

**Notice of Proposed Decision
For the
Canyon-Big Timber Land Health Environmental Assessment
DOI- BLM-ID-I040-2011-0001-EA**

Introduction and Background

In 2010, an interdisciplinary team (IDT) assessed the following eight Idaho Standards for Rangeland Health on BLM administered lands in the Canyon-Big Timber Watershed Assessment (CBT) Area: 1) Watersheds, 2) Riparian areas and wetlands, 3) Stream channel/floodplain, 4) Native plant communities, 5) Seedings, 6) Exotic plant communities, other than seedings, 7) Water quality, and 8) Threatened and endangered plants and animals. The assessment covered uplands, riparian/wetland areas and forested habitats and was conducted in accordance with the 4180 Land Health Standards Manual. The CBT Assessment Report was completed and released to the public in 2010.

Following the assessment, the BLM completed the CBT Land Health EA (DOI-BLM-ID-I040-2011-0001-EA) which analyzed and disclosed environmental impacts of implementing five management alternatives on the BLM administered lands in the CBT area. The EA included management alternatives to address resource issues identified in the CBT Assessment Report.

Management alternatives are aimed at improving land health. The alternatives fully analyzed in the EA were developed by the BLM in consultation with the grazing permittees, local landowners, conservation groups, state agencies and other federal agencies. Because livestock grazing is authorized on public land, grazing allotment boundaries were used to delineate the CBT Land Health EA analysis area. Additional information is available in the CBT Assessment Report and the CBT Land Health EA which are available at the Salmon Field Office or on the Internet at <https://www.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/projectSummary.do?methodName=renderDefaultProjectSummary&projectId=7903> . This Proposed Decision incorporates the CBT Assessment Report and the CBT Land Health EA by reference.

Proposed Decision

It is my proposed decision to implement Alternative 3 to address resource issues and concerns analyzed in the CBT Land Health EA, DOI-BLM-ID-I040-2011-0001-EA, including all design criteria described in Appendix A. My decision includes issuing ten-year term permits on sixteen allotments: Bull Creek, Center Ridge, Chamberlain Creek, Dump, Free Strip, Hawley Creek, Jakes Canyon, Leadore, Leadore Hill, Leadville, Nez Perce, Powderhorn, Purcell Creek, Spring Canyon, Tex Creek and Timber Creek (Figure 1).

To address livestock management resource concerns and requests from permittees to adjust their operations and to improve land health and enhance habitat conditions I propose to implement Alternative 3. The term grazing permits (for cattle and horses) will be modified and issued for a period of ten years with new terms and conditions; crossing permits will be issued up to the analyzed levels over the next ten years; and the range improvement projects will be implemented as described in the EA. I propose to suspend all Active Preference Sheep AUMs on the Center Ridge, Spring Canyon and Timber Creek Allotments.

All grazing permits in the CBT area will be subject to the following *Other Terms and Conditions*:

1. Cattle numbers shown under the Mandatory Terms and Conditions above reflect the maximum number of livestock, the maximum allowable season of use, and the maximum number of AUMs of forage that can be used in any given year. The number of livestock may be reduced within the season indicated, or the season of use may be shortened, in order to not exceed the maximum number of AUMs indicated. A reduced number of AUMs may be used in any given year to allow flexibility to respond to weather conditions, etc. Under no circumstances may Active Preference AUMs be exceeded.
2. As provided in Title 43 of the Code of Federal Regulations (43 CFR) 4130.3-2(d), you are hereby required to submit an actual grazing use report within 15 days after completion of your annual grazing use. Failure to comply could result in penalties as described at 43 CFR 4170.1.
3. Exclosures in the allotment cannot be grazed by livestock at any time.
4. All range improvements will be maintained prior to turn-out, and all water developments and associated pipelines will be drained and winterized.
5. Supplemental feeding is authorized and is limited to salt, mineral, and/or energy/protein in block, granular, or liquid form. If used, these supplements must be placed at least one-quarter (1/4) mile away from any stream and 500 feet away from any spring.

Rationale for Proposed Decision

My proposed decision is based on the CBT Assessment Report, the CBT Land Health EA (DOI-BLM-ID-I040-2011-0001-EA), detailed reports, site-specific monitoring and assessments in the related allotment files, first-hand knowledge of my staff, and review of public comments. I have reviewed the alternatives analyzed in detail to determine if they were responsive to the purpose and need for this proposal and the issues relevant to it. I have also reviewed the actions that were considered but not analyzed in detail to help me decide if the analysis had considered a reasonable range of alternatives. I find that the alternatives considered address the key issues and provide a reasonable range to consider.

I have determined that the following allotments **meet, or are making significant progress toward meeting**, all eight Standards for Rangeland Health.

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| 1. Bull Creek | 4. Leadore | 7. Timber Creek |
| 2. Dump | 5. Leadore Hill | |
| 3. Free Strip | 6. Purcell Creek | |

In addition, while the following allotments **do not meet** one or more of the Standards for Rangeland Health, I have determined that current BLM authorized activities, including livestock management, are not significant causal factors in failing to meet those standards. Significant

causal factors include: private irrigation practices, grazing management on non BLM managed lands, road networks and historic grazing practices.

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| 1. Center Ridge | 3. Jakes Canyon | 5. Nez Perce |
| 2. Hawley Creek | 4. Leadville | 6. Spring Canyon |

The following allotments **do not meet** one or more of the Standards for Rangeland Health and don't conform to the guidelines established for livestock grazing management. I have determined that current livestock management is a significant contributing factor in at least one of these standards not being met.

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| 1. Chamberlain Creek | 2. Powderhorn | 3. Tex Creek |
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It is necessary to change livestock management in these three grazing allotments to be consistent with the BLM's Standards and Guidelines for Rangeland Health and to ensure progress is made toward achieving the objectives of the proposed action. Implementing the management strategies as detailed below authorizes sustainable use of public lands while making progress toward meeting the land health standards and site-specific resource objectives identified for BLM managed public lands within specified CBT allotments.

I have chosen to implement numerous grazing management changes, including: changes to grazing period, active preference, livestock numbers, % public land (AUMs), removing sheep grazing, and the construction of range improvement projects. Implementation of these changes will enhance upland and riparian herbaceous plant vigor, increase plant production and residual cover, and restore riparian vegetative vigor and diversity on public land within the watershed. These changes are also expected to maintain or improve sagebrush habitat conditions for sagebrush obligate species, and enhance habitat for big game and many other wildlife species. Functional-at risk and non-functional riparian and wetland habitats are expected to trend toward proper functioning condition under these livestock management strategies. Improved riparian habitat will benefit wildlife and fish. These changes are described below by individual allotment.

I have determined that all grazing permittees currently permitted on the CBT allotments have satisfactory records of performance and are in substantial compliance with the terms and conditions of their existing Federal grazing permits that are being renewed with this proposed decision.

This proposed decision is in conformance with the Lemhi Resource Management Plan (RMP) as amended. It is in conformance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, the Taylor Grazing Act, the Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Management (43 CFR 4180), the Interim Management Policy for Lands Under Wilderness Review, and with the other statutes, regulations and plans listed on page 5 and 6 of the EA.

The BLM appreciates the input and interest received from the public during the process of renewing the permits in the Canyon to Big Timber watershed. The assigned ID team and I have considered the comments prior to making this proposed decision.

Allotment-Specific Livestock Management and Projects

The following section describes the allotment-specific livestock management changes and proposed projects. The proposed projects are shown on individual Maps in the CBT Land Health EA.

Bull Creek #06305

Grazing Management:

The current 10-year term permit on the allotment has the following Mandatory and Other Terms and Conditions:

Permit	Number/Kind	Grazing Period	% Public Land	Active Use (AUM)s	Active Preference	Suspended AUMs	Total AUMs
A	150 Cattle	4/20-5/11	69%	75	150	0	150
	150 Cattle	9/15-10/6	69%	75			

Other Terms and Conditions:

1. As provided in Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 4130.3-2(d), you are hereby required to submit a certified actual grazing use report within 15 days after completion of your annual grazing use. Failure to comply could result in the cancellation of your permit in whole or part.
2. BLM management of the allotment will continue to emphasize maintenance or improvement of riparian communities.

The level of use over the last five years (actual use) has been:

Permit	Maximum Number/Kind	Maximum Grazing Period	Average Active Use
A	230 Cattle	5/1-9/20	150

My proposed decision is to renew the grazing permit with a term of 10-years from March 1, 2012 to February 28, 2022 with the following Mandatory and Other Terms and Conditions for the Bull Creek Allotment:

Permit	Maximum Number/Kind	Maximum Grazing Period	% Public Land	Maximum Active Preference	Suspended AUMs	Total Preference
A	350 Cattle	5/1-9/15	53%	150	0	150

Other Terms and Conditions:

1. The corral in the northwest corner of the Bull Creek Pasture can be used for two days to sort cattle.

Rationale:

As described in the EA (Page 31 and Appendix A), the Bull Creek Allotment is currently meeting all applicable standards. The health of the allotment as reflected in the CBT Watershed Assessment Report is the result of grazing management under the current grazing permit.

The proposed decision for the Bull Creek Allotment differs from the current grazing permit in the following manner: (1) The grazing period for cattle will change from a split season of 4/20-5/11 and 9/15-10/6 to an inclusive period of 5/1-9/15 and (2) The percent public land will be changed to 53 to reflect the proportion of AUMs authorized on BLM managed lands versus the AUMs available on State and private lands fenced with the BLM lands.

BLM is changing grazing management from a split season to an inclusive season because the permittee also grazes on an adjoining USFS managed allotment and private lands. The inclusive season allows more flexibility to adjust use on BLM as it relates to adjacent lands. While this will henceforth allow grazing from 5/12 to 9/14, a period in which the allotment was previously closed to grazing, it will not result in a material change to the allotment because the later use will be during the dormant season for upland grasses which will be a benefit to the vegetation and subsequently wildlife using the allotment. As noted above, the primary reason for the change to an inclusive season is flexibility while working with adjacent land managers. Also, it is important to note that AUMs are not being increased on the allotment. The result is that even if the permittee chose to graze between 5/11 and 9/15, he would have to substantially reduce numbers or not graze at other times.

BLM's change to percent public land numbers is the result of recalculating the AUMs available within the allotment. In addition to the BLM managed public land in the allotment the permittee also has a permit to remove 64 AUMs from State of Idaho managed land and produces 70 AUMs on private land that he controls. However, this change will have no effect on resources, as it is merely an administrative issue and the same number of AUMs will be removed from the BLM managed public lands.

Grazing for the next ten-years under the proposed decision will result in the allotment continuing to meet all of the applicable Idaho Standards for Rangeland Health. Riparian conditions in the Bull Creek Allotment are expected to maintain and continue to meet Standard 2 due to the limited AUMs authorized on the permit. Bull Creek will continue to be Non-Riparian because of the irrigation ditch/diversion (EA Page 109).

There will be no difference in the number of AUMs removed, but the season of use will be 5 days shorter than it has been. The number of cattle that could be on the allotment at any one time will be increased to 350, compared to the current situation, but the amount of forage removed will not change and the number of days the cattle will be on the allotment (within the maximum grazing period) could be decreased. Impacts of this proposed decision will not be discernible and this allotment will continue to meet Standard 4 (EA Page 81).

Because there is no fish-bearing stream habitat on the allotment the proposed decision will not impact fish or their habitats (EA Page 136). Nesting habitat for greater sage-grouse in the Bull Creek Allotment is expected to continue to improve as additional young grass and shrub species continue to become established due to past changes in grazing management that will continue (EA Page 162). It has been determined by the BLM that this proposed decision will have no effect to species listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

Center Ridge #06309

Grazing Management:

The current 10-year term permits on the allotment have the following Mandatory and Other Terms and Conditions:

Permit	Number/Kind	Grazing Period	% Public Land	Active Use (AUM)s	Active Preference	Suspended AUMs	Total AUMs
A	1200 Sheep	5/22-6/12	90%	156	166	0	166
	1200 Sheep	7/13-7/13	90%	7			
B	407 Cattle	5/24-10/31	100%	2154	2170	1361	3531
	500 Cattle	11/1-11/1	100%	16			

Other Terms and Conditions (Permits A and B):

- As provided in Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 4130.3-2(d), you are hereby required to submit a certified actual grazing use report within 15 days after completion of your annual grazing use. Failure to comply could result in the cancellation of your permit in whole or part.
- BLM management of the allotment will continue to emphasize maintenance or improvement of riparian communities.
- All range improvements will be maintained prior to turn-out, and all water developments and associated pipelines will be drained and winterized.
- To allow flexibility, an earlier turn-out date may be applied for annually, and may be approved when range readiness has been determined to be appropriate.
- Salt and/or mineral supplements will be placed in areas agreed upon by BLM and the permittee.

Other Terms and Conditions (Permit B):

- Active trailing will be permitted for one day between 11/1 and 12/31 for up to 500 head of cattle.

The level of use over the last five years (actual use) has been:

Permit	Maximum Number/Kind	Maximum Grazing Period	Average Active Use
A	Sheep	NA	0
B	675 Cattle	5/10-10/22	1151

My proposed decision is to renew the grazing permits with terms of 10-years from March 1, 2012 to February 28, 2022 with the following Mandatory and Other Terms and Conditions for the Center Ridge Allotment:

Permit	Maximum Number/Kind	Maximum Grazing Period	% Public Land	Maximum Active Preference	Suspended AUMs	Total Preference
A	Sheep	NA	NA	0	166	166
B	500 Cattle	5/24-11/1	98%	1947	1361	3308

Other Terms and Conditions (Permits A and B):

- Livestock grazing of the A Pasture will not occur after 7/15.

Range Improvement Projects:

In addition, my proposed decision is to construct the following range improvement project:

- Construct an enclosure fence around the Poison Spring complex. The enclosure fence will

encompass approximately 4.5 acres and will be constructed using jacks and poles. The man-made pond will remain open for livestock access.

Rationale:

As described in the EA (Page 31 and Appendix A), the Center Ridge Allotment is currently meeting all applicable standards except for Standard 7 (Water Quality). The significant factors leading to Standard 7 not meeting are grazing management on private and state managed lands, the road network, and private irrigation practices. BLM grazing management is not the cause of the allotment not meeting Standard 7. The health of the allotment as reflected in the CBT Watershed Assessment Report is the result of grazing management under the current grazing permit.

The proposed decision for the Center Ridge Allotment differs from the current grazing permit in the following manner: (1) The 1200 sheep permitted on the current permit will no longer be permitted, (2) The grazing period for cattle will remain the same, but the maximum number of cattle on the allotment will be increased to 500 for the entire grazing period instead of allowing only 407 cattle for most of the period, (3) The Active Preference on the allotment will decrease from 2,336 AUMs to 1,947 AUMs, (4) The percent public land will be changed to 98 to reflect the proportion of AUMs authorized on BLM managed lands versus the AUMs available on State and private lands fenced with the BLM lands, and (5) Livestock grazing in the A Pasture will not occur after 7/15.

The CBT Land Health EA described an issue with potential disease transfer from domestic sheep to Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep. The permittee has not utilized the sheep AUMs for over 25 years and a risk to bighorn sheep in three population management units (North Beaverhead, North Lemhi and South Lemhi) will exist if those AUMs are utilized. Accordingly, my proposed decision is to suspend all of the sheep AUMs.

BLM is increasing the maximum number of cattle to 500 to simplify the permit to one line. While this will henceforth allow an additional 93 cattle on the allotment from 5/24-10/31 it will not result in a material change to the allotment because the AUMs are not being increased. The result is that even if the permittee chooses to graze with more cattle, he would have to reduce the grazing period.

The long-term AUMs described in the Lemhi RMP for the Center Ridge Allotment are 1,947. BLM's change to percent public land numbers is the result of recalculating the AUMs available within the allotment with the reduction of BLM AUMs. In addition to the BLM managed public lands in the allotment the permittee also has a permit to remove 18 AUMs from State of Idaho lands and produces 12 AUMs on private lands that he controls.

By eliminating livestock grazing in the A Pasture after 7/15 the riparian community will have time during the growing season to recover from most of the impacts from livestock including bank trampling and vegetative removal. With no grazing use during the hot season, the riparian greenline condition will continue to remain in Proper Functioning Condition (PFC). Streambank stability is expected to be maintained and improved due to early use and the heavily wooded nature of the channel, limiting livestock impacts to streambank stability.

Grazing for the next ten years under the proposed decision will result in the allotment continuing to meet all of the applicable Idaho Standards for Rangeland Health, with the exception of Standard 7. Despite changes in grazing management, water quality on the allotment will continue to be influenced by grazing management on private and state lands outside of the allotment, road issues, and private irrigation practices that limit the amount of water in Eighteenmile Creek. The proposed decision will allow the other standards to continue to be met and will allow conditions to remain stable and improve.

