

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-100-2008-039EA

PERMIT/LEASE/ALLOTMENT NUMBERS: Permit #0500201 and #0500115/Allotments #04324, #04318, #04519 and #04522

PROJECT NAME: Temporary, non-renewable grazing use; grazing use outside authorized season of use.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: See allotment maps, Attachment 1.

Piskwik Allotment:

#04324

T.11N., R.94W., sec. 3-9, portions of secs.10 and 15, 17-19, and portions of sections 20 and 30.

11,792 acres – BLM

1,318 acres – Private

1,132 acres – State Land

14,242 acres - Total

Ricegrass Allotment:

#04318

T.12N., R.94W., portions of secs. 14-17, 19-23, 26-30

2,489 – BLM

497 – Private

1,936 – State Land

4,922 - Total

Seven Mile Allotment:

#04519

T.10N., R.94W., portions of sec. 5

T.10N., R.95W., portions of sec.1

T.11N., R.94W., portions of secs. 28-33

T.11N., R.95W., portions of secs. 22, 23, 25-27, 34-36

2,703 - BLM

3,047 - Private

641 - State Land
6,391 - Total

Thornburgh Gulch Allotment:

#04522 T.11N., R.92W., portions of secs. 7-9,17-20, 29, 30
T.11N., R.93W., portions of secs. 12, 13, 24, 25

5,505 - BLM
12 - Private
5,517 - Total

APPLICANT: Weibel Land LLC.

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 (encompassing all four allotments) is located within the 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 the oil and gas resource. Public lands are open to livestock grazing. Management practices or range improvement projects will be permitted and existing range improvements will be maintained consistent with the management objectives for this unit.

The Proposed Action and Alternatives have been reviewed for conformance with this plan (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM 1617.3).

Other Documents:

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976, as amended (43 USC 1752).

Rangeland Reform Final Environmental Impact Statement, December, 1994.

Standards for Public Land Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing in Colorado, February 12, 1997.

CX #CO-100-LS-03-095, Transfer of the grazing permit on the Ricegrass, Seven Mile and Thornburg Gulch Allotments from James R. Menge to Weibel Land LLC

CX #CO-100-2005-029, Transfer of the grazing permit on the Piskwik Allotment from Ronald and Dena Taylor to Weibel Land LLC

EA #CO-016-LS-98-011, Ten year renewal of the grazing permit on Seven Mile, Ricegrass and Thornburgh Gulch Allotments

EA #CO-016-96-060, Implementation of grazing plan and permit modification for James R. Menge

The Proposed Action is within Management Unit 6, (Northern Great Divide). The Proposed Action is compatible with the management objectives for this unit which are to maintain and improve critical habitat for sage grouse, mule deer, and pronghorn antelope.

NEED FOR PROPOSED ACTION: BLM permit #0500115 authorizes livestock grazing in the Seven Mile, Thornburg Gulch, and Ricegrass Allotments. BLM permit #0500201 authorizes livestock grazing in the Piskwik Allotment. (These two authorizations will be consolidated under one authorization when the permit is next renewed.) Both authorizations expired on February 28, 2008. The permits were extended for one year until February 28, 2009, under the same terms and conditions as the existing permits, in accordance with Section 325, Title III, H.R. 2691, Department of Interior and related agencies appropriations act, 2004 (P.L. 108-108).

In cooperation with the livestock permittee and interested public, the BLM is working on revising the grazing system within all four allotments and the renewal of the grazing permits for a period of 10 years. The new grazing system may necessitate the construction of several new range improvement projects which would require field work throughout the summer of 2008 to determine locations. While this work is ongoing, the permittee has requested a one year, temporary deviation from the authorized season of use for the 2008 grazing season; an April 1 turnout date rather than a May 1 date.

This Environmental Assessment (EA) will analyze the impacts of the temporary change in season of livestock use, from a May 1 turnout to an April 1 turnout, on public lands managed by BLM.

The analysis will recommend terms and conditions to the permit which will improve or maintain public land health. The Proposed Action and alternatives will be assessed for meeting land health standards.

