

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

Twin Falls District
Burley Field Office
15 East 200 South
Burley, ID 83318

NEPA No. DOI-BLM-ID-T020-2014-0011-CX

A. Background

BLM Office: Burley Field Office.

Lease/Serial/Case File No.:

Proposed Action Title/Type: Process an application to issue a grazing permit to JRS Properties III L.P. through a base property lease agreement with Noh Sheep Company, Laird Noh. JRS Properties III L.P. changed their name from JR Simplot Self-Declaration of Revocable Trust (SDRT) to JRS Properties III L.P. Therefore, JRS Properties III L.P. requested all names on all permits be changed from JR Simplot SDRT to JRS Properties III L.P. No other changes were made to any permits.

Location of Proposed Action: Noh Sections Allotment (Allotment #04040)

T. 14 S., R. 16 E., B.M.
Section 35: NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$

T. 14 S., R. 16 E., B.M.
Section 36: All

T. 15 S., R. 16 E., B.M.
Section 1: Lots 3 and 4, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$

T. 15 S., R. 16 E., B.M.
Section 2: Lot 1, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$

T. 15 S., R. 16 E., B.M.
Section 10: NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$

T. 15 S., R. 16 E., B.M.
Section 11: W $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$

T. 15 S., R. 16 E., B.M.
Section 12: W $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$

T. 15 S., R. 16 E., B.M.
Section 13: N $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$

T. 15 S., R. 17 E., B.M.
Section 6: SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Lots 6 and 7

T. 15 S., R. 17 E., B.M.
Section 7: Lots 1 and 2, SE¼NW¼

Description of Proposed Action: JRS Properties III L.P. has made application through a base property lease agreement for partial grazing preference held by Noh Sheep Company, Laird Noh, on the Noh Sections Allotment (Allotment #04040). Therefore, in accordance with 43 CFR 4110.2-3, the Proposed Action is to approve the transfer of 220 AUMs of the grazing preference from Noh Sheep Company, Laird Noh, to JRS Properties III L.P. as applied.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan Name: Twin Falls Management Framework Plan (MFP)

Date Approved/Amended: September 16, 1982

X The proposed action is in conformance with the Twin Falls MFP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decision(s) (objectives, terms, and conditions): Although transfers are not identified specifically in the Twin Falls MFP, the MFP outlines rangeland management based on the assumption that grazing would be occurring in the allotments identified and name changes would occur on grazing permits.

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 D.1, Appendix 4 – Approval of transfers of grazing preference.

This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. This is because there are no effects to the environment through the transfer of part of a grazing permit. The proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 43 CFR 46.215 apply.

Consideration of Extraordinary Circumstances:

This CER Sheet documents the review of the proposed action to determine if any of the extraordinary circumstances described in 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 46.215 apply. If any of the extraordinary circumstances apply to the proposed action, then an EA or EIS must be prepared. Any evidence or concerns that one or more of the exceptions may apply must be brought to the attention of the manager who is authorized to approve the proposed action.

1. The proposed action would not have significant impacts on public health or safety.

Approval of an application for transfer of a portion of an existing grazing preference (dividing an existing permit) with no additional use(s) authorized is an administrative function with no effects to public health or safety.

2. The proposed action would not 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.

This management action, approval of a temporary transfer of existing grazing preference (i.e.name change on exisiting permit due to base property lease), would not have any environmental impacts since this action is a routine administrative procedure that would not change the grazing management on the allotment.

3. The proposed action would not have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].

The proposed approval of application for transfer of a portion of a grazing preference is a routine administrative procedure that would not change the grazing management on the allotment.

4. The proposed action would not have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.

Livestock grazing is an ongoing activity, the transfer of existing grazing preference (dividing an existing permit) poses no unique or unknown environmental risks.

5. The proposed action would not establish a precedent for future actions or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.

Approval of existing grazing preference transfer for continuation of existing grazing preference is a routine administrative procedure that would not change the grazing management on the allotment. This action neither establishes a precedent for future actions nor represents a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.

6. The proposed action would not have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.

This administrative action, approval of application and transfer of existing grazing preference, would be neither individually nor cumulatively significant.

7. The proposed action would not have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by the bureau.

This administrative action, approval of application and transfer of existing grazing preference (dividing an existing permit), would have no effect on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places.

8. The proposed action would not have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated critical habitat for these species.

This administrative action, approval of application and transfer of existing grazing preference (dividing an existing permit), would have no known effect on federally listed, candidate, or BLM special status plant/ wildlife species.

9. The proposed action would not violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.

This routine administrative procedure (dividing an existing permit) is consistent and compatible with all known Federal, State, local and Tribal laws or requirements imposed for protection of the environment.

10. The proposed action would not have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898)

This administrative action, approval of application and transfer of existing grazing preference (dividing an existing permit), would have no effect on low income or minority populations.

11. The proposed action would not 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).

This administrative action, approval of application and transfer of existing grazing preference due to a base property lease (dividing an existing permit), would have no effect and would not limit access for ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites by Indian religious practitioners; nor would there be adverse effects to the physical integrity of sacred sites.

12. The proposed action would not 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).

This administrative action, approval of application and transfer of existing grazing preference (dividing an existing permit), would not contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native species.

Participating Staff

Name of Participant	Position Title or Resource Expertise	Comments Provided (Initial One) None / Attached		Date
Jeremy Bisson	Wildlife Biologist	/s/JB		6/19/2014
Jason Theodozio	Botanist	/s/JT		6/19/2014
Lael Henrikson	Cultural Resources	/s/LH		6/20/2014
Jim Tharp	Asst. Field Mgr.	/s/JT		

D. Signature

Authorizing Official: Jim Tharp 7/14/2014 **Date:** 7/14/2014

Name: Mike Courtney

Title: Burley Field Manager

Contact Person

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact Tucker Porter, Rangeland Management Specialist, 677-6609, 15 East 200 South, Burley, ID 83318.