

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Kremmling Field Office
P.O. Box 68
Kremmling, CO 80459**

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

NUMBER: CO-120-2007-14-EA

PROJECT NAME: Lori and Matthew Spring Developments

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Lori Spring: T2N, R78W, 6th PM, Section 13 SESW\
Matthew Spring: T2N, R78W, 6th PM, Section 24 SESE

APPLICANT: Randy Baumgardner

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES:

Background/Introduction/Issues and Concerns: Randy Baumgardner has applied to have Lori and Matthew Springs developed. The springs would be developed to improve livestock distribution and hold livestock in the McQueary Creek drainage for longer periods of time. The rest rotation grazing system implemented in 2004 requires a specific period of time the livestock should graze in the McQueary Creek drainage. The proposed spring developments would provide additional water in this area and should help hold the cattle in the McQueary Creek drainage for the required period of time.

Proposed Action: Lori Spring is located in a narrow drainage with a good water flow. The Proposed Action would develop Lori Spring with a spring box, and short (less than 200') underground pipeline to a water trough. The spring would be excavated using a tracked back hoe and a spring box would be installed. The pipeline would also be installed using the tracked backhoe. An enclosure fence of less than 0.5 acres would be installed to protect the water collection system. The enclosure fence would be a 4 wire fence with the bottom wire smooth and 16" from the ground. The other wires would be barbed and at heights of 6", 12" and 24" above the smooth wire. The total height of the fence would not exceed 40". Attachment # 1 is a map of the project area.

The water trough would be a neutral color to minimize the visual impact to the area. A float valve would be installed in the water trough to regulate the amount of water in the trough. The water would be allowed to flow into the natural drainage when not needed for livestock use. A wildlife ramp would be installed in the water trough to provide an escape route for small mammals and birds that enter the trough to obtain water.

Matthew Spring is located in a boggy area that may require a French drain to help collect sufficient water for operation of the system. The French drain and spring box would be installed using a tracked backhoe. A pipeline approximately 250 feet in length would be installed with a tracked backhoe leading from the spring to a dry upland site just downhill from the spring.

A neutral colored water trough would be installed at the end of the pipeline as a source of water for livestock and wildlife. A wildlife ramp would be installed in the water trough to provide an escape route for small mammals and birds that may enter the trough to obtain water. The water collection area would be fenced to protect it from livestock and wildlife damage. The fence would be a 4 wire fence with the bottom wire smooth and 16" from the ground. The other wires would be barbed and at heights of 6", 12", and 24" above the smooth wire.

All disturbed areas would be leveled and seeded with a mixture of native and introduced grass and forb species immediately following construction. The BLM zone crew would construct the pipeline in the summer of 2007 while the permittee would build the fence in 2007 or 2008. A map of the proposed project areas is included in Attachment #1.

No Action Alternative: Lori Spring and Matthew Springs would not be developed and additional sources of water for livestock within the McQueary Creek drainage would not be developed.

PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE ACTION: The BLM is specifically responding to a proposal from Randy Baumgardner to develop an additional water sources in allotment # 07527 (Sheriff B).

The purpose of the project would be to provide additional water sources for the livestock grazing in allotment # 07527 (Sheriff B). The need for this project was identified during the 2004 permit renewal process in which the BLM and permittee (Randy Baumgardner) implemented a rest rotation grazing system on Allotment # 07527 (Sheriff B). The grazing system is a 4 year, 4 pasture rest rotation grazing system with one pasture rested each year (see Attachment #2 for grazing system).

In order for the grazing system to work properly, additional water sources are needed in the McQueary Creek drainage to hold the livestock in this drainage for the required period of time. The Proposed Action would provide the water sources needed to properly implement the rest rotation grazing system.

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW: The Proposed Action is subject to and has been reviewed for conformance with the following plan (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM 1617.3):

Name of Plan: Kremmling Resource Management Plan (RMP), Record of Decision (ROD)

Date Approved: December 19, 1984; Updated February 1999

Decision Number/Page: Livestock grazing pages 4 through 7, as revised

Decision Language: Investing in cost-effective range improvements to implement grazing systems and meet the objectives of the AMP. Stock water developments would

be authorized as a basis for implementing grazing systems; additional water sources could be turned on and off to regulate cattle distribution and use within pastures. This would allow previously developed water facilities to receive less concentrated use and would enhance grazing uniformity within pastures/allotments.

