United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Boise District Office
Bruneau Field Office
3948 Development Avenue
Boise, Idaho 83705
http://www.blm.gov/id/st/en/fo/bruneau.html

In Reply Refer To:
4160 (120)

March 26, 2013

CERTIFIED MAIL - 7011 2970 0002 6304 2259 - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Joseph Black and Sons
c/o Chris Black
30709 State Hwy 51
Bruneau, ID 83604

Notice of Field Manager's Decision

Dear Mr. Black:

In 2012, I issued a final decision that authorized the issuance of crossing permit B02012038 to you. The crossing permit expired 2/28/2013. You indicated that you will need a crossing permit that has a term that coincides with the term of your grazing permit. The purpose of this decision is to authorize issuance of a new crossing permit that coincides with the term of your existing grazing permit, therefore, the term of the new crossing permit will be 3/1/2013 to 2/28/2019.

Background

On November 21, 2011, you submitted an application for a crossing permit as shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1 - Application for Crossing Permit.

Route[A]	Map[A]	Allotments Crossed	Total # of Cattle	Timeframe		# of Groups[B]	Days per Group[C]	Herding Method
				Begin	End			
230A[D]	4A	Northwest	1,100	3-28	5-20	3	5 days	Horse
231A	5A	Battle Creek East Castle Creek West Castle Creek	1,100	3-15	5-21	3	3 days	Horse
232A	6A	Battle Creek East Castle Creek West Castle Creek	1,100	11-1	12-20	3	3 days	Horse

[A] Route and map numbers correspond to routes and maps depicted as Alternative A in EA No. DOI-BLM-ID-B020-2012-0003-EA.
[B] Indicates the number of groups in which the total number of livestock would be split for trailing. For example, 500 total cattle being trailed in 2 groups would result in 2 groups averaging 250 cattle each.
[C] Indicates how long it would take each group of livestock to travel the length of the trailing route.
[D] Route is an alternate route.

In response to your application and several others, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) prepared Environmental Assessment (EA) No. DOI-BLM-ID-B020-2012-0003-EA[1] to analyze the environmental consequences of trailing livestock throughout the Bruneau Field Office.

BLM analyzed three alternatives (Alternatives A-C) and considered one additional alternative that was not analyzed in detail (see Chapter 2 of the EA). Alternative A included the proposed trailing activities as submitted in the crossing permit applications (Table 1). Alternative B was the No Action Alternative and would have denied all applications for crossing permits. Alternative C was developed in response to public comments and in consideration of potential environmental consequences of the trailing activities depicted in Alternative A (Table 2).

After reviewing the EA, I determined that livestock trailing would not result in any significant impacts and issued a Finding of No Significant Impact on March 26, 2012.

In Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA) DOI-BLM-ID-B020-2013-007-DNA[2], I concluded that the issuance of a crossing permit for the term of 3/1/2013 to 2/28/2018 conforms to the 1983 Bruneau Management Framework Plan (MFP) and that EA No. DOI-BLM-ID-B020-2012-0003-EA fully covers this action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of NEPA.

Decision and Rationale

I have decided to approve your application and issue you a crossing permit with some adjustments as shown in Table 2 and the attached maps. Specific dates will be shown and final authorization will be granted in a grazing bill. The term of the new crossing permit will be 3/1/2013 to 2/28/2019.

Table 2. Crossing Permit with Stipulations.

Route[A]	Map[A]	Allotments Crossed	Total # of Cattle	Timeframe		# of Groups[B]	Days per Group[C]	Herding Method	Stipulations under Alternative C[D]
				Begin	End				
230C[E]	4C	Northwest	1,100	3-28	5-20	3	5 days	Horse	Keep on route at stream crossings shown on map. Trail between 10am & 6pm where shown on map. Adjust overnight locations as shown on map.

[1] EA No. DOI-BLM-ID-B020-2012-0003-EA and its associated Finding of No Significant Impact are available through https://www.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/nepa/nepa_register.do. Select State = **Idaho**, Office = **ID-Bruneau FO**, Document Type = **EA**, Fiscal Year = **2012**, Program = **All**, then click **Search**. Once you arrive here, click on **DOI-BLM-ID-B020-2012-003-EA**. If you are unable to view the documents on the website, you may request that hard copies be sent to you.

