



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Boise District Office
3948 Development Avenue
Boise, Idaho 83705
<http://www.id.blm.gov/offices/lsrcd>

In Reply Refer To:
4160 ID111
1101636

September 28, 2007

CERTIFIED - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Notice of Field Manager's Proposed Decision

John Anchustegui Jr.

Dear Mr. Anchustegui:

Introduction

The purpose of this proposed decision is to implement actions presented in Environmental Assessment ID-111-2006-EA-1772 for the Sunnyside Spring/Fall (#00825) and Simco (#00887) Allotments. Renewal of the grazing permit for the Sunnyside Spring/Fall and Simco Allotments to John Anchustegui Jr. is in conformance with:

- The Taylor Grazing Act of 1934,
- The Federal Land Policy and Management Act, 1976 (FLPMA), Title IV, Section 402,
- Title 43 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 4100, Grazing Administration – Exclusive of Alaska,
- Idaho Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management,
- the 1983 Kuna Management Framework Plan (MFP),
- Instruction Memorandum ID-090-2004-086 (IM), and

The actions are also compatible with the Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area (NCA) enabling Act (Public Law 103-64), and are consistent with management direction contained in the soon-to-be-released Final NCA Resource Management Plan (RMP).

Background

The 483,700 acre Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area (NCA) was established on August 4, 1993 to provide for the conservation, protection, and enhancement of raptor populations and habitats, and the natural and environmental resources and values associated therewith. Section 4(f)(1) of the Act provides that Bureau of Land Management (BLM) may authorize livestock grazing that is compatible with the purposes for which the NCA was established.

Except for a part of the Sunnyside Spring/Fall Allotment, the 14 grazing allotments in the Sunnyside Watershed are located within the NCA in Ada, Canyon, and Elmore County. The allotments are located between the Snake River and Interstate 84, and extend southeast from Melba to about Hammett, Idaho.

Idaho Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management were approved by the Secretary of the Interior August 12, 1997. In May 1998, the BLM Idaho State Office issued instructions for implementing the requirements of 43 CFR 4100. A standard and guidelines assessment includes a written Rangeland Health Assessment (health assessment), Evaluation and Determination, appropriate analysis as directed by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and issuance of new 10-year grazing permits.

Following a public review period, determinations were prepared to reflect whether allotments were achieving standards for rangeland health and conforming with guidelines for livestock grazing management.

The Sunnyside Watershed Standards and Guides assessment acknowledged that the NCA has been significantly impacted by wildfire, failed emergency rehabilitation projects, and drought. It also determined that, in some instances, timing and intensity of livestock grazing has contributed to either not meeting a standard or placing the area at risk of not meeting a standard. The rangeland health determinations for the Simco and Sunnyside Spring/Fall Allotments are described below and in Table 1.

Table 1. Rangeland health determinations for the Simco and Sunnyside Spring/Fall Allotments

Allotment Name	Rangeland Health Standards							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Sunnyside Spring/Fall #00825	M	*	*	NMC	NM	NM	*	NMC
Simco #00887	M	*	*	*	*	NM	*	NM

M = Meeting the Standard.

NM = Not meeting, but livestock grazing is not a significant factor.

NMC = Not meeting, and livestock grazing is considered a significant factor.

* Standard does not apply to this allotment.

Sunnyside Spring/Fall Allotment

Standard 1 (Watersheds) was being met and Standards 2 (Riparian Areas and Wetlands), 3 (Stream Channel/Floodplain), and 7 (Water Quality) did not apply to the Sunnyside Spring/Fall Allotment.

