



United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Shoshone Field Office
400 West F Street
Shoshone, Idaho 83352-5284
(208) 732-7200



In Reply Refer To:
4100 (IDT030)P

September 27, 2012

Scoping Information Package
Shoshone Field Office Crossing Permit Authorization

Dear Permittee & Interested Public:

This scoping information package summarizes a Bureau of Land Management (BLM) proposal to authorize the trailing of livestock across BLM administered lands within the Shoshone Field Office. This proposal is in accordance with 43 CFR 4130 and 4160, and the 1979 Shoshone Grazing Management Plan, the 1981 Sun Valley Grazing Management Plan, 1984 Monument Resource Management Plan, and the 2004 Craters of the Moon Management Plan. Federal action must be analyzed in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other relevant Federal and State laws and regulations to determine potential environmental consequences.

The purpose of this scoping package is to inform you and other interested and affected parties of this proposal, and to solicit your comments to assist us with the NEPA review of the proposal. This is also the time for the permittees to submit applications for livestock trailing for next year, beginning in April 2013. We have **attached a Grazing Application** (Form 4130-1) for you to fill out with changes or additions. If you would like to apply for the same trails and use as approved on your 2012 trailing permit, please state that on your application. In order for the EA to be completed in a timely fashion, please submit all applications by **October 19, 2012**.

The analysis of this proposal is currently ongoing, and will eventually be documented in an Environmental Assessment (EA) with an estimated completion date of January 2013. Comments received in response to this solicitation will be used to identify potential environmental issues related to the Proposed Action and to identify alternatives to the Proposed Action that meet the purpose of and need for action.

The Scoping/Information Package for this project proposal can be found on the BLM e-Planning website at:

https://www.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/nepa/nepa_register.do

The following page contains directions on how to find the document on the ePlanning website.

Please follow the steps below in order to find the Shoshone Field Office Livestock Trailing Renewal Scoping Package. The address above should be typed in its entirety, including the “[https://](#)” portion to ensure that you are directed correctly.

- 1) Under the “State(s)” field, select “**Idaho**”
- 2) Under the “Office(s)” field, select “**ID-Shoshone FO**”
- 3) Under the “Document Type(s)” field, select “**EA**”
- 4) Under the “Fiscal Year(s)” field, select “**2012**”
- 5) Under the “Program(s)” field, select “**Livestock Grazing**”
- 6) When you have finished selecting all the fields, click “**Search**”
- 7) Click on “**#DOI-BLM-ID-T030-2012-0044-EA**”
- 8) At the bottom of the NEPA Project Summary Page, under “**Links**”, click **2012 SFO Livestock Trailing Scoping Package** in order to view this document.

PUBLIC INPUT NEEDED

Comments are specifically requested on the proposed action, preliminary issues, preliminary alternatives, and trailing routes identified for the Proposed Action (see Map 1). Clarifications to existing requests or additional requests received during this scoping period will also be considered. Comments made on this proposal would be most helpful if they are received on or before **October 19, 2012**, and are directly relevant to the proposal and project area. The BLM will not reject public feedback outside established public involvement timeframes; however, these comments may be considered secondary to comments received in a timely manner and may only be assessed to determine if they identify concerns that would substantially alter the assumptions, proposal, design, or analysis presented in the EA.

Written comments must be submitted to Codie Martin, Acting Shoshone Field Manager, 400 West F Street, Shoshone, ID 83352. The office business hours for submitting hand-delivered comments are 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Electronic comments must be submitted in a format such as an email message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), Word (.doc), or portable document format (.pdf) to jtjaden@blm.gov. E-mails submitted to e-mail addresses other than the one listed, in other formats than those listed, or containing viruses will be rejected. To be most helpful, comments sent electronically should include the title of this project “2013 Livestock Trailing EA” in the subject line. Please identify whether you are submitting comments as an individual or as the designated spokesperson on behalf of an organization. Issues that are outside the scope of the proposal will not be addressed in the Shoshone Field Office Livestock Trailing EA.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time.

The primary contact for questions and comments for this analysis is Joanna Tjaden, Rangeland Management Specialist, 400 West F Street, Shoshone, ID 83352, 208-732-7292.

Sincerely,

/s/ James Barnum

James Barnum
Acting Shoshone Field Manager

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Twin Falls District
Shoshone Field Office
400 West F Street
Shoshone, ID 83352**

SCOPING/INFORMATION PACKAGE

**SHOSHONE FIELD OFFICE
LIVESTOCK TRAILING PERMIT RENEWAL**

Project # DOI-BLM-ID-T030-2012-0044-EA

The information in this package summarizes a Bureau of Land Management (BLM) proposal to authorize a livestock trailing permit renewal in the Shoshone Field. Federal actions must be analyzed in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other relevant Federal and State laws and regulations to determine potential environmental consequences.