[2] DNA No. DOI-BLM-ID-B020-2013-007-DNA is available through https://www.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/nepa/nepa_register.do. Select State = **Idaho**, Office = **ID-Bruneau FO**, Document Type = **DNA**, Fiscal Year = **2013**, Program = **All**, then click **Search**. Once you arrive here, click on **DOI-BLM-ID-B020-2013-007-DNA**. If you are unable to view the document on the website, you may request that a hard copy be sent to you.

Route[A]	Map[A]	Allotments Crossed	Total # of Cattle	Timeframe		# of Groups[B]	Days per Group[C]	Herding Method	Stipulations under Alternative C[D]
				Begin	End				
231C	5C	Battle Creek East Castle Creek West Castle Creek	1,100	3-15	5-21	3	3 days	Horse	Adjust route to location shown on map. Check with Wildlife Biologist before trailing through eastern portion. Keep on route where shown on map. [F] Trail between 10am & 6pm where shown on map. Adjust overnight locations as shown on map.
232C	6C	Battle Creek East Castle Creek West Castle Creek	1,100	11-1	12-20	3	3 days	Horse	Adjust route to location shown on map. Keep on route where shown on map. [F]

[A] Route and map numbers correspond to routes and maps depicted as Alternative C in EA No. DOI-BLM-ID-B020-2012-0003-EA.
[B] Indicates the number of groups in which the total number of livestock would be split for trailing. For example, 500 total cattle being trailed in 2 groups would result in 2 groups averaging 250 cattle each.
[C] Indicates how long it would take each group of livestock to travel the length of the trailing route.
[D] Stipulations indicate changes relative to your application analyzed under Alternative A.
[E] Route is an alternate route.
[F] "Keep on route" indicates livestock should be actively herded to stay on the route; any strays are to be kept to within 50 feet of the route.

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:

Terms and Conditions

- Trailing will occur off paved roads (except when crossing a paved road) and will not congest roadways or cause a hazard to motorized vehicles. Cross-country travel by livestock is authorized as shown on Maps 4C, 5C, and 6C.
- Trailing would be active, with livestock moving toward their final destination, except at night.
- Overnighting will occur at locations displayed on Maps 4C, 5C, and 6C.
- Motorized vehicles will remain on existing vehicle routes. Cross-country use of motorized vehicles is not authorized.
- Livestock trailing on routes in or adjacent to burned areas that have been temporarily closed to grazing will be kept on the route until the criteria for reopening the burned area to grazing are met. If the burned area has also had Emergency Stabilization and

Rehabilitation (ESR) treatments, livestock will be kept on the route until ESR objectives were met.

- Livestock trailing on routes in or adjacent to vegetation treatments (e.g., fuels projects or restoration treatments) will be kept on the route until the treatment objectives are met, unless the specific trailing event would not conflict with treatment objectives.
- From April 1 to June 30, temporary water troughs will not be placed in sagebrush habitat to avoid impacts to nesting sage-grouse (and/or hens with early broods); if this is not possible, previously disturbed sites will be used, such as areas around stock ponds or troughs, past seedings, or other grassland sites. Summer through fall (June 1 through November 30), sage-grouse leks may be used for temporary water sites to maintain shorter vegetation for the lek.
- Areas used for staging vehicles, horse trailers, fence panels, etc. will avoid sagebrush habitats; if this is not possible, previously disturbed sites will be used, such as areas around stock ponds or troughs, past seedings, or other grassland sites.
- Per the Final Supplementary Rules published in the *Federal Register* on July 21, 2011 (76 FR 43706), all supplemental feeding of livestock during trailing, including feeding of horses used for the purposes of herding, must use certified noxious-weed-free forage to prevent the spread of noxious weeds on BLM-administered public lands in Idaho.

Furthermore, per Section 3.19 of EA No. DOI-BLM-ID-B020-2012-0003-EA, in 2012, the BLM conducted Class III cultural resource inventories focusing on stream crossings and overnight areas to further consider effects to cultural resources resulting from the issuance of the crossing permit. One site that is potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) was found to occur within the area of potential effect (Idaho State Historic Preservation Office concurrence received March 11, 2013). If this site is determined to be NRHP-eligible and if impacts from trailing livestock are found to be occurring, additional mitigation measures will be identified and implemented.