Standard 4 (Native Plant Communities) was not being met because of the landscape-scale change from perennial to annual vegetation communities that has resulted from a combination of drought, repeated wildfire, off-road vehicle activity, and livestock grazing. Livestock grazing was determined to be a factor in not meeting this standard because portions of the allotment having a good shrub canopy cover support an understory that was either very sparse, or was dominated by cheatgrass or exotic forbs. This reduced herbaceous production affects the amount and type of litter that can be incorporated into the soil surface. The reduced amount of organic material affects the nutrient cycle, and the resistance of the soil surface to erosion. Current

Sunnyside Spring/Fall grazing permits provide no periodic rest or deferment for those portions of the allotment located outside the Kuna slickspot peppergrass Management Area (MA). Areas outside of the Kuna MA are subject to continual spring and early summer grazing each year, which does not conform to Guideline #4. This yearly and repeated growing season grazing puts stress on remnant perennial species, and if continued, will eventually eliminate native perennial species from the understory.

Standard 5 (Seedings) was not being met, but livestock grazing management practices were not a significant factor. It is probable that, while livestock grazing may be part of the problem, insufficient precipitation and poor seeding techniques are the dominant reasons for the current condition of seedings in the allotment. With few exceptions, seedings were devoid of shrubs, or shrubs were sparsely scattered throughout the sites. Structural and species diversity displayed moderate and moderate to extreme departures from the reference site. Functionally, the plant communities were moderately dissimilar to the reference site because microbiotic crusts were absent, shrubs were absent or sparse, and forbs were sparse. Seeded species, generally crested wheatgrass and Russian wildrye, were faring well in patches; however, cheatgrass and bur buttercup were dense in the interspaces, and dominant in large patches. Litter amounts and annual production were moderately dissimilar to the reference site, which negatively affects the nutrient cycling, soil surface resistance to erosion, and energy flow.

Standard 6 (Exotic Plant Communities, other than Seedings) was not being met, but livestock grazing management practices were not a significant factor. Two exotic plant communities fit this standard - one is dominated by cheatgrass, and the other is dominated by exotic annual weeds, such as bur buttercup, tansy mustard, tumble mustard, or Russian thistle. Together, they occupy 37% of the allotment. Whitetop (*Cardaria draba*), a noxious weed, was observed along roads and trails in some areas, and poses a threat of expansion. The cheatgrass-dominated plant communities, which account for about 11% of the allotment, generally had sufficient residual litter following grazing to provide some soil protection from raindrop impact; however, the litter is considered volatile and contributes little to the nutrient cycle. Areas dominated by bur buttercup and other invasive annual weeds occupy about 26% of the allotment, and do not have sufficient cover to maintain soil stability. These sites were generally so degraded that nothing short of reseeding would restore vegetative cover. Remnant Sandberg bluegrass was vigorous, and in some locations expanding to a degree. These sites, however, have a fire frequency of about every five years, and with the flashy fuels, native species will not survive long term. About 26% of the allotment is represented by this condition.

Standard 8 (Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Species) was not being met due to the potential for grazing-related impacts to slickspot peppergrass and other special status plants and animals. Slickspot peppergrass, a BLM sensitive plant, is known from the South, West, and East Nicholson, Initial Point, Common, and Kuna Butte Pastures. Woven-spore lichen, another BLM sensitive plant, is known from the Common and Initial Point Pastures. Both of these sensitive species have declined in numbers due to a variety of factors, including range fires, highly competitive seeded species, inappropriate placement of livestock water and salt, livestock trampling, and increased exotic annuals. A September 10, 2004 decision incorporated into affected grazing permits conservation measures from the 2003 slickspot peppergrass CCA (which was revised by the 2006 CA) to reduce potential impacts from livestock grazing to the

plant and its habitat. Chief among these are the restriction of grazing to the dormant season in the Kuna MA, which includes all or portions of the above pastures. In addition, the decision restricts where salt, water, and improvements (i.e., fencing) may be located throughout suitable and occupied slickspot peppergrass habitat. Further, the 2006 CA contains an adaptive management protocol that BLM uses to determine where and when to initiate actions to reduce or mitigate potentially adverse impacts to slickspot peppergrass populations and habitats. The effects of conservation measures to protect slickspot peppergrass and its habitat were analyzed in 2004 (EA-ID095-2004-078), and appropriately mitigated the livestock impacts discussed above, which should lead to improvement in meeting this standard. Conservation measures that reduce potential impacts to slickspot peppergrass may also provide the same benefit to woven-spore lichen.

