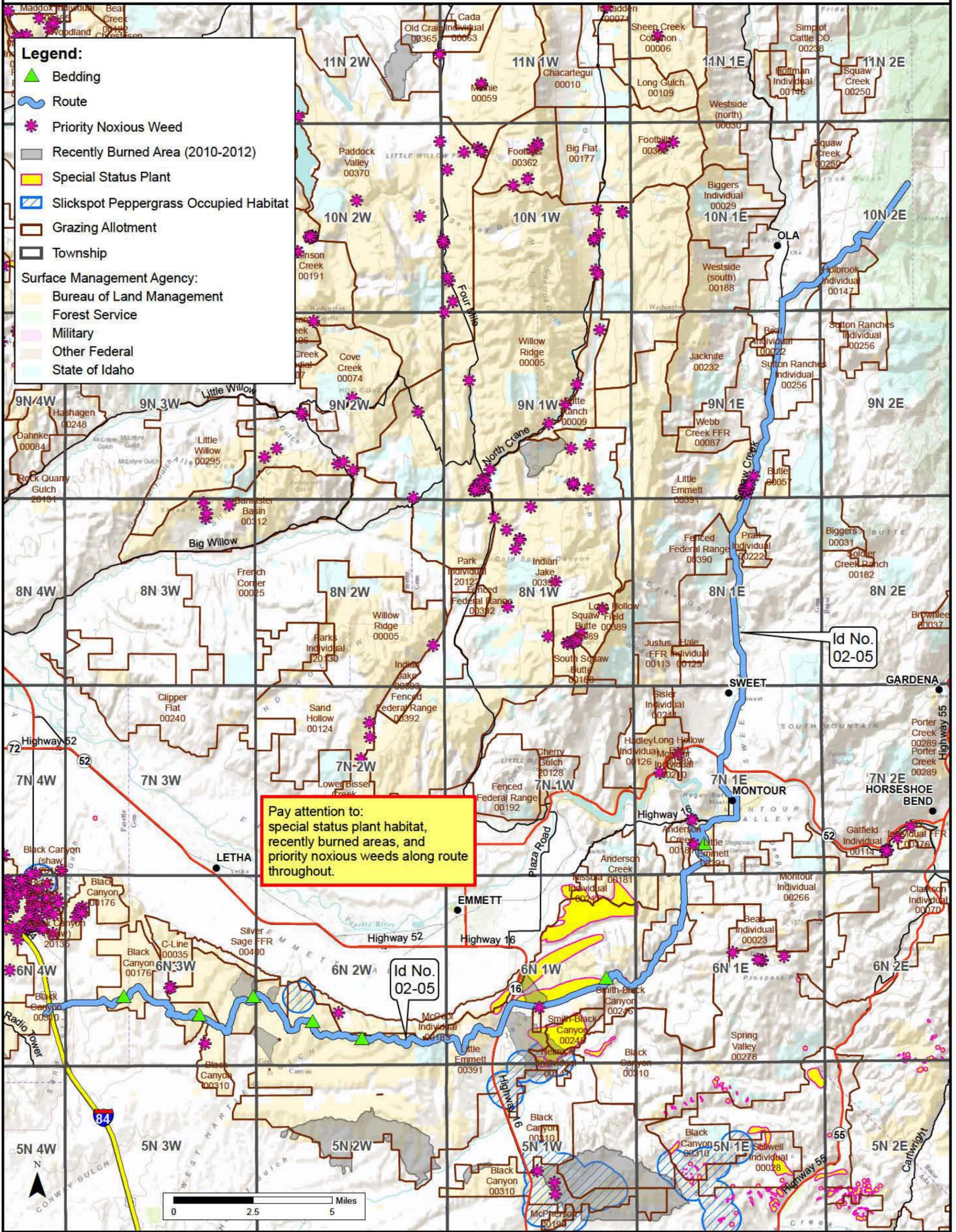
Id No.
02-01
02-04



Crossing Permit Application Decision Map

Operator:
Frank Shirts

Route ID Number(s):
02-05



No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management. The accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data is not guaranteed. This map cannot be made Section 508 compliant. For help with its data or information, please contact the BLM Idaho State Office webmaster at (208) 373-4000.

Background: "Topographic" basemap, ESRI.



