

Appendix A21 Peterson Individual Allotment #219

1.0 Introduction

According to the RMP, Peterson Individual Allotment #219 consists of approximately 555 acres of public land and 320 acres of private land. There are 440 acres of state land within the fenced boundaries, but the allotment map in the RMP did not show the State land as being a part of the allotment. Public land in the allotment is located in two parcels. There is public access to the eastern parcel of public land, but it is limited and difficult.

Through the Evaluation and Determination, it was determined that, due to the 1999 changes:

- Livestock management is in conformance with the Watershed (#1) standard
- Livestock management is not a factor in the non-conformance to the Native Plant Communities (#4) and Threatened and Endangered Species (#8) standards;
- Compliance with all applicable guidelines for livestock grazing management is being achieved

2.0 Description of the Alternatives

2.1 Alternative A – No Action /Continue Current Management

Livestock grazing would continue, in a season-long manner, with the current grazing permit expiring February 28, 2015. Mandatory terms and conditions of the grazing permit are:

Permittee	Livestock	Season of Use	Percent Public Land	Grazing Preference		
				Active	Suspended	Total
James W. Kranz	113 Cattle	05/15 to 07/31	39%	113	0	113

Following are allotment specific terms and conditions that would be attached to the grazing permit:

1. Your base property lease for the Peterson Individual Allotment #219 will expire on December 31, 2008. You must notify the BLM in writing prior to that date if you are planning on renewing your lease agreement with James Peterson.
2. The allotment(s) listed on this grazing permit is subject to the requirement of 43 CFR 4180 -- Fundamentals of Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Administration. This permit shall be modified (if necessary) to meet these requirements upon completion of a standard and guidelines assessment and determination as scheduled by the Authorized Officer.
3. Turn-out is subject to range readiness criteria.
4. Your certified Actual Use Report is due within 15 days of completing your authorized annual grazing use.
5. Salt and/or supplement shall not be placed within one-quarter (1/4) mile of springs, streams, meadows, aspen stands, playas or water developments.
6. Changes to the scheduled use requires prior approval.
7. Trailing activities must be coordinated with the BLM prior to initiation. A trailing permit or similar authorization may be required prior to crossing public lands.
8. Livestock enclosures located within your grazing allotment(s) are closed to all domestic grazing use.

9. Range improvements must be maintained in accordance with the cooperative agreements and range improvements permits in which you are a signator or assignee. Allotment boundary fences must be functioning prior to allowing livestock onto the allotment.
10. All appropriate documentation regarding base property leases, lands offered for exchange-of-use, and livestock control agreements must be approved prior to turn-out. Leases of land and/or livestock must be notarized prior to submission and be in compliance with Boise District Policy.
11. Failure to pay the grazing bill within 15 days of the due date specified shall result in a late fee assessment of \$25.00 or 10 percent of the grazing bill, whichever is greater, not to exceed 250.00.

2.2 Alternative B – Proposed Action

Based on field mapping of existing fences and information provided by the permittee, the acreage for Peterson Individual Allotment has been recalculated. There are 10 fewer acres of public land, 122 fewer acres of private land, and 377 acres of state land within the proposed allotment boundary than are shown in the RMP. The allotment now contains approximately 1,120 acres, including 545 acres of public land (49 percent), 198 acres of private land (18 percent), and 377 acres of state land (33 percent). These revised acres reflect the most accurate and up-to-date information, and would be used for the new term permit.