The Center Ridge Allotment authorized use will be substantially increased relative to the reduced actual use in the past five years. However, livestock can only use Eighteenmile Creek in the A pasture until July 15th (early season). Early use on the stream is expected to maintain or improve wetland/riparian conditions and maintain Eighteenmile Creek's PFC rating in the A Pasture. In the C pasture, the Eighteenmile Creek segment will continue to be excluded and remain in PFC. Fencing Poison Springs in the A Pasture to exclude livestock is expected to increase riparian-wetland conditions around the springs. Early season use on Eighteenmile Creek and excluding Poison Springs is expected to maintain or improve wetland/riparian conditions and the allotment will continue to meet Standards 2 and 3. In 2011, the cattle used the segment on Eighteenmile Creek with a maximum bank alteration measured at 17% and hydric herbaceous height at 13 inches in July. At the end of the growing season, bank alteration improved to 13% and the hydric herbaceous height was 16 inches. Even with twice as many cattle in the early season, allowing time for riparian plants to regrow after grazing, along with the good existing ecological conditions, will reduce negative impacts to an insignificant level (EA Page 109).

The Center Ridge Allotment is currently meeting Standard 4 and was rated as having a “none-to-slight” departure from the reference for the RHA Biotic Attribute, meaning the allotment is producing the kinds and amounts of vegetation expected (as described on the ecological site descriptions). The AUMs proposed will be in conformance with those authorized in the Lemhi RMP; current use is approximately half of what was authorized in the Lemhi RMP and the allotment is producing the kinds and amounts of vegetation expected for the sites. It is expected that because the allotment is meeting Standard 4, and shows no departure from the reference state, the use levels authorized under the Lemhi RMP will not impact the ability of the allotment to meet Standard 4. This is not only due to the findings of the RHA, but, compared to the current situation, cattle numbers will be reduced by 175 to a maximum of 500 and the grazing period will be deferred 14 days, which will reduce impacts to upland vegetation during the Critical Growth Period (CGP). The reduction in cattle numbers and 14 day turn-out deferment will benefit native plant communities by reducing grazing during the period of most active plant growth. The use period will also be extended into the dormant season by 10 days; use during this period will increase plant vigor, reproduction, and seedling establishment of key native species. The stocking rate for this allotment will be 8.1 acres/AUM, a moderate rate that is in conformance with the Lemhi RMP, as amended (EA Page 82).

Reduced grazing impacts to stream/riparian habitat and associated parameters are expected on the allotment. This is expected to improve water quality conditions by increasing streamside vegetative cover and bank stability, reducing erosion and sedimentation and decreasing water temperatures (EA Page 128).

Grazing in the A Pasture will be limited to the early portion of the grazing season, only permitted through July 15. Even with the increase in permitted AUMs, conditions are expected to remain in PFC. This is because most of the grazing will take place in the upland habitat with off-site water troughs away from the stream and the limited use of the A Pasture to before July 15. This will give the riparian community time during the growing season to recover from most of the impacts from livestock including bank trampling and vegetative removal. With no grazing use during the hot season, the riparian greenline condition will continue to remain in PFC. Streambank stability is expected to be maintained and improve due to early use and the heavily wooded nature of the channel, limiting livestock impacts to streambank stability. Substrate is expected to improve with the increases in riparian shrub cover and a reduction in seasonal bank alteration. Impacts from upstream of the allotment are expected to remain the same and contribute to higher than expected fine sediment in the substrate, potentially resulting in decreased survival of incubating eggs. With the recovery of riparian vegetation, particularly woody species, an increase in water temperatures is not expected (EA Page 145). The allotment will continue to provide nesting habitat for greater sage-grouse but with reduced grass for cover which could lead to more sage-grouse nests or chicks being lost to predation than under the current condition (EA Page 162).

It has been determined by the BLM that this proposed decision may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect Chinook salmon, steelhead trout, bull trout or their designated critical habitat. If the proposed decision has an effect on those species, the affect will be through the impacts of cattle grazing on riparian vegetation or through introduction of sediment to Eighteenmile Creek through hoof action on streambanks. However, the affect is not likely to be adverse because the pasture with the stream will only be used prior to 7/15 allowing time for regrowth of riparian plants. NOAA and USFWS have concurred with this finding. The BLM has also determined that the proposed decision will have no effect on Canada lynx, sockeye salmon or sockeye salmon designated critical habitat or adverse effect on Chinook salmon essential fish habitat.

Chamberlain Creek #06308

Grazing Management:

The current 10-year term permit on the allotment has the following Mandatory and Other Terms and Conditions:

Permit	Number/Kind	Grazing Period	% Public Land	Active Use (AUM)s	Active Preference	Suspended AUMs	Total AUMs
A	309 Cattle	6/1-9/30	100%	1239	1249	1331	2580

Other Terms and Conditions:

1. As provided in Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 4130.3-2(d), you are hereby required to submit a certified actual grazing use report within 15 days after completion of your annual grazing use. Failure to comply could result in the cancellation of your permit in whole or part.
2. BLM management of the allotment will continue to emphasize maintenance or improvement of riparian communities.
3. Use in the Chamberlain Creek Allotment will be in accordance with the Chamberlain Creek Allotment Management Plan (AMP).

The level of use over the last five years (actual use) has been:

Permit	Maximum Number/Kind	Maximum Grazing Period	Average Active Use
A	337 Cattle	5/20-9/25	1033

My proposed decision is to renew the grazing permit with a term of 10-years from March 1, 2012 to February 28, 2022 with the following Mandatory and Other Terms and Conditions for the Chamberlain Creek Allotment:

Permit	Maximum Number/Kind	Maximum Grazing Period	% Public Land	Maximum Active Preference	Suspended AUMs	Total Preference
A	410 Cattle	6/1-9/30	66%	1081	1331	2412

Other Terms and Conditions:

1. Only the Big Bend Pasture can be grazed after 9/15.
2. If in-season monitoring on any key area finds > 15% alteration or <4" of stubble height livestock will be removed from the pasture with the key area for the rest of the season.
3. The McGinty Creek Pasture will not be grazed after 6/30.

Range Improvement Projects:

In addition, my proposed decision is to construct the following range improvement projects:

- Construct a new 3.3 mile barbed wire division fence to separate the Big Bend Pasture into two new pastures, the Big Bend and McGinty Creek Pastures. Approximately 2.75 miles of the new fence will run near and parallel to an existing two-track road on the ridge to the south of McGinty Creek. The remainder of the fence will run off of the ridge through the sagebrush to the west, and tie in with the division fence between the Chamberlain Creek and Center Ridge Allotments.
- Construct a pipeline running northwest approximately 1.25 miles from McGinty Creek, then southwest another one mile. There will be one trough installed at the end of the pipeline. A hydro-screen water collector or headbox will be installed at the point of diversion in McGinty Creek on private land. The landowner will transfer a 0.02 cubic foot per second water right to the BLM for the pipeline project. The landowner will also grant the BLM an easement for the distance the pipeline crosses private land (approximately 0.75 mile).

Rationale:

As described in the EA (Page 32 and Appendix A), the Chamberlain Creek Allotment is currently not meeting Standards 2, 3, 7 and 8. The BLM has determined that the existing grazing management is not a significant causal factor for not meeting Standard 7. The failure to achieve Standard 7 is most likely due to grazing management on state and private lands, private irrigation practices and the road system. Standards 2, 3 and 8 are due to current grazing management that have resulted in poor regeneration survival in the allotment, riparian habitat along Clear Creek that is Functional-at-Risk with a downward trend, riparian habitat along Pass Creek that is FAR-static and riparian habitat along McGinty Creek that is Non-Functional.

The proposed decision for the Chamberlain Creek Allotment differs from the current grazing permit in the following manner: (1) The maximum cattle number permitted for the allotment will increase from 309 to 410, (2) The percent public land will be changed to 66 to reflect the proportion of AUMs authorized on BLM managed lands versus the AUMs available on State and

private lands fenced with the BLM lands, (3) The Active Preference on the allotment will decrease from 1,249 AUMs to 1,081 AUMs, (4) Livestock grazing in the McGinty Creek Pasture will not occur after 6/30, nor will grazing occur after 9/15 in the other pastures with riparian habitat, and (5) If utilization on key areas leads to more than 15% alteration or less than 4" of stubble height cattle will be removed from the pasture.

BLM is increasing the maximum number of cattle to 410 as applied for by the permittee. While this will henceforth allow an additional 99 cattle on the allotment it will not result in a material change to the allotment because the AUMs are being decreased. The result is that even if the permittee chooses to graze with more cattle, he would have to substantially reduce the grazing period.

BLM's change to percent public land numbers is the result of recalculating the AUMs available within the allotment with the reduction of BLM AUMs. In addition to the BLM managed public lands in the allotment the permittee also has a permit to remove 162 AUMs from State of Idaho lands and produces 398 AUMs on private lands that he controls.

By eliminating livestock grazing in the new McGinty Creek Pasture after 6/30 the riparian community will have time during the growing season to recover from most of the impacts from livestock including bank trampling and vegetative removal. If monitoring during the grazing season finds > 15% alteration or <4" of stubble height at the key areas in the So. 18 Mile or 18 Mile Pastures the cattle will be removed from that pasture for the rest of the grazing period. This will further assure that riparian habitat improves over time.

Grazing for the next ten years under the proposed decision will result in the allotment meeting, or making significant progress towards meeting, all of the applicable Idaho Standards for Rangeland Health, with the exception of Standard 7. Despite changes in grazing management, water quality on the allotment will continue to be influenced by grazing management on private and state lands outside of the allotment and road issues that increase sediment in Eighteenmile Creek.

Riparian conditions are expected to improve under the Proposed Decision. Cattle numbers are similar to current management, but Terms and Conditions on the permit are expected to improve riparian conditions on Eighteenmile, Pass, McGinty, and Divide Creeks. Limited use on Eighteenmile Creek is expected to maintain its good riparian-wetland conditions and PFC rating. The new division fence will separate the Big Bend Pasture into two new pastures, the Big Bend and McGinty Creek Pastures. The McGinty Creek Pasture will only be grazed in the early season, with cattle off by June 30th. Early use on this pasture will improve riparian-wetland conditions on McGinty Creek. The only pasture to be used after September 15th will be the new Big Bend Pasture, which consists of upland vegetation and the intermittent, diverted channel of Divide Creek. Divide Creek is expected to remain FAR-static and dry in the Big Bend Pasture due to the irrigation diversion and its naturally dry/intermittent state. The new terms and conditions on the permit are expected to result in the maintenance or improvement of wetland/riparian conditions and make significant progress toward meeting Standards 2 and 3 (EA Page 110).

Slight increases in AUMs removed will occur on the allotment (4.6%) when compared to the last 5 years of actual use. Use on the allotment will begin 10 days later compared to the current situation, which will slightly reduce impacts to upland native vegetation in the turn-out pasture during the CGP. The allotment is currently meeting Standard 4 and will continue to meet Standard 4; stocking rates will be 15.2 acres/AUM (EA Pages 81-82).

Reduced grazing impacts to stream/riparian habitat and associated parameters are expected on the allotment from the Terms and Conditions limiting grazing during key seasons (EA Page 128). The fences will benefit water quality by reducing grazing impacts. This will include maintaining/improving vegetative cover and decreasing bank trampling. This is expected to increase water quality conditions by increasing streamside vegetative cover, increasing bank stability, reducing erosion and sedimentation and decreasing water temperatures (EA Pages 128-129).

Impacts to fish will decrease due to the seasonal limitations on Eighteenmile and Pass Creeks. Eighteenmile and Pass Creeks are currently occupied by bull trout only in the headwaters. Historically, livestock have grazed along both streams as late as into October. The Proposed Decision should eliminate bull trout spawning conflicts and redd disturbance by not allowing grazing after September 15.

Streambank stability on Eighteenmile and Pass Creeks is expected to be maintained and improve due to early season use and the extensive woody vegetation. Due to the heavily wooded nature of the Eighteenmile Creek channel, livestock will have limited potential to impact streambank stability. Substrate is expected to improve with the increase in riparian shrub cover and a reduction of seasonal bank alteration. With the recovery of riparian vegetation, particularly woody species, water temperatures are expected to decrease. The allotment will make significant progress toward meeting Standards 2, 3 and 8. As a result, it is likely that instream cover for fish will increase which will reduce predation on juvenile fish and reduce stress on juvenile and adult fish. Increased riparian vegetation is likely to increase terrestrial macro invertebrate input to the stream and maintain cool water temperatures which have the potential to increase fish growth and survival. Improved riparian condition will result in decreased fine sediment input which will improve survival of incubating eggs. In addition, improved riparian condition will create velocity refuge areas for juveniles and adults during flood flows which will likely increase survival during high flow events.

The BLM has determined that this proposed decision may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect Chinook salmon, steelhead trout, their designated critical habitat or bull trout. The USFWS and NOAA have concurred with this determination. If the proposed decision has an effect on those species, the affect will be through the impacts of cattle grazing on riparian vegetation or through introduction of sediment to Eighteenmile or Pass Creeks through hoof action on streambanks. Cattle will be removed from the pasture if utilization results in more than 15% alteration or less than 4" of stubble height at the key areas. The proposed decision will have no effect on Canada lynx, sockeye salmon, sockeye salmon designated critical habitat or bull trout designated critical habitat. The proposed decision will have no adverse effect on Chinook salmon essential fish habitat.

Dump #06219

Grazing Management:

The current 10-year term permit on the allotment has the following Mandatory and Other Terms and Conditions:

Permit	Number/Kind	Grazing Period	% Public Land	Active Use (AUM)s	Active Preference	Suspended AUMs	Total AUMs
A	460 Cattle	6/1-6/2	100%	30	30	0	30

Other Terms and Conditions:

1. As provided in Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 4130.3-2(d), you are hereby required to submit a certified actual grazing use report within 15 days after completion of your annual grazing use. Failure to comply could result in the cancellation of your permit in whole or part.
2. Livestock numbers may increase and/or number of days may decrease as long as the total AUM use does not exceed the permitted 30 AUMs.

The level of use over the last five years (actual use) has been:

Permit	Maximum Number/Kind	Maximum Grazing Period	Average Active Use
A	86 Cattle	5/20-6/15	30

My proposed decision is to renew the grazing permit with a term of 10-years from March 1, 2012 to February 28, 2022 with the following Mandatory and Other Terms and Conditions for the Dump Allotment:

Permit	Maximum Number/Kind	Maximum Grazing Period	% Public Land	Maximum Active Preference	Suspended AUMs	Total Preference
A	90 Cattle	6/1-7/15	100%	25	0	25

Other Terms and Conditions:

None for this Allotment

Rationale:

As described in the EA (Page 33 and Appendix A), the Dump Allotment is currently meeting all applicable standards. The current health of the allotment is the result of grazing management under the current grazing permit.

The proposed decision for the Dump Allotment differs from the current grazing permit in the following manner: (1) The grazing period for cattle will change from 6/1-6/2 to 6/1-7/15, (2) The maximum number of cattle on the allotment will decrease from 460 to 90, and (3) The maximum Active Preference is being decreased from 30 to 25 AUMs.

BLM is increasing the grazing period to allow the permittee to use the allotment in a manner that works better with his operation. While this will henceforth allow grazing from 6/3 to 7/15, a period in which the allotment was previously closed to grazing, it will not result in a material change to the allotment because much of the later use will be during the dormant season for upland grasses which will be a benefit to the vegetation and subsequently wildlife using the

allotment. As noted above, the primary reason for the change is flexibility for the permittee. Also, it is important to note that active preference AUMs are being decreased on the allotment and the maximum number of cattle on the allotment is being decreased to 90. The active preference on the allotment is being reduced to 25 AUMs as described in the Lemhi RMP

Grazing for the next ten years under the proposed decision will result in the allotment continuing to meet all of the applicable Idaho Standards for Rangeland Health. Riparian-wetlands do not exist on the Dump Allotment. Impacts to riparian and stream channels from livestock use on the allotment will not occur (EA Page 103). Impacts to water quality will not occur.

The proposed decision will maintain or improve native plant community health within the next 3-5 years through changes in grazing management. The number of AUMs removed will be less than the current situation (-16.7%). There will be slight but detectable improvement on the Dump (5 fewer AUMs) Allotment. The improvement is not entirely due to the decrease, but because livestock will no longer graze during the month of May, which comprises a large portion of the CGP. The allotment is currently meeting and will continue to meet Standard 4 (EA Page 81).

