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

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-120-2009-0058-CX

PROJECT NAME: Transfer grazing on Mountain Meadow Ranch to Grizzly Ranch LLC

LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

07192 (Baker Draw) T.8 N., R.81 W., Sec. 23,25,26,27,28,33,34,35

07193 (Upper Meadow) T.8 N., R.81 W., Sec 34,35
T.7N., R.81 W., Sec 2,3,12

07081 (Peterson Ridge) T.8 N., R.79 W., Sec 16,20,21,22,23,24,28,29

07061 (Hudspeth) T.8 N., R.81 W., 24,25

07065 (Case flats) T.9 N., R.79 W., Sec 31,32

07060 (Elk Run) T. 8 N., R,79 W., Sec 17,18,19,20

APPLICANT: Grizzly Land LLC

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION: The Proposed Action would transfer the base property and livestock grazing preference on the following allotments from Mountain Meadow Cattle Co to Grizzly Ranch LLC. No changes would be made to the number or kind of livestock, season of use, or amount of grazing preference (see project map below).

Allotment	Livestock		Season of Use		% Public Land*	AUMs**
	Number	Kind	Begin	End		
Baker Draw 07192	238	C	6/1	8/30	64	456
Upper Meadow 07193	300	C	8/20	10/18	17	101
Peterson Ridge 07081	122	C	6/01	07/11	100	164

	53	C	9/01	10/30	100	105
	2	C	6/01	8/30	100	6
Hudspeth 07061	204	C	6/1	6/30	24	48
Case flats 07065	63	C	6/1	8/31	100	191
07065	65	C	6/1	7/31	71	93
Elk Run 07060	65	C	6/1	7/31	71	23

*% Public Land is the percentage of forage within the public land (BLM) portion of the allotment.

**AUM = animal unit month = amount of forage required to support 1 cow and calf for 1 month.

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

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 through 8, as revised

Decision Language: Objectives of the RMP/ROD include allocation of a base level livestock forage and maintaining or improving forage production and condition in areas where livestock grazing is a priority or is compatible with the land use priority. The RMP/ROD designated the project area with a no priority. Livestock grazing is compatible with this designation.

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW: The Proposed Action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 6, Appendix 5, Section 5.4, D (1) “*Approval of Transfer Grazing Preference.*” None of the following extraordinary circumstances in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2, apply.

Extraordinary Circumstances	Yes	No
2.1 Have significant impacts on public health or safety		X
2.2 Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.		X
2.3 Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA section 102(2)(E)].		X
2.4 Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		X
2.5 Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		X
2.6 Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		X
2.7 Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for		X

listing, on the National Register of historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.		
2.8 Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.		X
2.9 Violate a Federal Law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		X
2.10 Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).		X
2.11 Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).		X
2.12 Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).		X

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

Name	Title	Area of Responsibility	Date Review Completed
Bill Wyatt	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources and Native American consultation	
Megan McGuire	Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife, T/E, and Sensitive Species	
Paula Belcher	Hydrologist	Soil, Water, Air, and Riparian	
Susan Cassel	P&EC	NEPA Compliance	

REMARKS:

Cultural Resources: Past actions have resulted in a cultural resource inventory to determine if those actions would cause potential adverse affects to known and unknown cultural resource 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.

Native American Religious Concerns: Consultation was completed for the original allotment renewal. Future undertakings would require tribal consultation to identify traditional cultural properties.

Threatened and Endangered Species: The proposed transfer would not impact Endangered, Threatened, or Sensitive Species.

COMPLIANCE PLAN: Compliance with the grazing permit and its terms and conditions would be accomplished through the Kremmling Field Office Rangeland Management Program. Livestock grazing would be monitored by the BLM, as appropriate, to ensure compliance. The Kremmling Field Office Rangeland Management Program would be used to schedule periodic utilization checks, collect trend data, and evaluate allotment condition. Changes would be made to the grazing permit, based on monitoring, when changes are determined to be necessary to protect public land health.

NAME OF PREPARER: Peter Torma

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Susan Cassel

DATE:

DECISION AND RATIONALE: I have reviewed this CER and have decided to implement the proposed action.

This action is listed in the Department Manual as an action that may be categorically excluded. I have evaluated the action relative to the 12 criteria listed above and have determined that it does not represent an extraordinary circumstance and is, therefore, categorically excluded from further environmental analysis.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL: /s/ Peter McFadden

DATE SIGNED: