

Categorical Exclusion Review

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Boise District Office
Four Rivers Field Office

Mesa Siding Allotment Grazing Preference Transfer

CE No.: DOI-BLM-ID-B010-2010-0059-CX	Lease/Serial/Case File Number: 1103965																									
<p>Purpose and Need for Action: To address the Grazing Preference Application and Preference Transfer Application filed by Sweeny Gillette in accordance with the grazing regulations (43 CFR 4110.2-3 Transfer of grazing preference) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).</p> <p>Sweeny Gillette (Authorization # 1103965) has a base property lease agreement with Pete Peterson Ranch (Lessor) for grazing use on the Mesa Siding Allotment (Authorization # 1103965). Timothy and Kelly Hansen’s grazing permit (Authorization #1102976) was not issued after the proposed decision became final on October 1, 2009, since their base property lease agreement with Jim Peterson was cancelled. Loss of ownership and control of the base property along with cancellation of the base property lease agreement for Mesa Siding Allotment terminates the previous grazing permit immediately (43 CFR 4110.2-1. (d), (Authorization #1102976). Therefore, the acceptance and approval of the valid Application for Transfer of Grazing Preference (Form 4130-1a) would transfer the grazing preference from Pete Peterson Ranch to Sweeny Gillette (Authorization #1103965).</p>																										
<p>Description of Proposed Action: Transfer of the active grazing preference within the Mesa Siding Allotment (#00219) from Pete Peterson Ranch to Sweeny Gillette, due to a base property lease agreement. The terms and conditions of the new permit (Authorization# 1103965) would be consistent with the previous permit (authorization: 1102976), and are identified below. The issuance of a grazing permit is processed through a separate action and is addressed in the Determination of Land Use Plan Conformance and NEPA Adequacy (DNA) #DOI-BLM-ID-B010-2010-0060-DNA; and in accordance with 43 CFR 4130.2 and 4160.1.</p>																										
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Permittee</th> <th rowspan="2">Allotment</th> <th rowspan="2">Livestock</th> <th rowspan="2">Season of Use</th> <th rowspan="2">Percent Public Lands</th> <th colspan="3">Preference</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Active</th> <th>Suspended</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Sweeny Gillette</td> <td>Mesa Siding (00219)</td> <td>120 Cattle</td> <td>04/10 to 08/15</td> <td>49</td> <td>113</td> <td>0</td> <td>113</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>								Permittee	Allotment	Livestock	Season of Use	Percent Public Lands	Preference			Active	Suspended	Total	Sweeny Gillette	Mesa Siding (00219)	120 Cattle	04/10 to 08/15	49	113	0	113
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<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Livestock grazing for the Mesa Siding allotment will comply with the Field Manager’s decision. 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 land. 3. Changes to the scheduled use require prior approval, on an annual basis. 4. The annual grazing use report (BLM 4130-5) must be properly completed, signed, dated and submitted within 15 days of completing your authorized annual grazing use. 5. Annual maintenance of range improvements will be completed prior to livestock entry of the allotment. 6. Livestock turn-out is subject to Boise District range readiness criteria. 7. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(b), the permittee must notify the BLM Field Manager, by telephone followed 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 object. 8. Salt and/or mineral blocks shall not be placed on public lands within one quarter (1/4) mile of springs, streams, meadows, riparian habitats or aspen stands. 																										