To incorporate updated allotment information and current grazing management guidance, it is proposed to:

1. Modify the allotment boundary to correspond to existing fencelines;
2. Increase the percent public land term of the grazing permit to 49 percent;
3. Change the allotment name from Peterson Individual to Mesa Siding Allotment #219;
4. Renew the grazing permit showing maximum authorizations for livestock numbers, season-of-use, and AUMs (each of these columns would be stand-alone sections of the permit therefore standard method for calculating AUMs would not apply). Annual flexibility of livestock numbers and/or season-of-use would be allowed based on seasonal circumstances (example - range readiness; variations in permittee's management; but not limited to these situations). Management flexibility would be allowed provided livestock use remains within the sideboards of maximum livestock numbers and season-of-use, and without exceeding authorized AUMs.
 - a. Generally, livestock would be on the allotment for approximately four weeks each year, due to the allotment's southern exposure. To provide periodic rest or deferment during the critical growth stages (Guideline #4), livestock use should be during the later part of the season of use (July and August) instead of always during the early part of the season of use. Later grazing may be a problem due to the lack of water in the allotment; therefore, monitoring should be the basis for any annual changes of authorized use.
5. The north boundary fence needs to be reconstructed, once appropriate resource clearances are completed, if necessary. The permittee will provide all labor for this project; BLM will provide materials for approximately 1.25 miles of fence, which may include barbed wire, posts for rock jacks (approximately 20 rock jacks with five posts per jack), clips, smooth wire, and stays. Exact needs would be determined, on the ground, in coordination with BLM and permittee.

6. Use Annual Indicators to insure progress is being made towards conformance with Idaho Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management.

Based on the proposed action, livestock grazing would be authorized for a maximum of 113 AUMs between mid-April and the end of July. Generally, livestock would be on the allotment for approximately four weeks each year due to the allotment's southern exposure. Terms and conditions necessary to regulate grazing activities on public land would be added to the grazing permit. Annual indicators would be used to describe utilization criteria. Term of the renewed grazing permit would be for ten years, from March 01, 2009 to February 28, 2019 as follows:

Allotment	Livestock (maximum)	Season of Use (maximum)	Percent Public Land	Grazing Preference		
				Active	Suspended	Total
Mesa Siding	120 Cattle	04/10 to 08/15	49%	113	0	113

Following are allotment specific Terms and Conditions to be attached to the grazing permit:

1. Livestock grazing for Mesa Siding Allotment will comply with Field Manager's Decision that became final on (intentionally left blank at this time, date to be inserted when the decision becomes final).
2. Authorized AUMs would not be exceeded on public lands. Livestock numbers and season of use, as shown above, indicate maximums that would be allowed under this permit. Permittee has discretion to manage within these numbers, provided overuse does not occur on public land.
3. Changes to the scheduled use require prior approval, on an annual basis.
4. The Annual Grazing Use Report (BLM Form 4130-5) must be properly completed, signed, dated and submitted within 15 days of completing your authorized annual grazing use.
5. Annual maintenance of range improvements would be completed prior to livestock entry of the allotment.
6. Livestock turn-out is subject to Boise District range readiness criteria.
7. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(b), permittee must notify the BLM Field Manager, by telephone followed with written confirmation, immediately upon discovery of human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony on federal land. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c), permittee must immediately stop any ongoing activities connected with the discovery and make a reasonable effort to protect discovered remains or object.
8. Salt and/or mineral blocks shall not be placed on public lands within one quarter (1/4) mile of springs, streams, meadows, riparian habitats or aspen stands.

Flexibility

Scheduled turn out dates by pasture may be adjusted based on Range Readiness and Annual Indicators. Grazing schedule adjustments require prior approval from the Authorized Officer.

Based on the results of monitoring associated with Annual Grazing Use Indicators, periodic modifications to authorized grazing management may be imposed. Monitoring data collected would be used to ensure adherence with Annual Indicators, listed below. Modifications may include, but are not limited to: duration of grazing use by pasture, and/or reducing livestock numbers by pasture. These modifications would be coordinated annually with the permittee and incorporated into the annual authorization.

Annual Indicators

Adherence to the annual indicators listed below, and the prescribed grazing management program are expected to make progress towards meeting, and maintaining achievement of the Standards for Rangeland Health and land use plan objectives. Periodic collection, evaluation, and interpretation of monitoring data would provide an indication of the potential success of the grazing management prescription.

1. Average utilization by livestock on key bunchgrass species would not exceed 40 percent during the period of critical growth (May 1 through June 30), and 50 percent outside the critical growth period.
2. Utilization on shrubs would not exceed 30 percent of current year's production as determined by Browse Removal Method, or other approved methods.

3.0 Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences

Affected environment is discussed in the main body of this EA, with additional information provided below.

3.1 Vegetation

3.1.1 Affected Environment – Vegetation

The predominant resource issues included reduction of shrubs and perennial grasses in the plant community which affects the ability to cycle nutrients and energy appropriate to maintain a perennial plant community, and the occurrence of invasive and noxious plant species. In addition to these resource issues, a reduction in the amount of residual plant litter which promotes soil moisture retention and nutrient cycling and areas of bitterbrush mortality were reported. Historic livestock use and the expansion of invasive and noxious weeds are causing non-compliance with the native plant community standard.

3.1.2 Environmental Consequences – Vegetation

3.1.2.1 Alternative A

The Idaho rangeland health standard for native plant communities is not being met on this allotment due to causes other than current livestock grazing management practices. Therefore, livestock grazing management under this alternative is expected to not affect whether the standard is being met by maintaining or promoting healthy productive and diverse native animal habitat and populations of native plants appropriate to soil type, vegetation, climate and landform to provide proper nutrient cycling, hydrologic cycling and energy flow.

3.1.2.2 Alternative B

The Idaho rangeland health standard for native plant communities is not being met on this allotment due to causes other than livestock. Livestock grazing management changes proposed under this alternative are expected to improve vegetation and make progress towards meeting the standard by maintaining or promoting healthy, productive, and diverse native animal habitat and populations of native plants appropriate to soil type, vegetation, climate and landform to provide proper nutrient cycling, hydrologic cycling and energy flow.

3.2 Soils

3.2.1 Affected Environment – Soils

The predominant resource issue is the occurrence of invasive and noxious weed species. Documented physical alterations to the soil structure appear to be historic and not associated with recent events.

3.2.2 Environmental Consequences – Soils

3.2.2.1 Alternative A

The Idaho rangeland health standard for watersheds, based on soil site stability and hydrologic function, is being met on this allotment. Livestock grazing management under this alternative is expected to continue to meet the standard by promoting proper infiltration, retention, and release of water appropriate to soil type, vegetation, climate and landform to provide proper nutrient cycling, hydrologic cycling and energy flow.

3.2.2.2 Alternative B

The Idaho rangeland health standard for watersheds, based on soil site stability and hydrologic function, is being met on this allotment. Livestock grazing management changes proposed under this alternative are expected to continue to meet the standard by promoting proper infiltration, retention, and release of water appropriate to soil type, vegetation, climate and landform to provide proper nutrient cycling, hydrologic cycling and energy flow.

3.3 Wildlife – Including Special Status Animal Species

3.3.1 Affected Environment – Wildlife – Including Special Status Animal Species

There are no populations of threatened, endangered, or sensitive animal species, or their habitat, known to occur on Peterson Individual Allotment. However, the allotment offers suitable habitat for Columbian sharp-tailed grouse