Standards for Public Land Health: In January 1997, Colorado Bureau of Land Management (BLM) approved the Standards for Public Land Health. Standards describe conditions needed to sustain public land health and relate to all uses of the public lands. The following are the approved standards:

Standard	Definition/Statement
#1 Upland Soils	Upland soils exhibit infiltration and permeability rates that are appropriate to soil type, climate, land form, and geologic processes. Adequate soil infiltration and permeability allows for the accumulation of soil moisture necessary for optimal plant growth and vigor, and minimizes surface runoff.
#2 Riparian Systems	Riparian systems associated with both running and standing water, function properly and have the ability to recover from major surface disturbances such as fire, severe grazing, or 100-year floods. Riparian vegetation captures sediment, and provides forage, habitat and bio-diversity. Water quality is improved or maintained. Stable soils store and release water slowly.
#3 Plant and Animal Communities	Healthy, productive plant and animal communities of native and other desirable species are maintained at viable population levels commensurate with the species and habitat's potential. Plants and animals at both the community and population level are productive, resilient, diverse, vigorous, and able to reproduce and sustain natural fluctuations, and ecological processes.
#4 Threatened and Endangered Species	Special status, threatened and endangered species (federal and state), and other plants and animals officially designated by the BLM, and their habitats are maintained or enhanced by sustaining healthy, native plant and animal communities.
#5 Water Quality	The water quality of all water bodies, including ground water where applicable, located on or influenced by BLM lands will achieve or exceed the Water Quality Standards established by the State of Colorado. Water Quality Standards for surface and ground waters include the designated beneficial uses, numeric criteria, narrative criteria, and anti-degradation requirements set forth under State law as found in (5 CCR 1002-8), as required by Section 303(c) of the Clean Water Act.

Because a standard exists for these five categories, a finding must be made for each of them in the environmental analysis. These findings are located in specific elements below or in the Interdisciplinary Team Analysis Review Record and Checklist (IDT-RRC) (Appendix 1).

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT / ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES / MITIGATION MEASURES

CRITICAL ELEMENTS: The following critical elements: Air Quality, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, Cultural Resources, Native American Religious Concerns, Environmental Justice, Farmlands- Prime and Unique, Floodplains, Wastes, Hazardous or Solid, Wild and Scenic Rivers, and Wilderness, etc. were evaluated and determined that they were not present or that there would be no impact to them from the Proposed Action or No Action Alternative. See IDT-RRC in Appendix 1 for further information.

The following critical elements were determined to be potentially impacted and were carried forward for analysis from the IDT-RRC in Appendix 1.

INVASIVE, NON-NATIVE SPECIES

Affected Environment: Lori Spring: The project area has been inspected for invasive, non-native species. No invasive, non-native species were observed at the spring, along the pipeline pathway, or at the proposed site of the water trough.

Matthew Spring: There is a small population of Canada thistle associated with the boggy area that would be disturbed with implementation of the Proposed Action. Canada thistle is the only known invasive, non-native species located in the Matthew Spring project area.

Environmental Consequences: All soil or vegetation disturbances create an avenue for the establishment and/or expansion of invasive, non-native species. The Proposed Action would create short term disturbances at the site of the springs, along the pipeline routes, and at the proposed location of the water troughs. Long term disturbance from livestock use of the water trough would continue. The following mitigation and monitoring are proposed to mitigate potential impacts.

Mitigation:

-The disturbance associated with the installation of the pipeline and spring box would require reseeded with a BLM approved seed mix to re-establish native vegetation and reduce the chance of establishment or spread of invasive, non-native species.

-Periodic monitoring of the project area would be required to ensure invasive, non-native species do not become established or spread. If weeds do become established or spread, it would be the responsibility of the permittee to report the location of the weeds to the BLM. The BLM in partnership with Grand County would be responsible for the control of the invasive, non-native species.

MIGRATORY BIRDS

Affected Environment: The two springs are located in a mixed conifer and aspen forest type above the sagebrush steppe zone. Other habitat nearby includes alder/willow riparian areas along Kinney and McQueary Creek. Important migratory bird species likely to inhabit the area include prairie falcons, red-tail hawks, Williamson's sapsuckers, Clark's Nutcrackers, hermit

thrushes, Coopers hawks, and ruby-crowned kinglets. Other songbirds including several sparrows, mountain chickadees, and mountain bluebirds are also common in the area.

Environmental Consequences/Mitigation: The proposed spring development would improve livestock grazing distribution and management in allotment # 07527. Better livestock management would result in more suitable habitat for the species listed above. Grass and forb cover would increase, thereby providing additional food, cover, and nest material for migratory birds. The Proposed Action would also provide an additional water source for birds and their prey base.

The No Action Alternative would not result in better livestock management. Grass productivity would remain as it currently exists and cover for ground nesting birds would not increase. No additional water for migratory birds would be available in the pasture as a result of this alternative.

