

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BLM, BOISE DISTRICT
Scoping Document for EA # DOI-BLM-ID-B030-2012-0012-EA**

Applicant : Petan Company of Nevada, Inc.; 06 Livestock Co.; Collins Family LLC	Proposed Action: Owyhee Field Office Group 1 Allotments Grazing Permit Renewal ; (Garat (0584), Castlehead-Lambert (0634), Swisher Spring (0450), and Swisher FFR (0637) allotments)			EA No. DOI-BLM-ID-B030-2012-0012-EA
State: Idaho	County: Owyhee	District: Boise	Field Office: Owyhee	Authority: NEPA, FLPMA
Prepared By: NPR ID Team	Title: Various			Report Date: January 2012

LANDS INVOLVED

Meridian	Township	Range	Sections	Acres PD
Boise	11S	3W	20, 28, 29, 31, 32, 33	252,291
	11S	4W	21, 22, 26-28, 31-35	
	12S	3W	4-8, 17-20, 29-31	
	12S	4W	1-36	
	13S	3W	5-8, 16-21, 28-32	
	13S	4W	1-36	
	13S	5W	35, 36	
	14S	1W	7, 18, 19, 30, 31	
	14S	2W	1-36	
	14S	3W	1-36	
	14S	4W	1-36	
	14S	5W	1, 2, 11-13, 24, 25, 36	
	15S	1W	1-36	
	15S	2W	1-36	
	15S	3W	1-36	
	15S	4W	1-6, 8-16, 22-27, 35, 36	
	16S	1E	6, 7, 18, 19, 30	
	16S	1W	1-30	
	16S	2W	1-30	
	16S	3W	1-29	
16S	4W	1, 12, 13		

This information package summarizes a Bureau of Land Management (BLM) proposal to respond to applications to renew four grazing permits that would authorize livestock grazing within four allotments, for a term of ten years. Renewed grazing permits would be in conformance with the Owyhee Resource Management Plan (ORMP) (USDI 1999), ensure compliance with the Idaho Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management (Idaho S&Gs) adopted in 1997 (USDI 1997), and comply with 43 CFR 4100 – Grazing Administration. Federal actions must be analyzed in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other relevant Federal and State laws and regulations to determine potential environmental consequences.

The purpose of this scoping document is to inform the interested public of the proposal and to request comments to assist with the NEPA review for the proposal. Analysis of the proposal will be documented in an Environmental Assessment (EA) with an estimated completion date of April 30, 2012. Comments received in response to this request will be used to identify potential environmental issues related to the Applicants' Proposed Action and to define alternatives to the Applicants' Proposed Action that meet the purpose and need for the project. Comments are due by February 27, 2012.

Public Input Needed

Comments are specifically requested on the Applicants' Proposed Action, preliminary issues, and alternatives. For due consideration in developing the EA, comments must be directly relevant to the proposal and project areas. The BLM will not reject public feedback outside established public involvement timeframes; however, these comments may be considered secondarily to comments received in a timely manner and may only be assessed to determine if they identify concerns that would substantially alter the assumptions, proposal, design, or analysis presented in the EA. Please send your comments with the title of this project in the subject line. Address written comments to:

**Bureau of Land Management
Loretta Chandler - Owyhee Field Manager
20 First Avenue West
Marsing, Idaho 83639**

Comments sent electronically should be emailed to:

BLM_ID_NPR_Group1@blm.gov

Please identify whether you are submitting comments as an individual or as the designated spokesperson on behalf of an agency or organization. Issues that are outside the scope of the proposal will not be addressed at this planning level.

The primary contact for questions and comments for this analysis is Jake Vialpando, Project Lead, (208) 373-3814.

Need for and Purpose of Action

The BLM Owyhee Field Office has prioritized and grouped allotments to fully process and renew grazing permits in accordance with the Order Approving Stipulated Settlement Agreement (United States District Court for the District of Idaho Case 1:97-CV-00519-BLW) dated June 26, 2008. The agreement defined a schedule for completing the required environmental analyses and to issue final decisions and grazing permits for a number of allotments.

Priority Group 1 allotments include the Garat, Castlehead-Lambert, Swisher Springs, and Swisher FFR allotments. These four allotments, which are under the purview of the Owyhee Field Office, are located adjacent to one another within the southern portion of Owyhee County, Idaho (see maps in attached assessment/evaluation reports). Applications for renewal of grazing permits for use in these four allotments have been received by BLM from permittees who are currently authorized to graze livestock in these allotments.

The purpose of this action is to provide for livestock grazing opportunities on public lands where consistent with meeting management objectives.

The need for this action is established by the Taylor Grazing Act (TGA), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), and the ORMP, which require that the BLM respond to applications to fully process and renew permits to graze livestock on public land. In detail, the analysis of the actions identified in the applications for grazing permit renewals and the alternative actions is needed because:

- BLM Idaho adopted the Idaho Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management (Idaho S&Gs) in 1997. Rangelands should be meeting or making significant progress toward meeting the standards and must provide for proper nutrient cycling, hydrologic cycling, and energy flow. Guidelines direct the selection of grazing management practices and, where appropriate, livestock facilities to promote significant progress toward, or the attainment and maintenance of, the standards. Rangeland health assessments and evaluation reports completed for the Garat, Castlehead-Lambert, Swisher Springs, and Swisher FFR allotments identify a number of standards that have not been met (see attached assessment/evaluation reports).
- The ORMP identifies resource management objectives and management actions that establish guidance for managing a broad spectrum of land uses and allocations for public lands in the Owyhee Resource Area. The ORMP allocated public lands within the Garat, Castlehead-Lambert, Swisher Springs, and Swisher FFR allotments available for domestic livestock grazing. Where consistent with the goals and objectives of the ORMP and Idaho S&Gs, allocation of forage for livestock use and the issuance of grazing permits to qualified applicants are provided for by the TGA and the FLPMA.

Decisions to be Made

The Owyhee Field Manager is the authorized officer responsible for the decisions regarding management of public lands within these four allotments. Based on the results of the NEPA analysis, the authorized officer will issue a findings document that includes a determination of the significance of the environmental effects and whether an environmental impact statement (EIS) would be required. If the authorized officer determines that it is not necessary to prepare an EIS, the EA will provide information for the authorized officer to make an informed decision whether to renew the applicants' grazing permits and if renewed, which management actions, mitigation measures, and monitoring requirements will be prescribed for each of the four allotments to ensure management objectives and Idaho S&Gs are met.

Existing Conditions

The Garat allotment is located approximately 75 miles south of Murphy, Idaho, and north of the Nevada state line. The allotment is bordered by the East Fork Owyhee River on the north, South Fork Owyhee River on the west, and the Duck Valley Indian Reservation on the east. The allotment includes 202,618 acres of public land, 8,836 acres of state land, and 207 acres of private land in six pastures.

The Castlehead-Lambert allotment is located immediately north of the Garat allotment, with the East Fork Owyhee River as its southern boundary. The allotment includes Lambert Table and is bordered by Juniper Mountain on the north and Red Canyon on the west. The allotment includes 45,826 acres of public land, 217 acres of state land, and three acres of private land in six pastures.

The Swisher Springs allotment is located adjacent to and east of the Castlehead-Lambert allotment. The allotment includes 3,694 acres of public land and no state land or private land in three pastures.

Swisher FFR allotment is located adjacent to and north of the Swisher Springs allotment, 55 miles south of Murphy, Idaho. The allotment includes 153 acres of public land, 628 acres of private land, and no state land.

The ORMP identifies resource management objectives for public lands, many of which may be applicable to livestock grazing authorizations in the four allotments. In addition to the following ORMP objectives, a brief summary of the resources present within the four allotments is provided.

Soil Resources

The applicable ORMP objectives for soil resources are:

- SOIL 1: Improve unsatisfactory and maintain satisfactory watershed health/condition on all areas.
- SOIL 2: Achieve stabilization of current, and prevent the potential for future, localized accelerated soil erosion problems (particularly on stream banks, roads, and trails).

The Garat, Castlehead-Lambert, Swisher Springs, and Swisher FFR allotments are located within the Upper Owyhee and South Fork Owyhee sub-basins and contain elevation ranges from 4,200 feet near the confluence of Red Canyon and the Owyhee River to over 6,600 feet near Castle Mountain. Allotment soils are diverse due to landscape position, climate, aspect, slope, elevation, vegetative communities, and parent material sources.

The landscape is characterized by mid-elevation foothills, mountain side slopes, incised and narrow canyons, terraces, structural benches, and undulating plateaus and tablelands where soils formed in mixed alluvium and residuum. Tablelands are primarily basalt in origin, while most of the other landform features are developed in welded rhyolite tuffs and some breccia. The slopes range from 0 to 5 percent on flat tablelands and plateaus to more than 45 percent on side slopes, in drainages, and along steep breaklands.

Soils may be categorized according to three major physiographic regions: mountain side slopes and mid-elevation foothills (e.g. northern half of Castlehead-Lambert and Swisher area), terraces and bottomlands (e.g. the Juniper Basin and Red Basin areas), and undulating plateaus and tablelands (e.g. much of Garat and Lambert Table).

Most of the soils in the allotments are shallow to moderately deep (with deeper inclusions), well drained, and generally have a xeric (arid) moisture regime. This is reflected in limited available water-holding capacities along many of the tablelands, plateaus, and where soils contain increased coarse textures and rock fragments. Upper-elevation areas have a frigid soil temperature regime, while the lower elevation sites are mesic (moist) bordering on frigid. This arid climate is characterized by warm, dry summers and cold, wet winters.

In gently sloping terrain, the soil erosion hazard from water on most soils is slight to moderate, while elevated erosion potential can be expected with increasing grades. The presence of surface rock fragments and vegetation provides cover and can greatly modify runoff potential and sediment movement. Flooding and ponding are rare and localized, but the potential for soil compaction is increased under wet conditions, especially during the period of spring run-off. Wind erosion hazard is slight to moderate but can increase after fires.

