

**U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Little Snake Field Office  
455 Emerson Street  
Craig, CO 81625-1129**

## **ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

**EA NUMBER:** CO-100-2008-078

**CASEFILE/ALLOTMENT NUMBER:** 0501294/04025

**PROJECT NAME:** Renewal of the grazing lease on the Government Corral Creek Allotment #04025.

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION:** see Attachment 1, Allotment Map

Government Corral Creek #04025 T12N R88W SW ¼ Sec. 30, NW ¼ Sec. 31  
T12N R89W N ½ NW ¼ Sec. 13, NE ¼ NE ¼ Sec. 14

488 acres BLM  
794 acres private  
1,282 acres total

**APPLICANT:** Tom Williams

**PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW:** The Proposed Action and Alternatives are subject to the following plan:

Name of Plan: Little Snake Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision

Date Approved: April 26, 1989

Results: The Proposed Action is consistent with the Little Snake Resource Management Plan, Record of Decision, Livestock Grazing Management objective to improve range conditions for both wildlife and livestock through proper utilization of key forage plants and adjusting livestock stocking rates as a result of vegetation studies.

The Proposed Action is located within Management Unit 2, Northern Central. The Proposed Action is compatible with the management objective for this unit, which is to provide for the development of oil and gas resources. The Proposed Action would not conflict with the development of these resources.

**NEED FOR PROPOSED ACTION:** BLM lease #0501294, which authorizes livestock grazing on the Government Corral Creek Allotment #04025 expires on February 28, 2009. This lease is subject to renewal at the discretion of the Secretary of the Interior, who delegated the authority to BLM, for a period of up to ten years. The U.S. Bureau of Land Management has the authority to renew the livestock grazing lease consistent with the provisions of the *Taylor Grazing Act*, *Public Rangelands Improvement Act*, *Federal Land Policy and Management Act*, and Little Snake Field Office's *Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement*. This Plan/EIS has been amended by *Standards for Public Land Health in the State of Colorado*.

The following Environmental Assessment will analyze the impacts of livestock grazing on public land managed by the BLM. The analysis will recommend terms and conditions to the permit/lease which improve or maintain public land health. The Proposed Action will be assessed for meeting land health standards.

In order to graze livestock on public land, the livestock producer must hold a grazing lease. The grazing lessee has a preference right to receive the lease if grazing is to continue. The land use plan allows grazing to continue. This EA will be a site specific look to determine if grazing should continue as provided for in the land use plan and to identify the conditions under which it can be renewed.

**PUBLIC SCOPING PROCESS:** The BLM Little Snake Field Office sent out a Notice of Public Scoping on November 1, 2005 to determine the level of public interest, concern, and resource conditions on the grazing authorizations that were up for renewal in FY 2006. A Notice of Public Scoping was posted on the Internet, at the Colorado BLM Home Page, asking for public input on grazing permit and lease renewals. Individual letters were sent to the affected permittees and lessees informing them that their permit and/or lease was up for renewal and requesting any information they wanted included or taken into consideration during the renewal process. There were no comments received specific to the renewal of this grazing lease.

**BACKGROUND:** The Government Corral Creek Allotment is located approximately three miles southeasterly of Slater, Colorado. Public lands in this allotment are in two parcels, one just north of the Little Snake River along the Colorado/Wyoming boundary and the other located along Fly Creek. The parcel north of the Little Snake River is largely inaccessible for the purposes of livestock grazing by the lessee and is primarily used only by wildlife. The parcel along Fly Creek is the useable portion of the allotment. Elevations range from approximately 6,800 feet along Fly Creek to approximately 7,500 feet above the Williams Pond. This parcel is entirely fenced from the surrounding private lands. Vegetation is characterized by sagebrush-grass and mountain shrub plant communities with scattered stands of aspen and lodgepole pine.

**DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES:** Renew the grazing lease on the Government Corral Creek Allotment #04025 for a period of ten year, expiring February 28, 2008. Use by livestock in the fall would be eliminated and the spring/summer grazing window would be lengthened. In order to provide more reliable water, the spring box above the Williams Pond in Sec. 31 T12N R88W would be relocated approximately 50 feet

below its current location to more effectively provide water into Williams Pond. As much material as possible would be reused, and the size and extent of the spring development would be no greater than the existing spring development. The lease would be renewed as follows:

From:

| Allotment<br>Name & Number | Livestock<br>Number & Kind | Dates |       | %PL | AUMs |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|-------|-------|-----|------|
|                            |                            | From  | To    |     |      |
| Government Corral          | 37 Cattle                  | 05/01 | 06/28 | 100 | 72   |
| Creek #04025               | 50 Cattle                  | 10/01 | 11/15 | 100 | 76   |
| Total                      |                            |       |       |     | 148  |

To:

| Allotment<br>Name & Number | Livestock<br>Number & Kind | Dates |       | %PL | AUMs |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|-------|-------|-----|------|
|                            |                            | From  | To    |     |      |
| Government Corral          | 68 Cattle                  | 05/01 | 07/05 | 100 | 148  |
| Creek #04025               |                            |       |       |     |      |

The above lease would be subject to the following Special Term and Condition:

- 1) Turnout will not occur until 05/21 one year in three.

The above lease would be subject to the Standard and Common Terms and Conditions, see Attachment 2.

**AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT/ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES/MITIGATION MEASURES**

**CRITICAL RESOURCES**

**AIR QUALITY**

Affected Environment: The allotment does not lie within any special designation air sheds or non-attainment areas.

Environmental Consequences, all alternatives: Authorizing cattle grazing in the allotment would not cause regional air quality impairment under either of the alternatives. The existing brush cover gives sufficient cover to the soil surface, but proper grazing use and plant regrowth in the allotment after the early grazing period would provide additional cover and protection of the surface soil from wind erosion. Vehicular access on existing roads for livestock management activities would result in minimal releases of particulate matter (dust) emissions, but this would be minor and not affect the overall air quality of the area.

Mitigative Measures: None

Name of specialist and date: Ole Olsen 10/1/08

## **AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN**

Affected Environment: Not present.

