



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Kemmerer Field Office  
312 Highway 189 North  
Kemmerer, Wyoming 83101-9711



In Reply Refer To:  
4100 (WYD090)

Dear Public Land Users and Other Interested Parties:

The purpose of this letter is to inform interested and affected parties of the proposed action by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Kemmerer Field Office (KFO) to authorize livestock trailing across BLM administered lands within the KFO in Uinta County, Wyoming, and to solicit comments to assist with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review. This proposal is in accordance with 43 CFR 4130 and 4160, and the 2010 Kemmerer Resource Management Plan. This federal action must be analyzed in accordance with the NEPA and other relevant Federal and State laws and regulations to determine potential environmental consequences.

At this time the KFO is identifying areas and terms and conditions for authorizing trailing of livestock across BLM administered lands associated with the "South Trail" system and other areas of BLM in Uinta County. (The "North Trail" system in Lincoln and Sweetwater Counties will be addressed later in 2014.) The current proposal is to issue BLM crossing permits to livestock operators who historically submit annual applications for trailing livestock across BLM administered land for multiple grazing years beginning in 2013.

The project area is located south of Lincoln County, west of Sweetwater County, and north and east of the Utah state line in the southwest corner of Wyoming (refer to map). This portion of the KFO includes 126 grazing allotments. The South Trail system, with a one mile trail buffer, intersects 55 of these allotments. The KFO is responding to the approximately 30 to 100 trailing schedules received annually, primarily from five sheep operators, but may also include any livestock trailing across BLM administered land in Uinta County.

#### Purpose and Need for Action

BLM is required, under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and the Taylor Grazing Act to respond to requests for livestock trailing across BLM administered lands. In many instances, livestock producers must move their livestock across BLM administered lands to facilitate proper grazing management of BLM grazing allotments, as well as to facilitate movements of livestock to and from private, State, or other federally administered lands. Analysis of the proposal will be documented in an Environmental Assessment (EA) with an estimated completion date of September 30, 2013. Comments received in response to this solicitation will be used to identify potential environmental issues related to the

proposed action and to identify alternatives to the proposed action that meet the purpose and need for the project.

### Proposed Action

The proposed action is to issue BLM crossing permits to livestock operators who have submitted applications for trailing livestock across BLM-administered lands within the KFO, Uinta County, for ten years beginning in October 2013. Grazing permittees or other livestock producers needing to trail livestock across BLM administered lands would be required to submit annual applications prior to trailing.

The BLM would outline the allotment(s) to be trailed across, the period of use (dates), and the number and kind of livestock on each crossing permit. Additionally, terms and conditions specific to each trailing event would be identified, including the trail route and minimum distance of travel per day.

Trailing routes that are historically used for the movement of livestock are shown on the enclosed map, commonly known as the South Trail system. The South Trail system will be analyzed using a one mile buffer or corridor. The proposed action only considers trailing use that occurs on allotments where the permittee either does not have a grazing permit within the allotment through which he/she is trailing or the permittee does have a grazing permit but needs to trail livestock outside of his/her permitted use dates. Livestock that have active preference to graze in allotments do not need crossing permits to move livestock from one parcel of private land to another within the allotment.

### Preliminary Alternative Development

#### 1) Alternative 1 – Current Levels of Livestock Trailing

Under this alternative the BLM would continue authorizing livestock trailing at current levels, not to exceed historic levels. Trailing permits would be issued for a period of ten years to livestock operators who have submitted applications. The BLM would continue to outline the allotment(s) to be trailed across, the period of use (dates), and the number and kind of livestock on each crossing authorization. Additionally, terms and conditions specific to each trailing event would be identified, including the trail route and minimum distance of travel per day.

#### 2) Alternative 2 – Decrease Current Levels of Livestock Trailing

Similar to Alternative 1, trailing permits would be issued for a period of ten years to livestock operators who have submitted applications; however, the Field Manager would incorporate resource considerations such as forage conditions due to weather and drought. Potential decreases to use levels, period of use, and the number of livestock could occur.

#### 3) Alternative 3 – Increase Current Levels of Livestock Trailing

Similar to Alternative 1, trailing permits would be issued for a period of ten years to livestock operators who have submitted applications; however, the Field Manager would consider increased demands by ranchers. Potential increases to use levels, period of use, and the number of livestock could occur.

#### 4) Alternative 4 – No Trailing

Crossing permits would not be issued and trailing of livestock across BLM administered lands within the KFO would not be authorized. Livestock operators could truck livestock, or trail livestock within road right-of-ways, or trail on land other than BLM administered land.

#### Existing Conditions

Trailing of livestock occurs at different times throughout the year but primarily in the spring and fall to accommodate livestock moving off or onto BLM lands from the Wasatch Cache National Forest or between BLM allotments, private, or State land. The timing of livestock trailing within a given season may vary each year because of the current year's resource conditions, weather, individual livestock operations, or forage production. Livestock trailing has occurred annually within the KFO for decades, but not under the NEPA.

Many of the applications received include multiple trailing events for multiple herds of livestock. The current trailing policy for the KFO states that trailing will occur at a minimum rate of five miles per day per herd, and must occur within one half mile of the center line of the established trail (one mile buffer). Typical trailing applications range in distance from less than five miles ( $\leq$  one day) to 50 miles ( $\leq$  10 days) or more, at the discretion of the authorized officer. Sheep herds often range from 700 animals to more than 3,000 animals per herd. In any given year as many as 60,000 animals may cross BLM land in Uinta County.

#### Preliminary Issues

Preliminary issues identified through the BLM's internal scoping process in the KFO area are:

- Sage-grouse – Potential effects to sage-grouse during breeding, nesting, and brood-rearing periods.
- Big Game – Potential effects during fawning/calving and wintering periods.
- Vegetation – Potential effects to vegetation from grazing and trampling by livestock.
- Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants – Potential effects regarding noxious weeds and invasive plants.
- Riparian areas and Wetlands – Potential effects to riparian areas and wetlands from trailing and watering livestock.
- Livestock Grazing – Potential interactions between grazing livestock vs. trailing livestock.
- Native American Religious Concerns - Potential effects to Native American sensitive sites.
- Historic Properties - Potential impacts to known historic properties due to concentrated use, such as camping along the trail.

The interdisciplinary team will review comments received through the public scoping process and will determine the list of issues that will be analyzed in the EA.

Decision to be Made

The KFO Field Manager will decide whether to issue crossing permits authorizing the trailing of livestock across BLM administered lands within the KFO. If crossing permits are authorized, the Kemmerer Field Manager will also decide which specific terms and conditions are parts of the authorization.

Public Input Needed

Please review the enclosed materials and mail or email your comments to the address below. This scoping package describes the existing condition, proposed action, preliminary issues, decisions to be made and details of public involvement. It also includes a map of the South Trail livestock trails that will be useful to help formulate comments. To view the scoping package online go to:

<http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/kfo/trailing.html>

Additional copies of this scoping package are also available at the BLM Kemmerer Field Office, 312 Hwy 189 North, Kemmerer, WY 83101. Comments are welcome throughout the planning process however, it is most helpful if your comments are received by January 18, 2013, and are directly relevant to the proposal and project area. The BLM will not reject public feedback outside established public involvement timeframes; however, these comments may be considered secondary to comments received in a timely manner and may only be assessed to determine if they identify concerns that would substantially alter the assumptions, proposal, design, or analysis presented in the EA.

Mail comments to:

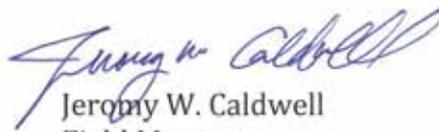
Bureau of Land Management  
Kemmerer Field Office  
c/o Marion Mahaffey  
312 Hwy 189 North  
Kemmerer, WY 83101

Or send email to: [mmahaffey@blm.gov](mailto:mmahaffey@blm.gov)

A Public Interest Response form is also enclosed to assess if you are interested in remaining on the Interested Party list. Please complete and return this to our office.

For additional information please call Marion Mahaffey, Project Lead at 307-828-4543.

Sincerely,

  
Jeremy W. Caldwell  
Field Manager

Enclosures:

Map of Uinta County Allotments and the South Trail system  
Public Interest Response Form

cc:

Aimone, Bruce  
Aimone, Christine Gillins  
Aimone, Martin  
Alliance for Historic Wyoming, Leslie Wischmann  
American Pension Services Inc.  
Anadarko Petroleum Corp., Andrew Voelker  
Anne E. Oelrich Living Trust  
Arapaho Tribal Business Council, Mr. Jim Shakespeare  
Arapaho Tribal Business Council, Ms. Darlene Conrad  
Arrow Ranch, Sharon Goodfellow  
Arthur, Tana L. & Burns, Michael S.  
B&H Ranching Co. Inc.  
Backward S LLC  
Barker, Arthur John & Alta E.  
Barker, Gary K. & Sandra  
Bateman, Robert & Don  
Bear River Land and Grazing Co., Edward Bown  
Bell Butte Grazing Partnership, et al.  
Benedict Enterprises LLC, James & Bruce Benedict  
Berry, Duke & Sandra  
Bindl, Louis & Elaine  
Bird, Vearl & Patsy  
Black, Donald L.  
Blasi, Frank in Trust  
BLM Rock Springs Field Office, Lance Porter  
BLM High Desert District, John Ruhs  
BLM Wyoming State Office, Mark Goertel  
Bountiful Livestock Co.  
Bradbury, Albert E. Trust, et al.  
Bradshaw, Randy K.  
Breithaupt, Lily M. & Anthony L.  
Broadbent, JR Grazing Association LLC  
Broadbent Land & Resources, Joseph Broadbent  
Broadbent, Ray  
Broadbent, Vance  
Brown, Claye W. & Carol J.  
Brown, Walter Jr. & Justice, Kathryns  
Bruns, Douglas D. & Katherine L.  
Bugas, Larry & George  
Bugas, Lawrence  
Burriss, Bart & Caryl  
Byrne & Company, Charles & Bonnie Byrne  
Byrne, Bonnie J. & William C.  
C Seven Bar Inc., Clint Cornia

Cantlin, Dan  
Carlisle, Alec  
Carlisle, Jon  
Carter, Edward Joseph & Yvonne  
Castle Rock Land & Livestock  
Chappell, Harry Tim  
Circle 7 Land & Livestock Inc., Perry Cornia  
Circle Diamond Ranch  
City of Evanston, Joy Bell, Mayor  
Clark, Kim  
Clifford, Lynn J. Trust  
Coles, Bettie J. Revocable Trust  
Collard, Bryant & Kalene  
Collings, Stephen & Tracy  
Cook, Lawrence John & Catherin  
Cook, Russel D.  
Cooper, Phillip E. & Shauna A.  
Cornia, Pete  
Covolo, Dennis  
Crandall Farms Inc.  
Creamer, George P. & Mindy M., et al.  
Crompton, James  
Dell Fork Ranch, LLC, Walter Jim Brown  
DEQ – Administration, Cheyenne  
DEQ – Water Quality Division, Cheyenne  
DSC Investments LLC  
Eastern Shoshone Tribe of the Wind River Reservation, Mr. Mike Lajeunesse  
Eastern Shoshone Tribe of the Wind River Reservation, Mr. Wilfred Ferris  
Ellingford, Marie & Ted  
Equity Trust Company, et al.  
EUG Management LLC  
Eyre, George R. Darlene & Sons  
Eyre, John L. & Cheryl  
Fackrell, Melva B., et al.  
Faddis Brothers Ranch Partnership, Scott Faddis  
Faddis, John H.  
Farber, Terry Eugene & Esther M.  
Farmer, Robert Lee, et al.  
Feeley, Ed  
Fish Hook Livestock, LLC, c/o Rex Weston  
Foianini, Gino  
Fort Bridger Rendezvous Assoc., Cash Johnson  
Fort Bridger Historical Assoc., Martin Lammers  
Fort Bridger State Historical Museum, Linda Neuman Byers

Fort Supply Ranch, c/o Malcolm Harvey  
Foster, James B. & Melissa A. Trust  
Fowles, Jerry L. & Martha A.  
France, Richard  
Francis, Paul & Jo Ann  
Fraughton, Wendell K.  
G&C Holdings, LLC, c/o Greg Thornock  
Gilmore, Dale Scott & Connie  
Giorgis Family Trust  
Giorgis, Ernest and/or Mary Lynne  
Glacier Holdings LLC  
Grandy, Demont, Lincoln County Conservation  
Green, David E. & Cathryn  
Grondel, Richard B. & Lanora M.  
Guild Ranch, c/o Earl Guild  
Hamblin, Lawrence F. & Marcia Jo Trust  
Hamilton, Richard & Carol  
Harmon, Alan & Sylvia  
Harmon, Layle J. & Marie V.  
Harris, Dale  
Harvey, Gary R. & Margarita  
Hatch Land & Livestock Co., c/o Tracy Hatch  
Hatch, Douglas & Joanna  
Hatch, G&J Ranch LLC, c/o Glade Hatch  
Henry, Carl T.  
Henry Ranch Partnership, c/o Garie M. Henry  
Hickman Investments, LLC, c/o Stuart Hickman  
Holland, Timothy R. & Carmel  
Holt, Lynn A., et al.  
Hopkin, J. Vern & Alonza  
Hopper, Michael R. & Vicky L.  
HPT TA Properties Trust  
Huffman, Richard T.  
Hunseker, Dennis  
Hurdsman, Jack & Janett  
IGI RE Holdings EV LLC  
Isom, Stephen & Richard  
J. F. Ranching Co. Inc., c/o Seth Weston  
J. W. Cattle Co. Inc., c/o Norman Weston  
Jackson, A. Lynn & M. Susan  
Jackson Land & Livestock Co. LLC, c/o Ross D. Jackson  
Jelouchan, J. Frank & Billee  
Johnson & Company, c/o Larry K. Johnson  
Johnson, Milton L.  
Julian Land & Livestock Corp., c/o Truman Julian

Julian, Ronnie F.  
Kennedy Ranch, LLC  
Knight Ridge, LLC  
Kofford, Gerald  
K-Ron Ranch, LLC, c/o Ron Stuart  
LaFleur, Floyd W. & Kathleen  
Lam, Rick Trust, et al.  
Largent, Iris D.  
Larson Livestock Inc., c/o Carl Larson  
Laycock, Bill  
Lazy S Ranching Co. Inc., c/o Simeon B. Weston  
Lester, Lamar & Linnea Trust  
Lester, Leonard Ren & Margaret M Trusts  
Lester Ranch, LLC  
Lincoln County Historical Society  
Linton, Fred & Fern  
Lowham, John S. & Joeen Rev. Trusts  
Lowham, Kyle  
Lupher, Nate  
Lupher, Wes & Becky  
Lym, Dan  
Lym, Lamar A. & Laurie A. Lym Trust  
Lym, Pete  
Mabey, Steven W. & Janet H.  
Mann, Justin Scott & Stacey Ellen  
Marijane S. Ashby Revocable Trust, Marijane S. Ashby  
M Arrow Ranch LLC, c/o Aaron & Nancy Martin  
Martin Family Ranch, LLC, c/o Merrill Martin  
Maxfield, Kevin  
Maynes, David G. Trust  
Micheli Herford Ranch, c/o Joe Micheli  
Milne, Steven Gene  
Missouri Pacific Railroad  
Mohammad, Syed F. & Olive F.  
Moon, Dennis L. & Gay  
Moore, Roy R. Jr.  
More US, LLC  
Mormon Trails Assoc., Ron Anderson, President  
Myers, Galen C. & Hazel TR, et al.  
National Park Service, National Trails System, Aaron Mahr  
National Pony Express Assoc., Les Bennington, President  
National Trust for Historic Preservation, Jennifer Buddenborg  
Netherly, Patrick

Nixon, Charles R.  
Noble, Merrily F., et al.  
Novasource Development LLC, et al.  
Oaks, Mike & Tara  
Oaks, Rich W. & Kathleen J.  
Office of State Lands & Investments  
Oregon-California Trails Assoc., David Welch  
Ortega, Elna Rae  
Paddock, Colleen  
Painter & Company, Inc., c/o Brad P. Fearn  
Perea, Tom J. & Ignacio  
Petersen, Owen  
Pfeifer, Sheldon & Holly D.  
Phillips, Jack A. Jr. & Ila Jean  
Pony Express Assoc., Joe Nardone  
Powers Sheep Company, LLC  
Proffit, Clint & Veronica  
Rauzi, David, et al.  
Raw Properties II, LLC  
Redden, Grant Lee & Annett  
Redden, Judd  
Rees Land & Livestock Co., c/o Connie Rex  
Robards, Aubrea, et al.  
Roitz, Felix L.  
Sadlier, Ida Kay Revocable Trust  
Santore, Peter & Jamie  
Saxton, Harold J. & Edna  
Schulthess, Wallace Jr. & Jeanette W.  
Sears-Collins LTD., c/o Bill Sears, George Collins  
Senator John Barrasso  
Senator John Barrasso Field Rep., Sandy DaRif  
Senator Mike Enzi  
Senator Mike Enzi Field Rep., Reagan Bebout  
Sharp, James R. & Kathleen P. Family Trust  
Short, Darrel  
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation, Mr. Nathan Small  
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, HETO Cultural Resources, Ms. Carolyn Boyer Smith  
Silas H. Ellis Living Trust, c/o Mrs. Silas Ellis  
Sims Livestock, c/o Mike Sims  
South Uinta Cattle Association, c/o Richard Hamilton  
Southwick, Leonard D. & Deborah R.  
Spackman Ranch, LLC, c/o Roger Spackman  
Spencer, Ruth  
State Historic Preservation Office, Cheyenne

State Legislator, Stan Cooper, Senate District 14  
State Legislator, Paul Barnard, Senate District 15  
State Legislator, Allen Jaggi, House District 19  
State Legislator, Clarence Vranish, House District 49  
State Planning Office, Cheyenne  
Stauder, John L. & Tracy L.  
Stroud, Guy T., et al.  
Stuart, Kent  
Stuart, Ronald & Kayleen  
Sulphur Creek Ranch, LLC  
Taylor, Darin  
Tecumseh Redevelopment Inc.  
Telford, Roger  
The Foothill Trust  
The Ute Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation, Ms. Irene Cuch  
The Ute Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation, Ms. Betsy Chapoose  
Thompson, Lucy, et al.  
Thompson, William & Rita J.  
Thunderbolt Ranch, LLC, c/o Michael B. Smith  
Tokewanna Properties, LLC  
Town of Lyman, Andrew Hewitt, Mayor  
Town of Mountain View, Scott Dellinger, Mayor  
Tripp Family Trust, c/o Dora L. Tripp  
Troughton, John D.  
Trujillo, Robert S. & Deanne, et al.  
Turner, Alvin W. & Houston, Ann M.  
Turner, Myra A. Family Living Trust, c/o Myra A. Turner  
Twin Creek Open Range, c/o Jerry Pierce  
Uinta County Commissioner, Leonard Hysell  
Uinta County Commissioner, Bob Stoddard  
Uinta County Commissioner, Craig Welling  
Uinta County Conservation District, Kerri Sabey  
Uinta County Conservation District, Oakley Ingersoll  
Uinta County Courthouse  
Uinta County Fort Bridger Airport  
Uinta County Historical Society, Louis Davis  
Uinta County Planning Office, Kent Williams  
Uinta County Road & Bridge  
Uinta County Weed and Pest Control  
Uinta Development Company, c/o Andrew Voelker  
Uinta Improvement Company, Colorado  
Uinta Improvement Company, Texas  
Uinta Livestock Grazing Partnership, c/o Charles Rex, et al.  
Union Pacific Railroad  
Upland Industries Corporation  
Urroz Ranch, Catherine Ann Seale

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Cheyenne  
U.S. Forest Service, Evanston  
U.S. Forest Service, Mountain View  
Vercimak, Brad & Julie  
W&M Thoman Ranches, LLC  
Waggoner, James D. & Julie  
Walker, Ronald, c/o Mark Walker  
Wall, Daniel  
Warburton, James B. & Julee K.  
Wardner Ranch Inc., c/o Jane Ann Byroad  
Wasson, Rocky  
Welling, Blain Jay & Brenda B.  
Western Watersheds Projects, Jonathan Ratner  
White Ridge Ranch, LLC  
Whytock, Lonnie & Salazar, Anthony C.  
Winfield, Marianne Revocable Trust  
Woodward, Christian Drew  
Woody Family Partnership, c/o Howard Woody  
Wyoming Business Council  
Wyoming Department of Agriculture, Cheyenne  
Wyoming Department of Agriculture, Nat Rsc & Policy, Chris Wichmann  
Wyoming Department of Agriculture, Nat Rsc & Policy, Justin Williams  
Wyoming Department of Transportation, Cheyenne  
Wyoming Department of Transportation, Damon Newsome  
Wyoming Game & Fish, Cheyenne  
Wyoming Land & Ranches, LLC  
Wyoming Livestock Board  
Wyoming Pony Express Assoc., Carl Schultz  
Wyoming State Grazing Board  
Wyuta Cattle Company, c/o Joel M. Cowan  
Yatzun, John & Joey  
Zebre Investment Company, c/o George D. Zebre