In the central and northern part of the Castlehead-Lambert and Swisher allotments, soils are primarily associated with the Shallow-Claypan 12-16", Clayey 12-15", Loamy 12-16", Loamy 13-16", and Mahogany Savanna 16"-22" ecological sites. These soils are typically loamy to clayey with high amounts of coarse fragments on the surface and in the profile. Soils that dominate Lambert Table contain alluvial and residual parent material that derived from basalt and are shallow to moderately deep with abrupt textural boundaries in the subsoil and stony surfaces.

Most of the Garat allotment soils are moderately deep, fine-textured silt loams associated with Loamy 10-13" ecological sites. Expansive areas of Shallow-Claypan 11-13" ecological sites are dispersed throughout the allotment and often contain a moderate to high shrink-swell potential.

Portions of the Castlehead-Lambert and Swisher Springs allotments are most affected by the expansion of western juniper. Where invasion is heavy, juniper trees are highly competitive with regard to available moisture, nutrients, and understory photosynthetic needs, which adversely affect hydrological cycles, soil stability, species composition, and vegetative density. Where deeply rooted perennial bunchgrasses and forbs are on the decline, and shrubs, such as Wyoming big sagebrush, are on the increase, the plant community change can affect hydrologic function and soil stability.

Water Resources

The applicable ORMP objectives for water resources are:

- WATR 1: Meet or exceed State of Idaho water quality standards on all Federally administered waters within the Owyhee Resource Area.
- WATR 2: Follow current State water rights processes and procedures to acquire water rights for beneficial uses and support establishment of in-stream flows which are in the public interest.

BLM relies on Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) water quality and beneficial use information to determine streams and/or reaches of streams that are not meeting the standards set by the State. The allotments in Group 1 fall within both the Lower Owyhee River and the South Fork Owyhee River watersheds, which were assessed and approved by the EPA in 2003 and 2000 respectively. The Lower Owyhee River watershed was again reviewed in 2009. The watershed was assigned beneficial uses that include cold-water aquatic life and primary and secondary recreation contact. Cold-water aquatic life water bodies are defined as having "water quality appropriate for the protection and maintenance of a viable aquatic life community for cold water species". Streams within the allotments that were identified by IDEQ as not supporting the beneficial uses include Beaver, Castle, Little Smith, Red Canyon Creeks, and their tributaries, as well as Juniper Reservoir. Beaver and Little Smith Creeks and their tributaries and Juniper Reservoir have been through the reconnaissance process and were placed on the Clean Water Act 303(d) list of water bodies that do not meet water quality standards; these water bodies were listed due to excessive sedimentation and siltation, bacteria, flow alteration, and excessive water temperature. However, Juniper Reservoir was created for irrigation water storage, rather than cold water biota or recreational use. In June 2009, IDEQ prepared a 5-year review for the Upper Owyhee watershed, where the Garat allotment is located, and stated, "It is unclear how appropriate the beneficial use assigned to Juniper Reservoir is"...

Vegetation

The applicable ORMP objective for vegetation is:

- VEGE 1: Improve unsatisfactory and maintain satisfactory vegetation health/condition on all areas.

The ecological site inventory has been the Bureau of Land Management standard vegetation inventory since 1982 (USDI BLM, 2001). An ecological site is a distinctive kind of land with specific physical characteristics that differs from other kinds of land in its ability to produce a distinctive kind and amount of vegetation. An ecological site is a land structure type with physical characteristics that set it apart from other sites in its ability to produce a distinctive kind and amount of vegetation. It is the product of all the environmental factors responsible for its development, and it has a set of key characteristics (soils, hydrology, and vegetation) that are included in the ecological site description.

Ecological sites represented in the Group 1 allotments are primarily sagebrush/bunchgrass-dominated vegetation communities in a range of site descriptions, with soil textures from loamy to clay and an average annual precipitation of 8 to more than 16 inches (USDA-NRCS 2005). Mountain shrub-dominated communities described in the Mahogany Savanna ecological site, with an average annual precipitation of 16 to 22 inches, occur on Juniper Mountain in the Castlehead-Lambert allotment. Although ecological sites descriptions for Group 1 allotments indicate that under a natural disturbance regime, vegetation communities are dominated by sagebrush/bunchgrass communities, other vegetation types, such as juniper, aspen, and riparian areas, are expected to occur as unmapped inclusions within the larger ecological sites. Table 1 provides a listing of ecological sites described for the four allotments, a summary of dominant potential vegetation, and acreage for each of the allotments.

Table VEG-1: Ecological sites mapped for the Owyhee Field Office Group 1 allotments

Allotment	Ecological Site	Dominant Species Expected	¹ Acres	Percent of Allotment
Garat	Churning clay 12-16" ARCA13/POA	silver sagebrush; Nevada bluegrass	175	<1
	Clayey 12-16" ARARL/FEID	alkali sagebrush; Idaho fescue	6,100	3
	Shallow claypan 11-13" ARAR8/PSSPS	low sagebrush; bluebunch wheatgrass- Sandberg bluegrass	54,357	26

Allotment	Ecological Site	Dominant Species Expected	¹ Acres	Percent of Allotment
	Shallow claypan 12-16" ARAR8/FEID	low sagebrush; Idaho fescue- bluebunch wheatgrass	9,051	4
	² Loamy 8-12" ARTRW8/PSSPS- ACTH7	Wyoming big sagebrush; bluebunch wheatgrass- Thurber needlegrass	21,483	10
	Loamy 10-13" ARTRW8/PSSPS	Wyoming big sagebrush; bluebunch wheatgrass	110,398	52
	Loamy 16+ ARTRV/FEID	Mountain big sagebrush- bitterbrush; Idaho fescue- bluebunch wheatgrass	22	<1
	Loamy bottom 12-16" ARTRT/LECI4	Basin big sagebrush; basin wildrye	3,705	2
	Unclassified		6,375	3
		Total	211,666	100
Castlehead-Lambert	Clayey 12-16" ARARL/FEID	Alkali sagebrush; Idaho fescue	8,895	19
	Shallow claypan 12-16" ARAR8/FEID	low sagebrush; Idaho fescue- bluebunch wheatgrass	16,300	35
	Very shallow stony loam 10-14" ARAR8/POSA- PSSPS	low sagebrush; Sandberg bluegrass- bluebunch wheatgrass	2,823	6
	Loamy 11-13" ARTRT/PSSP	Basin big sagebrush; bluebunch wheatgrass	13	<1
	Loam 12-16" ARTRT/FEID-PSSPS	Basin big sagebrush;	2,570	6

Allotment	Ecological Site	Dominant Species Expected	¹ Acres	Percent of Allotment
		Idaho fescue-bluebunch wheatgrass		
	Loamy 13-16" ARTRV/PSSPS-FEID	mountain big sagebrush; bluebunch wheatgrass-Idaho fescue	9,187	20
	Loamy bottom 12-16" ARTRT/LECI4	Basin big sagebrush; basin wildrye	2	<1
	Mahogany savanna 16-22" CELE3-SYOR2/FEID-ACHNA	curl-leaf mountain mahogany-mountain snowberry; Idaho fescue-needlegrass	4,359	10
	Unclassified		1,898	4
		Total	46,045	100
Swisher Springs	Shallow claypan 12-16" ARAR8/FEID	low sagebrush, Idaho fescue	2,578	70
	Very shallow stony loam 10-14" ARAR8/POSA-PSSPS	low sagebrush; Sandberg bluegrass-bluebunch wheatgrass	24	<1
	Loamy 13-16" ARTRV/PSSPS-FEID	mountain big sagebrush; bluebunch wheatgrass-Idaho fescue	1,092	30
		Total	3,694	100
Swisher FFR	Shallow claypan 12-16" ARAR8/FEID	low sagebrush; Idaho fescue	781	100
¹ Acreage includes all ownerships. ² The Loamy 8-12" is described within Major Land Resource Area B11, while the remaining ecological sites are described within Major Land Resource Area D25				

Current vegetation [based on mapping done by the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) from 2000/2001 Landsat satellite imagery and updated for

vegetation treatments and fire to date] in the Group 1 allotments is shown in Table 2.

Table VEG-2: Existing Vegetation in the Owyhee Field Office Group 1 Allotments (based on PNNL data as updated)

Allotment	Vegetation Cover Type	Acres	Percent of Allotment
Garat	Juniper	459	<1
	Mountain big sagebrush	854	<1
	Basin/Wyoming big sagebrush	122,622	58
	Low sagebrush	56,095	27
	Bitterbrush	239	<1
	Bunchgrass	5,062	2
	Rabbitbrush	23,387	11
	Greasewood	269	<1
	Salt desert shrub	1	<1
	Wet meadow	308	<1
	Mountain shrub	7	<1
	Exotic annuals	1,535	1
	Aspen	4	<1
	Sparse veg	677	<1
	Water	147	<1
	Total:	211,666	100%
Castlehead-Lambert	Juniper	5,033	11
	Mountain big sagebrush	3,281	7
	Low sagebrush	13,380	29
	Basin/Wyoming big sagebrush	1,500	3
	Bunchgrass	19,982	43
	Rabbitbrush	893	2
	Wet meadow	201	<1
	Mountain shrub	1,495	3
	Bitterbrush	21	<1
	Exotic annuals	16	<1
	Aspen	243	1
	Total:	46,046	100%
Swisher Springs	Juniper	133	4
	Mountain big sagebrush	646	17
	Basin/Wyoming big	152	4

Allotment	Vegetation Cover Type	Acres	Percent of Allotment
	sagebrush		
	Low sagebrush	1,742	47
	Bunchgrass	953	26
	Bitterbrush	6	<1
	Rabbitbrush	7	<1
	Wet meadow	20	1
	Mountain shrub	33	1
	Exotic annuals	0.4	<1
	Sparse veg	0.2	<1
	Total:	3,693	100%
Swisher FFR	Juniper	54	7
	Mountain big sagebrush	160	20
	Basin/Wyoming big sagebrush	168	21
	Low sagebrush	341	44
	Bunchgrass	2	<1
	Bitterbrush	13	2
	Wet meadow	31	4
	Mountain shrub	12	2
	Rabbitbrush	0.4	<1
	Aspen	0.2	<1
	Total:	781	100%

The differences between potential vegetation mapped in ecological site inventories and the current vegetation identified in PNNL data are indicated by comparing tables VEG-1 and VEG-2. Ecological site and PNNL mapping were done at different scales and with different vegetation classifications, so precise comparison is not possible, but general differences in plant community structure and composition are apparent between potential vegetation and current vegetation. In general, juniper is currently the dominant component of a large portion of the landscape in the Castlehead-Lambert and Swisher Springs allotments as compared to its potential as small inclusions within vegetation communities, which at potential would support a dominant community of mountain shrubs, mountain big sagebrush and low sagebrush, with bunchgrasses in the understory. Additionally, evidence of disturbance, including past fires, is indicated by the presence and dominance of grasslands and rabbitbrush in the current vegetation. Although not apparent in a comparison of these data, many sagebrush/bunchgrass vegetation communities within the Group 1 allotments are currently supporting a vegetation community with a greater-than-site-potential component of Sandberg bluegrass and cheatgrass, while bluebunch wheatgrass, needlegrass, or Idaho fescue dominance is generally reduced to a composition less than site potential (see attached rangeland health assessment and evaluation reports).

