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 (ID-200)

March 26, 2013

CERTIFIED MAIL – 7011 2970 0002 6304 2440 - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

JR Simplot Company dba Wickahoney Cattle Company
c/o Charles B. Jones
1301 Highway 67
Grand View ID 83624

Notice of Field Manager's Decision

Dear Mr. Jones:

In 2012, I issued a final decision that authorized the issuance of crossing permit B02012026 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 the Wickahoney Cattle Company grazing permit.

Background

On October 26, 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			
209A	10A	Center China Creek	400 C	5-1	5-20	1	2 days	Horse and motorized
209A	10A	Center China Creek	375 C	5-10	5-20	1	2 days	Horse and motorized
205A	10A	China Creek	700 C	10-25	11-10	1	1 day	Horse and motorized
267A	10A	Center	700 C	11-20	12-10	1	1 day	Horse and motorized
206A	11A	Blackstone Highway Field	775 C	6-1	6-15	1	1 day	Horse and motorized
223A	11A	Blackstone Highway Field	400 C	10-15	10-27	1	1 day	Horse and motorized

Route[A]	Map[A]	Allotments Crossed	Total # of Cattle	Timeframe		# of Groups[B]	Days per Group[C]	Herding Method
				Begin	End			
223A	11A	Blackstone Highway Field	375 C	10-25	11-5	1	1 day	Horse and motorized
207A	12A	Tindall Reservoir Field West Bull Creek	775 C	6-15	7-1	1	1 day	Horse and motorized
225A	12A	Tindall Reservoir Field West Bull Creek	775 C	10-20	10-25	1	1 day	Horse and motorized

[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.

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 with 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

[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.

authorization will be granted in a grazing bill. The term of the new crossing permit will be 3/1/2013 to 2/28/2017.

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				
222C	10C	Center China Creek	400 C	5-1	5-20	1	2 days	Horse and motorized	**Route added to replace Route 209A.**
222C	10C	Center China Creek	375 C	5-10	5-20	1	2 days	Horse and motorized	**Route added to replace Route 209A.**
221C	10C	China Creek	700 C	10-25	11-10	1	1 day	Horse and motorized	**Route added to replace Route 205A.** Keep on route where shown on map.
265C	10C	Center	700 C	11-20	12-10	1	1 day	Horse and motorized	**Route added to replace Route 267A.**
206C	11C	Blackstone Highway Field	775 C	6-1	6-15	1	1 day	Horse and motorized	n/a
223C	11C	Blackstone Highway Field	400 C	10-15	10-27	1	1 day	Horse and motorized	n/a
223C	11C	Blackstone Highway Field	375 C	10-25	11-5	1	1 day	Horse and motorized	n/a
207C	12C	Tindall Reservoir Field West Bull Creek	775 C	6-15	7-1	1	1 day	Horse and motorized	n/a
225C	12C	Tindall Reservoir Field West Bull Creek	775 C	10-20	10-25	1	1 day	Horse and motorized	n/a

[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 applications analyzed under Alternative A. Rows with "n/a" indicate that no change was necessary for avoiding resources of concern.

All terms and conditions described in the temporary 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 will be authorized as shown on Maps 10C, 11C, and 12C.

- Trailing will be active, with livestock moving toward their final destination, except at night.
- Overnighting will occur only at locations displayed on Map 10C.
- 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. As no additional sites eligible for the National Register of Historic Places were sustaining impacts within the area of potential effect for Routes 206C, 207C, 221C, 222C, 223C, 225C, and 265C (Idaho State Historic Preservation Office concurrence received March 11, 2013), no additional mitigation measures are necessary. The BLM will continue to monitor soil movement at one potentially NRHP-eligible site, 10OE-6706 over the next five years to determine whether impacts to the characteristics that would make the site eligible for listing on the NRHP are occurring. If BLM finds that impacts from trailing livestock are occurring to this sites, 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, Routes 221 and 265 better reflect the location of the trailing routes in your application depicted in Table 1 as Routes 205A and 267A, respectively. In addition, Route 221 was designed to reduce impacts to cultural resources along the route, while Route 222 was designed to reduce impacts to sage-grouse in the spring relative to Route 209A. Routes 206, 207, 223, and 225 for the trailing timeframes depicted in Table 2 are approved without change relative to your application because no changes were necessary for avoiding resources of concern.