The allotment is currently meeting Standard 8. Because there is no stream/riparian habitat or fish impacts, it will continue to meet the standard. There is no fish-bearing stream habitat on the allotment (EA Page 136). Nesting habitat for greater sage-grouse in the allotment is expected to continue to improve as additional young grass and shrub species continue to become established due to past changes in grazing management (EA Page 162). It has been determined by the BLM that this proposed decision will have no effect to species listed under the ESA.

Free Strip #06301

Grazing Management:

The current 10-year term permit on the allotment has the following Mandatory and Other Terms and Conditions:

Permit	Number/Kind	Grazing Period	% Public Land	Active Use (AUM)s	Active Preference	Suspended AUMs	Total AUMs
A	158 Cattle	6/1-10/31	92%	731	728	310	1038

Other Terms and Conditions:

1. As provided in Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 4130.3-2(d), you are hereby required to submit a certified actual grazing use report within 15 days after completion of your annual grazing use. Failure to comply could result in the cancellation of your permit in whole or part.
2. Management of the allotment will continue to maintain or improve riparian communities found within the allotment, as well as, continue to achieve or make significant progress toward the Idaho Standards of Rangeland Health.
3. Use in the Free Strip Allotment will be limited to a maximum of four weeks, not to exceed 481 AUMs.
4. Free Strip Allotment can be used in conjunction with the USFS Grizzly Hill Allotment as a pasture, and will be rested in the rotation with the other four Grizzly Hill pastures in the Canyon Creek watershed. Free Strip will not be utilized more than three years out of four.

- Unless permitted by the Authorized Officer, the west side of the Free Strip Allotment may be used for trailing only. Livestock are to stay on the Railroad Canyon Road, and shall not be left in this corridor during pasture changes.

The level of use over the last five years (actual use) has been:

Permit	Maximum Number/Kind	Maximum Grazing Period	Average Active Use
A	535 Cattle	6/19-7/24	487

My proposed decision is to renew the grazing permit with a term of 10-years from March 1, 2012 to February 28, 2022 with the following Mandatory and Other Terms and Conditions for the Free Strip Allotment:

Permit	Maximum Number/Kind	Maximum Grazing Period	% Public Land	Maximum Active Preference	Suspended AUMs	Total Preference
A	550 Cattle	6/1-10/31	79%	475	310	785

Other Terms and Conditions:

- The Free Strip Pasture will not be grazed more than three years out of four.
- Use in Free Strip and Bell Field Pastures will only occur between 6/1 and 7/15.
- Livestock grazing in the Bell Field Pasture will not exceed 35 AUMs in a year.

Rationale:

As described in the EA (Page 34 and Appendix A), the Free Strip Allotment is currently meeting all applicable standards except for Standards 2 and 3, but significant progress is being made towards those standards. The health of the allotment as reflected in the CBT Watershed Assessment Report is the result of grazing management under the current grazing permit.

The proposed decision for the Free Strip Allotment differs from the current grazing permit in the following manner: (1) The grazing period for cattle will remain the same, but the maximum number of cattle on the allotment will increase from 158 to 550, (2) The percent public land will be changed from 92 to 79 to reflect the proportion of AUMs authorized on BLM managed lands versus the AUMs available on State lands fenced with the BLM lands, (3) The Active Preference on the allotment will decrease from 728 AUMs to 475 AUMs, and (4) Livestock grazing in the Free Strip and Bell Field Pastures will only occur after between 6/1 and 7/15 and the use in Bell Field will not exceed 35 AUMs per year.

BLM is increasing the maximum number of cattle from 158 to 550 to coincide with the maximum cattle allowed on the USFS allotment that the permittee also utilizes. While this will henceforth allow an additional 392 cattle on the allotment, the active preference for the allotment is being decreased from 728 to 475 AUMS, though the permittee had been held near this level under the current actual use.

The long-term AUMs described in the Lemhi RMP for the Free Strip Allotment are 475. BLM's change to percent public land numbers is the result of recalculating the AUMs available within the allotment with the reduction of BLM AUMs. In addition to the BLM managed public lands in the allotment the permittee also has a permit to remove 127 AUMs from State of Idaho lands.

By eliminating livestock grazing in the Bell Field and Free Strip Pastures after 7/15 the riparian community will have time during the growing season to recover from most of the impacts from livestock including bank trampling and vegetative removal. In addition, resting the Free Strip Pasture once every four years will allow a full season's growth of upland and riparian vegetation in the pasture. Streambank stability is expected to be maintained and improved due to early use and the heavily wooded nature of the channel, limiting livestock impacts to streambank stability.

Grazing for the next ten years under the proposed decision will result in the allotment meeting, or making significant progress towards meeting, all applicable Idaho Standards for Rangeland Health. Riparian conditions are expected to be maintained or improved. Terms and Conditions on the permit are expected to improve riparian conditions on Canyon, Chippie, and Whiskey Springs Creeks. Resting the Freestrip Pasture one out of four years, early season grazing on Bell Field and Freestrip Pastures, and not exceeding 35 AUMs in the Bell Field Pasture are expected to increase riparian plant vigor and decrease bank trampling, and eventually increase deep-rooted riparian vegetation along Canyon, Chippie, and Whiskey Springs Creeks. Adding these Terms and Conditions to the permit will maintain or improve wetland/riparian conditions and the allotment will continue to make significant progress toward meeting Standards 2 and 3 (EA Page 109).

The Proposed Decision will maintain or improve native plant community health within the next 3-5 years through changes in grazing management. The number of AUMs removed will be less than the current situation (-1.2%). Beneficial effects to native plant communities will occur, but will be difficult to detect in the short-term. The Freestrip Pasture will be rested 1 of every 4 years, which will benefit upland vegetation in that pasture. The allotment is currently meeting and will continue to meet Standard 4 (EA Page 81).

Grazing activities on the allotment have had limited impacts that influence water quality in Canyon Creek. The allotment has limited grazing on the stream segments listed as water quality-impaired in the Lemhi River TMDL (EA Pages 126-127).

Livestock grazing will be limited to a maximum of 475 AUMs. Additionally, use will be limited in the Bell Field Pasture along upper Canyon Creek and the Freestrip Pasture will be rested once every four years. Grazing will occur early in the season in a similar fashion to the past ten years which has improved stream/riparian conditions. This will reduce potential fish habitat impacts. Due to the PFC/FAR conditions on the allotment and the limited grazing proposed, impacts to fish habitat are expected to be minimal. Conditions are expected to be maintained or improved on Canyon Creek and the allotment will continue to meet, or make significant progress toward meeting, Standards 2, 3 and 8 related to fish and their habitats. As a result, it is likely that instream cover for fish will increase which will reduce predation on juvenile fish and reduce stress on juvenile and adult fish. Increased riparian vegetation will likely increase terrestrial macro invertebrate input to the stream and maintain cool water temperatures which will have the potential to increase fish growth and survival. Improved riparian condition will also result in decreased fine sediment input which will improve survival of incubating eggs. In addition, improved riparian condition creates velocity refuge areas for juveniles and adults during flood flows which will likely increase survival during high flow events.

It has been determined by the BLM that this proposed decision may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect Chinook salmon, their designated critical habitat, steelhead trout or bull trout. If the proposed decision has an effect on those species, the affect will be through the impacts of cattle grazing on riparian vegetation or through introduction of sediment to tributaries of Canyon Creek through hoof action on streambanks. However, the affect is not likely to be adverse because the pasture with the streams will only be used prior to 7/15 allowing time for regrowth of riparian plants. NOAA and USFWS have concurred with this finding. The BLM has also determined that the proposed decision will have no effect on Canada lynx, sockeye salmon or sockeye salmon, steelhead trout and bull trout designated critical habitat. The proposed decision will have no adverse effect on Chinook salmon essential fish habitat.

Hawley Creek #06304

Grazing Management:

The current 10-year term permits on the allotment have the following Mandatory and Other Terms and Conditions:

Permit	Number/Kind	Grazing Period	% Public Land	Active Use (AUMs)	Active Preference	Suspended AUMs	Total AUMs
A	450 Cattle	6/1-6/1	100%	15	30	0	30
	450 Cattle	9/10-9/10	100%	15			
B	193 Cattle	5/15-6/30	100%	298	598	4	602
	193 Cattle	9/15-10/31	100%	298			

Other Terms and Conditions (A and B):

1. As provided in Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 4130.3-2(d), you are hereby required to submit a certified actual grazing use report within 15 days after completion of your annual grazing use. Failure to comply could result in the cancellation of your permit in whole or part.
2. Management of the allotment will continue to maintain or improve riparian communities found within the allotment, as well as, continue to achieve or make significant progress toward the Idaho Standards of Rangeland Health.

Other Terms and Conditions (A):

3. Livestock use will occur for trailing to and from the FS Hawley Creek C&H Allotment. Trailing use will not exceed the 30 permitted AUMs.

Other Terms and Conditions (B):

3. Cattle numbers in the Hawley Creek Allotment may be increased up to a maximum of 296 cattle for a maximum of 6 weeks (maximum 438 AUMs). Use on the allotment can occur in the spring or the fall as long as the use is within the permit dates. In the third year only fall use will be allowed unless authorized by the Authorized Officer.

The level of use over the last five years (actual use) has been:

Permit	Maximum Number/Kind	Maximum Grazing Period	Average Active Use
A	500 Cattle	6/1-9/8	15
B	252 Cattle	5/19-7/1	259

My proposed decision is to renew the grazing permits with terms of 10 years from March 1, 2012 to February 28, 2022 with the following Mandatory and Other Terms and Conditions for the Hawley Creek Allotment:

Permit	Maximum Number/Kind	Maximum Grazing Period	% Public Land	Maximum Active Preference	Suspended AUMs	Total Preference
A	316 Cattle	6/1-10/1	100%	30	0	30
B	300 Cattle	5/15-6/30	100%	438	4	442
	300 Cattle	9/15-10/31	100%			

Other Terms and Conditions (A):

1. Cattle will not be left on the allotment overnight; they will be actively trailed across the allotment.
2. Trailing will only occur in the Hawley Creek Pasture.
3. The two corrals at the mouth of the Hawley Creek Canyon can be used for two days to sort cattle.

Other Terms and Conditions (B):

1. Livestock grazing in the Eighteenmile Creek Pasture will not occur after 6/30.
2. The two corrals at the mouth of the Hawley Creek Canyon can be used for two days to sort cattle.

Crossing Permits:

In addition, my proposed decision is to allow, between March 1, 2012 and February 28, 2022, up to a maximum of 1800 cattle to cross the allotment in a year with a maximum of 350 cattle at one time. Cattle crossing the allotment will be actively trailed and will not be left on the allotment overnight. Cattle will only be authorized to cross the allotment from 4/15 – 12/1. Cattle crossing the allotment will be authorized only in the Hawley Creek Pasture, and the operators will have access to the two corrals at the mouth of Hawley Creek Canyon to sort cattle. Crossing will only occur on routes shown in Figure 2 of the EA.

Rationale:

As described in the EA (Pages 34-35 and Appendix A), the Hawley Creek Allotment is currently not meeting Standards 2, 3, 4, 7 and 8. The BLM has determined that the existing grazing management is not a significant causal factor for not meeting Standard 2, 3, 7 or 8. The failure to achieve Standard 7 is most likely due to grazing management on state and private lands and the road system. The failure to achieve Standards 2, 3 and 8 is due to private irrigation diversions dewatering streams. The allotment is making significant progress toward meeting Standard 4. The health of the allotment as reflected in the CBT Watershed Assessment Report is the result of grazing management under the current grazing permit.

The proposed decision for the Hawley Creek Allotment differs from the current grazing permits in the following manner: (1) The grazing period for permit A will change from two days to 6/1-10/1 (though the cattle will only be allowed to cross the allotment during the time period, they will not be allowed on the allotment overnight); the grazing period for permit B will stay the same, (2) The maximum cattle on permit A will decrease from 450 to 316 and increase on Permit B from 193 to 300, (3) The Active Preference on the allotment will remain the same for Permit A and decrease from 598 AUMs to 438 AUMs for permit B, though Permit B was held at 438

through a Term and Condition, and (4) Livestock grazing in the Eighteenmile Creek Pasture will not occur after 6/30.

BLM is changing the maximum grazing period on Permit A from a split season to an inclusive season because the permittee also grazes on an adjoining USFS managed allotment and private lands. The inclusive season allows more flexibility to adjust use on BLM as it relates to adjacent lands. The permittee will not be permitted to leave the cattle on the allotment overnight but the permit allows him to move the herd across the allotment to the adjoining USFS and privately managed lands.

BLM is decreasing the maximum number of cattle for permit A and increasing the number for Permit B. While this will henceforth allow additional cattle on the allotment it will not result in a material change to the allotment since the AUMs on authorized on the allotment will stay the same. The result is that even if the permittee choses to graze with more cattle, he would have to reduce the grazing period.

By eliminating livestock grazing in the Eighteenmile Creek Pasture after 6/30 the riparian community will have time during the growing season to recover from most of the impacts from livestock grazing including bank trampling and vegetative removal. This will assure that riparian habitat improves over time.

Grazing for the next ten years under the proposed decision will result in the allotment continuing to meet, or make progress towards meeting, all of the applicable Idaho Standards for Rangeland Health, with the exception of Standards 2 (Riparian), 3 (Stream Channel), 7 (Water Quality) and 8 (Threatened and Endangered Plants and Animals), which will still be influenced by grazing management on private and state lands outside of the allotment, road, and private irrigation practices that limit the amount to water in Eighteenmile and Hawley Creeks. While Standard 4 is not being met with the active preference and grazing period shown above, the allotment will continue to make significant progress towards meeting the standard as described in the EA.

Due to private irrigation diversions on Hawley Creek, the Hawley Creek Allotment will continue to not meet Standards 2 and 3 (EA Pages 104-105). Grazing Eighteenmile Creek only during the spring will increase riparian plant vigor and decrease bank trampling, and eventually increase deep-rooted riparian vegetation along the stream. Early season and fall use is expected to maintain or improve wetland/riparian conditions on the allotment, but it will continue to not meet Standards 2 and 3 due to private irrigation withdrawal on Hawley Creek (EA Page 110).

Crossing will be limited to very short duration (one day), active trailing which will not measurably impact riparian-wetland conditions since it will take place almost entirely on existing roads/trails and upland habitat. This activity will not have measurable impacts to wetland/riparian habitat on the allotment nor affect the allotments ability to meet or make significant progress toward meeting Standards 2 and 3 (EA Page 111).

The Hawley Creek Allotment is currently not meeting Standard 4, but is making significant progress toward meeting the Standard because BLM grazing management was changed in 2007. The allotment has a “slight-to-moderate” departure from the reference state for the RHA Biotic Attribute, meaning the allotment is producing slightly to moderately less of the kinds and

amounts of vegetation expected (as described on the Ecological Site Descriptions). The AUMs proposed are approximately 75% of the long-term maximum authorized in the Lemhi RMP; current use is approximately 45% of what was authorized in the Lemhi RMP. It is expected that because the allotment is making significant progress towards Standard 4, and shows only a slight-to-moderate departure from the reference state, the proposed use levels (still less than those authorized under the Lemhi RMP) will not impact the future ability of the allotment to meet Standard 4. This is not only due to the findings of the RHA, but, compared to the current situation, cattle numbers will be reduced by 136 to a maximum of 616 and the use period will be extended into the dormant season; use during this period will increase plant vigor, reproduction, and seedling establishment of key native species. Additionally, use during the CGP will be restricted and only limited use will occur during the hot season; a maximum of 30 AUMs could be removed during the hot season. The stocking rate will be 15.7 acres/AUM, a low stocking rate (EA Pages 82-83).

Where crossing occurs, livestock will mainly walk along existing trails or pathways and will take the easiest route through sagebrush-dominated areas; they will avoid walking directly through shrubs in most cases. In some locations, damage to shrubs from crossing events could occur. In these areas, there could be an increase in vascular plant litter and an increase in resource availability (light, nutrients, water) for herbaceous vegetation. This decrease in competition from shrubs will benefit herbaceous vegetation (EA Page 85).

Grazing activities on the Hawley Creek Allotment have had limited impacts that influence water quality in Eighteenmile Creek. The allotment has limited grazing on the stream segments listed as water quality-impaired in the Lemhi River TMDL (EA Pages 126-127). The dewatered segments of Hawley Creek will remain in Non-Functioning static condition due to irrigation withdrawal not related to BLM grazing management. BLM has no discretion over this activity (EA Page 127).

Crossing will be limited to very short duration (one day), active trailing which will not measurably impact water quality conditions because it will take place almost entirely on existing roads/trails and upland habitat. This activity will not have measurable impacts to water quality on the allotment and the allotment will continue to meet Standard 7 relative to livestock grazing management on public lands managed by the BLM (EA Page 128).

The allotment will continue to not meet Standard 8 due to irrigation withdrawal (EA Page 136). The dewatered segments of Hawley Creek will remain in Non-Functioning static condition due to irrigation. BLM has no discretion over water being diverted (EA Page 137). No current use by ESA-listed anadromous fish species has been documented in any of the streams in the allotment. This is mostly due to barriers and dewatered segments Eighteenmile and Hawley creeks. It is unlikely that the BLM stream segments will provide for spawning and rearing of Chinook salmon or steelhead trout in the next ten years. It is unlikely that livestock grazing will have measureable impacts to adult spawning downstream in the Lemhi River. This is a result of the small volume of each tributary as it is combined with the much larger volume of the Lemhi River (EA Page 137).

Fish and their habitats are expected to be maintained or improve on Eighteenmile and Hawley creeks. The upper portion of Hawley Creek on BLM above the diversion will continue to be in

PFC with a thick riparian and a boulder controlled channel with very little cattle use. Due to the early season of use and limited fall grazing, the stream channels are expected to have a long recovery time after grazing and continue the upward trends and streambank stability under the Proposed Action. Additionally, grazing will not occur after June 30 in the Eighteenmile Creek Pasture along Eighteenmile Creek. Impacts are expected to result in the continuation of the maintenance or improvement of fisheries habitat; however private irrigation practices will prohibit Standards 2, 3, and 8 from being met (EA Page 145).

Crossing will be limited to very short duration (one day), active trailing which will not measurably impact stream/riparian habitat conditions because it will take place almost entirely on existing roads/trails and upland habitat. There are no anadromous fish in the drainage and bull trout are only found in the headwaters of the streams (EA Pages 147-148). Very small levels of bank trampling are expected on Hawley Creek with an insignificant amount of measurable impacts to stream/riparian habitat expected from these activities. This activity will not have measurable impacts to stream habitat on the allotments and will not result in an allotment not meeting, or make significant progress toward meeting, Standards 2, 3 and 8 relative to livestock grazing (EA Page 148).

Upland habitat will continue to improve in the Hawley Creek Allotment. Greater sage-grouse nesting habitat in the Hawley Creek Allotment is expected to continue to improve as additional young grass and shrub species continue to become established due to past changes in grazing management that will continue (EA Page 162). The Hawley Creek Allotment will continue providing poor riparian habitat along portions of the streams that are dewatered by private irrigation practices (EA Page 162).

Crossing authorizations will have little effect on wildlife. There could be some wildlife displacement as livestock move across the allotment, but since the livestock will be actively pushed and will not be on the allotment overnight the displacement and removal of grass through grazing will be minimal, leading to negligible effects on forage and cover for wildlife. The crossing will take place mostly in semi-desert shrubland habitat, but there could also be some displacement in riparian habitat along Hawley Creek (EA Page 162).

It has been determined by the BLM that this proposed decision may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect Chinook salmon, steelhead trout, bull trout or their designated critical habitat. If the proposed decision has an effect on those species, the affect will be through the impacts of cattle grazing on riparian vegetation or through introduction of sediment to Eighteenmile or Hawley Creeks through hoof action on streambanks. NOAA and USFWS have concurred with this finding. The BLM has also determined that the proposed decision will have no effect on Canada lynx, sockeye salmon or sockeye salmon designated critical habitat or adverse effect on Chinook salmon essential fish habitat.

Jakes Canyon #06241

Grazing Management:

The current 10-year term permit on the allotment has the following Mandatory and Other Terms and Conditions:

Permit	Number/Kind	Grazing Period	% Public Land	Active Use (AUM)s	Active Preference	Suspended AUMs	Total AUMs
A	15 Cattle	5/15-7/15	100%	31	31	31	62

Other Terms and Conditions:

1. As provided in Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 4130.3-2(d), you are hereby required to submit a certified actual grazing use report within 15 days after completion of your annual grazing use. Failure to comply could result in the cancellation of your permit in whole or part.
2. The total active use is not to exceed 31 AUMs. Number of cattle on the allotment can be increased as long as the dates are decreased and the total number of cow/calf pairs does not exceed 40. This change will occur through the application process and will be approved by the Authorized Officer.

The level of use over the last five years (actual use) has been:

Permit	Maximum Number/Kind	Maximum Grazing Period	Average Active Use
A	21 Cattle	5/20-7/14	29

My proposed decision is to renew the grazing permit with a term of 10-years from March 1, 2012 to February 28, 2022 with the following Mandatory and Other Terms and Conditions for the Jakes Canyon Allotment:

Permit	Maximum Number/Kind	Maximum Grazing Period	% Public Land	Maximum Active Preference	Suspended AUMs	Total Preference
A	40 Cattle	5/20-7/15	100%	31	31	62

Other Terms and Conditions:

1. Livestock grazing of the South Pasture will be limited to a total of 9 AUMs and will not occur after 7/1.
2. If an adult steelhead or steelhead redd is found in the allotment, livestock will not be allowed in the South Pasture after 5/31 for that year.
3. In two out of three years, grazing of the North Pasture will not occur before 7/1.
4. After seeding, the allotment will not be grazed until bluebunch wheatgrass is established. Bluebunch will be considered established when the plants are well-rooted (not easily pulled out of ground by hand) and/or are producing reproductive stems. The seeding may require two or more growing seasons for establishment.

Rationale:

As described in the EA (Pages 35-36 and Appendix A), the Jakes Canyon Allotment is currently not meeting Standards 4 and 7. The BLM has determined that the existing grazing management is not a significant causal factor for not meeting the standards. The failure to achieve Standard 7 is most likely due to grazing management on state and private lands and the road system. The failure to achieve Standard 4 is most likely due to historic grazing management. The health of

the allotment as reflected in the CBT Watershed Assessment Report is the result of grazing management under the current grazing permit.

The proposed decision for the Jakes Canyon Allotment differs from the current grazing permit in the following manner: (1) The maximum cattle will increase from 15 to 40 and the grazing period will decrease from 5/15-7/15 to 5/20-7/15, (2) Livestock grazing in the South Pasture will not occur after 7/1 and will be limited to 9 AUMs, if steelhead are found in the allotment use in the pasture will not occur after 5/31, (3) The North Pasture will not be grazed before 7/1 in two out of three years, and (4) The allotment will be rested after seeding until bluebunch wheatgrass is established.

BLM is increasing the maximum number of cattle from 15 to 40 as applied for by the permittee. While this will henceforth allow an additional 25 cattle on the allotment it will not result in a material change to the allotment because the AUMs are only increasing slightly.

By eliminating livestock grazing in the South Pasture after 7/1 the riparian community will have time during the growing season to recover from most of the impacts from livestock including bank trampling and vegetative removal. In addition, if steelhead spawn in the pasture the cattle will be removed by 5/31 to eliminate any potential impacts to spawning fish. By deferring grazing in the North Pasture until 7/1 in two out of three years upland vegetation will increase in vigor and density.

Grazing for the next ten years under the proposed decision will result in the allotment continuing to meet all of the applicable Idaho Standards for Rangeland Health, with the exception of Standards 4 (Native Plant Communities) and 7 (Water Quality), which will still be influenced by grazing management on private and state lands outside of the allotment. Early season use is expected to improve riparian conditions on the allotment as compared to hot season grazing and continue to meet Standards 2 and 3 (EA Page 109).

Slight increases in AUMs removed will occur on the Jakes Canyon Allotment (6.9%). Although the number of AUMs removed from the Jakes Canyon Allotment will be slightly higher (2 AUMs) than the current situation, vegetative health will still improve because of the rest that will occur. The rest will move the allotment towards meeting Standard 4 because it will increase the kinds and amounts of vegetation expected for the site. Additionally, the North Pasture will not be grazed before July 1st in two out of three years, which will reduce the amount of grazing that will occur during the CGP; beneficial effects to upland native plant communities will be readily apparent in this pasture. With the low stocking rate (17.6 acres/AUM), deferred grazing in the North Pasture and two years rest, the allotment is expected to make significant progress toward meeting Standard 4 (EA Pages 81-82).

Grazing activities on the Jakes Canyon Allotments have had limited impacts that influence water quality in Canyon Creek. The allotment has grazing on the stream segment listed as water quality-impaired in the Lemhi River TMDL (EA Pages 126-127). Reduced grazing impacts to stream/riparian habitat and associated parameters are expected on Jakes Canyon from changes in management and permit Terms and Conditions limiting grazing during key seasons. Jakes Canyon will have Terms and Conditions to limit grazing to the early season. This is expected to improve water quality conditions by increasing streamside vegetative cover and bank stability,

reducing erosion and sedimentation and decreasing water temperatures. The allotment is expected to continue to not meet Standard 7, but not due to BLM grazing management (EA Page 128).

Livestock will graze on Canyon Creek for less time and intensity. They will be off the riparian pasture by July 1 and use only 9 AUMs in that pasture. Habitat conditions are expected to be maintained and most likely improve over time. There is a small chance that grazing could damage spawning redds constructed by redband trout. Additionally, with migration barriers and flows restored in recent years on lower Canyon Creek, it is possible but not likely, that steelhead will use lower Canyon Creek and have similar spawning conflict potential as redband trout. Spawning redband and steelhead trout may be disturbed by cattle and abandon partially constructed redds, and incubating eggs within redds will be at risk of being trampled by cattle and killed. Conditions are expected to be maintained or improve on Canyon Creek and the allotment will continue to meet Standards 2, 3 and 8 related to fish and their habitats (EA Page 144).

Resting the Jakes Canyon Allotment will help improve the semi-desert shrubland habitat in that allotment. The nesting habitat for greater sage-grouse on the Jakes Canyon Allotment will improve with the rest of the allotment (EA Page 161).

The BLM determined that this proposed decision may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect Chinook salmon, steelhead trout, bull trout or their designated critical habitat. In their Biological Opinion NOAA determined that the proposed decision was likely to adversely affect steelhead trout due to the possibility of cattle disturbing redds or adult steelhead during the spawning season. The BLM has received a Take Statement for the potential effects of the proposed decision on steelhead trout. NOAA and USFWS have concurred with the BLM’s determination for the other species. If the proposed decision has an effect on those species, the affect will be through the impacts of cattle grazing on riparian vegetation or through introduction of sediment to Canyon Creeks through hoof action on the streambank. The BLM has also determined that the proposed decision will have no effect on Canada lynx, sockeye salmon or sockeye salmon designated critical habitat or adverse effect on Chinook salmon essential fish habitat. Limiting the grazing period and use levels in the South Pasture where the stream/riparian habitat exists will maintain and improve habitat conditions for listed fish species and minimize take of steelhead trout.

Leadore #06302

Grazing Management:

The current 10-year term permit on the allotment has the following Mandatory and Other Terms and Conditions:

Permit	Number/Kind	Grazing Period	% Public Land	Active Use (AUM)s	Active Preference	Suspended AUMs	Total AUMs
A	22 Cattle	7/15-8/5	100%	16	30	20	50
	41 Cattle	6/16-7/15	34%	14			

Other Terms and Conditions:

1. As provided in Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 4130.3-2(d), you are hereby required to submit a certified actual grazing use report within 15 days after completion of

your annual grazing use. Failure to comply could result in the cancellation of your permit in whole or part.

2. Management of the allotment will continue to maintain or improve riparian communities found within the allotment, as well as, continue to achieve or make significant progress toward the Idaho Standards of Rangeland Health.
3. Supplemental Feed is limited to salt, mineral, and/or energy/protein in block, granular, or liquid form. If used on Public Land, these supplements must be placed at least one-quarter (1/4) miles away from any riparian area, spring, stream, meadow, aspen stand, sensitive plant populations, playa, or water development located on Public Land unless variance is approved by the Authorized Officer.
4. Livestock grazing in the (North Pasture) will not occur until 2011. The season of use will not occur before July 15. Grazing Actual Use will not Exceed 16 AUMs.
5. Livestock grazing in the (South Pasture) and (Middle Pasture) will not occur after July 15th and will not exceed 14 AUMs total.

The level of use over the last five years (actual use) has been:

Permit	Maximum Number/Kind	Maximum Grazing Period	Average Active Use
A	48 Cattle	6/6-7/1	8

My proposed decision is to renew a grazing permit with a term of 10-years from March 1, 2012 to February 28, 2022 with the following Mandatory and Other Terms and Conditions for the Leadore Allotment:

Permit	Maximum Number/Kind	Maximum Grazing Period	% Public Land	Maximum Active Preference	Suspended AUMs	Total Preference
A	60 Cattle	6/16-8/5	29%	28	20	48

Other Terms and Conditions:

1. The North Pasture will not be grazed before July 15.

Range Improvement Projects:

In addition, my proposed decision is to construct the following range improvement projects:

- Construct an enclosure fence to prevent cattle from accessing Big Timber Creek on BLM managed lands. The enclosure will be in the South Pasture and measure 1880 feet in length and exclude 3 acres from cattle grazing. The enclosure fence will be constructed of barbed wire and will follow the BLM/private boundary on the north and west sides.

Rationale:

As described in the EA (Page 37 and Appendix A), the Leadore Allotment is currently meeting, or making significant progress toward meeting, all of the applicable Standards. The current health of the allotment is the result of grazing management under the current grazing permit.

The proposed decision for the Leadore Allotment differs from the current grazing permit in the following manner: (1) The maximum cattle on the allotment will increase from 41 to 60, (2) The percent public land will be changed to 29, reflecting the allotment as a whole and not specific to pasture, to reflect the proportion of AUMs authorized on BLM managed lands versus the AUMs available on private lands fenced with the BLM lands, (3) The Active Preference for the

allotment will be decreased from 30 to 28, and (4) The Middle and South Pastures can be used at any time during the grazing period, not just before July 15th. In addition, constructing the *Big Timber Exclosure* will eliminate livestock impacts and improve ecological conditions of the riparian area.

BLM is increasing the maximum number of cattle to 60 as applied for by the permittee. While this will henceforth allow an additional 19 cattle on the allotment it will not result in a material change to the allotment because the AUMs are being decreased. The result is that even if the permittee chooses to graze with more cattle, he would have to reduce the grazing period.

BLM's change to percent public land numbers is the result of recalculating the AUMs available within the allotment with the reduction of BLM AUMs. In addition to the BLM managed public lands in the allotment the permittee also produces 69 AUMs on private lands that he controls.

The impacts to riparian habitat are expected to improve on the short segment of lower Big Timber Creek with the implementation of the exclusion fence. Grazing will be eliminated on the stream/riparian habitat, giving the riparian plant community the ability to fully recover from livestock impacts including bank trampling and vegetative removal. Livestock will not have access to Big Timber Creek and the associated riparian area which is expected to result in an upward trend in conditions. The allotment will continue to make significant progress toward meeting Standards 2 and 3 (EA Page 111).

Compared to the current situation, the AUM use on the Leadore Allotment will increase 250%. Authorized AUMs will be at or below the long-term AUM preference authorized in the Lemhi RMP, as amended (EA Page 82). The Leadore Allotment is currently not meeting Standard 4, but is making significant progress toward meeting the Standard because BLM grazing management was changed in 2008. Two sites were evaluated during the RHA; the allotment was rated as having a "none-to-slight" and "slight-to-moderate" departure from the reference state for the RHA Biotic Attribute at the two sites. The AUMs will be the long-term maximum authorized in the Lemhi RMP; current use is approximately 25% of what was authorized in the Lemhi RMP. It is expected that because the allotment is making significant progress towards Standard 4, and shows only a none-to-slight and slight-to-moderate departure from the reference state, the proposed use levels will not impact the future ability of the allotment to meet Standard 4. This is not only due to the findings of the RHA, but, the grazing period will be deferred 10 days compared to the current situation, which will reduce or eliminate impacts to upland vegetation during the CGP (depending on temperature and timing and amounts of precipitation). The stocking rate will be 15 acres/AUM, a low stocking rate (EA Page 83).

In the Leadore Allotment, fish and their habitats are expected to improve on the short segment of lower Big Timber Creek with the implementation of the exclusion fence. Grazing will be eliminated on the stream/riparian habitat, giving the riparian plant community the ability to fully recover from livestock impacts and decrease sedimentation and water temperatures. Livestock will not have access to Big Timber Creek and the associated riparian area which is expected to result in an upward trend in conditions and not adversely affect listed species or their habitat. The allotment is expected to continue to meet Standard 7 for livestock grazing management on public lands managed by the BLM (EA Page 128). Additionally, the allotment will continue to make significant progress toward meeting Standards 2, 3 and 8 (EA Page 147).