Riparian-Wetland Areas

The applicable ORMP objective for riparian-wetland areas is:

- RPN 1: Maintain or improve riparian-wetland areas to attain proper functioning and satisfactory conditions. Riparian-wetland areas include streams, springs, seeps, and wetlands.

BLM uses the Proper Functioning Condition protocol (1998 TR 1737-15: *A User Guide to Assessing Proper Functioning Condition and the Supporting Science for Lotic Areas* and TR 1737-16: *A User Guide to Assessing Proper Functioning Condition and Supporting Science for Lentic Areas*) to assess stream and spring/seep condition. The allotments in Group 1 contain a number of stream miles and springs (see the RHAs for complete assessment); however, the Castlehead-Lambert allotment contains the majority of the water and riparian resources for the group.

The portions of streams and the springs that are accessible to livestock are in poor condition. Typically, for the reaches of stream that are not in proper functioning condition, there is inadequate riparian-wetland vegetation present to protect streambanks and dissipate energy during high flows, and deep-rooted bank stabilizing hydric species are often absent from plant communities. Within the Castlehead-Lambert allotment, there are approximately 24.5 miles of perennial and intermittent stream that have been assessed. Of these, 15.5 miles were functioning-at-risk (FAR) and approximately nine miles were assessed to be in proper functioning condition (PFC). The Garat and Swisher Springs allotments contain minimal stream miles that support riparian vegetation; however, 2.5 miles of stream within the Garat allotment and approximately three miles of stream within the Swisher Springs allotment were assessed as FAR.

In general, the springs that are not meeting the rangeland health standard have a high percentage of bare soil, heavy utilization of riparian-wetland vegetation, and shearing of wetland soils. Of the sixteen springs that have been assessed within the Castlehead-Lambert allotment, eight were non-functioning (NF), seven were FAR, and one was PFC. Five of the previously assessed springs have been revisited and the short-term indicators (stubble height, bank alteration, and woody browse) show an improvement. The Swisher Springs allotment contains one spring that was assessed as FAR.

Wildlife Habitat

The applicable ORMP objective for wildlife habitat is:

- WDLF1: Maintain or enhance the condition, abundance, structural stage, and distribution of plant communities and special habitat features required to support a high diversity and desired population of wildlife.

Wildlife habitats within the Group 1 allotments include juniper woodlands, mountain shrublands, sagebrush steppe, grassland meadow complexes, non-native seedings, riparian areas, springs and seeps, playas and various small to large reservoirs; however, not all habitat types are represented in each allotment.

These habitats provide nesting and foraging substrate and cover for a variety of bird, mammal, amphibian, and reptile species common to southwestern Idaho and the Northern Great Basin region.

The current conditions of wildlife habitats differ among allotments (see RHAs for details). With a few exceptions, the Castlehead-Lambert, Swisher Springs, and Swisher FFR allotments north of the East Fork Owyhee River Canyon exhibit upland habitat conditions that are meeting the needs of most species. Exceptions to the general adequacy of upland habitats include an absence of the shrubs in recently burned areas and the encroachment of junipers into sagebrush communities. Currently, these conditions are limiting use and/or not providing habitat requirements adequate for shrub-dependent species in these areas. In the Garat allotment south of the East Fork Owyhee River Canyon, juniper encroachment currently is not affecting habitat quality, and upland habitats appear to be meeting the needs of most species in much of the allotment. In some areas, however, altered big sagebrush growth form (i.e., columnar) and reductions in desirable bunchgrasses accompany increases in perennial grasses that provide poor horizontal cover. These vegetation types are likely providing marginal habitat conditions for many shrub-dependent species. In addition, suitable habitat conditions for these species are lacking in areas of past burns that were seeded with non-native species or that have little demonstrable recovery through the expected progression of seral stages.

Riparian/wetland habitats differ substantially among Group 1 allotments (see RHAs for details). The Castlehead-Lambert, Swisher Springs, and Swisher FFR allotments have the highest amount and potential for riparian vegetation in Group 1. Castlehead-Lambert is characterized by dozens of springs and seeps and various perennial streams; Swisher Springs also has springs and seeps, but only intermittent streams. Riparian/wetland habitat on the BLM lands within Swisher FFR is absent. Riparian/wetland habitats within the Garat allotment are limited to various intermittent streams and reservoirs. In general, riparian areas and wetlands in Group 1 allotments that are not in proper functioning condition are not providing adequate habitat conditions for species that are dependent on structural and biological diversity, deep-rooted riparian species that stabilize streambanks, and acceptable water quality.

Fishery Habitat

The applicable ORMP objective for fishery habitat is:

- FISH 1: Improve or maintain perennial stream/ riparian areas to attain satisfactory conditions to support native fish.

The perennial streams (East Fork and West Fork Red Canyon, Red Canyon, Little Smith, and Castle Creeks) within the Castlehead-Lambert allotment that have the potential to support a fishery were assessed using the PFC protocol (see Riparian Wetland Areas above and RHAs attached), and several reaches were sampled for presence/absence of native fish species. The perennial streams in the Castlehead-Lambert allotment, as identified by Idaho Department

of Fish and Game, have historically supported native fisheries. Currently, the riparian wetland areas associated with the streams and headwater springs are in poor condition and the density of fish is low (see RHAs attached).

Special Status Species

The applicable ORMP objective for special status species is:

- SPSS1: Manage special status species and habitats to increase or maintain populations at levels where their existence is no longer threatened and there is no need for listing under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended.

Special Status Species (SPSS) are those that have been listed, proposed for listing, or are candidates for listing as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act. Sensitive and State-listed species are also considered special status. Although special status species occurrences are tracked by BLM field office staff and the Idaho Natural Heritage Program (INHP) through the Idaho Fish and Wildlife Information System (IFWIS), most species populations and site-specific distributions are poorly documented. With the exception of a few well-studied species, current occurrence and population data for most special status species within the Group 1 allotments are limited due to a deficiency of targeted surveys and directed research. Monitoring of known populations occurs as time and resources allow, and additional inventories are conducted on an ongoing basis for range projects as incidental surveys.

Wildlife

Although no threatened or endangered species listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) occur in the Group 1 allotments, several candidate species in consideration for listing and a variety of special status species occur or have the potential to occur within the various allotments. These species include greater sage-grouse, Columbia spotted frogs, pygmy rabbits, Columbia River redband trout, California bighorn sheep, raptors, bats, and a variety of shrub-obligate birds and mammals.

Although current habitat conditions are not ideal, greater sage-grouse, spotted frogs, redband trout, California bighorn sheep, golden eagles, prairie falcons, spotted bats, sage sparrows, and other special status species have been documented within the Group 1 allotments. In addition, most special status species that are likely to occur in the Group 1 allotments based on the presence of their preferred habitat display broad ecological tolerance and are widely distributed throughout the Great Basin region.

Plants

No plants listed under the Endangered Species Act are known or suspected to occur within the Group 1 allotments. However, the following special status species are known to occur within Group 1 allotments: mountain ball cactus (*Pediocactus simpsonii*), thimblehead goldenhead (*Pyrocomma radiata*), rattlesnake stickseed (*Hackelia ophiobia*), stream orchid (*Epipactis gigantea*),

inch-high lupine (*Lupinus uncialis*), Newberry's milkvetch (*Astragalus newberryi* var. *castoreus*), and Davis' peppergrass (*Lepidium davisii*). The BLM initiates proactive conservation measures that reduce or eliminate threats to Bureau sensitive species to minimize the likelihood of and need for the listing of these species under the ESA (USDI BLM 2008).

The Garat allotment contains the majority of special status plants, with a total of five species; Castlehead-Lambert allotment contains two species, and the Swisher allotments have no special status plant species. There is an array of habitat types associated with the special status plants that occur in Group 1. The habitats of these special status plants vary from rhyolite outcrops of the Owyhee River Canyon, alkali playas and swales within Wyoming big sagebrush communities, volcanic badlands, and gravelly soils of volcanic origin.

Livestock Grazing Management

The applicable ORMP objective for livestock grazing management is:

- LVST 1: Provide for sustained level of livestock use compatible with meeting other resource objectives.

The ORMP allocated public lands within the Garat, Castlehead-Lambert, Swisher Springs, and Swisher FFR allotments for grazing by domestic livestock. Four permits to graze cattle currently authorize use within these allotments. Terms and conditions of those grazing authorizations are summarized in the Current Situation Alternative of this scoping document.

