



United States Department of the Interior  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Boise District Office  
Owyhee Field Office  
20 First Ave. West  
Marsing, ID 83639



In Reply Refer To:  
4130.6-3 & 4160 (ID-130)

April 9, 2013

**CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**  
Cert# 7012 3050 0001 0572 6768

Poison Creek Grazing Association LLC  
c/o Tim Mackenzie  
PO Box 443  
Homedale, ID 83628

**Notice of Field Manager's Decision**

Dear Mr. Mackenzie:

You were recently contacted to discuss temporary crossing needs across public lands administered by the Owyhee Field Office (OFO) for the 2013 grazing season. You had requested at that time to retain the same crossing route as previously analyzed in Alternative B of Environmental Assessment (EA) No. DOI-BLM-ID-B030-2012-0011-EA and authorized in 2012. Upon review, and in accordance with 43 CFR 4130.6-3 and Section 123 of the 2012 Appropriations Omnibus Act, the application for a Crossing Permit will be approved. This decision will authorize your crossing permit for a temporary period starting in the 2013 grazing year and ending with the expiration of your current grazing permit (December 31, 2016).

**Background**

In November 2011, you filed an application for a crossing permit. You requested authorization to trail sheep through the Sands Basin, Graveyard Point, and Poison Creek allotments, along the Cow Creek and Flint Creek Roads. In response to your application and several others, the BLM prepared EA No. DOI-BLM-ID-B030-2012-0011-EA (2012 Livestock Trailing EA) to analyze the environmental consequences of trailing livestock throughout the Owyhee 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 2012 Livestock Trailing EA). Alternative A included the proposed trailing activities as submitted in the crossing permit applications. Alternative B was developed in response to public comments and potential environmental consequences. Alternative C was the no action alternative and would have denied all applications for crossing permits.

After reviewing the 2012 Livestock Trailing EA, I determined that livestock trailing as identified in Alternative B would not result in any significant impacts and issued a Finding of No Significant Impact on April 12, 2012. A temporary one-year crossing permit was approved on April 17, 2012.

You requested to add an overnight area in the Madariaga Allotment to be utilized between May 15 and May 30 and to modify the Flint Creek portion of “Route 3” for your trailing needs in 2013 and specified this would be an adjustment that would be requested for future trailing applications. The OFO Interdisciplinary Team reviewed your application and found the impacts would be the same as those previously analyzed. In processing applications for crossing permits in 2013, the BLM completed a Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA).

I determined that issuance of a multi-year temporary crossing permit is appropriate due to the consistent nature of the applications being made and previously analyzed through the NEPA process. DNA No. BLM-ID-B030-2013-0004-DNA<sup>1</sup> was completed and considered issuing the temporary crossing permit through the duration of your current grazing permit. Issuing a multi-year crossing permit following the same routes as approved in 2012 through the DNA process resulted in determining that the existing analysis contained in the 2012 Livestock Trailing EA is adequate. The DNA was signed on April 1, 2013.

### **Decision**

I have decided to issue you a crossing permit to trail livestock across public lands in the Sands Basin, Graveyard Point, Poison Creek allotments and along the Cow Creek and Flint Creek Roads as described in Table 1 and the map(s) attached to your enclosed crossing permit. The crossing permit reflects the modifications to the overnight area and Flint Creek Road route you applied for.

The crossing permit will expire on December 31, 2016. All terms and conditions described in the crossing permit are incorporated by reference into this decision and must be followed. Your crossing permit is enclosed with this decision and must be signed and returned to the OFO prior to trailing livestock across BLM administered lands. Annual requests for trailing will be required to determine the specific dates that trailing would be approved on an annual basis. Form 4130-1 (Grazing Schedule – Grazing Application) is enclosed for your convenience and will need to be returned to the OFO for your specific needs in 2013. Billing will be based on the number of livestock and the duration of the trailing event. Final approval will be granted after fees are paid in response to the annual billing notice.

My decision is in conformance with the 1999 Owyhee Resource Management Plan.

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<sup>1</sup> DNA No DOI-BLM-ID-B030-2013-0004-DNA is available through [https://www.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/nepa/nepa\\_register.do](https://www.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/nepa/nepa_register.do). Select State=**Idaho**, Office=**ID-Owyhee FO**, Document Type= **DNA**, Fiscal Year=**2013**, Program=All then click **Search**. Once you arrive here, click on DOI BLM-ID-B030-2013-0004-DNA. You may request that hard copies be sent to you.

**Table 1. Crossing Permit**

Allotment Number	Allotment Name	Livestock Number	Livestock Kind	Crossing Begin	Crossing End	Duration	% PL	AUMs	Comments
	<b>Trailing Route 1</b>								
568	Graveyard Point	800	Sheep	3-20	4-1	2 days	100	11	NW
		800	Sheep	3-20	4-1	2 days	100	11	
521	Sands Basin	800	Sheep	4-10	4-30	1 day	100	6	SW
		800	Sheep	4-10	4-30	1 day	100	6	
603 568	Poison Creek Graveyard Point (Trail on Sands Basin Rd only in the fall within Graveyard Point)	1600	Sheep	10-15	11-1	2 days	100	22	SW
<b>Overnight in Poison Creek allotment</b>									
	<b>Trailing Route 2</b>								
na	Cow Creek Road	800	Sheep	5-15	11-17	10 days	100	53	SW
		800	Sheep	5-15	11-17	10 days	100	53	NW TL
<b>Overnight in Madariaga allotment</b>									
	<b>Trailing Route 3</b>								
na	Flint Creek Road	800	Sheep	5-15	11-17	9 days	100	48	SW
		800	Sheep	5-15	11-17	9 days	100	48	TL

NW=Narrow Width (240 foot corridor)

SW=Standard Width (.25 mile corridor)

TL=Timing Limitation (10:00 am-6:00 pm)

Terms and Conditions identified to reduce environmental effects are:

- Livestock Grazing - Terms and Conditions
  - Trailing will be active with livestock moving toward their final destination, except at night.
  - 90% of the livestock will complete their move within the duration as described in the crossing permit. Sick, weak or injured livestock that are not able to finish trailing may be left behind but must be moved to the final destination or private land within 3 days after the end date on the final authorization/grazing bill.
  - 90% of the livestock will stay within the required 0.25-mile and or 240-foot corridor.
  - The permittee will contact the Owyhee Field Office if natural events such as heavy rain or fire would not allow the permittee to complete the trailing event during the permitted time. The BLM would work with the permittee in these instances to mitigate resource impacts using all the applicable terms and conditions and design criteria.
  - 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, will use certified noxious-weed-free forage to prevent the spread of noxious weeds on BLM-administered public lands in Idaho.

- Areas used for staging vehicles, horse trailers, fence panels, etc. will avoid sagebrush areas. If this is not feasible, previously disturbed sites will be used, such as areas around stock ponds or troughs, or in past seedings, or other grassland sites.
- Sheep trailing in the fall through Graveyard Point, Sands Basin and Poison Creek allotments would require 1 scout, 2 herders, and sheep herding dogs. A wagon or truck would follow to ensure no sheep are left behind for any reason.
- Fall overnighting of sheep in the Poison Creek allotment would require electric fencing of bedding ground and a watch person.
- Soils - Terms and Conditions
  - Trailing will only be authorized during times when soils are firm enough to support trailing livestock with little to no pugging/hummocking to minimize impacts to soils, as per Boise District Range Readiness soil criteria.
- Wildlife - Terms and Conditions
  - From March 1 to May 15, livestock trailing will be routed at least 0.62 miles (1 km) from occupied and undetermined sage-grouse leks; if this is not possible, trailing events will be timed to occur between 10:00 am and 6:00 pm. These routes are identified by “Trailing Hour Limitation” on the map(s) attached to the crossing permit.
  - From March 1 to July 15, trailing routes will avoid areas known to be occupied by pygmy rabbits in order to avoid impacts to natal burrows; if this is not possible, then livestock are to be kept within 120 feet on either side (240 feet total width) of trailing routes in those areas. These areas are identified by “Narrow Width (240 feet)” on the map(s) attached to the crossing permit.
  - From March 1 to June 30, temporary water sites and over-night areas will not be located in sagebrush habitat within 4.0 miles of occupied or undetermined sage-grouse leks in order to avoid impacts to lekking or nesting sage-grouse (and/or hens with early broods); if this is not possible, 90% of watering and overnighting livestock are to be kept within a 35-acre area or in previously disturbed sites, such as areas around stock ponds or troughs, corrals, past seedings, or other grassland sites.
- Special Status Plants - Terms and Conditions
  - Livestock trailing will be narrowed to within 120 feet on either side (240 feet total width) of the identified trailing route within pastures containing special status plants within the otherwise 0.25-mile corridor. These areas are identified by “Narrow Width (240 feet)” on the map(s) attached to the crossing permit.
- Riparian - Terms and Conditions
  - Livestock trailing adjacent to perennial streams or springs will require 90% of the livestock to be kept out of riparian areas for resource protection.
- Cultural - Terms and Conditions
  - Congregation areas (i.e. watering sites) will not be allowed within 0.25 mile of known National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligible sites.
  - Trailing will not occur over wet soils to avoid mixing of undisturbed stratified cultural deposits, as per Boise District Range Readiness soil criteria.

