

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

**Idaho Falls District
Pocatello Field Office
4350 Cliffs Drive
Pocatello, ID 83204**

Scoping / Information Package

Grazing Permit Renewal for the Curlew Allotment

The information in this package summarizes a Bureau of Land Management (BLM) proposal to authorize permit renewals in the Curlew allotment (#16001). The action being analyzed is the renewal of 22 grazing permits on the Curlew allotment in conformance with 43 Code of Federal Regulations (43CFR), Subpart 4100-4180 Grazing Administration and in accordance with the Pocatello Resource Management Plan (RMP), April 2012. Federal actions must be analyzed in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other relevant Federal and State laws and regulations to determine potential environmental consequences.

The purpose of this document is to inform you of four preliminary alternatives (a proposed action and three action alternatives) being considered, and to solicit your comments to assist us with the NEPA review. The analysis of this proposal is ongoing, and will be documented in an Environmental Assessment (EA) with an estimated completion date in April 2015. Comments received in response to this solicitation will be used to identify potential environmental issues related to the alternatives and to identify any additional unresolved conflicts that may require modification to the preliminary alternatives or result in new alternatives that meet the purpose and need.

Location:

The Curlew allotment is located primarily in Oneida County, approximately 20 miles west of Malad, ID, with a minor portion of the allotment in southeastern Cassia County. Elevations range from 4,500 feet to 7,100 feet; terrain varies from flat to rolling foothills and mountainous terrain. Precipitation on the allotment generally falls in the form of snow and spring showers and ranges between 8 and 22 inches annually (Natural Resources Conservation Service, NRCS). The Curlew allotment encompasses approximately 139,999 acres consisting of approximately 134,241 acres of public land with an additional 2,691 acres of State land; 819 acres of US Forest Service land and 2,236 acres of private land.

Background

Current grazing management within the Curlew allotment was implemented through a Final Grazing Decision in 1997. This decision implemented a rest rotation grazing system, divided permittees into specific groups and assigned each group specific pastures in which to graze. The decision also set stocking levels within each pasture. This 1997 final decision responded to

protest points submitted by permittees to an earlier proposed decision. There was no appeal of the Final Decision. In 1998 there was a signed agreement to modify pasture movements between two pastures to address concerns of potential over stocking. In 1999, an EA (# ID-025-99-061) was completed analyzing grazing within the Curlew Allotment as well as two other allotments. Analysis was conducted using existing information which did not include a formal evaluation of land health. The proposed action within the EA was to continue to graze the Curlew Allotment as outlined in 1997, decision. A Final Decision dated August 2, 1999 reissued grazing permits to the Curlew Permittees for 10 years with no changes to the grazing management as outlined in the 1997, Final Decision. The 1999, decision responded to protest points of the earlier Proposed Decision which were submitted by non-permittees. There was no appeal to the 1999 Final Decision. In 2009 when the permits were to expire, they were renewed under the Appropriations Act for 10 years or until they could be fully processed.

On November 8, 2012 a scoping package was sent to known interested/affected parties soliciting comments for an EA being developed to analyze the renewal of grazing permits within the Curlew allotment. Several comment letters were received by the BLM. Based on issues and concerns raised, the BLM gathered additional data within the allotment. An assessment of the data was conducted in 2014, which was used to complete the Curlew Land Health Assessment and Evaluation. The proposed action and alternatives identified in the 2012 scoping package were considerably modified warranting new scoping.

Fundamentals of Rangeland Health and Standards and Guidelines for Grazing Management Administration.

The Curlew Land Health Assessment and Evaluation document (Included with this scoping package) looks at the existing uses and management actions within the Curlew Allotment and assesses the current condition and/or function of public land resources. It also includes an evaluation of the eight Idaho Standards for Rangeland Health (USDI 1997). Compliance with the standards and guidelines is required by 43 CFR 4180. The Curlew Land Health Evaluation provides a detailed analysis of each standard and identifies contributing factors if standards are not being achieved.

Purpose and Need for Action

Currently 22 grazing permits authorizing use within the Curlew allotment are issued under the Appropriations Act (date) until they can be fully processed in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

The Pocatello Resource Management Plan (RMP), April 2012 identifies the Curlew allotment as available for domestic livestock grazing. Where consistent with the goals and objectives of the RMP and Idaho's Standards for Rangeland Health (ISRH) and Guidelines for Grazing Management (1997), it is BLM policy to authorize the allocation of forage for livestock grazing to qualified operators. The purpose of the proposed action is to authorize livestock grazing consistent with BLM policy and in a manner that maintains or improves resource conditions as described in the Pocatello RMP.

Preliminary Alternative Development Process

- Internal scoping was conducted to identify issues and resource conflicts. An interdisciplinary team of specialists was used to develop alternatives to address the issues and concerns.
- Alternatives were submitted by the current permit holders. BLM staff worked with permittees to develop and refine a preliminary “proposed” alternative.
- Scoping of interested/affected parties was conducted in 2012 requesting comments, issues and/or concerns. Comments were received from 19 permittees, IDFG, and Western Watersheds Project. These comments were used to improve the assessment and evaluation document and develop preliminary action alternatives.
- The Land Health Evaluation was used for issue development and alternative development.