Recreation

The applicable ORMP objectives for recreation are:

- REC1: Provides for off-highway motor-vehicle (OHMV) use on public lands while protecting sensitive resource values.
- REC2: Provide special management attention to areas of public land with identified special recreational, scenic, and cultural values where current and projected recreational demand warrants intensive management.
- REC4: Provide for high quality recreational opportunities and experiences at developed and undeveloped recreation sites by maintaining existing amenities (roaded natural, urban and semi-primitive motorized settings) and by providing new recreation sites for the public's enjoyment, with emphasis on roaded natural and semi-primitive motorized settings.
- REC5: Develop a trail system that provides a range of motorized and non-motorized recreation opportunities for the public's enjoyment of primitive, semi-primitive non-motorized, semi-primitive motorized, and roaded natural settings.
- REC7: Retain at least 10 percent of the outdoor recreation area (ORA) in a primitive recreational opportunity spectrum (ROS) setting.

The majority of public lands in the vicinity of Group 1 allotments are located within the Owyhee Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA). An ERMA is an area where recreation management is only one of several management

objectives, and where a limited commitment of resources is required to provide extensive and unstructured types of recreation activities. In addition, the Owyhee River canyon, located between the Garat and Castlehead-Lambert allotments, that forms the western boundary of Garat allotment is within the Owyhee River Canyon Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA). An SRMA is an area where special or more intensive types of recreation management are needed and greater investments for recreation management are anticipated due to the intensity of use the area receives (USDI-BLM 1999).

The East Fork Owyhee River and the South Fork Owyhee River were designated as portions of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System by the 2009 Omnibus Public Land Management Act. That legislation also designated public lands adjacent to the East Fork Owyhee River and the South Fork Owyhee River as a portion of the Owyhee River Wilderness.

The off-highway motor vehicle (OHV) designations upon public lands within the vicinity of the Group 1 allotments are limited to existing roads and trails, while some roads and trails on public lands are closed. Motorized and mechanized cross-country travel is prohibited on public lands within the Owyhee Field Office. OHV regulations apply to permitted uses as well as to general public use. The areas closed to motorized vehicles are within the Owyhee River Wilderness and The Badlands Resource Natural Area (RNA)/Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC).

The Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) classification is used to characterize the types of recreational opportunity settings, activities, and experience opportunities that can be expected in different areas of public land. The public lands adjacent to the Group 1 allotments contain multiple settings for recreationists, including primitive, semi-primitive non-motorized, semi-primitive motorized, and roaded natural settings.

The primitive classification is an area characterized by an essentially unmodified natural environment. The concentration of users is very low and the evidence of other users is minimal. The area is managed essentially to be free from evidence of human-induced facilities for comfort or convenience. Only facilities essential for resource protection are used. Motorized use within the area is not permitted.

The semi-primitive motorized and the semi-primitive non-motorized classifications are areas characterized by a primarily unmodified natural environment. There is evidence of other users in the area; however, management actions encourage limited contacts between users. The semi-primitive motorized classification permits motorized uses within the area, and the semi-primitive non-motorized classification does not.

The roaded natural classification is an area that is characterized by a generally natural environment with only moderate evidence of the sights and sounds of humans. Resource modifications and utilization practices are evident but harmonize with the natural environment (USDI-BLM 1999).

Visual Resources

The applicable ORMP objective for Visual Resources Management (VRM) is:

- VISL1: Manage the public lands for visual resource values under visual resource management classifications.

The establishment of VRM areas is based upon evaluation of the landscapes' scenic values, public sensitivity toward certain areas (such as special recreation designations or wilderness), and the location of affected lands from major travel corridors (distance zoning).

The VRM class I objective is to preserve the existing character of the landscape. This class provides for natural ecological changes but does not preclude very limited management activity. The level of change to the characteristic of the landscape should be very low and must not attract attention. Under this classification, construction of new rangeland (livestock, watershed, wild horse, and wildlife) facilities, roads, recreation sites, and vegetation treatment projects is not permitted.

The VRM class II objective is to retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic of the landscape should be low. Management activities may be seen but should not attract the attention of the casual observer. Very limited construction of new rangeland facilities and vegetation treatment projects is permitted.

The objective for VRM class IV is to provide for management activities which would require major modifications to the existing character of the landscape. These activities may dominate the view and be the focus of attention. However, every attempt should be made to minimize impacts with careful location and minimal disturbances. Maintenance, construction and reconstruction of rangeland facilities and vegetation treatment projects are permitted.

The majority of public lands within the Group 1 allotments are classified and managed as VRM class IV. Portions within the bounds of the Owyhee River Wilderness area are classified and managed as VRM class I. Portions adjacent to wilderness boundary are classified and managed as VRM class II.

Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers

The applicable ORMP objective for wilderness is:

- WNES 2: Following any enabling legislation, manage designated wilderness areas to ensure an enduring wilderness resource.

Although the ORMP completed an evaluation of rivers and streams for potential additions to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, the plan does not include management objectives for Wild and Scenic Rivers, due to the absence of Congressionally designated waterways when the plan was approved.

The East Fork Owyhee River, the South Fork Owyhee River, and a portion of Red Canyon were designated as portions of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System by the 2009 Omnibus Public Land Management Act (OPLMA). Reaches of these rivers were designated as wild, with the exception of a 1.2-mile section of the South Fork Owyhee River in the vicinity of the Forty-five Ranch that was designated as recreational.

The ORMP excluded livestock grazing from the canyons adjacent to the East Fork Owyhee River, the South Fork Owyhee River, and a portion of Red Canyon within the vicinity of Group 1 allotments. Livestock access to the river corridors is restricted by natural barriers and fencing. Regulations administering the management of wild and scenic rivers specify that the corridors be managed in a manner to preserve and protect the values of the river corridor that make it outstandingly remarkable while providing river-related recreational opportunities in a primitive setting.

The OPLMA also designated public lands adjacent to The East Fork Owyhee River and the South Fork Owyhee River as a portion of the Owyhee River Wilderness. In addition, OPLMA released Wilderness Study Areas outside designated wilderness within Owyhee Field Office from further congressional consideration for wilderness designation and management in accordance with the Interim Management Policy for Lands Under Wilderness Review (BLM Manual H-8550-1).

The Owyhee River Wilderness is 267,328 acres in size. The wilderness is centered on the Owyhee River and its tributaries, in the southwest portion of Idaho near the Oregon and Nevada borders. The land is defined by rivers cutting steep canyons out of high desert, sagebrush plateaus.

Regulations administering management of wilderness areas specify that they be managed in a manner that preserves and protects wilderness characteristics and values. The Owyhee River Wilderness contains naturalness, outstanding opportunities for solitude due to excellent topographic and vegetative screening, outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation, and supplemental values such as scenic, scientific, wildlife, and cultural values.

BLM Manual 8560 [Sec .08 (A)(1)] states that “The Wilderness Act directs that wilderness areas be managed to provide for their protection, the preservation of their natural conditions, and the preservation of their wilderness character.” The OPLMA and Wilderness Act [Sec 4(d)(4)(2)] provide for continued livestock grazing where established prior to designating the area as wilderness. The objective of livestock management in wilderness is to utilize the forage resource

in conformity with established wilderness objectives for each area and BLM grazing regulations (43 CFR 4100), and through practical, reasonable and uniform application of the congressional guidelines and policy (BLM Manual 8560).

Lands with Wilderness Characteristics (LWCs)

Lands with Wilderness Characteristics (LWCs) are lands that have been inventoried and determined by the BLM to contain wilderness characteristics as defined in Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act. In order for an area to be classified as an LWC, it must possess sufficient size (more than 5,000 acres), naturalness, and outstanding opportunities for either solitude and/or primitive and unconfined recreation. In addition, it may also possess supplemental values, such as ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

As directed by Section 603 and 201 of FLPMA, BLM began an inventory of public lands identifying LWCs in the 1970s. The Owyhee Field Office identified approximately 100 separate units that were each assessed for wilderness characteristics through a public process. An update of the 1970s inventory, which is required by FLPMA, is currently ongoing. Units within the Group 1 allotments have recently been updated as follow:

Unit 106-47 - West Fork Red Canyon

- Unit 106-47 contains 31,590 acres, 98 percent of which is administered by the BLM. The unit is located on the relatively steep southern slope of Juniper Mountain. The topography is broken up; major drainages include the East and West Forks of Red Canyon, as well as Bear, Pete's, and Cow creeks. Bull Basin occupies the south-central portion.
- The western portion of Unit 106-47 was part of a Wilderness Study Area (WSA) known as West Fork Red Canyon. The eastern portion of unit 106-47 was not designated as part of a WSA. In 2009, the OPLMA released several WSAs, one of which was West Fork Red Canyon, and opened these lands up to other uses, as per the recommendation of the 1991 Idaho Wilderness Study Report (USDI-BLM).

Unit 106-44 – Deep Creek-Nickel Creek

- Unit 106-44 contains 40,486 BLM-administered acres, 105 acres within the Swisher Springs allotment and 55 acres within the Swisher FFR allotment. The unit consists of several broad tables and areas of rolling to rough topography dissected by small draws and three deep canyon systems. The area drains southerly via Deep Creek, Pole Creek, and Nickel Creek. Their confluences are in the southern portion of the unit.
- The central portion of unit 106-44, excluding any lands within the Group 1 allotments, became part of the Upper Deep Creek Wilderness Study Area and was released with passage of the OPLMA.

Cultural Resources

The applicable ORMP objectives for cultural resources are:

- CULT 1: Protect known cultural resource values from loss until their significance is determined.
- CULT 2: Provide special management emphasis for the protection and conservation of significant cultural resource sites and values.

Cultural resources are recognized as fragile, irreplaceable resources that represent an integral part of our nation's heritage. The potential of a stratified site to reveal information regarding human adaptation to specific environments and ecosystems is considerable. The analysis of soils, pollen, and faunal materials can indicate what climatic changes have taken place over time, what types of game and plant species were available for subsistence, and how the landscape was utilized by native peoples. Euroamerican structures and activity locations can disclose important information about historic settlement patterns and the individuals who pioneered the region.