Environmental Consequences, all alternatives: None

Mitigative Measures: None

Name of specialist and date: Rob Schmitzer 7/18/08

## **CULTURAL RESOURCES**

Affected Environment: Grazing permit and lease renewals are undertakings under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. During Section 106 review, a cultural resource assessment was completed for each allotment on the Government Corral Creek Allotment #4025 by Robyn Watkins Morris, Little Snake Field Office Archaeologist on July 14, 2008. The assessment followed the procedures and guidance outlined in the 1980 National Programmatic Agreement Regarding the Livestock Grazing and Range Improvement Program, IM-WO-99-039, IM-CO-99-007, IM-CO-99-019, and IM-CO-01-026. The results of the assessment are summarized in the table below. Copies of the cultural resource assessments are in the Field Office archaeology files.

Data developed here were taken from the cultural program project report files, site report files, and base maps kept at the Little Snake Field Office as well as from GLO maps, BLM land patent records, *An Overview of Prehistoric Cultural Resources Little Snake Resource Area, Northwestern Colorado*, Bureau of Land Management Colorado, Cultural Resources Series, Number 20, and *An Isolated Empire, A History of Northwestern Colorado*, Bureau of Land Management Colorado, Cultural Resource Series, Number 2 and Appendix 21 of the Little Snake Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement, Draft February 1986, Bureau of Land Management, Craig, Colorado District, Little Snake Resource Area.

The table below is based on the allotment specific analysis developed for the allotment in this EA. The table shows known cultural resources, eligible and need data, and those that are anticipated to be in each allotment.

| Allotment Number | Acres Surveyed at a Class III Level | Acres NOT Surveyed at a Class III Level | Percent of Allotment Inventoried at a Class III Level | Eligible or Need Data Sites- Known in Allotment | Estimated Sites for the Allotment *(total number) | Estimated Eligible or Need Data Sites in the Allotment (number) |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| 04025            | 32                                  | 1249                                    | 2%  | None  | 34  | 10  |

(Note \*Estimates of site densities are based on known inventory data. Estimates should be accepted as minimum figures which may be revised upwards based on future inventory findings.)

Six cultural resource inventories have been previously conducted within the allotment resulting in the complete coverage inventory of 32 acres and the recording of 3 cultural resources. Two are prehistoric isolated find, one is a historic ditch. On the 1879 GLO plat for T12N R89W there are historic roads noted inside the allotment. Also on the T12N R90W 1914 GLO plat there are historic fences, houses, and a schoolhouse on the allotment boundary.

Based on available data, a high potential for historic properties occurs in the portion of the allotment in T12N R89W Section 14. Subsequent cultural resource inventory will be conducted in areas where livestock concentrate along Fly Creek. Subsequent field inventory is to be completed within the ten year period of the lease.

If historic properties are located during the subsequent field inventory, and BLM determines that grazing activities will adversely impact the properties, mitigation will be identified and implemented in consultation with the Colorado SHPO.

Environmental Consequences, all alternatives: The direct impacts that occur where livestock concentrate, during normal livestock grazing activity, include trampling, chiseling, and churning of site soils, cultural features, and cultural artifacts, artifact breakage, and impacts from standing, leaning, and rubbing against historic structures, above-ground cultural features, and rock art. Indirect impacts include soil erosion, gullyng, and increased potential for unlawful collection and vandalism. Continued livestock use may cause substantial ground disturbance and cause cumulative, long term, irreversible adverse effects to historic properties. Although the number of AUMs remains the same for this lease renewal, the timing for livestock use is changing to earlier dates. This change may raise the potential for impacts due to grazing at a time of higher moisture and lower sheer strength in the soils would lead to increased potential of damage to buried cultural resources. Placing salt blocks along roads or anywhere in the allotment would potentially impact historic properties.

Mitigative Measures: Range improvements associated with the allotment (e.g., fences, spring improvements) are subject to compliance requirements under Section 106 and will

undergo standard cultural resources inventory and evaluation procedures. Standard Stipulations for cultural resources are included in Standard Terms and Conditions, Attachment 2.

Allotment Specific Stipulations:

1. A class III inventory of approximately 50 acres along Fly Creek is needed. Roads used by the lessee must be surveyed to ensure salt blocks are being placed off of eligible sites.

Conducting Class II and III survey(s), monitoring, and developing site specific mitigation measures will mitigate the adverse effects to an acceptable level (Cultural Matrix Team Meeting 26 January 1999, NHPA Section 106, 36CFR800.9; Archaeological Resource Protection Act 1979; BLM Colorado and Colorado SHPO Protocol 1998; and NEPA/FLPMA requirements).

Name of specialist and date: Robyn Watkins Morris 7/14/08

**ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE**

Affected Environment: The proposed project is located in an area of isolated dwellings. Ranching, farming, and oil and gas exploration/development are the primary economic activities.

Environmental Consequences, all alternatives: The allotment is relatively isolated from population centers, so no populations would be affected by physical or socioeconomic impacts of either alternative. Neither alternative would directly affect the social, cultural or economic well-being and health of Native American, minority, or low-income populations.

Mitigative Measures: None

Name of specialist and date: Hunter Seim 8/4/08

**FLOOD PLAINS**

Affected Environment: A large floodplain is associated with the Little Snake River. A very short segment of the river flows across a small tract of BLM lands. Much of the associated floodplain supports willows and cottonwoods. Irrigated hayfields and riparian forests dominate the floodplain on the adjacent private lands.

Fly Creek does not have a continuous stable floodplain due to high stream gradients and a narrow valley. Although short segments of the creek do exhibit a narrow development of floodplain soils and vegetation, a developed floodplain is not critical for the dissipation of high flows in Fly Creek.

Environmental Consequences, all alternatives: Floodplain resources associated with the Little Snake River on BLM lands would receive very little grazing by livestock. Any impacts to flood prone zones along Fly Creek will be discussed in the riparian section.

Mitigative Measures: None

Name of specialist and date: Ole Olsen 10/10/08

### **INVASIVE, NONNATIVE SPECIES**

Affected Environment: Invasive and noxious weeds are present on the allotment. Invasive annuals such as cheatgrass, blue mustard, and yellow alyssum commonly occur within and in the vicinity of the allotment and are occupying disturbed areas such as those caused by oil and gas development. Invasive annual weeds are typically established on disturbed and high traffic areas, whereas, biennial and perennial noxious weeds are less common in occurrence, but will invade intact native plant communities. Cheatgrass is on the Colorado List C of noxious weeds. Colorado List B noxious weeds that are present within the allotment include houndstongue, Canada thistle, musk thistle, and bull thistle. Other Colorado List B noxious weeds that are present in the vicinity and could potentially become established within the allotment includes Russian knapweed, spotted knapweed, leafy spurge, whitetop, perennial pepperweed (tall whitetop), dalmatian toadflax, yellow toadflax, and other biennial thistles. The BLM promotes the principals of Integrated Pest Management to control noxious weeds on public lands.

