



United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Four Rivers Field Office
3948 Development Avenue
Boise, Idaho 83705-5339



In Reply Refer To:
4120 (ID110)
1104132

January 3, 2014

CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED 7008 0150 0002 5994 2729

Frank Shirts Jr.
PO Box 393
Wilder, ID 83676

Notice of Field Manager's Proposed Decision

Dear Mr. Shirts:

This Proposed Decision is in response to your Grazing Preference and Preference Transfer applications received by our office, requesting to transfer grazing preference AUMs on the Cambridge Allotment, as well as the previous permittee's (Shirts Brother's Sheep) grazing permit (Cambridge Allotment #00082 Map).

Introduction

This Proposed Decision addresses grazing management in the Cambridge Allotment and if finalized, would serve as the Decision Record for Environmental Assessment (EA) DOI-BLM-ID-B010-2010-0057-EA, which this Proposed Decision incorporates by reference. This Proposed Decision reflects previous monitoring conducted in 2002, completion of an evaluation and determination in 2004 of the applicable Idaho Standards for Rangeland Health (Standards), and site visits in 2011.

Background

The Cambridge Allotment is located 3-4 miles northeast of Cambridge, Idaho. The 982-acre allotment includes 358 acres of BLM-administered (public) lands. Vegetation is characterized by shrub-dominated (54%), perennial grassland (36%), and exotic annuals (9%) community types (EA Section 3.1.1). The allotment provides preliminary general habitat for greater-sage grouse and summer source habitat for Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep (EA Section 3.2.1). The allotment was found to be meeting all applicable Standards (1, 4, and 8) in 2004, and site visits confirmed these determinations in 2011 (EA sections 3.1.1 and 3.2.1).

Livestock grazing in the Cambridge Allotment was, until recently, authorized to Shirts Brothers Sheep, by the grazing permit issued March 1, 2007 (Table 1). Frank Shirts Jr. purchased the base property

from Shirts Brothers Sheep. Based on this sale of base property, he applied to transfer grazing preference (AUMs) in the Cambridge Allotment; his application, fees, and supplemental information have been properly filed with BLM. While the transfer is being processed, livestock grazing is currently authorized by a non-permittee bill to Frank Shirts Jr. This authorization will continue until the Proposed Decision becomes final and a new grazing permit is issued and the grazing preference transfer is approved.

Proposed Decision

In accordance with 43 CFR 4110.1(b), upon my review of the record of performance for Frank Shirts Jr., I have determined that he has a satisfactory record of performance. Therefore, it is my Proposed Decision as the authorized officer to:

- Issue a grazing permit to Frank Shirts Jr. for the Cambridge Allotment. The permit would be for a term of 10 years (03/01/2014 to 2/28/2024).
- Authorize 81 AUMs of Active Use.
- Select livestock kind (sheep) and numbers from Alternative B, and all other mandatory terms and conditions, including dates, percent public land, AUMs, allotment specific terms and conditions, and Boise District Standard Other Terms and Conditions from Alternative C, as described in DOI-BLM-ID-B010-2010-0057-EA and as shown in Table 2.

Frank Shirts Jr. currently grazes livestock within the Cambridge Allotment pursuant to a grazing permit issued by the BLM. The terms and conditions of that grazing permit are as follows:

From: Alternative B - Continue Current Use.

Table 1. Mandatory Terms and Conditions for the Cambridge Allotment, Washington County, Idaho.

Operator Name (Number)	Livestock		Season of Use	% Public Land	AUMs		
	Num.	Kind			Active	Suspended	Permitted
Shirts Brothers Sheep (1101292)	1,050	Sheep	4/15-5/15	36%	81	0	81

Allotment Specific Terms and Conditions

1. Livestock grazing from Cambridge Allotment will comply with Field Manager’s Proposed Decision dated August 30, 2006.
2. Authorized AUMs will not be exceeded on public lands. Livestock numbers and season of use, as shown above, indicate maximums that will be allowed under this permit. Permittee has discretion to manage within these numbers, provided overuse does not occur on public lands.
3. Trailing would be between May 5 and May 15, each year, for a maximum of three days across Horse Flat Allotment (00095). Trailing activities must comply with all terms and conditions of the grazing permit and all management requirements. Trailing activities would be temporary, and could be cancelled at any time at the discretion of the authorized officer if deemed detrimental to management of Horse Flat Allotment.
4. Scheduled use changes require prior approval on an annual basis. From information provided in the annual application. A grazing bill will be prepared indicating authorized use for that year.
5. The annual actual use report is due within 15 days of completing your authorized annual grazing use.
6. Annual maintenance of range improvements will be completed prior to livestock entry of the allotment.