The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA), as amended, identifies federal agency responsibilities to preserve prehistoric and historic cultural resources and provides for the protection of those values on federally managed land. Sites are evaluated for significance as part of NHPA compliance. Monitoring visits to several sites are completed annually to determine the condition of known cultural resources. Mitigation measures may be developed and implemented for significant sites experiencing negative impacts due to natural or human-caused actions.

BLM records indicate that cultural resources in the Castlehead-Lambert, Garat and Swisher FFR allotments consist of a variety of aboriginal and historic site types. The Swisher Springs allotment alone lacks any site recordings. For centuries, native peoples used this and surrounding areas for residential and subsistence activities. Presently, the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes retain an active interest in their traditional lands and claim aboriginal title to them. Historically, Euroamericans have used the area for livestock grazing and other activities that continue to this day. More recently, the area has become increasingly popular for recreation and this use has added to the potential risks faced by cultural resources.

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

The applicable ORMP objective for Areas of Critical Environmental Concern is:

- ACEC 1: Retain existing and designate new areas of critical environmental concern (ACECs) where relevance and importance criteria are met and where special management is needed to protect the values identified.

The following ACECs occur within the Group 1 allotments:

Owyhee River Bighorn Sheep Habitat Area (141,796 acres; Bighorn sheep)
Designation of the ACEC was to enhance habitat for bighorn sheep, to maintain or improve the habitat to at least a good range condition class, and to protect and maintain the scenic and natural values present in the area. Much of this ACEC is located within the recently designated Owyhee River Wilderness Area.

The Badlands (3,600 acres; Plant communities, Special status plants, Scenic values)

The dominant plant communities include western juniper/low sagebrush/Idaho fescue and an uncommon bunchgrass community of California oatgrass (*Danthonia californica*)/Idaho fescue. These communities thrive on the shallow soils of broken volcanic topography. A BLM sensitive species, mountain ball cactus, occurs within the badlands where other vegetation is sparse and soils are thin and rocky. Baley's ivesia (*Ivesia baileyi*), a regional plant commonly found on rhyolite canyon walls, also occurs in The Badlands. A number of special status animals also inhabit the area, such as sage-grouse, several species of bats and Neotropical migrants, and a diversity of other wildlife including mule deer, mountain lions, and a variety of raptors and other nongame birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibian species (USDI BLM 1999).

Preliminary Issues

The specific preliminary issues have been discussed and summarized in the rangeland health assessments and evaluation reports for each allotment. Specific resource condition findings can be reviewed in the Rationale for Evaluation Finding sections of each evaluation report (attached). However, the following broader-level preliminary issues are presented:

1. How will the applicants' proposed action and other alternatives developed in the EA process meet or make significant progress toward meeting the Idaho S&Gs?
2. What management actions will most effectively contribute to meeting the ORMP objectives?

Applicants' Proposed Actions and Preliminary Alternatives

The actions proposed by permittees and preliminary alternatives identified by BLM are:

- Applicants' proposed action
- Current situation alternative
- No-grazing alternative
- Additional alternatives

Applicants' Proposed Action - Permittee Applications for Grazing Permit Renewal

Applications for renewal of grazing permits were received from current permittees authorized to graze livestock within the Garat, Castlehead-Lambert, Swisher Springs, and Swisher FFR allotments. Those applications included mandatory terms and conditions required for all BLM grazing permits: the kind and number of livestock, the period of use, the allotment to be used, and the amount of use in animal unit months

(AUMs). In addition, permittees included other terms and conditions in applications which will assist in achieving management objectives, provide for proper range management, or assist with the orderly administration of the public rangelands.

Garat Allotment (#0584)

Livestock grazing use would be authorized in accordance with mandatory and other terms and conditions as requested within the application dated November 18, 2011, and received by the BLM from Petan Company of Nevada, Inc. (Petan).

Petan would be offered a grazing permit for a term of 10 years with a permitted use of 33,646 Animal Unit Months (AUMs) as further defined in Table LVST-1.

Table LVST-1: Permitted grazing use within the Garat allotment with implementation of the Applicants' Proposed Action

Active Use	Suspended Use	Permitted Use
22,750 AUMs	10,896 AUMs	33,646 AUMs

Mandatory terms and conditions of the offered permit would be defined as listed in Table LVST-2.

Table LVST-2: Mandatory terms and conditions of the offered permit to graze livestock within the Garat allotment with implementation of the Applicants' Proposed Action

Allotment	Livestock		Grazing Period		% PL	Type Use	AUMs ¹
	Number	Kind	Begin	End			
00584 Garat	3,522	Cattle	03/13	09/30	96	Active	22,454
	250	Cattle	10/1	10/15	96	Active	118
	25	Horse	03/14	10/14	100	Active	177

¹ The sum of the AUMs from the Authorization Schedule Information may not equal the Active AUMs for each authorization or allotment due to rounding in the AUM calculation.

- Line 01 reflects a season of use for Garat allotment of March 15 through September 30, with two days (March 13-14) approved for trailing to allow the cattle to reach the Forty-Five and Dry Lake pastures by March 15.
- Line 2 reflects management flexibility for removing strays (not to exceed 250 head between October 1 and October 15) after the scheduled grazing season.
- Line 3 reflects an average of 25 saddle horses authorized to graze between March 14 and October 14 within the horse fields located near Stateline Camp, Four Corners Camp, and/or Piute Creek Camp. While approximately 15 saddle horses reside at one of these camps season long, saddle horse numbers can increase to 75 head during periods when cattle are being gathered, moved

between pastures, and/or branded.

- Lines 01-03 total 22,749 AUMs, consistent with the 22,750 active AUM preference (sic¹) specified by the approved Owyhee Resource Management Plan dated December 30, 1999. Petan preference (sic) within the Garat allotment includes 10,896 suspended AUMs for a total preference (sic) of 33,646 AUMs.

Other terms and conditions of the offered grazing permit for use in the Garat allotment would be:

1. All grazing use will be in accordance with the provisions set forth in Attachment A to the November 18, 2011, Modification of the Grazing Application for the Garat allotment (#00584). Attachment A serves as the functional equivalent of an Allotment Management Plan for the Garat allotment.
2. Livestock turnout dates are subject to the following Range Readiness criteria: Range readiness is defined as the point when the soils have firmed after the spring thaw, when squirrel-tail (SIHY) has at least 2 inches of new growth, and bluebunch wheatgrass (AGSP) has at least 4 inches of new growth. When these parameters are reached, the rangelands in the Garat allotment are considered ready for livestock use, the plants having achieved a growth stage that enables them to maintain themselves. Pastures with substantial old feed may be used before these limits are reached once the soils have firmed, after mutual agreement with the BLM.
3. You are required to properly complete, sign and date an Actual Grazing Use Report Form (4130-5, or equivalent) for each allotment. The completed form(s) must be submitted to this office within 15 days from the last day of your authorized annual grazing use.
4. You will be annually billed for your grazing use after-the-fact based upon your "as filed" Actual Grazing Use Report Form, or its equivalent.
5. Supplemental feeding is limited to salt, mineral, and/or protein in block, granular, or liquid form. If used, these supplements must be placed at least one-quarter (1/4) mile away from any riparian area, spring, stream, meadow, aspen stand, playa, special status plant population, or water development.
6. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(b), you must notify the BLM Field Manager, by telephone with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony (as defined in 43 CFR 10.2) on federal lands. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c), you must immediately stop any ongoing activities connected with such discovery and make a reasonable effort to protect the discovered remains or objects.

¹ Preference or grazing preference defined at 43 CFR 4100.0-5 means a superior or priority position against others for the purpose of receiving a grazing permit or lease. As preference is used in the context of the application, permitted use is the appropriate term. Permitted use means the forage allocation by, or under the guidance of, an applicable land use plan for livestock grazing in an allotment under a permit or lease and is expressed in AUMs.

In accordance with the November 18, 2011, Modification of the Grazing Application for the Garat allotment (#00584), the grazing schedule for pastures of the Garat allotment identified in Table LVST-3 would be authorized.

Table LVST-3: Garat allotment grazing strategy with implementation of Applicants' Proposed Action

Pasture	Scheduled Use	
Dry Lake	Spring	3/15 to 7/30
Piute Creek	Spring	3/15 to 7/30
Forty-Five	Spring	3/15 to 7/30
Big Horse	Spring	3/15 to 7/30
Kimball	Flexible	3/15 to 7/30 or 5/16 to 9/30
Juniper Basin		Summer 5/16 to 9/30
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graze at least two of the spring pastures between 3/15 and 5/15 each year. • Rest each of the spring pastures at least once every 3 years. • If permittee determines that mid-season water is adequate, use one to three of the spring pastures longer (as late as 7/30), otherwise use Kimball during the spring period. • If permittee determines that mid-season water is adequate in spring pastures, the Kimball and/or Juniper Basin pastures may be deferred until after 7/15, or rested. • Defer the Kimball pasture at least once every 3 years, or rest it once every 5 years. • If mid-season water is scarce in spring pastures, graze the Juniper Basin pasture (and Kimball when needed) between 5/16 and 9/30, distributing cattle as needed. • Management flexibility for strays: Not to exceed 250 head from 10/1 to 10/15. 		

Grazing use adjustment protocols would be implemented to use short-term monitoring (maximum allowable average utilization level of 50 percent) and long-term monitoring (trend and ecological status, water quality and riparian conditions, and wildlife habitat and special status species habitat or populations) to adjust livestock stocking rates. A 5-year evaluation cycle would be used to identify appropriate increases or decreases in stocking rates based in short-term monitoring and long-term monitoring if livestock management is a contributing factor to not meeting allotment specific management objectives. Allotment-specific management objectives are derived from ORMP management objectives. Opportunity for increases in stocking rates within the allotment would be limited to a 10 percent increase at each 5-year interval for evaluations, not to exceed a maximum stocking rate that would result from the restoration of 10,896 AUMs of suspension restored to active use.

