



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

June 12, 2013

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Blue Butte Grazing Association
c/o Stanley Lehmann
1743 S 3000 S
Wendell, ID 83355

Notice of Field Manager's Decision

Dear Mr. Lehmann:

I have received your request for a crossing permit to trail livestock across public lands in the Twin Butte (#1145) Allotment. Upon review, and in accordance with 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 4130.6-3, 43 CFR 4160.1(a) and Section 123 of the 2012 Appropriations Omnibus Act, your application for a crossing permit is approved, with conditions.

Background

Your crossing permit application requested authorization to trail up to 600 cattle from the Kubic (#1147) Allotment through the Twin Butte Allotment (#1145) to the Grindstone (#1062) Allotment between June 1 and July 31 and to trail up to 600 cattle from the Grindstone Allotment through the Twin Butte Allotment to the Kubic Allotment between September 1 and October 31. Crossing activities are scheduled to occur for up to one day. 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 crossing would not result in any significant impacts and issued a Finding of No Significant Impact on November 16, 2012.

Decision

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**. You may request that a hard copy be sent to you.

I have decided to issue you a multi-year livestock crossing permit until February 28, 2023 to trail up to 600 cattle across public lands. The authorized trailing route will cross through the Twin Butte Allotment along a trailing route (see attached map) analyzed under Alternative 2 of EA No. DOI-BLM-ID-T010-2012-0004-EA. In the summer, cattle will trail to the Grindstone Allotment and in the fall they will trail back to the Kubic Allotment. As described in the Finding of No Significant Impact, I found none of the impacts associated with these trailing events to be significant either individually or cumulatively. Therefore, you are authorized to conduct crossing activities for up to one day for up to 600 cattle between June 1 and July 31 in the summer and September 1 and October 31 in the fall in accordance with the terms and conditions listed in the attached permit. You must notify the BLM annually prior to trailing livestock. My reasons for approving your application with the additional terms and conditions are to minimize potential environmental impacts to soils, 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 decisions 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 crossing permit are incorporated by reference into this decision and must be followed. Terms and conditions that are specifically identified to reduce environmental impacts are:

Terms and Conditions

- Trailing will occur along the route outlined on the attached map. No overnighting on BLM administered lands within the Twin Butte Allotment is authorized.
- Trailing will not be authorized during times when soils are saturated.
- Livestock trailing routes will avoid areas recently burned by wildfire where possible (if wildfire occurs route may be adjusted).
- Livestock trailing routes will avoid recent vegetation treatments (Emergency Stabilization and Burned Area Rehabilitation, fuels reduction, or restoration treatments) to the extent possible (if vegetation treatment occurs the route may be adjusted).
- Livestock trailing routes will be located, or timed, to minimize the potential spread of noxious weeds (e.g., avoid areas of known noxious weeds; avoid times when seeds from noxious weeds are mature).
- The use of certified noxious-weed-free forage will be required for any horses used for the herding of livestock.

- Livestock trailing routes will occur on roadways/designated routes of travel when practical.
- Use of motorized vehicles associated with trailing is restricted to existing roads.

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

Rationale

Authorizing the trailing of livestock across BLM-administered lands would facilitate proper grazing management of BLM grazing allotments; as well as facilitate movements of livestock to and from private, state, or other federally administered lands. Issuance of crossing permits authorizing the trailing of livestock across BLM-administered lands is in accordance with 43 CFR 4130 and 4160, and is consistent with the provisions of the Taylor Grazing Act and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act.

The authorized route avoids occupied slickspot peppergrass Element Occurrences, occupied sage-grouse leks, sage-grouse nesting habitat, ferruginous hawk nests, occupied pygmy rabbit habitat, California bighorn sheep year-round habitat, occupied golden eagle nests, riparian areas and wetlands, canyons, historic roads and trails, areas recently burned by wildfires, and recent vegetation treatments.

The entire route is within areas burned in fires since 2005. Sagebrush habitats were removed by the fires in this area.