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

PUBLIC SCOPING PROCESS: The Little Snake Field Office sent out a Notice of Public Scoping in December of 2006, to determine the level of public interest, concern and resource conditions on the grazing permits and leases that were up for renewal in FY 2008. A Notice of Public Scoping was posted on the Internet, at the Colorado BLM Home Page, asking for public input on permit/lease renewals. Individual letters were sent to the affected permittees/lessees, informing them their permit/lease was up for renewal and requesting any information they wanted included in or taken into consideration during the renewal process. The issuance of a grazing permit for these allotments has been carefully analyzed within the scope of the specific action being taken, resource issues or concerns, and public input received.

BACKGROUND: The Ricegrass Allotment is located one half mile south of the Wyoming border approximately seventeen miles southwest of Baggs, WY. The Piskwik Allotment is directly south of the Ricegrass and the Seven Mile is south of the Piskwik. The three allotments are contiguous. The Thornburg Gulch Allotment lies approximately nine miles east of the three other allotments and is approximately four and one half miles south of the Wyoming border. Moffat County Road (MCR) 4 crosses the Ricegrass and Piskwik Allotments in an east/west direction. MCR 92 crosses the Piskwik Allotment in a north/south direction and MCR 7 crosses the Seven Mile Allotment in an east/west direction. MCR 9 runs through the west side of the Thornburg Allotment and MCR 118 bisects the allotment running in a northwest/southeast direction in the southern part of the allotment.

Elevations within the Ricegrass, Seven Mile and Piskwik Allotments range from 6,800 feet in the southeast corner of the Seven Mile Allotment to 6,000 feet along the Little Snake River in the Ricegrass Allotment. The allotments are characterized by hills and small plateaus with north-south trending gulches or draws which drain into the Little Snake River. The most prominent draws are Bighole Gulch, Rice Draw and Sevenmile Gulch. The most common range sites are rolling loam and sandy 9 – 11 inches. Indian ricegrass, needle-and-thread grass and big sagebrush are key forage species in the allotments. Mean annual precipitation is generally 9 - 13 inches.

Elevations in the Thornburg Gulch Allotment range from 7,000 feet in the southeast corner of the allotment to 6,500 feet along Thornburgh Gulch in the northern part of the allotment. The allotment is characterized by rolling hills and small plateaus. Indian Ricegrass, needle-and-thread grass, western wheatgrass, and crested wheatgrass are key forage species in the allotment. The dominant range sites are rolling loam, sandhills and sandy land.

The Ricegrass and Piskwik Allotments are classified as a category C (custodial) allotment, The Seven Mile Allotment is classified as a category I (improve) allotment, and the Thornburgh Gulch Allotment is classified as a category M (maintain) allotment. The definitions of these categories can be found in the Rangeland Program Summary for the Little Snake Resource Management Plan.

The current authorization is as follows:

Allotment	Livestock #/Kind	Grazing Begin	Grazing End	% PL	AUMs
Ricegrass	71 C	05/01	11/30	52	260
Seven Mile	155 C	05/01	12/02	42	462
Thornburgh Gulch	70 C	05/01	11/30	100	492
Piskwik	211 C	05/01	12/15	88	1,398

In 1996, the Seven Mile Allotment was divided into three smaller allotments and a grazing rotation was developed; the Piskwik Allotment is not part of the system. In 1998 during the ten year grazing permit renewal process, it was determined that minor modifications were needed to facilitate the grazing plan. The grazing rotation was fully implemented in 1998 as follows:

Allotment Name	Season of use	Numbers	%PL	AUMS	#Days
Year 1					
Seven Mile	5/15-7/15	540	42	462	62
Ricegrass	7/16-7/31	955	52	260	16
Thornburg Gulch	8/01-9/30	245	100	492	61
Year 2					
Thornburg Gulch	5/15-7/15	241	100	492	62
Ricegrass	7/16-7/31	480	52	130	16
Seven Mile	8/01-9/15	410	42	462	46
Ricegrass	9/16-9/30	505	52	130	15
Year 3					
Ricegrass	5/15-6/30	320	52	255	47
Seven Mile	7/01-8/30	309	42	462	61
Ricegrass	8/31-9/01	150	52	5	2
Thornburgh Gulch	9/01-9/30	499	100	492	30

MONITORING DATA: All of the allotments fall into the Powder Wash Watershed. The Piskwik and Seven Mile Allotments were assessed during the 2003 Powder Wash Landscape Health Assessment. Each of the assessment locations within the allotments were found to be meeting all standards. No assessment stops were made in the Thornburgh Gulch or Ricegrass Allotments.