Issues/Concerns Identified

Several issues/concerns were identified through scoping and meetings with affected/interested parties and through internal reviews and scoping. The BLM has identified the following resources as being potentially impacted by current grazing or proposed alternatives: Cultural, Invasive Non-Native Species, Riparian Areas, Soils, T&E and Sensitive Species, Vegetation, Wildlife. Additional issues or concerns that have been identified through external scoping include: Global Warming, Grazing System Suitability, Livestock Carrying Capacity, Livestock Water Availability and Range Improvement Types, Condition & Locations. The Curlew Assessment and Evaluation document provides the current condition of several of these resources and issues/concerns.

Alternatives to be analyzed

Following is a discussion of various alternatives that have been developed to address issues, concerns. Throughout the following alternatives there is slight discrepancy in AUM numbers between the tables and written totals. This discrepancy is a result of rounding errors.

Several actions are also planned to occur under all action alternatives such as: Improved fencing around springs and modifying all open water systems to closed water systems.

Alternative A (No Action)

Reissue the current grazing permits with no changes to the mandatory terms and conditions or the current rest-rotation grazing system. A detailed description of the current grazing system and permitted use is described under Grazing Management within the Curlew Assessment and Evaluation document. A brief overview of this alternative is described below.

Under Alternative A there would be no changes to the current grazing preference or management of livestock on the Curlew allotment. At present, the total authorized active grazing preference on the Curlew allotment is 24,929 animal unit months (AUM), which is allocated among the Black Pine A group (10,610 AUMs); Black Pine B group (4,536 AUMs); Black Pine C group (5,184 AUMs); Holbrook group (1,968 AUMs) and the Stone group (2,631 AUMs). There are no suspended AUMs on the current permits.

Table 1 lists the five groups, seasons of use, and the total authorized, active grazing preferences for each group. The currently-billed licensed use is 24,938 AUMs. The authorized grazing preference is allocated among approximately 4,634 cattle, 1,000 sheep and 20 horses.

Table 1. Seasons of Use and Active Grazing Preference for Curlew allotment permittee groups under Alternative A.

Permittee Groups	Spring	Summer	Fall	Active Grazing Preference (AUM)
Black Pine-A	4/16 – 6/19	6/20 – 9/15	9/16 – 10/31	10,612
Black Pine-B	4/16 – 6/19	6/20 – 9/15	9/16 – 10/31	4,535
Black Pine-C	4/16 – 6/19	6/20 – 9/15	9/16 – 10/31	5,185
Holbrook	4/16 – 6/19	6/20 – 8/9	8/10 – 9/30	1,961
Stone	4/16 – 6/19	6/20 – 8/9	8/10 – 9/30	2,632
Total =				24,925

Mandatory Terms and Conditions

Mandatory terms and conditions showing livestock number, kind, season of use, and authorized use are identified in **Table 2** for each permittee group.

Table 2. – Terms and conditions showing livestock number, kind, season of use, and authorized use by permittee group for Alternative A (No Action).

Black Pine A	Livestock Number & Kind	Season of Use	Authorized Use (AUM)
Russell K. Boyer	74 C*	4/16–10/31	484
	95 C	5/1–10/31	575
David Eliason	50 C	4/16–5/1	26
	452 C	5/2–6/19	728
	231 C	6/20–9/15	668
	445 C	9/16–10/27	614
Don C. Eliason	158 C	4/25–6/19	291
	179 C	5/1–6/19	294
	407 C	6/20–9/15	1178
	407 C	9/16–10/31	616
	63 C	7/1–9/20	170
	70 C	5/1–6/15	106
Timothy D. Keller	153 C	4/16–10/31	1001
	144 C	5/1–10/31	872
Jess & Marylyn Showell	193 C	4/16–10/31	1262
	105 C	5/1–10/31	636
	2 H	4/16–11/15	14
Rick C. Steed	109 C	4/16–10/31	713
	60 C	5/1–10/31	364
Total =			10,612

* C refers to cattle, H to horses, and S to sheep.

Black Pine B	Livestock Number & Kind	Season of Use	Authorized Use (AUMS)
Bronson Sheep & Cattle Ltd	1000 S	5/12-7/10	395
Crazy Lady LLC	155 C	4/16-10/31	1013
Ted V. & Betty Ann Higley	279 C	4/16-10/31	1825
Tom & Vauna Wilcock	199 C	4/16-10/31	1302
Total =			4,535

Black Pine C	Livestock Number & Kind	Season of Use	Authorized Use (AUM)
The Rose of Snowville, LLC	427 C	4/16-10/31	2,795
	259 C	5/1-10/31	1,567
	167 C	5/1-6/15	253
	55 C	6/16-8/30	137
	167 C	8/31-10/31	340
	14 H	4/16-11/15	93
Total =			5,185

Stone	Livestock Number and Kind	Season of Use	Authorized Use (AUM)
Ron L. Anderson	92 C	4/16-5/30	136
Rod Arbon	19 C	5/1-9/30	96
Troy J & Tyler J Arbon	47 C	5/1-9/30	236
N. Alden Neal	43 C	4/16-9/30	238
R & V Neal Ranches, Inc.	170 C	4/16-11/15	1,196
	2 H	4/16-11/15	14
Sid & Sharon Showell	73 C	4/16-11/15	514
	2 H	4/16-11/15	14
Lyle Steed	34 C	4/16-9/30	188
Total =			2,632

Holbrook	Livestock Number & Kind	Season of Use	Authorized Use (AUM)
Dallan & Cindy Nalder	118 C	4/16-9/30	652
Shad & LaNae Nalder	76 C	4/16-9/30	420
Kent & Pat Smith	95 C	4/16-9/30	524
Kevin Smith	66 C	4/16-9/30	365
Total =			1,961

Other Terms and Conditions

- Grazing use within Curlew allotment must comply with the Area Manager's Decision dated July 3, 1997.