Environmental Consequences, all alternatives: The adverse impact of increased invasive and/or noxious weed establishment is very similar under either of the alternatives. Vehicular access to public lands for dispersed recreation and grazing operations, livestock and wildlife movement, as well as wind and water, can cause weeds to spread into new areas. Surface disturbance due to livestock concentration and human activities associated with grazing operations can also increase weed presence. Proper grazing use by livestock is necessary to maintain a resilient native plant community that can occupy bare soils and resist invasive and noxious weed establishment. The largest concern in the project area would be for biennial and perennial noxious weed species to become established and not be detected. Once they are detected, they can be controlled with various integrated pest management techniques. Land use practices by the livestock operator and their weed control efforts would largely determine the identification and potential occurrence of weeds within the allotment.

Mitigative Measures: None

Name of specialist and date: Ole Olsen 10/01/08

### **MIGRATORY BIRDS**

Affected Environment: Big sagebrush-grass and mountain shrub communities in this area provide nesting and/or foraging habitat for the following USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern (2002): Brewer's sparrow, sage sparrow, Virginia's warbler, golden eagle, and northern harrier. Scattered aspen stands may provide habitat for some cavity nesting species. Several golden eagle nests occur in the vicinity, but outside the allotment.

Environmental Consequences, Proposed Action: The Proposed Action would eliminate livestock use during the fall when forage species are dormant, and all use would occur during the spring and summer months. This grazing system would allow for growing season rest after July 5<sup>th</sup>. At an elevation of 6500 - 7500 feet, this would provide adequate time for plant recovery. BLM lands in the allotment would also be grazed in conjunction with private lands, allowing for rotation during the grazing period. Data from an allotment visit showed the vegetative community to be in good condition, providing suitable and productive habitat for migratory bird species. Grazing under the Proposed Action would not degrade migratory bird habitat and the allotment would continue to provide suitable habitat for a variety of bird species.

Grazing by cattle during the nesting season could result in the accidental destruction of ground nests through trampling. This impact would be minimal and isolated and would not influence populations of migratory birds on a landscape level.

Environmental Consequences, No Action: Under this alternative, the allotment would be grazed for approximately two months in the spring and for one and a half months during the fall. This grazing system would allow for growing season rest after June 28<sup>th</sup>, providing adequate growing season rest. BLM lands in the allotment would also be grazed in conjunction with private lands, allowing for rotation during the growing season. Under this grazing system, the vegetative community is in good condition, providing suitable and productive habitat for migratory bird species. The allotment would continue to provide suitable habitat for a variety of bird species under the No Action Alternative.

Mitigative Measures: None

Name of specialist and date: Desa Ausmus 7/15/08

## **NATIVE AMERICAN RELIGIOUS CONCERNS**

A letter was sent to the Uinta and Ouray Tribal Council, Southern Ute Tribal Council, Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Council on May 5, 2008. The letter listed the FY08 and FY09 projects that the BLM would notify them on and projects that would not require notification. A follow up phone call was performed on June 16, 2008. No comments were received (Letter on file at the Little Snake Field Office). This project requires no additional notification.

Name of specialist and date: Robyn Watkins Morris 7/14/08

## **PRIME & UNIQUE FARMLANDS**

Affected Environment: There are no Prime and Unique Farmlands present within the allotment.

Environmental Consequences, all alternatives: None

Mitigative Measures: None

Name of specialist and date: Ole Olsen 10/1/08

## **T&E AND SENSITIVE ANIMALS**

Affected Environment: Sagebrush communities within the allotment provide habitat for Columbian sharp-tailed grouse and greater sage grouse, both BLM sensitive species. Two sharp-tailed and one sage grouse lek are located in the general vicinity of the allotment, and sagebrush communities within the allotment provide nesting habitat for both species. The area is also winter habitat for sharp-tailed grouse.

Environmental Consequences, Proposed Action: Due to a lack of suitable habitat and no species occurrence records, the Proposed Action would have “No Effect” to any federally listed species.

### *Columbian sharp-tailed and greater sage grouse:*

Under the Proposed Action, the allotment would be grazed from 4/14 to 7/05 and would receive rest from 7/05 until the end of the growing season. At an elevation of 6500 – 7500 feet, this would provide an adequate plant recovery period. The BLM portions of the allotment would also be grazed in conjunction with private lands, allowing opportunities for more growing season rest as cattle are rotated between pastures. Spring grazing can potentially impact nesting habitat by reducing herbaceous cover. Standard terms and conditions allowing for no more than 50% utilization of key grass species would minimize these potential impacts. Eliminating fall grazing may slightly improve nesting habitat by increasing the amount of residual grass cover. The allotment was determined to be in good condition during a site visit, providing suitable and productive habitat for both grouse species. Current habitat conditions would continue under this alternative, and the Proposed Action would be unlikely to have a measurable positive or negative influence on either grouse species.

Environmental Consequences, No Action: Due to a lack of suitable habitat and no species occurrence records, the No Action Alternative would have “No Effect” to any federally listed species.

### *Columbian sharp-tailed and greater sage grouse:*

Under this alternative, the allotment would be grazed for approximately two months in the spring and for one and a half months during the fall. This grazing system would allow for growing season rest after June 28<sup>th</sup>, providing adequate growing season rest. BLM lands in the allotment would also be grazed in conjunction with private lands, allowing for rotation during the growing season. Under this grazing system, the vegetative community is in good condition, providing suitable and productive habitat for both grouse species. These conditions would be expected to continue under the No Action Alternative.

Mitigative Measures: None

Name of specialist and date: Desa Ausmus 7/15/08

### **T&E AND SENSITIVE PLANTS**

Affected Environment: There are no federally listed threatened or endangered or BLM sensitive plant species present on the Government Corral Creek Allotment.

