

Appendix A20 Keithley Individual Allotment #164

1.0 Introduction

Keithley Individual Allotment #164 consists of approximately 1,507 acres of public land and 160 acres of private land, per the RMP. Majority of this allotment borders public land, but also has borders with private and state land. Public access is limited.

Through the Evaluation and Determination, it was determined that

- Livestock management is in conformance with the Watershed (#1), 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 season-long, with the current grazing permit expiring February 28, 2012. Mandatory terms and conditions of the grazing permit are:

Permittee	Livestock	Season of Use	Percent Public Land	Grazing Preference		
				Active	Suspended	Total
Howard Keithley, Jr.	134 Cattle	04/20 to 06/04	86%	174	0	173

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

1. Livestock numbers will be coordinated between BLM and the lessee and may vary within the permitted use period, however, AUMs may not be exceeded. Any change to the scheduled use requires prior approval.
2. Livestock turnout dates are subject to Lower Snake River District range readiness criteria.
3. You are required to properly complete, sign and date an Actual Grazing Use Report Form 4130-5 for each allotment. The completed form(s) must be submitted to this office within 15 days from the last day of your authorized annual grazing use.
4. Supplemental feeding is limited to salt, mineral, and/or protein in block, granular, or liquied form. If used, these supplements must be placed at least one-quarter (¼) mile away from any riparian area, spring, stream, meadow, aspen stand, playa, water development, or special status plant locations.
5. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(b), you must notify the BLM Field Manager, by telephone with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary objects of cultural patrimony on federal land. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c), you must immediately stop any ongoing activities connected with such discovery and make a reasonable effort to protect the discovered remains or objectives.
6. The allotment listed on this grazing permit is subject to the requirement of 43 CFR 4180 Fundamentals of Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Administration. The permit shall be cancelled, modified and reissued as necessary to implement the standards and

guidelines in the Goodrich Watershed Area. The assessment and determination is tentatively scheduled for 2002 - 2004.

2.2 Alternative B – Proposed Action

Based on field mapping of existing fences and information provided by the permittee, the acreage for Keithley Individual Allotment has been recalculated. There are 240 acres more of public land and 31 acres more of private land within the proposed allotment boundary than are shown in the RMP. The allotment now contains approximately 1,938 acres, including 1,747 acres of public land (90 percent) and 191 acres of private land (10 percent) within three pastures. 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. Change the allotment name from Keithley Individual #164 to Keithley Creek #164;
3. Modify the percent public land term of the grazing permit to 90 percent;
4. Manage livestock across three pastures in a rotational grazing system;
5. 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. Typically, around 70 head of cattle are placed on the allotment for approximately six weeks; many years, livestock are held off the allotment until sometime in May. Extending the season-of-use to the end of June would allow six weeks of use if livestock are turned-out later in the authorized use period. Majority of the use is during the critical growth period; therefore if possible, livestock should not be grazed during the same time period in consecutive years.
6. Use Annual Indicators to insure continued 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 173 AUMs from mid-April through early June. 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:

Permittee	Livestock (maximum)	Season of Use (maximum)	Percent Public Land	Grazing Preference		
				Active	Suspended	Total
Howard Keithley, Jr.	135 Cattle	04/20 to 06/20	90%	173	0	173

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

1. Livestock grazing for Keithley Creek 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, scared 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 (¼) 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 current native plant community is functioning adequately and appropriately to maintain a diverse and healthy balance, through nutrient, energy and hydrologic cycling.

3.1.2 Environmental Consequences – Vegetation

3.1.2.1 Alternative A

The Idaho rangeland health standard for native plant communities is being met on this allotment. Livestock grazing management under this alternative is expected to continue to meet 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.

3.1.2.2 Alternative B

The Idaho rangeland health standard for native plant communities is being met on this allotment. Livestock grazing management changes proposed under this alternative are expected to continue to meet 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 watershed is functioning adequately to maintain proper nutrient, energy and hydrologic cycling.

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

Loamy sites offer upland shrubs with interspersed patches of mountain shrubs. Upland shrubs include big sagebrush and bitterbrush with a healthy understory of grasses and forbs that provide good habitat for ground and shrub nesting birds, small mammals, reptiles, and big game. Mountain shrub patches were robust with a good mixture of berry producing plants. Shallow stony sites offer value to shrub-steppe birds, reptiles and big game. Moderate canopy covers of xeric big sagebrush and bitterbrush provide escape and thermal cover, although herbaceous cover was limiting by August. The very shallow sites are at their potential for wildlife, but this is limited because of sparse shrubs and low grass heights. Keithley Individual Allotment lies within designated key sage grouse habitat and contains Columbian sharp-tailed grouse habitat characteristics.