- Travel Management and Off Highway Vehicles - Terms and Conditions
  - Motorized vehicles incorporated with trailing activities will remain on existing vehicle routes. Cross country use of motorized vehicles will not be authorized.

#### **STANDARD TERMS AND CONDITIONS:**

- Billing notices are issued which specify fees due. Billing notices, when paid, become part of the crossing permit. Fee payments are due on the date specified on the billing notice and **MUST** be paid in full prior to livestock crossing activities.
- This permit is issued solely for the purpose of moving livestock across public lands for proper and lawful purposes, as needed for the orderly administration of rangelands. This permit confers no priority for renewal, and cannot be transferred or assigned.
- The allotment(s) listed on this crossing permit is subject to requirements 43 CFR 4180 – Fundamentals of Rangeland Health and Standards and Guidelines for Grazing Administration. This permit shall be modified, if necessary, to meet these requirements upon completion of a Standards and Guidelines Assessment and Determination.
- Supplemental feeding is limited to salt, mineral, and/or protein in block, granular, or liquid form. If used, these supplements must be placed at least one-quarter (1/4) mile away from any riparian area, spring, stream, meadow, aspen stand, playa, special status plant population, or water development.

#### **Rationale**

Selection of Alternative B of the 2012 Livestock Trailing EA and authorization of a temporary crossing permit through December 31, 2016 provides for the orderly administration of the range by authorizing trailing events through the duration of the current 10-year term grazing authorization on record. These trailing events are associated with the permitted use, the same routes are used each year and the alternative is responsive to annual trailing requests. Authorized trailing routes under this alternative utilize existing roads and trails to the maximum extent possible.

Specific terms and conditions incorporated in the crossing permit provide for minimizing, avoiding, and/or eliminating detrimental resource impacts, specifically that associated with soils, sage-grouse and pygmy rabbit habitat, riparian/wetland areas, special status plants, and cultural resources. Soils and cultural resource protection will occur as a result of routes primarily being authorized along established roads and borrow ditches. Furthermore, these resources will be protected with the adherence to range readiness criteria in order to prevent much of the compaction issues by restricting trailing from wet (saturated) soils. Impacts to sage-grouse lekking and nesting areas along with pygmy rabbit natal burrows will be reduced with the inclusion of the terms and conditions enforcing seasonal and timing restrictions for trailing events to occur. The narrowing of routes within areas with known special status plants will result in minimizing negative impacts to any given population. Fewer occurrences of special status plants occur within the narrower corridor. Requiring 90% of the trailing livestock to be kept out of riparian areas while trailing adjacent to perennial streams and springs will reduce the size and intensity of all trailing-related effects to riparian areas and water quality.

Overnighting is authorized through this crossing permit. Specifying the overnight location and restricting the duration of the overnight event limits long-lasting impacts to soils, watershed function, vegetative structure and wildlife habitat across the landscape. The overnight area will continue to occur in the area specified and analyzed in the 2012 Livestock Trailing EA.