Environmental Consequences, all alternatives: None

Mitigative Measures: None

Name of specialist and date: Hunter Seim 7/7/08

### **WASTES, HAZARDOUS OR SOLID**

Affected Environment: There are no hazardous materials present on the Government Corral Creek Allotment.

Environmental Consequences, all alternatives: Potential releases of hazardous materials could occur due to vehicular access for livestock management operations. Coolant, oil, and fuel are materials that could potentially be released. Due to the limited amount of vehicular activity that would be required, the potential for releases of any of these materials is low and if a release were to occur, it would be minimal and highly localized and not result in an adverse impact to the allotment.

Mitigative Measures: None

Name of specialist and date: Hunter Seim 7/8/08

### **WATER QUALITY - GROUND**

Affected Environment: Ground water within the allotment is within late Cretaceous sedimentary rock overlain by Quaternary alluvium.

Environmental Consequences, all alternatives: None

Mitigative Measures: None

Name of specialist and date: Marilyn D. Wegweiser 7/21/08

## **WATER QUALITY - SURFACE**

Affected Environment: Drainage from the BLM lands in the southern portion of the allotment flows into Fly Creek. Fly Creek is an intermittent tributary to the Little Snake River. Drainage from the isolated tract of BLM land to the north flows from a bluff directly into the Little Snake River. Water quality of the Little Snake River needs to support Aquatic Life Cold 1, Recreation 1a, Water Supply, and Agriculture. Tributary waters to this segment of the Little Snake River need to have water quality that can support Aquatic Life Cold 1, Recreation 1b and Agriculture. None of these stream segments have impaired water quality and all of these stream segments are supporting their classified uses.

Environmental Consequences, Proposed Action: The livestock operator would be able to better utilize the BLM lands within the allotment when reliable flows are present in Fly Creek. The proposed change in the grazing period would not cause any appreciable beneficial or adverse impacts to the water quality of the Little Snake River. A minor increase of nutrients in the spring and early summer flows in Fly Creek could result because the potential to have more cattle present along the creek during this period. Redevelopment of the spring source would help to alleviate the potential for livestock to concentrate near Fly Creek. The early grazing period would also help obtain better livestock distribution onto the higher slopes above Fly Creek. Although more cattle could be present in the allotment in the spring and early summer, the duration of grazing use would be shortened by eliminating the fall grazing period. Regrowth of plants following the end of the grazing period in the early summer would generally occur. No use by livestock would occur during the fall regrowth period. Under this alternative the soil and forage resources throughout the allotment would respond positively to the early season grazing use with improved plant vigor and upland soil health.

Environmental Consequences, No Action Alternative: Fewer cattle would be authorized during the early grazing period when reliable creek flows are available for watering livestock. Little grazing use would occur during the fall grazing period as flows in Fly Creek are dependent on precipitation received during this period. Cattle would likely be present on the higher slopes and private lands within the allotment due to the distribution of water. Nutrient levels would remain the same under this alternative and the water quality of Fly Creek would not change.

Mitigative Measures: None

Name of specialist and date: Ole Olsen 10/6/08

## **WETLANDS/RIPARIAN ZONES**

Affected Environment: A short segment of the Little Snake River flows across a corner of the northern tract of BLM lands that are included in the allotment. The length of this segment is less than 0.1 mile. It was delineated as Little Snake River, Reach 36 and it was rated as properly functioning in 1999.

Fly Creek flows through the southern and larger tract of BLM lands for a length of a little over 0.6 miles. The lower one-half of Reach 3 and the upper one-quarter of Reach 2 were delineated within the Government Corral Creek Allotment and each of these reaches was rated as nonfunctional in 1994. In 1994 the creek was considered to be incised 6 feet from an abandoned (active) floodplain. In 2006 the creek and its active floodplain and flood prone zones were considered to be entrenched 6 feet from the 1<sup>st</sup> terrace. The area adjacent to the stream in 1994 and along the narrow floodplain in 2006 supported an abundance of willows and cottonwoods, but herbaceous plants were primarily upland species. A protective exclosure fence was constructed in 1997 within Reach 2 in 1997 and a small portion of the upstream end of that exclosure was installed within the Government Corral Creek Allotment. Reach 2 was re-assessed in 1999 and rated as functioning at risk with no apparent trend.

The first Inter-disciplinary Team PFC Assessment was conducted on Fly Creek in July 2006. Reach 2 was rated as functioning properly, but this assessment was primarily conducted in the allotment downstream and it was recommended that a new reach break between Reaches 2 and 3 be established at the allotment boundary. Reach 3 was rated as functioning at risk with an upward trend. The Fly Creek channel in Reach 3 was dry as it usually is at this time of year. The channel is armored with cobbles and boulders and is vertically stable. A narrow active floodplain area is present along short segments of Reach 3, but most of the stream is moderately entrenched and confined by stable terrace slopes which comprise the flood prone zone. Streambanks not armored by rocks show signs of being scoured from high stream flows. Riparian plant species are primarily cottonwood and willows with redtop and minor amounts of Nebraska sedge and Baltic rush. Upland grasses and forbs are also found on the small floodplain and flood prone areas. It is uncertain at this time (without additional monitoring or installing a small protective exclosure) if the hydrologic component of this riparian system is capable of supporting an adequate amount of herbaceous riparian/wetland species to reduce streambank scouring, but overall stability of the riparian system is provided by cobbles, boulders and woody species which is characteristic of a "B" channel type.

In June 2008 an Interdisciplinary Team visited the allotment and met with the livestock operator. He took the ID Team up to the proposed spring re-development area and also to a small seep area; neither of these springs/seeps had been previously documented in the spring inventory records. A small pond and a small meadow with some wetland plants were present below the proposed spring re-development. This area appeared to have been formed from an old hill slope slump. The undeveloped site occurred in a small drainage area where cobbles and small boulders were exposed from erosion of the soil resource. This site was impacted by cattle trampling on it, causing some soil hummocks. Although no formal assessment occurred it was considered to be functioning at risk due to the soil erosion and trampling by cattle. The livestock operator expressed a desire to put a protective buck and pole fence around this small site.

