



United States Department of the Interior  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Shoshone Field Office  
400 West F Street  
Shoshone, Idaho 83352-5284  
(208) 732-7200



In Reply Refer To:  
4100 (IDT030) P  
80224  
CERTIFIED-RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

October 9, 2015

Steven & Kathie Wilkie  
1801 Bennett Ave.  
Burley, ID 83318

**Proposed Decision for the Station Allotment  
Livestock Grazing Permit Renewal  
Environmental Assessment No. DOI-BLM-ID-T030-2015-0027-EA**

Dear Mr. Wilkie:

**Introduction**

The Station Allotment had field assessments conducted for meeting Idaho Standards for Rangeland Health in 2003. The allotment field assessment was sent to the permit holder, State Agencies having responsibility for managing land or resources, and the interested public in 2004 requesting comments and any additional information. One public comment was received for the Station Allotment in regards to the Rangeland Health Assessment.

The Shoshone Field Manager made a formal determination that the Station Allotment is meeting two of the three applicable Rangeland Health Standards, although livestock grazing is not in conformance with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management. Standard 1 (Watersheds) and Standard 5 (Seedings) are meeting Rangeland Health. Standard 8 (Threatened and Endangered Plants and Animals) is not meeting Rangeland Health, but current livestock grazing management is not a significant factor. Standard 2 (Riparian Areas and wetlands), Standard 3 (Stream Channel/Floodplain), Standard 4 (Native Plant Communities), Standard 6 (Exotic Plant Communities), and Standard 7 (Water Quality) do not apply to the Station Allotment.

**Plan Conformance and Consistency**

The proposed action and alternatives have been reviewed and found to be in conformance with

the 1985 Monument Resource Management Plan (RMP) and the September 2015 Approved Resource Management Plan Amendments for the Great Basin Region, Including the Greater Sage-Grouse Sub-Regions.

### Proposed Decision

This decision represents my selection of the Proposed Action as described in the Environmental Assessment No. BLM-ID-T030-2015-0027-EA in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and issuance of a grazing decision as outlined in 43 CFR 4160.1. This decision, described below is hereby incorporated into your grazing permit for the Station Allotment.

Under this alternative, the BLM Field Manager would continue to authorize livestock grazing in the Station Allotment following the Fundamentals of Rangeland Health [43 CFR 4180.1(2005)] to continue meeting Rangeland Health Standards in the future. This permit would be issued for a term of ten years in accordance with present management.

The Station Allotment grazing permit would authorize livestock use as specified in Table 1. The grazing permit would be issued for the current active AUM preference of 56 AUMs which is the level currently authorized. The season of use would change to May 1 through September 30. The number of livestock allowed in this allotment would be increased to 20 head of cattle. When these higher numbers of livestock are using the allotment, the number of days that livestock are present would be reduced so that active permitted AUMs (56) would not be exceeded.

**TABLE 1: Proposed Grazing Permit Authorization**

Permittee	Livestock Type	Livestock Number	Season of Use	% PL	Active AUMs	Suspended AUMs	Total AUMs
Steven Wilkie	Cattle	20	05/01 – 09/30	100	56	0	56

**Other Terms and Conditions:**

- Grazing will be made in accordance with the Station EA #DOI-BLM-ID-T030-2015-0027-EA, and Field Office Manager’s Final Decision for the Station Allotment dated October 9, 2015.
- Maximum livestock numbers allowed would be limited to no more than 20 total head. Using the maximum number of livestock shown would require a shorter season of use in order to stay within the Authorized AUMs (56).
- The Station Allotment shall meet the requirements set forth in the September 2015 Approved Resource Management Plan Amendments for the Great Basin Region, Including the Greater Sage-Grouse Sub-Regions
- Livestock use outside the dates shown above would be limited to no more than two weeks on either side of the permitted dates providing that 56 AUMs are not exceeded.
- The Station Allotment as listed on the grazing application/license is subject to the requirements of 43 CFR Subpart 4180- Fundamentals of Rangeland Health and Standards and Guidelines for Grazing Administration. The application shall be modified, if necessary to meet these requirements, upon completion of any additional Standards and Guidelines Assessment and Determination as scheduled by the Authorized Officer.
- Range improvements must be maintained, to Bureau standards, prior to the turnout date.

Flexibility would be allowed for annual changes in management because of circumstances due to nature, such as drought, unusually wet years, wildfire, or other similar situations, provided the management change is approved in advance by the authorized officer. Annual flexibility would be limited to modifying the season of use dates by no more than two weeks on either side of the permitted dates or modifying livestock numbers providing that AUMs are not exceeded. Livestock numbers would be limited to no more than 20 head of cattle. Any livestock use outside of the terms and conditions of the permit that have not been approved by the Authorized Officer will be in violation of the grazing permit and a trespass may be warranted.

The dates which livestock could use the allotment may change and be moved forward, which will shorten the season, if any of the following conditions apply: 1) The vegetation in the allotment is not ready for grazing in the first of the season, 2) The allotment has reached full permitted use, or 3) removal of livestock is necessary to protect vegetative resources. The permit may be modified at any time should information collected subsequent to the permit renewal indicate changes in management are needed in order to be in compliance with fundamentals of Rangeland Health. Management must also continue to meet or make progress toward meeting Rangeland Health standards and conformance to guidelines.

The Station Allotment grazing permit would be issued for a term of ten years and would authorize livestock use as specified in Table 1. This table also includes a description of the terms and conditions on the current grazing permit, such as the permittee name, livestock numbers, when grazing begins and ends, percent of BLM administered lands, and AUMs.