The purpose of this document is to inform you and other interested and affected parties of this proposal, and to solicit your comments to assist us with the NEPA review of the proposal. The analysis of this proposal is currently ongoing, and will eventually be documented in an Environmental Assessment (EA) with an estimated completion date of January 2013. Comments received in response to this solicitation will be used to identify potential environmental issues related to the proposed action and to identify alternatives to the proposed action that meet the purpose and need for the project.

PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR ACTION

The purpose of and need for action is to respond to applications for crossing permits (i.e., trailing permits) by identifying areas and terms and conditions for authorizing trailing of livestock across BLM administered lands within the Shoshone Field Office. BLM is required, under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and the Taylor Grazing Act to respond to requests for livestock trailing across BLM administered lands. In many instances, livestock producers must move their livestock across BLM administered lands to facilitate proper grazing management of BLM grazing allotments; as well as to facilitate movements of livestock to and from private, state, or other federally administered lands. Authorized trailing of livestock across BLM administered lands would be in accordance with 43 CFR 4130 and 4160, and would be consistent with the provisions of the Taylor Grazing Act and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act.

PROPOSED ACTION

The proposal is to issue BLM crossing permits to livestock operators who have submitted applications for trailing livestock across BLM-administered lands within the Shoshone Field Office for single or multiple grazing years beginning in April 2013. This alternative will analyze all new applications received as well as minor changes needed from the previous livestock trailing permits.

The BLM would outline the allotment(s) to be trailed across, the period of use (dates), and the number and kind of livestock on each crossing permit. Additionally, terms and conditions specific to each trailing event would be identified, including the trail route and minimum distance of travel per day. Trailing that occurs through burned areas would take place in accordance with any decision resulting from these fire plans.

Trailing routes that are used for the movement of livestock are shown on Map 1. Under the proposed action, the 2013 applications are expected to be similar to 2012. Map 1 actually describes Alternative 2 from the 2012 Shoshone FO Livestock Trailing EA. Any additions or changes received during this scoping period will be included in the EA and in Map 1. Each livestock trail will be analyzed using a 1-mile corridor. This Proposed Action only considers trailing use that occurs on allotments where the permittee either does not have a grazing permit within the allotment through which he is trailing or the permittee does have a grazing permit but needs to trail livestock outside of his/her permitted use dates. Livestock that have active preference to graze in allotments do not need crossing permits to move livestock from one pasture to another within the allotment. Under this alternative, the BLM reserves the right to re-route and/or consolidate livestock trails outlined by livestock operators in their application to accommodate avoidance areas that may be found during the analysis.

PRELIMINARY ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT

1) Alternative 2 – No Changes

This alternative would analyze the same trailing terms and conditions that were approved in EA# # DOI-BLM-ID-T030-2012-0044-EA, Alternative 1. No changes or additions, regardless of how minor, would be approved for livestock trailing beginning April 2013.

2) Alternative 3 – No Action

Crossing permits would not be issued and trailing of livestock across BLM administered lands within the Shoshone Field Office would not be authorized.

Alternatives Considered but dropped from further analysis:

1) Reduced Levels of Livestock Trailing

The BLM Shoshone Field Office reduced livestock trails through the analysis process in EA# # DOI-BLM-ID-T030-2012-0044-EA and further reductions at this time are not necessary.

2) Trail on Existing Roads Only

One Commenter proposed an alternative to require livestock to stay on existing roads and trails only. The BLM considered this alternative but eliminated it from detailed study previously because 86% of the proposed trailing events already occur on roads. Livestock tend to stay on roads because it is the easiest and quickest path to travel, so the effects of this alternative would be similar to the effects of the Proposed Action and Alternative 2.

3) Only Allow Trucking of Livestock

One Commenter proposed an alternative to require all applicants to truck livestock instead of authorizing trailing permits. The BLM considered this alternative but eliminated it from detailed analysis because trucking would be a likely result of the No Action Alternative. The effects of this alternative would be similar to the effects of the No Action Alternative.

4) Preference for Sensitive Species

One Commenter proposed an alternative that protects, conserves and enhances natural resources for sage-grouse, sagebrush obligates and other sensitive species like bighorn sheep. The BLM considered this alternative but eliminated from detailed analysis because the effects to affected resources would be similar to Alternative 1.

