

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

Twin Falls District  
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**Finding of No Significant Impact**

**Patterson Trailing Event 2012**

**NEPA No. DOI-BLM-ID-T030-2012-011-EA**

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:**

I have determined that the proposed action, as described in the EA will not have any significant impact, individually or cumulatively, on the quality of the human environment. Because there would not be any significant impact, an environmental impact statement is not required.

In making this determination, I considered the following factors:

1. The activities described in the proposed action do not include any significant beneficial or adverse impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(1)). The EA includes a description of the expected environmental consequences of actively trailing 200 head of cattle across established two-track routes and power line roads in a one-half day event.
2. The activities included in the proposed action would not significantly affect public health or safety (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(2)). The proposed action involves 200 head of cattle, which are currently located on a nearby private pasture. The event will occur in dry conditions, over disturbed areas, and will involve the consumption of no more than 7 AUM of forage. The allotments to be crossed do not currently have cattle in them, and are infrequently used for recreation.
3. The proposed activities would not significantly affect any unique characteristics (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(3)) of the geographic area such as prime and unique farmlands, caves, wild and scenic rivers, designated wilderness areas, wilderness study areas, or areas of critical concern. The proposed trailing route does not include any of these features.
4. The activities described in the proposed action do not involve effects on the human environment that are likely to be highly controversial (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(4)). Livestock trailing commonly occurs in the area, and the proposed trailing involves the same type of livestock that is permitted to graze in the allotment. The action will occur during a time when the ground is frozen, and will not affect use of the allotment by wildlife that may occupy the area.

5. The activities described in the proposed action do not involve effects that are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(5)). This is a routine grazing management action, and the risks and potential effects are well-known.

6. My decision to implement these activities does not establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represent a decision in principle about a future consideration (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(6)). The EA describes the proposed action and its effects on the human environment. The scope of the EA is limited, and does not provide a basis for allowing large-scale or large-impact trailing events on these or other allotments.

7. The effects of the proposed trailing event would not be significant, individually or cumulatively, when considered with the effects of other actions (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)). The EA discloses that there are no other connected or cumulative actions that would cause significant cumulative impacts.

8. I have determined that the activities described in the proposed action will not adversely affect or cause loss or destruction of scientific, cultural, or historical resources, including those listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(8)). There are no known scientific, cultural or historical resources within the proposed trailing route.

9. The proposed activities are not likely to adversely affect any endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(9)). There is no identified habitat for endangered or threatened species within the four allotments that are affected by the proposal. The area provides limited winter habitat for Greater sage-grouse, but the allotments' proximity to the City of Gooding limits its use by sage-grouse. Habitat for Picabo milkvetch, a BLM Sensitive Type 3 plant, is located within the allotments, but individual plants are unlikely to be affected. The proposed route is already disturbed, and the plant is a deep tap-rooted perennial which is minimally impacted by shallow ground disturbing activities such as trailing during winter months.

10. The proposed activities will not threaten any violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(10)). See EA p. 2, for summary of applicable laws and regulations.

**APPROVED:**

/s/ Ruth A. Miller

February 6, 2012

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Ruth A. Miller  
Field Manager  
Shoshone Field Office

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Date