3.3.2 Environmental Consequences – Wildlife – Including Special Status Animal Species

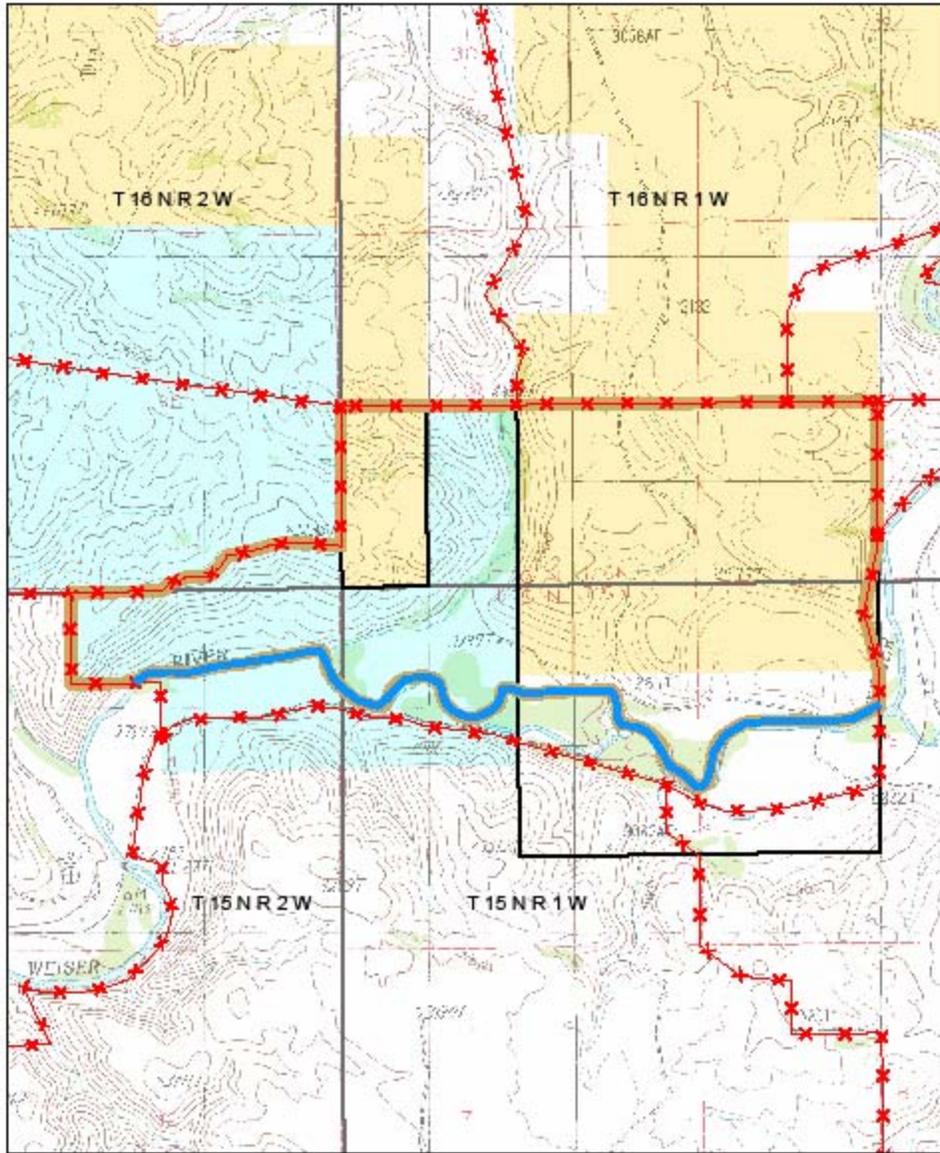
3.3.2.1 Alternative A

The Idaho rangeland health standard for special status animal species is not being met on this allotment due to causes other than current livestock grazing management practices. Therefore, livestock grazing management under this alternative is expected to not affect whether the standard is being met by maintaining or promoting healthy productive and diverse native animal habitat and populations of native plants appropriate to soil type, vegetation, climate and landform.

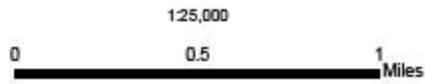
3.3.2.2 Alternative B

The Idaho rangeland health standard for special status animal species is not being met on this allotment due to causes other than current livestock grazing management practices. Therefore, livestock grazing management under this alternative is expected to not affect whether the standard is being met by maintaining or promoting healthy productive and diverse native animal habitat and populations of native plants appropriate to soil type, vegetation, climate and landform.

Mesa Siding Allotment #219



Map Legend	
	Fence
	Water Boundary
	Proposed Allotment Boundary
	1988 Management Plan
	BLM
	State
	Private



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