

Categorical Exclusion Review
 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
 Boise District Office
 Bruneau Field Office

Craig [and Rita] Gillespie to Craig Gillespie grazing preference transfer

CE No.: DOI-BLM-ID-B020-2012-0015-CX	Lease/Serial/Case File No.: 1104296 (1104159), 1104297 (1101620)
<p>Purpose and Need for Action: Craig and Rita Gillespie had two winter grazing permits in Battle Creek Allotment 00802. The purpose of the first grazing permit transfer (GRN1104296) is to address Craig Gillespie’s grazing preference transfer application for 67 AUMs of grazing preference from the former Lowell Rudge base property now controlled solely by Rita Gillespie to Craig Gillespie’s Cattle Drive Road base property that is now controlled solely by Craig. The purpose of the second grazing permit transfer (GRN1104297) is to address Craig Gillespie’s grazing preference transfer application for 91 AUMs that were previously attached to the Cattle Drive Road base property. Both permits affect the same pasture of Battle Creek Allotment and are logically analyzed together in this CX. The need is to comply with the grazing regulations (43 CFR 4110.2-3) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).</p>	
<p>Description of Proposed Action: These actions will result in the transfer of Craig and Rita Gillespie’s 67 AUMs and 91 AUMs of grazing preference to Craig Gillespie’s Cattle Drive Road base property. The period of use is 11/1–1/31, and the 67 and 91 AUMs are only to be used in Pasture 8 of Battle Creek Allotment 00802. Since these permits are being transferred exactly as they are, they are not being consolidated into one permit at the present time.</p> <p>The preference attached to the 320-acre Cattle Drive Road base property is described on the respective Forms 4130-1a Grazing Preference Application and Preference Transfer Application (Base Property Preference Attachment and Assignment). The Quitclaim Deed dated May 6, 2012, from Rita Gillespie describes Craig Gillespie’s base property, and therefore meets the requirements of 43 CFR 4110.2 Grazing Preference, subparts 4110.2-1, and 4110.2-3 Transfer of Grazing Preference.</p>	
<p>Project Location: Pasture 8 of Battle Creek Allotment - T. 6 S. - 7 S., R. 3 E. - 4 E., various sections</p>	
<p>Applicant: Craig Gillespie</p>	
<p>Part I – Plan Conformance Review: Bruneau–Kuna MFP 1983</p> <p>This Proposed Action is subject to the following land use plan: Bruneau MFP 1983</p> <p>Remarks: None</p>	
<p>Part II – NEPA Review</p> <p>A. Categorical Exclusion Review: This Proposed Action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 11.9: Category D. Rangeland Management (1) Approval of transfers of grazing preference.</p> <p>B. Exceptions Review (Departmental List of Extraordinary Circumstances Review): The following Departmental List of Extraordinary Circumstances applies to individual actions. Departmental instructions mandate that environmental documents MUST BE PREPARED for actions which may:</p>	

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List of Exceptions		
1. Have significant impacts on public health or safety.		
Yes	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Specialist Signature/Date: /s/ <i>Mike Boltz</i> 9/25/2012
<i>Comments/Explanation:</i> This administrative transfer would not have any significant impacts on public health or safety. Livestock grazing is a recognized and authorized use, as identified in the Bruneau MFP (1983).		
2. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; or ecologically significant or critical areas, or is not in compliance with the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act.		
Yes	No	Specialist Signature/Date: /s/ <i>Bruce C. Schoeberl</i> , Wildlife Biologist, 9/26/12
Yes	No	Specialist Signature/Date: /s/ <i>Holly Beck</i> , Botanist, 9/26/12
Yes	No	Specialist Signature/Date: /s/ <i>James D. Mays</i> , Fisheries Biologist, 9/26/12
Yes	No X	Specialist Signature/Date: /s/ <i>Foia Palmgren</i> , Archaeologist, 9/26/12
<i>Comments/Explanation:</i> There would not be any changes in management as a result of this transfer. Grazing management in this allotment was analyzed in the Final Battle Creek Allotment Grazing Permit Renewal EA (2008). The administrative action of transferring the two grazing preferences to Craig Gillespie would result in the same mandatory and other terms and conditions from the previous authorizations. This would result in no change in any effects on any of the resources analyzed in the 2008 EA.		
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].		
Yes	No	Specialist Signature/Date: /s/ <i>Mike Boltz</i> 9/25/2012
<i>Comments/Explanation:</i> This administrative action would not have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2) (E)]. All known conflicts and controversial effects (such as climate change and OHV/livestock grazing) are managed under the Bruneau MFP and the grazing permit terms and conditions.		
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		
Yes	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Specialist Signature/Date: /s/ <i>Holly Beck</i> , Botanist, 9/26/12
<i>Comments/Explanation:</i> This administrative action would not have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks. Environmental effects such as climate change and potential listing of candidate species would be addressed in the future as scientific literature and studies indicate and would be implemented specific to the actions being proposed. An administrative action to continue an existing, managed action under identical terms and conditions would not change or increase existing effects or risks identified in the existing Bruneau MFP or the 2008 EA.		
5. Establish a precedent for future actions or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		
Yes	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Specialist Signature/Date: /s/ <i>Mike Boltz</i> 9/25/2012
<i>Comments/Explanation:</i> This administrative action would not establish a precedent for future actions or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects. The proposed action would allow for the continued use as identified in the Bruneau MFP, and the existing permit terms and conditions. The transfers would be implemented as authorized by currently existing Federal Regulations (43 CFR), for livestock grazing/management. Future actions would not be affected or set by this action, as it is already in place and no changes to current actions are being proposed or implemented.		
6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant		