Rationale

My decision is in conformance with the Bruneau MFP (1983).

My reasons for approving your application with additional terms and conditions are to:

- Provide for the orderly movement of livestock to and from the allotments where you hold an active grazing preference;
- Reduce the potential effect of trailing on vegetation by avoiding burned areas and recent vegetation treatments;
- Reduce the potential risk of introducing or spreading noxious weeds; and
- Reduce the potential effect to sage-grouse and sage-grouse habitat.

Relative to the specific trailing events in your application, Route 230C was designed to reduce impacts to sage-grouse lekking relative to the corresponding trailing route in your application, depicted in Table 1 as Route 230A. Similarly, Route 231C was designed to reduce impacts to sage-grouse lekking, nesting ferruginous hawks, special status plants, riparian areas, water quality, and cultural resources relative to the corresponding trailing route in your application, depicted in Table 1 as Route 231A. Route 232C was designed to reduce impacts to special status plants, riparian areas, water quality, and cultural resources relative to the corresponding trailing route in your application, depicted in Table 1 as Route 232A.

As described in the Finding of No Significant Impact for EA No. DOI-BLM-ID-B020-2012-0003-EA, I found none of the impacts associated with these trailing events to be significant either individually or cumulatively.

Authority

My 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.
- The Bruneau MFP (1983), which allocates livestock uses in the affected allotments.

Protest and/or Appeal

My 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 Mike Boltz at (208) 384-3346 or me at (208) 384-3331.

Sincerely,

/s/ Aimee Betts for Arnold L Pike

Arnold L. Pike
Field Manager
Bruneau Field Office

Enclosures:
Maps of trailing events (Maps 4C, 5C, and 6C)

Copies sent by mail to:
Allotment permittees
Other Interested Publics

Chris Alzola
Mary's Creek, LLC
PO Box 235
Mountain Home, ID 83647

John Anchustegui
3054 E Rivernest Dr
Boise, ID 83706

Craig Baker
Sierra Del Rio
PO Box 127
Murphy, ID 83650

John Barringer
6016 Pierce Park
Boise, ID 83703

Richard Bass
706 Megan Ct
Nampa, ID 83686

George & Donna Bennett
573 N Bennett Rd
Grand View, ID 83624

Chris Black
Joseph Black & Sons
30709 State Highway 51
Bruneau, ID 83604

Tom & Carmen Buckingham
31195 Hot Springs Rd
Bruneau, ID 83604

Ross Cameron
Bruneau Rodeo Assoc
PO Box 283
Bruneau, ID 83604

John Carothers
PO Box 385
Grand View, ID 83624

Blaine Collett
25804 Collett Rd
Oreana, ID 83650

Brian Collett
24777 Collett Rd
Oreana, ID 83650

Clark Collins
Blue Ribbon Coalition
PO Box 5449
Chubbuck, ID 83202

Rich Day
National Wildlife Federation
N Rockies & Prairies Regional Center
240 N Higgins Ste 2
Missoula, MT 59802

Steve Douglas, Area Manager
Idaho Department of Lands
8355 W State St
Boise, ID 83702

J Terry Field
38167 Highway 78
Grand View, ID 83624

Katie Fite
Western Watersheds Project
PO Box 2863
Boise, ID 83701

Curt Fransen, Director
Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
1410 N Hilton
Boise, ID 83706

Craig Gehrke
The Wilderness Society
950 W Bannock Ste 605
Boise, ID 83702

Chad Gibson
16770 Agate Ln
Wilder, ID 83676

Craig Gillespie
26800 Cattle Dr
Bruneau, ID 83604

Les & Leona Hatch
34871 Hot Springs Rd
Bruneau, ID 83603

David Hayes
1006 Aldape Ct
Boise, ID 83712

Russ Heughins, Public Lands and Natural Resources Historian
Wildlife Conservation
10370 W Landmark Ct
Boise, ID 83704

Robin Holmquist
Idaho Department of Fish & Game
CJ Strike Wildlife Mgt Area
PO Box 670
Bruneau, ID 83604

