



United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Twin Falls District Office
Jarbidge Field Office
2536 Kimberly Road
Twin Falls, ID 83301



In Reply Refer To:
4160

November 16, 2012

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Plateau Farms LLC
c/o Mike Henslee
P.O. Box 695
Hagerman, ID 83332

Notice of Field Manager's Decision

Dear Mr. Henslee:

I have received your request for a temporary crossing permit to trail livestock across public lands in the following allotments: Hagerman (#01150), Twin Butte (#01145), and Yahoo (#01143). Upon review, and in accordance with 43 CFR 4130.6-3, 43 CFR 4160.1(a) and Section 123 of the 2012 Appropriations Omnibus Act, your application for a temporary crossing permit is approved, with conditions.

Background

Your crossing permit application requested authorization to trail two bands of 1500 sheep from north of the Snake River through the Hagerman (#01150), Twin Butte (#01145), and Yahoo (#01143) Allotments to private land. Trailing activities are scheduled to occur for 12 days for each band between November 24 and December 10, 2012, depending on weather conditions. The BLM prepared Environmental Assessment (EA) No. DOI-BLM-ID-T010-2012-0004-EA¹ to analyze the environmental consequences of trailing livestock throughout the Jarbidge Field Office. After reviewing EA No. DOI-BLM-ID-T010-2012-0004-EA, I determined that livestock trailing would not result in any significant impacts and issued a Finding of No Significant Impact on November 16, 2012.

Decision and Rationale

¹ EA No. DOI-BLM-ID-T010-2012-0004-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-Jarbidge FO**, Document Type = **EA**, Fiscal Year = **2012**, Program = **All**, then click **Search**. Once you arrive here, click on **DOI-BLM-ID- T010-2012-0004-EA**. If you are unable to view the documents on the website, you may request that hard copies be sent to you.

I have decided to issue you a crossing permit to trail two bands of 1500 sheep across public lands. The authorized trailing route will cross through portions of the Hagerman (#01150), Twin Butte (#01145), and Yahoo (#01143) Allotments along a trailing route (see attached map) analyzed under the Proposed Action of EA No. DOI-BLM-ID-T010-2012-0004-EA. As described in the Finding of No Significant Impact for the EA, I found none of the impacts associated with this trailing event to be significant either individually or cumulatively. Therefore, you are authorized to conduct crossing activities for up to 12 days for each band of sheep between November 24 and December 10, 2012 in accordance with the terms and conditions listed in the attached permit. My reasons for approving your application with the additional terms and conditions are to minimize potential impacts to soils, riparian areas, wildlife habitat, cultural resources, and noxious weeds and invasive plants.

My decision is in conformance with the 1987 Jarbidge Resource Management Plan (RMP). The RMP authorizes livestock grazing within the grazing allotments of the Jarbidge Field Office. Livestock trailing is an action connected to livestock grazing management and, therefore, trailing is in conformance with the RMP. This action would not result in a change in the scope of resource use or a change in the terms, conditions, and decision of the approved RMP.

BLM analyzed four alternatives (Proposed Action and Alternatives 1-3) and considered one additional alternative that was not analyzed in detail (see Chapter 2 of EA No. DOI-BLM-ID-T010-2012-0004-EA). The Proposed Action included the proposed trailing activities as submitted in crossing permit applications. Alternative 1 was the no action alternative and would have denied all applications for crossing permits. Alternative 2 established 1-mile wide trailing corridors across the Jarbidge Field Office. Alternative 3 was developed in response to public comments and reduced the trailing corridor width and locations across the Jarbidge Field Office.

All terms and conditions described in the temporary 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

- Trailing will occur along the route outlined on the attached map. Overnighting will occur in the areas shown on the attached map.
- Trailing will not be authorized during times when soils are saturated. Environmental conditions will be monitored for trailing within high potential slickspot peppergrass habitat to ensure trailing does not occur during times of saturated soils.
- Bedding areas, over-night areas, and temporary water facilities will be at least 0.25 mile from riparian areas.
- Livestock trailing across canyons, live streams, riparian areas, and wetlands will be restricted to pre-determined locations as shown on the attached map.
- Active herding/trailing is required within riparian areas and all livestock will be removed from the Riparian Conservation Area following the trailing event.

- Areas used for staging vehicles, horse trailers, fence panels, etc. will avoid sagebrush areas; 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.
- Use of motorized vehicles associated with trailing is restricted to existing roads.
- Bedding areas, temporary watering facilities, and trailing related camping areas will be at least 0.25 mile from the Oregon National Historic Trail, and the historic Kelton and Toana Freight Wagon Roads. Crossing of these historic trails will be restricted to pre-determined locations as shown on the attached map. Trailing along the Toana Freight Wagon Road in T8S; R13E; Sections 17 and 18 will occur along the main road.
- The use of certified noxious-weed-free forage is required for any horses used for the herding of livestock or supplemental feeding of livestock.

The temporary crossing permit will be signed by the applicant and the Jarbidge Field Manager, or his authorized representative, prior to the trailing event.