Upland habitat in the Leadore Allotment will continue to improve (EA Page 161). Nesting habitat for greater sage-grouse in the Leadore Allotment is expected to continue to improve as additional young grass and shrub species continue to become established due to past changes in grazing management that will continue (EA Page 162). The *Big Timber Exclosure* will provide improved diversity and density of riparian habitat for migratory birds and small mammals that prefer that habitat (EA Page 163).

It has been determined by the BLM that this proposed decision will have no effect to species listed under the ESA.

Leadore Hill #06225

Grazing Management:

The current 10-year term permit on the allotment has the following Mandatory and Other Terms and Conditions:

Permit	Number/Kind	Grazing Period	% Public Land	Active Use (AUM)s	Active Preference	Suspended AUMs	Total AUMs
A	39 Cattle	5/16-7/31	94%	93	93	39	132

Other Terms and Conditions:

1. As provided in Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 4130.3-2(d), you are hereby required to submit a certified actual grazing use report within 15 days after completion of your annual grazing use. Failure to comply could result in the cancellation of your permit in whole or part.
2. BLM management of the allotment will continue to emphasize maintenance or improvement of riparian communities.
3. 21 AUMs will be held in temporary suspension due to the conversion from sheep to cattle. These AUMs may be adjusted to active if it is deemed appropriate by the authorized officer after three years.

The level of use over the last five years (actual use) has been:

Permit	Maximum Number/Kind	Maximum Grazing Period	Average Active Use
A	58 Cattle	5/13-7/31	83

My proposed decision is to renew a grazing permit with a term of 10-years from March 1, 2012 to February 28, 2022 with the following Mandatory and Other Terms and Conditions for the Leadore Hill Allotment:

Permit	Maximum Number/Kind	Maximum Grazing Period	% Public Land	Maximum Active Preference	Suspended AUMs	Total Preference
A	85 Cattle	5/15-6/30	91%	114	18	132

Other Terms and Conditions:

None proposed for this allotment.

Crossing Permits:

In addition, my proposed decision is to allow, between March 1, 2012 and February 28, 2022, up to a maximum of 5000 cattle to cross the allotment each year with a maximum of 1200 cattle at one time. Cattle crossing the allotment will not be left on the allotment overnight. Cattle will only be authorized to cross the allotment from 3/1 – 12/19. Cattle crossing the allotment will be authorized only in the Upper Pasture. Crossing will only occur on routes shown in Figure 6 of the EA.

Rationale:

As described in the EA (Page 37 and Appendix A), the Leadore Hill Allotment is currently meeting all applicable Standards. The current health of the allotment is the result of grazing management under the current grazing permit.

The proposed decision for the Leadore Hill Allotment differs from the current grazing permit in the following manner: (1) The grazing period will change from 5/16-7/31 to 5/15-6/30, (2) The maximum cattle will increase from 39 to 85, (3) The Active Preference on the allotment will increase from 93 AUMs to 114 AUMs to reauthorize AUMs that were suspended when the allotment was converted from sheep to cattle, and (4) The percent public land will be changed to from 94 to 91 to reflect the proportion of AUMs authorized on BLM managed lands versus the AUMs available on private lands fenced with the BLM lands.

In 2005, the allotment was converted from sheep to cattle, at that time 21 AUMs were held in suspense as required by the Lemhi RMP. At this time the 21 AUMs are being returned to Active Preference, the preference established by the Lemhi RMP. The BLM is also reducing the maximum grazing period and increasing the maximum cattle numbers as applied for by the permittee. BLM's change to percent public land numbers is the result of recalculating the AUMs available within the allotment. In addition to the BLM managed public land in the allotment the permittee produces 11 AUMs on private land that he controls. However, this change will have no effect on resources, as it is merely an administrative issue and the same number of AUMs will be removed from the BLM managed public lands except for the additional 21 AUMs.

Early season use in the Leadore Hill Allotment is expected to maintain or improve riparian conditions because use will occur prior to June 30th. Early use on the allotment is expected to maintain or improve wetland/riparian conditions. The short segment of Little Timber Creek that is dewatered in the allotment will remain static but overall, the allotment will continue to meet Standards 2 and 3 (EA Page 111).

Crossing will be limited to very short duration (one day), active trailing which will not measurably impact riparian-wetland conditions since it will take place almost entirely on existing roads/trails and upland habitat. This activity will not have measurable impacts to wetland/riparian habitat on the allotment nor affect the allotments ability to meet or make significant progress toward meeting Standards 2 and 3 (EA Page 111).

Compared to the current situation, increased AUMs will be removed from the Leadore Hill Allotment (37.3%) (EA Page 82). The Leadore Hill Allotment is currently meeting Standard 4 and was rated as having a “none-to-slight” departure from the reference for the RHA Biotic Attribute, meaning the allotment is producing the kinds and amounts of vegetation expected (as

described on the ecological site descriptions). The 114 AUMs is in conformance with those authorized in the Lemhi RMP; current use is 72% of what was authorized in the Lemhi RMP and the allotment is producing the kinds and amounts of vegetation expected for the sites. It is expected that because the allotment is meeting Standard 4, and shows little departure from the reference state, the long-term use levels authorized under the Lemhi RMP will not impact the ability of the allotment to meet Standard 4. This is not only due to the findings of the RHA, but, grazing during the hot season will be eliminated, which will reduce grazing impacts as seed set occurs. The overall grazing season will change from 5/13-7/31 to 5/15-6/30, a reduction of 33 days. Grazing during the first approximate 1/3 of the CGP will not occur, which will be similar to the current situation, although there will be a deferment of 2 days, providing a slight benefit during the CGP. Because grazing will not occur during the entire CGP through and into the hot season, plants will be better able to fix carbon and will have an increased opportunity for successful reproduction as compared to the current condition where grazing will occur earlier in the CGP and well into the hot season. The stocking rate will be approximately 13 acres/AUM, a low stocking rate (EA Pages 83-84).

Where crossing occurs, livestock will mainly walk along existing trails or pathways and will take the easiest route through sagebrush-dominated areas; they will avoid walking directly through shrubs in most cases. In some locations, damage to shrubs from crossing events could occur. In these areas, there could be an increase in vascular plant litter and an increase in resource availability (light, nutrients, water) for herbaceous vegetation. This decrease in competition from shrubs will benefit herbaceous vegetation (EA Page 85).

Crossing will be limited to very short duration (one day), active trailing which will not measurably impact water quality conditions because it will take place almost entirely on existing roads/trails and upland habitat. This activity will not have measurable impacts to water quality on the allotment and the allotment will continue to meet Standard 7 relative to livestock grazing management on public lands managed by the BLM (EA Page 128).

Fish and their habitats are expected to be maintained or improve on Big Timber and Little Timber Creeks. Slightly more cattle will be allowed on the allotment, but the season of use will be reduced to prior to June 30. Conditions are expected to remain in PFC because most of the grazing will take place in the upland habitat with off-site water away from the streams and the limited season of use. This will give the riparian community time during the growing season to recover from most of the impacts from livestock including bank trampling and vegetative removal. With no grazing use during the hot season, the riparian greenline condition will continue to remain in PFC. Streambank stability is expected to be maintained and improve due to early season use and the extensive woody vegetation. Due to the heavily wooded nature of the stream channels, livestock will have limited potential to impact streambank stability. The allotment will continue to meet Standards 2, 3 and 8 (EA Page 147).

Crossing will be limited to very short duration (one day), active trailing which will not measurably impact stream/riparian habitat conditions because it will take place almost entirely on existing roads/trails and upland habitat. There are no anadromous fish in the drainage and bull trout are only found in the headwaters of the streams (EA Pages 147-148).

Leadore Hill Allotment will continue to provide nesting habitat for greater sage-grouse but with reduced grass for cover which could lead to more sage-grouse nests or chicks being lost to predation (EA Page 162).

It has been determined by the BLM that this proposed decision may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect Chinook salmon, steelhead trout, bull trout or their designated critical habitat. If the proposed decision has an effect on those species, the affect will be through the impacts of cattle grazing on riparian vegetation or through introduction of sediment to Big or Little Timber Creeks through hoof action on streambanks. NOAA and USFWS have concurred with this finding. The BLM has also determined that the proposed decision will have no effect on Canada lynx, sockeye salmon or sockeye salmon designated critical habitat or adverse effect on Chinook salmon essential fish habitat.

Leadville #06303

Grazing Management:

The current 10-year term permit on the allotment has the following Mandatory and Other Terms and Conditions:

Permit	Number/Kind	Grazing Period	% Public Land	Active Use (AUM)s	Active Preference	Suspended AUMs	Total AUMs
A	500 Cattle	5/10-5/31	100%	362	528	398	926
	500 Cattle	10/1-10/10	100%	164			

Other Terms and Conditions:

1. As provided in Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 4130.3-2(d), you are hereby required to submit a certified actual grazing use report within 15 days after completion of your annual grazing use. Failure to comply could result in the cancellation of your permit in whole or part.
2. Management of the allotment will continue to maintain or improve riparian communities found within the allotment, as well as, continue to achieve or make significant progress toward the Idaho Standards of Rangeland Health.
3. Supplemental Feed is limited to salt, mineral, and/or energy/protein in block, granular, or liquid form. If used on Public Land, these supplements must be placed at least one-quarter (1/4) miles away from any riparian area, spring, stream, meadow, aspen stand, sensitive plant populations, playa, or water development located on Public Land unless variance is approved by the Authorized Officer.
4. Livestock grazing will not occur in the Canyon Creek Pasture from October 1 – October 10.

The level of use over the last five years (actual use) has been:

Permit	Maximum Number/Kind	Maximum Grazing Period	Average Active Use
A	535 Cattle	5/6-6/30	415

My proposed decision is to renew a grazing permit with a term of 10-years from March 1, 2012 to February 28, 2022 with the following Mandatory and Other Terms and Conditions for the Leadville Allotment:

Permit	Maximum Number/Kind	Maximum Grazing Period	% Public Land	Maximum Active Preference	Suspended AUMs	Total Preference
A	500 Cattle	5/1-9/30	96%	528	398	926

Other Terms and Conditions:

1. Livestock grazing will only occur in the Canyon Creek Pasture from May 1 to May 31 with a maximum of 115 AUMs.
2. The Lower Pasture of the allotment will not be grazed, except for trailing, until 2013 to allow establishment of the Leadville seeding.

Range Improvement Projects:

In addition, my proposed decision is to construct the following range improvement projects:

- Relocate the *Rocky Canyon Fence* approximately 0.5 miles to the west; the new fence will be approximately 0.75 miles in length. The existing southern pasture division fence (0.5 mi) will be removed.

Crossing Permits:

In addition, my proposed decision is to allow, between March 1, 2012 and February 28, 2022, up to a maximum of 2,300 cattle to cross the allotment in a year with a maximum of 500 cattle at one time. Cattle crossing the allotment will not be left on the allotment overnight. Cattle will only be authorized to cross the allotment from 4/15-12/1. Cattle crossing the allotment will be authorized only in the Lower Pasture. Crossing will only occur on routes shown in Figure 9 of the EA.

Rationale:

As described in the EA (Page 38 and Appendix A), the Leadville Allotment is currently not meeting Standards 2, 3, 4, 7 and 8. The BLM has determined that the existing grazing management is not a significant causal factor for not meeting Standards 2, 3, 7 or 8. The failure to achieve Standard 7 is most likely due to grazing management on state and private lands. The failure to achieve Standards 2, 3 and 8 is due to private irrigation diversions dewatering streams. The allotment was seeded in 2010 and is now making significant progress toward meeting Standard 4. The current health of the allotment is the result of grazing management under the current grazing permit.

The proposed decision for the Leadville Allotment differs from the current grazing permit in the following manner: (1) The grazing period will change from a split period of 5/10-5/31 and 10/1-10/10 to an inclusive period of 5/1-9/30, (2) The percent public land will be changed to from 100 to 96 to reflect the proportion of AUMs authorized on BLM managed lands versus the AUMs available on State lands fenced with the BLM lands, and (3) The Lower Pasture will not be grazed until 2013 to allow establishment of the Leadville Seeding.

BLM is changing grazing management from a split season to an inclusive season because the permittee also grazes on an adjoining USFS managed allotment and private lands. The inclusive season allows more flexibility to adjust use on BLM as it relates to adjacent lands. While this will henceforth allow grazing from 6/1 to 9/30, a period in which the allotment was previously closed to grazing, it will not result in a material change to the allotment because the later use will be during the dormant season for upland grasses which will be a benefit to the vegetation and subsequently wildlife using the allotment. As noted above, the primary reason for the change to an inclusive season is flexibility while working with adjacent land managers. Also, it is important to note that AUMs are not being increased on the allotment. The result is that even if

the permittee chose to graze between 6/1 and 9/30, he would have to substantially reduce numbers or not graze at other times.

BLM's change to percent public land numbers is the result of recalculating the AUMs available within the allotment. In addition to the BLM managed public land in the allotment the permittee also has a permit to remove 22 AUMs from State of Idaho managed land and produces 1 AUM on private land that he controls. However, this change will have no effect on resources, as it is merely an administrative issue and the same number of AUMs will be removed from the BLM managed public lands.

Due to private irrigation diversions on Hawley Creek, the Leadville Allotment will continue to not meet Standards 2 and 3 (EA Page 103). The Leadville Allotment is expected to maintain or improve riparian conditions because grazing in the Canyon Creek Pasture will only occur from May 1st until May 31st with a lower maximum number of AUMs authorized. Early season use is expected to improve riparian conditions on the allotment as compared to hot season grazing, but continue to not meet Standards 2 and 3 due to private irrigation withdrawal on Hawley Creek (EA Page 109).

Crossing will be limited to very short duration (one day), active trailing which will not measurably impact riparian-wetland conditions since it will take place almost entirely on existing roads/trails and upland habitat. This activity will not have measurable impacts to wetland/riparian habitat on the allotment nor affect the allotments ability to meet or make significant progress toward meeting Standards 2 and 3 (EA Page 111).

Compared to the current situation, an increase in AUMs removed (27.2%) will occur on the Leadville Allotment (EA Page 82). Although the Leadville Allotment was not meeting Standard 4 at the time of the determination (not due to current livestock management), the 2010 Leadville vegetation treatment project and associated rest is helping the allotment make significant progress toward meeting the Standard. The allotment was rated as having a "moderate" departure from the reference state for the RHA Biotic Attribute, meaning the allotment was producing moderately less of the kinds and amounts of vegetation expected (as described on the ecological site descriptions). The AUMs will be approximately 93% of the long-term maximum authorized in the Lemhi RMP; current use is approximately 73% of what was authorized in the Lemhi RMP. It is expected that because the allotment is now making significant progress towards Standard 4, the proposed use levels (less than the long-term AUMs authorized under the Lemhi RMP) will not impact the future ability of the allotment to meet Standard 4. Compared to the current situation, cattle numbers will be reduced by 35 to a maximum of 500 and the use period will be extended by three months; this will allow for less use during the CGP, which will benefit upland vegetation. Limited early season use (a maximum of 115 AUMs from 5/1-5/31) in the Canyon Creek Pasture will benefit upland vegetation by reducing the amount of biomass removed during the period of most active growth and susceptibility to water deficit. The stocking rate will be 12.3 acres/AUM, a low stocking rate and one that is below the average long-term stocking rate described in the Lemhi RMP, as amended (EA Page 84).

Where crossing occurs, livestock will mainly walk along existing trails or pathways and will take the easiest route through sagebrush-dominated areas; they will avoid walking directly through shrubs in most cases. In some locations, damage to shrubs from crossing events could occur. In

these areas, there could be an increase in vascular plant litter and an increase in resource availability (light, nutrients, water) for herbaceous vegetation. This decrease in competition from shrubs will benefit herbaceous vegetation (EA Page 85).

The *Rocky Canyon Fence Relocation* will have negligible effects to native vegetation in the allotment because the area is currently grazed as a part of another pasture. Vegetation impacts will be mainly due to fence removal and relocation effects (EA Page 86).

Grazing activities on the Leadville Allotment have had limited impacts that influence water quality in Canyon Creek. The allotment has had limited grazing on the stream segment listed as water quality-impaired in the Lemhi River TMDL (EA Pages 126-127). The dewatered segments of Hawley Creek will remain in Non-Functioning static condition due to irrigation withdrawal not related to BLM grazing management. BLM has no discretion over this activity. The allotment is currently not meeting Standard 7 due to irrigation withdrawal and is expected to continue to not meet the standard (EA Page 127).

Reduced grazing impacts to stream/riparian habitat and associated parameters are expected on the allotment from changes in management and permit Terms and Conditions limiting grazing during key seasons. Leadville will have Terms and Conditions to limit grazing to the early season. This is expected to improve water quality conditions by increasing streamside vegetative cover and bank stability, reducing erosion and sedimentation and decreasing water temperatures (EA Page 128).

