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

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-120-2009-0054-EA

PROJECT NAME: Transfer of base property from WFR LTD to Kirk Shiner and renewal of livestock grazing lease # 0504009 that authorizes livestock grazing on Allotment 07766 (Parsons).

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Kremmling Field Office (KFO) administered public land includes all or part of the following:

Allotment 07766 (Parsons) 1390 acres
T. 3 N., R. 81 W., 6th P.M., Sections 12, 13, 14, 23, 24

APPLICANT: Kirk Shiner

PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE ACTION:

Authorize Kirk Shiner to graze livestock on public lands so that he can continue his ranching operation and the BLM can assure appropriate use of the public lands.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES:

Background/Introduction/Issues and Concerns:

In 2009, Kirk Shiner purchased the base property including the livestock grazing preference on Allotment 07766 (Parsons) from WFR LTD. The livestock grazing lease authorizing livestock grazing on Allotment 07766 expired on February 28, 2010. The livestock grazing on Allotment 07766 would be transferred from WFR LTD to Kirk Shiner, and livestock grazing lease # 0504009 would be renewed for a period of ten years beginning on March 1, 2010.

Allotment 07766 was assessed for compliance with the Standards for Public Land Health in Colorado (Standards) in 1999 by an interdisciplinary (ID) team from the Kremmling Field Office. The allotment was determined to be functioning at risk for Standard # 2 (Upland vegetation) due to plant pedestaling, lack of community diversity and only a fair rating for

community structure and age class distribution of the vegetation. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) mandates that an appropriate action(s) be implemented to bring the allotment into compliance with the Standards or to move the allotment towards meeting the Standards. A deferred rotation grazing system was implemented as the appropriate action to bring the allotment into compliance with the Standards. Also, several vegetation treatments (Dixie harrow, brush beating) were implemented to improve the condition of the vegetation.

Allotment 07766 was reassessed for compliance with the Standards on July 8, 2008. An ID team from the Kremmling Field Office determined the allotment is now in compliance with all of the Standards.

Proposed Action:

The Proposed Action would transfer the grazing preference on Allotment 07766 (Parsons) from WFR LTD to Kirk Shiner and also renew livestock grazing lease # 0504009 for a period of 10 years. The Proposed Action would also adjust the livestock grazing system to accommodate the lessee’s ranching operation. The lessee has requested to eliminate the fall grazing season to reduce conflicts between livestock and hunters. The new grazing system would use all of the authorized livestock grazing preference from May 18 through July 1 each year. The lessee would use one pasture and rest the other pasture each year. Adherence to the rest rotation grazing system would be included as a term and condition of the new lease. A copy of the proposed lease with standard terms and conditions and the rest rotation grazing system is enclosed as Attachment 1.

- The lease would be renewed for 10 years from March 1, 2010 to February 28, 2020.
- Standard Terms and Conditions would apply.
- There would be no change to the authorized livestock grazing preference.
- The lessee would follow the approved rest rotation grazing system.

The renewed livestock grazing lease would implement the following livestock grazing system:

EVEN YEARS

Pasture	Livestock Number Kind	Season of Use	Percent Public Land	AUMs*
North	REST	REST	93	REST
South	76 Cattle	5/18 – 7/1	93	105

ODD YEARS

Pasture	Livestock Number Kind	Season of Use	Percent Public Land	AUMs
North	76 Cattle	5/18 – 7/1	93	105
South	REST	REST	93	REST

* AUM = animal unit month = the amount of forage needed to sustain one cow and her calf for one month.