Ecological Site Inventory data have been collected in each allotment. These data indicate that the allotments have been adjudicated at or near the carrying capacity.

There is very limited monitoring data that have been collected since the grazing system was implemented in 1998. There are no monitoring data which would support or refute the Proposed Action.

PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

PROPOSED ACTION: Authorize the temporary deviation of the grazing system as follows:

From:

Allotment	Livestock #/Kind	Grazing Begin	Grazing End	% PL	AUMs
Ricegrass	71 C	05/01	11/30	52	260
Seven Mile	155 C	05/01	12/02	42	462
Thornburgh Gulch	70 C	05/01	11/30	100	492
Piskwik	211 C	05/01	12/15	88	1,398

To:

Allotment	Livestock #/Kind	Grazing Begin	Grazing End	%PL	AUMs
Ricegrass	450 C	05/02	05/15	52	260
Seven Mile	450 C	04/01	05/01	42	462
Thornburgh Gulch	258 C	04/01	05/28	100	492
Piskwik	450 C	09/15	12/01	88	1,398

The requested use in the Piskwik and Ricegrass Allotments for 2008 falls within the current authorized use period, however the requested use for 2008 is different than what is outlined in the grazing rotation implemented in 1998.

If AUMs are still available for the fall use period, the permittee would like to return livestock to the allotments and graze as outlined in their current authorizations.

This temporary authorization would be subject to the Standard and Common Terms and Conditions found in Attachment 2.

NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE: The deviation from the current authorized use would not be approved. Livestock grazing would continue as outlined on authorization #0500115 and #0500201 and as analyzed in EA #CO-016-LS-98-011.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT ELIMINATED:

No Grazing Alternative: This alternative would cancel the permits on the allotments. As a result, livestock grazing would cease on the allotments. This alternative is eliminated from analysis in this EA because it would not conform to the RMP/ROD. The RMP/ROD identified livestock grazing as a suitable and appropriate uses on the allotments.

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT/ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES/MITIGATION MEASURES

CRITICAL RESOURCES

AIR QUALITY

Affected Environment: There are no special designation air sheds or non-attainment areas nearby that would be affected by either alternative.

Environmental Consequences, both alternatives: Authorizing cattle grazing to begin April 1 in the Seven Mile and Thornburg Gulch Allotments or at various times during the grazing rotations would not cause regional air quality impairment under either of the alternatives. Plant regrowth in these allotments after the early grazing periods would provide additional cover and protection of the surface soil from wind erosion. Proper grazing use on the forage resources during the remainder of the authorized grazing period in all of the allotments would protect the surface soils from excessive 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. There would be no new impacts to the Ricegrass or Piskwik Allotments under the Proposed Action.

Mitigative Measures: None.

Name of specialist and date: Ole Olsen, 03/07/08

AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

Affected Environment: Not present.

Environmental Consequences: Not applicable.

Mitigative Measures: Not applicable.

Name of specialist and date: Rob Schmitzer, 03/10/08

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Affected Environment: A Section 106 review was completed for the Proposed Action. During this review, a cultural resource assessment was conducted for each allotment; Piskwik (#4324), Ricegrass (#4318), Seven Mile, (#4519), and Thornburgh Gulch (#4522) by Robyn Watkins Morris, Little Snake Field Office Archaeologist. 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)
04318	194	4728	3.92%	7	130	39
04324	352	13890	2.47%	7	378	113
04519	57	6334	.8%	0	169	50
04522	207	5310	3.8%	2	146	43

(Note *Estimates of site densities are based on LaPoint 1987. Estimates should be accepted as minimum figures which may be revised upwards based on future inventory findings.)

Eighteen cultural resource inventories have been previously conducted within the Piskwik Allotment resulting in the complete coverage inventory of 352 acres and the recording of seven eligible or needs data cultural resources. There are five prehistoric isolated finds, one historic isolated find, eight prehistoric open camps, one prehistoric quarry, one open lithic scatter, and one paleontological site. Historic roads were identified on the historic General Land Office plat maps in this allotment.

Sixteen cultural resource inventories have been previously conducted within the Ricegrass Allotment resulting in the complete coverage of 194 acres and the recording of seven eligible or needs data cultural resources. There are 13 open camps, three isolated finds, and one paleontological site. Historic roads were identified on the historic General Land Office plat maps in this allotment.

Two cultural resource inventories have been previously conducted within Seven Mile Allotment and the recording of nine isolated finds. Nothing was identified on the historic General Land Office plat maps in this allotment.

Seventeen cultural resource inventories have been previously conducted within the Thornburg Gulch Allotment and the recording of two known eligible or needs data cultural resources. There are six isolated finds, four open camps, and one open lithic scatter. One road was noted on the 1904 General Land Office plat map for this allotment.

Based on available data, a medium-high potential for historic properties occurs in all of the allotments. Subsequent cultural resource inventory will be conducted in areas where livestock concentrate. Subsequent field inventory is to be completed within the ten year period of the permit renewal.

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, both 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 action, the timing for livestock use is changing to earlier dates. This change may raise the potential for impacts to cultural resources due to grazing at a time of higher moisture and lower shear strength in the soils which may lead to increased potential of damage to buried cultural resources. Placing saltblocks along historic roads or anywhere in the vicinity of potential historic properties could potentially cause adverse impacts to these structures. Additional monitoring of the historic properties currently known and in the future should continue to determine if livestock impacts are occurring to these properties.

Mitigative Measures: None.

Standard Stipulations for cultural resources are included in Standard Terms and Conditions for the Range Renewal Permit (Attachment 2).

Allotment Specific Stipulations for this EA.

1. Determine site specific monitoring when permit is renewed during the 2009 renewal.
2. Site monitoring plans, other mitigation plans, will be developed and provided to the Colorado State Historic Preservation Officer in accordance with the Protocol (1998) and subsequent programmatic agreements regarding grazing permit renewals.

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, 03/11/08

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

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

Environmental Consequences, both alternatives: The project area 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: Mike Andrews, 03/06/08

FLOOD PLAINS

Affected Environment: The Seven Mile and Thornburg Gulch Allotments are located at the top of small drainage basins. A small floodplain area is present along Thornburgh Gulch for approximately one mile. The floodplain is in stable condition except for one large headcut. At the headcut, the stream channel is lowered and contact with the ground water table supports wetland plants that stabilize the channel area downstream. A spring fed pond is located on the terrace adjacent to the headcut and its use for livestock water diminishes in the summer and fall due to increased salinity or alkalinity and decreased palatability. No floodplain area is present in the Seven Mile Allotment.

Environmental Consequences, Proposed Action: The earlier grazing period that would be authorized for the Seven Mile and Thornburg Gulch Allotments would usually occur after the high flows from spring runoff. Floodplain vegetation would have an opportunity for regrowth following the grazing period. Residual growth would be present to hold soils in place and help dissipate energy of high flows the following spring. The potential for soil compaction in floodplain areas is greatest with spring livestock use. If cattle use the pond in the spring, because palatability is acceptable at that time, some additional trailing and grazing may occur in the floodplain area. One year spring use would be allowable provided that the same area it is not grazed during the same period in consecutive years. The Proposed Action does not include any developments that would be installed in the floodplain areas. No threat to human safety, life, welfare and property will result from implementing either of the alternatives.

Environmental Consequences, No Action: Implementation of this alternative would require rotating use throughout the authorized grazing period from 5/15 to 9/30 in all of the allotments. Proper grazing use of the floodplain forage resources would be critical to maintaining adequate residual forage on floodplain areas after the annual growing season has passed.

Mitigative Measures: None.

Name of specialist and date: Ole Olsen, 03/12/08

INVASIVE, NONNATIVE SPECIES

Affected Environment: Invasive and noxious weeds are present in the allotments. Invasive annuals such as downy brome (cheatgrass), halogeton, blue mustard and yellow alysium

commonly occur within the allotments and are occupying disturbed areas caused by oil and gas development and recently disturbed pipeline corridors. Invasive annual weeds are typically established on disturbed and high traffic areas whereas biennial and perennial noxious weeds are less common in occurrence. Downy brome and halogeton are on the Colorado List C of noxious weeds and efforts to control halogeton are intensifying in this area. Colorado List B noxious weeds that are present within the Sevenmile and Thornburgh Gulch Allotments include Russian knapweed, hoary cress (whitetop), Canada thistle and bull thistle. Other Colorado List B noxious weeds that are present in the vicinity and could potentially become established within these allotments include houndstongue, dalmation toadflax and other biennial thistles. The BLM is in cooperation with the Moffat County Cooperative Weed Management program to employ the principals of Integrated Pest Management to control noxious weeds on public lands.