Simco Allotment

Standard 1 (Watersheds) was being met, and Standards 2 (Riparian Areas and Wetlands), 3 (Stream Channel/Floodplain), 4 (Native Plant Communities), 5 (Seedings), and 7 (Water Quality) did not apply to the Simco Allotment.

Standard 6 (Exotic Plant Communities, Other than Seedings) was not being met, but livestock grazing management was not a significant factor. The Simco Allotment has burned twice in the past, but has not been reseeded; thus, exotic annuals dominate over 80% of the allotment, while remnant perennials exist in small, scattered pockets. The abundance of exotic annual species inhibits the ability of remnant perennials to compete for nutrients and maintain their populations. The lack of functional groups and structural diversity in the plant community affect the ability of the area to cycle nutrients and energy sufficiently to maintain a properly functioning system.

Standard 8 (Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Species) was not being met, but livestock grazing management was not a significant factor. This allotment is dominated by exotic annual plants and lacks the structural diversity that is provided by shrubs. As such, it does not meet the standard for most native upland shrub-dependent special status animals. In addition, although no special status plant species are known from the Simco allotment, the potential natural plant community could have supported slickspot peppergrass.

The Sunnyside Watershed assessments were completed without evaluating the effects of livestock grazing on species listed under the Endangered Species Act. Therefore, in 2005, BLM filed with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) a Biological Assessment (BA) to determine the effects of livestock grazing on the threatened bald eagle and endangered Idaho springsnail. Since neither the Simco nor the Sunnyside Spring/Fall Allotment provide livestock access to the Snake River or its tributaries, they were determined to have a No Effect on both species. Both of the species have since been de-listed, and in addition, the Idaho springsnail was reclassified as the Jackson Lake springsnail.

Alternative strategies for modifying grazing use to make significant progress toward the Idaho Standards for Rangeland Health were analyzed in environmental assessment (EA) No. ID-111-2006-EA-1772. A pre-decisional EA was mailed to grazing permittees and interested publics in July 2006. Table 2.1 in EA #ID-111-2006-EA-1772 shows that the Simco Allotment is

composed entirely of annual pastures. Tables 2.1 and 2.2 in (EA #ID-111-2006-EA-1772) show that, with the exception of the Kuna Slickspot Peppergrass Management Area, the Sunnyside Spring/Fall Allotment is composed of annual pastures that have crossed the threshold from native to annual exotic rangeland. Although areas within the Kuna Slickspot Peppergrass Management Area qualify as annual range, the entire Management Area was classified as perennial range because: 1) the Management Area includes several large fire rehab projects that contain abundant seeded perennials, and 2) conservation measures from the 2006 CA require the Kuna Slickspot Peppergrass Management Area to be grazed only during the dormant season. As such, grazing management in this area differs significantly from other annual allotment and pastures.

This proposed decision will incorporate permit modifications necessary to insure conformance with rangeland health standards, while providing management flexibility. In addition, the permit will include Management Requirements to ensure that minimum amounts of residual vegetation remain in all pastures following livestock removal.

Among other things, the permittee requested that the season of use in both the Sunnyside Spring/Fall and Simco Allotments be extended into the month of March. This part of the permittee's proposal is determined to be incompatible with the purposes for which the NCA was established. Grazing during the month of March would increase potential for trampling damage to soils saturated from winter snowmelt or spring rains, which would likely be detrimental to slickspot peppergrass populations and habitats. In addition, remnant perennial bunchgrasses are in their active growing period during March, and their root reserves are generally low at this time. Selective grazing during this period in successive years would put additional stress on these perennial plants, and would eventually eliminate the species from the plant community. The above effects would not allow the allotments to make progress towards meeting Standard 4.

