



United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Twin Falls District Office
Shoshone Field Office
400 West F Street
Shoshone, ID 83352



In Reply Refer To:
4100 (IDT 030) P

March 26, 2013

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Lava Lake Land & Livestock LLC
c/o Mike Gordon
P.O. Box 2249
Hailey, ID 83333

Notice of Field Manager's Decision

Dear Mr. Gordon:

Your application has been received for a crossing permit (aka livestock trailing permit) to trail livestock across public lands in the following allotments: Balsamroot, Cottonwood, Craters, Dry Creek, East Fork, Flat Top, Hailey Creek, Home Place, Lake Wood, Lower Rock Creek, Martin Canyon, Meadow, Neck, Road Canyon, Sheep Creek, Tikura, Timber Butte, and Trail Creek. Upon review, and in accordance with 43 CFR 4130.6-3 and Section 123 of the 2012 Appropriations Omnibus Act, your application for a crossing permit is approved as shown under the Decision section of this document.

Background

In October 2011 and September 2012, the Shoshone Field Office solicited applications for crossing permits for trailing livestock across public lands within the Shoshone Field Office area. In response to applications received, the BLM prepared Environmental Assessment (EA) No. DOI-BLM-ID-T030-2012-0044-EA to analyze the environmental consequences of trailing livestock throughout the Shoshone Field Office for multiple years. After reviewing EA No. DOI-BLM-ID-T030-2012-0044-EA, BLM determined that livestock trailing activities analyzed in the proposed action would not result in any significant impacts and issued a Finding of No Significant Impact on March 25, 2013.

Decision

The decision has been made to issue you a multi-year livestock crossing permit to trail livestock across public lands as described in the Proposed Action of EA No. DOI-BLM-ID-T030-2012-0044-EA. You are authorized to conduct crossing activities in accordance with the attached Crossing Permit.

All terms and conditions described in the 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:

Crossing Permit

Allotment Number	Allotment Name	Livestock Number	Livestock Kind	Trailing Begin	Trailing End	AUMs	Number of Days
80323	Balsamroot	2400	Sheep	05/01	07/01	0	1
80323	Balsamroot	2400	Sheep	10/01	11/15	0	1
80335	Cottonwood	1200	Sheep	05/01	07/15	16	2
80335	Cottonwood	1200	Sheep	09/20	11/30	16	2
80336	Crater	1200	Sheep	05/01	07/15	8	1
80336	Crater	1200	Sheep	09/20	11/30	8	1
80302	Dry Creek	1200	Sheep	05/01	06/20	16	2
80302	Dry Creek	2500	Sheep	09/15	12/31	32	2
80329	East Fork	2400	Sheep	05/01	07/01	32	2
80329	East Fork	2400	Sheep	10/01	11/30	32	2
80329	East Fork	2400	Sheep	05/01	07/01	16	1
80329	East Fork	2400	Sheep	10/01	11/30	16	1
80308	Flat Top	2400	Sheep	05/15	07/01	64	4
80308	Flat Top	2500	Sheep	05/15	06/30	32	2
80308	Flat Top	2500	Sheep	09/15	10/31	32	2
80308	Flat Top	2400	Sheep	10/01	11/15	32	2
80308	Flat Top	2400	Sheep	10/01	11/15	64	4
80306	Hailey Creek	1200	Sheep	05/01	07/01	8	1
80324	Home Place	1200	Sheep	05/01	07/01	8	1
80324	Home Place	1200	Sheep	10/01	11/15	8	1
80223	Lake Creek	1200	Sheep	05/01	07/15	16	2
80223	Lake Creek	1200	Sheep	07/16	09/30	16	2
80310	Little Wood	2400	Sheep	05/01	07/15	32	2
80310	Little Wood	2400	Sheep	07/16	11/30	32	2
80310	Little Wood	2400	Sheep	05/01	07/15	48	3
80310	Little Wood	2400	Sheep	07/16	11/30	32	2
80221	Lower Rock Creek	2500	Sheep	05/01	06/15	32	2
80233	Martin Canyon	1200	Sheep	09/15	10/31	8	1
80322	Meadow	2400	Sheep	05/01	07/01	0	1
80322	Meadow	2400	Sheep	10/01	11/15	0	1
80613	Neck	1200	Sheep	05/01	06/15	8	1
80320	Road Canyon	1200	Sheep	05/01	07/01	16	2
80320	Road Canyon	1200	Sheep	10/01	11/15	16	2