Environmental Consequences, common to each alternative: The riparian system associated with the undeveloped new spring would benefit from a protective exclosure fence with the selection of either alternative. Without fencing the small riparian area would be susceptible to continued trampling by livestock and soil erosion from surface runoff. This undeveloped spring

site is very near the existing developed spring site and pond. The undeveloped site does not provide any substantial livestock water that is not already provided nearby.

Maintenance of the upland pond to increase its capacity could be accomplished under either alternative. Enlarging its capacity would benefit the riparian resources associated with Fly Creek and help to obtain better livestock grazing distribution onto the steeper slopes above Fly Creek.

Proposed Action: The Proposed Action Alternative if implemented and fully stocked by livestock each year would likely not result in any substantial improvement of the riparian system associated with Fly Creek. Under this alternative more cattle would be authorized during the spring period with no required early spring rest. However, in most years it is unlikely that cattle would enter the allotment on May 1 which is the beginning of the authorized grazing period. The cottonwood and willow species would continue to stabilize the small floodplain areas and flood prone zones, but streambanks would continue to be scoured to the root wads of these woody plants. Browsing by cattle on the cottonwood and willow species would be very light during the spring and early summer grazing period. Elimination of the fall grazing period would remove the potential for cattle to browse on the woody plants.

Some additional grazing would be expected near the developed spring site and upland pond. The small riparian area would receive grazing pressure in the spring and early summer and some soil compaction could develop. This small riparian area could benefit from the spring redevelopment with the installation of a bypass valve to shut flow off to the pond and divert into the wet meadow area after the grazing period.

No Action Alternative: Under the No Action Alternative the number of cattle would not be increased for the spring and early summer grazing period. Livestock watering which mostly occurs in Fly Creek during this period due to insufficient upland water sources would still lead to the concentration of cattle on the lower slopes along Fly Creek. Maintenance of the upland pond to increase its capacity could reduce the grazing pressure along Fly Creek. Herbaceous plants growing along Fly Creek would likely continue to receive concentrated use by livestock. Livestock use in the fall near Fly Creek would be sporadic and dependent on water availability from streamflow resulting from fall precipitation. Periodic fall use could occur and more browsing on willow and cottonwood species would be expected.

Mitigative Measures: The redevelopment of the spring source should include the installation of a bypass or shutoff valve to shut flow off to the pond and divert spring water onto the wet meadow area after the grazing period.

Name of specialist and date: Ole Olsen 10/14/08

## **WILD & SCENIC RIVERS**

Affected Environment: Not present.

Environmental Consequences, all alternatives: None

Mitigative Measures: None

Name of specialist and date: Rob Schmitzer 7/18/08

## **WSAs, WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS**

Affected Environment: Not present.

Environmental Consequences, all alternatives: None

Mitigative Measures: None

Name of specialist and date: Rob Schmitzer 7/18/08

## **NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS**

### **SOILS**

Affected Environment: The primary soils that are mapped on the larger tract of public lands within the Government Corral Creek Allotment is the Impass-Gourley complex, 3 to 25 percent slopes; Impass-Gourley complex, 25 to 45 percent slopes; and the Bulkley-Quilt complex, 12 to 45 percent slopes. These soils developed from colluvium derived from sandstone and shale and/or slope alluvium derived from sandstone and shale. The soils are all deep and exhibit high to moderate water holding capacity. Water movement through the most restrictive layer in the soil profile is moderately low except for the Bulkley soil which has a very slow permeability rate. All of these soils are in hydrologic group D; the slow rate of water percolation along with increased slope equates to higher runoff rates and susceptibility to soil erosion. Moderate erosion could be expected from surface disturbing activities, including grazing that expose 50 to 75 percent of the soil surface.

The two soil types that are mapped in the northern tract of public land where cattle grazing would occur on the bluff above the Little Snake River are the Stunner sandy loam, 1 to 8 percent slopes and the Yellowwash-Piezon complex, 5 to 15 percent slopes. The Stunner soil is derived from eolian deposits, is deep with a low water holding capacity and is categorized into hydrologic group B. The Yellowwash-Piezon soils developed from residuum derived from siltstone, exhibit shallow to moderate profile depths with a very low water holding capacity and are categorized into hydrologic group D, mainly due to the soil depths. Water movement through the most restrictive layer of these soil types is moderately high. Slight erosion could be expected from grazing that would expose 50 to 75 percent of the soil surface.

Biological soil crusts do not typically develop into complex diverse crust communities within grazing allotments. Mosses are the most observable biological soil crust and these are found

below the edge of the brush canopy, where trampling effects are lessened and sunlight is available. Cyanobacteria is present in the inter-spaces where forage and litter cover is not abundant and would likely be present on the less productive soils in the allotment.

Environmental Consequences, common to each alternative: Soil compaction and depleted soil cover are the most obvious impacts incurred as a result of livestock grazing. These affects will occur on areas receiving concentrated livestock use under either alternative, but the majority of the affected lands within the allotments would have adequate plant and litter cover. Proper grazing use of the forage resource would sustain the ground cover necessary to protect the soil surface. This would reduce the potential for excessive soil exposure where moderate soil erosion would be expected on the soils in the southern tract of BLM lands.

It is not anticipated that loss or gain of biological soil crusts would occur as a result of implementing either of the alternatives.

Better grazing distribution within the allotment could be achieved with maintenance of the upland pond to increase its capacity. The increased capacity could retain more spring runoff and retention of runoff from subsequent precipitation received.

Proposed Action: The Proposed Action Alternative increases the potential to have concentrated grazing use in the valley and on the lower slopes along Fly Creek because an increased number of cattle will be authorized to graze and Fly Creek provides a reliable water source for most of the grazing period. The grazing period proposed coincides with a period of time that soils would generally have optimal moisture levels to induce compaction which could be compounded with repeated early season use. It will be important to maintain proper grazing use in these areas that could potentially receive concentrated use. The successful redevelopment of the spring on the uplands in the southwest corner of the allotment and maintenance of the pond to increase its capacity could help to obtain better distribution of grazing.

The potential for plant regrowth in the southern tract of BLM land would be good because residual soil moisture following the grazing period could be anticipated with the deep soil profiles and high water holding capacity of the soils. In the northern tract of BLM land plant regrowth would be more dependent on additional moisture received as the water holding capacity of these soils is low. The elimination of the fall grazing period would allow forage plants to grow, set seed and quiescent without further interruption after the grazing period ends in early July. Plant regrowth and fall rest would increase plant vigor, plant cover and the capability of forage plants to promote additional root growth for upland soil health.