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 Omnibus Appropriations 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 Omnibus Appropriations Act.

If you have any questions, please contact Jon Haupt at (208) 384-3371 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 10C, 11C, and 12C)

Copies sent by mail to:
Allotment permittees
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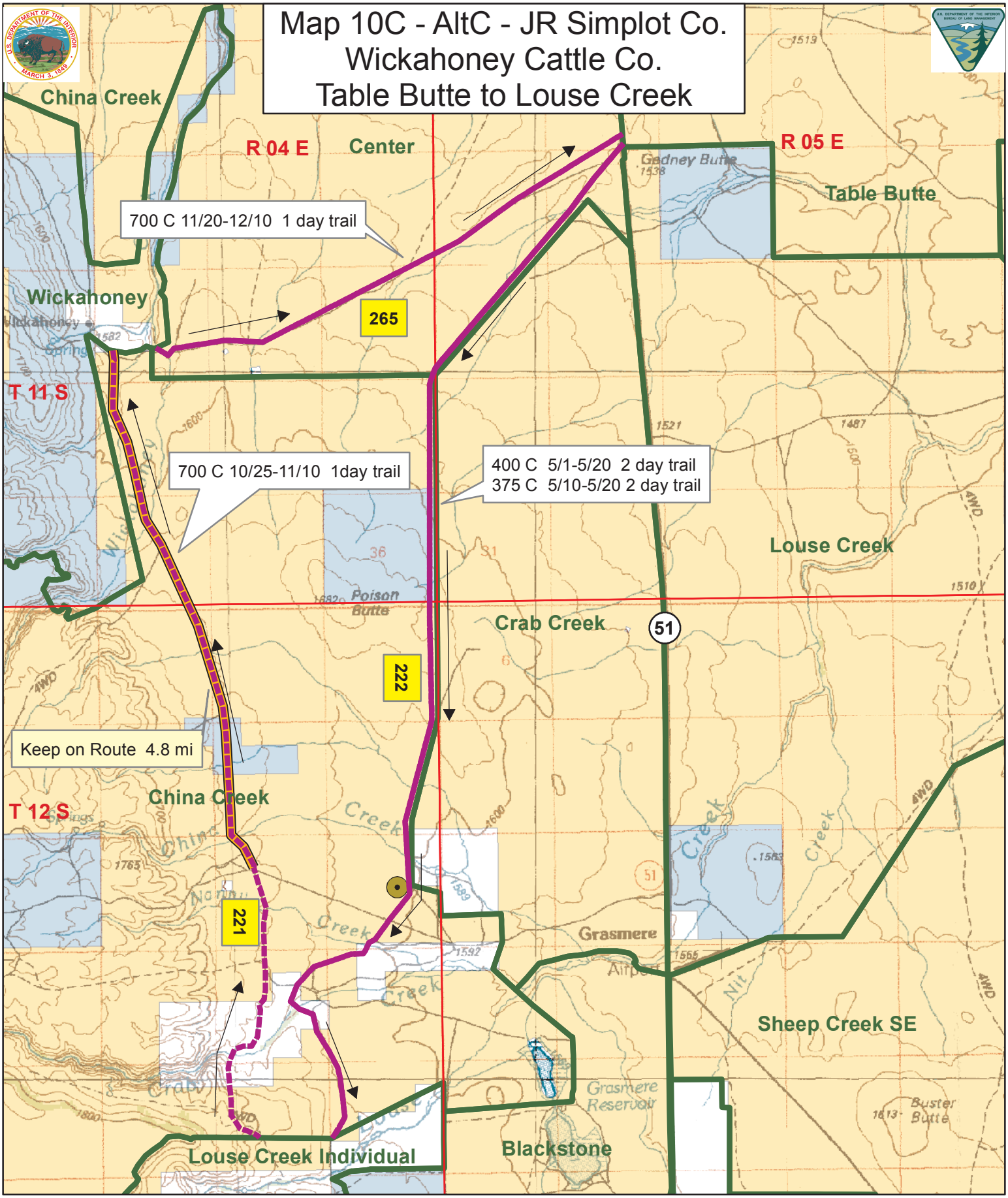

