

Categorical Exclusion Documentation

CX No. DOI-BLM-ID-B020-2015-0004-CX

A. Background

BLM Office: Bruneau Field Office Lease/Serial/Case File No: 1101677

Proposed Action Title/Type: Grazing Preference Transfer, Dickshooter Cattle Co. to J.R. Simplot Co.

Location of Proposed Action: Big Springs Allotment #00803 (Dickshooter Use Area), Northwest Allotment #00808, and West Canyon View Allotment #00811.

Description of Proposed Action: Transfer grazing preference from dba Dickshooter Cattle Co. (J.R. Simplot Revocable Trust) to the J.R. Simplot Co. in the Big Springs (#00803), Northwest(#00808) , and West Canyon View (#00811) allotments. The grazing preference for the Big Springs, Northwest, and West Canyon View allotments is attached to Dickshooter Cattle Company’s existing base property, as shown in the table below:

Allotment Name/Number	Livestock		Season Of Use	Active AUMs	Suspended AUMs	Permitted AUMs	% Public Land
	#	Kind					
Big Springs 00803 Dickshooter Use Area	1747	Cattle	4/1 -9/30	10511	0	10511	100
	20	Horses	4/1 – 9/15	110	0	110	100
Northwest 00808	1429	Cattle	3/1 – 8/1	7235	0	7235	100
	22	Horses	3/1 – 8/1	111	0	111	100
	1451	Cattle	8/2 – 8/31	1432	0	1432	100
	301	Cattle	9/1 – 11/30	901	0	901	100
	1058	Cattle	12/1 – 2/28	3131	0	3131	100
West Canyon View 00811	203	Cattle	3/1 – 4/30	407	0	407	100
	201	Cattle	11/1 – 2/28	793	0	793	100

The J.R. Simplot Co. has now offered a different set of its lands as base properties for the transferred grazing preference. The J.R. Simplot Co. application for transfer and attachment of the grazing preference to the offered lands has been reviewed by the authorized officer and it has been determined that they are qualified applicants under 43 CFR 4110.1(a) and have a satisfactory record of performance under 43 CFR 4110.1(b).

This action would not issue a new grazing permit to J.R. Simplot Co. for these allotments. A separate authority in Section 3023, Public Law 113-291, not related to the CX authority, would result in a grazing permit being offered to the J.R. Simplot Co.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan Name: Bruneau MFP Date Approved/Amended: 1983

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decision(s):

The CX authority described under **C. Compliance with NEPA** exempts the transfer of a grazing preference from compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The action also Conforms to LUP decisions, because the Bruneau MFP provides for permitting livestock grazing on the allotments involved in this transfer. Modifications have been made to address resource issues when the permits were reissued in 1999 and 2001 and are still in effect today.

C: Compliance with NEPA:

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 Departmental Manual 11.9(D)1:

- Approval of transfers of grazing preference.

This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because the transfer of grazing preference is strictly administrative and there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM2 apply.

D: Signature

Authorizing Official: *Tanya Thrift*

Date: *2/19/2015*

(Signature)

Name: Tanya M. Thrift

Title: Bruneau Field Manager

Contact Person

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact:

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