**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**
**BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**
**Twin Falls District**
**Shoshone Field Office**
**400 West F Street**
**Shoshone, Idaho 83352**

# CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW SHEET

## NEPA No. DOI-BLM-ID-T030-2014-17-CX

### A. Project Description

BLM Office: Shoshone Field Office. Lease/Serial/Case File No.: N/A

Proposed Action Title/Type:
The action is a lease of a livestock grazing permit from one applicant to another. The permit terms and conditions are remaining the same but there will be a name change on the permit.

Location of Proposed Action: Boise Meridian, Camas County and Blaine County Idaho; Lower Rock Creek Allotment, Swinging Bridge Allotment and Timmerman Hills Allotment.

Description of Proposed Action: The current permittee, Heart Rock Ranch, LLC, has applied to lease all of the AUMS in three of their four grazing allotments (533 AUMs in Lower Rock Creek, 340 AUMs in Swinging Bridge and 440 AUMs in Timmerman Hills) to a different permittee – Bashaw Family Trust for a term of 3 years. This is an administrative procedure only and nothing on the ground will change. The season of use, active preference and type of livestock will remain the same as it was under the previous grazing permit.

The base property that is being leased along with the allotments is below:

T. 1 South, R. 18 East, Sections 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, N ½ 16, 21, 22, 23, 26, 27, 28 and 34

### B. Consideration of Extraordinary Circumstances

This Categorical Exclusion Review Sheet documents the review of the proposed action to determine if any of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2 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 any significant impacts on public health or safety.*

   The lease of this permit from one permittee to another would not have any significant impacts on public health and safety. The grazing permit would contain the same terms as conditions and stipulations that were adopted previously and no other changes to the permit will be completed at this time.

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; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.*

   The action of leasing the grazing permit from one permittee to another does not have the potential to impact 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; floodplains; national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas would occur.

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)].*

   This action is specifically provided for in CFR 4110.2-3 *Transfer of grazing preference* as long as the lease meets all of the requirements and qualifications. The paperwork that has been submitted shows that all of the requirements and qualifications are being met. Due to those reasons, this action is not highly controversial, nor are the effects of the action expected to generate future controversy.

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

   The proposed action of leasering the grazing permit from one name to another would not have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks. The proposed action would not involve any physical changes to the environment. The season of use, active preference, and type of livestock will remain the same as it was under the previous grazing permit.

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.*

   The proposed action is not connected to another action that would require further environmental analysis and would not set a precedent for future actions that would normally require environmental analysis.

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

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

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 either the bureau or office.*

   The action of leasing this grazing permit from one individual to another would not have the potential to cause significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office. The action does not involve any new ground disturbance and there would be no new impacts to listed or eligible National Register properties.

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.*

   There are no known federally listed Endangered or Threatened Species nor is there any designated critical habitat within the Timmerman Hills, Lower Rock Creek and Swinging Bridge allotments. The greater sage-grouse, a federally listed Candidate Species, has been known to occupy portions of these allotments. However, the action of leasing the grazing permit from Heart Rock Ranch LLC to Bashaw Family Trust would not affect the greater sage-grouse or its habitat beyond current levels.

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.*

   The action of leasing this grazing permit from Heart Rock Ranch LLC to Bashaw Family Trust complies with applicable Federal, State, and local laws. There are no tribal laws affecting the allotments.

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

    The proposed action would not have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898). The effect would be the same for the general population in the area.

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 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.

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).*

    There currently are Idaho State Department of Agriculture designated noxious weeds within the Timmerman Hills, Lower Rock Creek and Swinging Bridge allotments boundaries. These weeds include rush skeletonweed (*Chondrilla juncea*), scotch thistle (*Onopordum acanthium*) and diffuse knapweed (*Centaurea diffusa*). They exist primarily along roads, riparian areas, and disturbed areas. The proposed action would not result in the introduction or contribute to the continued existence or spread of weedy plants beyond the current level. There are no ground-disturbing activities or route creation being authorized under this action.

## C. Consultation and Preparation

| Name of Participant | Position Title | Initials | Date |
|---|---|---|---|
| Joanna Tjaden | Rangeland Management Specialist | Jpt | 4/4/14 |
| James D. Barnum | Supervisory Natural Resource Specialist | Jdb | 4/4/14 |