BLM recognizes that areas recently burned by wildfires could be more susceptible to erosion and disturbance caused by livestock trampling. In the event that a future wildfire occurs along the route, potential effects would be minimized by staying on existing roads when and where practical.

Cultural resource inventories have been conducted along the route. Crossing activities will have no adverse effect on historic properties.

The route occurs almost entirely within the Saylor Creek Herd Management Area (HMA); however interaction with the wild horses is expected to be minimal because the route utilizes an existing road that the horses typically avoid.

The authorized route utilizes existing roads and trails to the maximum extent possible.

Authority

My decision is issued under the authority found in:

Title 43 of the 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 Krystle Pehrson at (208) 736-2363.

Sincerely,

/s/ Brian W. Davis

Brian W. Davis
Field Manager

Enclosures:

Crossing Permit (2 pp.)

Map of trailing route (1 p.)

Copies sent to:

Goodtime Association

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

Robert and Sabrina Amidon

DJ Schubert, Animal Welfare Institute

Kyle Prior, Tribal Chairman Shoshone-Paiute Tribes

John Robison, Idaho Conservation League

Courtney Washburn, 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

Jerry Hoagland, Owyhee County Board of Commissioners

Jim Desmond, NRC Owyhee County Board of Commissioners

John Biar, Idaho Department of Agriculture
Randy Stowell
Meghan Brown, Nevada Cattlemen's Association
Gus Brackett, 71 Livestock Association
Jared Brackett
Idaho Chapter Wild Sheep Foundation
Friends of the Jarbidge
Kathleen R Greg
Suzanne Roy, American Wild Horse Presevation Campaign
Connie Cunningham
Barry Lehman
Ellen McCoy
Pryor Mountain Wild Mustang Center
Christine Van Boening
Deniz Bolbol, American Wild Horse Preservation Campaign

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

Blue Butte Grazing Association
c/o Stanley Lehmann
1743 S 3000 S
Wendell, ID 83355

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 |
|------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|------|----------------|------|
| 01145 | Twin Butte | 600 | Cattle | 06/01 | 07/31 | 100 | 1 | 20 |
| 01145 | Twin Butte | 600 | Cattle | 09/01 | 10/31 | 100 | 1 | 20 |

OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

- Livestock trailing will be in accordance with the Notice of Field Manager's Decision dated June 12, 2013.
- 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. No overnighting on BLM administered lands within the Twin Butte Allotment is authorized.
- Trailing will not be authorized during times when soils are saturated.
- Livestock trailing routes will avoid areas recently burned by wildfire where possible (if wildfire occurs route may be adjusted).
- Livestock trailing routes will avoid recent vegetation treatments (Emergency Stabilization and Burned Area Rehabilitation, fuels reduction, or restoration treatments) to the extent possible (if vegetation treatment occurs the route may be adjusted).
- Livestock trailing routes will be located, or timed, to minimize the potential spread of noxious weeds (e.g., avoid areas of known noxious weeds; avoid times when seeds from noxious weeds are mature).
- The use of certified noxious-weed-free forage will be required for any horses used for the herding of livestock.

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.

- Livestock trailing routes will occur on roadways/designated routes of travel when practical.
- Use of motorized vehicles associated with trailing is restricted to existing roads.

