
PROPOSED CASPER
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN AND
FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

APPENDIX T

Stock Driveway Management Standards

Appendix T Stock Driveway Management Standards (Plan Change 34)

Stock driveways will be utilized to the fullest extent possible. Management Standards¹ for livestock trailing and other uses are as follows:

Trail Use

The following are standards for managing stock driveways (SDWs) and authorizing livestock trailing in the SDWs or on other public lands of the Casper panning area.

Crossing/trail use will be authorized to livestock owners that have a need to trail livestock across public lands. Trail use is trailing livestock across public lands not included in a lessee's grazing lease.

An application must be filed by the person requesting crossing/trail use on public lands prior to making trail use. The application can be in person, in writing or by telephone. The call must be documented and date stamped.

The crossing/trailing permit is authorized when the grazing bill is paid. The bill will be for the animal unit months (AUMs) used and the use will be charged at the annual AUM grazing fee rate.

A service charge will be charged for the crossing/trail bill, unless the crossing/trail permit is applied for prior to the issuance of the annual grazing bill and can be included in the annual bill.

A temporary use authorization for crossing/trailing livestock must contain necessary terms and conditions for the temporary grazing use that will occur. The authorization specifies the following.

- The minimum distance livestock must travel per day; 5 miles/day for sheep, 10 miles/day for cattle.
- The number of days allowed for the crossing/trailing.
- The point of entry.
- The route to be followed.
- The holdover areas.
- The point of exit.
- Any additional terms and conditions needed; and if needed, a statement that the authorization pertains only to lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).
- If the trail use is different than the dates applied for, the lessee must notify the BLM of the change in dates prior to making the trail use.

BLM will notify affected permittees and lessees of any trailing plans prior to the move, if the trailing is outside of the designated SDWs.

After-Trail Management Standards

These standards will set the management for authorizing after-trail use on the SDWs within the Casper planning area. The SDWs are commonly known as the 33 Mile SDWs and the Bates Hole SDWs.

¹ Under Alternative D, SDWs would be revoked and either leased to adjoining grazing lessees or retained for other uses (i.e. forage reserves) to accommodate other objectives. Only the "Other Trail Use Authorization Standards" (page T-2) would be carried forward under Alternative D.

Appendix T – Stock Driveway Management Standards

- By definition after-trail use is grazing use that is authorized on the SDWs after the fall trail use has been completed and to utilize forage that may be available after the trail season.
- The after-trail use will be authorized only on an annual basis. Applications for the after-trail use will only be accepted on an annual basis.
- The authorized use will start after October 1 or after the last trail permit has ended.
- Alternative A – The authorized use will end on whichever comes first: vegetation green-up or March 31.
Alternative B – After trail use would not be authorized and if additional forage is available it would be reserved for other management objectives.
Alternative C – After trail use would not be authorized, and all forage would be reserved for trail use.
Alternative D – SDWs are revoked; however, fenced corridors would remain and be available for other uses (i.e forage reserves). Plan Change 34, Other Trail Use Authorization Standards would be carried forward.
Alternative E – Other uses of SDWs would be allowed outside of normal trailing dates. The authorization will not be issued until October 1 or when the trail season is over and the authorized officer of the BLM has determined if adequate forage is available for after-trail use. The decision determination of adequate forage will be documented and filed in the appropriate SDWs file.
- The after-trail use will be authorized for no more than two weeks at a time. BLM will determine prior to the end of the two week period if an extension of use can be authorized. The determination decision will be documented and filed in the appropriate SDWs file.
- The lessees that adjoin the portion of the trail available for after-trail use will have priority for making applications for after-trail use. Lessees that do not have adjoining allotments will only be authorized to make use when no other applications have been made and BLM has determined that adequate forage is available to be used.
- The lessee will be billed for the grazing use at the annual fee rate that is in effect for that period.
- After-trail use will be secondary to the primary use of livestock trailing. If someone needs to trail livestock, the after-trail user will cooperate with the BLM and the person making the trail use, in allowing the trailing livestock passage without interference from their livestock.
- The BLM authorized officer may designate the kind of livestock that can be authorized for making the after-trail use.

Other Trail Use Authorizations Standards

Other management considerations for use on the trail, such as emergency use for relief from fire, management of crested wheatgrass, use on the trail to meet other management objectives in adjoining allotments that require rest from grazing as the result of some management action, drought or other natural cause, etc. These other uses will need to be addressed on a case by case basis in a plan along with an environmental assessment. The proposed use plan will go through the consultation and coordination with all that use the affected area of the trail. The use will be authorized in accordance with the grazing regulations.

The plan will contain at a minimum:

- Proposal and need.
- Objectives and methods.
- Terms and conditions for the use.
- Monitoring plan to insure that the objectives are being met.

When there is an established SDWs and it is not being used for trailing, action will be taken to cancel the SDWs withdrawal and to fence it into adjacent allotments or to issue leases to adjacent BLM lessees.

When SDWs are used only slightly for trailing and are not fenced, the BLM will take action to lease the driveway to the grazing lessee whose lease adjoins the area. AUMs will be reserved for trailing.

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