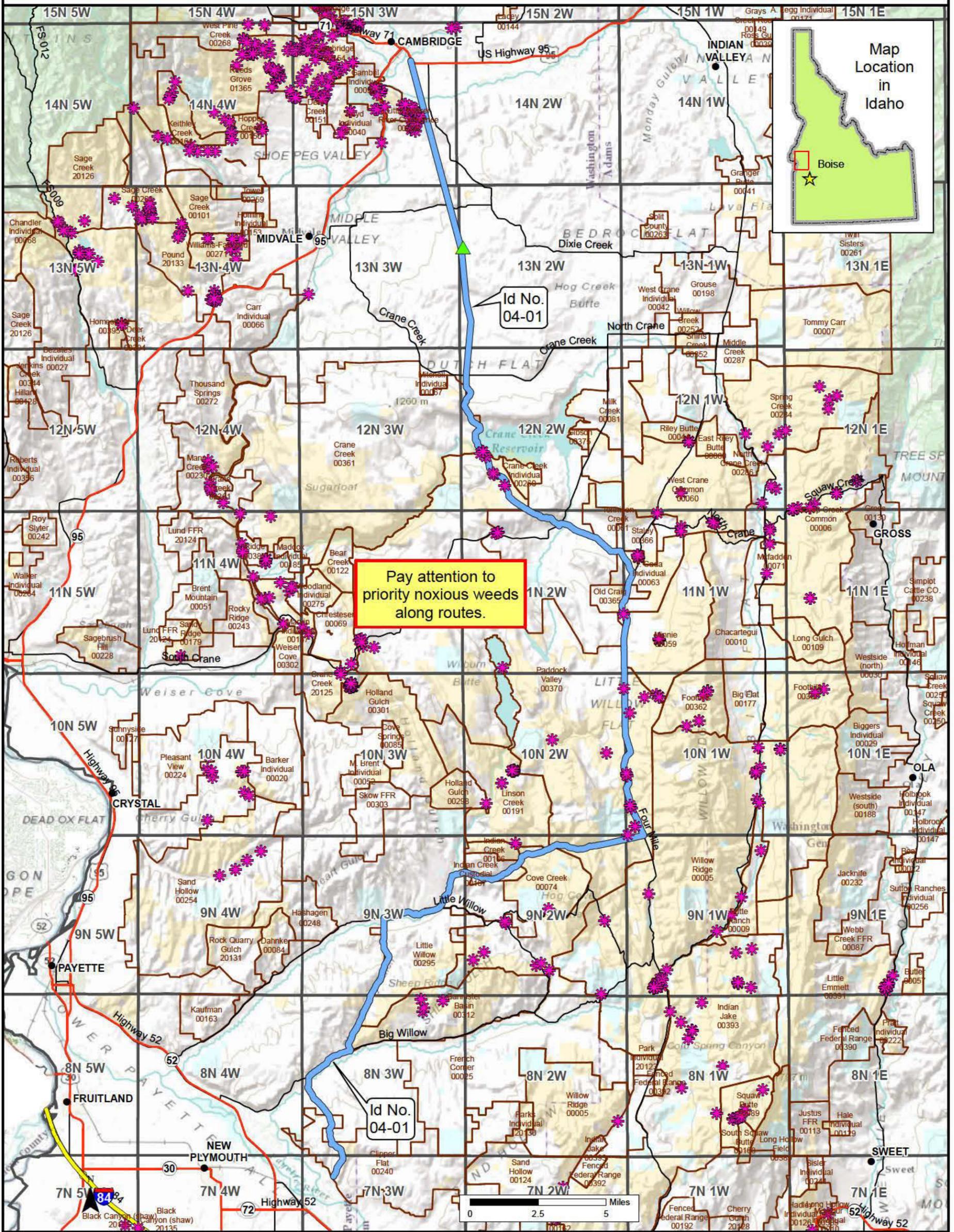
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management, Idaho
Boise District, Four Rivers Field Office

Map date: August 16, 2012

**Crossing Permit Application
Decision Map**

**Operator:
Frank Shirts**

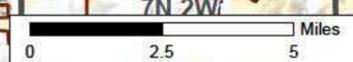
**Route ID Number(s):
04-01**



Pay attention to
priority noxious weeds
along routes.

Id No.
04-01

Id No.
04-01



Legend:

- Bedding
 - Route
 - Priority Noxious Weed
 - Grazing Allotment
 - Township
- Surface Management Agency:
- Bureau of Land Management
 - Forest Service
 - Military
 - Other Federal
 - State of Idaho

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management. The accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data is not guaranteed. This map cannot be made Section 508 compliant. For help with its data or information, please contact the BLM Idaho State Office webmaster at (208) 373-4000.



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management, Idaho
Boise District, Four Rivers Field Office
Map date: August 16, 2012

Background: "Topographic" basemap, ESRI.