Legend

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

N

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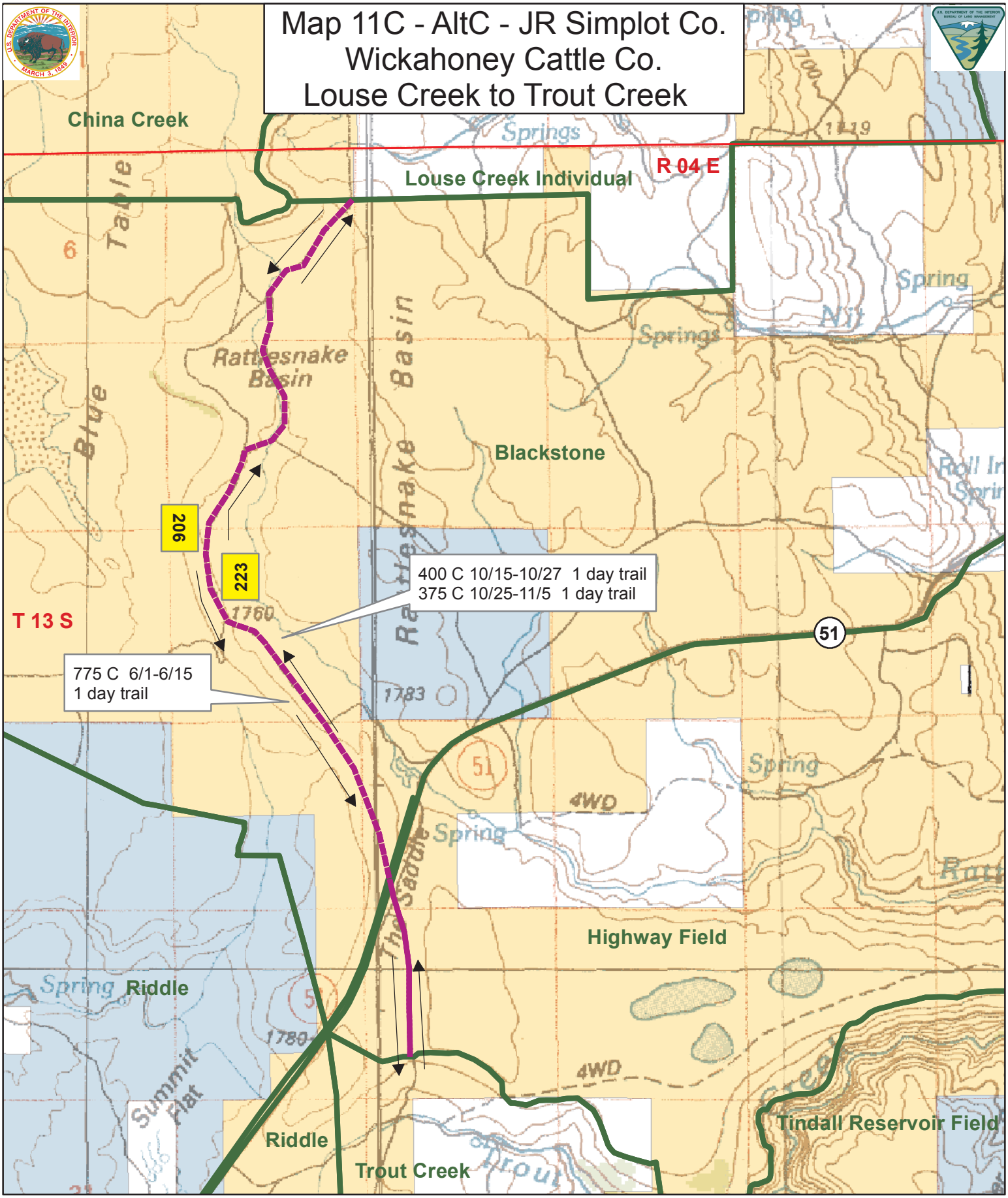
Compiled: Jan 2012 BLM
../user/BFO/Range/Trailing/AltC/Map10C_AltC_Simplot_TrailingMap1.mxd