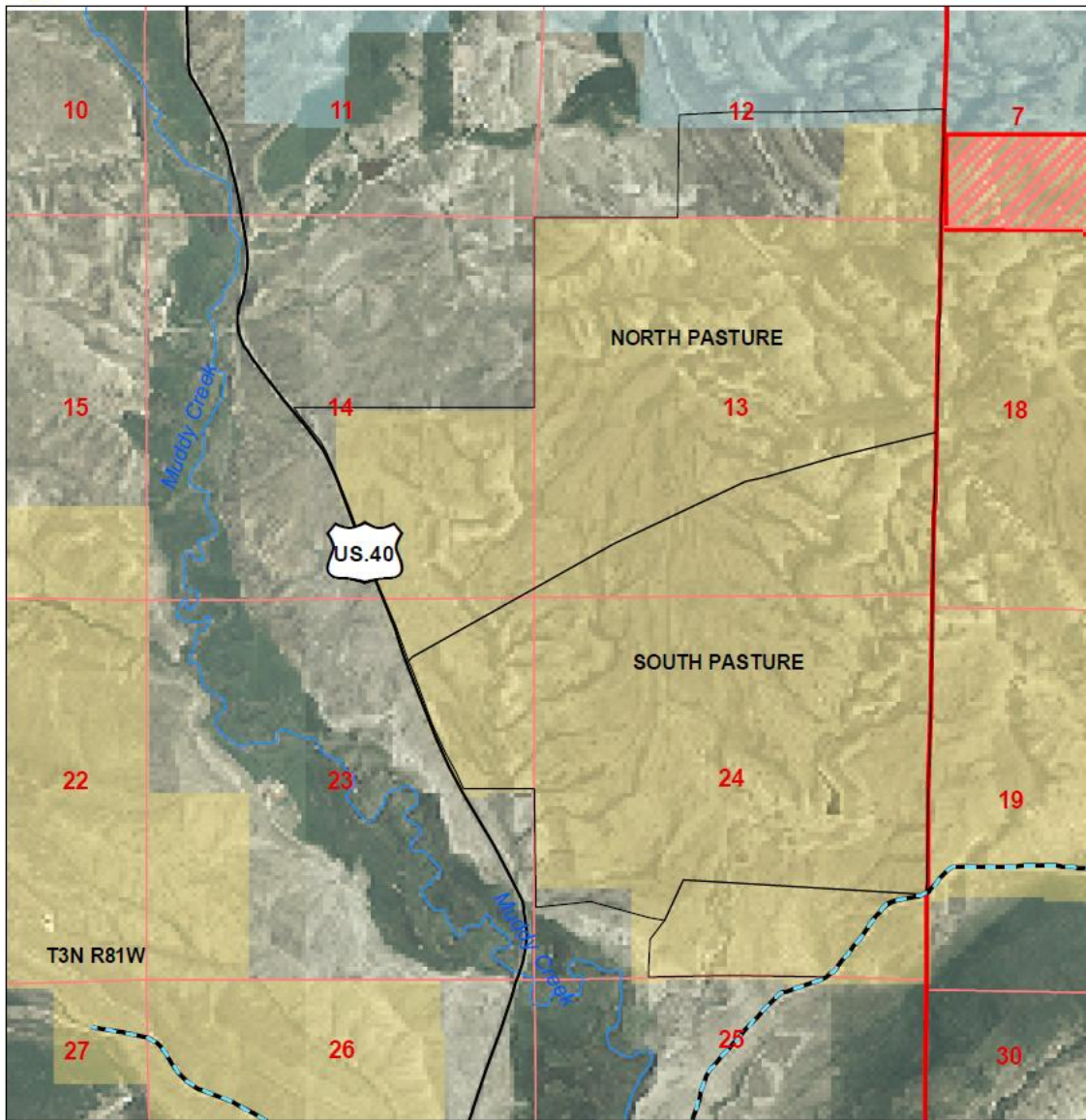
The total livestock grazing preference for lease # 0504009 is 105 AUMs.

Design Features of the Proposed Action:

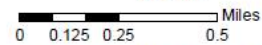
- The lessee would be responsible for notifying the BLM of all suspected noxious weeds found on Allotment 07766 (Parsons).
- The BLM would be responsible for implementing control measures, which would include partnership with the Grand County Weed Abatement Program.
- The allotment would be monitored according to the Kremmling Resource Area Monitoring Plan, located at the Kremmling Field Office.
- Since the entire allotment is within the Wolford Travel Management Area, the lessee would be permitted motorized travel for fence maintenance. The lessee would be permitted to travel only along fencelines for this purpose with no cross-country travel. If a fenceline is also a landownership boundary, all motorized travel would occur on the non-BLM side of the fence, if owned by Kirk Shiner.
- The lessee would be permitted on a case-by-case basis motorized cross-country travel within the Wolford Mountain Travel Management Area for instances of retrieving injured animals or other emergencies. All instances should be approved by the authorized officer, beforehand if possible. In the case of an emergency, any motorized cross-country travel would be reported to the BLM as soon as possible. Any permitted or emergency cross-country travel would be evaluated for resource damage. The lessee would be responsible for reclamation of any rutting of soil or damage to vegetation found to be excessive or creates a new route.
- No motorized travel is permitted within the Wolford Mountain Travel Management Area during winter seasonal closure between December 15 and April 15 with the exception of designated open routes for snowmobiles when there is a minimum of 12" of snow.
- Specific restrictions and exemptions of the Wolford Travel Management Plan would be included in the Terms and Conditions of the grazing lease.



