

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DOCUMENTATION

CX No. DOI-BLM-ID-B0010-2013-0005-CX

A. BACKGROUND

BLM Office: Four Rivers Field Office

Lease/Serial/Case File No.: 1102907 : 1104324

Proposed Action Title/Type: Stewart FFR Allotment (00877) Grazing Preference Transfer

Location of Proposed Action: The Stewart FFR Allotment is located approximately 16 miles southeast of Boise, ID (Attachment 1).

Description of Proposed Action: Transfer 32 Animal Unit Months (AUMs) of active grazing preference within the Stewart FFR Allotment from Erin Lord (1102907) to Weststates Land & Livestock, LLC (1104324). The Terms and Conditions of the new permit would be the same as the previous permit. Weststates Land & Livestock, LLC has leased the base property to which the 32 AUMs are attached from the current owners: Far Marel, LLC; Mt. Olympus Investments, LLC; Cardon Hiatt Investments, LLC; Peterben Vigna, LLC; Clearview Investments, LLC; Trejo Investments, LLLP; TI Stewart Ranch, LLC; Layton Skyline Investors, LLP; and Charles Dennis Barney Self Directed IRA, all Arizona limited partnerships or limited liability companies and/or Partnerships (herein collectively referred to as the "Title Holders" of the base property to which 32 AUMs are attached for four years (January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2015). Per CFR 4110.2-3, Weststates Land & Livestock, LLC has paid the appropriate fees, and submitted the appropriate documents and applications for the grazing privileges within the allotment.

B. LAND USE PLAN CONFORMANCE

Land Use Plan Name: Kuna Management Framework Plan (KMFP).

Date Approved or Amended: 3/30/1983

The proposed action is in conformance with the LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the Range Program Objectives and Recommendations within the Range Management Section of the Bruneau-Kuna MFP.

C: COMPLIANCE WITH NEPA:

The proposed action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9. D. Rangeland Management

Category Description: D. Rangeland Management, 1) Approval of transfer of grazing preference. This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances that would introduce potential effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM6 apply.

The following list of Extraordinary Circumstances (516 DM 2, Appendix 2) was considered:

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Stewart FFR Allotment Grazing Preference Transfer

1. Have significant impacts on public health or safety.

Comments/Explanation: Livestock grazing is a recognized and authorized use, as identified in the MFP.

Specialist Signature/Date: /s/ J.M. Barnum, Rangeland Mgmt. Spec., 11/19/12

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.

Comments/Explanation: This action would not have significant impacts on natural resources and/or unique geographic characteristics within the proposed action area or adjacent lands. Because the current and proposed actions are the same as those identified and evaluated in the KMFP. This action would not adversely affect the proper functioning condition of two perennial streams and five springs in the allotment. No other unique resources are present.

Specialist Signature/Date: /s/ J. Allen Tarter, Natural Resources Specialist, 11/19/12

Specialist Signature/Date: /s/ Joseph Weldon, Wildlife Biologist, 11/19/2012

Specialist Signature/Date: /s/ Mark E. Steiger, Botanist 11/19/2012.

3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].

Comments/Explanation: Alternative uses of available resources are set forth in the RMP. There would be no known unresolved conflicts as a result of the transfer of the grazing preference.

Specialist Signature/Date: /s/ J. M. Barnum, Rangeland Mgmt. Spec., 11/19/12

4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.

Comments/Explanation: Livestock grazing is an ongoing activity, the continuation of which would pose no unique or unknown environmental risks.

Specialist Signature/Date: /s/ J.M. Barnum, Rangeland Mgmt. Spec., 11/19/12

5. Establish a precedent for future actions or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.

Comments/Explanation: Livestock grazing under the current terms and conditions (kind, dates, AUMs) has been fully analyzed under the current LUP and transfer of this preference without changes is considered an administrative action under both MFP and the NEPA Handbook. Further, the conditions for transfer of the current grazing preference would be in conformance with CFR 4110.1, 4110.2, 4110.2-3 and 4120.

Specialist Signature/Date: /s/ J.M. Barnum, Rangeland Mgmt. Spec., 11/19/12

6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant environmental effects.

Comments/Explanation: Transferring existing grazing preference with no changes from the current authorization would not be either individually or cumulatively significant. The impacts of livestock grazing in conjunction with or cumulatively with other on-the-ground activities are already occurring, and would continue at the current rate and intensity as the existing permitted actions.

Specialist Signature/Date: /s/ J.M. Barnum, Rangeland Mgmt. Spec., 11/19/12

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.

Comments/Explanation: This grazing preference transfer would have no effect on historic properties listed, or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Specialist Signature/Date: /s/ Dean C. Shaw, Archaeologist, 11/19/2012

8. Have significant impacts on species listed or proposed to be listed on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species (T&E), or on designated Critical Habitat for these species.

Comments/Explanation: No T&E or Bureau special status plants are known to occur within the confines of the Stewart FFR Allotment and none are expected to occur there based on a lack of habitat and previous surveys conducted in the area. As a consequence the proposed action would not be expected to have an adverse impact on any known T&E or Bureau special status plant species.

Plants Specialist Signature/Date: /s/ Mark E. Steiger, Botanist, 11/19/2012

Comments/Explanation: No known federally listed wildlife species are known to be present in the allotment. Other BLM special status wildlife species may occur within the affected area; however, the proposed transfer would not be expected to result in adverse impact because the proposed transfer of grazing privileges would result in no changes to current livestock grazing management.

Wildlife Specialist Signature/Date: /s/ Joseph Weldon, Wildlife Biologist, 11/19/2012

Comments/Explanation: No special status aquatic species are present in the allotment.