THREATENED, ENDANGERED, AND SENSITIVE SPECIES (includes a finding on Standard 4)

Affected Environment: A list of threatened, endangered, and candidate species which could inhabit the proposed project area was received from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on February 27, 2007. Analysis of this list indicated that Canada lynx could inhabit the project area. The extreme northern end of allotment # 07527 is included in the U.S. Forest Service designated Upper Colorado Lynx Analysis Unit (LAU). The northern portion of the allotment (0.2 miles north of Lori Spring) has been designated as "Other" and "Winter" habitat for lynx. Pine squirrels, blue grouse, and some snowshoe hares inhabit the portions of the proposed project area. These species would provide a food source for Canada lynx if they inhabit the area.

The Proposed Action is located within the Colorado River basin. The USFWS has determined that any water depletion within the Colorado River likely jeopardizes the continued existence of the Colorado pikeminnow, humpback chub, bonytail, and razorback sucker through destruction or adverse modification of their critical habitat.

Environmental Consequences/Mitigation: Allotment # 07527 was surveyed by a team of resource specialists from the Kremmling Field Office in summer of 2000 to determine if the allotment was meeting public land health standards. The northern part of the allotment was assessed to determine whether habitat requirements for Canada lynx were being impacted by livestock grazing or other land uses in the area. The team determined the vegetative requirements for snowshoe hares, which is the primary prey species, and other small mammals, were not being adversely impacted by livestock grazing.

The Proposed Action would provide the water sources needed to properly implement the rest rotation grazing system and help distribute livestock more evenly. This would allow forage plants to become more productive and thereby provide additional food and cover for small mammals including snowshoe hare. This increase in productivity would allow snowshoe hare populations to remain at their current levels and potentially increase. Canada lynx would continue to have winter forage species, primarily snowshoe hares, as well as other small mammals available as winter food. Therefore, the proposed project would have "no affect" on Canada lynx.

The No Action Alternative would not result in better livestock management. Forage productivity would remain as it currently exists and there would be no potential for the prey base of Canada lynx to increase.

The BLM completed a programmatic biological assessment (PBA) in 1994 to address small depletions to the Colorado River. In response to the BLM's PBA, the USFWS issued a Biological Opinion (BO) (#ES/GJ-6-CO-94-F-017) on June 13, 1994, which includes reasonable and prudent alternatives developed by the USFWS that allow the BLM to authorize projects that result in small water depletions while avoiding destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat. The BLM selected the alternative to make a one-time contribution to the Recovery Implementation Program in the amount equal to the average annual acre-feet depleted by each project. The estimated annual depletion for Lori and Matthew Spring is 0.26 acre-ft. The depletion would be submitted to the BLM Colorado State Office at the end of the fiscal year to be included in the annual statewide depletion reported to the USFWS.

No other listed species or BLM designated Sensitive Species are known to inhabit the project area.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for Threatened & Endangered species: Neither the Proposed Action or the No Action Alternative would prevent allotment # 07527 from meeting this standard. The Proposed Action will likely improve this standard.

WATER QUALITY, SURFACE AND GROUND (includes a finding on Standard 5)

Affected Environment: The two springs are located on allotment # 07527, which is within the Colorado River (from the Fraser River confluence to the Williams Fork River confluence) 5th Order Watershed. The Proposed Action would develop two ground water sources which are tributary to McQueary Creek, which flows into Kinney Creek, which is tributary to the Colorado River. The state has designated the creeks for coldwater aquatic life-class 1, recreation-class 2, water supply, and agricultural uses. This segment of the Colorado River has similar designations, except it is recreation-class 1a water. The BLM monitors water quality on Kinney Creek upstream from McQueary Creek and does not monitor McQueary itself, nor this segment of the Colorado River. There are no known water quality concerns, however, and the streams are considered to be fully supporting their designated uses. Water quality of the springs has not been sampled.

Environmental Consequences: The current rotational grazing system for this allotment was developed to help improve and protect riparian conditions in McQueary Creek and two other perennial streams. By developing additional water sources, livestock use would be better distributed in the allotment and not concentrated along the streams. By moving livestock to an upland water trough, overall water quality would be protected or improved.

Development of springs for livestock water would include an enclosure of the spring source. The enclosure would protect the ground water source from livestock and wildlife trampling, and would reduce the sources of contamination.

Under the No Action Alternative, existing conditions would continue. The opportunity to protect the ground water quality and reduce livestock use along McQueary Creek would be foregone.

The following mitigation is proposed to mitigate potential impacts.

Mitigation:

-Disturbed areas should be kept to a minimum and disturbed areas re-vegetated to prevent accelerated erosion.