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, 4160.3(a), 4130.8-1(b), and 4130.8-1(c);

the 2012 Appropriations Omnibus Act Sec. 123; and

the 1987 Jarbidge Resource Management Plan 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) 736-2380 or Dan Strickler at (208) 736-2356.

Sincerely,



Brian W. Davis
Field Manager
Jarbidge Field Office

Enclosures:

Crossing Permit (2 pp.)

Map of trailing route (1 p.)

Copies sent to:

Allen Thompson

Goodtime Association

Blue Butte Grazing Association

Salmon Falls Land & Livestock

Jerome Hansen, Idaho Department of Fish and Game

Timothy C. Duffner, Idaho Department of Lands

Jon Marvel, Western Watersheds Project

Katie Fite, Western Watersheds Project, Idaho Office

Stan T. Boyd, Boise District Grazing Board

Scott Jensen, Owyhee Cattlemen's Association

Michael Stanford

Gary Holmstead, Idaho Power Company

Robert and Sabrina Amidon

DJ Schubert, Animal Welfare Institute

Kyle Prior, Tribal Chairman Shoshone-Paiute Tribes

John Robison, Idaho Conservation League

Brett Stevenson, Idaho Conservation League

Marty Marzinelli, Sierra Club (Mid Snake)

Craig Gehrke, The Wilderness Society

Sean Woodhead, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality

Balthasar (Sonny) Buhidar, Supervisor Idaho Department of Environmental Quality

Steve Jakubowics, Committee for the High Desert

Allen Jenne, Nevada Department of Wildlife

Steve Russell, Bruneau Dunes State Park

Jerry Hoagland, Owyhee County Board of Commissioners

Jim Desmond, NRC Owyhee County Board of Commissioners

Ron Kay, Idaho Department of Agriculture

Ray Mitchell, R&S Enterprises

Jeff Cook, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation

Randy Stowell

Meghan Brown, Nevada Cattlemen's Association

Gus Brackett, 71 Livestock Association

Jared Brackett

Barry Duelke

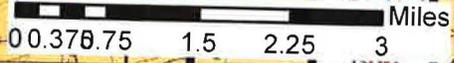
Idaho Chapter Wild Sheep Foundation

Plateau Farms LLC Livestock Trailing

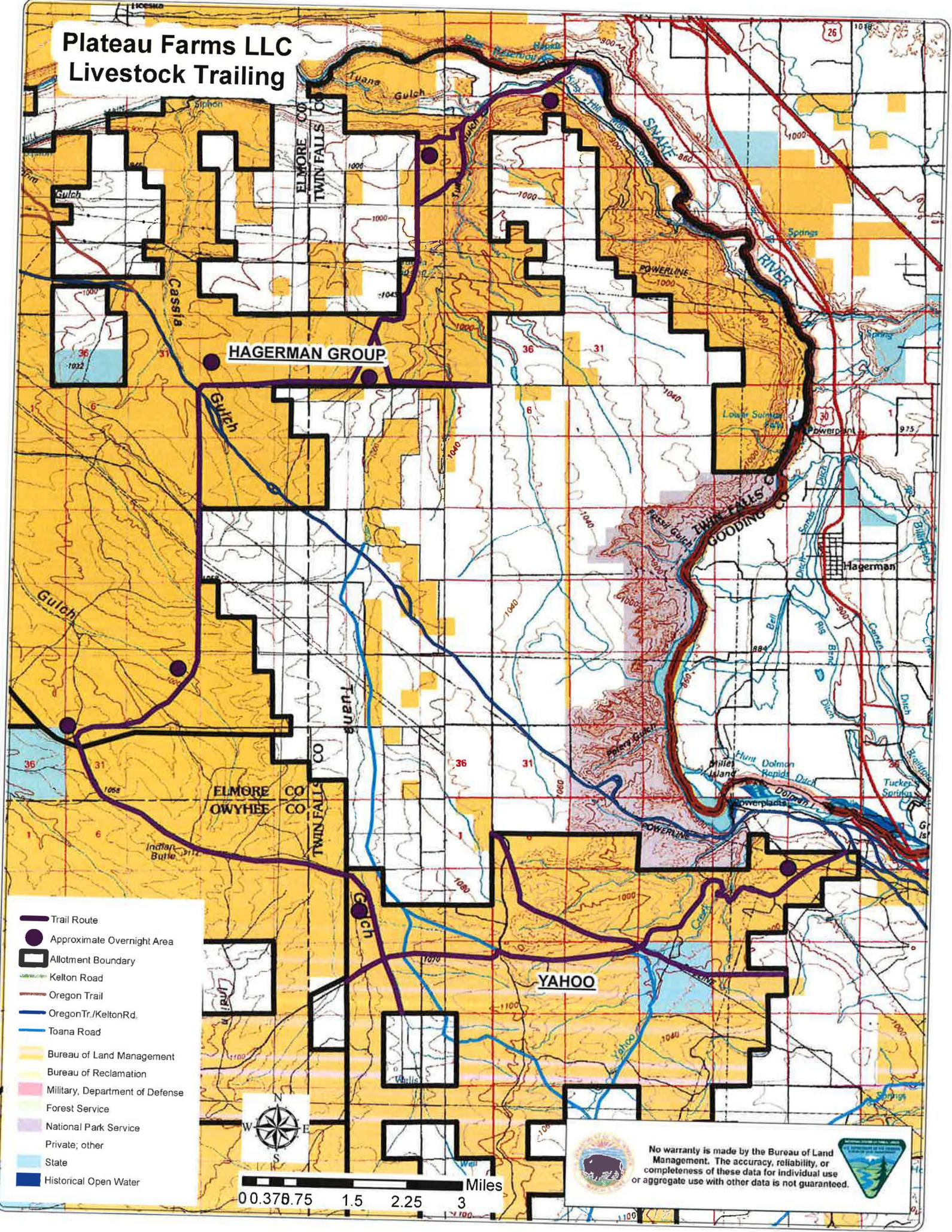
HAGERMAN GROUP

YAHOO

-  Trail Route
-  Approximate Overnight Area
-  Allotment Boundary
-  Kelton Road
-  Oregon Trail
-  Oregon Tr./Kelton Rd.
-  Toana Road
-  Bureau of Land Management
-  Bureau of Reclamation
-  Military, Department of Defense
-  Forest Service
-  National Park Service
-  Private, other
-  State
-  Historical Open Water



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.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

CROSSING PERMIT

Bureau of Land Management
Jarbidge Field Office
2536 Kimberly Road
Twin Falls, ID 83301

Plateau Farms LLC
c/o Mike Henslee
P.O. Box 695
Hagerman, ID 83332

This Crossing permit is offered to you under 43 CFR Part 4100. You are authorized to cross lands that are under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management and covered by this permit, upon acceptance of ALL terms and conditions of this permit and payment of fees when due. Contact your local BLM office at 736-2350 if you have any questions.

MANDATORY TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

Allotment Number	Allotment Name	Livestock Number	Livestock Kind	Crossing Begin	Crossing End	% PL	Number of Days	AUMs
01150	Hagerman	1500	Sheep	11/24/12	12/10/12	100	4	39
01045	Twin Butte	1500	Sheep	11/24/12	12/10/12	100	2	20
01143	Yahoo	1500	Sheep	11/24/12	12/10/12	100	3	30
01150	Hagerman	1500	Sheep	11/24/12	12/10/12	100	4	39
01045	Twin Butte	1500	Sheep	11/24/12	12/10/12	100	2	20
01143	Yahoo	1500	Sheep	11/24/12	12/10/12	100	3	30

OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

- Livestock trailing will be in accordance with the Notice of Field Manager's Decision dated November 16, 2012.
- Dates may vary based on weather and soil conditions. The Field Manager or his authorized representative shall be notified prior to any changes in the schedule.
- Trailing will occur along the route outlined on the attached map. Overnighting will occur in the areas shown on the attached map.
- Trailing will not be authorized during times when soils are saturated. Environmental conditions will be monitored for trailing within high potential slickspot peppergrass habitat to ensure trailing does not occur during times of saturated soils.
- Bedding areas, over-night areas, and temporary water facilities will be at least 0.25 mile from riparian areas.
- Livestock trailing across canyons, live streams, riparian areas, and wetlands will be restricted to pre-determined locations as shown on the attached map.

This permit: 1. Conveys no right, title or interest held by the United States in any lands or resources and 2. is subject to (A) modification, suspension or cancellation as provided by land plans and applicable law; (B) review and modification of terms and conditions as appropriate; and (C) the Taylor Grazing Act, as amended, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, as amended, the Public Rangelands Improvement Act, and the rules and regulations now or hereafter promulgated thereunder by the Secretary of the Interior.

- Active herding/trailing is required within riparian areas and all livestock will be removed from the Riparian Conservation Area following the trailing event.
- Areas used for staging vehicles, horse trailers, fence panels, etc. will avoid sagebrush areas; 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.
- Use of motorized vehicles associated with trailing is restricted to existing roads.
- Bedding areas, temporary watering facilities, and trailing related camping areas will be at least 0.25 mile from the Oregon National Historic Trail, and the historic Kelton and Toana Freight Wagon Roads. Crossing of these historic trails will be restricted to pre-determined locations as shown on the attached map. Trailing along the Toana Freight Wagon Road in T8S; R13E; Sections 17 and 18 will occur along the main road.
- The use of certified noxious-weed-free forage is required for any horses used for the herding of livestock or supplemental feeding of livestock.

STANDARD TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

- Billing notices are issued which specify fees due. Billing notices, when paid, become part of the crossing permit. Fee payments are due on the date specified on the billing notice and **MUST** be paid in full prior to livestock crossing activities.
- This permit is issued solely for the purpose of moving livestock across public lands for proper and lawful purposes, as needed for the orderly administration of rangelands. This permit confers no priority for renewal, and cannot be transferred or assigned.
- The allotment(s) listed on this crossing permit is subject to requirements 43 CFR 4180 – Fundamentals of Rangeland Health and Standards and Guidelines for Grazing Administration. This permit shall be modified, if necessary, to meet these requirements upon completion of a Standards and Guidelines Assessment and Determination.

Accepted Signature of Permittee: _____

Date: _____

Approved BLM Authorized Officer: _____

Date: _____