No Action Alternative: Under the No Action Alternative the number of cattle would not be increased for the spring and early summer grazing period and there would be less potential for concentrated use along Fly Creek.

Mitigative Measures: The valley in the northern portion of the allotment and grazing areas along Fly Creek should be identified as key areas to monitor for proper grazing use.

Name of specialist and date: Ole Olsen 10/14/08

## UPLAND VEGETATION

Affected Environment: The allotment is dominated by sagebrush-grass and mountain shrub plant communities. Dominant plants present include Wyoming big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata wyomingensis*), antelope bitterbrush (*Purshia tridentata*), rubber rabbitbrush (*Chrysothamnus nauseosus*), snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*), arrowleaf balsamroot (*Balsamorhiza sagittata*), wild onion (*Allium* spp.), yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), western wheatgrass (*Agropyron smithii*), bluebunch wheatgrass (*A. spicatum*), prairie junegrass (*Koeleria pyramidata*), needle-and-thread (*Stipa comata*), and aspen (*Populus tremuloides*). Overall, plant vigor and diversity are very high throughout.

Environmental Consequences, Proposed Action: This alternative would eliminate all livestock use during the period of dormancy for forage species. All use would occur during early to mid spring and into early summer. Use during this period favors good livestock distribution and lessens reliance on riparian areas, but repeated grazing during the critical spring growth stages of cool season grasses can be detrimental over time. Proper stocking rates and rotation of livestock are critical to maintaining a healthy, productive forage base when use occurs during growth periods. Because the vast majority of livestock use in past years has occurred during the spring and early summer period, the presence of perennial grasses in good abundance with high vigor indicates that continuing the stocking rate a proposed levels coupled with use rotated with adjoining private lands would continue to allow the allotment to provide healthy, vigorous, and diverse plant communities.

The modification of the existing spring development would result in extremely limited direct impacts to surrounding vegetation. Overall, the modification would simply move the existing impact of the development by 50 feet, so there would be no change in existing impacts to vegetation which include localized displacement and some livestock trampling.

Environmental Consequences, No Action: Under this alternative, the majority of grazing use would still likely occur in the spring to early summer, but this coupled with grazing in the fall would increase use on riparian areas within the allotment and leave less residual forage for soil protection and use by wildlife over the winter. Overall, this alternative would allow the allotment to continue supporting healthy plant communities.

By not improving the spring development that feeds into the primary upland water source on the allotment, Williams Pond, livestock would be more dependent upon Fly Creek later in the grazing season and sufficient upland distribution would not be achieved. Under this alternative, only early spring use would achieve even distribution, but this would not allow for adequate spring deferments.

Mitigative Measures: None

Name of specialist and date: Hunter Seim 7/8/08

## **WILDLIFE, AQUATIC**

Affected Environment: Portions of Fly Creek and the Little Snake River are within the Government Coral Creek Allotment. The Little Snake River contains habitat for a variety of non-game fish species and may contain habitat for crawfish and various amphibian species. Fly Creek provides potential habitat for aquatic invertebrates and amphibians.

Environmental Consequences, Proposed Action: Livestock does not use the BLM parcel along the Little Snake River, and therefore there would be no impact to aquatic wildlife or their habitat in this area. Under the Proposed Action, livestock grazing would occur in the spring and early summer months. During this time period, water would be available in the pond and grasses would be green throughout the allotment, reducing concentrations in the riparian area. The Proposed Action would likely be beneficial to aquatic wildlife habitat by removing fall grazing.

Environmental Consequences, No Action: Under the No Action Alternative, the allotment would be grazed the same as previous years. Aquatic wildlife habitat is in good condition under the current grazing system, and current condition would be unlikely to change. Fall grazing would be allowed under the No Action Alternative. Potential for livestock congregation in riparian areas would exist under this alternative.

Mitigative Measures: None

Name of specialist and date: Desa Ausmus 7/15/08

## **WILDLIFE, TERRESTRIAL**

Affected Environment: Vegetation in the allotment consists of big sagebrush-grass, mountain shrub, and scattered aspen and lodgepole pine plant communities. These plant communities provide habitat for a variety of mammals, birds and reptiles. The entire allotment provides severe winter range for both elk and mule deer.

Environmental Consequences, Proposed Action: The Proposed Action would eliminate livestock use during the fall when forage species are dormant and all use would occur during the spring and summer months. This grazing system would allow for growing season rest after July 5<sup>th</sup>. At an elevation of 6500-7500 feet, this would provide adequate time for plant recovery. BLM lands in the allotment would also be grazed in conjunction with private lands, allowing for rotation during the grazing period. The vegetative community is in good condition, providing suitable and productive habitat for a variety of terrestrial wildlife species. Grazing under the Proposed Action would not be expected to degrade wildlife habitat and the allotment would continue to provide suitable habitat for a variety of wildlife species.

Environmental Consequences, No Action: Under this alternative, the allotment would be grazed for approximately two months in the spring and for one and a half months during the fall. This grazing system would allow for growing season rest after June 28<sup>th</sup>, providing adequate growing season rest. BLM lands in the allotment would also be grazed in conjunction with private lands, allowing for rotation during the growing season. Under this grazing system, the vegetative community is in good condition, providing suitable and productive habitat for wildlife species. The allotment would continue to provide suitable habitat for a variety of wildlife species under the No Action Alternative.

