



United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Boise District Office
Bruneau Field Office
3948 Development Avenue
Boise, Idaho 83705
<http://www.blm.gov/id/st/en/fo/bruneau.html>



In Reply Refer To:
4160

March 27, 2012

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Gordon King
Oreana Route, P.O. Box 36
Murphy, ID 83650

Notice of Field Manager's Decision

Dear Mr. King:

I have received your application for a crossing permit to trail livestock across public lands in the West Castle Creek Allotment. Upon review, and in accordance with 43 CFR 4130.6-3 and Section 123 of the 2012 Appropriations Omnibus Act, your application for a temporary crossing permit is approved subject to terms and conditions.

Background

This decision is only for your spring crossing permit. On November 1, 2011, you submitted an application for a crossing permit shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1. Application for Crossing Permit.

| Route # ^A | Map # ^A | Allotments Crossed | Total # of Cattle | Timeframe | | # of Groups ^B | Days per Group ^C | Herding Method |
|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------|------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| | | | | Begin | End | | | |
| 229A | 18A | West Castle Creek | 1,100 C | 3-31 | 4-15 | 3 | 1 day | Horse |

^A Route and map numbers correspond to routes and maps depicted as Alternative A in EA No. DOI-BLM-ID-B020-2012-0003-EA

^B Indicates the number of groups in which the total number of livestock would be split for trailing. For example, 500 total cattle being trailed in 2 groups would result in 2 groups averaging 250 cattle each.

^C Indicates how long it would take each group of livestock to travel the length of the trailing route.

In response to your application and several others, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) prepared Environmental Assessment (EA) No. DOI-BLM-ID-B020-2012-0003-EA¹ to analyze the environmental consequences of trailing livestock throughout the Bruneau Field Office.

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-B020-2012-0003-EA). Alternative A included the proposed trailing activities as submitted in the crossing permit applications (Table 1). Alternative B was the No Action Alternative and would have denied all applications for crossing permits. Alternative C was developed in response to public comments and in consideration of potential environmental consequences of the trailing activities depicted in Alternative A (Table 2).

After reviewing EA No. DOI-BLM-ID-B020-2012-0003-EA, I determined that livestock trailing would not result in any significant impacts and issued a Finding of No Significant Impact on March 26, 2012.

Decision and Rationale

I have decided to approve your application and issue you a crossing permit for one year as shown in Table 2 and the attached map. Specific dates will be shown and final authorization will be granted in a grazing bill.

Table 2. Crossing Permit with Stipulations.

| Route # ^A | Map # ^A | Allotments Crossed | Total # of Cattle | Timeframe | | # of Groups ^B | Days per Group ^C | Herding Method | Stipulations under Alternative C ^D |
|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------|------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|---|
| | | | | Begin | End | | | | |
| 229C | 18C | West Castle Creek | 1,100 C | 3-31 | 4-15 | 3 | 1 day | Horse | n/a |

^A Route and map numbers correspond to routes and maps depicted as Alternative C in EA No. DOI-BLM-ID-B020-2012-0003-EA.
^B Indicates the number of groups in which the total number of livestock would be split for trailing. For example, 500 total cattle being trailed in 2 groups would result in 2 groups averaging 250 cattle each.
^C Indicates how long it would take each group of livestock to travel the length of the trailing route.
^D Stipulations indicate changes relative to your application analyzed under Alternative A. Rows with “n/a” indicate that no change was necessary for avoiding resources of concern.

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:

¹ EA No. DOI-BLM-ID-B020-2012-0003-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-Bruneau FO**, Document Type = **EA**, Fiscal Year = **2012**, Program = **All**, then click **Search**. Once you arrive here, click on **DOI-BLM-ID-B020-2012-003-EA**. If you are unable to view the documents on the website, you may request that hard copies be sent to you.

Terms and Conditions

- Trailing will occur off paved roads (except when crossing a paved road) and will not congest roadways or cause a hazard to motorized vehicles. Cross-country travel by livestock will only be authorized as shown on Map 18C.
- Trailing will be active, with livestock moving toward their final destination, except at night.
- Motorized vehicles will remain on existing vehicle routes. Cross-country use of motorized vehicles is not authorized.
- Livestock trailing on routes in or adjacent to burned areas that have been temporarily closed to grazing will be kept on the route until the criteria for reopening the burned area to grazing are met. If the burned area has also had Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation (ESR) treatments, livestock will be kept on the route until ESR objectives were met.
- Livestock trailing on routes in or adjacent to vegetation treatments (e.g., fuels projects or restoration treatments) will be kept on the route until the treatment objectives are met, unless the specific trailing event would not conflict with treatment objectives.
- From April 1 to June 30, temporary water troughs will not be placed in sagebrush habitat to avoid impacts to nesting sage-grouse (and/or hens with early broods); 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. Summer through fall (June 1 through November 30), sage-grouse leks may be used for temporary water sites to maintain shorter vegetation for the lek.
- 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.
- 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.

Furthermore, per Section 3.19 of EA No. DOI-BLM-ID-B020-2012-0003-EA, the BLM will conduct Class III cultural resource inventories at all stream crossings and spring areas to further consider effects to cultural resources resulting from the issuance of the crossing permit. Based on current information, no impacts to National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)-eligible sites are known to occur. However, if monitoring and additional inventories find that impacts from trailing livestock are occurring to NRHP-eligible sites, additional mitigation measures will be identified and implemented.

Rationale

My decision is in conformance with the Bruneau Management Framework Plan (MFP)(1983).

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 effect of trailing on vegetation by avoiding burned areas and recent vegetation treatments;

- Reduce the potential risk of introducing or spreading noxious weeds; and
- Reduce the potential effect to sage-grouse and sage-grouse habitat.

Relative to the specific trailing events in your application, Route 229C is approved without change because no changes were necessary for avoiding resources of concern.

As described in the Finding of No Significant Impact for EA No. DOI-BLM-ID-B020-2012-0003-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.
- The Bruneau MFP (1983), 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) 384-3331 or Mike Boltz at (208) 384-3346.

Sincerely,

/s/ Arnold L Pike

Arnold L. Pike
Field Manager
Bruneau Field Office

Enclosures:

Map of trailing event

Copies sent by mail to:

Allotment permittees

Other Interested Publics