Environmental Consequences, both 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. The perennial noxious weeds in the area are less frequently established on the uplands but some potential exists for their establishment in draws and swales with moister soils. 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 practices and land uses 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, 03/07/08

MIGRATORY BIRDS

Affected Environment: Swainson's hawk, ferruginous hawk and golden eagle are all known to nest within the four allotments. All three of these species are listed on the USFWS 2002 Birds of Conservation Concern List.

Environmental Consequences, both alternatives: Neither alternative would have a negative impact on any of these species' nesting habitats. Neither alternative would have a negative impact on the animals themselves, nor is it likely that either alternative would result in a take.

Mitigative Measures: None.

Name of specialist and date: Timothy Novotny, 03/10/08

NATIVE AMERICAN CONCERNS

A letter was sent to the Uinta and Ouray Tribal Council, Southern Ute Tribal Council, Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Council, and the Eastern Shoshone on July 11, 2007. The letter listed the grazing allotments up for renewal in FY07 and included a map of the areas. A follow up phone call was performed on August 14, 2007. 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, 03/11/08

PRIME & UNIQUE FARMLANDS

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

Environmental Consequences, both alternatives: None.

Mitigative Measures: None.

Name of specialist and date: Ole Olsen, 03/07/08

T&E AND SENSITIVE ANIMALS

Affected Environment: There are no threatened or endangered species or habitat for such species within these allotments. These allotments do contain habitat for greater sage-grouse, a BLM special status species. The Ricegrass, Piskwik, and Seven Mile Allotments contain winter range habitat for sage-grouse. The Piskwik Allotment contains three active greater sage-grouse leks. The Seven Mile and Thornburgh Gulch Allotments each contain one active sage-grouse lek.

Environmental Consequences, Proposed Action: The proposed grazing schedule could benefit greater sage grouse populations in the Piskwik Allotment because livestock would not be using the allotment during the breeding and nesting period. Of the five sage-grouse leks within these four allotments, the two largest leks are located in this allotment. The Seven Mile and Thornburgh Gulch Allotments would allow intensive grazing during the breeding season for greater sage-grouse. Livestock could disrupt breeding activities for a day but it is unlikely that they would impact greater sage-grouse breeding throughout the entire breeding season. This is unlikely to have a negative impact on greater sage-grouse breeding success.

Environmental Consequences, No Action Alternative: This alternative would continue the implementation of the same grazing system that has been in place for the last ten years within the allotments. Greater sage-grouse numbers within the allotments have remained relatively stable during this time period. Slight fluctuations in male lek attendance have been seen during this time period both up and down. This would indicate that the current grazing system is compatible with greater sage-grouse breeding and nesting.

Mitigative Measures: None.

Name of specialist and date: Timothy Novotny, 03/06/08

T&E AND SENSITIVE PLANTS

Affected Environment: There are no federally listed threatened or endangered or BLM sensitive plant species present on any of the allotments.

Environmental Consequences, both alternatives: None.

Mitigative Measures: None.

Name of specialist and date: Hunter Seim, 03/05/08

WASTES, HAZARDOUS OR SOLID

Affected Environment: There are no known hazardous materials present on any of the allotments.

Environmental Consequences, both alternatives: Potential releases of hazardous materials could occur during 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: Kathy McKinstry, 03/06/08

WATER QUALITY - GROUND

Affected Environment: The allotments may have some recharge zones for groundwater aquifers.

Environmental Consequences, both alternatives: Due to the limited amount of livestock grazing, there would be no impacts to ground water quality under either alternative. Both alternatives would be conducted in accordance with existing Colorado laws for water quality. Specifically, all permit activities would comply with the applicable water quality regulations in The Colorado Water Quality Control Act, and they would be in conformance with the classifications and numeric standards for water quality established by the Colorado Water Quality Control Commission.

