

APPENDIX B

INITIAL ALLOTMENT AND PERMIT/LEASE REVIEW and RANGELAND HEALTH ASSESSMENT

Field Office: Burley Date: October 21, 2014

1. Allotment Name/Number: Loughmiller/# 04076
2. Name(s) of Permittee(s)/Preference Code: C.E. Brackett Cattle Co.
3. Permit Expiration Date(s): 2/28/2019
4. Acres of: Public: 1,675 Private: 160 State: Other:
5. Percent public land in the allotment: 88%
6. Is public land large contiguous block(s) of public land, isolated parcel(s) or both?
Contiguous Block
7. Is the public land fenced separately from the private land? No
8. Is any public land within the allotment identified for exchange/disposal in the land use plan?
No Percent of Allotment If yes, two year notification sent?
9. Does BLM have administrative access separate from the grazing permit/lease? Yes
10. Does public have legal access to the allotment? Yes
11. Is the public land physically isolated from the adjoining public land? No
12. What is the livestock grazing management category? (M, I, or C) M
13. List all Land Use Plan (LUP) objectives and decisions (consider resource list for No. 14 below for objectives and decisions in the LUP), other grazing decisions, and other NEPA documents pertaining to the allotment:

Range: **RM 1.4** (continue to use the existing deferred-rotations system).

RM 3.1 (allocate 610 AUMs of livestock forage on the Loughmiller Allotment).

Twin Falls Grazing EIS identified the season of use on the Loughmiller Allotment as 04/20 – 09/05.

Wildlife: **WL 3.7** (provide enhanced habitat for waterfowl and shorebirds by fencing and planting riparian vegetation in the Loughmiller gravel pits).

WL 4.10 (Enhance wildlife habitat for non-game species by implementing the following livestock management

--for seeding areas, avoid more than the following utilization percentages:

40 percent utilization for spring use,

60 percent utilization for summer use,

60 percent utilization for fall and winter use;

14. Check the Standards, Guidelines, and Resources that are applicable to this allotment. Following ID Team disclosure of information and data (monitoring data, studies, inventories, etc, information from other agencies, local governments, and the public) and the ensuing discussions, briefly describe in the comment section any issues (with supporting information). This information will be used to determine if existing data is adequate, or if more information is needed to determine compliance with the Idaho Standards and Guidelines for Rangeland Health.

<i>Standard, Guideline, or Resource Issue</i>	<i>Check(if applicable)</i>	<i>Comments</i>
<i>Watershed (Standard 1)</i>	X	According to the 2005 evaluation and 2012 Standards and Guidelines (S&G) validations, the watershed appears healthy. Rangeland health attributes measuring soil/site stability and hydrologic function were very similar to what is expected to occur on the ecological range sites. Ground cover and soil structure appeared adequate on the sites, and there were no signs of accelerated erosion.
<i>Riparian Areas, Wetland (Standard 2)</i>	N/A	There are no riparian or wetland areas within the allotment.
<i>Stream Channel, Flood Plains (Standard 3)</i>	N/A	There are no stream channels or flood plains within the allotment.
<i>Native Plant Communities (Standard 4)</i>	N/A	There is approximately 200 acres of a failed seeding attempt following a wildfire in the West Pasture. The area is currently composed of predominately Wyoming big sagebrush and Sandberg's bluegrass that was rated in fair condition and improving in the 1979 inventory. According to the 2005 evaluation, the site has fewer annuals than recorded in 1979 and has continued to improve. Since this only makes up approximately 1/10 of the allotment, this standard does not apply.
<i>Seedings (Standard 5)</i>	X	<p>According to the 2005 evaluation and the 2012 S&G validations, plant community diversity and structure is adequate on the seeded rangeland in the allotment. Sagebrush cover was noted as being low, but is establishing. Plant health and cover appears to be appropriate with evidence of plant recruitment. Forb cover was as expected given range site potential and past seeding efforts.</p> <p>Trend and S&G photos also show healthy seeded rangeland.</p> <p>Utilization levels for the past four years have averaged 29% in 2010, 34% in 2011, 27% in 2012 and 58% in 2013. The data currently available doesn't indicate a utilization problem.</p> <p>Total 2014 production was calculated at 437 lbs/acre.</p>
<i>Exotic Plant Communities (Standard 6)</i>	N/A	There are no exotic plant communities within the allotment
<i>Water Quality (Standard 7)</i>	N/A	There are no stream segments listed on Idaho's 303d list of impaired water bodies on the allotment.

