



United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Twin Falls District Office
Burley Field Office
15 E 200 S
Burley, ID 83318



In Reply Refer To:
4160 (T020)

Duelke Sheep Company
c/o Barry Duelke
1295 E 3400 N
Buhl, ID 83316

January 18, 2013

Notice of Field Manager's Decision

Dear Mr. Duelke:

I have received your application for a Crossing Permit to trail livestock across public lands within the Burley Field Office. Upon review, and in accordance with 43 CFR 4130.6-3 and Section 123 of the 2012 Appropriations Omnibus Act, this application for a Crossing Permit is approved as described in Alternative 2 of Environmental Assessment (EA) No. DOI-BLM-ID-T020-2012-0005-EA.

Background

On October 31, 2011 your application was filed for a Crossing Permit. You requested authorization to trail livestock within the Burley Field Office to facilitate movements of livestock to and from private, state, or other federally administered lands. In response to your application and several others, the BLM prepared DOI-BLM-ID-T020-2012-0005-EA to analyze the environmental consequences of trailing livestock within the Burley Field Office. After reviewing the applications and the EA, I determined that livestock trailing would not result in any significant impacts and issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) on April 10, 2012. DOI-BLM-ID-T020-2012-0005-EA and FONSI can be found at https://www.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/nepa/nepa_register.do

Decision

I have decided to issue your Crossing Permit to trail livestock across public lands within the Burley Field Office as described in Alternative 2 of the EA. The authorized route, numbers and seasons are described in Table 1 below as well as the terms and conditions for your authorization.

My decision is in conformance with the 1982 Twin Falls Management Framework Plan. BLM analyzed three alternatives and considered two additional alternatives that were not analyzed in detail (see Chapter 2 of EA No. DOI-BLM-ID-T020-2012-0005-EA). The Proposed Action included

the trailing activities proposed by the applicants. Alternative 1 is the No Action alternative and would deny all applications for crossing permits. Alternative 2 was developed in response to public comments and minimizes environmental consequences while still authorizing livestock trailing.

Table 1. Crossing Permit

Trailing Route Number	Season	Allotment Name & Number	Livestock Number	Livestock Kind
1A	Spring	PVGA-Berger #04016	2400/4 nights	Sheep
		Kerr-Berger #04038	4800/3 nights	
		Lilly Grade #04079		

As long as there is no deviation from Alternative 2 analyzed in the EA, this event will be authorized annually.

Your Crossing Permit, based upon Table 1 and the following terms and conditions, must be signed and returned prior to trailing livestock across BLM administered lands.

The applicant will be responsible for contacting the BLM annually concerning their trailing needs in order to initiate the process of locating potential avoidance areas prior to trailing.

Terms and conditions to reduce environmental effects that are specific to your permit include the following:

Terms and Conditions

- Overnighting (bedding) on the Lilly Grade Allotment will be limited to one night at authorized sites, unless fewer animals are trailed, so as not to exceed 63 AUMs for the year.
- When a trailing event occurs within a burn area, trailing would be in accordance with the applicable Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation (ESR) Plans or as authorized by the Authorized Officer.
- Trailing events involving domestic sheep which occur within trailing route 1A will require the applicant to follow a BLM and Idaho Department of Fish and Game approved separation plan to protect bighorn sheep.

Rationale

I have selected Alternative 2 of the Burley Field Office Crossing Permit Authorization EA because it provides for the orderly administration of the range by authorizing trailing events to occur for livestock operators. These trailing events are the same routes used each year and the alternative is responsive to annual trailing requests. This alternative is capped at a maximum number per grazing year. Specific terms and conditions in this alternative address the special needs of sensitive wildlife species in the Burley Field Office. These species include ferruginous hawks and bighorn sheep.

California bighorn sheep could be affected by trailing livestock through disturbance and potential disease transmission. While no specific stipulations or protective measures are established to prevent disturbance, there is no domestic sheep trailing within bighorn sheep PMUs. Disease transmission could occur if wild bighorn sheep contact infected domestic sheep. Pneumonia is the most virulent disease of concern and the result of transmission could lead to a die-off. Similar to disturbance, there is no expectation for disease transmission to occur based on the locations of the proposed trailing corridors outside bighorn sheep PMUs. However, the stipulation requiring sheep operations to follow a BLM and IDFG approved separation plan will make the trailing events as safe as possible for bighorn sheep. Cultural resource inventories have been conducted along these routes with special attention given to concentration areas, such as, watering and bedding sites. There will be no effect on cultural resources.

This alternative utilizes existing roads and trails to the maximum extent possible which was an issue identified in the public scoping process.

Authority

My decision is issued under the authority found in:

Title 43 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Subpart 4100 Grazing Administration, specifically sections 4100.0-3, 4130.6-3, 4130.3, 4160.1, 4160.3, and 4130.8-1b;

The 2012 Appropriations Omnibus Act Sec. 123; and

The 1982 Twin Falls Management Framework Plan.

Protest and/or Appeal

Section 123 of the 2012 Appropriations Omnibus Act precludes protests and administrative appeals of crossing permit decisions until October 2014.

Sincerely,

/s/ Michael C. Courtney

Michael C. Courtney
Field Manager
Burley Field Office

Enclosures:

- 1 - Crossing Permit (2 pp)
- 2 - Map of trailing event (1 p)

Copies sent by mail to:
Pleasant Valley Grazing Association
Jim Baker
Don Graybeal