Mitigative Measures: None

Name of specialist and date: Jennifer Maiolo, 03/11/08

WATER QUALITY - SURFACE

Affected Environment: Runoff drainage from the Thornburgh Gulch Allotment would flow to Thornburgh Gulch which is an intermittent tributary to the Little Snake River. Thornburgh Gulch, downstream of the Thornburgh Gulch Allotment, has a fairly continuous riparian system that would help retain sediments and nutrients from runoff drainage. Runoff drainage from approximately 1,200 acres in the southern portion of the allotment flows into Dry Gulch, which is an ephemeral tributary of the Little Snake River. The majority of runoff drainage from the Seven Mile Allotment collects in an unnamed ephemeral tributary of the Little Snake River within a segment of the river further downstream having different classified uses. Drainage from an 80-acre tract of BLM land in the southeastern portion of the Seven Mile Allotment and private lands along the eastern edge flows to Bighole Gulch. Bighole Gulch is an intermittent tributary of the upstream segment of the Little Snake River. The upstream segment of the Little Snake River needs to have water quality that would support Aquatic Life Cold 1, Recreation 1a, Agriculture and Water Supply. The downstream segment of the Little Snake River needs to have water quality that would support Aquatic Life Warm 1, Recreation 1a and Agriculture. Tributaries to both segments need to have water quality that would support Aquatic Life Cold 2, Recreation 2 and Agriculture; tributaries are designated use protected. The water quality within all of these affected streams is currently supporting the classified uses they need to support.

Environmental Consequences, Proposed Action: The Proposed Action Alternative would authorize early spring grazing (April) in the Seven Mile Allotment and spring grazing (April-May) in the Thornburgh Gulch Allotment. Although this is a one time authorization, grazing would also be authorized in these allotments in subsequent years. Due to the potential impact of early spring grazing on the forage grasses and the potential for soil compaction when soils are most susceptible, it is important to rotate livestock use in the allotments, especially during the growing season and in months when soil moisture is high and provides optimal conditions for compaction to occur.

Environmental Consequences, No Action: The environmental consequences would be the same as those analyzed in the Proposed Action of EA #CO-100-LS-98-011.

Mitigative Measures: Monitoring data would be collected after the 2008 grazing season to determine if any adverse impacts occurred due to the early turnout and these impacts would be addressed prior to authorizing grazing in subsequent years. Early spring use would not be authorized in the same area in 2009; this requirement would be incorporated in the 10 year grazing permit renewal which should be completed by late summer/early fall, 2008.

Name of specialist and date: Ole Olsen, 03/12/08

WETLANDS/RIPARIAN ZONES

Affected Environment: No riparian or wetland systems are present in the Seven Mile Allotment. Kobata Spring (BLM Spring # 011-06) originates at a headcut in Thornburgh Gulch within the Thornburgh Gulch Allotment. A picture from the fall of 1989 of the spring source shows a 30 foot headcut across the drainage, ponding water and numerous tracks in the mud with an apparent lack of vegetation. In 1999 it was assessed as functioning at risk with an upward trend. Wetland vegetation was starting to become established and persistent. Recent observations of this riparian system when compared to the photos taken in 1989 and 1999 confirm that the spring is in an upward trend.

Environmental Consequences, Proposed Action: The spring runoff would likely occur prior to the start of the grazing period on April 1. Protection of the riparian soils within the Thornburgh Gulch Allotment from the high flows that could result during the spring runoff would be from the residual growth and plant cover of the previous growing season. On April 1 the riparian plants would be breaking dormancy and little new growth would be available. The upland plants would likely be slightly ahead in growth of the wetland plants during the month of April and cattle would spread out in the allotment. One large pond is adjacent to the wetland system and may have adequate water quality for livestock in the spring, but the water is more unpalatable in the summer and fall which causes the livestock to seek other water sources.

Environmental Consequences, No Action: A riparian assessment has occurred since EA #CO-100-LS-98-011 was prepared. The wetland system associated with Kobata Spring is in an upward trend. The rotational grazing practices that were implemented prior to 1998 have allowed the riparian/wetland vegetation to expand across the channel and stabilize wetland soils.