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environmental effects.		
Yes	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Specialist Signature/Date: /s/ <i>Mike Boltz 9/25/2012</i>
<i>Comments/Explanation:</i> This administrative action does not have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant environmental effects. The impacts of livestock grazing in conjunction or cumulatively with other on-the-ground activities are already occurring, and would continue at the current rate and intensity as existing permitted actions.		
7. Have significant impacts on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.		
Yes	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Specialist Signature/Date: /s/ <i>Lois Palmgren, Archaeologist 9/26/12</i>
<i>Comments/Explanation:</i> Grazing management in the Battle Creek Allotment has been analyzed in Final EA ID-120-2007-3353 and is not part of the action associated with this CE. This administrative action will not have an impact on any cultural properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.		
8. Have significant impacts on species listed or proposed to be listed on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or on designated Critical Habitat for these species.		
Yes	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Specialist Signature/Date for Plants: /s/ <i>Holly H. Beck, Botanist, 9/26/12</i> Specialist Signature/Date for Wildlife: /s/ <i>Bruce C. Schoeberl, Wildlife Biologist, 9/26/12</i> Specialist Signature/Date for Aquatics: /s/ <i>James D. Mays, Fisheries Biologist, 9/26/12</i>
<i>Plants Comments/Explanation:</i> Special status plant species within Battle Creek Allotment and other adjacent allotments would not be adversely impacted by this action. The impacts of livestock grazing management to special status plant species have been analyzed in permit renewal Final EA ID-120-2007-3353.		
<i>Wildlife Comments/Explanation:</i> Although the status of greater sage-grouse changed from Type 2 to Type 1 (Candidate for Federal Listing; 2010) since the Final Battle Creek Allotment Grazing Permit Renewal EA decision record was signed in 2008, no other changes have occurred to Special Status wildlife species found in the allotment included in this action. As stated in the comments for #2 above, this CE covers only the transfers of grazing preference but management would not include more grazing impacts than analyzed in the Final Battle Creek Allotment Permit Renewal EA (2008) so impacts disclosed in that document would remain the same.		
<i>Aquatics Comments/Explanation:</i> Livestock grazing management in Pasture 8 of Battle Creek Allotment was analyzed in Final EA-120-2007-3353 and the decision record (final decision) was issued February 20, 2008. Because the same mandatory and other terms and conditions as the current authorization would be implemented in the new authorization, the administrative actions of transferring 67 and 91 AUMS of grazing preferences to Craig Gillespie would not cause any change in special status fish species (Threatened, Endangered, or BLM Sensitive Species). There are also no perennial streams within this pasture.		
9. Violate a Federal, State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		
Yes	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Specialist Signature/Date: <i>Mike Boltz 9/25/2012</i>
<i>Comments/Explanation:</i> This administrative action does not violate any Federal, State, local or tribal laws or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment.		
10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).		
Yes	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Specialist Signature/Date: /s/ <i>Mike Boltz 9/25/2012</i>
<i>Comments/Explanation:</i> This administrative action would not have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898). There are not any low income or minority populations living in the allotment. Low income or minority visitors to the area would not be affected any differently by the proposed activity than any other visitor.		
11. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or		

significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).		
Yes	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Specialist Signature/Date: /s/ <i>Mike Boltz</i> 9/26/2012
<i>Comments/Explanation:</i> This administrative action does not limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007) because grazing does not restrict access to public land.		
12. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).		
Yes	No	Specialist Signature/Date: /s/ <i>Holly Beck</i> , Botanist, 9/26/12
<i>Comments/Explanation:</i> Transferring grazing privileges, for the continuation of current authorized grazing, would not cause additional influences to existing noxious weeds or non-native invasive species.		
I certify that none of the Departmental exceptions (Extraordinary Circumstances) listed in the above Part II (516 DM 2, Appendix 2) apply to this action; therefore, this categorical exclusion is appropriate for this situation.		
Remarks: The transfer of grazing privileges would allow for continued management of Battle Creek Allotment, with the same terms and conditions as the previous grazing authorization.		
Authorizing Official: /s/ <i>Aimee Betts</i> _____		Date: <u>09/26/2012</u>
Name: Aimee Betts acting for Arnold L. Pike		
Title: Acting Bruneau Field Office Manager		