

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management**

Proposed Decision Record

**NOTICE OF FIELD MANAGER'S PROPOSED DECISION
TEMPORARY LIVESTOCK GRAZING AUTHORIZATION
ON FENCED ACQUIRED LANDS ON THE HOME CAMP
ALLOTMENT**

June 18th, 2012

PREPARING OFFICE

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Bureau of Land Management
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Chapter 1. Home Camp Acquired Lands Authorizations

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The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is proposing to authorize temporary livestock grazing and trailing on fenced acquired lands in the Home Camp Allotment. Environmental Assessment DOI-BLM-EA-CA-N070-2012-0201 EA was prepared to disclose and analyze the environmental consequences of the implementation of specific proposed projects and temporary livestock grazing authorizations. The EA analyzed three alternatives: 1) implement specific projects and authorize trailing and temporary grazing (Proposed Action); 2) implement specific projects and trailing authorizations, no temporary grazing (Alternative 2); 3) no projects would be implemented and no grazing would be authorized on fenced acquired lands (No Action). The EA was completed in accordance with 43 CFR 4100 and consistent with the provisions of the Taylor Grazing Act, Public Rangelands Improvement Act, and Federal Land Policy and Management Act. The EA's Proposed Action implements administrative actions, establishes a grazing strategy for achieving resources objectives and to maintain or improve Rangeland Health Standards.

1.1. Background

The Home Camp Lands are located within Washoe County, Nevada, approximately 15 miles east of Eagleville, California. The lands were acquired through purchase in December of 2010 with appropriations through the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA). The lands were acquired specifically to conserve and improve fish and wildlife habitat and to facilitate public access while maintaining multiple uses of public lands. Upon acquisition, the lands became subject to the Surprise Resource Management Plan (RMP) approved in 2008.

The acquired lands lie within the 146,048 acre Home Camp Grazing Allotment. All temporary grazing and trailing would occur within portions of those newly acquired lands. The four grazing permits issued for the Home Camp Allotment are managed under the revised Allotment Management Plan and grazing decision of September 2001 (revised AMP). Current authorized livestock use is for 700 cattle from April 1 to 15; 1828 cattle from April 16 to August 31 and 915 cattle from September 1 to 15 for a total 9,088 AUMs of active use. The four permittees of the Home Camp Allotment were the previous owners of the acquired lands.

1.2. Field Managers Proposed Decision

It is my proposed decision to implement the Proposed Action in EA # DOI-BLM-CAN070-2012-0201-EA Home Camp Acquired Lands Projects and Authorizations: Livestock grazing will be permitted in 5 separate fenced pastures or fields. Cattle numbers and periods of use will vary from several days up to 2 weeks in early spring and during the months of July and September, as shown in Table 1. Grazing will be permitted annually under a Temporary Non-Renewable (TNR) authorization, trailing and crossing authorization. See maps 10.6 and 10.7 in the EA for pasture/field locations.

Table 1.1. Proposed Grazing Use on Fenced Fields

Home Camp Allotment Proposed Use on Fenced Fields			
Field/Pasture	Period of Use	Cattle numbers	AUMs
*Hart Camp	7/1 - 7/10	100-200	33 - 66
*Boulder	7/1 - 7/14	200 - 375	66 - 123
Boulder	9/1 - 9/15	150 - 250	74 - 123
Home Camp	9/1 - 9/15	400 - 500	197 - 247
Mare	9/1 - 9/15	400 - 500	197 - 247
**Rye Grass (2013)	3/28 - 4/4	200 - 535	60 - 70
**Rye Grass (2013)	4/12 - 4/17	200 - 535	60 - 88

Rye Grass	9/01- 9/15	535 - 1000	70 - 100
* During this period the pastures will be "flash grazed" i.e. high intensity - short duration grazing as per Technical Review Team (TRT) recommendations.			
**Pasture will be managed for trailing or gathering, actual use dates will vary; but limited to 3 days per authorization during this period.			
Resource Objective: utilization criteria for the fields are a 6-8 inch stubble height as measured at riparian key areas, and 50% utilization on the uplands in the Rye Grass field.			
Cattle must be removed when utilization criteria are met.			

The Mare, Boulder, Home Camp, Rye Grass and Hart Camp Fields' stubble height criteria will be applied to riparian meadow habitats within the fields to ensure nesting and foraging habitat conditions are adequate for sage grouse, neotropical and migratory birds that use the meadows. Key riparian areas will be designated to measure stubble height utilization. Utilization criteria will be no less than 6-8 inches residual stubble height for all species, with an exception in the Mare Field. The utilization criteria in the Mare Field will be 6 inches on the key species Nebraska sedge (*Carex nebraskensis*); this measurement will be taken along the greenline of the spring brook within this pasture. Fifty measurements per key site will be taken to calculate stubble height. Twenty-five measurements will be taken from the center of the transect heading north and twenty-five measurements will be taken from the center of the transect heading south. As a term and condition of the TNR authorization, if the utilization criteria are exceeded, the authorized BLM officer will reduce authorized Animal Unit Months (AUMs) the next season by 10% or will not authorize TNR the following grazing season. Additionally, the permittee(s) will be required to monitor the utilization criteria and remove livestock off of the meadows prior to exceeding the minimum stubble heights. The permittee(s) will also notify BLM if the utilization criteria are reached and livestock were removed during the authorization period. Long term grazing use on the fields and other acquired lands will be evaluated and authorized through the grazing permit renewal process, expected to occur after 2013.