Mitigative Measures: None.

Name of specialist and date: Ole Olsen, 03/11/08

WILD & SCENIC RIVERS

Affected Environment: Not present.

Environmental Consequences: Not applicable.

Mitigative Measures: Not applicable.

Name of specialist and date: Rob Schmitzer, 3/10/08

WILDERNESS, WSAs

Affected Environment: Not present.

Environmental Consequences: Not applicable.

Mitigative Measures: Not applicable.

Name of specialist and date: Rob Schmitzer, 3/10/08

NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS

RANGE MANAGEMENT

Affected Environment: Weibel Land LLC is the permittee for the four grazing allotments; Ricegrass, Piskwik, Seven Mile and Thornburg Gulch. They acquired the allotments in 2003 (Ricegrass, Seven Mile and Thornburg Gulch) and 2005 (Piskwik). Under ownership of Weibel Land, LLC, the management of the ranch has changed considerably from the previous owners. Weible Land LLC operates the Rockin' J Cattle Company, which raises grass fed/grass finished beef. The cattle are never sent to a feed lot for finishing, but rather spend their entire lives on private meadows and BLM managed native range. Under the proposed action, the pregnant cows would be turned out briefly on BLM managed lands then gathered and returned to private meadows near the ranch headquarters for calving. The calves are born on private meadows in mid-May rather than March as is more typical for ranching operations in this part of the country. The cow/calf pairs are kept on private meadows until early fall, when the calves are weaned and the mother cows are returned to BLM managed lands. Under the current grazing system, cattle are turned out into a different allotment each May 1 and are rotated through the remaining allotments through the remainder of the summer and into the fall. Under the current system, the cattle cannot utilize BLM managed lands until May 1. The permittee would like to have the flexibility of an April 1 turnout when range conditions are favorable for early grazing.

Environmental Consequences, Proposed Action: Allowing the permittee an April 1 turnout would help facilitate his grass fed beef operation and the overall goal of a very limited amount of time that cattle are on BLM managed lands during the growing season.

Environmental Consequences, No Action: The livestock operator would continue to rotate his livestock between the allotments. The environmental consequences would be the same as those analyzed in the Proposed Action of EA #CO-100-LS-98-011. Less flexibility would be afforded to the permittee in the operation of his non-traditional livestock operation.

Mitigative Measures: None.

Name of specialist and date: Kathy McKinstry, 03/06/08

SOILS

Affected Environment: The primary soils mapped in the Thornburg Allotment include Rock River sandy loam, 3 to 12; Maysprings-Gretdivid loamy coarse sands, 10 to 20 percent slopes; and on steeper areas of the allotment less used by cattle are the Torriorthents-Torripsammments complex, 12 to 40 percent slopes. The primary soils mapped in the Seven Mile Allotment are the Ryark-Maybell complex, 1 to 12 percent slopes; Maysprings coarse sandy

loam, 3 to 12 percent slopes; and the Ryark-Powderwash complex, 2 to 15 percent slopes. Generally these soils are deep, exhibit medium runoff, moderate permeability and a low water holding capacity. The Rock River soil has a moderate water holding capacity and the Powderwash soil which is mapped on a small area of the Seven Mile Allotment has high runoff, low permeability and moderate depths. The Torriorthents-Torripsamments complex soils are variable in depth from shallow to deep, have high runoff rates and very low water holding capacity. All of these soils are suited for livestock grazing.

Environmental Consequences, Proposed Action: Although these soils have properties that are fairly favorable or moderate regarding runoff and permeability rates, soil compaction could alter these properties and reduce available soil moisture in subsequent years. The grazing period proposed coincides with a period of time that soils would generally have optimal moisture levels to induce compaction. Regrowth would be dependent on soil moisture remaining after the grazing period or on additional precipitation that is received. The soils in the Seven Mile Allotment have a low water holding capacity, but could receive additional spring moisture in May and June that would supplement moisture levels. A large area of the Thornburg Gulch Allotment is comprised of the Rock River sandy loam soil which has a moderate water holding capacity and would be more capable of sustaining the longer grazing period, as proposed.

Environmental Consequences, No Action: The environmental consequences would be the same as those analyzed in the Proposed Action of EA #CO-100-LS-98-011.

Mitigative Measures: None.