- Grazing must comply with appropriate management plan and/or grazing schedule/Cooperative rangeland agreement
- Salt shall be placed ¼ mile from water to improve livestock distribution
- Actual use records must be submitted to this office 15 days from the last day of use
- Range improvements shall be maintained in accordance with appropriate cooperative agreements and/or Section 4 permits
- Maximum grazing use in riparian areas (vegetation associated with springs and streams), is limited by stubble height of riparian vegetation. Riparian vegetation shall have a stubble height of no less than 4 inches after September 1
- The allotment(s) shown on this permit/lease shall meet the requirements as described in 43 CFR Subpart 4180 – Fundamentals of Rangeland Health and the Standards and Guidelines for Grazing Administration. Any changes in management will be based upon the resource evaluations and analysis as scheduled and completed by the Field Office Manager
- It is the responsibility of the permittee/lessee to install and maintain wildlife escape devices in all watering facilities and troughs that occur on BLM public lands within their allotment(s) or are part of a BLM range improvement

Further information on the existing grazing management including pasture rotations and seasons of use is located within the Curlew Evaluation.

Alternative B

This alternative would make changes to the allotment boundary, grazing management system, pasture stocking rates and active permitted use (AUMs).

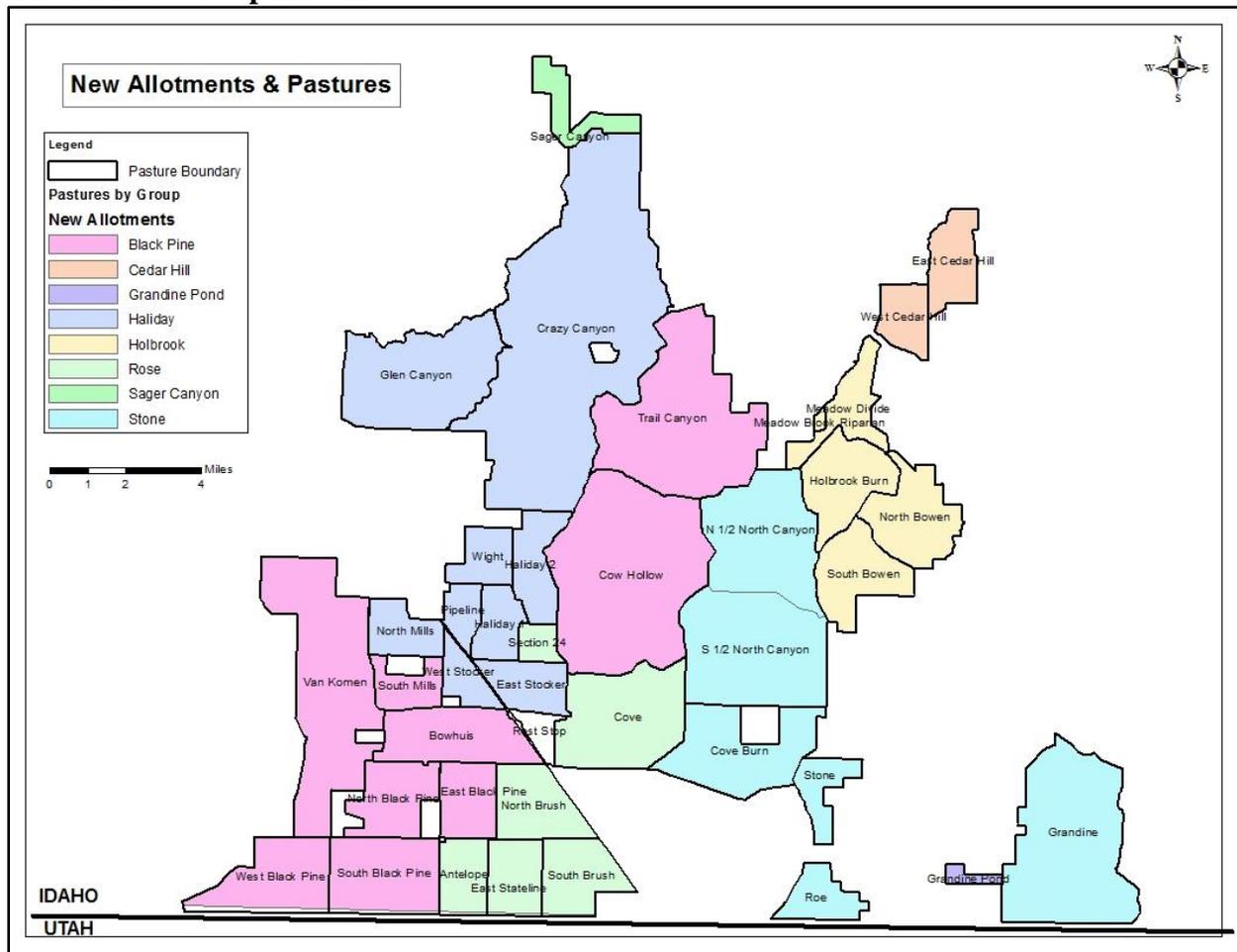
Identification of New Allotments

Under this alternative, the existing 39 pastures of the Curlew allotment would be grouped accordingly to create eight new individual allotments as shown in **Table 3**. Pasture names would remain the same. There would be no adjustment in pasture boundary fences. The eight new allotments with respective pastures are shown in **Figure 1**.