Standard, Guideline, or Resource Issue	Check(if applicable)	Comments
<i>Threatened & Endangered Plant & Animals (Standard 8)</i>	X	No threatened, endangered, candidate species are known to occur within this allotment. According to the 2005 evaluation, a low diversity of wildlife species were observed on the field evaluation day. Portions of the allotment provides suitable habitat for sagebrush obligate special status species such as Brewer's sparrow, sage sparrow or loggerhead shrike. The allotment also provides habitat for Migratory Bird Species of Conservation Concern including grasshopper sparrows, burrowing owl, long-billed curlews, short-eared owl and northern harrier. Allotment visits during 2012 yielded observations of long-billed curlews nesting in the crested wheatgrass dominated areas and Brewers sparrows and loggerhead shrikes in areas having more sagebrush cover.
Guidelines (1-20)		

Land Use Plan Review		
<i>Livestock Grazing</i>	X	The allotment is currently supporting 610 AUMs of forage for livestock. The allotment has a 3 pasture deferred rotation system.
<i>Botanical</i>	N/A	No botanical resource issues have been identified.
<i>Cultural</i>	N/A	No cultural resource issues have been identified.
<i>Fire, Fuel</i>	N/A	Nothing identified in the MFP.
<i>Fisheries</i>	N/A	No fisheries occur on the allotment.
<i>Forestry</i>	N/A	This allotment is not suitable for forestry.
<i>Land</i>	N/A	There are no lands within the allotment identified for disposal/exchange.
<i>Minerals</i>	N/A	No mineral resource issues have been identified.
<i>Recreation</i>	N/A	No recreation issues have been identified.
<i>Special Status Species</i>	X	See Standard 8 above.
<i>Wild Horses</i>	N/A	There are no wild horses or burros on this allotment.
<i>Wildlife</i>	N/A	No wildlife issues have been identified.
<i>Other- Watershed</i>	N/A	

15. Describe BLM's ability or inability to manage the allotment by considering the following, as applicable: Whether there is legal access; whether % federal land comprises majority of the allotment; whether the public land acreage is small (less than 640 acres) and surrounded by private land(isolated); whether the federal land is fenced separate from the private land; etc.

The allotment is comprised of 1,675 acres of public land, approximately 90% of the total acreage. The public land is not fenced separately from the 160 acres of private land and there is legal motorized access. All three pastures are adjacent to county roads or a state highway. This allotment is easily managed.

Current permit: 159 Cattle 04/20 – 08/31 88%PL 610 AUMs

16. Based on the information above the following is recommended to the field manager: (check the appropriate category)

1. Review of existing information indicates that there is no livestock grazing or other issues. Available information is adequate or little additional information is needed to complete the evaluation and NEPA. Grazing permit has been fully processed previously. Conditions that existed when fully processed have not changed (no new listed species, fires, major changes in rangeland health). **Existing grazing is meeting or moving towards meeting standards. Complete DNA based on the original EA to fully process the permit renewal. In some cases another EA may be the basis for the DNA (e.g., use an EA from another allotment with similar grazing management and ecological sites).**
2. Review of existing information indicates that there is livestock grazing or other issues. Available information is adequate or little additional information is needed to complete the evaluation and NEPA. Grazing permit has been fully processed previously. Conditions that existed when fully processed have not changed (no new listed species, fires, major changes in rangeland health). **Develop alternative grazing or adaptive management strategies. If alternative grazing strategies are covered in existing NEPA then complete DNA, if not complete appropriate NEPA. Adaptive management actions should be covered by existing NEPA and final decision.**
3. Review of existing information indicates that there is no livestock grazing or other issues. Grazing permit has not been fully processed before. Available information is adequate to complete the evaluation and determination. (see numbers 5,6,7,8, 11, and 15 above).
4. Review of available information indicates that grazing or other issues may or may not exist. However, the allotment has no or limited potential for management and/or physical characteristics (e.g., slope, rock, location on the landscape, and lack of livestock forage) of the tract deter livestock grazing use on the public land. (see numbers 5,6,7,8,11, and 15 above). Grazing permit has not been fully processed before. Available information is adequate to complete the evaluation and determination.
5. Review of existing information indicates that an issue(s) may or may not exist. The allotment is considered manageable (see #s 5,6,7,8,11, and 15 above). Grazing permit has not been fully processed before. **Available information is adequate to complete the RHA. Complete RHA (or if adequate use this form as the RHA) and the Evaluation Report, appropriate NEPA, and Determination Document.**
6. Review of existing information indicates that an issue(s) exists. The allotment is considered manageable (see #s 5,6,7,8,11, and 15 above). More information is needed to evaluate current conditions. **Gather additional information and data. Complete the RHA and Evaluation Report and Determination Document or if postponing S&Gs, complete NEPA which in this case is normally an EA.**

List the names and title of the member of the ID team involved with this review:

Name	Title
Jason Theodozio	Rangeland Management Specialist
Jeremy Bisson	Wildlife Biologist

Prepared by Jason Theodozio October 21, 2014
Team Leader for the ID Team **Date**