Ted Howard
Cultural Resources Director
Shoshone-Paiute Tribes
PO Box 219
Owyhee, NV 89832

Peter Jackson
Riddle Ranches
24473 Riddle Ranch Rd
Bruneau, ID 83604

Steve Jakubowics
908 N 21st St
Boise, ID 83702

Jim Jantz
J-K Cattle Company
24727 Vinson Wash Ln
Grand View, ID 83624

Chuck Jones
Dickshooter Cattle Company
1301 Highway 67
Grand View, ID 83604

Chuck Jones
Simplot Livestock
1301 Hwy 67
Grand View, ID 83624

Range Program Manager
Idaho State Department of Agriculture
PO Box 790
Boise, ID 83701

Gil King
Oreana Rt
P O Box 36
Murphy, ID 83650

Lloyd L Knight, DVM
High Desert Coalition
PO Box 47
Hammett, ID 83627

David Lahtinen
29516 Sugar Valley Rd
Bruneau, ID 83604

Tim Lowry, Chairman
Owyhee Land Use Planning Committee
PO Box 132
Jordan Valley, OR 97910

Bill Marlett
Oregon Natural Desert Assoc
50 SW Bond St Ste 4
Bend, OR 97702

Jon Marvel
Western Watersheds Project
PO Box 1770
Hailey, ID 83333

Marty Marzinelli
1079 N Torrey Pines
Eagle, ID 83616

Joe Merrick, Chairman
Owyhee County Commissioners
PO Box 128
Murphy, ID 83650

Nancy Merrill, Director
Idaho Department of Parks & Recreation
PO Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720

Herb Meyr
570 E 16th N
Mountain Home, ID 83647

Les Minthorne, Chairman
Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla
46411 Timine Way
Pendleton, OR 97801

Ron Mitchell
Idaho Sporting Congress
PO Box 1136
Boise, ID 83701

Stuart Murray
High Desert Ecology
1301 N 18th St
Boise, ID 83702

Ramona Pascoe
PO Box 126
Jordan Valley, OR 97910

William Platts
3920 Hillcrest Dr
Boise, ID 83705

John Robison
Idaho Conservation League
PO Box 844
Boise, ID 83701

Dana Rutan
29730 River Rd
Bruneau, ID 83604

Bill Sedivy
Idaho Rivers United
PO Box 633
Boise, ID 83701

Chester W Sellman, Jr
31267 Hwy 51
Bruneau, ID 83604

Paul Shepherd
PO Box 398
Horseshoe Bend, ID 83629

Grant Simonds, Executive Director
Idaho Outfitter and Guides Assoc
PO Box 95
Boise, ID 83701

Nathan Small, Tribal Chairman
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes
PO Box 306
Fort Hall, ID 83203

Mike Stanford
3581 Cliffs Rd
Jordan Valley, OR 97910

Richard Strickland
Strickland YT Ranches, Inc.
29973 Hot Springs Rd
Bruneau, ID 83604

Dave Tindall
Tindall and Sons Ranches LLC
48382 State Highway 51
Bruneau, ID 83604