Table 3. Eight new allotments and respective pastures resulting form the break up of the Curlew allotment.

<p>Black Pine Allotment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Black Pine • South Black Pine • North Black Pine • East Black Pine • South Mills • Bowhuis • Trail Canyon • Van Komen • Cow Hollow 	<p>Haliday Allotment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Haliday 1 • Haliday 2 • Pipeline • Wright • North Mills • East Stocker • West Stocker • Crazy Canyon • Glen Canyon 	<p>Rose Allotment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antelope • North Brush • South Brush • East Stateline • Cove • Section 24 	<p>Holbrook Allotment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Bowen • South Bowen • Holbrook Burn • Meadow Brook
<p>Stone Allotment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cove Burn • Grandine • Roe • Stone • N 1/2 North Canyon • S 1/2 North Canyon 	<p>Grandine Pond Allotment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grandine Pond 	<p>Cedar Hill Allotment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East Cedar Hill • West Cedar Hill 	<p>Sager Canyon Allotment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sager Canyon

Figure 1. Eight new allotments and respective pastures resulting from diving the Curlew allotment pastures.



Grazing Management

Under this alternative, grazing management would change from a rest rotation as described in the no action alternative to a deferred rotation system on spring and fall pastures with no change to summer pastures. Changing from a rest rotation to a deferred rotation would increase the number of pastures that can be grazed, reducing the grazing pressure on a per-acre basis.

Several pastures that currently have one permittee will become their own allotment (Grandine Pond, Cedar Hill, and Sager Canyon) and there will be no change to the use within them compared to the no action alternative.

Under the proposed deferred grazing system, pasture stocking rates would be equal for spring and fall use for the Black Pine, Rose, and Holbrook Allotments, compared to the existing rest rotation which generally has a 30% difference between spring and fall use. Stocking rates would be reduced in all but a couple spring/fall pastures. Table 4 shows the reduction in stocking rate in AUMs for the spring/fall pastures managed in a deferred system.

Table 4. Current spring stocking rates and proposed stocking rates by pasture by allotment for allotments that are changing from a rest rotation to a deferred rotation.

Allotment Name	Pasture Name	Current Stocking Rates AUMs (S=Spring / F=Fall)	New (NTE) Stocking Rate AUMs
Black Pine	West Black Pine	2,349 S 1,662 F	641
	South Black Pine	3,851 S 2,725 F	914
	North Black Pine	1,310 S 927 F	560
	East Black Pine	964 S 682 F	280
	Bowhuis	2,541 S 1,798 F	772
	South Mills	539 S 381 F	640
Rose	Antelope	329 S 233 F	68
	East State Line	1,259 S 891 F	528
	South Brush	692 S 490 F	348
	North Brush	1,368 S 968 F	555
	Cove	1,457 S 1,031 F	885
	Section 24	271 S 212 F	150
Holiday	Haliday 1	756 S 535 F	561
	Haliday 2	784 S	561

Allotment Name	Pasture Name	Current Stocking Rates AUMs (S=Spring / F=Fall)	New (NTE) Stocking Rate AUMs
		555 F	
	East Stocker	662 S 469 F	561
	West Stocker	690 S 488 F	300
	Pipeline	325 S 230 F	309
	Wight	596 S 422 F	300
	North Mills	244 S 172 F	309
Stone	Cove Burn	825 S 584 F	500
	Stone	529 S 386 F	300
	Grandine	901 S 649 F	500
	Roe	448 S 328 F	300
Holbrook	North Bowen	761	536
	South Bowen	761	536
	Holbrook	509	536
	Meadow Brook	500	355

Under this alternative permittees would be issued a grazing permit specifying the new allotment that they are authorized to graze within. **Table 5** shows the allotment, livestock number and kind, season of use and active AUMs that would be authorized to each permittee. The grazing system that would be authorized is further described by allotment.

Table 5. – Terms and Conditions, livestock number, kind, season of use, and authorized use by permittee, Alternative B.

Permittees	Allotment	Livestock Number & Kind	Season Of Use	Active AUMs
Boyer, Russell K.	Black Pine	154 C	5/1–10/31	932
Eliason, Dave	Black Pine	342C	5/1-6/12	1,548
		192	6/13–9/18	
		342C	9/19-10/31	
Eliason, Don / Ken	Black Pine	324 C	5/1-6/12	2,387
		415 C	6/13–9/18	
		324 C	9/19-10/31	
Keller, Timothy D.	Black Pine	273 C	5/1–10/31	1,651
Showell, Jess	Black Pine	277C	5/1–10/31	1,676
Steed, Rick	Black Pine	157 C	5/1–10/31	950
Bronson Sheep & Cattle Ltd. Co.	Haliday	1,200 S	5/15 – 7/10	395

Permittees	Allotment	Livestock Number & Kind	Season Of Use	Active AUMs
Brandon Buttars	Haliday	155 C	4/16 – 10/31	1,014
Hank & Lacey Gem Higley	Haliday	279 C	4/16 – 10/31	1,825
Tom & Vauna Wilcock	Haliday	199 C	4/16 – 10/31	1,302
The Rose of Snowville, LLC	Rose Haliday	853 C	5/1 – 10/23	4,931
Dallan & Cindy Nalder	Stone	130 C	4/16-9/30	652
Shad & LaNae Nalder	Stone	83 C	4/16-9/30	420
Kent & Pat Smith	Stone	104 C	4/16-9/30	525
Kevin Smith	Stone	73 C	4/16-9/30	365
Ron L. Anderson	Stone	92 C	4/16-5/30	136
Rod Arbon	Stone	19 C	5/1-9/30	96
Troy Jess & Tyler J. Arbon	Stone	47 C	5/1-9/30	237
N. Alden Neal	Holbrook	43 C	4/16-9/30	238
R. & V. Neal Ranches, Inc.	Holbrook	172 C	4/16-11/15	1,210
Sid & Sharon Showell	Holbrook	75 C	4/16-9/30	528
Lyle Steed	Holbrook	34 C	5/1-9/30	188