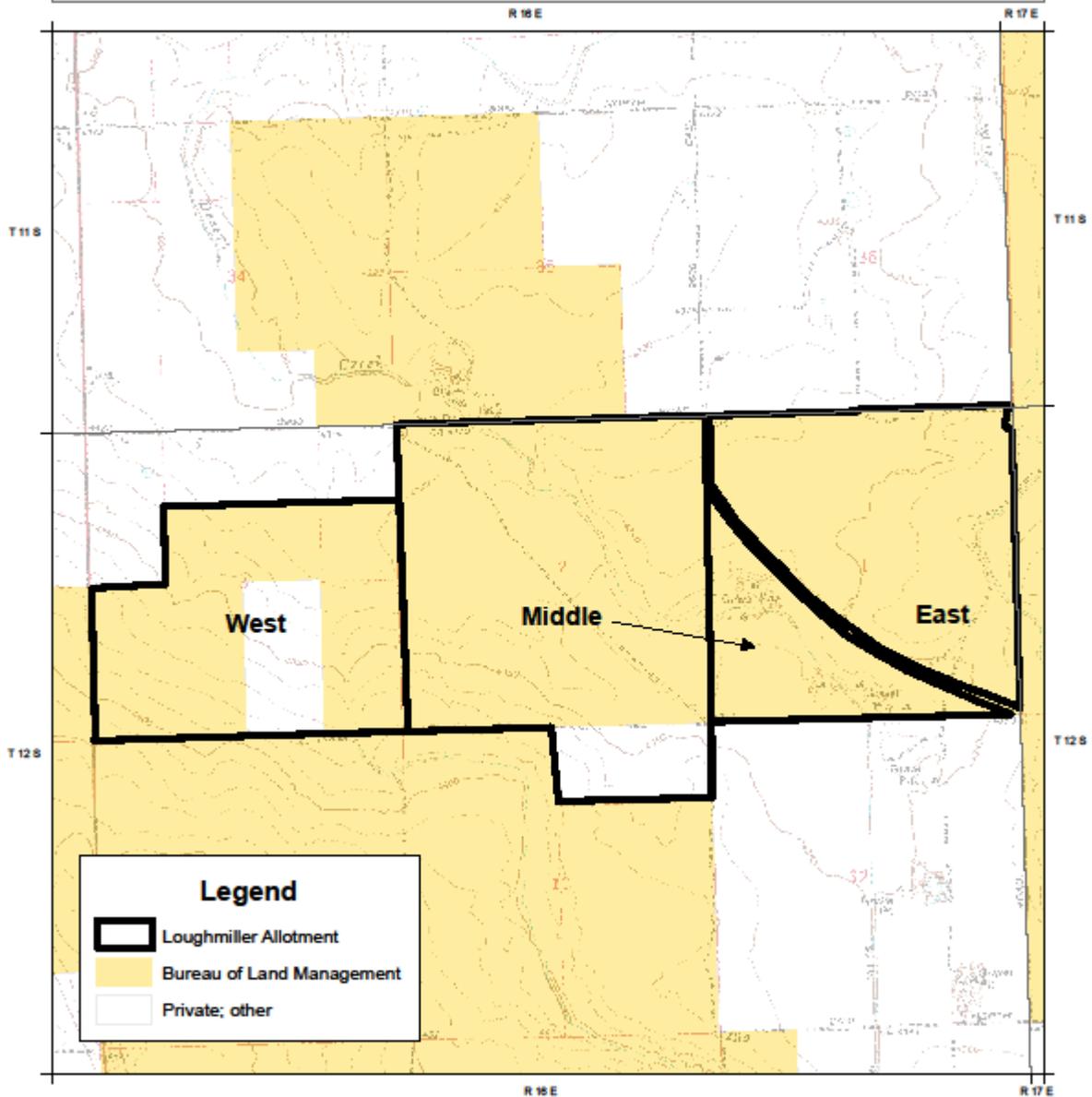
Field Manager's Finding and Rationale:

Review of available data in the files and professional knowledge of the area indicates no livestock issues or other issues exist on the allotment. The permit associated with this allotment has not been renewed and the permittee has changed since the 2005 allotment evaluation. This is the RHA.

/s/Jim Tharp
Authorized Officer (Acting)

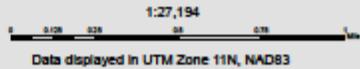
10/20/2014
Date

Loughmiller



Map Created: 6/17/2014

The surface management status ("land ownership") should be used as a general guide only. Official land records, located at the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and other offices, should be checked for up-to-date information concerning any specific tract of land.



Data displayed in UTM Zone 11N, NAD83

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2004 S&G Site1 (West Pasture)



2012 S&G Validation Site 1 (West Pasture)



2004 S&G Site 2 (Middle Pasture)



2012 S&G Validation Site 2 (Middle Pasture)



2004 S&G Site 3 (East Pasture)



2012 S&G Validation Site 3 (East Pasture)