5) Minor Changes to existing trailing permits

This alternative will not be analyzed in full detail separately from the proposed action because the environmental consequences of the minor changes are the same as the proposed action.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

The project area is the Shoshone Field Office which is generally located north of Twin Falls, south of Ketchum, east of King Hill, and west of Arco (refer to map). The Shoshone Field Office contains 206 livestock grazing allotments; this Proposed Action currently affects 82 allotments but could increase if more applications are received. Livestock grazing use occurs within Shoshone Field Office primarily from April through December. Trailing of cattle and sheep occurs at different times throughout the year but mostly in the spring and early summer and then again in the fall to accommodate livestock grazing that is moving off of or onto BLM lands from the National Forest or between BLM allotments, private, or state land. The timing of livestock trailing within a given season may vary each year because of the current year's resource conditions, weather, wildfire, individual livestock operations, or forage production. Livestock trailing has occurred annually within the Shoshone Field Office boundary for decades. Livestock trailing in the past was carried out without a crossing permit; however, it was authorized through licensing and billing. During the 2012 grazing season, all livestock trailing was carried out with a livestock trailing permit approved through the NEPA process.

Many of the applications received for 2012 included multiple trailing events. The trailing applications received were primarily 1-day trails and constituted 62% of the trailing events; 25% of the trailing events are 2-day trails, and the remainder, 13%, are 3-day or more trail events. Applications for trailing events range in distance from less than 1 mile to approximately 50 miles, and in duration from less than 1 hour up to 5 days.

PRELIMINARY ISSUES

Preliminary issues identified through the BLM's internal scoping process in the Shoshone Field Office area are:

- Sage-grouse – Potential effects to sage-grouse during breeding, nesting, and brood-rearing periods.
- Migratory Birds – Potential effects to migratory birds during nesting and brood-rearing periods.
- Bighorn Sheep – Potential effects from domestic sheep trailing through bighorn sheep habitat.
- Big Game – Potential effects during fawning/calving and wintering periods.
- Vegetation – Potential effects to vegetation.
- Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants – Potential effects regarding noxious weeds and invasive plants.
- Soils – Potential soil erosion in areas recently burned by wildfire.
- Riparian areas and Wetlands – Potential effects to riparian areas and wetlands from trailing and watering livestock, including fisheries.
- Livestock Grazing – Potential interactions between grazing livestock vs. trailing livestock.

The interdisciplinary team will review comments received through the public scoping process and will determine the list of issues that will be analyzed in the environmental assessment.

DECISION TO BE MADE

The Shoshone Field Manager will decide whether to issue crossing permits authorizing the trailing of livestock across BLM administered lands within the Shoshone Field Office. If crossing permits are authorized, the Shoshone Field Manager will also decide which specific terms and conditions are parts of the authorization.

Enclosure:

Map 1

CC: PERMITTEES

ABC AGRA, LLC
ALDECOA, J D & SONS INC
ALLEN, HERB & MARY
ALLEN, BETTY
ALLEN, STEPHEN & PATRICIA
ANCHUSTEGUI, JOHN
ANDERSEN, LOUIS & TERESA
ARK PROPERTIES, LLC
ARKOOSH, JOHN & CARRIE
ARKOOSH, WILLIAM

B BAR B, INC
BAIRD, RAYMOND
BAR TEN GRAZING ASSOCIATION
BARLOW, MARK & MASHELLE
BARNEY, RICHARD
ERIC BARNEY
BARTON FAMILY TRUST
BARTON, JIM
BARTON RANCHES, INC
BASHAW FAMILY TRUST
BECKLEY, RON
BILLINGTON, ROBERT
BLUE BUTTE GRAZING ASSOCIATION
BRADSHAW, CHESTER
BRAY, DONALD
BREEDING, G. SCOTT
BROWN, EARL
BROWN, EDWIN
BROWN RANCH, INC
BURKE RANCHES, INC
BURMAH GRAZING ASSOCIATION

CAMAS CREEK CATTLE ASSOCIATION, LLC
CASA DEL NORTE, LP
CASTLE, JAMES C.
CAUGHEY, SHERRY
CAUHORN, JOHN & JUDY
CMK, LP
COLGATE, JOHN K., JR.
COLEMAN, GARY & CAROLYN
COOK, HAROLD
CRICHTON CREEK, LP

DALLY, DAN & SHAWNA
DAY, MONTIE S. & ELIZABETH BURNETT-DAY
DEER CREEK RANCH, INC
DIAMOND BEAR PARTNERS, LLC
DREDGE, ALICIA
DRY CREEK CATTLE ASSOCIATION