7. Turn-out date will be subject to range readiness. Range readiness occurs once the soils have firmed after the spring thaw, and the physiological requirements of the plants have been met.
8. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(b) notify the BLM Field Manager by telephone or with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony on federal land. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c), the permittee must immediately stop any ongoing activities connected with the discovery and make a reasonable effort to protect the discovered remains or objects.
9. Salt and/or supplement shall not be placed within (1/4) mile of the springs, streams, meadows, aspen stands, playas or water developments.

The terms and conditions of the 10-year grazing permit, in accordance with alternatives B and C, would be as follows:

To: Permit as modified to combine terms and conditions from Alternative B - Continue Use and Alternative C - BLM Proposed Action.

Table 2. Mandatory Terms and Conditions for the Cambridge Allotment, Washington County, Idaho.

Operator Name (Number)	Livestock		Season of Use	Federal Land	AUMs		
	Num.	Kind			Active	Suspended	Permitted
Frank Shirts Jr. (1104132)	399	Sheep	5/1-5/31	100%	81	0	81

Allotment Specific Terms and Conditions

1. Livestock numbers would be coordinated between BLM and the permittee/lessee and may vary within the permitted use period; however, AUMs would not be exceeded and no more than 1,050 animals could be permitted at any time.
2. Start date could occur up to one week earlier (April 24) or end date could occur up to one week later (June 7) to account for annual variations in range readiness, but period of use (31 days) and AUMs would not be exceeded.
3. The permittee and BLM would meet annually prior to turnout to discuss livestock kind and numbers. Should BLM determine that, based on bighorn sheep population levels, distributions, and foray sightings, domestic sheep grazing would present an unacceptable risk to bighorn sheep, the kind of livestock would be changed to cattle, as described in Alternative C (DOI-BLM-ID-B010-2010-0057-EA) and as outlined in 43 CFR 4160 through issuance of a proposed and final decision.
4. An approved application and crossing permit must be obtained prior to trailing through the Rocky Slope (#00231), Rush Peak (#00223), Horse Flat (#00095), and Cambridge (#00154) allotments. Crossing dates would coincide with permitted use dates for the Cambridge Allotment (#00082). Three bedding sites for domestic sheep would be authorized on public lands in the Rush Peak, Horse Flat, and Cambridge (#00154) allotments. Livestock numbers allowed to trail would not exceed 950 head of sheep. Trailing activities would be temporary and could be cancelled at any time at the discretion of the authorized officer if deemed detrimental to resources in the allotments.
5. A signed and implemented Separation Response Plan (SRP; Attachment 1) must be in place, prior to livestock turnout into the allotment. Annual meetings would be held to determine compliance with the current SRP and any necessary amendments to achieve compliance.

Other Terms and Conditions

1. Livestock grazing must be conducted in accordance with the Terms and Conditions described in the Final Decision dated _____.
2. Livestock turn-out would be subject to District Range Readiness Criteria.
3. Changes to the scheduled use would require prior approval by the authorized officer.
4. You are required to submit a signed and dated Actual Grazing Use Report form (BLM Form 4130-5) for each allotment you graze. The completed form(s) must be submitted to this office within 15 days from the last day of your authorized annual grazing use.
5. Salt and/or supplements shall not be placed within one-quarter (1/4)-mile of springs, streams, meadows, aspen stands, playas, special status plant populations, eligible historic properties, or water developments. Use of supplements other than the standard salt or mineral block on public land requires annual authorization by the authorized officer.
6. A crossing permit may be required prior to trailing livestock across public lands. Crossing activities must be coordinated with the BLM prior to initiation. Permittee would also notify any/all affected permittees in advance of crossing.
7. Livestock exclosures located within your grazing allotment(s) would be closed to all domestic grazing use.
8. Range improvements must be maintained in accordance with the cooperative agreement and range improvement permits in which you are a signatory or assignee. All maintenance activities which may result in ground disturbance require prior approval from the authorized officer.
9. Bird ladders that meet BLM standards must be installed and functioning on water troughs located on public lands. The permittee would inform BLM if bird ladders are needed on permanent troughs, and BLM would supply bird ladders. The permittee would be responsible for providing bird ladders for temporary troughs. It would be the permittee's responsibility to maintain and install all bird ladders.
10. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(b), you must notify the BLM Field Manager, by telephone with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony on federal lands. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c), you must immediately stop any ongoing activities connected with such discovery and make a reasonable effort to protect the discovered remains or objects.
11. Permittees or lessees shall provide reasonable administrative access across private and leased lands to the BLM for the orderly management and protection of public lands.