John B Urquidi
34276 Hot Creek Rd
Bruneau, ID 83604

Boise District Grazing Board
PO Box 2596
Boise, ID 83701

Committee for Idaho's High Desert
PO Box 2863
Boise, ID 83701

Idaho Cattle Association
PO Box 15397
Boise, ID 83715

Idaho Department of Fish & Game
3101 S Powerline Rd
Nampa, ID 83686

Idaho Farm Bureau Federation
PO Box 167
Boise, ID 83701

Idaho Native Plant Society
PO Box 9451
Boise, ID 83707

Ireland Ranches
153 NE Ake Dr
Mountain Home, ID 83647

Natural Resources Defense Council
111 Sutter St 20th Fl
San Francisco, CA 94105

Oregon Wild
5325 N Greeley
Portland, OR 0

Owyhee County Extension Service
PO Box 400
Marsing, ID 83639

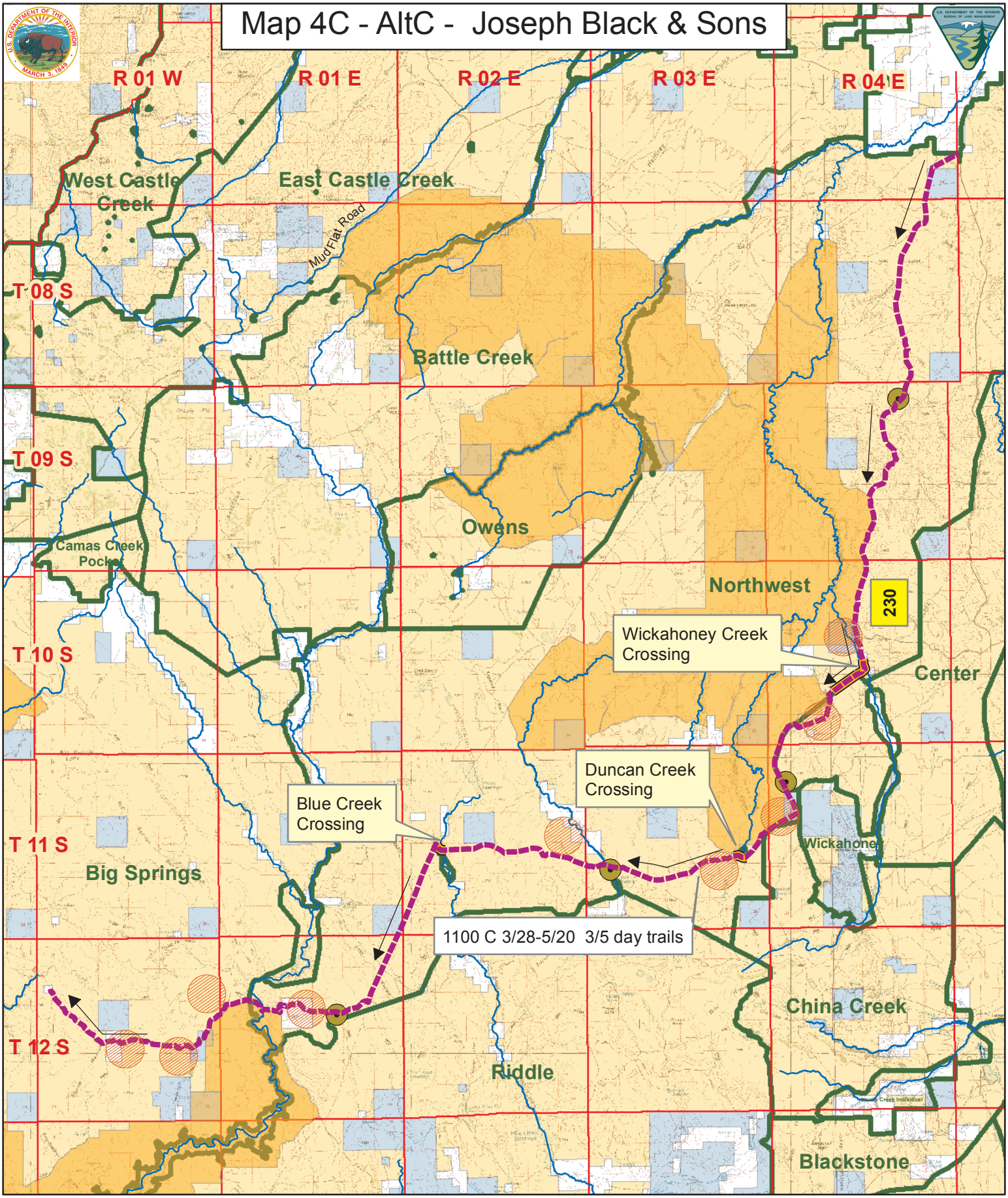
Gene M Gray
Resource Advisory Council
2393 Watts Lane
Payette, ID 83661

Sierra Club - Middle Snake Group
PO Box 552
Boise, ID 83701

Stowell Ranches
HC 74 Box 16
Bruneau, ID 83604

Western Resource Advocates
2260 Baseline Rd #200
Boulder, CO 80302

Map 4C - AltC - Joseph Black & Sons



Time trail only 10a-6p
Trailing
Bedding/Overnight
Restrictions
Wilderness
Allotment
BLM
State
Private

0 1 2 3 4 Miles

1:260,000

N

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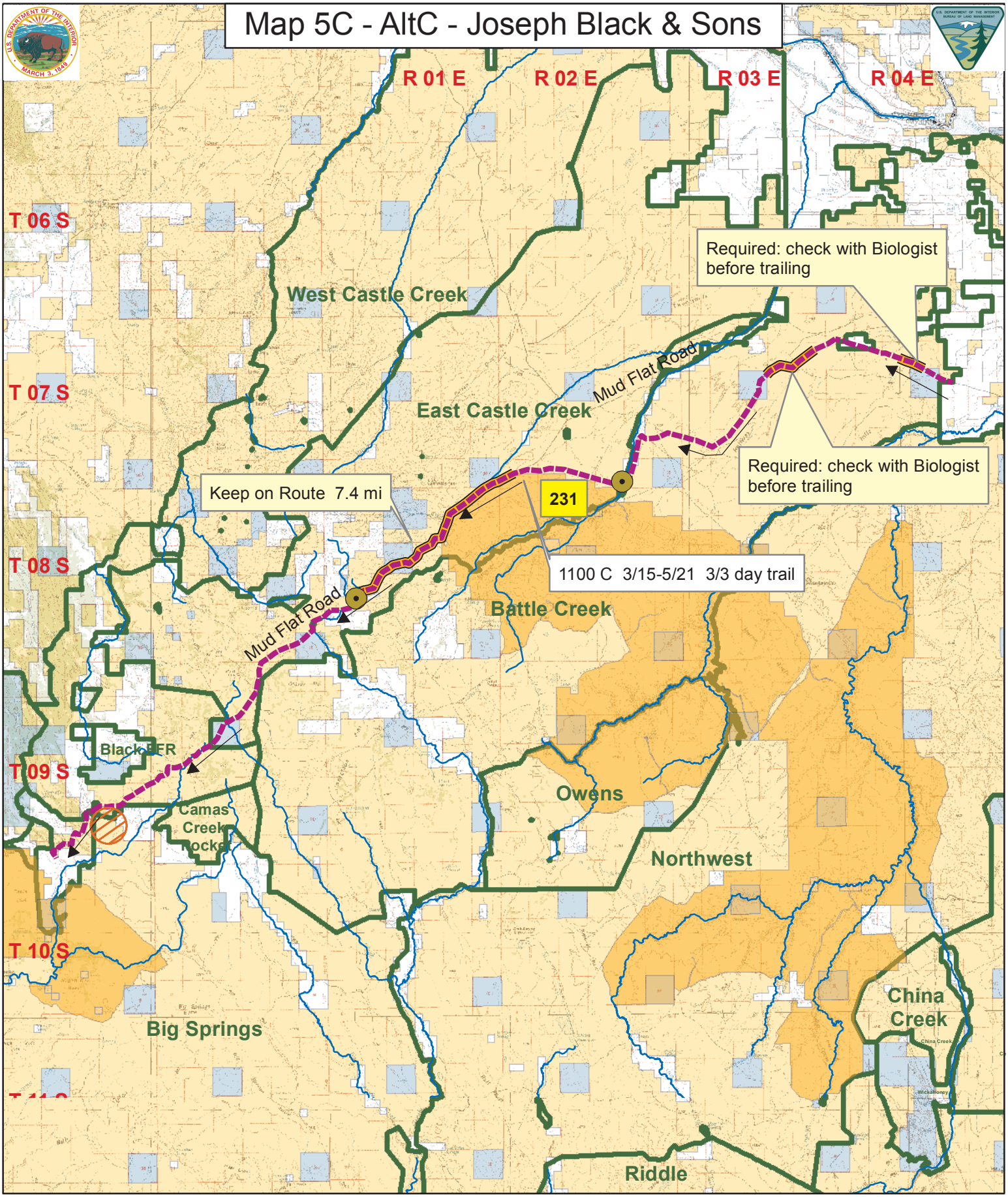
Map 5C - AltC - Joseph Black & Sons



Time trail only 10a-6p
Bedding/Overnight
Trailing
Restrictions
Wilderness
Allotment
BLM
State
Private