Project Location: The Mesa Siding Allotment (#00219) is located approximately two miles NE of Goodrich, Idaho. Public land is found in T. 16 N, R. 1 W., Section 31 W ½SW¼,SE¼, Section 32 SW¼, T. 15 N., R.1 W., Section 6 N½NE¼, Section 5 N ½NW ¼. (See Attachment 1-Map of Mesa Siding Allotment)		
Applicant (if any): Sweeny Gillette, Ontario, Oregon		
Part I – Plan Conformance Review		
This proposed Action is subject to the following land use plan: Cascade Resource Management Plan (CRMP) Date Plan Approved: July 1, 1988		
Remarks: The proposed action is in conformance with the LUP, because it is clearly consistent with the Range Program Objectives and Recommendations within the Range Management Section of the Cascade RMP.		
Part II – NEPA Review		
A. Categorical Exclusion Review: This proposed action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 11.9 D (Rangeland Management) for the (1) approval of transfers of grazing preference.		
B. Exceptions Review (Departmental List of Extraordinary Circumstances Review): Review the 12 exceptions which apply to individual actions within categorical exclusion. Environmental documents (EA or EIS) must be prepared for any actions involving these exceptions. The following Departmental List of Extraordinary Circumstances applies to individual actions. Departmental instructions mandate that environmental documents MUST BE PREPARED for actions which may: (Mark applicable answer for each item. If “yes”, prepare an EA/EIS and append this form to it.)		
List of Exceptions		
1. Have significant impacts on public health or safety.		
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Specialist Signature/Date: /s/ <i>Christina Handy</i> 7/21/2010
<i>Comments/Explanation:</i> This administrative transfer would not have any significant impacts on public health or safety. Livestock grazing is a recognized and authorized use, as identified in the CRMP.		
2. 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; or ecologically significant or critical areas, or is not in compliance with the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act.		
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Specialist Signature/Date: Water Quality & Wetlands/Floodplains: /s/ <i>J. Allen Tarter</i> 7-22-2010 Sensitive Plants: /s/ <i>Mark Steiger</i> 7/29/2010
<i>Comments/Explanation:</i> The allotment contains no unique natural or cultural features that would be affected by this transfer, and no ecologically significant or critical areas occur in the general area of the allotment.		
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].		
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Specialist Signature/Date: /s/ <i>Christina Handy</i> 7/21/2010
<i>Comments/Explanation:</i> This administrative action would not have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2) (E)]. All known conflicts and controversial effects (such as OHV/livestock grazing) are managed under the CRMP and the grazing permit’s terms and conditions. The proposed transfer of grazing privileges would result in no changes to current livestock grazing management; this is a routine administrative procedure. (EA#ID-2005-EA-011)		
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Specialist Signature/Date: /s/ <i>Christina Handy</i> 7/21/2010

<i>Comments/Explanation:</i> Livestock grazing is an ongoing activity, the continuation of which poses no unique or unknown environmental risks. (EA#ID-2005-EA-011, Appendix A21 pp.4-5)		
5. Establish a precedent for future actions or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Specialist Signature/Date: /s/ <i>Christina Handy</i> 7/21/2010
<i>Comments/Explanation:</i> Transfer of grazing preference without changes from the previous permit, is a routine administrative procedure. This action neither establishes a precedent for future actions nor represents a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects. A Rangeland Health Assessment, Evaluation and Determination of conformance with Idaho's Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management and NEPA assessment for grazing permit renewal were completed August 25, 2008, and a DNA-#DOI-BLM-ID-B010-2010-0060-DNA completed (July 2010).		
6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Specialist Signature/Date: /s/ <i>Christina Handy</i> 7/21/2010
<i>Comments/Explanation:</i> This administrative action does not have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant environmental effects. The impacts of livestock grazing in conjunction or cumulatively with other on-the-ground activities are already occurring, and would continue at the current rate and intensity as the existing permitted actions. Transferring existing grazing preference with no changes from the current authorization is neither individually nor cumulatively significant. (EA#ID-2005-EA-011 pp. 39-43)		
7. 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.		
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Specialist Signature/Date: /s/ <i>Dean C. Shaw</i> 8/2/2010
<i>Comments/Explanation:</i> The affected grazing allotment contains no known properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places.		
8. Have significant impacts on species listed or proposed to be listed on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or on designated Critical Habitat for these species.		
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Specialist Signature/Date for Plants: /s/ <i>Mark Steiger</i> 7/29/2010 Specialist Signature/Date for Wildlife: /s/ <i>Jill Holderman</i> 7/29/2010 Specialist Signature/Date for Fisheries/Aquatics: /s/ <i>J. Allen Tarter</i> 7-22- 2010
Plants <i>Comments/Explanation:</i> Indian Valley sedge is known to occur immediately to the east of the allotment. Jackson Creek occurs in the allotment and could support Indian Valley sedge; however, the stream has not been surveyed. .Transfer of grazing preference would not change the potential for its occurrence.		
Wildlife <i>Comments/Explanation:</i> No known federally listed or candidate wildlife species are known to be present. The allotment provides potential habitat for greater sage-grouse (a candidate species), southern Idaho ground squirrel (a candidate species), and Columbian sharp-tailed grouse (a BLM special status animal); however, the proposed transfer would not be expected to result in adverse impact because the proposed transfer of grazing privileges would result in no changes to current livestock grazing management. (EA#ID-110-2005-EA-011, Appendix A21 p. 5)		
Aquatics <i>Comments/Explanation:</i> No known federally listed, candidate, or BLM special status aquatic species occur within the area of the proposed action.		
9. Violate a Federal, State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Specialist Signature/Date: /s/ <i>Dean C. Shaw</i> 8/2/2010
<i>Comments/Explanation:</i> This routine administrative procedure is consistent and compatible with all known Federal, State, local and Tribal laws or requirements imposed for protection of the environment.		
10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).		
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Specialist Signature/Date: /s/ <i>Christina Handy</i> 7/21/2010