3.3.2 Environmental Consequences – Wildlife – Including Special Status Animal Species

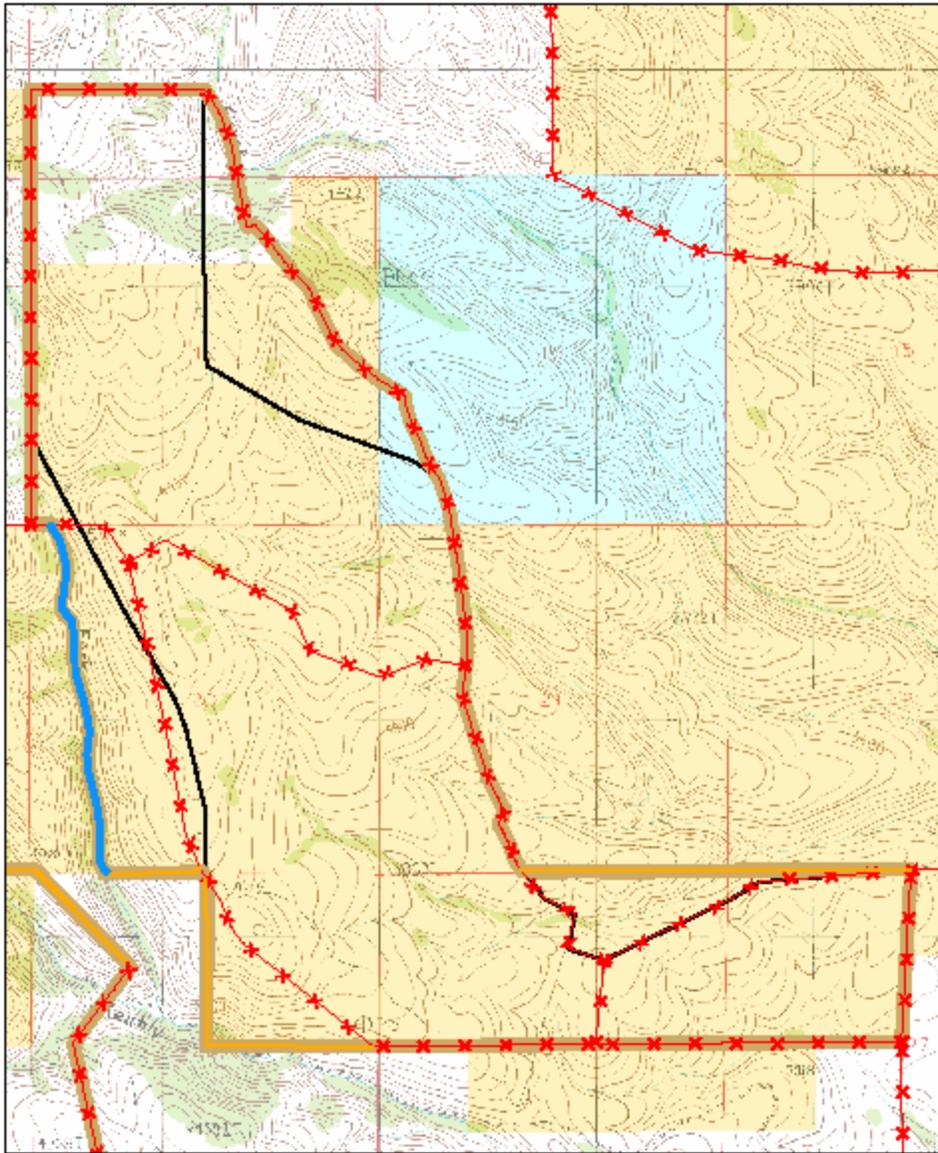
3.3.2.1 Alternative A

The Idaho rangeland health standard for special status animal species is being met on Hornet Creek Allotment. Livestock grazing management under this alternative is expected to continue to meet 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.

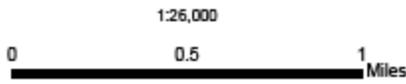
3.3.2.2 Alternative B

The Idaho rangeland health standard for special status animal species is being met on Hornet Creek Allotment. Livestock grazing management under this alternative is expected to continue to meet 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.

Keithley Creek Allotment #164 T 14N R 4W



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



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