No impacts to NRHP eligible sites are known to occur. The Idaho State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has approved livestock trailing on routes with the understanding that cultural resource surveys are ongoing for key areas. The results of such surveys will be reported to the SHPO. If impacts are discovered at NRHP eligible sites additional mitigation measures will be implemented.

### **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, and 4130.8-1 b;
- The 2012 Appropriations Omnibus Act Sec. 123; and
- The 1999 Owyhee Resource Management Plan which allocates livestock uses in the affected allotments.

### **Protest and/or Appeal**

Pursuant to Section 123 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2012 (Pub. L. 112-74), this BLM final decision is not subject to protest and/or administrative appeal under subpart E of 43 CFR Part 4 or 43 CFR 4160.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (208) 896-5913 or Tina Ruffing at (208) 896-5934.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Loretta V. Chandler*

Loretta V. Chandler  
Field Manager

### Enclosures:

Crossing Permit with maps  
Form 4130-1 (Grazing Schedule – Grazing Application)

**CASE FILE COPY**

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

**CROSSING PERMIT**

Bureau of Land Management  
 Owyhee Field Office  
 20 First Ave West  
 Marsing ID 83639

Poison Creek Grazing Association LLC  
 c/o Tim Mackenzie  
 Box 443  
 Homedale ID 83628

This Crossing permit is offered to you under 43 CFR Part 4100. You are authorized to cross lands that are under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management and covered by this permit, upon acceptance of ALL terms and conditions of this permit and payment of fees when due. Contact your local BLM office at (208) 896-5912 if you have any questions.

**MANDATORY TERMS AND CONDITIONS:**

Allotment Number	Allotment Name	Livestock Number	Livestock Kind	Crossing Begin	Crossing End	Duration	% PL	AUMs	Comments
	<b>Trailing Route 1</b>								
568	Graveyard Point	800	Sheep	3-20	4-1	2 days	100	11	NW
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		800	Sheep	4-10	4-30	1 day	100	6	
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na	Flint Creek Road	800	Sheep	5-15	11-17	9 days	100	48	SW
		800	Sheep	5-15	11-17	9 days	100	48	TL

NW=Narrow Width (240 foot corridor)  
 SW=Standard Width (.25 mile corridor)  
 TL=Timing Limitation (10:00 am-6:00 pm)

This permit: 1. Conveys no right, title or interest held by the United States in any lands or resources and 2. is subject to (A) modification, suspension or cancellation as provided by land plans and applicable law; (B) review and modification of terms and conditions as appropriate; and (C) the Taylor Grazing Act, as amended, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, as amended, the Public Rangelands Improvement Act, and the rules and regulations now or hereafter promulgated thereunder by the Secretary of the Interior.

**OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS:**

- 1) Livestock crossing will be in accordance with the Notice of Field Manager's Decision dated April 9, 2013. Trailing routes, including restrictions, and overnight areas are depicted on the attached map(s).
- 2) This permit applies to crossing routes on public land.
- 3) Billing is based on numbers of livestock and actual days trailed (duration) as outlined in the Mandatory Terms and Conditions.

**STANDARD TERMS AND CONDITIONS:**

- Billing notices are issued which specify fees due. Billing notices, when paid, become part of the crossing permit. Fee payments are due on the date specified on the billing notice and **MUST** be paid in full prior to livestock crossing activities.
- This permit is issued solely for the purpose of moving livestock across public lands for proper and lawful purposes, as needed for the orderly administration of rangelands. This permit confers no priority for renewal, and cannot be transferred or assigned.
- The allotment(s) listed on this crossing permit is subject to requirements 43 CFR 4180 – Fundamentals of Rangeland Health and Standards and Guidelines for Grazing Administration. This permit shall be modified, if necessary, to meet these requirements upon completion of a Standards and Guidelines Assessment and Determination.
- Supplemental feeding is limited to salt, mineral, and/or protein in block, granular, or liquid form. If used, these supplements must be placed at least one-quarter (1/4) mile away from any riparian area, spring, stream, meadow, aspen stand, playa, special status plant population, or water development.