Crossing will be limited to very short duration (one day), active trailing which will not measurably impact water quality conditions because it will take place almost entirely on existing roads/trails and upland habitat. This activity will not have measurable impacts to water quality on the allotment (EA Page 128).

The Leadville Allotment is not meeting Standard 8 due to irrigation withdrawal and is expected to continue to not meet the standard (EA Page 136). Livestock grazing on Canyon Creek will only be permitted until May 31 with a maximum of 115 AUMs. The additional use will occur on the remainder of the allotment on upland habitat. Early season use on the Canyon Creek Pasture and the stream/riparian habitat will maintain PFC. Conditions are expected to be maintained or improved on Canyon Creek; however the allotment will continue to not meet Standards 2, 3 and 8 related to fish and their habitats due to private irrigation practices (EA Page 144).

Crossing will be limited to very short duration (one day), active trailing which will not measurably impact stream/riparian habitat conditions because it will take place almost entirely on existing roads/trails and upland habitat. There are no anadromous fish in the drainage (EA Pages 147-148). Very small levels of bank trampling are expected on Hawley Creek with an insignificant amount of measurable impacts to stream/riparian habitat expected from these activities. This activity will not have measurable impacts to stream habitat on the allotment and will not result in the allotment not meeting Standards 2, 3 and 8 relative to livestock grazing (EA Page 148).

Upland habitat will continue to improve in the Leadville Allotment (EA Page 161). Nesting habitat for greater sage-grouse in the Leadville Allotment is expected to continue to improve as

additional young grass and shrub species continue to become established due to past changes in grazing management that will continue and the seeding in the Leadville Allotment (EA Page 162). The Leadville Allotment will continue providing poor riparian habitat along portions of the streams that are dewatered by private irrigation practices (EA Page 162).

The new fence could be used by birds of prey to hunt from and may pose a strike hazard to upland game birds, such as the greater sage-grouse, especially during movement to and from leks or during periods where migratory movements are most likely to occur. The fences will be flagged to help reduce the risk of collision by wildlife species, including greater sage-grouse. The *Rocky Canyon Fence Relocation* will be within 1.25 miles of a known greater sage-grouse lek. The fence to be removed is also within 1.25 miles of the same lek. The new fence will be easier for big game to pass over or under and will have fewer wires for greater sage-grouse to strike than the existing fence (EA Page 163).

The BLM determined that this proposed decision may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect Chinook salmon, steelhead trout, bull trout or their designated critical habitat. In their Biological Opinion NOAA determined that the proposed decision was likely to adversely affect steelhead trout due to the possibility of cattle disturbing redds or adult steelhead during the spawning season; the BLM has received a Take Statement for the potential effects of the proposed decision on steelhead trout. NOAA and USFWS have concurred with the BLM's determination for the other species. If the proposed decision has an effect on those species, the affect will be through the impacts of cattle grazing on riparian vegetation or through introduction of sediment to Canyon Creeks through hoof action on the streambank. The BLM has also determined that the proposed decision will have no effect on Canada lynx, sockeye salmon or sockeye salmon designated critical habitat or adverse effect on Chinook salmon essential fish habitat. Changing the grazing period and limiting AUMs in the Canyon Creek Pasture will improve stream/riparian habitat for listed fish species and minimize take of listed steelhead trout.

Nez Perce #06317

Grazing Management:

The current 10-year term permits on the allotment have the following Mandatory and Other Terms and Conditions:

Permit	Number/Kind	Grazing Period	% Public Land	Active Use (AUMs)	Active Preference	Suspended AUMs	Total AUMs
A	125 Cattle	5/20-10/1	26%	144	144	119	263
B	600 Cattle	5/20-5/31	26%	62	833	687	1520
	750 Cattle	6/1-9/29	26%	776			

Other Terms and Conditions:

1. As provided in Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 4130.3-2(d), you are hereby required to submit a certified actual grazing use report within 15 days after completion of your annual grazing use. Failure to comply could result in the cancellation of your permit in whole or part.
2. The allotments shown on this permit 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 area manager.

The level of use over the last five years (actual use) has been:

Permit	Maximum Number/Kind	Maximum Grazing Period	Average Active Use
A	94 Cattle	5/24-9/10	76
B	536 Cattle	5/24-9/10	433

My proposed decision is to renew two grazing permits with terms of 10-years from March 1, 2012 to February 28, 2022 with the following Mandatory and Other Terms and Conditions for the Nez Perce Allotment:

Permit	Maximum Number/Kind	Maximum Grazing Period	% Public Land	Maximum Active Preference	Suspended AUMs	Total Preference
A	142 Cattle	5/20-10/1	11%	69	119	188
B	722 Cattle	5/20-10/1	15%	397	687	1084

Other Terms and Conditions:

None proposed for this allotment.

Rationale:

As described in the EA (Page 39 and Appendix A), the Nez Perce Allotment is currently not meeting Standards 7 and 8. The BLM has determined that the existing grazing management is not a significant causal factor. The failure to achieve standards is most likely due to grazing management on private lands for Standard 7 and private irrigation diversion dewatering Deer Creek for Standard 8 in relation to bull trout. The current health of the allotment is the result of grazing management under the current grazing permit.

The proposed decision for the Nez Perce Allotment differs from the current grazing permits in the following manner: (1) The grazing period will now be 5/20 to 10/1 for both permits and the maximum cattle on the allotment will decrease from 875 to 864, (2) the Active Preference on the allotment will decrease from 977 to 466, and (3) The percent public land will be changed from 26 on both permits to 11 on one permit and 15 on the other to reflect the proportion of AUMs authorized on BLM managed lands versus the AUMs available on private and State lands fenced with the BLM lands.

BLM is changing the maximum grazing period so that both permits have the same period and the maximum number of cattle on the allotment will be decreased to 864. The active preference on the allotment is also being decreased from 977 to 466.

The long-term AUMs described in the Lemhi RMP for the Nez Perce Allotment are 466. BLM's change to percent public land numbers is the result of recalculating the AUMs available within the allotment due to the reduced BLM active preference. In addition to the BLM managed public land in the allotment the permittees also have permits to remove AUMs from State of Idaho managed land and produce AUMs on private land that they control. However, this change will have no additional effect on resources, as it is merely an administrative issue and only 466 AUMs will be removed from the BLM managed public lands.

In the previous five years, cattle have been rotated in the Nez Perce Allotment to minimize use on Texas Creek. Most of the riparian habitat on the allotment is on private land with only about 15% of Texas Creek on public lands managed by the BLM. Riparian conditions are expected to be maintained and potentially improved over current conditions. The use levels proposed will be much less of an impact on the public lands managed by the BLM. The reduced number of cattle and AUMs are expected to maintain the PFC riparian conditions in the allotment. The allotment wetland/riparian habitat are expected to improve and the allotment will continue to meet Standards 2 and 3 (EA Page 111).

Native plant community health will maintain or improve within the next 3-5 years through changes in grazing management. The number of AUMs removed will be less than the current situation (-8.4%). Beneficial effects to native plant communities will occur, but will be difficult to detect in the short-term. There will be slight but detectable improvement on the Nez Perce (43 fewer AUMs) Allotment. The allotment is currently meeting and will continue to meet Standard 4 (EA Page 81).

Grazing activities on the Nez Perce Allotment have had limited impacts that influence water quality in Texas Creek. The allotment has had limited grazing on the stream segment listed as water quality-impaired in the Lemhi River TMDL (EA Page 127). The allotment is currently not meeting Standard 7 due to irrigation withdrawal and is expected to continue to not meet the standard (EA Page 127).

The allotment is not meeting Standard 8 due to irrigation withdrawal on Deer Creek and is expected to continue to not meet the standard (EA Page 136). The impacts to fish and their habitat are expected to be maintained or improve on Texas Creek (EA Page 147). Decreased use could slightly increase survival of juvenile and adult fish over current conditions. Use on the riparian shrub community could decrease along Texas Creek and enhance the riparian shrub community, increase shading and instream cover and decrease erosion and sedimentation to the stream channel which will decrease fine sediment in the substrate. Overall, the public lands managed by the BLM have received light to moderate grazing in a pasture rotation system that has maintained PFC. The allotment will continue to meet Standards 2 and 3 and will continue to not meet Standard 8 due to private irrigation practices on Deer Creek (EA Page 147).

The BLM has determined that this proposed decision may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect Chinook salmon, steelhead trout, bull trout or their designated critical habitat. NOAA and USFWS have concurred with this finding. If the proposed decision has an effect on those species, the affect will be through the impacts of cattle grazing on riparian vegetation or through introduction of sediment to Texas Creek through hoof action on the streambank. The BLM has also determined that the proposed decision will have no effect on Canada lynx, sockeye salmon or sockeye salmon designated critical habitat or adverse effect on Chinook salmon essential fish habitat.

Powderhorn #06307

Grazing Management:

The current 10-year term permits on the allotment have the following Mandatory and Other Terms and Conditions:

Permit	Number/Kind	Grazing Period	% Public Land	Active Use (AUMs)	Active Preference	Suspended AUMs	Total AUMs
A	350 Cattle	4/15-5/1	96%	188	4212	3065	7277
	37 Cattle	5/1-12/12	96%	264			
	625 Cattle	5/1-6/30	96%	1203			
	782 Cattle	7/1-7/15	96%	370			
	734 Cattle	7/16-7/31	96%	371			
	635 Cattle	8/1-9/15	96%	922			
B	332 Cattle	9/16-12/10	96%	901	802	592	1394
	200 Cattle	6/16-9/15	100%	605			
	200 Cattle	11/1-11/30	100%	197			

Other Terms and Conditions:

1. As provided in Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 4130.3-2(d), you are hereby required to submit a certified actual grazing use report within 15 days after completion of your annual grazing use. Failure to comply could result in the cancellation of your permit in whole or part.
2. BLM management of the allotment will continue to emphasize maintenance or improvement of riparian communities.

The level of use over the last five years (actual use) has been:

Permit	Maximum Number/Kind	Maximum Grazing Period	Average Active Use
A	552 Cattle	4/21-12/13	1963
B	159 Cattle	5/20-12/16	656

My proposed decision is to renew two grazing permits with terms of 10-years from March 1, 2012 to February 28, 2022 with the following Mandatory and Other Terms and Conditions for the Powderhorn Allotment:

Permit	Maximum Number/Kind	Maximum Grazing Period	% Public Land	Maximum Active Preference	Suspended AUMs	Total Preference
A	782 Cattle	4/15-12/12	80%	2954	3065	6019
B	200 Cattle	4/15-12/12	100%	563	592	1155

Other Terms and Conditions:

1. The Clear Creek Pasture will be grazed for a maximum of 3 weeks and no grazing will occur after 8/15 in the pasture.
2. If in-season monitoring on any key area in the Clear Creek Pasture finds >15% alteration or <6" of stubble height livestock will be removed from the pasture for the rest of the season.

Range Improvement Projects:

In addition, my proposed decision is to construct the following range improvement projects:

- Construct a pipeline approximately four miles long. Three troughs will be installed with one being placed in the Steer Pasture, one in the Center Field Pasture, and one in the 18 Mile Flat Pasture. The landowner at the point of diversion will transfer a 0.02 cubic foot per second

water right to the BLM. The BLM will obtain an easement from the landowner for the portion of pipeline crossing the private land, approximately 7,500 feet.

- Remove the current fence (approximately 0.3 miles) on the south side of the 18 Mile Flat Pasture and construct a new 0.3 mile barbed wire fence to the north of the existing fence. The cattleguard will also be moved from its present location and reinstalled where the new fence will meet the road.
- Construct a new 0.5 mile fence in the Clear Creek Pasture. The new fence will include 0.1 mile of barbed wire fence that will be constructed to the north of the existing fence. The new fence will prevent cattle from accessing Clear Creek from the Winter Range Pasture. The rest of the fence, crossing Clear Creek and along the road will be constructed of wooden jack and/or post and poles.

Crossing Permits:

In addition, my proposed decision is to allow, between March 1, 2012 and February 28, 2022, up to a maximum of 700 cattle to cross the allotment in a year with a maximum of 350 cattle at one time. Cattle crossing the allotment will not be left on the allotment overnight. Cattle will only be authorized to cross the allotment from 5/15-10/15. Cattle crossing the allotment will not be authorized in the Clear Creek Pasture. Crossing will only occur on routes shown in Figure 11 of the EA.

Rationale:

As described in the EA (Pages 39-40 and Appendix A), the Powderhorn Allotment is currently not meeting Standards 2, 3, 7 or 8. The BLM has determined that existing grazing management is a significant factor in not achieving Standards 2, 3 and 8. The failure to achieve Standard 7 is most likely due to grazing management on private and state lands and the road system.

The proposed decision for the Powderhorn Allotment differs from the current grazing permits in the following manner: (1) The maximum grazing period for both permits will be changed to 4/15-12/12, (2) The percent public land will be changed from 96% to 82% on permit A, to reflect the proportion of AUMs authorized on BLM managed lands versus the AUMs available on State and private lands fenced with the BLM lands, and remain 100 % public land on the other permit, (3) The Active Preference on the allotment will decrease from 5014 AUMs to 3,517 AUMs, (4) Livestock grazing in the Clear Creek Pasture will not occur after 8/15 and will not exceed three weeks, and (5) If utilization on key areas within the Clear Creek Pasture leads to more than 15% alteration or less than 6" of stubble height cattle will be removed from the pasture for the rest of the season.

BLM is adjusting the maximum grazing period so that both permits have the same period for easier coordination on the allotment. The active preference on the allotment is being reduced to 3,517 AUMs as described in the Lemhi RMP and to help the allotment move towards meeting standards. If monitoring during the season finds > 15% alteration or <6" of stubble height at key areas in the Clear Creek Pasture the cattle will be removed from that pasture for the rest of the grazing period. This will further assure that riparian habitat improves over time.

BLM's change to percent public land numbers is the result of recalculating the AUMs available within the allotment with the reduction of BLM AUMs. In addition to the BLM managed public

lands in the allotment one permittee has a permit to remove 183 AUMs from State of Idaho lands and produces 561 AUMs on private lands that he controls.

On the Powderhorn Allotment, riparian conditions are expected to improve. The Terms and Conditions on the permit and proposed projects are expected to improve riparian conditions on Clear, Eighteenmile, Poison, and upper Tenmile Creeks. The *Clear Creek Division Fence* will be constructed to keep livestock off of the spring complex riparian-wetland area on Clear Creek during the winter months to protect riparian habitat. The Clear Creek Pasture will also be modified with the new fence, and use limited to three weeks with an off date of August 15th. The limited use in Clear, Poison, and upper Tenmile Creeks is expected to increase riparian plant vigor and decrease bank trampling, and eventually increase deep-rooted riparian vegetation. The Eighteenmile water gap at McFarland Boulevard will also be fenced to prevent cattle from accessing Eighteenmile Creek from the allotment. Excluding cattle is expected to improve riparian-wetland conditions on this segment of Eighteenmile Creek. The Terms and Conditions and improvement projects will improve riparian conditions on the allotment, and make significant progress toward meeting Standards 2 and 3 (EA Page 110).

Crossing will be limited to very short duration (one day), active trailing which will not measurably impact riparian-wetland conditions since it will take place almost entirely on existing roads/trails and upland habitat. This activity will not have measurable impacts to wetland/riparian habitat on the allotment nor affect the allotments ability to meet or make significant progress toward meeting Standards 2 and 3 (EA Page 111).

Compared to the current situation, an increase in AUMs removed (34.3%) will occur on the Powderhorn Allotment (EA Page 82). The Powderhorn Allotment is currently meeting Standard 4. At the time of the RHA, the assessment sites were rated as having a “none-to-slight”, “slight-to-moderate” and “moderate” departure from a reference for the Biotic Attribute. The “slight to moderate” departure was due to a lower than expected amount of bluebunch wheatgrass, although it was noted that forb abundance and diversity was high and prairie Junegrass, a perennial native grass, cover was 14%. The “moderate” departure at the third site was due to a crested wheatgrass seeding that was implemented in the 1960’s. The AUMs will be 34% above those utilized over the last 5 years. The stocking rate will be 9.3 acres/AUM and will allow the allotment to continue to meet Standard 4. The *18 Mile Pipeline* will provide water sources in the Steer, Center Field, and 18 Mile Flat Pastures, which will increase use in these pastures. The number of AUMs will be in conformance with the long-term AUMs authorized in the Lemhi RMP (EA Page 84).