STANDARD TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

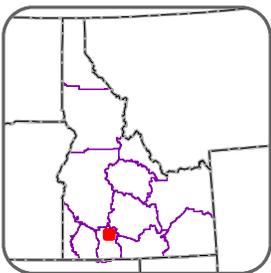
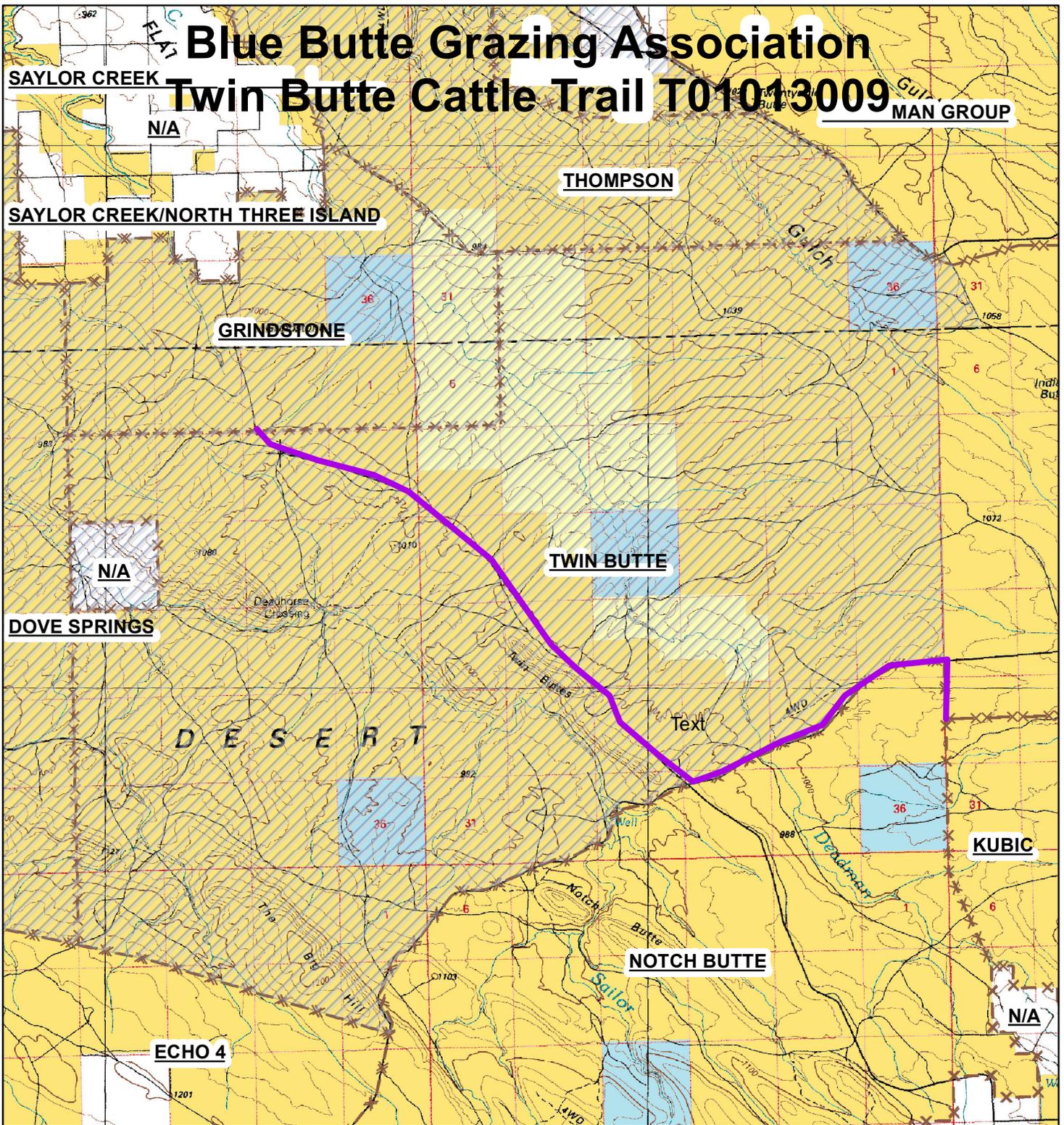
- Billing notices are issued which specify fees due. Billing notices, when paid, become part of the crossing permit. Fee payments are due on the date specified on the billing notice and **MUST** be paid in full prior to livestock crossing activities.
- This permit is issued solely for the purpose of 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 listed on this crossing permit is subject to requirements at 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: _____



US Dept. of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Twin Falls District, Idaho

Legend

- BB_GS_Kubic_Trail
- Saylor Creek Herd Management Area
- Allotment Boundary
- Bureau of Land Management
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Military, Department of Defense
- Forest Service
- National Park Service
- Private; other
- State



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.

User: kpehrson
Date: 6/12/2013
Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 11N
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: North American 1983