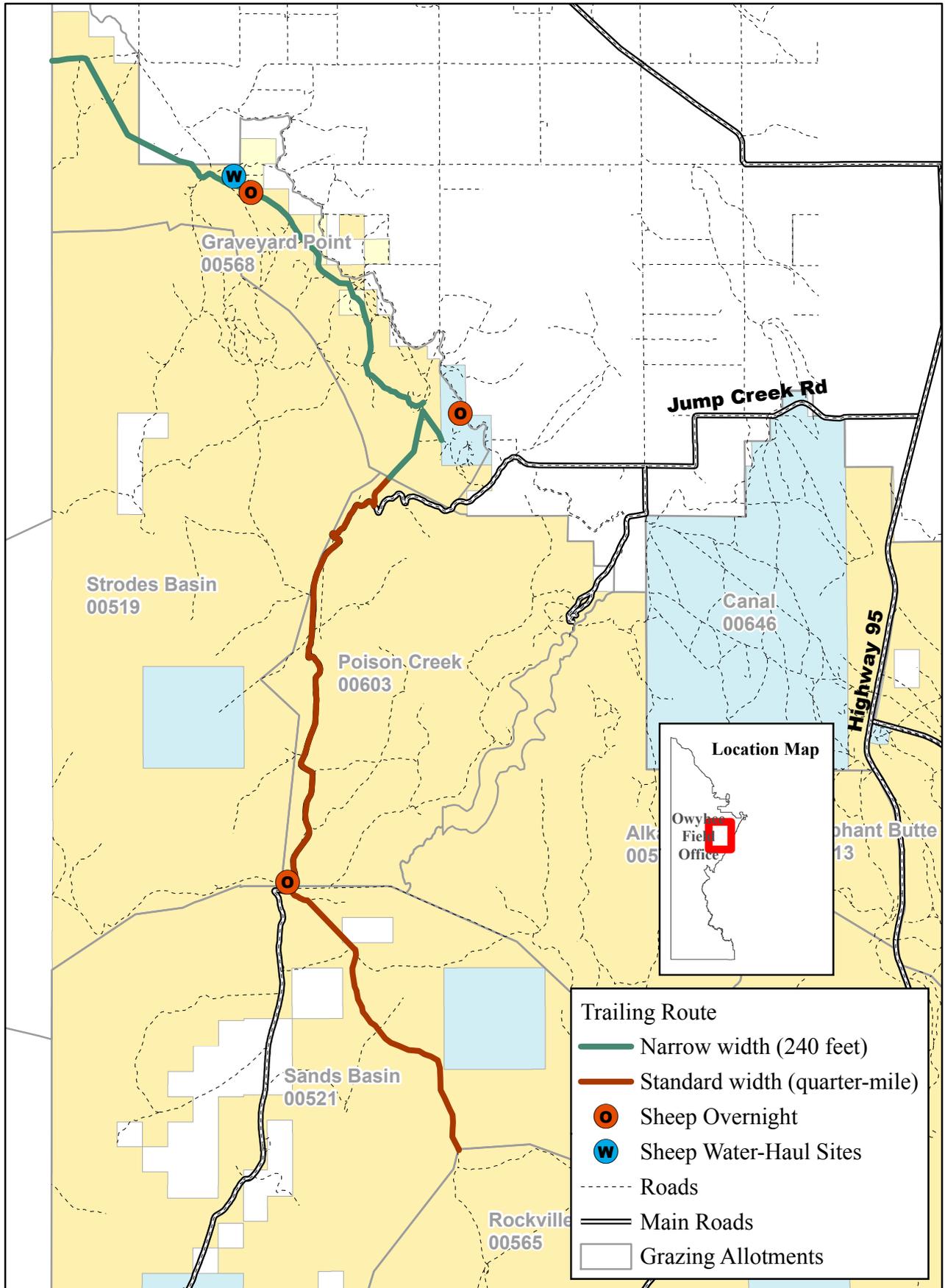
Accepted Signature of Permittee: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved BLM Authorized Officer: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Poison Creek Grazing Association LLC (Sheep) Trail Route 1