EHM ENGINEERS, INC
ETCHEVERRY SHEEP CO

FINNEY, HIRAM
FIR GROVE, LP

FISCUS, THERON & LAURIE
FISH CREEK ANGUS, LLC
FLAT TOP GRAZING ASSOCIATION
FLICK, TOBY
FLOOD, JOHN
FLYING TRIANGLE, INC
4-BROS DAIRY, INC

GERGEN, KEVIN
GIDEON, FRANCIS C. & ANN L.
GOICOECHEA, RON
GOODTIME ASSOCIATION
GRANT, JAMES
GULLEY, WILLIAM

HEART ROCK RANCH, LLC
HENNEFER, DENNIS
HENNEFER FARMS
HIDDEN CROWN RANCH, LLC
HILL, DAVID S.
HOLT FAMILY TRUST
HORN, CARL & KIMBERLY
HUBERT, DEVAN & KRISTINE
HUGHES, BRANDON & HOPE

IRELAND, WILLIAM
JANSS, PETER
JESSEN, MICHAEL & JOHN WHITNEY

KARSTETTER BROS RANCH
KAST, DALEN
KIMBALL, ROMA
KONRAD, DAVE & KETTLEBAND, PAUL, JR.
KOWITZ, DENIS & LAURIE

LAKESIDE INDUSTRIES
LAVA LAKE LAND & LIVESTOCK, LLC
LEGUINECHE, JOHN
LEGUINECHE, LOUIS
LITTLE FISH CREEK GRAZING ASSOCIATION
LOCKWOOD LAND & LIVESTOCK

MACON CATTLE ASSOCIATION, LLC
MANN, GREGORY & CYNTHIA
MATHEWS, DEBBIE
MCKAY, BRYAN
MECHAM, MILO
MECHAM, MILO & RICHARD
MILLER, BLAINE E. & CAROLANNE B.
MILLER, C STEVEN & DAVID E COATES
MOLYNEUX, JOHN, C.E. & WILLIAM
MOORE, TIMOTHY L.
MULDOON CATTLE ASSOCIATION
MULDOON CREEK RANCH CATTLE
ASSOCIATION
MULDOON GRAZING ASSOCIATION
MUNSEE, MARK & AMY
MUSSMANN, BERWYN
MUSSMAN, MARLIN & DAVEE

NIELSON, ROGER

O'CONNOR, GERARD ET AL
ONEIDA FARMS, INC

PARDUE, W. D.
PATTERSON LAND & LIVESTOCK CO
PECK, RONALD
PECK, TOM
PENDELTON, CARL
PERRY, WILLIAM
PICABO LIVESTOCK CO
PICABO LIVESTOCK CO and LICKLEY, BILL &
Laurie
PINE MOUNTAIN GRAZING ASSOCIATION
PLATEAU FARMS, LLC
POSEY, JUSTIN
POWERS FAMILY TRUST
PRES CO LVSTK ASSOCIATION

REDSTONE PARTNERS, LP
RITCHIE, JAMES H.
RITTER, CHARLES
RITTER, JAMES M.
R W CATTLE CO
ROCKING W RANCH
ROGERS, D. R., INC
RUPERT, JIMMIE

SABALA FARMS, INC
SAIYA, RICHARD
SAND SPRINGS RANCH, INC
SEARS, BRIAN
SHAW, GENE
SHAW, WILLIAM
SHEEPHOOK CATTLE GRAZING ASSOCIATION,
LLC
SHERBINE, BILL
SHERBINE, ROCKY & TERRI
SHOEMAKER, ALVIN & SALLY
SIMPSON GRAZING ASSOCIATION
SIMPSON, DANNY & DUSTIN
SIMPSON, MAJORIE
SKELTON, LEON & FRANCES
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SORENSEN, JODI
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STRODE, DOWNEY

T 5 RANCHES, LLC
TABER, DONALD
TATTERSALL TRUST
TEWS LAND & LIVESTOCK, INC
TIMMERMAN GRAZING ASSOCIATION
TOONE RANCHES
TUNUPA GRAZING ASSOCIATION, LLC

VALLEY VIEW OF MAGIC VALLEY, INC
VAUGHN BROTHERS

WATERS, TIM & LINDA
WEBB, KIRK
WEBB LIVESTOCK CO
WEBB, TOM
WEST, LITA
WESTERN SPIRIT, INC
WILKIE, STEVEN C. & KATHY
WOOD RIVER RANCH

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CAMAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE FOR THE HIGH DESERT
ICL PUBLIC LANDS OFFICE
IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
IDAHO WILDLIFE FEDERATION
SHOSHONE-BANNOCK TRIBES
THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY
WESTERN WATERSHEDS PROJECT
DAVID SKINNER
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