PARSONS ALLOTMENT 07766



1:24,000



Reference Map
NW Colorado



- Legend**
- County Roads
 - Map Roads
 - 07766 Parsons Allotment
 - Interstate
 - Map Stream
 - Water within 50 Feet
 - ADIC
 - Block of Land 1/2
 - Block of Land 1/4
 - Indian Area
 - State and Federal
 - Indian Wildlife Refuge
 - State
 - State
 - State Forest
- nlp_1-1_n_s_0048_2006_1.sld
 RGB
 Red: Band_1
 Green: Band_2
 Blue: Band_3

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Richard Johnson 08/07/2009
 gisuser/johnson/allotment maps/07766 Parsons

No Action Alternative (Continuation of Current Management): The No Action Alternative would transfer the livestock grazing preference on Allotment 07766 (Parsons) from WFR LTD to Kirk Shiner and renew livestock grazing lease # 0504009. However, the No Action Alternative would not implement the proposed rest rotation grazing system. The No Action Alternative would continue the current deferred rotation grazing system. The lessee would not receive the benefits of their requested changes. The vegetation would not receive the benefits that a rest rotation grazing system provides. The livestock/hunter conflicts would continue during the fall grazing season.

Alternatives Considered But Eliminated From Further Analysis:

Not Renewing Livestock Grazing Lease # 0504009.

- It is a discretionary action to renew livestock grazing leases/permits. However, not renewing the lease does not meet the Purpose and Need of this EA.
- During public scoping, no issues or concerns have been indentified.
- Not renewing the livestock grazing lease would cause severe economic hardship to the lessee.
- Allotment 07766 (Parsons) meets all of the Standards for Public Land Health in Colorado.

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 6 and 8, as revised.

Decision Language: Objectives of the RMP/ROD include allocation of a base level of livestock forage and maintaining or improving forage production and condition in areas where livestock grazing is a priority or is compatible with the priority. The RMP designated the project area as being within a sensitive watershed and with a livestock grazing priority.

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT / ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES / MITIGATION MEASURES:

INVASIVE, NON-NATIVE SPECIES

Affected Environment: Past actions such as livestock grazing, motorized travel recreation, etc. that have caused disturbance of vegetation and soil have contributed to the invasion and spread of invasive, non-native species (noxious weeds). There are known invasive, non-native species growing within the project area. The invasive, non-native species include houndstongue (*Cynoglossum officinale*), cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*), and Canada thistle

(*Cirsium arvense*) and are generally located along roadways, in high use areas such as where livestock congregate, and other areas of disturbance. Soil or vegetation disturbing activities provide an avenue for establishment and expansion of invasive, non-native species. The BLM monitors these known areas for use in controlling the spread of these species.

Environmental Consequences: Any type of soil and vegetation disturbance in an area where invasive, non-native species are established promotes their expansion which decreases the condition of the vegetation within the allotment. The changes made to the livestock grazing management would not create new avenues for the establishment or spread of invasive, non-native species. However, the chance remains for the establishment or spread of invasive, non-native species with the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative.

No Action Alternative: Since the No Action Alternative would not change the livestock grazing on Allotment 07766 (Parsons), the current impacts from livestock grazing would continue.

Mitigation: None

RANGE MANAGEMENT

Affected Environment: Currently, Allotment 07766 (Parsons) has a two year deferred rotation livestock grazing system. The north and south pastures are alternately grazed in the spring and fall. Each pasture receives deferred livestock grazing every other year. Deferred grazing allows the plants to complete their growth cycle before being grazed which improves the vegetation's production and vigor. Deferment also allows the plants to increase their seed production which improves the establishment of new plants.

A Standards assessment of Allotment 07766 (Parsons) for the 2000 lease renewal determined the allotment was functioning at risk for Standard # 2 (upland vegetation). A deferred rotation grazing system was implemented as the appropriate action to bring Allotment 07766 (Parsons) into compliance with the Standards. A re-evaluation of the allotment prior to this lease renewal determined the allotment is now in compliance with the Standards.