Mitigative Measures: None

Name of specialist and date: Desa Ausmus 7/15/08

**OTHER NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS:** For the following elements, those brought forward for analysis will be formatted as shown above.

| Non-Critical Element    | NA or Not Present | Applicable or Present, No Impact | Applicable & Present and Brought Forward for Analysis |
|-------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| Fluid Minerals          |                   | MDW 7/21/08                      |   |
| Forest Management       | JHS<br>7/8/08     |                                  |   |
| Hydrology/Ground        |                   | MDW 7/21/08                      |   |
| Hydrology/Surface       |                   | OO 10/2/08                       |   |
| Paleontology            |                   | MDW 7/21/08                      |   |
| Range Management        |                   | JHS 7/7/08                       |   |
| Realty Authorizations   | LM<br>7/8/08      |                                  |   |
| Recreation/Travel Mgmt  |                   | RS 7/18/08                       |   |
| Socio-Economics         |                   | LM 7/8/08                        |   |
| Solid Minerals          |                   | JAM 7/11/08                      |   |
| Visual Resources        |                   | RS 7/18/08                       |   |
| Wild Horse & Burro Mgmt | JHS<br>7/8/08     |                                  |   |

**CUMULATIVE IMPACTS SUMMARY:** This allotment and areas surrounding have historically been grazed by both sheep and cattle. Numerous maintained and unmaintained roads exist throughout the area, including on the allotment. These roads are used regularly by local residents and ranchers as well by as the primary recreation users in the area, hunters. There is natural gas development on private lands in the vicinity. Wildlife populations in the area are high, especially for deer and elk that compete with livestock for available forage throughout the area. The primary impacts from all of these activities are most immediately seen in the presence of roads, cultivation on private lands, and weed presence. The Proposed Action to continue grazing on this allotment with changes to the period of use is compatible with other uses, both historic and present, and would not add any new or detrimental impacts to those that are already

present.

## **STANDARDS**

**PLANT AND ANIMAL COMMUNITY (animal) STANDARD:** Vegetative communities within the allotment are in good condition, providing productive habitat for a variety of wildlife species. Current condition would be unlikely to change under both the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative. This standard is currently being met and would continue to be met under both alternatives.

Name of specialist and date: Desa Ausmus 7/15/08

**SPECIAL STATUS, THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES (animal) STANDARD:** Vegetative communities within the allotment are in good condition, providing productive habitat for both Columbian sharp-tailed and greater sage grouse. Current condition would be unlikely to change under both the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative. This standard is currently being met and would continue to be met under both alternatives.

Name of specialist and date: Desa Ausmus 7/15/08

**PLANT AND ANIMAL COMMUNITY (plant) STANDARD:** The Proposed Action to confine all livestock use to the spring and early summer would require that use is made at both appropriate stocking rates and in conjunction with rotations to private pastures. Rotations which incorporate private pastures would provide the periodic deferment during critical growth stages necessary to ensure healthy and vigorous plant communities. The Proposed Action would meet this standard.

The No Action Alternative to continue splitting the season between spring and fall use would meet this standard provided that spring growth is periodically deferred from grazing and that sufficient residual vegetation is left after the fall use period.

Name of specialist and date: Hunter Seim 7/8/08

**SPECIAL STATUS, THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES (plant) STANDARD:** There are no federally listed threatened or endangered or BLM sensitive plant species present on the Government Corral Creek Allotment. This standard does not apply.

Name of specialist and date: Hunter Seim 7/7/08

**RIPARIAN SYSTEMS STANDARD:** Proposed Action: The Proposed Action Alternative would meet the Riparian Standard for healthy rangelands. The early season use would help obtain better grazing distribution on the moderate slopes above Fly Creek. The proposed redevelopment of the spring above the pond and pond maintenance to increase its capacity would also help hold cattle on the higher slopes. Including a shut off valve into the redevelopment of

the spring source would enhance the small riparian area and help it recover from the heavy grazing use that would be anticipated near the water source. Spring and early summer use by cattle would also allow riparian herbaceous plants along Fly Creek the remaining portion of the growing season to recover from the grazing period. The elimination of the fall grazing period would maintain the diverse age classes of willow and cottonwood vegetation that is presently established along the creek.

No Action Alternative: The riparian standard for healthy rangelands is presently being met for the Government Corral Creek Allotment. Reach 3 of Fly Creek was assessed in July 2006 with a rating of functioning at risk with an upward trend. An upward trend was established for Fly Creek with recognition by the Interdisciplinary Team of the importance of the moderately dense woody plant growth and diverse age class structure of woody species to provide stability for the riparian system. Retaining the fall grazing period could increase the potential to browse the woody plants, but without a reliable creek flow in the fall this would generally not occur.

Name of specialist and date: Ole Olsen 10/14/08

**WATER QUALITY STANDARD:** The water quality standard for healthy rangelands is presently being met for the Government Corral Creek Allotment. This standard is met for both the Proposed and the No Action Alternatives. Runoff waters from snowmelt and rain would flow to the Little Snake River which is presently supporting classified uses. No stream segments or tributaries are currently listed as having impaired water quality.

Name of specialist and date: Ole Olsen 10/6/08

**UPLAND SOILS STANDARD:** The upland soil standard for healthy rangelands would be met with the implementation of either the Proposed Action or No Action Alternatives. However, the potential to exceed proper grazing use on grazing areas adjacent to Fly Creek would be higher with selection of the Proposed Action. In June 2008, upland soils were observed to have very slight erosion characteristics on the moderate slopes on the larger tract of public lands. The slight movement of soil particles and surface litter that was observed was appropriate on the moderate slopes that are characteristic of the southern tract of BLM land. The native plant community provided good cover with a diverse mix of shrubs, grasses and forbs. Proper grazing use of the forage resource is required under the terms and conditions of the permit under each of these alternatives; this level of grazing would maintain sufficient residual forage for upland soil health to be maintained.

Name of specialist and date: Ole Olsen 10/14/08

**PERSONS/AGENCIES CONSULTED:** Uintah and Ouray Tribal Council, Colorado Native American Commission, Colorado State Historic Preservation Office.

**MITIGATION MEASURES:**

**ATTACHMENTS:** Attachment 1, Allotment Map  
Attachment 2, Standard and Common Terms and Conditions

**SIGNATURE OF PREPARER:**

**DATE SIGNED:**

**SIGNATURE OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEWER:**

**DATE SIGNED:**

## **Finding of No Significant Impact**

The environmental assessment, analyzing the environmental effects of the proposed action, has been reviewed. With the implementation of the attached mitigation measures there is a finding of no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not necessary to further analyze the environmental effects of the proposed action.