1.3. Rationale:

The Proposed Decision was developed after a review of resource issues and conditions found on the Home Camp Allotment. The Proposed Action will incorporate the TNR, trailing, or crossing authorizations on fenced fields into the yearly deferred rotation grazing strategy for the allotment. In late March or early April, the Rye Grass field will be used for approximately 2 days as an over-night stop for cattle as they are trailed to the eastside turnout pastures. When cattle are scheduled to be moved to the deferred (Boulder) pasture, the 5 fields will be used for trailing and gathering; then holding cattle for several days, possibly up to two weeks. This facilitates more efficient livestock management within the allotment, by pushing smaller groups of cattle and strays into the fields prior to moving larger groups of cattle to next scheduled pasture for use or off the allotment. At the end of the season, four fields will be used to facilitate livestock management by gathering and holding cattle to trail off allotment. Overall, the proposed actions are necessary for animal husbandry, pasture management, and for cattle turnout and removal from the allotment.

The utilization criteria are intended to assist with overall livestock management on the allotment in a manner that is consistent with safeguarding other resources values. The results of grazing use authorized as TNR, along with actual use, utilization, climatic and other information will assist BLM in developing stocking rates and other management options for the acquired lands in the future. These management options will be addressed in the permit renewal process.

The Boulder Reservoir field and the Mare field will be used for gathering purposes for no longer than two weeks in the months of July and September. Riparian areas in the Boulder Reservoir field and the Mare field were both rated at Properly Functioning Condition (PFC) in 2011. This PFC rating is expected to continue under the proposed action. Prior to the acquisition both of these fields were used solely for grazing. The proposed action represents a considerable decrease in potential impacts to resources.

Long term livestock management of the acquired lands under a 10-year permit will be addressed during the grazing permit renewal process.

The Proposed Decision was determined to be in conformance with the Surprise Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision, April 2008, (RMP) as required by regulation (43 CFR 1610.5-3(a)). The Home Camp Allotment is in an area identified for livestock grazing in the Surprise RMP.

1.4. Authority

The authority for this decision includes but is not limited to:

Sec. 4100.0-8 Land use plans

The authorized officer shall manage livestock grazing on public lands under the principle of multiple use and sustained yield, and in accordance with applicable land use plans. Land use plans shall establish allowable resource uses (either singly or in combination), related levels of production or use to be maintained, areas of use, and resource condition goals and objectives to be obtained. The plans also set forth program constraints and general management practices needed to achieve management objectives. Livestock grazing activities and management actions approved by the authorized officer shall be in conformance with the land use plan as defined at

Sec. 4130.2 Grazing Permits or Leases

Na- Grazing permits and leases authorize use on the public lands and other BLM-administered N. lands that are designated in land use plans as available for livestock grazing. Permits and leases will specify the grazing preference, including active and suspended use. These grazing permits and leases will also specify terms and conditions pursuant to §§4130.3, 4130.3-1, and 4130.3-2.

Instruction Memorandum No. 2012-096

Na- Section 123 Trailing Livestock Across Public Land
N.

The provision reads as follows: *“During fiscal years 2012 through 2013 only, the Bureau of Land Management may, at its sole discretion, review planning and implementation decisions regarding the trailing of livestock across public lands, including, but not limited to, issuance of crossing or trailing authorizations or permits, under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.). Temporary trailing or crossing authorizations across public lands shall not be subject to protest and/or appeal under subpart E of Part 4 of Title 43, Code of Federal Regulations, and subpart 4160 of part 4100 of such title.”*

*Chapter 1 Home Camp Acquired Lands
Authorizations
Authority*

1.5. Right to Protest and Appeal

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other affected interest may protest a proposed decision under Sec. 43 CFR 4160.1, in person or in writing to Timothy J. Burke, Surprise Field Manager, PO Box 460, 602 Cressler Street, Cedarville, California 96104 within 15 days after receipt of such decision. The protest, if filed, should clearly and concisely state the reason(s) as to why the proposed decision is in error.

In the absence of a protest, the Proposed Decision will become the Final Decision of the authorized officer without further notice unless otherwise provided in the Proposed Decision. In the event a protest is received, the authorized officer will consider the protest points and issue a final decision.

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other person whose interest is adversely affected by the final decision may file an appeal in accordance with 43 CFR 4.470 and 43 CFR 4160.1-4. The appeal may be accompanied by a petition for stay of the decision in accordance with 43 CFR 4.21, pending final determination on appeal. The appeal and petition for stay must be filed in the office of the authorized officer, as noted above, within 30 days following receipt of the final decision, or within 30 days after the date the proposed decision becomes final.

The appeal shall state the reasons, clearly and concisely, why the appellant thinks the final decision is in error and otherwise comply with the provisions of 43 CFR 4.470 which is available from the BLM office for your use in a BLM office.

In accordance with 43 CFR 4.21(b) (1), a petition for stay, if filed, must show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

- (1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied.
- (2) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits.
- (3) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted, and
- (4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

In accordance with Instruction Memorandum No. 2012-096, *temporary trailing or crossing authorizations across public lands shall not be subject to protest and/or appeal.*

1.6. Authorizing Official:

Timothy J. Burke
Surprise Field Manager

Date