Environmental Consequences: The lessee has requested to eliminate the fall grazing on Allotment 07766 (Parsons) because his grazing system is not conducive to fall grazing in the allotment. He also requested elimination of his fall grazing because of livestock/hunter conflicts that can occur during the fall grazing season. A rest rotation grazing system has been proposed as an alternative to the deferred grazing system. A rest rotation grazing system is superior to a deferred grazing system by providing longer periods of rest between grazing periods. The proposed rest rotation grazing system would provide rest to each of the two pastures every other year. For example, resting each pasture every other year means a pasture that is grazed in May/June 2010 would not be grazed again until May/June 2012 providing more time for the vegetation to recover. Rest rotation grazing systems have proven to be beneficial to the vegetation by allowing time for regrowth in the year that it is grazed plus a full year's rest the following year. The rest year allows the plants to complete a full year's life cycle without disturbance. The vegetation resource should improve more quickly under the rest rotation

grazing system. There would be no change to the amount of authorized livestock grazing preference with implementation of the Proposed Action or the No Action Alternative.

The No Action Alternative would renew livestock grazing lease # 0504009 with no changes in livestock grazing management. The current impacts from livestock grazing would continue.

Mitigation: None

SOILS (includes a finding on Standard 1)

Affected Environment: The Grand County Soil Survey maps most of the allotment as having soils that were formed in local alluvium from sedimentary rocks. Textures are dominated by loams to clay loams with moderate permeability and high plant available moisture. On hillslopes and ridges are several areas that are mapped as rock outcrops, or shallow soils underlain by sandy shale formations. These areas have low plant available moisture, rapid runoff, and higher erosion hazards - increasing with the slope. During the summer, the allotment receives high intensity, short duration thunderstorms, which exceed the soils' infiltration rates. The current dense sagebrush canopies give some protection to raindrop impact, but the sparser vegetated interspaces are vulnerable to runoff. Some cattle and wildlife trails on the allotment are eroding as runoff travels down them. Old soil pedestals, soil compaction, and revegetating gullies indicate that past conditions were worse and that the area has improved over historic conditions. In 1999, most of the south pasture and a portion of the north pasture were considered to be at risk for Standard #1.

The implemented deferred grazing system benefitted soils by improving the vegetative conditions- increasing production, vigor, and leaving litter in the interspaces. In the 2008 assessment, vegetative cover had continued to improve, protecting soil resources and lessening the risk of longterm soil health being impaired by grazing.

Environmental Consequences: The proposed changes would extend the rest each pasture receives. Under the Proposed Action, each pasture would receive a 23 month rest in alternate years. This encourages grass and forb production and helps reduce the bare soils within the allotment. The number of days a pasture is grazed would increase from 14 days to 45 days, but it is felt that the numbers are within the allotment's capacity, as utilization levels are generally light. Under the No Action Alternative, a pasture receives 15 months rest one year, and 7 months rest the next. This is because the fall grazed pasture is grazed the following spring, with no growing season in between. It is unlikely that any more improvement would occur under the No Action Alternative, and present conditions would be maintained. Grazing under the Proposed Action should eventually result in the allotment meeting its potential, and having no soil concerns.

Mitigation: None

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for upland soils: Although evidence of past soil conditions is evident, the allotment appears to be improving and was found to be meeting the Upland Soils standard in 2008. The Proposed Action should protect or improve the allotment's

ability to meet the Standard. Under the No Action Alternative, present conditions would continue, and no further improvement would be expected.

VEGETATION (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: Allotment 07766 (Parsons) is mostly a sagebrush steppe vegetation community. The dominant species is big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*) with an understory of cool season perennial grasses and annual and perennial forbs. Other shrubs that inhabit the allotment include serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*), snowberry (*Symphoricarpos oreophilus*), rabbitbrush (*Chrysothamnus* spp), antelope bitterbrush (*Purhsia tridentata*), and broom snakeweed (*Gutierrezia sarothrae*). The grasses include, but are not limited to, western wheatgrass (*Pascopyrum smithii*), bluebunch wheatgrass (*Pseudoroegneria spicata*), bluegrasses (*Poa* spp), bottlebrush squirreltail (*Elymus elymoides*), Indian ricegrass (*Achnatherum hymenoides*), pine needlegrass (*Achnatherum pinetorum*), prairie June grass (*Koeleria macrantha*) and brome grasses (*Bromus* spp). The kind and density of the forbs varies greatly from year to year depending on the timing and amount of precipitation. Common forbs include wild buckwheat (*Eriogonum* spp), lupine (*Lupinus argenteus*), phlox (*Phlox hoodii*), groundsels (*Senecio* spp), penstemons (*Penstemon* spp), milkvetchs (*Astagalus* spp), sedge (*Carex geyeri*), wild iris (*Iris missouriensis*), fringed sage (*Artemisia frigida*), pussy toes (*Antennaria* spp), and winterfat (*Krascheninnikovia lanata*).

Environmental Consequences: Allotment 07766 was determined to be functioning at risk during the 2000 lease renewal process. A deferred rotation grazing system was implemented at that time as the appropriate action to bring the allotment into compliance with Standard # 2 (upland vegetation). The vegetation has improved and a re-evaluation of the allotment for compliance with the Standards determined the allotment is now in compliance with all of the Standards. The proposed rest rotation grazing system would be beneficial to the vegetation resource. The vegetation condition would be maintained or continue to improve.

The No Action Alternative: The No Action Alternative would renew livestock grazing lease # 0504009 with no changes to the current livestock grazing system. The current impacts from livestock grazing would continue.

Mitigation: None

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Wildlife, Aquatic and Wildlife, Terrestrial): Allotment 07766 (Parsons) was evaluated for compliance with the Standards in 1999 and was determined to be functioning at risk. A deferred rotation grazing system was implemented as the appropriate action to bring the allotment into compliance with the Standards. The allotment was re-assessed by an interdisciplinary team from the Kremmling Field Office in 2008. The ID team determined the allotment is now in compliance with the Standards.

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

Affected Environment: Allotment 7766 is within the Muddy Creek watershed, a tributary to the Upper Colorado River basin. The allotment has only ephemeral drainages, with at least five earthen reservoirs that detain or retain most of the generated runoff. Runoff that is not held or redeposited on the allotment could eventually travel to Muddy Creek. Muddy Creek drains into Wolford Reservoir, which is monitored by the Colorado River Conservancy District for water quality. USGS monitors Muddy Creek upstream and downstream from the reservoir. Sediment loads have been a concern since the planning stages of the reservoir, but to date, sediment loads have been less than expected.

Since 2000, Wolford Reservoir, Muddy Creek, and tributaries have been added to the Monitoring and Evaluation List for suspected water quality impairment. Wolford Reservoir has been identified for dissolved oxygen levels, which may be in part due to reservoir operations. Other possible sources include nutrient loading and water temperatures. Muddy Creek and its tributaries are identified for temperature, which can reflect riparian conditions, stream widening, excess diversions or period of low flows, and/or nutrient loading. Additional data are needed to identify which stream segments are involved, the degree of impairment, and the source(s) of impairment.

To collect water quality data on the allotment is difficult due to the lack of perennial streams. The allotment has areas of erosive soils and moderate slopes, and field assessments found some areas of erosion and of deposition. Most of the gullies are historic and revegetating, although some trails were actively eroding. Overall, the allotment had improved from historic damage, but in 1999, had areas of risk due to the lack of vegetative understory and dominance of brush.

Environmental Consequences: Most of the rangelands within the Muddy Creek watershed had historically high grazing levels, with pastures near home ranches receiving year long use and much greater livestock numbers. Allotment 7766's current (2000-2009) livestock use is resulting in light utilization levels and no further improvement is expected from the deferred grazing. The Proposed Action would provide increased rest, which helps interspace vegetation get established and litter incorporated into the soil. These both help improve the soil/water relationship, reducing excess runoff and accelerated erosion. The Proposed Action would help maintain or improve the watershed conditions in the allotment, which reduces the potential that water quality impairments are due to these lands. Under the Non Action Alternative, the present conditions would be expected to continue, with no further improvement in overall conditions. In the longterm, allotment conditions would be similar under the No Action and Proposed Action alternatives.