1. Beneficial, adverse, direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts have been disclosed in the EA. Analysis indicated no significant impacts on society as a whole, the affected region, the affected interests or the locality. The physical and biological effects are limited to the Little Snake Resource Area and adjacent land.
2. Public health and safety would not be adversely impacted. There are no known or anticipated concerns with project waste or hazardous materials.
3. There would be no adverse impacts to regional or local air quality, prime or unique farmlands, known paleontological resources on public land within the area, wetlands, floodplain, areas with unique characteristics, ecologically critical areas or designated Areas of Critical Environmental Concern.
4. There are no highly controversial effects on the environment.
5. There are no effects that are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risk. Sufficient information on risk is available based on information in the EA and other past actions of a similar nature.
6. This alternative does not set a precedent for other actions that may be implemented in the future to meet the goals and objectives of adopted Federal, State or local natural resource related plans, policies or programs.
7. No cumulative impacts related to other actions that would have a significant adverse impact were identified or are anticipated.
8. Based on previous and ongoing cultural surveys, and through mitigation by avoidance, no adverse impacts to cultural resources were identified or anticipated. There are no known American Indian religious concerns or persons or groups who might be disproportionately and adversely affected as anticipated by the Environmental Justice Policy.
9. No adverse impacts to any threatened or endangered species or their habitat that was determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act were identified. If, at a future time, there could be the potential for adverse impacts, treatments would be modified or mitigated not to have an adverse effect or new analysis would be conducted.
10. This alternative is in compliance with relevant Federal, State, and local laws, regulations, and requirements for the protection of the environment.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:

DATE SIGNED:

ATTACHMENT #2  
CO-100-2007-  
TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Standard Terms and Conditions

- 1) Grazing permit or lease terms and conditions and the fees charged for grazing use are established in accordance with the provisions of the grazing regulations now or hereafter approved by the Secretary of the Interior.
- 2) They are subject to cancellation, in whole or in part, at any time because of:
  - a. Noncompliance by the permittee/lessee with rules and regulations;
  - b. Loss of control by the permittee/lessee of all or a part of the property upon which it is based;
  - c. A transfer of grazing preference by the permittee/lessee to another party;
  - d. A decrease in the lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management within the allotment(s) described;
  - e. Repeated willful unauthorized grazing use;
  - f. Loss of qualifications to hold a permit or lease.
- 3) They are subject to the terms and conditions of allotment management plans if such plans have been prepared. Allotment management plans MUST be incorporated in permits and leases when completed.
- 4) Those holding permits or leases MUST own or control and be responsible for the management of livestock authorized to graze.
- 5) The authorized officer may require counting and/or additional or special marking or tagging of the livestock authorized to graze.
- 6) The permittee's/lessee's grazing case file is available for public inspection as required by the Freedom of Information Act.
- 7) Grazing permits or leases are subject to the nondiscrimination clauses set forth in Executive Order 11246 of September 24, 1964, as amended. A copy of this order may be obtained from the authorized officer.
- 8) Livestock grazing use that is different from that authorized by a permit or lease MUST be applied for prior to the grazing period and MUST be filed with and approved by the authorized officer before grazing use can be made.

- 9) Billing notices are issued which specify fees due. Billing notices, when paid, become a part of the grazing permit or lease. Grazing use cannot be authorized during any period of delinquency in the payment of amounts due, including settlement for unauthorized use.
- 10) Grazing fee payments are due on the date specified on the billing notice and MUST be paid in full within 15 days of the due date, except as otherwise provided in the grazing permit or lease. If payment is not made within that time frame, a late fee (the greater of \$25 or 10 percent of the amount owed but not more than \$250) will be assessed.
- 11) No member of, or Delegate to, Congress or Resident Commissioner, after his/her election of appointment, or either before or after he/she has qualified, and during his/her continuance in office, and no officer, agent, or employee of the Department of Interior, other than members of Advisory committees appointed in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App. 1) and Sections 309 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) shall be admitted to any share or part in a permit or lease, or derive any benefit to arise therefrom; and the provision of Section 3741 Revised Statute (41 U.S.C. 22), 18 U.S.C. Sections 431-433, and 43 CFR Part 7, enter into and form a part of a grazing permit or lease, so far as the same may be applicable.

#### Common Terms and Conditions

- A) Grazing use will not be authorized in excess of the amount of specified grazing use (AUM number) for each allotment. Numbers of livestock annually authorized in the allotment(s) may be more or less than the number listed on the permit/lease within the grazing use periods as long as the amount of specified grazing use is not exceeded.
- B) Unless there is a specific term and condition addressing utilization, the intensity of grazing use will insure that no more than 50% of the key grass species and 40% of the key browse species current years growth, by weight, is utilized at the end of the grazing season for winter allotments and the end of the growing season for allotments used during the growing season. Application of this term needs to recognize recurring livestock management that includes opportunity for regrowth, opportunity for spring growth prior to grazing, or growing season deferment.
- C) Failure to maintain range improvements to BLM standards in accordance with signed cooperative agreements and/or range improvement permits may result in the suspension of the annual grazing authorization, cancellation of the cooperative agreement or range improvement permit, and/or the eventual cancellation of this permit/lease.
- D) Storing or feeding supplemental forage on public lands other than salt or minerals must have prior approval. Forage to be fed or stored on public lands must be certified noxious

weed-free. Salt and/or other mineral supplements shall be placed at least one-quarter mile from water sources or in such a manner as to promote even livestock distribution in the allotment or pasture.

- E) Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g), the holder of this authorization must notify the authorized officer, by telephone, with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), you must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the authorized officer.

The operator is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the allotment operations that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are encountered or uncovered during any allotment activities or grazing activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities in the immediate vicinity and immediately contact the authorized officer. Within five working days the authorized officer will inform the operator as to:

- whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places;
- the mitigation measures the operator will likely have to undertake before the identified area can be used for grazing activities again.

If paleontological materials (fossils) are uncovered during allotment activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities that might further disturb such materials and contact the authorized officer. The operator and the authorized officer will consult and determine the best options for avoiding or mitigating paleontological site damage.

- F) No hazardous materials/hazardous or solid waste/trash shall be disposed of on public lands. If a release does occur, it shall immediately be reported to this office at (970) 826-5000.
- G) The permittee/lessee shall provide reasonable administrative access across private and leased lands to the BLM and its agents for the orderly management and protection of public lands.
- H) Application of a chemical or release of pathogens or insects on public lands must be approved by the authorized officer.

The terms and conditions of this lease may be modified if additional information indicates that revision is necessary to conform with 43 CFR 4180.