Black Pine Allotment Grazing Management

There would be a reduction of approximately 1,323 active AUMs within the Black Pine Allotment reducing the total available AUMs from 10,655 to 9,332. This reduction would be applied to only the spring/fall pastures. The deferred system would divide the spring/fall pastures into two groups of pastures (**Table 6**), either of which would be grazed alternately, spring or fall, every year. The reduction in spring/fall AUMs leads to the need to change the seasons of use for spring/fall pastures and summer pastures so that permittees can run a consistent number of livestock during the grazing season.

Table 6. Two-year deferred rotation schedule for the Black Pine allotment under Alternative B.

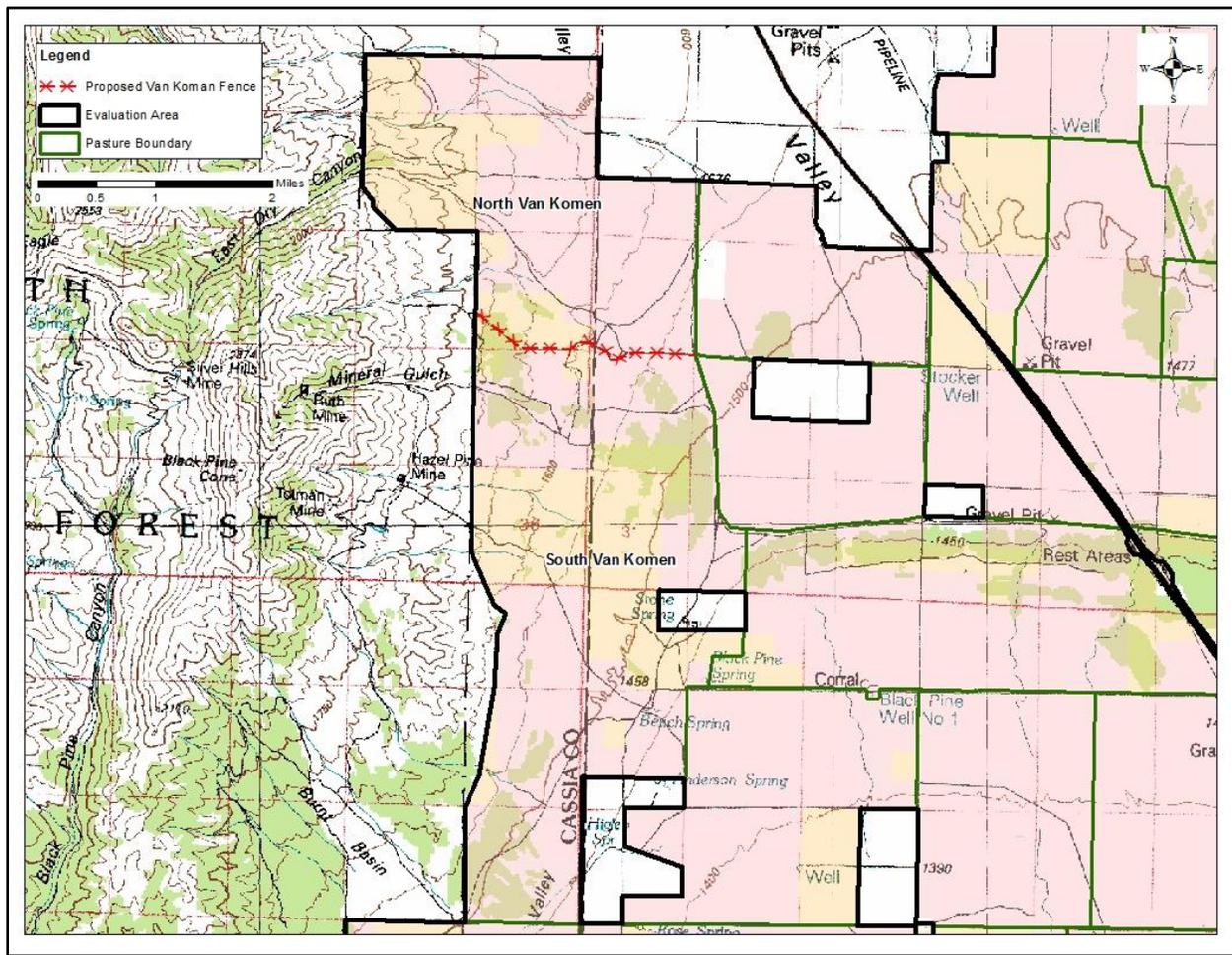
Pastures	Year 1	Year 2
Bowhuis	5/1-6/12	9/19-10/31
N. Black Pine		
South Mills		
E. Black Pine	9/19-10/31	5/1-6/12
S. Black Pine		
W. Black Pine		
Van Komen (N ½)	6/13-9/18	6/13-9/18
Cow Hollow	6/13-9/18	6/13-9/18
Trail Canyon	6/13-9/18	6/13-9/18
Van Komen (S ½)	6/13-9/18	6/13-9/18

The Van Komen pasture (currently designated as summer use) would be split into north and south pastures **Figure 2**. The north pasture would be designated as spring/fall use and the south pasture summer use. The North and South pastures have extensive crested seedings. Grazing

capacity is estimated to be approximately 2,089 AUMs for the existing Van Komen pasture based on production studies. Under this alternative the south pasture would be approximately 5,330 acres having 1,128AUMs and the north would be approximately 3,308 acres having 958AUMs. The north pasture would be added into the spring/fall pasture rotation with the other six designated pastures. A pipeline extension would be needed to provide water into the northern portion of the new North Van Komen pasture to ensure even distribution of use.