Mitigation: None

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for water quality: The Proposed Action would improve or maintain Standard 5 (water quality) as measured by watershed conditions in the allotment. The No Action Alternative would maintain current conditions, which meet the Standard, but would not have the potential longterm benefits of the Proposed Action.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS SUMMARY:

Geographic Scope of the Cumulative Impacts Analysis

For the purpose of the EA, the general geographic boundary for cumulative impact analysis is Allotment 07766 (Parsons). This allotment is located in the Muddy Creek Watershed north of Kremmling, Colorado. The Muddy Creek Watershed begins at Muddy Pass (T.5N.,R. 82W., 6th PM) and flows south and empties into the Colorado River near Kremmling (T. 1N., R. 80W., 6th PM). Livestock grazing has been occurring on this allotment since the introduction of domestic livestock in the 1870's.

Past, Present, and Reasonably Foreseeable Actions

When considered with past actions, livestock grazing within this allotment did not improve habitat for migratory birds, wetlands, soils, or vegetation because livestock were not rotated in this allotment until 2000. Season long grazing resulted in reduced land health as seen by the allotment being determined to be functioning at risk. A deferred rotation grazing system was implemented during the 2000 lease renewal process. The vegetation in the allotment has improved under this grazing system.

When considering present actions, livestock grazing would be changed to a rest rotation grazing system. The fall grazing season in the deferred rotation grazing system would be eliminated as it is not conducive to the grazing operation of the new lessee. Also, fall grazing has resulted in many hunter/livestock conflicts. The proposed rest rotation grazing system would greatly reduce the opportunity for hunter/livestock conflicts by eliminating the fall grazing. The proposed rest rotation grazing system would also benefit migratory birds, wetlands, soils, and vegetation.

When considering future actions, livestock grazing leases are normally renewed or issued for a period of ten years. The next time this livestock grazing lease would be renewed would be in 2020. The proposed rest rotation grazing system would continue in effect during this period. Changes can be made to the grazing system if it would benefit the vegetation, migratory birds, wetlands, or soils. The need for changes would be confirmed through monitoring and the needs of the livestock grazing lessee's ranching operation.

PERSONS / AGENCIES CONSULTED:

Kirk Shiner, Lessee

Starting in January 2007, a scoping process was begun to request information concerning the renewal of grazing permits/leases and to prioritize areas or allotments with issues and concerns. The Kremmling Field Office sent scoping letters, along with land status maps showing the affected allotments to the following groups and agencies: Colorado Division of Wildlife (Steamboat Springs, Walden, Hot Sulphur Springs, Fort Collins); District Board of Grazing Advisors; County Commissioners of Grand and Jackson counties; Stock Growers Association (Middle Park, North Park, Upper Big Laramie River Ranch Assoc.); Northwest Resource Advisory Council, United States Forest Service (Silverthorne, Granby, Walden); US Fish and Wildlife Service (Arapaho National Wildlife Refuge); Tribal Councils (Arapaho, Shoshone, Southern Ute); Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs; Ute Indian Tribe Uintah and Ouray

Agency Business Committee; Colorado Environmental Coalition; and Colorado State Land Board (Lane Osborn).

The BLM Colorado State Office also mailed outreach letters concerning the renewal of grazing permits/leases to all Congressional offices, State and Federal agencies, and major environmental, conservation, and user group organizations.

In addition, individual letters were sent to the affected permittees/lessees informing them that their permit/lease was up for renewal and requested any information they wanted included in, or taken into consideration during the permit renewal process. A Notice of Public Scoping was posted on the internet at the Colorado BLM homepage, and in Grand and Jackson county newspapers asking for public input on permit/lease renewals and the assessment for compliance with the Standards for Public Land Health in Colorado within the Kremmling Field Office. This notice was followed up with an internet posting of the Kremmling Field Office prioritization of allotments and a determination as to which allotments would be assessed according to the Standards for Public Land Health in Colorado. The proposed permit renewal was also posted on the Kremmling Field Office Internet NEPA register.

The Kremmling Field Office received 3 comments from the scoping effort. The CDOW had no concerns with the permit/lease renewals. The US Forest Service, Sulphur District of the Arapaho National Forest expressed no issues or concerns with renewing the permits/leases. In a comment letter from the Grand County Commissioners, they strongly support the renewal of all Middle Park and North Park permits/leases. They said the preservation of agricultural is extremely important in Middle Park and North Park.

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW: See IDT-RRC in Appendix 1.

FONSI

DOI-BLM-CO-120-2009-0054-EA

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 and renew livestock grazing lease # 0504009 to be in effect from March 1, 2010 to February 28, 2020. This decision is contingent on meeting the monitoring requirements listed below.

