



United States Department of the Interior
 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
 Bruneau Field Office
 3948 Development Avenue
 Boise, Idaho 83705



In Reply Refer To:
 4160 (ID-020)

June 13, 2013

CERTIFIED MAIL – 7008 0150 0002 5994 2286 - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Chester W. Sellman, Jr.
 31267 Hwy 51
 Bruneau, Idaho 83604

Notice of Field Manager’s Decision

Dear Mr. Sellman:

You have requested to trail 56 cattle from Pasture 13 (private land pasture) of the Battle Creek Allotment to Pasture 15 of the Owens Allotment on June 15, 2013 (Table 1). The purpose of this decision is to approve your application subject to some modifications.

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			
295	30C	Battle Creek	56	6-10	6-20	1	1 day	Horse and motorized

^A Route and map numbers correspond to routes and maps depicted on Map 30C.
^B Indicates the number of groups of livestock.
^C Indicates how long it would take each group of livestock to travel the length of the trailing route.

Background

The Bruneau Field Office (BFO) prepared Environmental Assessment No. DOI-BLM-ID-B020-2012-0003-EA¹ (EA) to analyze the environmental consequences of trailing livestock throughout the Bruneau Field Office. BLM analyzed three alternatives (Alternatives A-C) and considered

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.

one additional alternative that was not analyzed in detail (see Chapter 2 of the EA). A Finding of No Significant Impact was issued on March 26, 2012.

In Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA) DOI-BLM-ID-B020-2013-0012-DNA², I concluded that the issuance of a crossing permit for the term of 06/10/2013 to 06/20/2014 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 request and issue you a crossing permit with some adjustments as shown in Table 2 and the attached map. Specific dates will be shown on the crossing permit. The term of the new crossing permit will be 6/10/2013 to 6/20/2014.

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 ^D
				Begin	End				
295	30C	Battle Creek	56	6-10	6-20	1	1 day	Horse and motorized	Keep on route where shown on map. ^E

^A Route and map numbers correspond to routes and maps depicted on Map 30C.
^B Indicates the number of groups of livestock.
^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 request.
^E “Keep on route” indicates livestock should be actively herded to stay on the route; any strays should be kept to within 50 feet of the route.

Terms and conditions specifically identified to reduce environmental effects are:

Terms and Conditions

- Trailing will be active, with livestock moving toward their final destination, except at night.
- Motorized vehicles will remain on existing vehicle routes. Cross-country use of motorized vehicles is not authorized.
- 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.

² DNA No. DOI-BLM-ID-B020-2013-0012-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-B020-2013-0012-DNA**. If you are unable to view the document on the website, you may request that a hard copy be sent to you.

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.

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 this trailing event to be significant either individually or cumulatively.

A stipulation to actively herd livestock to keep them on the route was added in order to prevent damage to special status plant habitat. Mud flat milkvetch (*Astragalus yoder-williamsii*) is located along Route 295, and suitable habitat is found throughout the route. Restricting trailing to the road will prevent damage to this species and its habitat.

Furthermore, your crossing permit will be issued with a term of 06/10/2013 to 06/20/2014 to authorize trailing in accordance with this decision in both 2013 and 2014. This will allow you to trail in 2014 under the same parameters described in Table 2 should your need to trail from Battle Creek Pasture 13 to Owens Pasture 15 continue for a second year due to the temporary closure of Owens Pasture 10 following the 2012 Jacks Fire.

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) 384-3341.

Sincerely,

/s/ Aimee D K Betts

Aimee D K Betts
Acting Field Manager
Bruneau Field Office

Enclosures:
Map 30C

Copies sent by mail to:
Allotment permittees
Interested Public (attached list)

Chris Alzola
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Craig Baker
Sierra Del Rio
PO Box 127
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George & Donna Bennett
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Chris Black
Joseph Black & Sons
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Chuck Jones
Dickshooter Cattle Company
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Grand View, ID 83624

Chuck Jones
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Owyhee County Commissioners
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Committee for Idaho's High Desert
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Idaho Cattle Association
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Boise, ID 83715

Idaho Department of Fish & Game
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Idaho Farm Bureau Federation
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Boise, ID 83701

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Natural Resources Defense Council
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San Francisco, CA 94105