Allotment Number	Allotment Name	Livestock Number	Livestock Kind	Trailing Begin	Trailing End	AUMs	Number of Days
80307	Sheep Creek	2400	Sheep	05/01	07/15	32	2
80307	Sheep Creek	2400	Sheep	07/16	11/30	32	2
80602	Tikura	1200	Sheep	05/01	06/15	16	2
80330	Timber Butte	2400	Sheep	04/01	07/01	16	1
80330	Timber Butte	2400	Sheep	11/01	12/31	16	1
80325	Trail Creek	1200	Sheep	06/15	07/01	8	1

TERMS & CONDITIONS:

1. Livestock trailing in Balsamroot, Crater, Hailey Creek, Home Place, Martin Canyon, Meadow, Neck, Timber Butte and Trail Creek allotments will be limited to one day per trailing event. No overnighting on BLM-administered lands is permitted without pre-approval of the Authorized Officer.
2. One day trail in the spring and fall through East Fork Allotment is an alternate route from the Iron Mine Allotment to the Lava Lake Allotment.
3. Livestock trailing in Cottonwood, Dry Creek, Lake Creek, Lower Rock Creek, Road Canyon and Sheep Creek and Tikura allotments will be limited to two days per trailing event.
4. Livestock trailing in the Little Wood Allotment will be limited to two days except for 2 bands of sheep in the spring. Two bands of sheep are permitted a three day trail in the spring.
5. Livestock trailing in the Cottonwood and Crater allotments will be managed to attain and/or maintain Proper Functioning Condition in Blaine County and avoid public land riparian areas in Butte County altogether.
6. Bedding of livestock will not be permitted within 500 feet of riparian areas. If steep terrain or other topographical features do not allow a 500 foot buffer, bedding of livestock would not be permitted immediately adjacent to riparian areas.
7. One day trails through multiple grazing allotments will only be billed in one allotment to avoid duplicate billing. This may lead to some allotments having a zero in the AUM column.
8. In the Dry Creek, Lower Rock Creek, Neck and Road Canyon allotments:
Bedding or overnighting of livestock will not be permitted to occur within 0.6 mile of occupied or undetermined status sage-grouse leks from March 15 to May 1 from 6 pm to 9 am. Allotments north of Highway 20, the timeframe are March 25 to May 15. Permittees will be notified of current sage-grouse lek locations.

Livestock trailing will not be permitted to occur within 0.6 mile of occupied or undetermined status sage-grouse leks from March 15 to May 1 from 6 pm to 9 am except on designated roads. Allotments north of Highway 20, the timeframe are March 25 to May 15. Permittees will be notified of current sage-grouse lek locations.

9. In the Dry Creek, Lower Rock Creek and Timber Butte allotments, no bed grounds will be located within 0.5 mile of the Oregon National Historic Trail segments.
10. Livestock trailing will occur along the route outlined in the attached map and in accordance with the Authorized Officer's Final Decision EA No. DOI-BLM-ID-T030-2012-0044-EA.

Rationale

Issuance of the crossing permit is in accordance with 43 CFR 4130.6-3, 43 CFR 4160 and Section 123 of the 2012 Appropriations Omnibus Act. Issuance of this crossing permit conforms to the 1979 Shoshone Grazing Management Plan, the 1981 Sun Valley Grazing Management Plan, 1984 Monument Resource Management Plan, and the 2006 Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve Management Plan. This action would not result in a change in the scope of resource use or a change in the terms, conditions, and decisions of the approved plans.

BLM analyzed three alternatives (Proposed Action, Alternative 1 and Alternative 2) and considered two additional alternatives that were not analyzed in detail (see Section 2.5 of EA No. DOI-BLM-ID-T030-2012-0044-EA).

The Proposed Action would issue 27 crossing permits with reduced crossing permit authorization and resource-specific terms and conditions to reduce impacts to resources such as special status species and their habitat, wildlife, cultural sites eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, and Idaho Standards for Rangeland Health.

Alternative 1 would issue 27 crossing permits for all the applications received with no reduced crossing permit authorization and resource-specific terms and conditions.

Alternative 2 is the No Action alternative and would deny all applications for livestock trailing. Crossing Permits would not be authorized in the Shoshone Field Office.

Authority

This 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 1979 Shoshone Grazing Management Plan, the 1981 Sun Valley Grazing Management Plan, 1984 Monument Resource Management Plan, and the 2006 Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve Management Plan, which allocates livestock uses in the affected allotments.

Protest and/or Appeal

This 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) 732-7200 or Joanna Tjaden, Rangeland Management Specialist/Project Lead at (208) 732-7292.

Sincerely,

/s/ Brandon Brown

Brandon Brown
Acting Field Manager
Shoshone Field Office

Enclosures:

Temporary Livestock Trailing Permit

Map(s) of trailing event

Copies sent to:

See Attachment A: CC List