RATIONALE: When a livestock grazing lease expires, it is subject to renewal at the discretion of the Secretary of the Interior for a period of up to ten years. Approving livestock grazing permit/lease renewals has been delegated to the local Authorized Officer. Livestock grazing when properly managed in accordance with good rangeland ecology practices, has been proven to result in improved land health. The public benefits from public lands which are maintained in a healthy condition and are able to produce sustainable resources for a variety of uses.

The livestock producer benefits from a renewed livestock grazing permit/lease to graze forage on BLM managed public land. Livestock grazing on BLM managed public land is an integral part of the livestock producer's operation, and an important part of local rural economies.

MITIGATION MEASURES: None

COMPLIANCE/MONITORING: Compliance with the renewed livestock grazing lease would be accomplished by application of the Kremmling Field Office Range Monitoring Plan. Allotment 07766 (Parsons) is an "I" (improve) category allotment. The objective of "I" category allotments is to improve the forage productivity and condition in grazing allotments where the vegetation condition has not attained its potential. Monitoring of "I" allotments includes collection of actual use, utilization and climatic data. Compliance checks will be conducted to ensure adherence to annual grazing authorizations. Trend studies would be included for allotments that have Allotment Management Plans.

NAME OF PREPARER: Richard Johnson

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Susan Cassel

DATE: April 20, 2010

| SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL: /s/ David Stout

| DATE SIGNED: 6/25/10

ATTACHMENTS:

1) Livestock grazing lease # 0504009 with standard terms and conditions and rest rotation grazing system.

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1 – Interdisciplinary Team Analysis Review Record and Checklist

Appendix 1

INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM ANALYSIS REVIEW RECORD AND CHECKLIST:

Project Title: Transfer of base property and Renewal of Livestock Grazing Lease #054009

Project Leader: Richard Johnson

Date Proposal Received: (Only for external proposals)

Date Submitted for Comment: 10/2/09

Due Date for Comments: 1/31/10

Need for a field Exam: Standards assessment was completed on July 8, 2008.

Consultation/Permit Requirements:

Consultation	Date Initiated	Date Completed	Responsible Specialist/ Contractor	Comments
Cultural/Archeological Clearance/SHPO	NA	1/12/2010	B. Wyatt	Past actions have resulted in a cultural resource inventory to determine if those actions would cause potential adverse affects to known and unknown cultural resources sites from livestock grazing, motorized travel, and recreational use. When project undertakings are identified, a cultural resource inventory would be conducted to determine if sites are present and their eligibility, project effects, and mitigation requirements as necessary.
Native American	4/10/2009	1/12/2010	B. Wyatt	Tribal consultation was initiated and to date no tribe has identified any area of traditional spiritual concern. All Section 106 undertakings would initiate additional Native American Tribal consultation to identify any potential effects to traditional spiritual places.
T&E Species/FWS	N/A	N/A	McGuire	
Permits Needed (i.e. Air or Water)	N/A	N/A	P. Belcher	

(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	4/19/2010	PB	There is no impact from the Proposed Action or the No Action Alternative.
NP	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern Cassel	10/21/09	SC	There are no Areas of Critical Environmental Concern in the proximity of the proposed project area.
NI	Cultural Resources Wyatt	1/12/2010	BBW	Past actions have resulted in a cultural resource