Where crossing occurs, livestock will mainly walk along existing trails or pathways and will take the easiest route through sagebrush-dominated areas; they will avoid walking directly through shrubs in most cases. In some locations, damage to shrubs from crossing events could occur. In these areas, there could be an increase in vascular plant litter and an increase in resource availability (light, nutrients, water) for herbaceous vegetation. This decrease in competition from shrubs will benefit herbaceous vegetation (EA Page 85).

The *Clear Creek Division Fence*, located at the mouth of Clear Creek, will prevent cattle from accessing the Clear Creek Springs area after June 15. Negligible effects will occur to upland

native plant communities because the fence will not exclude upland areas from grazing; trailing impacts could occur along the fence line (EA Page 86).

Grazing activities on the Powderhorn Allotment have had limited impacts that influence water quality in Eighteenmile Creek. The allotment has had limited grazing on the stream segments listed as water quality-impaired in the Lemhi River TMDL (EA Pages 126/127). The dewatered segments of Tenmile and Clear creeks will remain in Non-Functioning static condition due to irrigation withdrawal not related to BLM grazing management. BLM has no discretion over this activity. The allotment is currently not meeting Standard 7 due to irrigation withdrawal and is expected to continue to not meet the standard (EA Page 127). Reduced grazing impacts to stream/riparian habitat and associated parameters are expected on Powderhorn Allotment from changes in management and permit Terms and Conditions limiting grazing during key seasons (EA Page 128).

Crossing will be limited to very short duration (one day), active trailing which will not measurably impact water quality conditions because it will take place almost entirely on existing roads/trails and upland habitat. This activity will not have measurable impacts to water quality on the allotment (EA Page 128).

The fence and enclosure proposals will have no adverse effect on water quality. The fences built in the Powderhorn Allotment will benefit water quality by reducing grazing impacts. This will include maintaining/improving vegetative cover and decreasing bank trampling. This is expected to increase water quality conditions by increasing streamside vegetative cover, increasing bank stability, reducing erosion and sedimentation and decreasing water temperatures. For excluded areas, grazing will be eliminated on the stream/riparian habitat, giving the riparian plant community the ability to fully recover from livestock impacts and decrease sedimentation and water temperatures (EA Pages 128-129).

Fish and their habitats are expected to be maintained or improve on Eighteenmile and Clear Creeks. With the fence along Eighteenmile Creek, livestock will no longer have access to the stream/riparian habitat and conditions will improve and move toward PFC. Due to the PFC conditions on Clear Creek below the private mine site and the light grazing, impacts are expected to be minimal on habitat and key indicators and not adversely affect listed species or their habitat. With regard to bull trout and habitat, use in the Clear Creek Pasture (the majority of the stream on BLM) will be limited to a maximum of three weeks and no grazing after August 15 to ensure no conflicts with spawning bull trout. The remainder of the free-flowing stream on BLM will be fenced out of the Winter Range Pasture and not allow livestock access to the stream. With the fence along Clear Creek and the reduced time and earlier season for the upper reaches, conditions are expected to rapidly improve and provide suitable habitat conditions for fish. The allotment will make significant progress toward meeting Standards 2, 3 and 8. As a result, it is likely that instream cover for fish will increase which will reduce predation on juvenile fish and reduce stress on juvenile and adult fish. Increased riparian vegetation will also be likely to increase terrestrial macro invertebrate input to the stream and maintain cool water temperatures which will have the potential to increase fish growth and survival. Improved riparian condition will also result in decreased fine sediment input which will improve survival of incubating eggs. Also, improved riparian condition will create velocity refuge areas for juveniles and adults during flood flows which will likely increase survival during high flow events (EA Page 146).

Crossing will be limited to very short duration (one day), active trailing which will not measurably impact stream/riparian habitat conditions because it will take place almost entirely on existing roads/trails and upland habitat. There are no anadromous fish in the drainage and bull trout are only found in the headwaters of the streams (EA Pages 147-148).

Riparian habitat will improve in the Powderhorn Allotment (EA Page 161). Nesting habitat for greater sage-grouse in the Powderhorn Allotment will remain marginal due to the lack of forb diversity and canopy in the crested wheatgrass seeding. The portion of the Powderhorn Allotment dominated by little sagebrush will continue to be marginal habitat based on sagebrush heights. Portions of the Powderhorn Allotment will continue to provide nesting habitat for greater sage-grouse but with reduced grass for cover which could lead to more sage-grouse nests or chicks being lost to predation (EA Page 162).

The new fences could be used by birds of prey to hunt from and may pose a strike hazard to upland game birds, such as the greater sage-grouse, especially during movement to and from leks or during periods where migratory movements are most likely to occur. The *Clear Creek Division Fence* (less than a half mile) could be a harder fence for big game to move through given the location between the road and the stream, but will be constructed of wood to prevent wildlife from becoming ensnared as they might with a wire fence (EA Pages 163).

The *18 Mile Flat Fence Relocation* will increase the size of the enclosure on Eighteenmile Creek which will improve riparian habitat for wildlife; in addition the fence will be moved from the riparian to the adjacent semi-desert shrubland habitat, which will make it easier for wildlife to move through because of the conversion from a four strand to a three strand (EA Pages 163-164).

Wildlife could be displaced during the construction phases of the projects. There could be a slight effect on habitat due to weed expansion, though weeds will continue to be treated in the area. There will be removal of vegetation around the troughs resulting in a loss of native, upland habitat. The troughs will lead to a change in the grazing patterns in the allotment. In the Powderhorn Allotment, the troughs will move use to the south, decreasing the amount of grazing that occurs near greater sage-grouse leks and the surrounding nesting habitat. The troughs will provide a potential for small mammals and birds to drown, however small animal escape ramps will be placed in all troughs to allow the animals a method for escape (EA Page 164).

The BLM has determined that this proposed decision may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect bull trout or the designated critical habitat for Chinook salmon or steelhead trout. The USFWS and NOAA have concurred with this determination. If the proposed decision has an effect on those species, the affect will be through the impacts of cattle grazing on riparian vegetation or through introduction of sediment to Eighteenmile Creek, or its tributaries, through hoof action on streambanks. However, the affect is not likely to be adverse because the Clear Creek Pasture will only be used prior to 8/15 allowing time for regrowth of riparian plants. In addition, the cattle will be removed from the pasture if utilization results in more than 15% alteration or less than 6" of stubble height at the key areas. The proposed decision will have no effect on Canada lynx, Chinook salmon, steelhead trout, sockeye salmon, sockeye salmon designated critical habitat or bull trout designated critical habitat. The proposed decision will have no adverse effect on Chinook salmon essential fish habitat.

Purcell Creek #06316

Grazing Management:

The current 10-year term permit on the allotment has the following Mandatory and Other Terms and Conditions:

Permit	Number/Kind	Grazing Period	% Public Land	Active Use (AUMs)	Active Preference	Suspended AUMs	Total AUMs
A	21 Cattle	5/1-6/30	50%	21	28	0	28

Other Terms and Conditions:

1. As provided in Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 4130.3-2(d), you are hereby required to submit a certified actual grazing use report within 15 days after completion of your annual grazing use. Failure to comply could result in the cancellation of your permit in whole or part.
2. The allotments shown on this permit 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 area manager.

The level of use over the last five years (actual use) has been:

Permit	Maximum Number/Kind	Maximum Grazing Period	Average Active Use
A	235 Cattle	6/1-6/16	19

My proposed decision is to renew a grazing permit with a term of 10-years from March 1, 2012 to February 28, 2022 with the following Mandatory and Other Terms and Conditions for the Purcell Creek Allotment:

Permit	Maximum Number/Kind	Maximum Grazing Period	% Public Land	Maximum Active Preference	Suspended AUMs	Total Preference
A	200 Cattle	5/1-6/30	100%	28	0	28

Other Terms and Conditions:

None proposed for this allotment.

Crossing Permits:

In addition my proposed decision is to allow, between March 1, 2012 and February 28, 2022, up to a maximum of 5,000 cattle to cross the allotment in a year with a maximum of 1,200 cattle at one time. Cattle crossing the allotment will not be left on the allotment overnight. Cattle will only be authorized to cross the allotment from 3/1-12/19. Crossing will only occur on routes shown in Figure 14 of the EA.

Rationale:

As described in the EA (Page 41 and Appendix A), the Purcell Creek Allotment is currently meeting all of the applicable Standards. The current health of the allotment is the result of grazing management under the current grazing permit.

The proposed decision for the Purcell Creek Allotment differs from the current grazing permit in the following manner: (1) The maximum cattle on the allotment will increase from 21 to 200,

and (2) The percent public land will be change from 50 to 100 as the non-BLM managed forage has been fenced out of the allotment.

BLM is increasing the maximum number of cattle from 21 to 200 as applied for by the permittee. While this will henceforth allow more cattle on the allotment, it is important to note that AUMs are not being increased on the allotment. The result is that even if the permittee chose to graze with more cattle he would have to decrease the grazing period.

BLM's change to percent public land numbers is the result of recalculating the AUMs available within the allotment. Private land was fenced in with the allotment in the past, which is no longer the case.

Riparian-wetlands do not exist on the Purcell Creek Allotment. Impacts to riparian and stream channels from livestock use on the allotment will not occur (EA Page 103).

Crossing will be limited to very short duration (one day), active trailing which will not measurably impact riparian-wetland conditions since it will take place almost entirely on existing roads/trails and upland habitat. This activity will not have measurable impacts to wetland/riparian habitat on the allotment nor affect the allotments ability to meet or make significant progress toward meeting Standards 2 and 3 (EA Page 111).

Compared to the current situation, an increase in AUMs removed will occur on the Purcell Creek Allotment (47.4%) (EA Page 82). The Purcell Creek Allotment is meeting Standard 4. This allotment was rated as having a "none-to-slight" departure for the Biotic Attribute in the RHA. The stocking rate will be 22.8 acres/AUM, a low stocking rate, and will allow the allotment to continue to meet Standard 4. Although AUMs will be increased by 47.4% compared to the current situation, the actual increase will only be 9 AUMs and will be in conformance with long-term AUMs authorized in the Lemhi RMP. The number of AUMs will be the same as what are authorized under the current permit (EA Page 84).

Where crossing occurs, livestock will mainly walk along existing trails or pathways and will take the easiest route through sagebrush-dominated areas; they will avoid walking directly through shrubs in most cases. In some locations, damage to shrubs from crossing events could occur. In these areas, there could be an increase in vascular plant litter and an increase in resource availability (light, nutrients, water) for herbaceous vegetation. This decrease in competition from shrubs will benefit herbaceous vegetation (EA Page 85).

Crossing will be limited to very short duration (one day), active trailing which will not measurably impact water quality conditions because it will take place almost entirely on existing roads/trails and upland habitat. This activity will not have measurable impacts to water quality on the allotments and the allotments will continue to meet Standard 7 relative to livestock grazing management on public lands managed by the BLM (EA Page 128).

The allotment is currently meeting Standard 8. Because there is no stream/riparian habitat or fish impacts, it will continue to meet the standard. There is no fish-bearing stream habitat on the allotment and this decision will not impact fish or their habitats (EA Page 136).

Crossing will be limited to very short duration (one day), active trailing which will not measurably impact stream/riparian habitat conditions because it will take place almost entirely on existing roads/trails and upland habitat (EA Pages 147-148).

It has been determined by the BLM that this proposed decision will have no effect to species listed under the ESA.

Spring Canyon #06310

Grazing Management:

The current 10-year term permit on the allotment has the following Mandatory and Other Terms and Conditions:

Permit	Number/Kind	Grazing Period	% Public Land	Active Use (AUM)s	Active Preference	Suspended AUMs	Total AUMs
A	220 Cattle	5/15-5/31	83%	102	3329	988	4317
	420 Cattle	6/1-6/17	83%	195			
	720 Cattle	6/18-7/24	83%	727			
	720 Cattle	7/25-9/5	83%	845			
	399 Cattle	8/24-10/24	83%	675			
	1200 Sheep	6/14-10/11	83%	786			

Other Terms and Conditions:

1. As provided in Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 4130.3-2(d), you are hereby required to submit a certified actual grazing use report within 15 days after completion of your annual grazing use. Failure to comply could result in the cancellation of your permit in whole or part.
2. Salt and/or mineral supplements will be placed in areas agreed upon by the BLM and the permittee. Placement will emphasize mitigating impacts to streams and undeveloped springs or seeps (including Texas Creek and Poison Springs), pygmy rabbit burrow sites, and critical sage grouse habitat.
3. The maximum allowable cattle use in the Spring Canyon Allotment is 2,544 BLM AUMs.
4. All range improvements will be maintained prior to turn-out, and all water developments and associated pipelines will be drained and winterized.

The level of use over the last five years (actual use) has been:

Permit	Maximum Number/Kind	Maximum Grazing Period	Average Active Use
A	560 Cattle	5/16-10/18	1400

My proposed decision is to renew a grazing permit with a term of 10-years from March 1, 2012 to February 28, 2022 with the following Mandatory and Other Terms and Conditions for the Spring Canyon Allotment:

Permit	Maximum Number/Kind	Maximum Grazing Period	% Public Land	Maximum Active Preference	Suspended AUMs	Total Preference
A	720 Cattle	5/15-10/31	79%	2542	1775	4317

Other Terms and Conditions:

None proposed for this allotment.

Range Improvement Projects:

In addition, my proposed decision is to construct the following range improvement projects:

- The existing enclosure at All Hands Spring will be removed and replaced with a larger enclosure that will run along the upland vegetated banks of the draw from above the spring and downhill to the toe of the slope. The new enclosure fence will encompass approximately 1/2 acre, and will be constructed using jack and poles.
- The existing jack and pole enclosure at Highway Spring will be adjusted to include the spring source while leaving two water gaps below the source for livestock access.

Rationale:

As described in the EA (Page 42 and Appendix A), the Spring Canyon Allotment is currently not meeting Standards 2, 3 and 7. The BLM has determined that existing grazing management is not a significant causal factor for not meeting Standard 7 which is most likely due to grazing management on private lands. An enclosure fence was constructed in 2010 which has led to the allotment making significant progress toward meeting Standards 2 and 3. The current health of the allotment is the result of grazing management under the current grazing permit.

The proposed decision for the Spring Canyon Allotment differs from the current grazing permit in the following manner: (1) The maximum grazing period will increase from 5/15-10/24 to 5/15-10/31, (2) The percent public land will be changed from 83% to 79%, to reflect the proportion of AUMs authorized on BLM managed lands versus the AUMs available on State and private lands fenced with the BLM lands, (3) The active Preference will decrease from 3,329 to 2,542, and (4) Sheep use will no longer be authorized on the allotment.

The CBT Land Health EA described an issue with potential disease transfer from domestic sheep to Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep. The permittee has not utilized the sheep AUMs for over 25 years and a risk to bighorn sheep in three population management units (North Beaverhead, North Lemhi and South Lemhi) will exist if those AUMs are utilized. Accordingly, my proposed decision is to suspend the sheep AUMs.

BLM is adjusting the maximum grazing period for the allotment to align with the adjoining USFS managed allotment. While this will henceforth allow an additional 7 days on the allotment, the active preference will be lower and if the permittee uses the entire grazing period on a given year the number of cattle on the allotment will have to be lowered.

BLM's change to percent public land numbers is the result of recalculating the AUMs available within the allotment with the reduction of BLM AUMs. In addition to the BLM managed public lands in the allotment the permittee also has a permit to remove 325 AUMs from State of Idaho lands and produces 347 AUMs on private lands that he controls.

On the Spring Canyon Allotment, riparian conditions are expected to be maintained or improve. The projects are expected to improve riparian conditions. Excluding livestock from a larger portion of Highway Spring is expected to increase riparian plant vigor, eliminate trampling, and eventually improve riparian condition to PFC. The projects on the allotment are expected to result in an improvement over present riparian conditions and the allotment will continue to make significant progress toward meeting Standards 2 and 3 (EA Pages 110-111).

Compared to the current situation, an increase in AUMs removed (81.6%) will occur on the Spring Canyon Allotment (EA Page 82). The Spring Canyon Allotment is meeting Standard 4. The RHA assessment sites were rated as having “none-to-slight” and “slight-to-moderate” departures for the Biotic Attribute. The stocking rate will be 9.1 acres/AUM and will allow the allotment to continue to meet Standard 4. Authorized AUMs will increase by 1142 (81.6%) from the last 5 years actual use, but will be 787 fewer AUMs than are authorized under the current permit. The 2542 AUMs is in conformance with long-term AUMs authorized in the Lemhi RMP (EA Page 85).