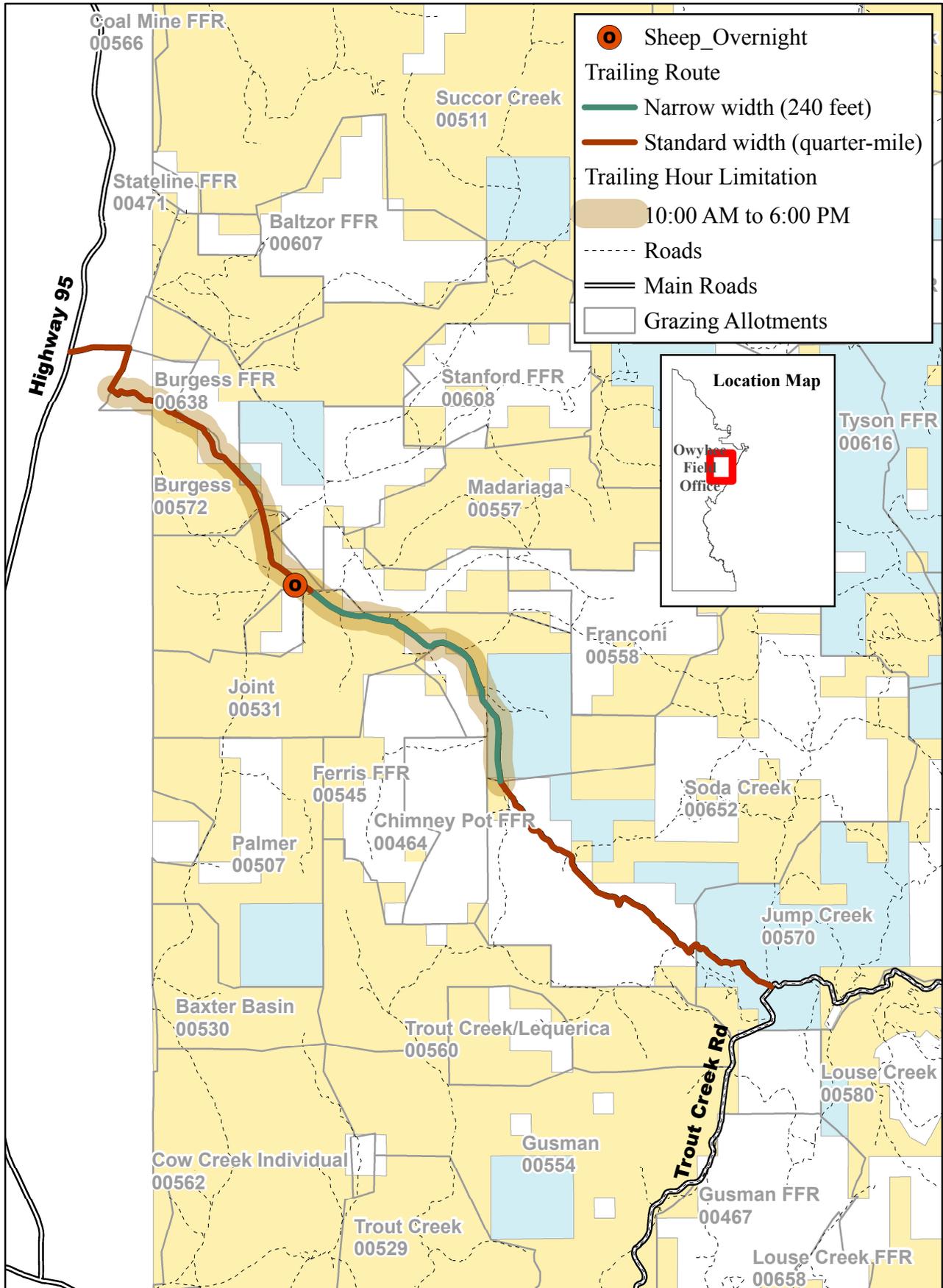
0 0.326.65 1.3 1.95 2.6 Miles



No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management. The accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use with other data is not guaranteed.

