



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Salmon Field Office
1206 South Challis Street
Salmon, Idaho 83467

<http://www.blm.gov/id/st/en/Districts-Idaho/IFD.html>

In Reply Refer To:
4100 (IDI04000)

Notice of Field Manager's Decision

Dear Interested Party:

I have received three requests for temporary crossing permits to trail livestock across public lands in portions of the Baldy Basin, Sandy Creek, Rattlesnake, NEF 3, Mill Creek, Walters and Little Sawmill/South Hayden Allotments. Upon review, and in accordance with 43 CFR 4130.6-3 and Section 123 of the 2012 Appropriations Omnibus Act, applications for temporary crossing permits are approved.

Background

In the fall of 2011, a number of applications for crossing permits were filed. In response to the applications, the BLM prepared Environmental Assessment (EA) No. DOI-BLM-ID-I040-2012-0028-EA to analyze the environmental consequences of trailing livestock in the Baldy Basin, Sandy Creek, Rattlesnake, NEF 3, Mill Creek, Waters and Little Sawmill/S. Hayden Allotments. After reviewing EA No. DOI-BLM-ID-I040-2012-0028-EA, I determined that livestock trailing will not result in any significant impacts and issued a Finding of No Significant Impact on September 16, 2013.

Decision and Rationale

I have decided to issue three crossing permits, as described in Alternative 1 of EA No. DOI-BLM-ID-I040-2012-0028-EA. My proposed decision is based on the findings of EA No. DOI-BLM-ID-I040-2012-0028-EA. I have reviewed the alternatives analyzed in detail to determine if they were responsive to the purpose and need for this proposal. I also reviewed the alternatives that were considered but not analyzed in detail to help me decide if the analysis had considered a reasonable range of alternatives. I find that the alternatives considered address the purpose and need and provide a reasonable range to consider.

Crossing Activities will be in accordance with the terms and conditions listed in the attached permits.

My decision is in conformance with the 1987 Lemhi Resource Management Plan, as amended.

BLM analyzed two alternatives (Alternatives 1&2) and considered three additional alternatives that were not analyzed in detail (see *Alternatives* and *Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences* sections of EA No. DOI-BLM-ID-I040-2012-0028-EA).

Alternative 1 included the proposed trailing activities as submitted in the crossing permit applications. Alternative 2 was the no action alternative and would have denied the three applications for crossing permits.

All terms and conditions described in the temporary crossing permit are incorporated by reference into this decision and must be followed. Terms and conditions that are specifically identified to reduce environmental effects are described in the “**Other Terms and Conditions**” section below.

The BLM will issue Crossing Permits to qualified applicants authorizing the trailing of livestock across BLM administered lands within the Salmon Field Office, beginning in the 2013 grazing year.

1. Permit A will entail crossing about 1.2 miles of public land across the Maybe Seeding Pasture of the Baldy Basin Allotment; cattle will be trailed using ATVs and/or motorcycles, horses and stock dogs. The term permit will be issued for the period of 3/1/2013 to 2/28/2023.
2. Permit B will entail crossing about 1.7 miles of the Sandy Creek Allotment and 0.5 miles of the Rattlesnake Draw Pasture of the Rattlesnake Allotment; cattle will be trailed using horses and stock dogs. The term permit will be issued for the period of 3/1/2013 to 2/28/2023.
3. Permit C will entail crossing about 0.5 miles in the NEF 3 Allotment, 0.8 miles in the Mill Creek Allotment, 1.3 miles in the Ferry Creek Pasture of the Walters Allotment, and 4.3 miles in the Mill Creek Flat Pasture of the Little Sawmill/S. Hayden Allotment; cattle will be trailed using ATVs and/or motorcycles, horses and stock dogs. The term permit will be issued for the period of 3/1/2013 to 2/28/2023.

In each case, crossing will be permitted for one to four days for the entire herd within the applied-for dates (Table 1).

Trailing along roads will be concentrated on the road prism footprint and roadside ditch; cattle could move off and then back onto the road if vehicles pass through the herd. Where off-road motorized vehicle use will occur, it will occur mostly along existing paths through the vegetation and/or along fencelines. All off-road trailing will be concentrated within a 150 foot corridor along the crossing routes.

Off-road use of ATVs and/or motorcycles would only occur in the Baldy Basin Allotment (0.6 miles). Use of ATVs and/or motorcycles would not occur in the Sandy Creek and Rattlesnake allotments. Off-road use of ATVs and/or motorcycles would not occur in the NEF 3, Mill Creek, Walters, and Little Sawmill/South Hayden allotments, but they would be used on roads that exist along the crossing routes in these allotments. Up to 69% of all trailing would be done using ATVs and/or motorcycles (up to 7.1 of 10.3 total miles), and 31% would be done using horses and dogs only (3.2 of 10.3 total miles).