Livestock would be trailed between pastures, which may take up to several days to complete because they are typically trailed in smaller groups. The southwest portion of the Bowhuis pasture has traditionally been used annually to gather and separate livestock and this would continue under this alternative. However this type of use would not exceed 7 days. Depending upon various circumstances (e.g., drought, fire), different combinations of pastures may be used when appropriate to facilitate livestock management, however the grazing capacity identified for the pasture would not be exceeded.

Figure 2. Van Komen Proposed Pastures under Alternative B.



Range Improvements

Several new range improvements would be installed under this alternative (**Table 7**). An interior fence would be installed to divide Van Komen pasture into north and south pastures. The north pasture in Van Komen would need additional pipeline to supply two troughs to ensure even distribution of livestock within the newly formed north pasture. The trough near Rose spring would be moved further away from the spring source. All spring sources would be re-fenced with larger exclosures, which would be constructed of wood or pipe and designed as a post and rail fence. All troughs would have float valves installed or replaced.

Table 7. Identification of the type of range improvements proposed for the Black Pine allotment.

Type	Description
Fences	All spring sources would be re-fenced with larger exclosures, constructed of wood or pipe and designed as post and rail fence.
	Van Komen: ≈ 2.5 mi. of interior fence to create north and south pastures
Pipelines	Van Komen: ≈ 3 mi. pipeline to two (new) troughs in north pasture. Pipeline would connect to an existing pipeline fed by a well.
	Rose Spring: ≈ 0.25 mi. to move existing trough further from spring source
Troughs	All troughs would have float valves installed or replaced
	Replace and or install additional troughs for livestock distribution

Rose Allotment Grazing Management

The Rose Allotment would consist of only spring and fall pastures and would be permitted to only one permittee (Rose Ranch). There would be a reduction of approximately 252 active AUMs, reducing the total available AUMs from 5,183 to 4,931. This reduction would be applied only to the spring/fall pastures.

The deferred system would divide spring/fall pastures into two groups that would alternate spring or fall use every year. Under this alternative the pastures would be grouped based on carrying capacity so as to have the same AUMs available in the spring and fall use period. In order for permittees to run consistent numbers throughout the grazing season, changes to seasons of use for spring/fall pastures and summer pastures is needed to balance the reduction in spring/fall AUMs. The entire season of use was reduced so that the number of livestock that could be run on the permit would not change. **Table 8** shows the pasture groupings and seasons of use on a two year deferred system.

The Antelope pasture would not be grazed in this alternative as part of the normal grazing rotation. It is expected that restoration activities would occur within this pasture in the future. Until a restoration plan is developed and analyzed, grazing this pasture would require the following prior to being grazed: 1) only fall grazing would be allowed, 2) no more than 68 AUMs would be authorized, 3) a separate application would be required and subject to approval prior to use.

Livestock would be trailed between pastures which may take up to several days to complete, because they are typically trailed in smaller groups. When cattle are to be moved out of the summer pasture (Crazy Canyon), they will be gathered and pushed from the northern portion south and held in the Haliday 2 pasture where permittees can separate livestock for movement to fall pastures. Depending upon various circumstances (e.g. drought, fire), different combinations of pastures may be used when appropriate to facilitate livestock management, however the grazing capacity would not be exceeded.

Table 8. Two-year deferred rotation schedule for the spring/fall pastures of the Rose allotment under Alternative B.

Pastures	Year 1	Year 2
East Stateline	5/1-6/13	9/10-10/23
N. Brush		
Section 24		
Cove	9/10-10/23	5/1-6/13
South Brush		

Range Improvements

Several new range improvements would be installed under this alternative as identified in **Table 9**. A pipeline would be extended across South Brush pasture to supply a new trough in the western portion of the allotment.

Table 9. Identification of the type of range improvements proposed for the Rose allotment under Alternative B.

Type	Description
Fence	All spring sources would be re-fenced with larger exclosures, constructed of wood or pipe and designed as post & rail fence. Temporary fencing may be needed in the Antelope pasture to separate out areas where restoration efforts may occur in the future.
Pipeline	Additional pipeline is proposed to connect a portion of the Stocker Well pipeline to the Black Pine Well pipeline. This would provide more reliable water.
Troughs	All troughs would have float valves installed or replaced Replace and or install additional troughs for livestock distribution

Haliday Allotment Grazing Management

The permitted use (AUMs) within the Haliday Allotment would be allocated to 4 permittees.

This allotment would have 4 permittees authorized to run cattle, one of which would only be authorized to use the Crazy Canyon pasture in the summer. There would be 1 permittee that would be authorized to run sheep in the summer within the Glen Canyon Pasture. The grazing season of use and livestock numbers would continue to be the same as identified in the

permittees existing permits and as outlined in the No Action Alternative for the Black Pine B group. Since the 1997 decision, the three permittees (Higley, Butters, Wilcock) that can use spring/fall pastures have divided the pastures so that Higley runs livestock alone and Butters & Wilcock run livestock together. Under this alternative this division would continue.

