



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Surprise Field Office
P. O. Box 460
Cedarville, CA 96104
www.ca.blm.gov/surprise

In Reply Refer To:
4130 (CA-370)

June 7, 2006

Dear Interested Party:

The Bureau of Land Management is preparing an environmental assessment (EA) on the proposed renewal of livestock grazing for the Gravelly, Warner Valley, Ninemile and East Bally Mountain Allotments.

Attached is scoping information for the environmental assessment of continuing livestock grazing on these allotments. Please return any comments that you have regarding these allotments to this office by June 27, 2006, to ensure consideration. We will use your comments and those received from other interested parties to determine the significant issues to be considered in the preliminary EA. You will receive a copy of the preliminary EA and proposed decision when issued.

Thank you for participating in this grazing permit renewal process. If you have questions, please call Steve Surian at (530) 279-6101.

RECEIVED

JUN 12 2006

Sincerely,

Owen Billingsley,
Surprise Field Office Manager

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
BUDGET AND PLANNING DIVISION

Enclosures

Allotment Summary Information

cc:

- Lawrence Harlan; Chair, Ft. Bidwell Tribal Council
- John Gebhardt, Nevada Dept. of Wildlife
- Sandy Higa, Modoc-Washoe E.S.P.
- Jesse Harris, Nevada Cattlemen's Association, North Washoe Unit
- Ms. Virginia Lash; Chair, Cedarville Rancheria
- Sean Curtis, Modoc Land Use Committee
- John Bunyard, Modoc Cattlemen's Association
- Northwest Great Basin Association
- Center for Biological Diversity, Grazing Reform Program
- Nevada State Clearinghouse, Division of Administration
- Roy Leach, Nevada Dept. of Wildlife
- Nancy Huffman; Chair, Northeast California R.A.C.
- Rose Strickland, Toiyabe Chapter of Sierra Club
- Lonny Schadler, Schadler Ranches, Inc.



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ISSUE SCOPING INFORMATION GRAVELLY, WARNER VALLEY, NINEMILE & EAST BALLY MOUNTAIN ALLOTMENTS

Introduction

The Cowhead/Massacre Management Framework Plan designated the Gravelly, Warner Valley, Ninemile and East Bally Mountain Allotments for non-intensive management. These designations were based on each allotment's size, percent public land, and potential response to management.

One permittee, Schadler Ranches, Inc., is authorized to make grazing use in the allotments. The Gravelly allotment consists of 2,918 acres of public land and 560 acres of private land. Warner Valley allotment consists of 3,090 acres of public land and 600 acres of private land. Ninemile allotment consists of 440 acres of public land and 2,300 acres of private land. East Bally Mountain allotment consists of 300 acres of public land and 2,455 acres of private land.

Need for Proposed Action

Schadler Ranches, Inc. permit was issued under the Appropriations Act of 2004, P.L. 108-08. This permit renewal was to be in effect until BLM could complete full processing of each proposed permit renewal in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations.

The proposed action is needed to authorize grazing in accordance with 43 CFR 4100 and to be consistent with the provisions of the Taylor Grazing Act, the Public Rangelands Improvement Act, and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act.

PROPOSED ACTION

The Proposed Action was developed after a review of resource issues and conditions found on the Gravelly, Warner Valley, Ninemile and East Bally Mountain allotments. Permit terms and conditions will be incorporated into this alternative to minimize potential impacts to resources while continuing to provide forage for livestock grazing.

The Bureau of Land Management is proposing to issue a 10 year permit to Schadler Ranches, Inc. for the Gravelly, Warner Valley, Ninemile and East Bally Mountain allotments.

The following table provides the proposed permit for these allotments:

A. Livestock Numbers and Season of Use

Allotment	Number	Class	From	To	AUMs
Gravelly #01110	274	Cattle	September 1	September 30	270
Warner Valley #01117	105	Cattle	June 15	September 15	321
Ninemile #01123	30	Cattle	June 1	June 30	30
East Bally Mountain #01119	4	Cattle	April 20	December 31	34

B. Livestock Management

The current grazing plan allows for 270 AUMs to be utilized on the Gravelly allotment. Warner Valley allotment allows for 321 AUMs to be utilized, the Ninemile allotment allows for 30 AUMs to be utilized and the East Bally Mountain allotment allows for 34 AUMs to be utilized on the public portion of the allotment.

C. Monitoring

A photo point may be placed within the allotments on public land. This photo point would reflect changes in the project area, and give a good representation of how well the management of the allotment is being implemented. A monitoring plan was developed for the Barrel Fire which occurred on the Gravelly, Warner Valley and East Bally Mountain allotments in 2005. This monitoring plan will be used to determine when the burned area has reached recovery to the point that livestock grazing will not be detrimental to the vegetation. Monitoring points included in this plan were derived from Rangeland Health Assessment sites, trend study sites, as well as other monitoring sites developed on the allotments.

The following Terms and Conditions will be added to all permits.

1. Grazing use offered or authorized by BLM is subject to all provisions of the grazing regulations (43 CFR Parts 4100) and other applicable law and regulation. Grazing use will be in accordance with the Rangeland Health Standards and Guidelines for California and Northwestern Nevada Final EIS approved by the Secretary of the Interior on July 13, 2000. Grazing use authorization may be modified in accordance with regulation to attain progress towards achieving rangeland health standards (subpart 4180.1 and 4180.2 Fundamentals of Rangeland Health and Standards and Guidelines for Grazing Administration).

2. Grazing use within the Gravelly, Warner Valley, Ninemile and East Bally Mountain allotments not limited to time or numbers shown so long as use is not detrimental to the Federal Range.

3. Salt and/or mineral supplements will be placed no closer than ¼ mile from any public water source.

4. Livestock grazing is not permitted within exclosures, unless such use promotes meeting the objectives for the exclosure, and use is prescribed in the annual operating plan.

5. All range improvements must be maintained to standards prior to livestock turnout. All assigned fence maintenance must be completed annually, even if your permit is not activated. Failure to complete assigned fence maintenance may result in suspension of your grazing authorization.

Range Improvements

Several allotment boundary fences are planned to be re-constructed following the Barrel Fire. No other range improvements are planned.

Comments

Please provide your comments by June 27, 2006 to Steve Surian, BLM Supervisory Rangeland Management Specialist. You can provide your comments by the following means:

Mail:

Bureau of Land Management
Surprise Field Office
Attn: Steve Surian
PO Box 460
Cedarville, CA 96104

E-mail: Steve_Surian@blm.gov