Oregon Wild
5325 N Greeley
Portland, OR 0

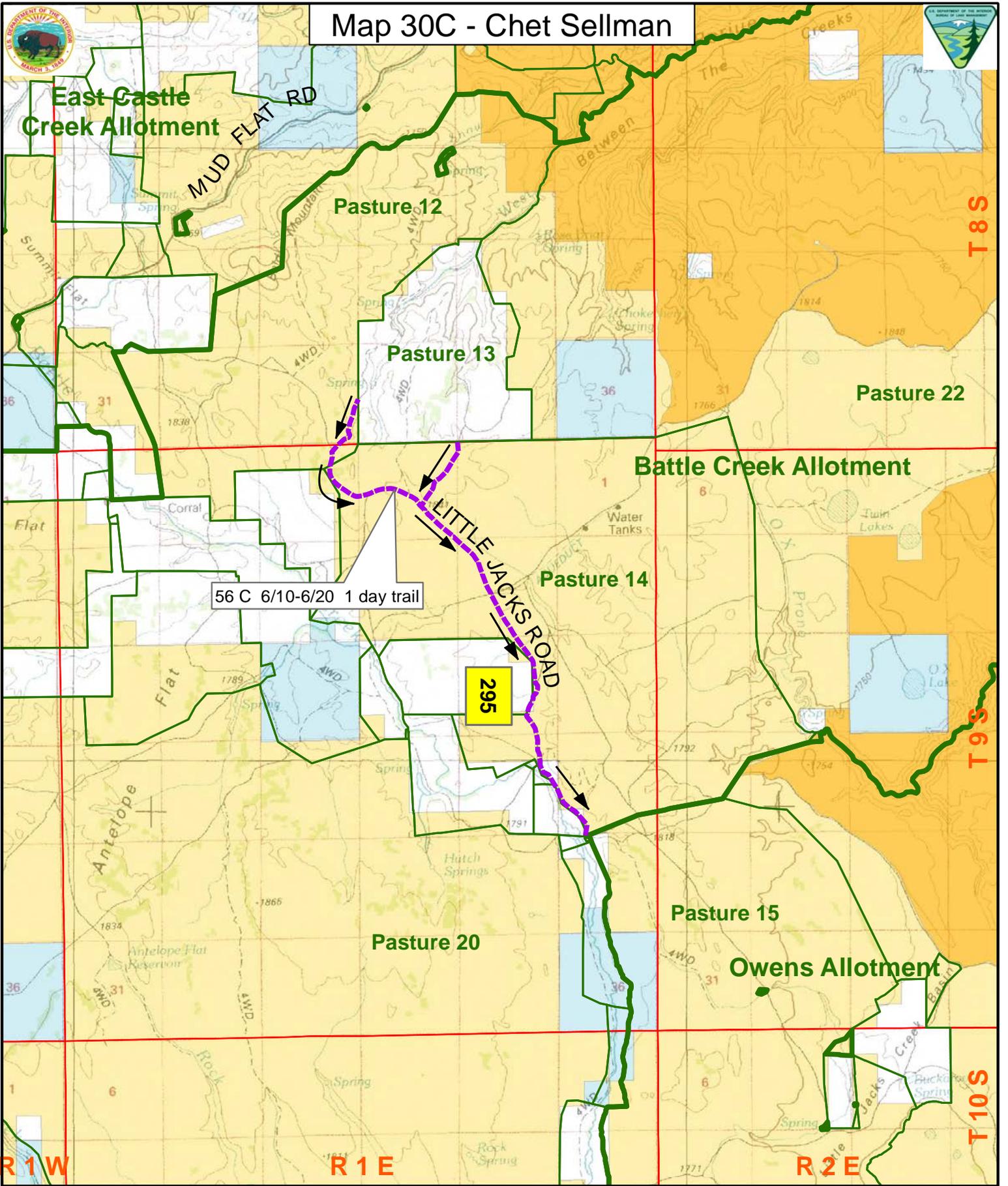
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Gene M Gray
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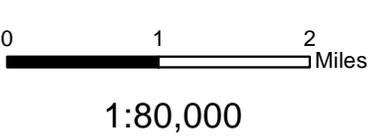
Western Resource Advocates
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Boulder, CO 80302

Chuck Jones
Wickahoney Cattle Co
1301 Hwy 67
Grand View, ID 83624



Map 30C - Chet Sellman

- - - Trailing
- Township & Range
- Allotment
- Pasture
- BLM
- State
- Private
- Wilderness



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Map Date: 6/4/2013