### **Grazing Management under the Proposed Action**

The following grazing management conditions will apply under the proposed action:

- The grazing permit would be issued with most of the same “Mandatory Terms and Conditions” and revise “Other Terms and Conditions” as described in Table 1 above.
- Trailing by other livestock operators that do not have a grazing permit for the Station Allotment could be approved following the completion of NEPA. Trailing permits will be authorized in accordance with 43 CFR 4130.6-3 (2005) - Crossing Permits and 43 CFR 4160 (2005) - Administrative Remedies; including Proposed Decisions, Protests, Final Decisions and Appeals).

### **Rangeland Monitoring under the Proposed Action**

Monitoring, as defined in 43 CFR 4100.0-5 (2005), means the periodic observation and orderly collection of data to evaluate: 1) effects of management actions; and 2) effectiveness of actions in meeting management objectives.

Actual use data, which is a record of the actual amount of livestock grazing that has occurred in a given season, including the number of livestock and beginning date and ending date of grazing use on the allotment, would be collected annually.

Upland utilization of forage species in the allotment would be collected on an as-needed basis at the discretion of the authorized officer and would be conducted using approved methodology described in the *Interagency Technical Reference 1734-03 Utilization Studies and Residual Measurements*.

## **Rationale**

Based upon the review of the context and intensity factors and the environmental analyses conducted, I have determined that the actions analyzed for the Station Allotment Grazing Permit Renewal Environmental Assessment No. DOI-BLM-ID-T030-2015-0027-EA is not a major federal action and that its implementation will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, I have determined that an Environmental Impact Statement need not be prepared for this project.

An Environmental Assessment for the Station Allotment Livestock Grazing Permit Renewal was prepared describing a proposed action and three alternatives to modify grazing management in the allotment. The decision modifies the existing grazing permit in the Station Allotment in order to incorporate the Fundamentals of Rangeland Health and Standards and Guidelines for Grazing Administration (43 CFR 4180) as well as to modify the number of livestock and the season of use authorized in the allotment.

## **Due Process**

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other interested publics may protest a proposed decision under Sec. 43 CFR 4160.1 and 4160.2, in person or in writing to the Shoshone Field Manager, Twin Falls District, 400 West F Street, Shoshone, ID 83352 within 15 days after receipt of such decision. The protest, if filed, should clearly and concisely state the reason(s) as to why the proposed decision is in error.

In accordance with 43 CFR 4160.3 (a), in the absence of a protest, the proposed decision will become the final decision of the authorized officer without further notice unless otherwise provided in the proposed decision.

In accordance with 43 CFR 4160.3 (b) upon a timely filing of a protest, after a review of protests received and other information pertinent to the case, the authorized officer shall issue a final decision.

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other person whose interest is adversely affected by the final decision may file an appeal in accordance with 43 CFR 4.470 through 4.480. The appeal must be filed within 30 days following receipt of the final decision, or within 30 days after the date the proposed decision becomes final as provided in 43CFR 4160.3(a). The appeal may be accompanied by a petition for a stay of the decision in accordance with 43 CFR 4.471 and 4.479, pending final determination on appeal. The appeal and petition for a stay must be filed in the office of the authorized officer, as noted above. The person/party must also serve a copy of the appeal by certified mail to the Office of the Solicitor, 960 Broadway Avenue, Suite 400, Boise, ID 83706 and any persons named [43 CFR 4.421(h)] in the *Copies sent to:* section of this decision.

The appeal shall state the reasons, clearly and concisely, why the appellant thinks the final decision is in error and otherwise complies with the provisions of 43 CFR 4.470.

Should you wish to file a petition for a stay, see 43 CFR 4.471 (a) and (b). In accordance with 43 CFR 4.471(c), a petition for a stay must show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

- (1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied.
- (2) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits.
- (3) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted, and
- (4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

If you have any questions, please contact either Erik Kriwox, Rangeland Management Specialist, at (208) 732-7266 or myself at (208)732-7200.

Sincerely,

/s/ Codie Martin

Codie Martin  
Field Manager

Enclosures:

Proposed Decision Environmental Assessment No. DOI-BLM-ID-T030-2015-0027-EA  
Map 1 – Station Allotment Boundary  
Station Allotment Determination

*Certified Return Receipt Copies sent to:*

Steven & Kathie Wilkie, 1801 Bennett Ave. Burley, ID 83318  
Audubon Society, Prairie Falcon Chapter, Attn: Julie Randall, 3952 North 3600  
East, Kimberly, ID 83341  
Committee for the High Desert, P.O. Box 2863, Boise, ID 83701  
ICL Public Lands Office, P.O. Box 844, Boise, ID 83701  
Idaho Department of Fish and Game, 319 S 417 E, Suite 1, Hwy 93 Business  
Park, Jerome, ID 83338  
Idaho State Department of Agriculture, Division of Animal Industries,  
Attn: John Biar, PO Box 790, Boise, ID 83701-0790  
Chairman, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, P.O. Box 306, Fort Hall, ID 83203  
Western Watersheds Project, c/o Ken Cole. P.O. Box 2863, Boise, ID 83701  
Paul McClain, 619 Elm Circle, Gooding, ID 83330-1863  
David Skinner, 502 E 200 S, Fairfield, ID 83327  
Jim Prunty, Natural Resources Specialist, 1241 Starfire, Twin Falls, ID 83301  
Wildlands Defense, P.O. Box 125, Boise, ID 83701