The allotment is currently meeting Standard 8. Because it has no stream/riparian habitat or fish impacts, it will continue to meet the standard. There is no fish-bearing stream habitat on these allotments and the proposed decision will not impact fish or their habitats (EA Page 136). Spring Canyon will continue to provide nesting habitat for greater sage-grouse but with reduced grass for cover which could lead to more sage-grouse nests or chicks being lost to predation (EA Page 162).

The expansion of the *All Hands Spring Exclosure* will allow increased diversity and density of riparian vegetation within the exclosure. The larger size will allow a greater variety of wildlife to utilize the habitat. The small size of the current exclosure prevents big game from moving into and out of the exclosure (EA Page 164).

It has been determined by the BLM that this proposed decision will have no effect to species listed under the ESA.

Tex Creek #06306

Grazing Management:

The current 10-year term permits on the allotment have the following Mandatory and Other Terms and Conditions:

Permit	Number/Kind	Grazing Period	% Public Land	Active Use (AUMs)	Active Preference	Suspended AUMs	Total AUMs
A	112 Cattle	5/12-7/11	100%	225	224	174	398
B	20 Cattle	5/13-6/30	100%	32	38	49	87
	3 Horse	5/1-6/30	100%	6			

Other Terms and Conditions:

1. As provided in Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 4130.3-2(d), you are hereby required to submit a certified actual grazing use report within 15 days after completion of your annual grazing use. Failure to comply could result in the cancellation of your permit in whole or part.
2. The allotments shown on this permit 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 area manager.

The level of use over the last five years (actual use) has been:

Permit	Maximum Number/Kind	Maximum Grazing Period	Average Active Use
A	134 Cattle	5/12-7/26	202
B	38 Horse	5/5-7/12	55

My proposed decision is to renew two grazing permits with terms of 10-years from March 1, 2012 to February 28, 2022 with the following Mandatory and Other Terms and Conditions for the Tex Creek Allotment:

Permit	Maximum Number/Kind	Maximum Grazing Period	% Public Land	Maximum Active Preference	Suspended AUMs	Total Preference
A	150 Cattle	5/12-7/15	100%	224	174	398
B	25 Cattle	5/12-7/15	100%	38	49	87

Other Terms and Conditions:

1. Until the Tex Creek Pond Enclosure is constructed, livestock will not graze the allotment after 6/15.

Range Improvement Projects:

In addition, my proposed decision is to construct the following range improvement projects:

- Construct a new enclosure fence to prevent cattle from accessing the Tex Creek ponds except at a small water gap, which will be left on the north side of the biggest pond. The enclosure will be approximately 45 acres in size and be constructed of approximately 1.36 miles of barbed wire fence and 400 feet of jack and pole fence. The water gap will be constructed with jack and pole fence and will extend along either side of the water gap pond for 200 feet before turning to barbed wire fence for the remainder of the enclosure.

Rationale:

As described in the EA (Page 43 and Appendix A), the Tex Creek Allotment is currently not meeting Standards 2, 3, 7 and 8. The BLM has determined that existing grazing management is not a significant causal factor for not meeting Standard 7 which is most likely due to grazing management on private and state lands and the road system in the watershed. Changes in private irrigation have allowed the allotment to make significant progress toward meeting Standards 3 and 8. The BLM determined that Standard 2 is not being met and that current livestock management is a significant factor.

The proposed decision for the Tex Creek differs from the current grazing permits in the following manner: (1) The maximum number of cattle will increase from 132 to 175, the 3 horses will no longer be permitted and the maximum grazing period for both permits will be changed to 5/12-7/15, and (2) Livestock grazing will not occur after 6/15 until the Tex Creek Pond Enclosure is constructed.

BLM is increasing the maximum number of cattle to 175 and adjusting the maximum grazing period to 5/12 to 7/15 as applied for by the permittees. While this will henceforth allow an additional 33 cattle on the allotment it will not result in a material change to the allotment because the AUMs have not increased. The result is that even if the permittee chooses to graze

with more cattle, he would have to substantially reduce the grazing period. Constructing the Tex Creek Pond Enclosure will allow the vegetation around the ponds to increase in density and diversity.

The Tex Creek ponds will be fenced and livestock grazing eliminated except for a small water gap. The early season use and proposed fence are expected to improve riparian conditions and make significant progress toward meeting Standard 2 and continue making significant progress toward Standard 3 (EA Page 110).

Slight increases in AUMs removed will occur on the Tex Creek Allotment (1.5%). Impacts will be difficult to discern on the Tex Creek Allotment, where the increase will only be 4 AUMS and the grazing period slightly deferred by 7 days. The Tex Creek Allotment is currently meeting Standard 4 and will continue to meet Standard 4; stocking rates will be 10.3 acres/AUM (EA Pages 81-82).

Water quality impacts have been determined to be mostly from multi-ownership roads, and private agricultural land practices. The allotment will continue to not meet Standard 7 (EA Pages 126-127).

Fish and their habitats are expected to be maintained or improve on Eighteenmile Creek. This area will receive moderate grazing until July 15; allowing the riparian area time during the growing season for vegetative recovery and streambanks to stabilize. Eighteenmile Creek on the allotment has improved in the past ten or more years in vegetative condition, substrate quality and water temperature. The BLM segments are in overall good condition and are expected to remain in PFC/FAR-static to upward trend. Due to the limited grazing use on Eighteenmile Creek, the stream channels and streambank stability are expected to continue the static to upward trends. The grazing management strategy is expected to result in continuation of this trend and result in the desired conditions. Impacts are expected to be minimal on habitat and key indicators and the allotment will make significant progress toward meeting Standards 2, 3 and 8 on the allotment (EA Page 145). Riparian habitat will improve in the Tex Creek Allotment (EA Page 162). Nesting habitat for greater sage-grouse in the Tex Creek Allotment will remain marginal due to the lack of forb diversity and canopy in the crested wheatgrass seedings (EA Page 162).

The ponds within the *Tex Creek Ponds Enclosure* will provide improved habitat for some waterfowl and shore birds, providing additional cover around the edge of the ponds as the vegetation increases, and less suitable habitat for waterfowl that prefer banks without the vegetation diversity and height (EA Page 163).

The BLM has determined that this proposed decision may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect Chinook salmon, steelhead trout, bull trout or their designated critical habitat. The USFWS and NOAA have concurred with this determination. If the proposed decision has an effect on those species, the affect will be through the impacts of cattle grazing on riparian vegetation or through introduction of sediment to Eighteenmile Creek through hoof action on streambanks. However, the affect is not likely to be adverse because the grazing period allows time for regrowth of riparian plants. The proposed decision will have no effect on Canada lynx, sockeye salmon or sockeye salmon designated critical habitat. The proposed decision will have no adverse effect on Chinook salmon essential fish habitat.

Timber Creek #06224

Grazing Management:

The current 10-year term permits on the allotment have the following Mandatory and Other Terms and Conditions:

Permit	Number/Kind	Grazing Period	% Public Land	Active Use (AUMs)	Active Preference	Suspended AUMs	Total AUMs
A	100 Cattle	5/6-6/15	100%	135	134	52	186
B	75 Cattle	5/6-6/30	100%	138	138	17	155
C	245 Cattle	5/6-6/15	100%	330	398	163	561
	245 Cattle	10/1-10/5	100%	40			
	5 Horse	5/6-10/31	100%	29			
D	1200 Sheep	5/1-6/6	82%	239	239	0	239

Other Terms and Conditions:

1. As provided in Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 4130.3-2(d), you are hereby required to submit a certified actual grazing use report within 15 days after completion of your annual grazing use. Failure to comply could result in the cancellation of your permit in whole or part.
2. BLM management of the allotment will continue to emphasize maintenance or improvement of riparian communities.

The level of use over the last five years (actual use) has been:

Permit	Maximum Number/Kind	Maximum Grazing Period	Average Active Use
A	120 Cattle	4/12-6/19	160
B	75 Cattle	5/7-7/10	139
C	245 Cattle	5/12-6/20	244
D	Sheep	NA	0

My proposed decision is to renew four grazing permits with terms of 10-years from March 1, 2012 to February 28, 2022 with the following Mandatory and Other Terms and Conditions for the Timber Creek Allotment:

Permit	Maximum Number/Kind	Maximum Grazing Period	% Public Land	Maximum Active Preference	Suspended AUMs	Total Preference
A	100 Cattle	5/6-6/15	100%	134	52	186
B	75 Cattle	5/6-6/30	100%	138	17	155
C	268 Cattle	5/6-6/15	100%	398	163	561
	245 Cattle	8/15-9/30	100%			
	5 Horse	5/6-10/31	100%			
D	Sheep	NA	NA	0	239	239

Other Terms and Conditions (C):

1. After 6/15 cattle cannot be left on the allotment overnight. All cattle must be actively trailed across the allotment.

Crossing Permits:

In addition my proposed decision is to allow, between March 1, 2012 and February 28, 2022, up to a maximum of 5,000 cattle to cross the allotment in a year with a maximum of 1,200 cattle at one time. Cattle crossing the allotment will not be left on the allotment overnight. Cattle will only be authorized to cross the allotment from 3/1-12/19. Crossing of Big Timber Creek will take place on the Carey Act Dam, fording of the stream will not be authorized. Fording Little Timber Creek will occur at a designated two-track road. Crossing will only occur on routes shown in Figure 6 of the EA.

Rationale:

As described in the EA (Page 44 and Appendix A), the Timber Creek Allotment is currently meeting all applicable Standards. The current health of the allotment is the result of grazing management under the current grazing permit.

The proposed decision for the Timber Creek Allotment differs from the current grazing permits in the following manner: (1) The maximum grazing period will remain the same for all permits except a portion of Permit C, where it will change from 10/1-10/5 to 8/15-9/30, (2) Any use after 6/15 on Permit C cannot leave cattle on the allotment overnight, (3) The Active Preference will decrease from 909 to 670, and (4) Sheep use will no longer be authorized on the allotment.

The CBT Land Health EA described an issue with potential disease transfer from domestic sheep to Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep. The permittee has not utilized the sheep AUMs for over 25 years and a risk to bighorn sheep in three population management units (North Beaverhead, North Lemhi and South Lemhi) will exist if those AUMs are utilized. Accordingly, my proposed decision is to suspend the sheep AUMs.

Impacts to the Timber Creek Allotment will result in the maintenance or improvement of present riparian conditions. The short segment of Little Timber Creek that is dewatered in the allotment will remain static but overall, the allotment will continue to meet Standards 2 and 3 (EA Page 111).

Crossing will be limited to very short duration (one day), active trailing which will not measurably impact riparian-wetland conditions since it will take place almost entirely on existing roads/trails and upland habitat. This activity will not have measurable impacts to wetland/riparian habitat on the allotment nor affect the allotments ability to meet or make significant progress toward meeting Standards 2 and 3 (EA Page 111).

Compared to the current situation, an increase in AUMs removed will occur on the Timber Creek Allotment (23.4%) (EA Page 82). The Timber Creek Allotment is meeting Standard 4. The RHA assessment sites were rated as having “slight-to-moderate” departure for the Biotic Attribute. The stocking rate will be 10.5 acres/AUM and will allow the allotment to continue to meet Standard 4. Authorized AUMs will increase by 23.4% from the current situation (last 5 years actual use), but will be 239 fewer AUMs than are authorized under the current permits. The 670 AUMs is in conformance with long-term AUMs authorized in the Lemhi RMP (EA Page 85).

Where crossing occurs, livestock will mainly walk along existing trails or pathways and will take the easiest route through sagebrush-dominated areas; they will avoid walking directly through shrubs in most cases. In some locations, damage to shrubs from crossing events could occur. In these areas, there could be an increase in vascular plant litter and an increase in resource availability (light, nutrients, water) for herbaceous vegetation. This decrease in competition from shrubs will benefit herbaceous vegetation (EA Page 85).

The dewatered segment of Little Timber Creek will remain in Non-Functioning static condition due to irrigation withdrawal not related to BLM grazing management. BLM has no discretion over this activity. The allotment is currently meeting Standard 7. (EA Page 127).

Crossing will be limited to very short duration (one day), active trailing which will not measurably impact water quality conditions because it will take place almost entirely on existing roads/trails and upland habitat. This activity will not have measurable impacts to water quality on the allotment and the allotment will continue to meet Standard 7 relative to livestock grazing management on public lands managed by the BLM (EA Page 128).

Fish and their habitats are expected to be maintained or improve on Big Timber, Little Timber and Swan Basin Creeks. Conditions are expected to remain in PFC because most of the grazing will take place in the upland habitat with off-site water away from the streams and the limited season of use. This will give the riparian community time during the growing season to recover from most of the impacts from livestock including bank trampling and vegetative removal. With no grazing use during the hot season, the riparian greenline condition will continue to remain in PFC. Streambank stability is expected to be maintained and improve due to early season use and the extensive woody vegetation. Due to the heavily wooded nature of the stream channels, livestock will have limited potential to impact streambank stability. The allotment will continue to meet Standards 2, 3 and 8 (EA Page 147).

Crossing will be limited to very short duration (one day), active trailing which will not measurably impact stream/riparian habitat conditions because it will take place almost entirely on existing roads/trails and upland habitat. There are no anadromous fish in the drainage and bull trout are only found in the headwaters of the streams (EA Page 147-148).

Very small levels of bank trampling are expected on Little Timber Creek with an insignificant amount of measurable impacts to stream/riparian habitat expected from crossing. This activity will not have measurable impacts to stream habitat on the allotment and will not result in the allotment not meeting, or make significant progress toward meeting, Standards 2, 3 and 8 relative to livestock grazing (EA Page 148).

Timber Creek Allotment will continue to provide nesting habitat for greater sage-grouse but with reduced grass for cover which could lead to more sage-grouse nests or chicks being lost to predation (EA Page 162).

Crossing authorizations will have little effect on wildlife. There could be some wildlife displacement as livestock move across an allotment, but since the livestock will be actively pushed and will not be on the allotment overnight the displacement and removal of grass through grazing will be minimal, leading to negligible effects on forage and cover for wildlife. The

crossing will take place mostly in semi-desert shrubland habitat, but there could also be some displacement in riparian habitat along Timber Creek (EA Page 162).

The BLM has determined that this proposed decision may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect Chinook salmon, steelhead trout, bull trout or their designated critical habitat. The USFWS and NOAA have concurred with this determination. If the proposed decision has an effect on those species, the affect will be through the impacts of cattle grazing on riparian vegetation or through introduction of sediment to Big and Little Timber Creeks through hoof action on streambanks. However, the affect is not likely to be adverse because the grazing period allows time for regrowth of riparian plants. The proposed decision will have no effect on Canada lynx, sockeye salmon or sockeye salmon designated critical habitat. The proposed decision will have no adverse effect on Chinook salmon essential fish habitat.

Authority

The authority under which this proposed decision is made is found in the Lemhi Resource Management Plan, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, and within the following 43 CFR citations:

- 4110.2-2 - Specifying permitted use
- 4110.3 - Changes in permitted use
- 4130.2 - Grazing permits or leases
- 4130.3 - Terms and conditions
- 4130.6-3 – Crossing Permits
- 4130.3-3 - Modification of permits or leases
- 4160 – Administrative Remedies
- 4180 - Fundamentals of Rangeland Health and S&G for Grazing Administration

In addition, authority for the portion of the proposed decision concerning crossing permits is also found in the 2012 Appropriations Omnibus Act Sec. 123.

My Proposed Decision concerning Crossing Permits is not subject to protest or appeal in accordance with Section 123 of the 2012 Appropriations Omnibus Act.

RIGHT OF PROTEST AND/OR APPEAL

Protests

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other interested publics may protest a proposed decision under Sec. 43 CFR 4160.1 and 4160.2, within 15 days after receipt of such proposed decision, in person or in writing to:

Linda R. Price
Field Manager
1206 South Challis Street
Salmon, ID 83467

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.

Appeals

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 4160.3 and 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 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 appellant must also serve a copy of the appeal by certified mail on the U.S. Department of the Interior, Boise Field Solicitor's Office, University Plaza, 960 Broadway Avenue, Suite 400, Boise, Idaho 83706 and person(s) named [43 CFR 4.421 (h)] in the Copies sent to: section of this decision.

The appeal shall clearly and concisely state the reasons 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.

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. Any person named in the decision from which an appeal is taken (other than the appellant) who wishes to file a response to the petition for a stay may file with the Hearings division a motion to intervene in the appeal, together with the response, within 10 days after receiving the petition. Within 15 days after filing the motion to intervene and response, the person must serve copies on the appellant, the office of the Solicitor and any other person named in the decision (43 CFR 4.472(b))

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Craig Nemeth at (208) 756-5425, Vincent Guyer at (208) 756-5403 or myself at (208) 756-5410.



Salmon Field Manager



Date

Copies Sent To: