Draft Decision Notice (DN) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)  
Bloomington Cattle Association Corral Project  
USDA Forest Service  
Montpelier Ranger District  
Caribou-Targhee National Forest  
Bear Lake County, Idaho

Introduction
The Caribou-Targhee National Forest, Montpelier Ranger District (Forest Service) has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) and this draft DN-FONSI for the Bloomington Cattle Association Corral Project in the Cache National Forest, as administered by the Caribou-Targhee National Forest and located in Bear Lake County, Idaho, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (42 U.S.C.A. §4321 to 4370(h)), Council on Environmental Quality implementing regulations (40 C.F.R. Parts 1500 to 1508 (1978)), Forest Service supplemental regulations and guidance (36 C.F.R. Part 220, National Environmental Policy Act Compliance (2008), and Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 1901.15, National Environmental Policy Act Handbook (2010)). The EA is incorporated by reference into this DN-FONSI.

The Forest Service proposes to allow its permittees to construct a small corral and associated fencing on forest land (along Paris Springs Campground access road; Forest Road #427) to facilitate post-roundup cattle management activities in response to their loss of access/use of a private corral. The EA analyzed the potential effects of the no action and one action alternative (proposed action) in response to the purpose and need of the proposal. (EA, Sections 1.2, 1.3, and 2.0).

Decision and Reasons for the Decision
Based upon my review of the EA, I have decided to implement Alternative 2 (proposed action), which includes constructing a small corral and associated fence along Paris Springs Campground access road. No mitigation measures or monitoring is required to implement the proposed action. The Forest Service will install the recommended culvert during regular road maintenance activities, not as part of the proposed action. (EA, Sections 2.2.2, 3.1, and 4.0).

Overall, I have selected the proposed action because it meets the purpose and need of the project proposal, does not result in significant environmental effects or present unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources, is consistent with the Caribou Revised Forest Plan (Caribou RFP) and travel plan (no amendment required), and would be implemented in compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and policies. (EA, Sections 1.3, 1.6, 2.1, 3.1, and 3.3).

Other Action Alternatives Considered
In addition to the selected alternative, I considered the following action alternatives (includes those raised during scoping) that were ultimately not carried forward for analysis for not meeting the purpose and need, as summarized in parentheses (EA, Section 2.2):
• Requiring permittees to use private land (Forest Service does not have authority);
• Using alternative locations in Paris Canyon and on Bureau of Land Management land (more construction and logistical issues due to topography and new disturbance);
• Using a portable corral (environmental consequences same as permanent, but may lead to undesirable effects outside of the project area); and
• Using enforceable permit terms/condition in lieu of a corral (permittees currently operate under permits with enforceable terms/conditions).

Public Involvement and Scoping
The Forest Service listed the project proposal in the Schedule of Proposed Actions on December 6, 2016, notified the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes on January 6, 2017, and provided for a 30-day public scoping period (January 25, 2017 to February 23, 2017) (initiated by publishing a legal notice in the Idaho State Journal on January 24, 2017), and provided individual notice to requesting parties. The Forest Service received several comments on the project proposal. Where comments raised specific and relevant concerns, they are addressed in this EA. No comments were received by the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes. Considering public scoping comments, the scope of the EA analysis was determined by the Forest Service Interdisciplinary Team, and focused on the resources holding the most potential for significant effects, namely: water quality. (EA, Sections 1.7 to 1.9).

Finding of No Significant Impact
Based on my review of the effects analysis presented in the EA, I have determined that the proposed action will not have significant effects on the quality of the human environment considering the context and intensity of potential environmental effects (40 C.F.R. §1508.27, and FSH 1909.15_05). In addition, the proposed action was design and sited to avoiding significant effects to resources.

In terms of context, the potential effects of the proposed action would be local, confined to the project area near the Paris Springs Campground on forest land (EA, Sections 1.4 and 2.0), although effects would be largely non-existent as discussed below.

In terms of intensity, the proposed action may result in none to negligible adverse environmental effects across all resources, including water resources (both short-term and long-term). The action would not affect public health and safety, unique characteristics of the geographic area, or result in the potential for significant cumulative effects. The action is of a routine type/nature and does not present any uncertain, unique or unknown risks and neither establishes precedent nor represents a decision in principle about a future action/consideration with significant effects. Finally, the action is consistent with the Caribou RFP and travel plan and would be implemented in compliance with applicable laws, regulations and policies, namely: the Clean Water Act. (EA, Sections 1.6, 1.8.2, 1.8.3, 3.1, and 3.3).

Therefore, I have determined that further analysis is not warranted and an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.
Findings Required by Other Laws and Regulations

As explained in the EA, the proposed action is consistent with the Caribou RFP, travel plan, and past grazing analyses/decisions and would be implemented in compliance with applicable laws, regulations and policies. (EA, Sections 1.6, 1.8, 3.1, and 3.3). No additional findings are required in this DN-FONSI.

Administrative Review and Objection Rights

This decision is subject to objection pursuant to 36 CFR Part 218, Subparts A and B. The objection must be filed by way of regular mail, fax, e-mail, hand-delivery, or express delivery with the Objection Review Officer: Garth Smelser, USDA Forest Service, Intermountain Region – mail - 324 25th Street, Ogden, Utah 84401; fax - (801) 625-5277; or email - objections-intermtn-regional-office@fs.fed.us with Subject: Bloomington Cattle Association Corral Project. The office business hours for those submitting hand-delivered objections are: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Electronic objections must be submitted in a format such as an e-mail message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), or Word (.doc). In cases where no identifiable name is attached to an electronic message, a verification of identity will be required. A scanned signature is one way to provide verification.

Objections, including attachments, must be filed within 45 days from the publication date of the objection period legal notice in the Idaho State Journal, the newspaper of record. Objections received after the 45-day objection period will not be considered. The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an objection. Those wishing to object this project should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source.

Individuals and entities as defined in 36 CFR 218.2 who have submitted timely, specific written comments regarding a proposed project or activity that is subject to these regulations during any designated opportunity for public comment may file an objection (36 CFR 218.5) unless the issue raised in the objection is based on new information that arose after the opportunity for comment (36 CFR 218.8(c)). The notice of objection must meet the content requirements at 36 CFR 218.8.

Implementation

If no objections are filed within the 45-day time period, implementation of the decision may occur on, but not before the fifth business day following the end of the objection filing period. When objections are filed, implementation may occur following the date of the objection disposition. For more information concerning the Bloomington Cattle Association Corral Project, contact Dennis Duehren at (208) 847-0375, during normal business hours, or via email (dduehren@fs.fed.us).

Approved by:

Dennis Duehren
District Ranger
Montpelier Ranger District
Caribou-Targhee National Forest
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