# Poison Creek Grazing Association LLC (Sheep)

## Trail Route 2



- Sheep\_Overnight
- Trailing Route**
- Narrow width (240 feet)
- Standard width (quarter-mile)
- Trailing Hour Limitation**
- 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM
- Roads
- Main Roads
- Grazing Allotments

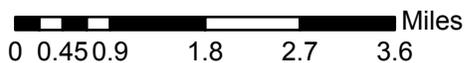
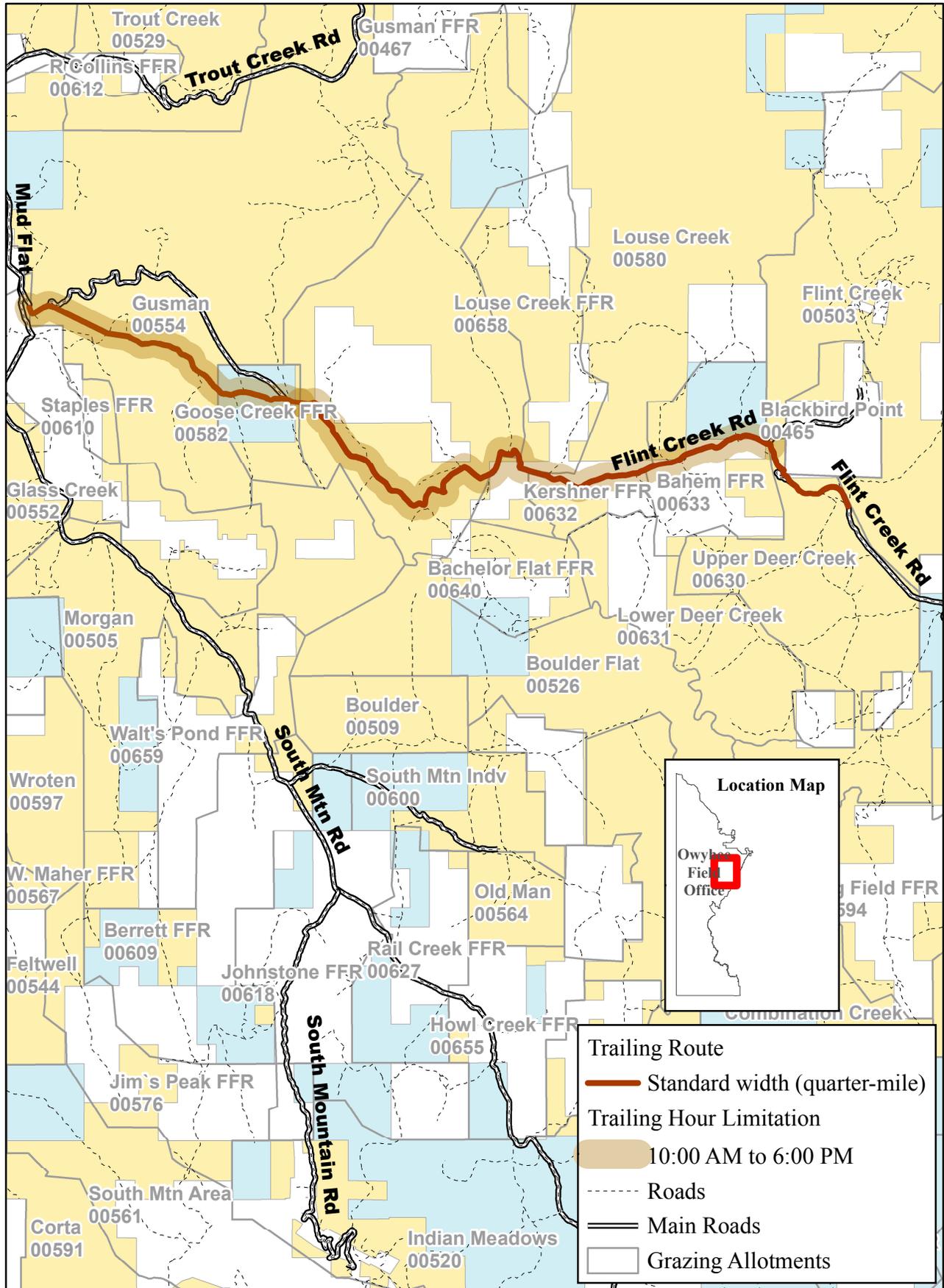
**Location Map**



No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management. The accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use with other data is not guaranteed.

# Poison Creek Grazing Association LLC (Sheep)

## Trail Route 3



No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management. The accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use with other data is not guaranteed.