

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DOCUMENTATION

CX No. DOI-BLM-ID-B010-2014-0010-CX

A. BACKGROUND

BLM Office: Four Rivers Field Office

Lease/Serial/Case File No.: 1101208 (Chipman) to 1104710 (May)

Proposed Action Title/Type: Pleasant View Allotment #00224 Grazing Preference Transfer

Location of Proposed Action: The Pleasant View Allotment is located approximately 6.5 miles south east of Weiser and one mile east of Highway 95, in Washington County, Idaho. Specifically, T. 10N R. 04W various sections (See Map 1).

Description of Proposed Action: The BLM would transfer of 96 AUMs of active grazing preference for the Pleasant View Allotment from Margret and Gary Chipman (Operator #1101208) to Blaine May. The Terms and Conditions of the new permit would be consistent with the previous permit. Blaine May has [through Warranty Deed and Grazing Preference Application (Form 4130-1a, pg. 1), signed by Transferee] legal control of the base properties to which the grazing preference in the Pleasant View Allotment is attached. Per CFR 4110.2-3, Blaine May has paid the appropriate fee and submitted an application for the grazing privileges.

B. LAND USE PLAN CONFORMANCE

This proposed Action is subject to the following land use plan: Cascade Resource Management Plan (CRMP)

Date Plan Approved: July 1, 1988

The proposed action is in conformance with the LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decision(s) (objectives, terms, and conditions): The Range Program Objectives and Recommendations within the Range Management Section of the Cascade RMP, as shown on pg. 14 of the Rangeland Program Summary (Ranny Individual #00224(Allotment name changed in decision dated 6/17/1998). Current authorization is for 218 cattle from 4/1-7/15 (11% PL) for 96 AUMs.

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 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:

1. Have significant impacts on public health or safety.

Comments/Explanation: This administrative transfer would not have any significant impacts on public health or safety. Livestock grazing is a recognized and authorized use, as identified in the CRMP.

Specialist Signature/Date: /s/ *Martin M. Espil* 12/10/2013

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: The allotment supports Preliminary General Habitat (PGH) for Greater sage-grouse a Candidate Species for listing under the Endangered Species Act and a BLM Type 1 Special Status Species. PGH are areas outside of breeding habitat that support important seasonal (winter, summer, fall habitat, migration corridors) or year-round habitat for sage-grouse. Potential habitat for southern Idaho ground squirrel (SIDGS), a Candidate Species for listing under the Endangered Species Act, and a BLM Type 1 Special Status Species is also present. There are no other unique resources. This administrative action would not affect PGH or SIDGS habitat.

Specialist Signature/Date: /s/ *Joseph Weldon*, 1/8/2014

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 land use plan. There would be no known unresolved conflicts as a result of the transfer of the grazing preference.

Specialist Signature/Date: /s/ *Martin M. Espil* 12/10/2013

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

Comments/Explanation: An administrative action to continue an existing, managed action under identical terms and conditions would not change or increase existing effects or risks identified in the land use plan.

Specialist Signature/Date: /s/ *Martin M. Espil* 12/10/2013

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) was analyzed in the land use plan. A grazing preference transfer, without changes to

the permit, is considered an administrative action. Further, the conditions for transfer of the current grazing preference are in conformance with CFR 4110.1, 4110.2, 4110.2-3 and 4120. The transfer would not preclude subsequent changes in management.

Specialist Signature/Date: /s/ *Martin M. Espil* 12/10/2013

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

Comments/Explanation: A grazing preference transfer would neither add to nor detract from current grazing practices in the allotment or adjacent areas. Therefore, cumulative impacts to the area would remain unchanged.

Specialist Signature/Date: /s/ *Martin M. Espil* 12/10/2013

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: The BLM has no record of properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places in the allotment.

Specialist Signature/Date: /s/ *Dean C. Shaw* 1/8/2014

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

Comments/Explanation: Habitat most likely exists for two BLM Type 2 species, Aasea's onion and Mulford's milkvetch. This administrative action would not affect habitat for these species.

Plants Specialist Signature/Date: /s/ *Mark Steiger* 1/8/2014

Comments/Explanation: In addition to greater sage-grouse and SIDGS habitat, the allotment supports potential habitat for sagebrush steppe/grassland associated special status wildlife species. This administrative action would not affect special status wildlife species.

Wildlife Specialist Signature/Date: /s/ *Joseph Weldon*, 1/8/2014

Comments/Explanation: No federally listed, candidate, or BLM special status aquatic species occur in the allotment

Aquatics Specialist Signature/Date: /s/ *J. Allen Tarter*, 1/8/2014

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

Comments/Explanation: A grazing preference transfer would neither add to nor detract from current grazing practices in the allotment or adjacent areas. Therefore, cumulative impacts to the area would remain unchanged.

Specialist Signature/Date: /s/ *Martin M. Espil* 12/10/2013

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/ *Martin M. Espil* 1/8/2014

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: The proposed action 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* 1/8/2014

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/ *Lonnie Huter* 1/8/2014

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*

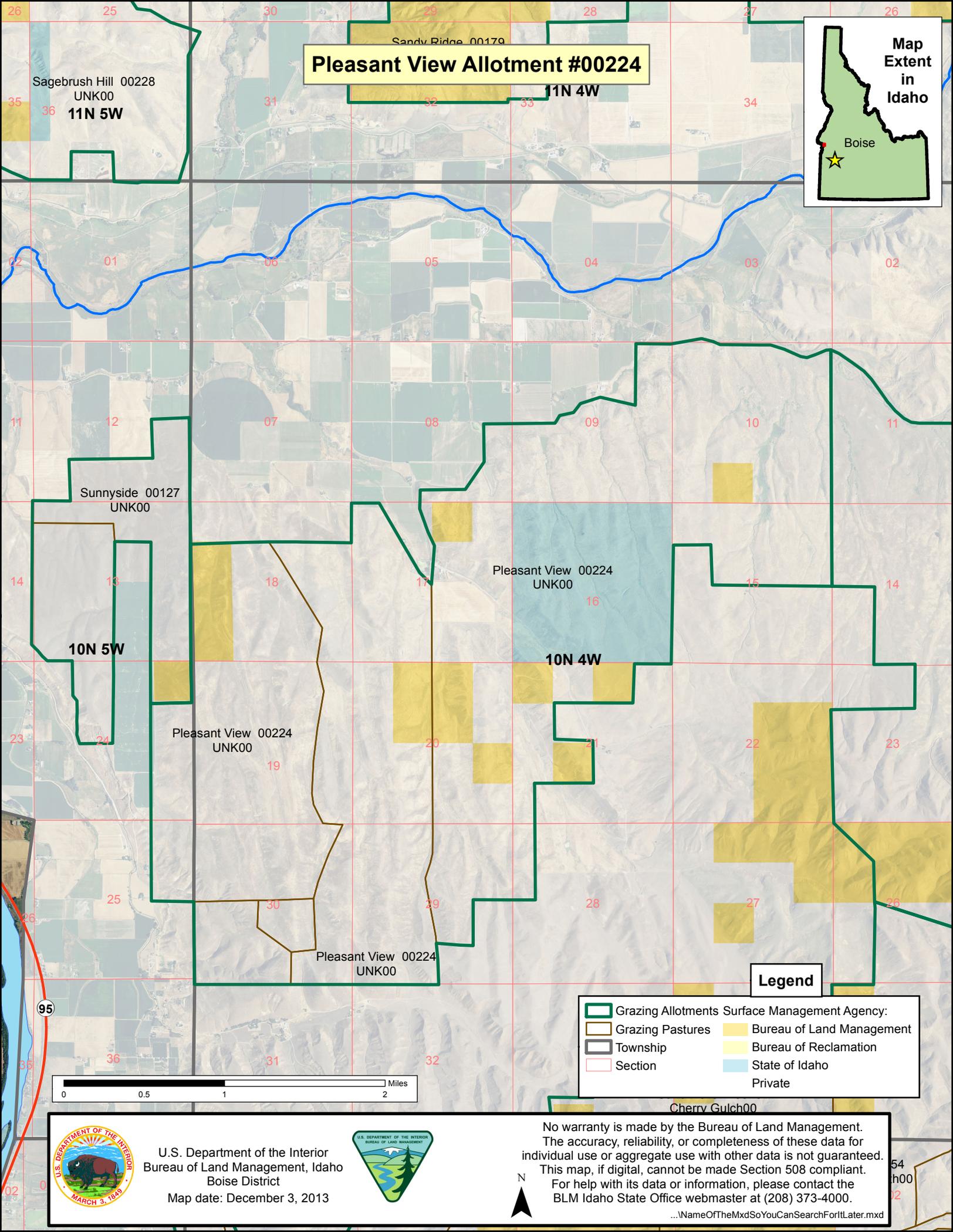
1/15/2014

Name

Date

Matthew McCoy
Assistant Field Manager
Four Rivers Field Office

Prepared By/Contact Person: Martin M Espil (208) 384-3224



Pleasant View Allotment #00224



Sagebrush Hill 00228
UNK00
11N 5W

Sandy Ridge 00179

11N 4W

Sunnyside 00127
UNK00

Pleasant View 00224
UNK00

10N 5W

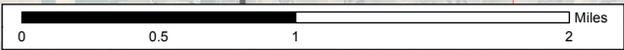
10N 4W

Pleasant View 00224
UNK00

Pleasant View 00224
UNK00

Legend

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Grazing Allotments | Surface Management Agency: |
| Grazing Pastures | Bureau of Land Management |
| Township | Bureau of Reclamation |
| Section | State of Idaho |
| | Private |



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management, Idaho
Boise District
Map date: December 3, 2013



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