Range Management Projects

Any identification and evaluation of locations where existing or additional livestock water sources could be restored, improved, or developed to improve livestock distribution within the Garat allotment, including re-drilling of two existing well locations (Middle Windmill and 45 Windmill) in the Big Horse pasture would be completed separate from the grazing permit renewal process. Similarly, construction or modification of fences, including modification of the cross-fence layout in the Piute Creek/Piute Basin area, would be completed separate from the permit renewal process. Project planning and decisions would be analyzed and completed through separate NEPA documentation of alternatives and impacts.

Castlehead-Lambert Allotment (#0634)

Livestock grazing use would be authorized in accordance with mandatory and other terms and conditions as requested within the application dated December 12, 2011 and received by BLM from Owyhee Range Service, representing the 06 Livestock Co., and Collins Family, LLC.

Grazing Authorization

06 Livestock Co. would be offered a 10-year grazing permit with a permitted use of 3,187 AUMs, and Collins Family, LLC would be offered a 10-year grazing permit with a permitted use of 2,137 AUMs, as further defined in Table LVST-4.

Table LVST-4: Permitted grazing use within the Castlehead-Lambert allotment with implementation of the Applicants' Proposed Action.

Permittee	Active Use	Suspended Use	Permitted Use
06 Livestock Co.	2,545 AUMs	642 AUMs	3,187 AUMs
Collins Family, LLC	1,733 AUMs	404 AUMs	2,137 AUMs

Mandatory terms and conditions of the offered permits would be defined as listed in Table LVST-5.

Table LVST-5: Mandatory terms and conditions of the offered permit to graze livestock within the Castlehead-Lambert allotment with implementation of the Applicants' Proposed Action

Allotment	Livestock		Grazing Period		% PL	Type Use	AUMs ¹
	Number	Kind	Begin	End			
06 Livestock Co.							
00634	448	Cattle	4/15	9/30	100	Active	2,489
Castlehead-Lambert	10	Horse	4/8	9/22	100	Active	56
Collins Family, LLC							
00634	312	Cattle	4/15	9/30	100	Active	1,733
Castlehead-Lambert							
¹ The sum of the AUMs from the Authorization Schedule Information may not equal the Active AUMs for each authorization or allotment due to rounding in the AUM calculation.							
<p>The following terms and conditions would be included in the grazing permits to assist in achieving management guidelines, provide for proper range management, or assist in the orderly administration of the public rangelands:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Grazing within the Castlehead-Lambert allotment (#00634) will be in accordance with the Final Grazing decision, dated _____. 2. You are required to properly complete, sign and date an Actual Grazing Use Report Form (4130-5) for each allotment. The completed form(s) must be submitted to this office within 15 days from the last day of your authorized annual grazing use. 3. Supplemental feeding is limited to salt, mineral, and/or protein in block, granular, or liquid form. If used, these supplements must be placed at least one-quarter (1/4)-mile away from any riparian area, spring, stream, meadow, aspen stand, playa, special status plant population, or water development. Special supplements intended to achieve livestock distribution would require prior approval. 4. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(b), you must notify the BLM Field Manager, by telephone with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony (as defined in 43 CFR 10.2) on federal lands. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c), you must immediately stop any ongoing activities connected with such discovery and make a reasonable effort to protect the discovered remains or objects. 5. Livestock grazing is not authorized in exclosures within the Castlehead-Lambert allotment (#00634). 6. Livestock turnout dates are subject to Boise District range readiness criteria. 							

All grazing use would occur within the mandatory terms and conditions, in that, livestock numbers would not exceed 760 cattle and 10 horses. All grazing use would occur between April 15 and September 30 and the total active use annually would not exceed 4,222 AUMs for cattle and 56 AUMs for horses.

The seasons of use and adaptive management flexibility in pasture use days provides opportunities for grazing management to take advantage of climatic variations by moving livestock in a manner that assures management objectives are met. The adaptive management flexibility would allow use distribution among pastures as dictated by climate/weather occurrences. Combined with voluntary reductions in livestock numbers during very low production years, this will assure compliance with land use plan utilization standards and allotment management objectives.

Livestock grazing treatments and adaptive management flexibility by pasture would be implemented consistent with criteria listed in Table LVST-6. Any changes in management that are beyond the adaptive management flexibility would require approval by the authorized officer.

Table LVST-6: Adaptive Management for Cattle Use in Primary Pastures of Castlehead-Lambert allotment

Pasture	# Cattle	# Days	Approximate # AUMs	Avg. stocking density
Lambert Table	760	40 ± 10	750 – 1,250	11.8
Carter Springs	760	33 ± 9	600 – 1,050	11.1
Red Basin	760	41 ± 10	775 – 1,275	11.1
Castlehead (Mountain 1A)	760	16 ± 5	275 - 525	10.0
Between-the-Canyons (Mountain 1B)	760	31 ± 9	550 – 1,000	10.2
Section 4 - Horse Pasture	Discretionary	8	150 - 200	10.0
Discretionary Horse Use				
Pasture	# Horses	# Days	# AUMs	Avg. stocking density
Section 4-A Horse Pasture	10	Discretionary	56	N/A

The Lambert Table pasture would be scheduled for early spring use annually for 40 days beginning April 15, with flexibility to shorten the period of use to 30 days or increase the period of use to 50 days as a result of variable climatic conditions and forage production. A light stocking density average of 11.7 acres per AUM would be scheduled to achieve an average light (30 percent) level of utilization. Grazing would generally end on May 24 but could be extended up to June 3 when favorable growing conditions would allow full regrowth and seed production after grazing ends. In years that unfavorable weather prevents use of the Lambert Table pasture at turnout, livestock would be turned out in either the Carter Springs or Red Basin pasture. Livestock could be held in the alternative turnout pasture up to 14 days before moving

to the Lambert Table pasture. Time spent in the alternate turnout pasture would be considered during the scheduled use of that pasture. The light level of grazing use and frequent opportunity for full regrowth would maintain good range condition and provide suitable nesting and brood rearing habitat for sage-grouse throughout the Lambert Table pasture.

The Carter Springs and Red Basin pastures would be scheduled 2nd and 3rd in the rotation in alternate years so that each pasture would receive a deferred grazing treatment in alternate years. Most of these pastures were burned in 2007 and have experienced very significant increases in production as a result. The Carter Springs pasture would be scheduled for 33 days of grazing use, give or take 9 days and the Red Basin pasture would be scheduled for 41 days, give or take 10 days. These pastures would be scheduled for a light stocking density of 11.1 acres per AUM respectively. Similar use over the past 8 years has resulted in identifiable improvement in upland and riparian systems.

The Castlehead pasture (Mountain 1A) and Between-the-Canyons pasture (1B) would receive deferred grazing treatments annually and use would be alternated annually in rotation. These pastures would be scheduled for a light stocking density averages of 10 and 10.2 acres per AUM respectively and would receive annual deferred grazing treatments. The Castlehead pasture would only be scheduled for 16 days of grazing use, give or take 5 days, and the Between-the-Canyons pasture would be scheduled for 31 days, give or take 7 days.

The flexibility of the system allows management to adapt to variations in annual climate/weather conditions. For example, during any year when ample water is available on the Lambert Table, either the Carter Springs or Red Basin pastures can receive an early spring grazing treatment that benefits both uplands and riparian systems. The elevations vary significantly between the Carter Springs/Red Basin pastures and the Lambert Table pasture to the south and Castlehead/Between-the-Canyons pastures to the north. Climate/weather influences differ on an annual basis. Strict adherence to grazing use dates precludes the flexibility needed to adapt to climate/weather variation and the opportunity to apply proper grazing management.

Rangeland Management Projects

Further discussion with the Owyhee Field Manager is needed to determine the proper action relative to reservoir maintenance and/or improvement.

If necessary, off-road travel for survey, design, construction, or maintenance would require prior consultation with the authorized officer. Cooperative agreements will be developed for each project prior to construction. All projects on public lands would be constructed to conform to BLM design specifications. Applicable mitigation measures would be incorporated into the construction of the rangeland management projects. Pending survey, design, and layout of proposed fences, cattle guards may be installed where they cross roads on public lands, if this is determined to be feasible. Wildlife escape ramps would be placed in all livestock troughs on public land in the allotments.

Fence Reconstruction / Relocation

A section of boundary fence that was destroyed by fire would be reconstructed. Approximately 0.72 miles of fence along a ridge to the east of the West Fork Red Canyon Creek in the Between-the-Canyons pasture would be constructed. This fence would become the allotment boundary with the Bull Basin allotment. The authorized officer would be notified in advance of construction dates so that the project can be monitored. If necessary, off-road travel for survey, design, construction, or maintenance would require prior consultation with the authorized officer. Cooperative agreements will be developed for this project prior to construction. All projects on public lands would be constructed to conform to BLM design specifications.

Reservoir Reconstruction

Reservoir conditions need to be reexamined by BLM to determine the extent of work needed to make all reservoirs serviceable.

Swisher Springs (#0450) and Swisher FFR (#0637) allotments

Livestock grazing use would be authorized in accordance with mandatory and other terms and conditions as listed within the application dated June 22, 2011, and received by BLM from 06 Livestock Co. That application was returned signed and with no change from terms and conditions on the current permit.

06 Livestock Co. would be offered a 10-year grazing permit with authorized use as defined in Table LVST-7.

Table LVST-7: Permitted grazing use within Swisher Springs and Swisher FFR allotments with implementation of the Applicant’s Proposed Action.

Permittee	Allotment	Active Use	Suspended Use	Permitted Use
06 Livestock Co.	Swisher Springs	345	192	537
06 Livestock Co.	Swisher FFR	15	0	15

Mandatory terms and conditions of the offered permits would be defined as listed in Table LVST-8.

Table LVST-8: Mandatory and other terms and conditions of the offered permit for 06 Livestock Co., to graze livestock within the Swisher Springs and Swisher FFR allotments with implementation of the Applicant's Proposed Action.

Allotment	Livestock		Grazing Period		% PL	Type Use	AUMs ¹
	Number	Kind	Begin	End			
00450 Swisher Springs	53	Cattle	4/15	10/31	100	Active	348
00637 Swisher FFR	15	Cattle	12/1	12/31	100	Active	15

¹ The sum of the AUMs from the Authorization Schedule Information may not equal the Active AUMs for each authorization or allotment due to rounding in the AUM calculation.

Other terms and conditions:

1. Livestock numbers and dates may vary annually within your established period of use provided AUMs are not exceeded.
2. Turn-out is subject to the Boise District range readiness criteria.
3. Salt and/or supplement shall not be placed within one quarter (1/4)-mile of springs, streams, meadows, aspen stands, playas, or water developments.
4. Changes to the scheduled use require approval.
5. You are required to coordinate trailing activities with the BLM prior to initiation. A trailing permit or similar authorization may be required prior to crossing public lands.
6. Livestock exclosures located within your grazing allotment are closed to all domestic grazing use.
7. You are required to maintain rangeland improvements in accordance with the cooperative agreement and range improvement permit in which you are a signature or assignee. All maintenance of range improvements within a wilderness study area requires prior consultation with the authorized officer.
8. You are required to properly complete, sign and date an Actual Grazing Use Report Form (4130-5) for each allotment. The completed form(s) must be submitted to this office within 15 days from the last day of your authorized annual grazing use.
9. Supplemental feeding is limited to salt, mineral, and/or protein in block, granular, or liquid form. If used, these supplements must be placed at least one-quarter (1/4)-mile away from any riparian area, spring, stream, meadow, aspen stand, playa, special status plant population, or water development.
10. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(b), you must notify the BLM Field Manager, by telephone with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony (as defined in 43 CFR 10.2) on federal lands. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c), you must immediately stop any ongoing activities connected with such discovery and make a reasonable effort to protect the discovered remains or objects.

As a result of Judge Winmill's February 29, 2000, memorandum decision and order, the following interim terms and conditions now apply to this grazing authorization:

- 1) Key herbaceous riparian vegetation, where stream bank stability is dependent upon it, will have a minimum stubble height of 4 inches on the stream bank, along the greenline, after the growing season;

- 2) Key riparian browse vegetation will not be used more than 50 percent of the current annual twig growth that is within reach of the animals;
- 3) Key herbaceous riparian vegetation on riparian areas, other than the stream banks, will not be grazed (sic) more than 50 percent during the growing season, or 60 percent during the dormant season; and
- 4) Stream bank damage attributable to grazing livestock will be less than 10 percent on a stream segment.

The current grazing schedule for pastures of the Swisher Springs allotment, initially implemented by decision of the BLM authorized officer on February 24, 1989, and summarized in Table LVST-9, would be authorized.

Table LVST-9: Swisher Springs allotment grazing schedule with implementation of Applicant's Proposed Action

Pasture	Year 1	Year 2
Pasture 1	4/15 to 7/15	Rest
Pasture 2	7/15 to 10/31	7/15 to 10/31
Pasture 3	Rest	4/15 to 7/15

Current Situation Alternative

Permits to graze livestock within the Garat, Castlehead-Lambert, Swisher Springs, and Swisher FFR would be renewed with terms and conditions unchanged from terms and conditions of permits currently in effect. Permits currently authorizing grazing within these allotments are implemented consistent with authorizations which were in effect in 1997. In an order dated February 29, 2000, (Civ. No. 97-0519-S-BLW), the United States District Court for the District of Idaho imposed interim terms and conditions on the grazing permits renewed by the BLM in 1997. The interim terms and conditions were to remain in place until completion of NEPA analysis and implementation of final decisions under the 1999 Owyhee Resource Management Plan and EIS and the Idaho Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Management. Interim terms and conditions imposed by the court and which would be continued with implementation of the current situation alternative are:

- 1) Key herbaceous riparian vegetation, where stream bank stability is dependent upon it, will have a minimum stubble height of 4 inches on the stream bank, along the greenline, after the growing season;
- 2) Key riparian browse vegetation will not be used more than 50 percent of the current annual twig growth that is within reach of the animals;
- 3) Key herbaceous riparian vegetation on riparian areas, other than the stream banks, will not be grazed (sic) more than 50 percent during the growing season, or 60 percent during the dormant season; and
- 4) Stream bank damage attributable to grazing livestock will be less than 10 percent on a stream segment.

These terms and conditions would be incorporated as other terms and conditions in all permits offered for grazing use within the Garat, Castlehead-Lambert, Swisher Springs, and Swisher FFR allotments. Mandatory terms and conditions of permits offered and

other terms and conditions would be unchanged from current authorizations and are summarized by allotment.

Garat allotment (#0584)

Livestock grazing would be authorized in accordance with the 1989 Management Agreement between Petan Company of Nevada, Inc. (Petan), and the BLM. Petan would be offered a 10-year grazing permit with a permitted use of 33,646 Animal Unit Months (AUMs), as further defined in Table LVST-10.

Table LVST-10: Permitted grazing use within the Garat allotment with implementation of Alternative A-Current Situation

Active Use	Voluntary Nonuse	Suspended Use	Permitted Use
19,500 AUMs	3,250 AUMs	10,896 AUMs	33,646 AUMs

Mandatory terms and conditions of the offered permit would be defined as listed in Table LVST-11.

Table LVST-11: Mandatory and other terms and conditions of the offered permit to graze livestock within the Garat allotment with implementation of Alternative A - Current Situation

Allotment	Livestock		Grazing Period		% PL	Type Use	AUMs ¹
	Number	Kind	Begin	End			
00584 Garat	3,150	Cattle	03/15	09/30	94	Active	19,470
	250	Cattle	10/1	10/15	94	Active	116
	15	Horse	03/15	09/30	100	Active	99

¹ The sum of the AUMs from the Authorization Schedule Information may not equal the Active AUMs for each authorization or allotment due to rounding in the AUM calculation.

Other terms and conditions:

1. Turnout is subject to Boise District range readiness criteria.
2. Your completed actual use report is due within 15 days of completing your authorized annual grazing use.
3. Salt and/or supplements shall not be placed within one quarter (1/4) mile of springs, streams, meadows, aspen stands, playas, or water developments.
4. Changes to the scheduled use require prior approval.
5. Trailing activities must be coordinated with the BLM prior to initiation. A trailing permit or similar authorization may be required prior to crossing public lands.
6. Livestock exclosures located within your grazing allotment are closed to all domestic grazing use.
7. Range improvements must be maintained in accordance with the cooperative agreement and range improvement permits in which you are a signature of assignee. All maintenance of range improvements within a wilderness study area requires prior consultation with the authorized officer.
8. All appropriate documentation regarding base property leases, lands offered for exchange-of-use, and livestock control agreements must be approved prior to

turn out. Leases of land and/or livestock must be notarized prior to submission and be in compliance with Boise District Policy.

9. Failure to pay the grazing bill within 15 days of the due date specified shall result in a late fee assessment of \$25.00 or 10 percent of the grazing bill, whichever is greater, not to exceed \$250.00. Payment made later than 15 days after the due date shall include the appropriate late fee assessment. Failure to make payment within 30 days may be a violation of 43 CFR 4140.1(b)(1) and shall result in action by the authorized officer under 43 CFR 4150.1 and 4160.1.
10. Livestock grazing will be in accordance with your allotment grazing schematic(s). Changes in scheduled pasture use dates will require prior authorization.
11. Utilization may not exceed 50 percent of the current year's growth.

In accordance with the 1989 Management Agreement, the grazing schedule for pastures of the Garat allotment identified in Table LVST-12 would be authorized.

Table LVST-12: Garat allotment grazing schedule with implementation of Alternative A-Current Situation

Field Name	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Dry Lake West	B	A	B*	B	A	B*
Dry Lake East	B	A	B	B	A	B
"45"	B	B	A	B	B	A
Kimball	A	B	B	A	B	B
Big Horse	D	D	C	D	D	C
Juniper Basin	C	C	C	C	C	C
A – Rest B – Graze 3/15 to 6/15 C – Graze 6/16 to 9/30 D – Graze 8/1 to 9/30 Flexibility for strays 10/1 to 10/15 * - Will be used 3/15 to 5/30 with 500-1,000 head on old feed (NW corner).						

Castlehead-Lambert allotment (#0634)

Livestock grazing would be authorized in accordance with the 1982 grazing schedule. 06 Livestock Co., and Collins Family, LLC would each be offered a 10-year grazing permit with authorized use as defined in Table LVST-13.

Table LVST-13: Permitted grazing use within the Castlehead-Lambert allotment with implementation of Alternative A-Current Situation

Permittee	Active Use	Suspended Use	Permitted Use
06 Livestock Co.	1,915	1,272	3,187
Collins Family LLC	1,329	808	2,137

Mandatory terms and conditions of the offered permits would be defined as listed in Table LVST-14 and Table LVST-15.

Table LVST-14: Mandatory and other terms and conditions of the offered permit for 06 Livestock Co., to graze livestock within the Castlehead-Lambert allotment with implementation of Alternative A-Current Situation

Allotment	Livestock		Grazing Period		% PL	Type Use	AUMs ¹
	Number	Kind	Begin	End			
00634 Castlehead- Lambert	334	Cattle	4/15	9/30	100	Active	1856
	10	Horse	4/8	9/30	100	Active	58

¹ The sum of the AUMs from the Authorization Schedule Information may not equal the Active AUMs for each authorization or allotment due to rounding in the AUM calculation.