Pursuant to direction in the soon-to-be-released Final NCA RMP, if the Sunnyside Spring/Fall or Simco Allotments are treated in the future for habitat restoration and/or fuels management, a number of strategies could be employed to improve livestock grazing to facilitate management of the resulting perennial plant community. Future grazing systems will incorporate management objectives and modify livestock numbers, use dates, and utilization levels to properly manage the treated areas. Management objectives would address livestock movement, distribution, and turn-out dates. Range improvements could be proposed that improve livestock distribution, accommodate and support rangeland restoration efforts, protect sensitive plant species, and facilitate implementation of grazing systems. Cultural, wildlife, and botanical surveys would be conducted prior to authorizing any new surface disturbing activities. Additional NEPA would be completed prior to implementing a grazing system different than what is currently being authorized.

Grazing alternatives are in conformance with the Kuna MFP, as required by 43 CFR 1610.5-3(a). Also, the alternatives are in conformance with the enabling legislation for the Snake River Birds of Prey NCA, and the 1996 NCA Management Plan, and are consistent with management direction included in the soon to be released Final NCA RMP.

Proposed Decision

After carefully considering the analysis of EA #ID-111-2006-EA-1772, input from the permittees, state agencies, other federal agencies, interested public and my staff, I have decided that Alternative D of EA #ID-111-2006-EA-1772 (with modifications) is my proposed decision for the Sunnyside Spring/Fall Allotment, and Alternative A is my proposed decision for the Simco Allotment. Management Guidelines will be imposed as part of this proposed decision.

Through this decision:

1. Livestock kind and number, period of use, amount of use, and associated terms and conditions will be identified (*points 1 and 2, below*).
2. Management Guidelines will be used to set parameters in development of the annual grazing system (*point 3, below*).
3. General and specific management guidelines for slickspot peppergrass (*points 4 and 5, below*).

(Point 1) A grazing permit will be issued to John Anchustegui, Operator Number 1101636, for the term of March 1, 2008 to February 28, 2018. Management flexibility, based on seasonal circumstances, may be made with approval from the Authorizing Officer, provided livestock use is within the sideboards of the mandatory terms and conditions. The grazing permit will be issued as follows:

Allotment		Livestock		Grazing Period		%	AUMs	
Name	No.	No.	Kind	Begin	End	PL	Active	Suspended
Sunnyside S/F	00825	2393	Sheep	04/01*	05/31*	100	610	0
		670	Sheep	11/01	02/28	100	405	0
		87	Cattle	11/01	02/28	100	350	0
Simco	00887	84	Cattle	04/01	06/30	100	251	0

* During this time period (spring), no grazing will occur in the Kuna slickspot peppergrass Management Area.

Within the Sunnyside Spring/Fall Allotment, 350 AUMs of spring sheep use would be transferred to 350 AUMs of dormant season cattle use. The dormant season would extend from 11/1 to 2/28. The Sunnyside Spring/Fall and Simco Allotments would both be managed according to applicable requirements in the 2006 slickspot peppergrass CA. Exchange of Use is a separate application request and is not included in this grazing permit.

(Point 2) Allotment Terms and Conditions

The following terms and conditions would be included in the grazing permit to provide for proper range management and assist in the orderly administration of the public rangelands:

1. Livestock grazing in Sunnyside Spring/Fall and Simco Allotments will be in accordance with the Four Rivers Field Manager’s Final Grazing Decision.
2. Livestock numbers may vary annually, providing the period of use, AUMs and livestock numbers are not exceeded, except as otherwise provided by this permit.
3. Turn-out is subject to Boise District range readiness criteria.

4. Your certified actual use report is due within 15 days of completing your authorized annual grazing use. An annual grazing license will not be issued unless an actual use report for the previous grazing season has been filed with BLM.
5. Salt and/or supplement shall not be placed within one quarter ($\frac{1}{4}$) mile of springs, streams, meadows, aspen stands, playas or water developments.
6. Trailing activities must be coordinated with the BLM prior to initiation. A trailing permit, crossing permit or similar authorization may be required prior to crossing public lands.
7. Livestock exclosures located within your grazing allotments are closed to all domestic grazing use.
8. All appropriate documentation regarding base property leases, lands offered for exchange-of-use, and livestock control agreements must be approved prior to turn-out.
9. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(b), you must notify the BLM Field Manager, by telephone with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony on federal lands. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c), you must immediately stop any ongoing activities connected with such discovery and make a reasonable effort to protect the discovered remains or objects.
10. Changes to the scheduled use require prior approval.
11. Range improvements must be maintained in accordance with the cooperative agreements and range improvement permits in which you are a signatory or assignee.
12. Failure to pay grazing bills 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. Payment made later than 15 days after the due date shall include the appropriate late fee assessment. Failure to make payment within 30 days may be a violation of 43 CFR 4140.1(b)(1) and shall result in action by the authorized officer under 43 CFR 4150.1 and 4160.
13. Livestock grazing will be in accordance with your allotment grazing schematic(s). Changes in scheduled pasture use dates will require prior authorization.
14. Spring sheep AUMs in the Sunnyside Spring/Fall Allotment may be shifted to dormant season use on an annual basis upon approval of the authorized officer.
15. Sheep bands in the Sunnyside Spring/Fall Allotment shall not exceed 2000 head.
16. Sheep camps in the Sunnyside Spring/Fall Allotment shall be moved a minimum of $\frac{1}{2}$ mile at least every four (4) days and shall not be placed within $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of cattle watering troughs or reservoirs.

(Point 3) Management Guidelines (General)

Management Guidelines are actions to be followed in order to bring livestock management, or activities associated with livestock management, into conformance with the allotment or specific areas within the allotment that require special attention and management.

Adherence to these guidelines and the prescribed grazing management plan would likely maintain or make progress toward meeting rangeland health standards and land use plan objectives. Periodic collection, evaluation and interpretation of monitoring data could provide an indication of the potential success of the grazing management plan.

1. To protect the watershed, and maintain sufficient available forage for Piute ground squirrel populations, the minimum amount of residual or ungrazed forage is recommended to be 250 lb/ac. Livestock will be removed from the allotment before grazing exceeds this use level.

(Point 4) General Slickspot Peppergrass Management Guidelines for both the Simco and Sunnyside Spring/Fall Allotments.

These Management Guidelines were developed from conservation measures contained in the 2003 slickspot peppergrass Candidate Conservation Agreement, which was refined and updated by the 2006 Conservation Agreement (CA). The guidelines pertain to slickspot peppergrass habitat located anywhere within the slickspot peppergrass zone of consideration.

1. Permittee will supplement federal and state agency surveys and monitoring by surveying their allotments or use areas for slickspots and slickspot peppergrass plants, including existing occurrences, during their normal course of business. Permittees will report survey information to the Conservation Data Center for the purposes of aiding monitoring efforts and contributing to the CA adaptive management strategy.

(Point 5) Slickspot Peppergrass Management Guidelines Specific to the Sunnyside Spring/Fall Allotment

Management Guidelines are actions to be followed in specific slickspot peppergrass management areas (MA) in order to bring livestock management, or activities associated with livestock management, into conformance with the allotment or specific areas within the allotment that require special attention and management.

1. **Kuna MA:** Grazing within the Kuna MA will be limited to the period from 10/15 to 02/15.
2. **Kuna MA:** Permittees operating within the Kuna MA will use only existing roads and tracks for vehicle travel.
3. **Kuna MA:** Permittee shall place salt/supplement to minimize trampling of slickspot peppergrass and of slickspots, respectively. Supplements will be placed at least ½ mile, preferably ¾ mile if practicable from occurrences. Supplements that are attractants should be placed so that cattle will not trail through an element occurrence to the supplement or a water

source. Attractants should be placed so that cattle are drawn away from the area of the element occurrence.

