

**United States Department of the Interior**  
**Bureau of Land Management**  
**Twin Falls District**  
**Burley Field Office**  
**15 E 200 S**  
**Burley, ID 83318**

**Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)**  
**Burley Field Office Crossing Permit Authorization**  
**Environmental Assessment No. DOI-BLM-ID-T020-2012-0005-EA**

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I have reviewed the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (CEQ) for significance (40 CFR 1508.27) and have determined the actions analyzed in Environmental Assessment (EA) No. DOI-BLM-ID-T020-2012-0005-EA will not have any significant impact, individually or cumulatively, on the quality of the human environment. Because the actions analyzed in the EA will not have any significant impact, an environmental impact statement is not required.

My finding was made after considering both the context and intensity of the effects, as described in the above EA. I considered the following factors in determining significance:

1. The activities described in Alternative 2 does not include any significant beneficial or adverse impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(1)). The EA includes a description of the expected environmental consequences of livestock trailing.
2. The activities included in Alternative 2 would not significantly affect public health or safety (40 CFR 1508.27(b) (2)). Much of the livestock trailing would occur along and adjacent to roads. The public may occasionally encounter livestock along roads during trailing activities; however, this effect would not significantly affect public health and safety because the number of encounters are expected to be low and the duration of the encounters would be limited in time.

The danger of Q fever is considered to be minimal on rangelands within the BFO. The risk on public lands to the users is limited, since Q fever has been directly correlated to occupational exposure involving veterinarians, meat processing plant workers, livestock farmers and researchers at facilities housing livestock. The important fact of the Q fever bacteria is that during the birthing process, the organisms are shed in high numbers within the amniotic fluids and placenta. Since birthing generally occurs on private lands where livestock are confined, public safety is not impacted when livestock trailing events occur on public land (DOI-BLM-ID-T020-2012-0005-EA p. 9).

3. The proposed activities would not significantly affect any unique characteristics (40 CFR 1508.27(b) (3)) of the geographic area such as prime and unique farmlands, caves, wild and scenic rivers, designated wilderness areas, wilderness study areas, or areas of critical concern.

No prime and unique farmlands, caves, wild and scenic rivers or wilderness study areas are found within the trailing routes. Routes 3, 5 and 16 cross the Oregon-California Trail Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). Since this activity is ongoing, any potential effects to the Oregon-California Trail were considered within the cultural inventory. No affects were found and none are expected to occur.

4. The activities described in Alternative 2 does not involve effects on the human environment that are likely to be highly controversial (40 CFR 1508.27(b) (4)). Livestock trailing is a routine activity and the effects of livestock trailing are well understood as described in Chapters 3 and 4 of the EA.

Public input was requested from affected permittees and interested publics. Comments in response to these scoping efforts did not reveal any controversy related to the size, nature, or effects of livestock trailing activities.

5. Livestock trailing does not involve any effects that are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks (40 CFR 1508.27(b) (5)). Livestock trailing has occurred throughout this area for several decades and the effects are well understood. DOI-BLM-ID-T020-2012-0005-EA (p. 22) discloses the expected environmental effects on the human environment.

6. My decision to authorize livestock trailing does not establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represent a decision in principle about a future consideration (40 CFR 1508.27(b) (6)). No significant cumulative impacts were identified within DOI-BLM-ID-T020-2012-0005-EA. Implementation of this decision would not trigger other actions, nor will it represent a decision in principle about future considerations.

7. The effects of livestock trailing would not be significant, individually or cumulatively, when considered with the effects of other actions (40 CFR 1508.27(b) (7)). The EA discloses that there are no other connected or cumulative actions that would cause significant cumulative impacts. DOI-BLM-ID-T020-2012-0005-EA (p. 15) contains specific design features that will be used to lessen environmental effects. The cumulative effects analysis in DOI-BLM-ID-T020-2012-0005-EA (Chapter 4) does not reveal any known significant cumulative effects. Any adverse impacts identified as a result of livestock trailing, when added to any adverse impacts of other past, present, or reasonably foreseeable future actions will result in negligible to minor impacts to natural and cultural resources.

8. I have determined that the activities described in Alternative 2 will not adversely affect or cause loss or destruction of scientific, cultural, or historical resources, including those listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(8)). The DOI-BLM-ID-T020-2012-0005-EA (pp. 9 and 10) discloses that trailing activities have no potential to affect historic properties. Based on the proposed trailing activities, including watering, bedding and overnighting, an Area of Potential Effects (APE) was identified. Past inventory efforts within the APE were reviewed to identify sites that may be affected by the trailing activities. Where needed, additional field inventories for cultural resource were completed.

9. The proposed activities are not likely to adversely affect any endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act (40 CFR 1508.27(b) (9)). As disclosed in the DOI-BLM-ID-T020-2012-0005-EA (p. 27), trailing will not adversely affect any threatened or endangered species because there are no known populations or designated critical habitat for any threatened or endangered species within areas where trailing will occur. The BLM has identified protective measures (i.e. design features) to minimize harm to BLM sensitive species. Adverse effects to BLM sensitive species are expected to be rare and cumulative effects would be insignificant so this action would not cause the need to list any new species.

10. The proposed trailing activities will not threaten any violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment (40 CFR 1508.27(b) (10)). Chapter 1 of DOI-BLM-ID-T020-2012-0005-EA (see Relationship to Statutes, Regulations, and Other Plans), describes how trailing activities conform to relevant laws, regulations, policies, and any relevant local permitting requirements.

*J. Thayer*  
For Michael C. Courtney  
Field Manager  
Burley Field Office

4-10-2012  
Date