Rationale

The BLM analyzed three alternatives for grazing permit renewal in the Cambridge Allotment in EA#DOI-BLM-ID-B010-2010-0057-EA: Alternative A - No Grazing for a Ten-year Term, Alternative B – Continue Current Use, and Alternative C - BLM Proposed Action. Through the allotment evaluation and determination, it was shown that all applicable Rangeland Health Standards and Livestock Management Guidelines were being met in 2004. Site visits were conducted in 2011 and confirmed that the allotment was still meeting Standards, as documented in the project record. Implementation of the proposed decision would continue to meet Standards and maintain or improve resource conditions because:

Standard 1 (Watersheds)

The standard would continue to be met with small areas of localized disturbance (EA Section 3.1.2.3). Overall, the ecological processes are functioning within a normal range of variation. Vegetative cover, biological soil crust cover, and litter amount is adequate to stabilize soils and cycle water and nutrients. Negligible to minor mechanical and biological damage from sheep would occur on all slope classes; however, because sheep are smaller and, with herding, tend to spend less time in a particular area,

impacts would be less than for cattle. Moderate to major mechanical and biological impacts would occur in isolated areas where sheep are consistently bedded (on private lands when bucks, the typical livestock type, are grazed). Trailing sheep cross-country through the Rocky Slope, Rush Peak, Horse Flat, and Cambridge (#00154) allotments would have minor to moderate mechanical impacts annually.

Standard 4 (Native Plant Communities)

The standard would continue to be met (EA Section 3.1.2.3). Only minor shifts in vegetation attributes have taken place and there is a slight departure from what is expected for the site; issues are small in scale and localized (EA Section 3.1.1). Overall, native plant diversity (number and type of species) would be maintained at levels similar to Ecological Site Descriptions, and native herbaceous plants (bunchgrasses and forbs) and shrubs would remain vigorous and productive (capable of reproduction and recruitment). Leafy spurge has been recorded in the allotment. Although noxious weeds are present, they are currently not detracting from overall native plant community health. Weed treatments are ongoing and would continue as new infestations of these species are discovered.

Although Standard 4 is currently being met under Alternative B (Section 3.1.2.3), the season-of-use would be changed to a later turnout date (May 1), which would reduce trampling impacts associated with wet soils and would reduce livestock utilization levels during the critical growing period (seed stalk emergence to seed dissemination). Grazing when the soils are firm and grasses are physiologically capable of withstanding grazing pressure would help maintain/improve plant vigor. It would also help maintain native plant communities and ensure the proper functioning of ecological processes and continued productivity and diversity of native plant species. Cross-country sheep trailing through the Rocky Slope, Rush Peak, Horse Flat, and Cambridge (#00154) allotments would have minor to moderate trampling and vector impacts annually.

Standard 8 (Threatened and Endangered Plants and Animals)

The standard would continue to be met for greater sage-grouse and Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep (EA sections 3.2.2.3 and 3.2.2.4). Special status plants and fish are not present.

Greater Sage-grouse

Brood-rearing habitat would be maintained or improved over the 10-year period (EA sections 3.2.2.3 and 3.2.2.4). The allotment contains primarily perennial grassland habitat; however, patches of shrubs may provide suitable nesting cover (EA section 3.2.1). Delaying turnout up to four weeks would benefit nesting birds as utilization levels would not likely reach 40% until the latter part of the nesting period. Improved distribution of domestic sheep would help limit utilization levels except at bedding areas. Deep-rooted perennial grasses and forbs would be maintained and provide suitable brood-rearing habitat. Livestock and herding activities would cause negligible to moderate trampling and disturbance impacts on ground nesting species. Trailing sheep through PGH in the Rocky Slope, Rush Peak, Horse Flat, and Cambridge (#00154) allotments could have minor to moderate trampling and disturbance impacts during the nesting season; however, the allotments are at least 5.8 miles from the nearest active lek.

Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep

The allotment contains 517 acres of bighorn sheep summer source habitat, with the majority (81%) occurring on private land. This habitat is not contiguous with occupied or Hells Canyon Population Management Unit (PMU) core herd home range (CHHR) habitats located 2.7 and 3.4 miles respectively from the public lands in the allotment; however, it is within line of sight. Domestic sheep that come into contact with bighorn sheep may transmit diseases that can result in bighorn sheep population die-offs. The EA (Section 3.2.2.1) used the 2013 Bighorn Sheep Risk of Contact Tool to

determine the number of times a bighorn sheep herd could come in contact with the allotment. The EA examined two scenarios: Current Herds (based on current population numbers, sex ratios, and distribution of the Sheep Mountain and Lookout Mountain herds) and Potential Population (based on predicted carrying capacity and distribution based on telemetry, modelling, and Idaho Department of Fish and Game [IDFG] management objectives of the Hells Canyon PMU).

Based on the Bighorn Sheep Risk of Contact Tool, <1 contact/50-year period would occur between bighorn sheep in the Sheep Mountain Herd and the allotment or the trailing route, <1 contacts/50-year period would occur between bighorn sheep in the Lookout Mountain Herd and the allotment or the trailing route, and 12-12.5 contacts/50-year period would occur between bighorn sheep in Hells Canyon PMU and the allotment or the trailing route (EA Section 3.2.2.1). The 2010 Payette National Forest Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (PNF FSEIS) and Record of Decision determined that ≤ 4 contacts/50-year period would allow long-term population viability. The Payette analyses incorporated a large amount of scientific literature, input from many bighorn sheep experts, and modeling that incorporates current best science analysis for interspecies contact. Incorporating the Payette analyses is appropriate because the Cambridge Allotment is within 4 miles of the area analyzed in the PNF FSEIS.

Continuing domestic sheep use would not adversely affect current bighorn sheep herds in Hells Canyon because (EA sections 3.2.1, 3.2.2.1, and 3.2.2.3):

- The IDFG indicated that the closest Idaho bighorn sheep herd (Sheep Mountain) is already infected with pathogens that cause pneumonia in bighorn sheep and the herd is not expected to survive beyond five years. The 50-year rate of contact with the Sheep Mountain herd is estimated to be <1 contact which would be below the rate of contact considered detrimental to long-term population viability.
- The only observations of bighorns in the Weiser River drainage were of recently transplanted animals, which would not be considered typical behavior for established populations. The source herd for the foraging animals was considered not to have established by 2003 because of low survival rates and dispersal to existing herds.
- The Lookout Mountain herd in Oregon is the closest disease-free bighorn herd, which is 21 miles from the allotment. The 50-year rate of contact with the Lookout Mountain herd is estimated <1 contact which would be below the rate of contact considered detrimental to long-term population viability. Monitoring and control of foraging animals by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) would help limit risk of contact with the herd, but the amount of improvement cannot be determined.
- Annual coordination between BLM, the permittee, IDFG, and ODFW would help ensure that changes in bighorn sheep numbers, distribution, and movements would be considered before annual use is authorized.
- The rate of contact with the Hells Canyon PMU would be at level considered detrimental to long-term population viability; however, this analysis represents a Potential Population that does not currently exist. The density of bighorns is approximately 10% of the PMU carrying capacity; therefore, the amount of foray activity is greatly reduced from potential levels at carrying capacity. The IDFG indicates that all bighorns in the PMU are considered to be infected with pneumonia and are not expected to survive or expand. When a viable, disease-free population becomes established within foray distance of the allotment, changing kind of livestock would eliminate risk of disease transmission from permitted livestock using the allotment to animals in the Hells Canyon PMU. This would be conformance with the

management action identified in IDFG's 2010 Bighorn Sheep Management Plan to "implement management actions as possible to reduce impacts of disease."