Of all motorized trailing, approximately 92% (6.5 of the 7.1 motorized miles) would occur along existing roads, and about 8% (0.6 of the 7.1 motorized miles) would occur cross-country along existing cattle trails and/or along fence lines. Of all trailing, about 6% (0.6 of 10.3 miles) would be off-road using ATVs and/or motorcycles. Horses and dogs could be used anywhere.

Each permit will outline the allotment(s) to be trailed across, the period of use (dates), and the number and kind of livestock as applied for (Table 1).

Table 1. Mandatory Terms and Conditions

Application Serial Number	Applicant	Allotment	Pasture	Trailing Period	Trailing Events per Period	Number/ Kind per event
Permit A I0402012015	Caywood	Baldy Basin	Maybe Seeding	5/14 – 1/20	4	200 cattle
Permit B I0402012014	Hatch	Sandy Creek	Sandy Creek	5/20 – 5/27 8/6 – 8/14	1	50 cattle
Permit B I0402012014	Hatch	Rattlesnake	Rattlesnake Draw	5/20 – 5/27 8/6 – 8/14	1	50 cattle
Permit C I0402012016	Johnson	NEF 3	NEF 3	3/1 – 1/10	2	200 cattle
Permit C I0402012016	Johnson	Mill Creek	Mill Creek	3/1 – 1/10	2	200 cattle
Permit C I0402012016	Johnson	Walters	Ferry Creek (cross-pasture route)	6/1-8/15	1	200 cattle
Permit C I0402012016	Johnson	Walters	Ferry Creek (east routes)	3/1-1/10	2	200 cattle
Permit C I0402012016	Johnson	Little Sawmill/S. Hayden	Mill Creek Flat (NE to SW route across sections 2, 11, and 10)	6/15-7/15	1	200 cattle
Permit C I0402012016	Johnson	Little Sawmill/S. Hayden	Mill Creek Flat (SW to NE route from section 10 to fenceline in section 11)	6/1-8/15	1	200 Cattle

Other Terms and Conditions:

Permit A): Crossing will occur along the route outlined in the attached map.

This permit authorizes active trailing using horses, ATVs and/or motorcycles, and stock dogs along the road prism and roadside ditch, or within a 150-foot wide corridor when trailing off-road, along the route indicated on the attached map.

Cattle will be actively trailed and will not be left on the allotment overnight.

A maximum of four crossing events will occur between the dates specified. Crossing will be restricted to a maximum of 200 livestock at one time. A maximum of 800 livestock will be allowed to cross the allotment in a year.

Permit B): Crossing will occur along the route outlined on the attached map.

This crossing permit authorizes active trailing using horses and stock dogs along the road prism and roadside ditch, or within a 150-foot wide corridor when trailing off-road, along the route indicated on the attached map.

Cattle will be actively trailed and will not be left on the allotment overnight.

A maximum of two crossing events will occur: one in May and one in August.

Crossing will be restricted to 50 cattle during each crossing event (across the two allotments), for a maximum of 50 head for each permitted timeframe.

Permit C): The proposed crossing routes and permitted timeframes by route are outlined on the attached map.

Maximum number of crossing events are: NEF 3 (2), Mill Creek (2), Walters (3), Little Sawmill/S. Hayden (2), as indicated on the attached map.

Crossing will be restricted to a maximum of 200 cattle during each crossing period for each allotment.

Cattle will be actively trailed and will not be left on the allotment overnight. Active trailing will be done using horses, ATVs, and/or motorcycles and stock dogs. Cross-country trailing will be done using horses and dogs. ATVs and/or motorcycles will only be used on existing roads.

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 1987 Lemhi Resource Management Plan, as amended, which allocates livestock uses in the affected allotments.

Protest and/or Appeal

My decision is not subject to protest or appeal in accordance with Section 123 of the 2012 Appropriations Omnibus Act.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (208) 756-5410 or Kyra Povirk at (208) 756-5411.

Sincerely,

/s/ Linda R. Price

Linda R. Price
Field Manager

Enclosures:

Three (3) temporary crossing permits (Permit #s: I0402012015, I0402012014, and I0402012016) and associated maps

Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)

Environmental Assessment (EA) No. DOI-BLM-ID-I040-2012-0028-EA

Copies sent to:

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