N

0 2 4 6 8 Miles

1:275,000

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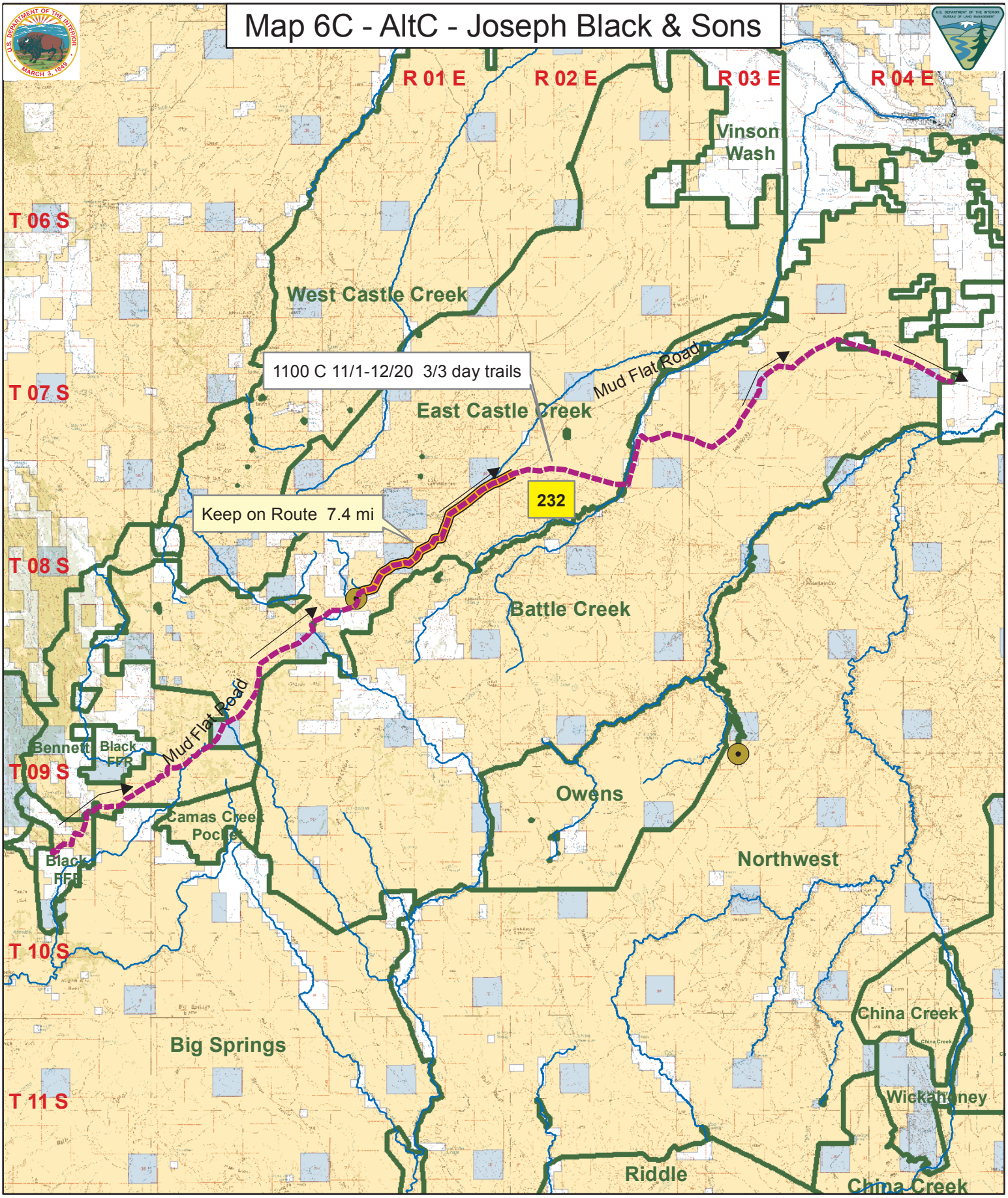
Map 6C - AltC - Joseph Black & Sons



Legend

- Trailing
- Bedding/Overnight
- Restrictions
- Wilderness
- Allotment
- BLM
- State
- Private

N

0 2 4 6 8 Miles

1:275,000

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