United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

AUG 27 2012

Idaho Falls District
Salmon Field Office
1206 South Challis Street
Salmon, Idaho 83467

Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)
Ryegrass/N. Hayden Trailing EA

Environmental Assessment No. # DOI-BLM-ID-I040-2012-029-EA

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-I040-2012-0029-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 referenced EA. I considered the following factors in determining significance:

1. The activities described in the proposed action do 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.

The beneficial effects of livestock trailing are:

- Removal of livestock from public lands at the end of the permitted grazing season.
- Rotation of livestock to/from various grazing units for proper grazing management of the public lands.

The adverse effects of livestock trailing are:

- Some consumption and trampling of upland vegetation.
- Minor amounts of soil compaction along the crossing route.

2. The activities included in the proposed action would not significantly affect public health or safety (40 CFR 1508.27(b) (2)).

- Much of the livestock trailing would occur along existing, well-established trailing routes. The public may occasionally encounter livestock 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.

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, designated Wilderness Areas, wilderness study areas, or Areas of Critical Environmental Concern are found within the trailing route.

4. The activities described in the proposed action do 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.

- Public input was requested from affected permittees and interested publics. No comments were received in response to the scoping efforts.

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. The EA (pp. 4-7) 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 the EA No. DOI-BLM-ID-I040-2012-0029-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 (EA, p. 7). The EA (pp. 1-2) contains specific design features that will be used to lessen potential environmental effects. The cumulative effects analysis in the EA (p. 7) 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 the proposed action 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)).

- Based on the proposed trailing activities, 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. The EA (pp. 4) discloses that trailing activities are not expected to have an effect on cultural resources. No recorded cultural resources are present within the APE. Each route would be monitored as a component of Section 106 compliance Consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office.

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 EA (pp. 5-6), 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 EA determined that there would be no impacts to Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Fish from the proposed action or alternatives since there are no fish-bearing streams or habitat along the proposed crossing routes. The trailing will have no effect on Canada lynx or its habitat.

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)).

- The EA (see Relationship to Statues, Regulations, and Other Plans), describes how trailing activities conform to relevant laws, regulations, policies, and any relevant local permitting requirements.

8/27/12

Date

Field Manager
Salmon Field Office