

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Idaho State Office
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April 23, 2004

EMS

Information Memorandum No. ID-2004-060

Expires: 09/30/05

To: District Managers

From: State Director

Subject: Range Improvement Program Technical Procedures Review (TPR)

Program Area: Range Improvements

Purpose: The purpose of the Instruction Memorandum (IM) is to inform all Field Offices (FOs) of a Range Improvement Program TPR to be conducted in May, 2004, and to issue interim guidance on addressing range improvement inspections and wildlife escape ramp installation.

Policy/Action: Due to the need to address this issue as soon as possible, we are planning the TPR during the first three weeks of May. The schedule is as follows:

Challis	May 4, 8:00 am – 11:30 am
Salmon	May 4, 1:00 pm – 4:30 pm
Idaho Falls	May 5, 1:00 pm – 4:30 pm
Pocatello	May 6, 8:00 am – 11:30 am
Shoshone	May 11, 8:00 am – 11:30 am
Jarbridge	May 11, 1:00 pm – 4:30 pm
Burley	May 12, 8:00 am – 11:30 am
Boise	May 18, 8:00 am – 11:30 am
Cottonwood	May 18, 1:00 pm – 4:30 pm

Note: Cottonwood's TPR will be held in Boise at the Lower Snake River District (LSRD) Office.

The TPR will consist of the TPR team asking District Office (DO)/FO personnel questions regarding the range improvement program. Also, the team will be looking at a random sample of project files. There will be no project inspections conducted in the field on this TPR. Time frames specified above are approximate based on the best guess on the time needed to conduct

the review.

The TPR team will consist of:

Tom Miles, Idaho State Office (ISO)
 Steve Beverlin, Salmon FO
 Bill Baker, Shoshone FO
 Jim Johansen, LSRD; Bernie Jansen, Shoshone FO; or Bob Heideman, Upper Columbia
 Salmon Clearwater (UCSC) FO; depending on schedules.

We are requesting that the following individuals be present for the TPR if possible. If not, please provide someone who is knowledgeable of that portion of the DO/FO range improvement program normally associated with that position.

Project Files Keeper (e.g. Range Assistant or whoever keeps the files)
 Range Management Specialists' Supervisor
 Field Office Manager
 Project Coordinator
 Operations Chief
 NEPA/Planning Coordinator

All FOs are encouraged to use their 8100 funding to help cover costs of conducting range improvement inspections of livestock watering troughs and to build and/or install wildlife escape ramps. This includes the hiring of seasonal personnel or contracting to do this work with 8100 funding. Although the emphasis is ensuring that proper wildlife escape ramps are in every trough on public land, inspection of other range improvements is also a high priority. Focus on those allotments that are scheduled for Standards and Guides Assessments (S&Gs) in 2004 and those high priority allotments that have not been inspected recently in the past. Expectations are that this is an on-going effort until all troughs on public land have wildlife escape ramps. Due to the high number of troughs on public land, this may take several years.

Timeframe: Guidance is effective immediately.

Background: In FY 2003, Idaho BLM became aware of the serious problem of livestock watering troughs lacking proper wildlife escape devices as required by BLM policy (See BLM Manual Handbook H-1741-2 Water Developments 11/06/90). As a result, it became apparent the inspection of range improvements needs to be elevated in priority to ensure that projects are meeting BLM specifications. In addition, the range improvement program, in general, from the project planning process to the proper maintenance of project files has been identified as issues in Idaho. However, these problems seem to vary across Districts and FOs.

As a result of these concerns, a task group was formed. The task group includes Tom Miles, ISO; Jim Johansen, LSRD FO; Steve Beverlin, Salmon FO; and Bill Baker, Shoshone FO, with special help from Bernie Jansen, Shoshone FO and Bob Heideman, UCSC FO. The task group has met twice and has recommended a statewide TPR on the range improvement program to

determine the extent of identified range improvement issues across Idaho BLM. These issues include: project inspections, maintenance, project planning process, development and maintenance of project files, and other non-range project procedures.

Manual/Handbook Sections Affected: This IM does not affect Manual Handbooks.

Coordination: Idaho Lead Rangeland Management Specialists, District Operations Chiefs, DSD Resources, Resources and Science Branch Chief and ISO TPR Coordinator

Contact: For questions regarding this action/guidance, contact Tom Miles at (208) 373-3804.

Lower Snake River District with Union: No Union notification or negotiation is required.

Signed
K Lynn Bennett
State Director

Authenticated
Melissa Starr
Staff Assistant

cc:
Field Office Managers