4. **EOs 27 and 28 in Gowen Field/Orchard Training MA:** Supplements and water sources will be placed a mile away from the vicinity of these priority EOs.
5. **EOs 32 and 48 in Boise MA:** Supplements and water sources will be placed one mile away from the vicinity of these priority EOs.
6. **Kuna MA:** Permittee will herd livestock away from priority EOs if the soils become moist or are *likely* to become saturated, and will relocate livestock if soils become saturated and penetrating trampling is likely to occur to one of three alternative sites (two of the alternative sites are fenced) away from existing priority EOs.
7. **Boise MA:** Permittees will herd livestock away from the vicinity of **EOs 32 and 48** within the MA. When soils are moist the permittee will move livestock to either fenced private land or outside of the MA within the Sunnyside Spring/Fall Allotment to prevent penetrating trampling.
8. **EOs 27 and 28 in Gowen Field/Orchard Training MA:** Permittee will graze within these EOs when soils are dry. If precipitation causes the soil to become tracking wet and the 10 day forecast predicts more rain, livestock will be removed from the vicinity of these EOs.
9. **Boise, Kuna, Gowen Field/Orchard Training, & Orchard MAs:** Permittee will not trail livestock through EOs when soils are saturated. Permittee will herd livestock away from priority EOs if soils become moist, and will relocate livestock if soils become saturated and penetrating trampling is likely to occur.
10. **Gowen Field/Orchard Training MA:** Permittee will delay turn-out when soils are saturated.

Rationale

Renewal of the grazing permit is in conformance with the Kuna MFP Record of Decision. In addition, Section 3 of the Taylor Grazing Act states in part, “The Secretary of the Interior is authorized to issue or cause to be issued permits to graze livestock on grazing districts . . . Such permits shall be for a period of not more than ten years....to renewal in the discretion of the Secretary of the Interior, who shall specify from time to time numbers of stock and season of use.”

All qualifications of 43 CFR 4110.1, 4110.2-1, and 4110.2-2 have been met. The authorization of the grazing permit is consistent with 43 CFR 4100.0-8, 4110.3, 4130.2, 4130.3, 4130.3-1, 4130.3-2, 4130.3-3, 4130.6-1, 4160 and all of subpart 4180.

Additional rationale follows:

1. Implementation of the proposed grazing management terms and conditions, slickspot peppergrass conservation measures and management guidelines in the Sunnyside Spring/Fall allotment will improve upland resources where currently the Standards and Guideline assessment and determinations have identified that current livestock grazing practices are significant factors.
2. Standard 8 was not being met in the Sunnyside Spring/Fall allotment for slickspot peppergrass. The implementation of the slickspot peppergrass conservation measures will reduce or prevent trampling of rare plants and their associated habitat. Specifically, these measures will minimize the impact of ground disturbance caused by livestock penetrating trampling of slickspots during periods when soils are saturated. These changes will aid the permittee in ensuring that the allotment is making significant progress towards meeting Standard 8.
3. Sustainable livestock grazing will be authorized to help promote economic stability for permittees. Proper management of annual exotic range requires more flexibility than perennial ranges. Low elevation ranges on which cheatgrass has excluded almost all desirable perennial species should be managed as annual range with the primary goal of reducing fuel loading, and providing grazing opportunities consistent with long-term protection of the watershed.
4. The primary consideration for protecting annual rangeland is the maintenance of enough litter to protect the soil, and adequate seed production for stand maintenance. Establishing management guidelines and monitoring will provide data and a means to manage these highly variable rangelands for watershed health.
5. Native rangelands once converted to an annual type will normally remain an annual community unless massive expenditures of resources are applied.
6. Where current livestock grazing practices are not significant factors or where standards are met, existing grazing management practices will remain the same. Once an area has been successfully treated for habitat restoration or fuels management, such that the area supports a perennial plant community pursuant to direction in the Final NCA RMP, grazing management practices will be implemented to provide deferment or rest during the critical growing period of perennial plants, maintaining plant vigor and adequate ground cover for watershed protection. Additional NEPA analysis will be completed prior to implementing a grazing system different than what is currently being authorized.

Authority

Authority under which this decision is being issued is found in Title 43 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR).

43 CFR 4100.0-8	Land Use Plans
43 CFR 4110.1	Mandatory Qualifications
43 CFR 4110.2-2	Specifying Grazing Preference

43 CFR 4110.2-4	Allotments
43 CFR 4110.3	Changing in Grazing Preference
43 CFR 4120.2	Allotment Management Plans and Resource Activity Plans
43 CFR 4120.5	Cooperation
43 CFR 4130.1-1	Filing Applications
43 CFR 4130.2	Grazing Permits or Leases
43 CFR 4130.3	Terms and Conditions
43 CFR 4130.4	Authorization of Temporary Changes in Grazing Use Within the Terms and Conditions of Permits and Leases, Including Temporary Nonuse
43 CFR 4140	Prohibited Acts
43 CFR 4160	Administrative Remedies
43 CFR 4180	Fundamentals of Rangeland Health and Standards and Guidelines for Grazing Administration

Right of Protest and/or Appeal

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other interested public may protest a proposed decision under Sec. 43 CFR 4160.1 and 4160.2, in person or in writing to Rosemary Thomas; Field Manager; Four Rivers Field Office; 3948 Development Avenue, Boise, Idaho 83705 within 15 days after receipt of such decision. 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.

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other person whose interest is adversely affected by the final decision may file an appeal in accordance with 43 CFR 4.470 and 43 CFR 4160 .4. The appeal must be filed within 30 days following receipt of the final decision, or within 30 days after the date the proposed decision becomes final. The appeal and petition for a stay must be filed in the office of the authorized officer, as noted above. The person/party must also serve a copy of the appeal by certified mail to Ken Seby, Office of the Field Solicitor, US Department of the Interior, 960 Broadway Avenue, Suite 400, Boise, Idaho 83706 and to person(s) named [43 CFR 4.421(h)] in the *copies sent to*: section of this decision.

The appeal shall state clearly and concisely the reason 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 of the decision pending resolution of the appeal, 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 serviced in accordance with 43 CFR 4.473. Any person named in the decision that receives a copy of a petition for a stay and/or an appeal will need to refer to 43 CFR 4.472(b) for procedures to follow if you wish to respond.

You may access EA ID-111-2006-EA-1772, which addresses allotments within the Sunnyside Watershed on our website at: <http://www.blm.gov/id/st/en/info/nepa.2.html>

If you have any questions, please contact either Mike Barnum, Rangeland Management Specialist at 384-3218, or myself at 384-3430.

Sincerely,

/s/ Rosemary Thomas

Rosemary Thomas
Four Rivers Field Manager

Enclosure: CD containing EA ID-111-2006-EA-1772-
Decisions affected by Sunnyside Spring/Fall and Simco allotments

Copies sent to:

Burns Paiute Tribe, Tribal Chairman
Shoshone-Paiute Tribe, Kyle Prior Chairman
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, Tribal Chairman
Doug McConnaughey, Resolution Advocates

Boise District Grazing Board, Stan Boyd
Weldon Branch
Phil Soulen

Senator Larry Craig
Representative Mike Crapo
Governor C L Otter

ID Dept of Agriculture
Committee for Idaho's High Desert, c/o Pam Marcum
Idaho Bird Hunters Inc c/o Game Bird Conservation Comm

Idaho Dept of Fish & Game, Bob Martin
Idaho Dept of Lands, SW Idaho Area Office

ID Dept of Lands
Idaho Farm Bureau Federation, c/o Judy Bartlett

High Desert Coalition, Inc. Ted Hoffman
Knight Veterinary Clinic, Lloyd Knight DVM
Land & Water Fund, Laird Lucas

Elmore County Commissioners
Ada County Commissioners

Western Watersheds Project
Col Wm Richey, Special Asst, Military Affairs, Office of the Governor
Curt Meis
Michael Stanford
Sierra Club, Middle Snake Group
Marzinelli, Marty
Idaho Wildlife Federation, Attn: Kent J. Laverty

Nicholson, Thomas
TFI, Tom & Scott Nicholson
L G Davison & Sons, Inc
Donald L. Pape
Lily Collias