-If the pipeline slope is greater than 20%, then water bars would be required to reduce rilling along the pipeline disturbance.

-Construction would occur during periods of dry soil conditions on the roads and uplands.

Under the No Action Alternative, existing conditions would continue. The opportunity to protect the ground water quality and reduce livestock use along McQueary Creek would be foregone.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for water quality: The Proposed Action would protect ground water quality for the long term by reducing livestock and wildlife trampling and use at the spring source. It would indirectly protect surface water quality in McQueary Creek by reducing livestock use along the creek. The No Action Alternative would not protect the spring source from animal use and the existing use along the creek would continue.

WETLANDS & RIPARIAN ZONES (includes a finding on Standard 2)

Affected Environment: The proposed projects have not been inventoried for wetland values. From looking at staff photographs, the Lori spring source may not be a jurisdictional wetland, as it may not have the hydric soils and soil depth. It appears to emerge from a rocky outcrop adjacent to an intermittent or an ephemeral drainage that is tributary to McQueary Creek. The Matthew seep appears to support a depressional wetland without a well defined channel to McQueary Creek. A field examination is necessary to determine the wetland characteristics of each source.

Spring developments are a tool to help improve livestock distribution, protect the spring source and any associated wetlands, and help draw livestock out of riparian areas. The BLM has been working on improving/maintaining the riparian areas in the Sheriff B allotment for many years. Due to McQueary Creek pasture being primarily forest, livestock use is concentrated along the roads, in clear cuts, and along the creek. It is a management objective to reduce livestock use along the creek, and upland water sources can help.

Livestock are watered away from the spring source, which is protected by the enclosure. Outside of the grazing period, the water remains at the source and during the grazing period, excess water is returned to the spring's drainage. The pasture is rested one year out of three, when the springs would not be diverted at all.

Environmental Consequences/Mitigation: At Lori Spring, the Proposed Action would have minimal disturbance consisting of setting the collection box (<6 cubic feet) and laying the pipeline (generally ¾ to 1 inch width). The Matthew Seep would also require 250 feet of French drain to help capture water for the collection box. Thus, the construction activities would have minimal short term impacts.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (the Corps), by the authority of the Clean Water Act, issue permits for construction activities that may affect waters of the United States. In their “2007 Proposed Regional Conditions in Colorado”, they have defined springs as “any location where ground water emanates from a point in the ground. For purposes of this regional condition, springs do not include seeps or other discharges which do not have a defined channel.” All nationwide permits are revoked for activities involving “springs” within 100 feet of the point of groundwater discharge.

The Kremmling Field Office has been working with the BLM’s State Office and the Corps to determine if an individual permit will be necessary to authorize the proposed action. At this point in time (April, 2007), the regional conditions have not been finalized. It appears that Lori Spring would be considered a “spring”, and the BLM will continue to work with the Corps to obtain proper authorization to develop the spring and to mitigate impacts. It appears that Matthew Spring would not require a permit, as the source would be characterized as a “seep”, as it oozes out of the ground, rather than flows with a hydraulic grade line above the ground surface. This will be verified with a field inspection as soon as conditions allow. The Corps desires to see at least 50% of the water remain in the natural drainage, to lessen vegetative impacts from the development.

Under the No Action Alternative, livestock and wildlife would continue to water out of the springs, trampling the source areas and any associated wetlands. Livestock trailing along McQueary Creek would also continue at present levels.

The following mitigation is proposed to mitigate potential impacts.

Mitigation:

- Equipment should not enter the wetland or seep area. If the size or location of the wetland does not allow the equipment to remain outside of the area, then mats would be placed under the equipment to reduce compaction.
- Outside of the grazing period, the spring development would not divert water to the trough.
- No more than 50% of the estimated flow would be diverted from the spring source. If wetland vegetation is stressed, a review of the development would occur.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for riparian systems: The overall allotment was assessed for Land Health Standards and found to be meeting standards. The individual spring areas were not specifically inventoried, but the proposed action with mitigation would not hinder the spring’s ability to meet the standard and would benefit the overall landscape.

NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS: The following non-critical elements were determined to be potentially impacted and were carried forward for analysis from the IDT-RRC in Appendix 1.

SOILS (includes a finding on Standard 1)

Affected Environment: Soil information is from the Grand County Soil Survey, which is not designed for soil information of site specific projects. In general, the soils around Lori Spring are mapped as Frisco-Peeler gravelly sandy loams, 25-65% slopes. The soils formed in glacial drift and the mapping unit is generally 65% Frisco soils. The soils contain 35-80% rock fragments after about the first foot of depth. The fragments are predominantly 10-24 inches in diameter.

The area around Matthew Spring is mapped as Peeler sandy loams, 3-15% slopes. The Peeler soils formed in glacial drift and weathered material from sandstone and metamorphic rocks. These soils are similar to the Frisco, but do not have the rock fragments. Gravel contents range from 0-20%, and subsurface textures are gravelly sandy clay loams.

Both mapping units have soils with moderate permeability and moderate plant available moisture. The upland site for the water trough and pipeline would be assumed to be similar to these soils. The soils around the spring source may or may not be similar to the mapped units. Matthew Spring would appear to collect soils, moisture, and organic material, and may have more of a fine textured soil, at least near the surface. Placing the collection box, French drain, and the initial portion of the pipeline would be the expected impact to these soils.

Environmental Consequences: Due to the existing road system and spring locations, the proposed developments would only require limited off-road travel for construction. Due to the small size of the springs, equipment would remain outside of the seep on upland soils for the collection box and pipeline trenching. Access and construction would be limited to periods of dry soil conditions. Soil disturbances would be limited to a fairly small area, and after the short term construction disturbance, consist of the area around the trough. The overall impact to the allotment will be improved livestock distribution, which would benefit watershed (and upland soil) health.

Under the No Action Alternative, the opportunity to improve overall soil condition would be foregone and the existing conditions would continue.

The following mitigation is proposed to mitigate potential impacts.

Mitigation:

-The pipeline route would be water barred if the slopes are steep and all disturbed upland soils would be reseeded.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for upland soils: During the livestock permit renewal process, the interdisciplinary team determined the allotment was meeting the Standard for upland soils. The Proposed Action would disturb a small area and would help the allotment continue to meet the Standard and protect longterm soil health. The No Action Alternative would continue the existing conditions.

VEGETATION (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: Lori Spring is located in a side drainage to McQueary Creek. The spring is in a rocky area with little vegetation. The surrounding area is comprised of a mix of lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*) and quaking aspen trees (*Populus tremuloides*) with an understory of grasses and forbs. The lodgepole pine trees in the area are heavily infested by the Mountain Pine Beetle (MPB) and most trees over about 7 inches in diameter are dead or dying. Most of the pipeline route and the proposed water trough location consist of seeded grasses that were planted following disturbance during the installation of the nearby BLM road 2750. The grasses are almost exclusively western wheatgrass (*Pascopyrum smithii*) and smooth brome (*Bromus inermis*). These sod forming grasses have severely limited the number of forbs in the pipeline route and water trough location.

Matthew Spring is located in a boggy area with a mixed conifer and aspen overstory and an understory of a variety of native perennial grasses and forbs. Most of the pipeline route and the water trough location are in a drier, open upland with native and introduced native perennial grasses and a variety of native annual and perennial forbs. Grasses include but are not limited to western wheatgrass (*Pascopyrum smithii*), timothy (*Phleum pratense*), brome grass (*Bromus* spp), bluegrasses (*Poa* spp), fescues (*Festuca* spp), and pine needlegrass (*Stipa pinetorum*).

Environmental Consequences: Small temporary disturbances would be associated with installation of the Proposed Action. However, once the disturbed areas have re-vegetated, the overall impact to the vegetation in the allotment would be minimal. Any impacts should be positive as the springs would provide new water sources and should result in more even grazing throughout the allotment. In addition, some trees may be felled to develop the springs and install the pipelines. The following mitigation is proposed to mitigate potential impacts.

Mitigation:

-A BLM approved seed mix would be required for the reseeded.

-Periodic monitoring of the vegetation would be required following project construction to ensure the seeded vegetation becomes established. If the seeding fails, reseeded would be required with the same or an alternative seed mix. Once an adequate stand of the intended vegetation is established, monitoring should no longer be required.

-Any felled trees would be limbed and bucked to lengths not to exceed eight feet. Slash would be lopped and scattered to a depth not to exceed 24 inches.

Finding on the Standards for Public Land Health for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Wildlife, Aquatic and Wildlife, Terrestrial): Allotment # 07527 (Sheriff B) was assessed for compliance with the Standards in June 2000. Although some areas of concern were noted, the allotment was determined to be in compliance with Standard # 3. During the Standards assessment, the areas of concern were along the creeks and on the lower side slopes. The Proposed Action would develop 2 springs and should help relieve the grazing pressure along the creeks and improve livestock distribution throughout the allotment.

WILDLIFE, AQUATIC (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: The project area includes two perennial streams which support several species of aquatic wildlife. Kinney Creek supports cold water fish including brook trout and Colorado cutthroat trout. Although McQueary Creek is a perennial stream, it does not have sufficient water flow to support fish. Colorado cutthroat were transplanted into upper Kinney Creek in the early 1990's and currently exist in a large enough population to reproduce annually. In addition to these fish, beavers, muskrats, mink and several species of dabbling ducks also use the two streams when sufficient water is available to provide food and cover for them.

Environmental Consequences/Mitigation: The proposed spring development would improve livestock grazing distribution and management in allotment # 07527. Better livestock management would result in more suitable habitat for Colorado cutthroat trout in Kinney Creek and other aquatic wildlife in both streams. Riparian cover would increase, thereby increasing bank stability and overall stream health. Available food and cover for aquatic wildlife would also improve.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Vegetation and Wildlife, Terrestrial): Neither the Proposed Action or the No Action Alternative would prevent allotment # 07527 from meeting this standard. The Proposed Action would likely improve this standard for aquatic wildlife.

WILDLIFE, TERRESTRIAL (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: Mule deer, Rocky Mountain elk, black bears, coyotes, bobcats, mountain lions, and blue grouse are residents of the proposed project area. Deer and elk will reside in the area until deep snow makes forage vegetation unavailable. Black bear, coyotes, bobcats, badgers and mountain lions are yearlong residents. Rabbits and several other species of rodents are also year long residents of the proposed project area.

Environmental Consequences/Mitigation: The proposed spring developments would provide an additional water source for elk, mule deer, and small mammals during the summer season as well as improve livestock distribution during the grazing season. The change in livestock distribution would improve forage conditions and provide additional food and cover vegetation for wildlife using the allotment.

The No Action Alternative would not improve livestock grazing distribution and would not provide an additional water source for wildlife. If the No Action Alternative is implemented, forage for wildlife in the allotment would remain the same.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Vegetation and Wildlife, Aquatic): Neither the Proposed Action or the No Action Alternative would prevent allotment # 07527 from meeting this standard. The Proposed Action would likely improve this standard for terrestrial wildlife.

RANGE MANAGEMENT

Affected Environment: Allotment # 07527 (Sheriff B) has a livestock grazing preference of 470 Animal Unit Months (AUMs) with a grazing season of 6/1 - 9/30. The allotment consists of 4 pastures and is operated under a rest rotation grazing system.

Environmental Consequences/Mitigation: Although the allotment was found to be in compliance with Standard # 3, several problems areas were identified. Uneven utilization of the vegetation was identified as a result of poor livestock distribution. Implementation of the Proposed Action would provide 2 additional water sources in the McQueary Creek pasture. The new water sources should provide improved livestock distribution and more even grazing throughout the allotment.

WATER RIGHTS

Affected Environment: The proposed spring developments have not been inventoried for flows. Without a field inventory, it is impossible to determine if there are surface flows to McQueary Creek.

Environmental Consequences/Mitigation: Once the springs are developed, the BLM would measure the flows and file for water rights in the Colorado Water Court. Water rights are administered by the state and the BLM would be subject to the appropriation doctrine and all senior water rights. Under state law, the BLM's use of the springs can not impact existing water rights. If the No Action Alternative is selected, the BLM would attempt to estimate the flows from the springs and would also file for water rights.

VISUAL RESOURCES

Affected Environment: The proposed project area is located in an area classified as VRM Class II & IV in the Kremmling 1984 Resource Management Plan. The objective of VRM Class II is to retain the existing characteristic landscape. The level of change in any of the basic landscape elements (line, form, color, texture) due to management activities should be low and not evident. The objective of VRM Class IV is to provide for management activities which require major modifications of the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape can be high. These management activities may dominate the view and be the major focus of viewer attention. However, every attempt should be made to minimize the impact of these activities through careful location, minimal disturbance, and repeating the basic elements.

Environmental Consequences/Mitigation: It is recommended that the disturbance with the backhoe be minimized and the area re-vegetated. The developments would be visible along portions of the McQuery Creek Road, but would not be visible from Hwy 40. The proposed re-vegetation and minimizing disturbance would reduce the overall visual impact. This project would meet Class II & IV objectives.

PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Affected Environment: The proposed Lori spring is located in the upper part of the Middle Park formation. This geologic formation is evaluated as Class III, which indicates that fossils of poor quality (fragmentary or poorly preserved) are found in this formation. The proposed Mathew Spring is located in the Middle Park formation and consisting of arkosic conglomerate, grit and sandstone. This geologic formation is evaluated as Class III, which indicates that fossils of poor quality (fragmentary or poorly preserved) are found in this formation.

Environmental Consequences: No further work is recommended for this project, because the potential for impacts would be low.

Mitigation:

-Should fossils be discovered during development of the spring, pipeline and/or trough locations, work would stop and the staff paleontologist would be immediately notified so that he may observe, document and evaluate the discovery(s).

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS SUMMARY: All resource values have been evaluated for cumulative impacts. It has been determined that there would be no cumulative impacts.

PERSONS / AGENCIES CONSULTED: Randy Baumgardner, Livestock Grazing Permittee

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW: See IDT-RRC in Appendix 1.

FONSI

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Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the attached environmental assessment, and considering the significance criteria in 40 CFR 1508.27, I have determined that the Proposed Action will not have a significant effect on the human environment. An environmental impact statement is therefore not required.

DECISION RECORD

DECISION: It is my decision to authorize the Proposed Action as described in the attached EA. This decision is contingent on meeting all mitigation measures and monitoring requirements listed below.

RATIONALE: The purpose of the project is to provide additional water sources for the livestock grazing in allotment # 07527 (Sheriff B). The need for this project was identified during the 2004 permit renewal process in which the BLM and permittee (Randy Baumgardner) implemented a rest rotation grazing system on Allotment # 07527 (Sheriff B). The grazing system is a 4 year, 4 pasture rest rotation grazing system with one pasture rested each year.

In order for the grazing system to work properly, additional water sources were needed in the McQueary Creek drainage to hold the livestock there for the required period of time. The Proposed Action provides the water sources needed to properly implement the rest rotation grazing system.

MITIGATION MEASURES:

Invasive, non-native species:

-The disturbance associated with the installation of the pipeline and spring box will require reseeded with a BLM approved seed mix to re-establish native vegetation and reduce the chance of establishment or spread of invasive, non-native species.

Water Quality, surface and ground:

-Disturbed areas must be kept to a minimum and disturbed areas re-vegetated to prevent accelerated erosion.

-If the pipeline slope is greater than 20%, then water bars are required to reduce rilling along the pipeline disturbance.

-Construction must occur during periods of dry soil conditions on the roads and uplands.

Wetlands and Riparian Zones:

-Equipment must not enter the wetland or seep area. If the size or location of the wetland does not allow the equipment to remain outside of the area, then mats must be placed under the equipment to reduce compaction.

-Outside of the grazing period, the spring development will not divert water to the trough.

-No more than 50% of the estimated flow will be diverted from the spring source. If wetland vegetation is stressed, a review of the development must occur.

Soils:

-The pipeline route will be water barred if the slopes are steep and all disturbed upland soils must be reseeded.

Vegetation:

-A BLM approved seed mix is required for the reseeded.

-Any felled trees will be limbed and bucked to lengths not to exceed eight feet. Slash will be lopped and scattered to a depth not to exceed 24 inches.

Paleontological Resources:

-Should fossils be discovered during development of the spring, pipeline and/or trough locations, work must stop and the staff paleontologist must be immediately notified so that he may observe, document and evaluate the discovery(s).

COMPLIANCE/MONITORING:

Invasive, non-native species:

-Periodic monitoring of the project area will be required to ensure invasive, non-native species do not become established or spread. If weeds do become established or spread, it is the responsibility of the permittee to report the location of the weeds to the BLM. The BLM in partnership with Grand County is responsible for the control of the invasive, non-native species.

Vegetation:

-Periodic monitoring of the vegetation would be required following project construction to ensure the seeded vegetation becomes established. If the seeding fails, reseeded would be required with the same or an alternative seed mix. Once an adequate stand of the intended vegetation is established, monitoring should no longer be required.

NAME OF PREPARER: Richard Johnson

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Joe Stout

DATE: 5/30/07

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL: /s/ Peter McFadden

DATE SIGNED: 5/30/07

ATTACHMENTS:

1). Project Map

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1 – Interdisciplinary Team Analysis Review Record and Checklist

Appendix 1

INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM ANALYSIS REVIEW RECORD AND CHECKLIST:

Project Title: Lori and Matthew Spring Developments

Project Leader: Richard Johnson

Date Submitted for Comment: 2/26/2007

Due Date for Comments: 4/15/2007

Need for a field Exam: Various specialists visited the site.

Scoping Needs/Interested or Affected Publics: See Interdisciplinary Review section.

Consultation/Permit Requirements:

Consultation	Date Initiated	Date Completed	Responsible Specialist/ Contractor	Comments
Cultural/Archeological Clearance/SHPO		5/16/07	Bill B. Wyatt	No effect, no historic properties affected.
Native American		5/16/07	Bill B. Wyatt	No effect, no TCP's affected.
T&E Species/FWS	N/A	N/A	M. McGuire	Consultation was completed for Colorado River species by a Programmatic BA in 1994. Depletion estimate of 0.26 acre-ft would be reported in 11/07 report to USFWS as required by the BA.
Permits Needed (i.e. Air or Water)	2/28/07		P. Belcher	The 2007 regional conditions for Colorado's 404 permit have not been finalized (4/07). Field inspection and work with Corps to determine if permit is required on Lori Spring and how to permit the action.

(NP) = Not Present

(NI) = Resource/Use Present but Not Impacted

(PI) = Potentially Impacted and Brought Forward for Analysis.

NP NI PI	Discipline/Name		Date Review Comp.	Initials	Review Comments (required for Critical Element NIs, and for elements that require a finding but are not carried forward for analysis.)
CRITICAL ELEMENTS					
NI	Air Quality	Belcher	4/16/07	PB	Air quality is good and there would be no impacts
NP	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	Stout	5/30/07	JS	There are no Areas of Critical Environmental Concern in the proximity of the proposed project area.
NI	Cultural Resources	Wyatt	5/16/07	BBW	No effect, no historic properties affected.
NP	Environmental Justice	Stout	5/30/07	JS	According to the most recent Census Bureau statistics (2000), there are no minority or low income communities within the Kremmling Planning Area.
NP	Farmlands,		4/16/07	PB	There are no farmlands, prime or unique, in the

	Prime and Unique	Belcher			proximity of the proposed project area.
NP	Floodplains	Belcher	4/16/07	PB	The springs are outside of the floodplain, thus the Proposed Action would not impact any floodplains.
PI	Invasive, Non-native Species	Johnson	3/29/07	RJ	See analysis in EA.
PI	Migratory Birds	McGuire	4/4/07	MM	See analysis in EA.
NI	Native American Religious Concerns	Wyatt	5/16/07	BBW	No effect, no TCP's affected.
PI	T/E, and Sensitive Species (Finding on Standard 4)	McGuire	4/4/07	MM	See analysis in EA.
NP	Wastes, Hazardous and Solid	Johnson	3/28/07	RJ	There are no quantities of wastes, hazardous or solid, located on BLM-administered lands in the proposed project area, and there would be no wastes generated as a result of the Proposed Action or No Action alternative.
PI	Water Quality, Surface and Ground (Finding on Standard 5)	Belcher	4/16/07	PB	See analysis in EA.
PI	Wetlands & Riparian Zones (Finding on Standard 2)	Belcher	4/16/07	PB	See analysis in EA.
NP	Wild and Scenic Rivers	Sterin	3/1/07	BS	No eligible segments would be impacted from the proposed projects.
NP	Wilderness	Monkouski	4/23/07	JM	There is no designated Wilderness or Wilderness Study Areas in the proximity of the proposed project area.
NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS (A finding must be made for these elements)					
PI	Soils (Finding on Standard 1)	Belcher	4/17/07	PB	See analysis in EA.
PI	Vegetation (Finding on Standard 3)	Johnson	3/29/07	RJ	See analysis in EA.
PI	Wildlife, Aquatic (Finding on Standard 3)	McGuire	4/4/07	MM	See analysis in EA.
PI	Wildlife, Terrestrial (Finding on Standard 3)	McGuire	4/4/07	MM	See analysis in EA.
OTHER NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS					
NI	Access/Transportation	Monkouski	4/23/07	JM	There would be no change is access other than the protective fence for the seep, thus there would be no impacts.
NI	Forest Management	Rosene	3/16/07	RR	No impact. Minimal disturbance of forest. See Vegetation section.
NI	Geology and Minerals	Hodgson	4/20/07	KH	No impacts
PI	Hydrology/Water Rights	Belcher	4/16/07	PB	See analysis in EA.
NP	Paleontology	Rupp	5/30/2007	FGR	No known impacts to paleontological resources.
NI	Noise	Monkouski	4/23/07	JM	No impacts. Construction noise would be minimal and short term.
PI	Range Management	Johnson	3/29/07	RJ	See analysis in EA.
NP	Lands/ Realty Authorizations	Cassel	1/12/07	SC	No leases, permits or ROWs in the location of the proposed project.
NI	Recreation	Monkouski	4/23/07	JM	There would be no changes in use, thus recreation would be unaffected.
NI	Socio-Economics	Stout	5/30/07	JS	There would be no socio-economic impacts.
PI	Visual Resources	Straub	4/16/07	RS	See analysis in EA.
NI	Cumulative Impact Summary	Stout	5/30/07	JS	There would be no cumulative impacts.
FINAL REVIEW					

	P&E Coordinator Stout	5/30/07	JS	
	Field Manager McFadden			