- Implementation of a modified SRP would help identify potential problems including bighorn sheep sightings in the allotment and presence of unhealthy domestic sheep so that they could be addressed. While an SRP would not prevent potential disease transmission, implementation could help lower the probability of disease transmission. Implementation of other best management practices (e.g., dogs, woven wire fencing, and regular counting) could reduce potential contact between bighorn sheep and domestic sheep.
- Trailing sheep would be present for a short time period, which, combined with the disturbance (dogs, people) associated with trailing, would minimize the risk of contact with bighorn sheep.

Grazing Preference Transfer

Transfer of grazing privileges addresses the Grazing Preference and Preference Transfer Applications filed by Frank Shirts Jr. These applications were received in 2012, in accordance with the grazing regulations (43 CFR 4100). The applicant has met all qualifications of 43 CFR 4110.1, 4110.2, 4110.2-1, 4110.2-2, and 4110.2-3. Authorization of the grazing permit to Frank Shirts Jr. is consistent with 43 CFR 4100.0-8, 4130.2, 4130.3, 4130.3-1, 4130.3-2, and 4160.

Conclusion

I have determined the issuance of a grazing permit and transferring grazing preference would be in conformance with the Cascade Resource Management Plan dated July 1, 1988, and that implementation of the livestock grazing management actions described in alternatives B and C of DOI-BLM-B010-2010-0057-EA, with adjustments to Mandatory, Allotment Specific, and Boise District Standard Other Terms and Conditions, would continue to meet Standards. The kind of livestock would remain as sheep because of the low risk of contact between bighorn sheep and domestic sheep on BLM lands at this time. However, this conclusion may change if the presence of domestic sheep would threaten a disease-free bighorn sheep herd.

Authority

The authorities under which this decision is being issued include the Taylor Grazing Act of 1934, as amended, and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as promulgated through Title 43 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Subpart 4100 Grazing Administration - Exclusive of Alaska.

My decision is issued under the following specific regulations:

- 4100.0-8 Land use plans. The CRMP designates the Cambridge Allotment as available for livestock grazing.
- 4110.3 Changes in permitted use.
- 4130.2 Grazing permits or leases. Grazing permits may be issued to qualified applicants on lands designated as available for livestock grazing. Grazing permits shall be issued for a term of 10 years unless the authorized officer determines that a lesser term is in the best interest of sound management.
- 4130.3 Terms and conditions. Grazing permits must specify the terms and conditions that are needed to achieve desired resource conditions, including both mandatory and other terms and conditions; and
- 4180 Fundamentals of Rangeland Health and Standards and Guidelines for Grazing Administration. This Proposed Decision would result in appropriate action(s) to modify

existing grazing management; modifications to the Mandatory and Other Terms and Conditions would ensure that Standards would continue to be met.

Right of Protest and/or Appeal

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 Terry Humphrey, Four Rivers Field Office Manager, 3948 Development Avenue, Boise ID 83705, within 15 days after receipt of such decision. The protest, if filed should clearly and concisely state the reason(s) 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 protest 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 writing in accordance with 43 CFR 4.470 and 43 CFR 4160.4. 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. The appeal may be accompanied by a petition for a stay of the decision in accordance with 43 CFR 4.471 pending final determination on appeal. In accordance with 43 CFR 4.401, BLM does not accept fax or email filing of a notice of appeal and petition for stay. Any notice of appeal and/or petition for stay must be sent or delivered to the office of the authorized officer by mail or personal delivery. The person/party must also serve a copy of the appeal on the Office of the Solicitor, Boise Field Solicitors Office, University Plaza, 960 Broadway Ave., Suite 400, Boise Idaho, 83706 and person(s) named [43 CFR 4.421(h)] in the *copies sent to*: section of this decision.

Should you wish to file a motion for 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.

As noted above, the petition for stay must be filed in the office of the authorized officer and served in accordance with 43 CFR 4.471. In accordance with 43 CFR 4.401, BLM does not accept fax or email filing of a notice of appeal and petition for stay. Any notice of appeal and/or petition for stay must be sent or delivered to the office of the authorized officer by mail or personal delivery.

Any person named in the decision that receives a copy of a petition for a stay and/or an appeal, see 43 CFR 4.472(b) for procedures to follow if you wish to respond.

If you have any questions, please contact either Matt McCoy Four Rivers Assistant Field Manager at (208) 384-3343, or myself at 208-384-3430.

Sincerely,

Terry A Humphrey
Four Rivers Field Manager

1 Enclosure:

1) Cambridge Allotment Map (1p)

cc:

Adams County Commissioners, C/O Joe Holmes, PO Box 48, Council, ID 83612
Burns Paiute Tribe, Tribal Chairman, 100 Pasigo Street, Burns, OR 97720
Confederate Tribes of The Umatilla, Tribal Chairman, 46411 Timine Way, Pendleton, OR 97801
Grazing Board Resource Area Representatives, Phil Soulen, C/O Soulen Livestock, 1760 Fairmont Drive, Weiser, ID 83672
Grazing Board Resource Area Representatives, Stan Boyd, PO Box 2596, Boise, ID 83701
Grazing Board Resource Area Representatives, Weldon Branch, Vice Chairman, 3621 North Crane Road, Midvale, ID 83645
Hells Canyon Preservation Council, PO Box 2768, La Grande, OR 978560
Honorable Congressman Raul Labrador, 1115 Albany Street, Caldwell, ID 83605
Honorable Senator Jim Risch, 350 North 9th Street, Suite 302, Boise, ID 83702
Honorable, Senator Mike Crapo, 251 East Front Street, Suite 205, Boise, ID 83702
Idaho Conservation League, 710 N 6th Street, Boise, ID 83702
Idaho Department of Agriculture, PO Box 790, Boise, ID 83701
Idaho Department of Fish & Game, C/O Rick Ward, 3101 South Powerline Road, Nampa, ID 83686
Idaho Department of Lands, C/O Scott Corkill, 555 Deinhard Lane, McCall, ID 83638
Idaho Department of Lands, Grazing Program Manager, PO Box 83720, Boise, ID 83720
Idaho Wild Sheep Foundation, PO Box 8224, Boise, ID 83707-8224
Nez Perce Tribes, Tribal Chairman, PO Box 305, Lapwai, ID 83540
Oregon Dept of Fish & Game, C/O Brian Ratliff, 2995 Hughes Lane, Baker City, OR 97814
Payette National Forest, 800 West Lakeside, McCall, ID 83638
Shoshone-Bannock Tribe, Nathan Small, PO Box 306, Fort Hall, ID 83203
Shoshone-Paiute Tribe, C/O Ted Howard, PO Box 219, Owyhee, NV 89832
The Wilderness Society, 305 N. 9th St., Ste. 302, Boise, ID 83702
US Fish and Wildlife Service, 1387 South Vinnell Way, Boise, ID 83709
Washington County Commissioners, 256 East Court, Weiser, ID 83672
Western Watersheds Project, PO Box 1770, Hailey, ID 83333

Separation Response Plan for Addressing Potential and Actual Contact between Bighorn Sheep and Domestic Sheep on the Cambridge Allotment

Plan Developed Cooperatively by the Four Rivers Field Office Bureau of Land Management and

The potential for interaction between bighorn sheep and domestic sheep in the Cambridge (#00082) Allotment and trailing through the Rocky Slope (#00231), Rush Peak (#00223), Horse Flat (#00095), and Cambridge (#00154) allotments have prompted the cooperating entities (signed below) to develop a protocol that ensures a timely and appropriate response when bighorn sheep and domestic sheep are likely to or have come into contact.

The distance between bighorn sheep sightings and domestic sheep bands would determine the type and immediacy of response. Appropriate actions would be taken as determined by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), in consultation with the permittee and cooperating agencies, with the goal of ensuring separation between the species. The cooperating parties recognize that locating bighorn sheep or domestic sheep following a reported observation may be difficult and would collaborate on the best means of addressing the problem. The following actions would be taken by the BLM, permittee, and other land/wildlife management agencies:

- 1) The party making the observation would notify the BLM of the sighting as soon as possible. After learning of the observation, the BLM would contact all other cooperating parties. In the event that the party making the observation cannot reach the BLM representatives listed below, the observing party would contact other members of this agreement and inform them of the event.
- 2) The BLM would:
 - a. Rerun the Risk of Contact Tool (or reasonable equivalent; RCT) to determine if the allotment (or portions therein) is available for domestic sheep grazing at least two months prior to turnout. The Authorized Officer would determine what BLM-administered lands would be authorized for annual livestock use. The RCT would subsequently be rerun if new bighorn sheep sightings become available.
 - b. Work with the permittee to ensure or re-establish separation of the bighorn sheep and domestic sheep and/or goats.
 - c. Work with Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to determine appropriate responses.
 - d. Notify the permittee within 12 hours if the BLM observes a bighorn sheep within 6 miles of the allotment during the authorized use period. Subsequent coordination would determine necessary use modifications to minimize risk of contact.
 - e. Report sightings of lost or stray domestic sheep (those not controlled by a herder) as soon as possible (within 12 hours).
- 3) The permittee/herder would:
 - a. Herders with each band would have either a Satellite phone, cell phone, radio or other similar and effective communication device that is in functioning order. Functioning order is defined as operable and not "dead" or having battery life adequate to make contact.

- b. If bighorn sheep are observed within 1 mile of domestic sheep (during trailing or allotted use), the herder would immediately move the band to ensure 1 mile separation from the bighorn sheep. The BLM would be notified immediately.
 - c. If bighorn sheep are observed between 1 and 6 miles of domestic sheep, the herder would ensure that at least 1 mile of separation is maintained. The herder would notify the permittee of the sighting within 12 hours. The permittee would then notify the BLM within 3 hours.
 - d. For all bighorn sheep sightings, the herder/permittee must report:
 - i. The location of the domestic sheep band at the time the bighorn sheep was sighted.
 - ii. The number of bighorn sheep and their location.
 - iii. The distance between the bighorn sheep and the domestic sheep band.
 - iv. The current location of the domestic sheep band.
 - v. The direction the bighorn sheep went.
 - e. Make every reasonable effort to capture stray or lost domestic sheep as quickly as possible. If the permittee/herder fails to recover lost or stray domestic sheep within 24 hours of observing their absence, the BLM would be notified within 12 hours.
 - f. Prevent turnout of sick or diseased domestic sheep or goats on grazing allotments or trailing routes. Sick or diseased animals observed on the range should be reported to BLM personnel as soon as possible; after that initial notification, inter-agency coordination should promptly occur.
 - g. To the extent practicable, use pregnant domestic ewes or ewe-lamb pairs for grazing near occupied wild sheep habitats; avoid grazing of open ewes, yearling replacement ewes, and ewes that have lost their lambs because ewes in estrus may attract bighorn rams.
 - h. Count “marker sheep” on a regular basis and following any event where sheep have been “scattered” or spread unintentionally.
 - i. Count individual domestic sheep when entering an allotment and again when exiting an allotment.
- 4) The wildlife management agencies (IDFG, ODFW) would:
- a. Provide the BLM with updated bighorn sheep observation data annually by December 31.
 - b. Notify the BLM of any bighorn sheep sightings within 6 miles of the allotment. Notification would occur within 12 hours for bighorn sheep observed during the authorized domestic sheep use period.

Contact Information:

The following contacts for the permittee and each agency have been assigned as lead contacts to facilitate increased and timely communication and coordination:

Permittee name and phone number:

- 1st Alternate name and phone number:
- 2nd Alternate name and phone number:

BLM contact name and phone number:

- Assistant Field Manager: Matthew McCoy – 208-384-3343 (w), 208-921-8798 (c)
- Rangeland Management Specialist: Sarah Garcia – 208-384-3396 (w), 208-871-1838 (c)
- Wildlife Biologist: Joseph Weldon – 208-384-3203 (w)

Other appropriate agency contact name and phone number:

IDFG contact name and phone number:

1st Alternate contact name and phone number:
2nd Alternate contact name and phone number:

ODFW contact name and phone number:

1st Alternate contact name and phone number:
2nd Alternate contact name and phone number:

Signatures:

Permittee

Date

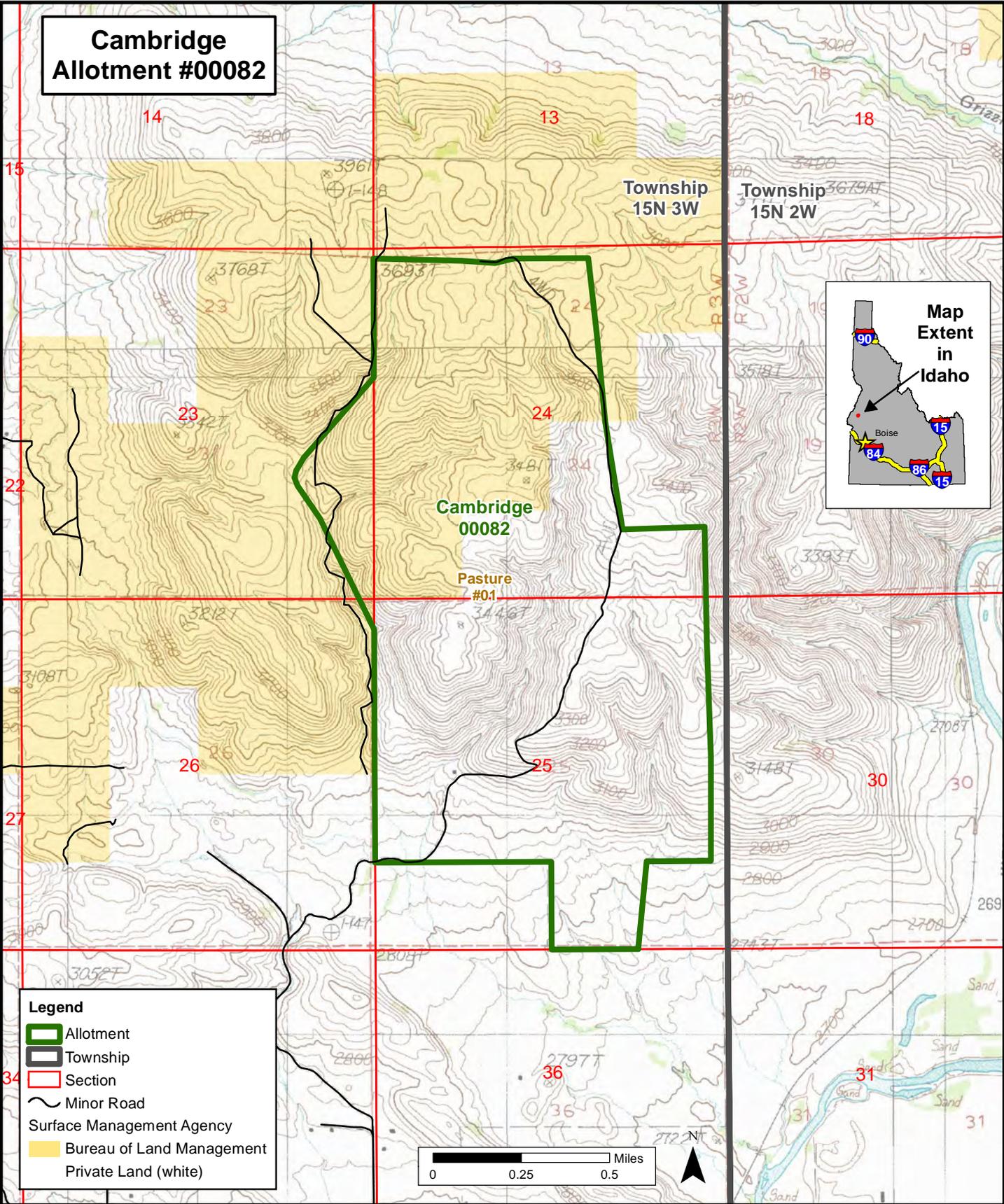
Bureau of Land Management

Date

Other Agency (optional)

Date

Cambridge Allotment #00082



Legend

- Allotment
- Township
- Section
- Minor Road
- Surface Management Agency
- Bureau of Land Management
- Private Land (white)



U.S. Department of the Interior
 Bureau of Land Management, Idaho
 Boise District, Four Rivers Field Office
 Map date: January 13, 2014



No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management. The accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data is not guaranteed. This map, if digital, cannot be made Section 508 compliant. For help with its data or information, please contact the BLM Idaho State Office webmaster at (208) 373-4000.