Other terms and conditions:

1. All cattle 6 months of age or older must be ear tagged with assigned color and number on the Castlehead-Lambert allotment.
2. A minimum 4-inch stubble height will be left on herbaceous vegetation within the riparian area along 11.1 miles of Red Canyon Creek in allotment #0634 at the end of the growing season as identified in the fisheries objective of the Owyhee RMP EIS.
3. Turn-out is subject to the Boise District range readiness criteria.
4. Your certified actual use report is due within 15 days of completing your authorized annual grazing use.
5. Salt and/or supplements shall not be placed within one quarter (1/4)-mile of springs, streams, meadows, aspen stands, playas, or water developments.
6. Changes to the scheduled use require approval.
7. Trailing activities must be coordinated with the BLM prior to initiation. A trailing permit or similar authorization may be required prior to crossing public lands.
8. Livestock exclosures located within your grazing allotment are closed to all domestic grazing use.
9. Range improvements must be maintained in accordance with the cooperative agreement and range improvement permit in which you are a signature or assignee. All maintenance of range improvements within a wilderness study area requires prior consultation with the authorized officer.
10. All appropriate documentation regarding base property leases, lands offered for exchange-of-use, and livestock control agreements must be approved prior to turn out. Leases of land and/or livestock must be notarized prior to submission and be in compliance with Boise District Policy.
11. Failure to pay the grazing bill within 15 days of the due date specified shall result in a late fee assessment of \$25.00 or 10 percent of the grazing bill, whichever is greater, not to exceed \$250.00. Payment made later than 15 days after the due date shall include the appropriate late fee assessment. Failure to make payment within 30 days may be a violation of 43 CFR 4140.1(b)(1) and shall result in action by the authorized officer under 43 CFR 4150.1 and 4160.1.
12. Livestock grazing will be in accordance with your allotment grazing schematic(s). Changes in scheduled pasture use dates will require prior

authorization.

13. Utilization may not exceed 50 percent of the current year's growth.

Table LVST-15: Mandatory and other terms and conditions of the offered permit for Collins Family, LLC to graze livestock within the Castlehead-Lambert allotment with implementation of Alternative A-Current Situation

Allotment	Livestock		Grazing Period		% PL	Type Use	AUMs ¹
	Number	Kind	Begin	End			
00634 Castlehead- Lambert	192	Cattle	4/15	9/30	100	Active	1,067
	46	Cattle	4/15	9/30	100	Active	256

¹ The sum of the AUMs from the Authorization Schedule Information may not equal the Active AUMs for each authorization or allotment due to rounding in the AUM calculation.

Other terms and conditions:

1. All cattle 6 months of age or older must be ear tagged with assigned color and number on the Castlehead-Lambert allotment.
2. A minimum 4-inch stubble height will be left on herbaceous vegetation within the riparian area along 11.1 miles of Red Canyon Creek in allotment #0634 at the end of the growing season as identified in the fisheries objective of the Owyhee RMP EIS.
3. Turn-out is subject to the Boise District range readiness criteria.
4. Your certified actual use report is due within 15 days of completing your authorized annual grazing use.
5. Salt and/or supplements shall not be placed within one quarter (1/4)-mile of springs, streams, meadows, aspen stands, playas, or water developments.
6. Changes to the scheduled use require approval.
7. Trailing activities must be coordinated with the BLM prior to initiation. A trailing permit or similar authorization may be required prior to crossing public lands.
8. Livestock exclosures located within your grazing allotment are closed to all domestic grazing use.
9. Range improvements must be maintained in accordance with the cooperative agreement and range improvement permit in which you are a signature or assignee. All maintenance of range improvements within a wilderness study area requires prior consultation with the authorized officer.
10. All appropriate documentation regarding base property leases, lands offered for exchange-of-use, and livestock control agreements must be approved prior to turn out. Leases of land and/or livestock must be notarized prior to submission and be in compliance with Boise District Policy.
11. Failure to pay the grazing bill within 15 days of the due date specified shall result in a late fee assessment of \$25.00 or 10 percent of the grazing bill, whichever is greater, not to exceed \$250.00. Payment made later than 15 days after the due date shall include the appropriate late fee assessment. Failure to make payment within 30 days may be a violation of 43 CFR 4140.1(b)(1) and shall result in action by the authorized officer under 43 CFR 4150.1 and 4160.1.
12. Livestock grazing will be in accordance with your allotment grazing schematic(s). Changes in scheduled pasture use dates will require prior authorization.

13. Utilization may not exceed 50 percent of the current year's growth

In accordance with a 1982 decision, the grazing schedule for pastures of the Castlehead-Lambert allotment identified in Table LVST-16 would be authorized.

Table LVST-16: Castlehead-Lambert allotment grazing schedule with implementation of Alternative A-Current Situation

Pasture	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
1 Castlehead*	7/8 to 9/30	7/8 to 9/30	7/8 to 9/30	7/8 to 9/30	7/8 to 9/30	7/8 to 9/30
2 Carter Spring	5/21 to 7/7	Rest	5/21 to 7/7	4/16 to 5/20	5/21 to 7/7	Rest
3 Red Basin	4/16 to 5/20	5/21 to 7/7	Rest	5/21 to 7/7	Rest	5/21 to 7/7
4 Lambert Table	Rest	4/16 to 5/20	4/16 to 5/20	Rest	4/16 to 5/20	4/16 to 5/20
5 Horse	Used in conjunction with Pasture 3 or with domestic horses in accordance with permits.					
*Pasture 1-Castlehead was divided in 2005 to create 1A-Castlehead Pasture and 1B Mountain Pasture						

Swisher Springs (#0450) and Swisher FFR (#0637) allotments

Livestock grazing would be authorized in accordance with the 1989 grazing schedule within the Swisher Springs allotment. The Swisher FFR allotment includes a large acreage of private land and is managed custodially. 06 Livestock Co. would be offered a 10-year grazing permit with authorized use as defined in Table LVST-17.

Table LVST-17: Permitted grazing use within Swisher Springs and Swisher FFR allotments with implementation of Alternative A-Current Situation

Permittee	Allotment	Active Use	Suspended Use	Permitted Use
06 Livestock Co.	Swisher Springs	345	192	537
06 Livestock Co.	Swisher FFR	15	0	15

Mandatory terms and conditions of the offered permits would be defined as listed in Table LVST-18.

Table LVST-18: Mandatory and other terms and conditions of the offered permit for 06 Livestock Co., to graze livestock within the Swisher Springs and Swisher FFR allotments with implementation of Alternative A-Current Situation

Allotment	Livestock		Grazing Period		% PL	Type Use	AUMs ¹
	Number	Kind	Begin	End			
00450 Swisher Springs	53	Cattle	4/15	10/31	100	Active	348
00637 Swisher FFR	15	Cattle	12/1	12/31	100	Active	15

¹ The sum of the AUMs from the Authorization Schedule Information may not equal the Active AUMs for each authorization or allotment due to rounding in the AUM calculation.

Other terms and conditions:

1. Livestock numbers and dates may vary annually within your established period of use provided AUMs are not exceeded.
2. Turn-out is subject to the Boise District range readiness criteria.
3. Salt and/or supplements shall not be placed within one quarter (1/4)-mile of springs, streams, meadows, aspen stands, playas, or water developments.
4. Changes to the scheduled use require approval.
5. You are required to coordinate trailing activities with the BLM prior to initiation. A trailing permit or similar authorization may be required prior to crossing public lands.
6. Livestock enclosures located within your grazing allotment are closed to all domestic grazing use.
7. You are required to maintain rangeland improvements in accordance with the cooperative agreement and range improvement permit in which you are a signature or assignee. All maintenance of range improvements within a wilderness study area requires prior consultation with the authorized officer.
8. You are required to properly complete, sign and date an Actual Grazing Use Report Form (4130-5) for each allotment. The completed form(s) must be submitted to this office within 15 days from the last day of your authorized annual grazing use.
9. Supplemental feeding is limited to salt, mineral, and/or protein in block, granular, or liquid form. If used, these supplements must be placed at least one-quarter (1/4) mile away from any riparian area, spring, stream, meadow, aspen stand, playa, special status plant population, or water development.
10. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(b), you must notify the BLM Field Manager, by telephone with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony (as defined in 43 CFR 10.2) on federal lands. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c), you must immediately stop any ongoing activities connected with such discovery and make a reasonable effort to protect the discovered remains or objects.

In accordance with a 1989 decision, the grazing schedule for pastures in the Swisher Springs allotment identified in Table LVST-19 would be authorized.

Table LVST-19: Swisher Springs allotment grazing schedule with implementation of Alternative A-Current Situation

Pasture	Year 1	Year 2
Pasture 1	4/15 to 7/15	Rest
Pasture 2	7/15 to 10/31	7/15 to 10/31
Pasture 3	Rest	4/15 to 7/15

No-Grazing Alternative

No grazing would be authorized on public lands within the Garat, Castlehead-Lambert, Swisher Springs, or Swisher FRR allotments for a term of 10 years. Applications for grazing permit renewal would be denied and no grazing permits would be offered. All 33,646 AUMs of permitted use in Garat allotment (19,500 AUMs active use; 3,250 AUMs of voluntary nonuse; 10,896 AUMs suspension), 5,324 AUMs of permitted use in Castlehead-Lambert allotment (3,244 AUMs active use; 2,080 AUMs suspension), 537 AUMs of permitted use in Swisher Springs allotment (345 AUMs active use; 192 AUMs suspension), and 15 AUMs of permitted use in Swisher FFR allotment (15 AUMs active use; 0 AUMs suspension) would be unavailable for livestock grazing on public lands. Upon expiration of the 10-year term, livestock grazing on the allotment(s) would be reevaluated, with retention of preference (priority for grazing authorization) for approval of application(s) for grazing permit(s) attached to current base property(s).

Additional Alternatives

Additional alternatives will be developed and included in the Group 1 allotment grazing permit renewal environmental assessment, as identified from comments received and to ensure an adequate range of alternatives that meet the purpose and need is analyzed.

Attachments

- Garat Allotment Assessment and Evaluation Report
- Castlehead-Lambert Allotment Assessment and Evaluation Report
- Swisher Springs and Swisher FFR Allotments Assessment and Evaluation Report

Literature Cited

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