Map 11C - AltC - JR Simplot Co. Wickahoney Cattle Co. Louse Creek to Trout Creek



Legend

- Trailing
- Allotment
- BLM
- State
- Private

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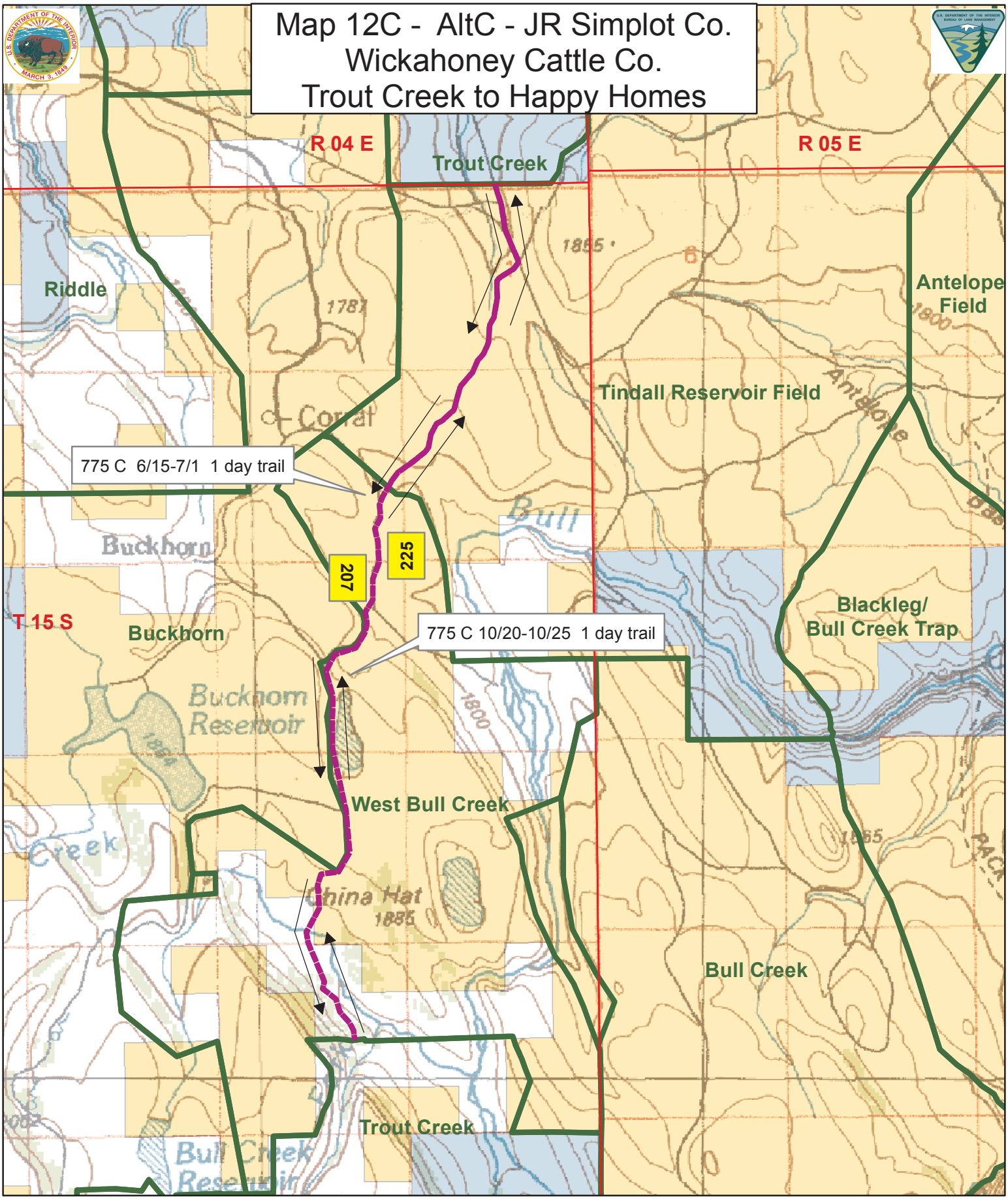
Map 12C - AltC - JR Simplot Co. Wickahoney Cattle Co. Trout Creek to Happy Homes



Legend

- Trailing
- Allotment
- BLM
- State
- Private

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