The largest permit holder (Higley) would be assigned the Wight, Pipeline, North Mills and West Stocker spring/fall pastures and the Glen Canyon summer pasture. **Table 10** shows the pasture groupings and seasons of use on a two year deferred system. There would be no change in authorized AUMs.

Table 10. Two-year deferred rotation schedule for the pastures of the Haliday allotment under Alternative B.

Pastures	Year 1	Year 2
Wight	4/16-6/13	9/10-10/31
Pipeline		
North Mills	9/10-10/31	4/16-6/13
West Stocker		
Glen Canyon	6/14-9/9	6/14-9/9

The two remaining permit holders (Butters & Wilcock) would be assigned the Haliday 1, Haliday 2 and East Stocker spring/fall pastures and the Crazy Canyon summer pasture. There would be no change in authorized AUMs. The summer pasture would be used in common with the Rose Ranch. Under this alternative, two pastures would be run in the spring and the remaining one in the fall. The fall pasture would rotate so that all of the pastures are used over a three year period. **Table 11** shows the pasture groupings and seasons of use on a three year deferred system.

Table 11. Three-year deferred rotation schedule for the pastures of the Haliday allotment under Alternative B.

Pastures	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Haliday 1	4/16-6/13	9/10-10/31	4/16-6/13
Haliday 2	4/16-6/13	4/16-6/13	9/10-10/31
East Stocker	9/10-10/31	4/16-6/13	4/16-6/13
Crazy Canyon	6/14-9/9	6/14-9/9	6/14-9/9

Range Improvements

Approximately one (1) mile of new pipeline and a trough within the Wight pasture would be constructed, connecting to the Wight Well to get water into the northern portion of the pasture for better distribution.

Stone Allotment Grazing Management

This allotment would have 7 permittees, one of which would only be authorized to graze for a limited time in the spring. The grazing season of use and livestock numbers would continue to be the same as identified in the permittees existing permits and outlined in the No Action alternative for the Stone group. The spring/fall pastures would be divided into two groups and each grouping would alternate spring and fall use every other year. **Table 12** shows the pasture groupings and seasons of use on a two year deferred system.

Table 12. Two-year deferred rotation schedule for pastures of the Stone allotment under Alternative B.

Pastures	Year 1	Year 2
Cove Burn	4/16-6/19	10/1-11/15
Stone		
Grandine	10/1-11/15	4/16-6/19
Roe		
North Canyon (N ½ & S½)	6/20-9/30	6/20-9/30

There are two summer use pastures, N½ North Canyon and S½ North Canyon. These are effectively one pasture because there is no physical boundary between them. Historically livestock turn out has alternated annually between the north half and south half. Under this alternative the North Canyon pastures would continue to be used as they have been.

All of the permittees would run their cattle together in the spring except for Ron Anderson. Ron Anderson would be given a permit for 106 AUMs to be run in the Grandine/Roe pastures from April 16 through May 30 once every 3 years. The remaining 6 permittees would turn out together in the spring pastures and then move to the summer pasture. Turnout into the North Canyon summer pasture would alternate between the north end one year and the south end the next year with cattle naturally drifting between both ends throughout the summer season. At the end of the summer season 4 permittees would remove their livestock and two permittees would trail to the fall pastures.

Holbrook Allotment Grazing Management

This allotment would have 4 permittees. The grazing system would be a four pasture deferred system with spring turn out alternating between the North and South Bowen pastures (**Table 13**).

Table 13. Two-year deferred rotation schedule for pastures of the Holbrook allotment.

Pasture	Year 1	Year 2	Grazing Duration
North Bowen	4/16 – 6/04	8/12 – 9/30	50 days
South Bowen	8/12 – 9/30	4/16 – 6/14	50 days
Holbrook Burn	6/5 – 7/15	7/2 – 8/11	41 days
Meadow Brook	7/16 – 8/11	6/5 – 7/1	27 days

Under this deferred system livestock would generally be moved between pastures as shown **Table 13**. Turn out would only occur within North Bowen and South Bowen pastures and would alternate between the two pastures annually. The North and South Bowen and Holbrook Burn pastures have large crested seedings that serve as a forage base, however Meadow Brook pasture is dominated by native vegetation and would be used for a shorter duration of time. Livestock grazing use within the pastures would be focused on maintaining the health of native vegetation.

Alternative C

This alternative would be a combination of actions identified in Alternatives A and B. The change in allotment boundaries and stocking rate changes associated with the pastures within the Black Pine and Rose Allotments would be carried forward from Alternative B. The rest rotation management system would be used from Alternative A. Pasture groupings within the allotments would be different from both alternatives and would focus on having three equitable pasture groupings within the Black Pine, Rose, Haliday, and Stone Allotments. The Holbrook Allotment would likely function under alternative A's rotation and grouping.