					inventory to determine if those actions would cause potential adverse affects to known and unknown cultural resources sites from livestock grazing, motorized travel, and recreational use. When project undertakings are identified a cultural resource inventory would be conducted to determine if sites are present and their eligibility, project effects, and mitigation requirements if necessary.
NP	Environmental Justice	Cassel	10/21/09	SC	According to the most recent Census Bureau statistics (2000), there are no minority or low income communities within the Kremmling Planning Area.
NP	Farmlands, Prime and Unique	Belcher	4/19/2010	PB	There are no farmlands, prime or unique, in the proximity of the proposed project area.
NP	Floodplains	Belcher	4/19/2010	PB	The allotment is located in the uplands and does not affect the functionality of the floodplain.
PI	Invasive, Non-native Species	Johnson Torma Hughes	12/24/09	ZH	See Analysis in this EA.
NI	Migratory Birds	McGuire	12/9/2009	MM	The allotment is currently in good condition. Since there is no change to the amount of livestock grazing use, impacts would not occur.
NI	Native American Religious Concerns	Wyatt	1/12/2010	BBW	Tribal consultation was initiated and to date no tribe has identified any area of traditional spiritual concern. All Section 106 undertakings would initiate additional Native American Tribal consultation to identify any potential effects to traditional spiritual places.
NI	T/E, and Sensitive Species (Finding on Standard 4)	McGuire	12/9/2009	MM	No T/E species. Greater sage-grouse, a BLM sensitive species, occur in the allotment. The allotment is currently in good condition. Since there is no change to the amount of livestock grazing use, impacts would not occur.
NP	Wastes, Hazardous and Solid	Hodgson	12/03/09	KH	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	4/19/2010	PB	The Proposed Action would improve the grazing system, ensuring that BLM grazing is not contributing to potential water quality concerns. See write-up.
NI	Wetlands & Riparian Zones (Finding on Standard 2)	Belcher	4/19/2010	PB	The allotment does not support any natural wetland vegetation. The shoreline of a livestock reservoir will benefit from the rest rotation system.
NP	Wild and Scenic Rivers	Windsor	11/13/09	AW	There are no eligible Wild and Scenic River segments in the proposed project area.
NP	Wilderness	Monkouski	3/12/2010	JJM	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	4/19/2010	PB	See the Soils Section.

PI	Vegetation (Finding on Standard 3)	Johnson Torma Scott	10/22/09	RJ	See analysis in this EA.
NI	Wildlife, Aquatic (Finding on Standard 3)	McGuire	12/9/2009	MM	The allotment is currently in good condition. Since there is no change to the amount of livestock grazing use, impacts would not occur.
NI	Wildlife, Terrestrial (Finding on Standard 3)	McGuire	12/9/2009	MM	The allotment is currently in good condition. Since there is no change to the amount of livestock grazing use, impacts would not occur.
OTHER NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS					
NI	Access/Transportation	Monkouski	3/12/2010	JJM	No change in access under the proposed action. No impacts. Allotment 07766 is within the Wolford Mountain Travel Management Area. Motorized and mechanized travel is restricted to designated routes with no cross country travel permitted. The permittee is allowed to travel on designated open routes with the corresponding mode of travel and routes designated for administrative use. Cross country travel is only permitted by foot or horseback. No motorized travel is permitted during the winter seasonal closure between December 15 and April 15 with the exception of snowmobiles on winter designated routes when there is a minimum of 12 inches of snow. Grazing permittees have exemptions as outlined within the design features of the proposed action.
NI	Forest Management	K. Belcher	4/20/2010	KB	No impact to forest resources.
NI	Geology and Minerals	Hodgson	12/03/09	KH	No impacts.
NI	Fire	Wyatt	1/12/2010	BBW	Grazing would reduce light flashy fuels. Cattle trails that result in the trampling and removal of vegetation would create potential fuel breaks.
NI	Hydrology/Water Rights	Belcher	4/19/2010	PB	No hydrologic or water rights impacts.
NI	Paleontology	Rupp			No impacts to fossil resources from renewing permit, or the no action alternative. Proposed ground disturbing projects will be reviewed on a project by project basis to determine the need for paleontological inventory.
NI	Noise	Monkouski	3/12/2010	JJM	No impacts.
PI	Range Management	Johnson Torma Scott	10/22/09	RJ	See analysis in this EA.
NI	Lands/ Realty Authorizations	Cassel	10/21/09	SC	There are no leases or permits in the location of the ROW. There are ROW's to Mountain Parks Electric (COC58079 & COC45755), Qwest (COC58079) and CDOT (D51514) for Hwy. 40. There would be no impacts to these ROW's by the proposed action.
NI	Recreation	Monkouski Windsor	3/12/2010	JJM	Under the proposed action no impacts would occur to recreational opportunities that include Off Highway Vehicle use, camping, hunting, hiking, and watching wildlife.
NI	Socio-Economics	Cassel	10/21/09	SC	Since there would be no change in use, there

				would be no socio-economic impacts.
NI	Visual Resources Windsor	11/13/09	AW	Visual resources would not be impacted by the proposed action or the no action alternative.
PI	Cumulative Impact Summary	4/20/10	RJ	See analysis in this EA.
FINAL REVIEW				
PI	P&E Coordinator	4/21/10	SC	