Aquatics Specialist Signature/Date: /s/ J. Allen Tarter, Natural Resources Specialist, 11/19/12

9. Violate a Federal, State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.

Comments/Explanation: This routine administrative procedure would be consistent and compatible with all known Federal, State, local and Tribal laws or requirements imposed for protection of the environment.

Specialist Signature/Date: /s/ Dean C. Shaw, Archaeologist, 11/19/2012

10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).

Comments/Explanation: There are no known low income or minority populations in the area of the proposed action. However, if low income or minority populations do exist, the transfer of existing grazing preference would not be expected to have a disproportionately high or adverse effect on these populations.

Specialist Signature/Date: /s/ J. M. Barnum, Rangeland Mgmt. Spec., 11/19/12

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).

Comments/Explanation: This grazing transfer would not limit access to, or ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands, or adversely affect the physical integrity of such sites.

Specialist Signature/Date: /s/ Dean C. Shaw, Archaeologist, 11/19/2012

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).

Comments/Explanation: Transferring grazing preference, for the continuation of current authorized grazing, would not cause additional influences to existing noxious weeds or non-native invasive species.

Specialist Signature/Date: /s/ Loonie Huter Weed Mgmt. Spec. 11/19/12

D: SIGNATURE

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.

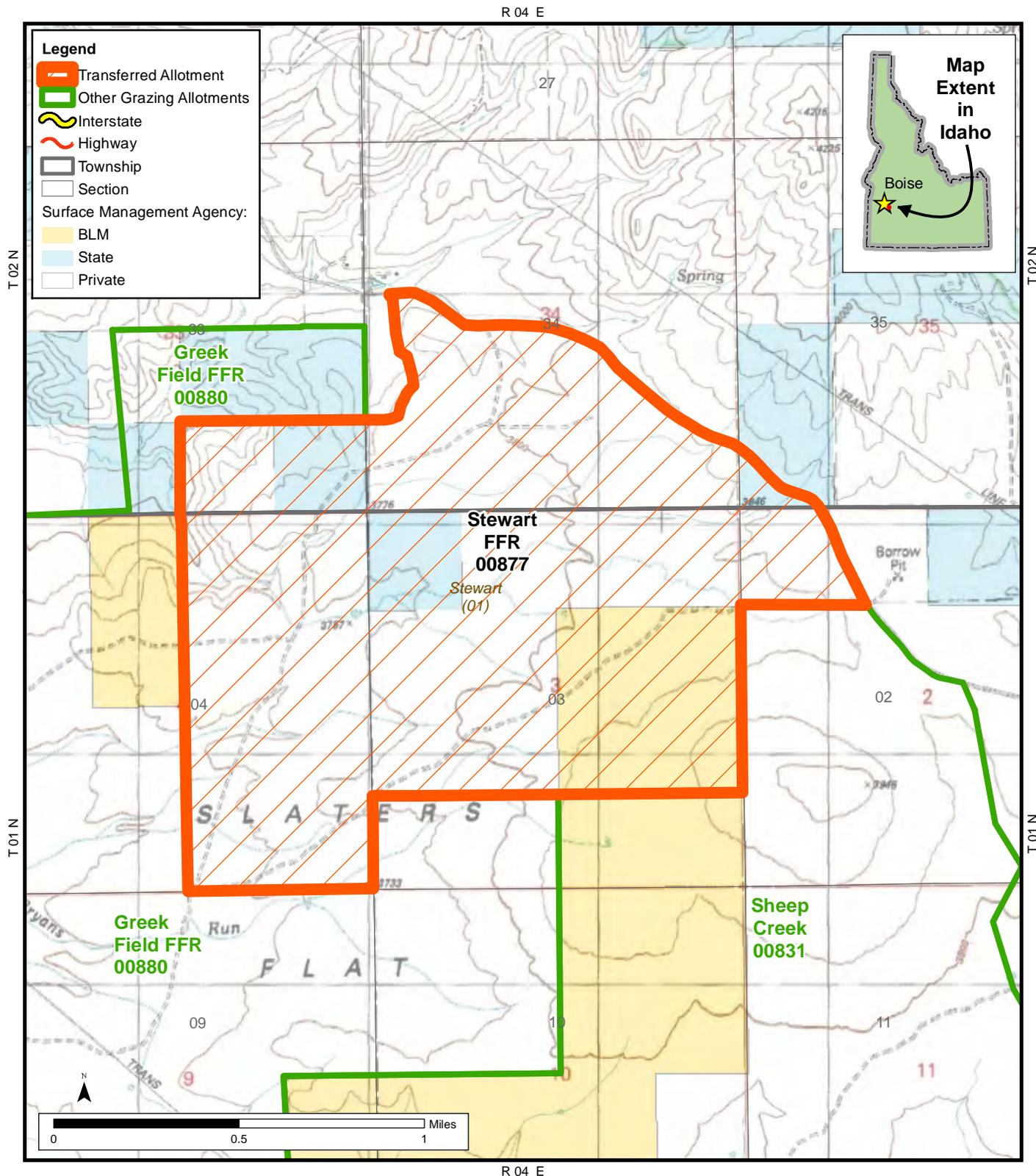
Authorizing Official: /s/ Matthew McCoy Date: 11/19/2012

Matthew McCoy
Assistant Field Manager
Four Rivers Field Office

Prepared By/Contact Person: J.M. (Mike) Barnum – 208-384-3218

Stewart FFR (00877) Allotment

Grazing Preference Transfer: Erin Lord to Weststates Land and Livestock, LLC.



U.S. Department of the Interior
 Bureau of Land Management, Idaho
 Boise District, Four Rivers Field Office
 Map date: January 8, 2014



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