This alternative would have increased reduction of available AUMs (compared with alt. B) within the Black Pine and Rose Allotments due to fewer pastures being available on an annual basis. There would be a reduction of approximately 2,709 active AUMs within the Black Pine allotment reducing the total available AUMs from 10,549 to 7,840. There would be a reduction of approximately 963 active AUMs within the Rose allotment reducing the total available AUMs from 5,185 to 4,220. For permittees authorized to graze livestock in the Haliday, Holbrook and Stone allotment, there would be no changes to the permits' livestock number, kind, season of use, and AUMs authorized. Pasture groupings would be modified to better distribute available AUMs. Table 15 provides an example of how the permits would change for permittees in the Black Pine and Rose Allotment. Further consultation with the affected permittees is needed to determine if they would prefer a reduction in cattle numbers as shown in the table, or a reduction in season of use to make up for the loss of active AUMs.

Table 15. Approximate reductions/changes in livestock number, kind, season of use, and authorized use by permittee.

Black Pine Allotment Permittee	Livestock Number & Kind	Season of Use	Authorized Use (AUM)
Russell K. Boyer	129 C	5/1–10/31	796
David Eliason	313 C	5/1–6/05	372
	181 C	6/06–9/25	670
	313 C	9/25–10/31	372
Don C. Eliason	274 C	5/1–6/05	325
	363 C	6/06–9/25	1,341
	274 C	9/25–10/31	325
	70 C	5/1–6/15	106
Timothy D. Keller	229 C	5/1–10/31	1,406
Jess & Marylyn Showell	235 C	5/1–10/31	1,427
Rick C. Steed	133 C	5/1–10/31	806
Total =			7,840

Rose Allotment Permittee	Livestock Number & Kind	Season of Use	Authorized Use (AUM)
The Rose of Snowville, LLC	719 C	5/1–6/6	876
	719 C	6/7–9/18	2,465
	719 C	9/19–10/25	876
Total =			4,220

Alternative D

Rest the Curlew allotment from livestock grazing for 10 years; i.e. one permit renewal cycle; the 24,928 AUMs total grazing preference would be suspended during this period.

Range improvements would not be maintained during the 10 year rest; e.g. fences would not be repaired, water would not be pumped from wells; pipelines and troughs would be not be filled. Spring developments would be modified to ensure water is not drawn from spring sources.

Alternative E

This alternative would have all of the same on the ground management actions and grazing system as Alternative B. The only difference would be how the reduction in AUMs would be applied to grazing permits. Under this alternative the reduction of 1,575 AUMs would be split between all 22 permittees having a permit within the Curlew Allotment. The reduction for each permittee would be based on their percentage of the total AUMs within the Curlew Allotment. The reduction in AUMs would still only apply to the pastures within the Black Pine and Rose Allotments as identified in Alt. B. This would provide a surplus of AUMs within the Haliday, Holbrook and Stone Allotments. The surplus AUMs would be divided between the permittees currently assigned to the Black Pine Group A.

Table 16. – Estimated AUM reductions by permittee, Alternative E.

Permittees	Reduction of Active AUMs
Boyer, Russell K.	67
Eliason, Dave	129
Eliason, Don / Ken	168
Keller, Timothy D.	118
Showell, Jess	120
Steed, Rick	68
Bronson Sheep & Cattle Ltd. Co.	25
Brandon Buttars	64
Hank & Lacey Gem Higley	115
Tom & Vauna Wilcock	82
The Rose of Snowville, LLC	328
Dallan & Cindy Nalder	41

Permittees	Reduction of Active AUMs
Shad & LaNae Nalder	26
Kent & Pat Smith	33
Kevin Smith	23
Ron L. Anderson	9
Rod Arbon	6
Troy Jess & Tyler J. Arbon	15
N. Alden Neal	15
R. & V. Neal Ranches, Inc.	76
Sid & Sharon Showell	33
Lyle Steed	12

An example of this alternative would be: under Alt. B, a permittee from Black Pine Allotment was reduced 130 AUMs; under this alternative there would be a reduction of 67 AUMs. The difference of 63 AUMs could be applied to either the Haliday, Stone or Holbrook Allotment and would effectively replace 63 AUMs that were reduced from permittees within that allotment. The permittee from Black Pine Allotment would then be permitted to run approximately 10 cows in the same pastures and rotation within the new allotment. This alternative will require further negotiations with all permittees to determine who's cows from Group A would go into which allotments.

Decision to be Made

The Field Manager will decide whether to authorize livestock grazing activities as described in the selected alternative(s). The Field Manager will make a decision with management actions, mitigation measures, and monitoring requirements will be prescribed, including permitted number of animals, season of use, allowable utilization standards, and terms of the permit.

Public Input Needed

Comments and substantive information you can provide are specifically requested on the preliminary alternatives identified above. Comments made would be most helpful if they are received within 30 days of receiving this document and are directly relevant to the alternatives and project area. The BLM will not reject public feedback outside established public involvement timeframes; however, these comments may be considered secondary to comments received in a timely manner and may only be assessed to determine if they identify concerns that would substantially alter the assumptions, proposal, design, or analysis presented in the EA.

Written comments must be submitted to David Pacioretty, Pocatello Field Manager, 4350 Cliffs Drive, Pocatello, ID 83204. The office business hours for submitting hand-delivered comments are 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Please identify whether you are submitting comments as an individual or as the designated spokesperson on behalf of an organization. Issues that are outside the scope of the proposal will not be addressed in this EA.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised that your entire comment, including your personal

identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold from public review your personal identifying information, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

The primary contacts for questions and comments for this analysis are Mike Kuyper, Supervisory Natural Resource Specialist, and Eric Limbach, Range Management Specialist, 4350 Cliffs Drive, Pocatello, ID 83204, 208-478-6358.

Reference:

Curlew Land Health Evaluation (Available on the Bureau of Land Management NEPA Website)