Name of Specialist and date: Ole Olsen, 03/12/08

UPLAND VEGETATION

Affected Environment: The dominant range sites within the allotments are rolling loam and sandy land. These range sites typically support mixed sagebrush-antelope bitterbrush and grass communities. Shrubs within the allotments consist of Wyoming big sagebrush, bitterbrush, low rabbitbrush, and green rabbitbrush. Forbs include arrowleaf balsamroot, wild onion, sego lily, lupine, and yarrow. Perennial grasses consist of Indian ricegrass, western wheatgrass, needle-and-thread, Nevada bluegrass, bluebunch wheatgrass, streambank wheatgrass, and bottlebrush squirreltail.

Environmental Consequences, Proposed Action: Grazing which begins in April rather than May within the Seven Mile and Thornburg Allotments would not damage forage plants if the grazing intensity is light. Research has shown that range plants are not damaged by early grazing but rather by grazing intensity. The key is to keep the grazing period short and removing grazing while there is still enough soil moisture left for grass plants to complete the reproduction cycle (Bawtree A. H. 1989). In addition, there needs to be ample grass left over from the previous year. The cattle, if turned out in early April as proposed, would be grazing a combination of the desiccated grass from the previous growing season, along with any new, current year's growth. The Seven Mile Allotment was rested last year and the Thornburg Gulch Allotment was used

briefly, from October 15 through November 15, thus there should be an abundance of last year's forage remaining. Under the Proposed Action, cattle would be turned out April 1st and allowed a short grazing period; until May 1st in the Seven Mile Allotment and May 31st in the Thornburg Gulch Allotment. This grazing season would allow the plants to regrow and complete their reproduction cycle.

Environmental Consequences, No Action: The impacts of the No Action alternative would be the same as those analyzed for the Proposed Action in EA#CO-016-LS-98-011.

Mitigative Measures: None.

Name of specialist and date: Kathy McKinstry, 03/06/08

WILDLIFE, AQUATIC

Affected Environment: The Piskwik and Ricegrass Allotments border the Little Snake River. This river contains habitat for a variety of non-game fish species and may contain habitat for crawfish and various amphibian species.

Environmental Consequences, Proposed Action: Under this alternative, livestock grazing within the Ricegrass Allotment would occur during high flow periods. It is unlikely that livestock would use the river during this time period. They may utilize the riparian area adjacent to the river but green vegetation should occur throughout the allotment making this less attractive than other during other seasons. Livestock grazing in the Piskwik Allotment would occur during the fall and early winter. This allotment has an extensive water development that can reduce livestock use of the Little Snake River. It is unlikely that livestock would have negative impacts to aquatic wildlife during this time of year.

Environmental Consequences, No Action Alternative: Under the No Action Alternative, livestock would use this allotment the same as the use for the previous ten years. It is unlikely that this would negatively impact aquatic habitat in either allotment.

Mitigative Measures: None.

Name of specialist and date: Timothy Novotny, 03/06/08

WILDLIFE, TERRESTRIAL

Affected Environment: The four allotments provide year round habitat for mule deer and pronghorn antelope including severe winter range for pronghorn along the Little Snake River. A variety of small mammals, reptiles and song birds can be found within these allotments at various times of the year.

Environmental Consequences, Proposed Action: The Proposed Action would ensure that wildlife habitats remain capable of supporting healthy productive wildlife populations. Big game

animals would not be directly impacted from livestock grazing. There is an increased potential that ground nesting songbirds using this allotment could have nests destroyed by livestock. This is unlikely to occur frequently and should not have a negative impact on any species population.

No Action Alternative: Under this alternative, the same grazing system that has been in use for the past 10 years would remain in place. This system has not had a negative impact to wildlife habitats. Wildlife habitats within these allotments are currently meeting standards for rangeland health. It is expected that this would continue.

Mitigative Measures: None.

Name of specialist and date: Timothy Novotny, 03/07/08

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		JAM 03/11/08	
Forest Management	KLM 03/04/08		
Hydrology/Ground		JAM 03/11/08	
Hydrology/Surface		OO 03/12/08	
Paleontology		JAM 03/10/08	
Range Management			KLM 03/06/08
Realty Authorizations		LM 03/05/08	
Recreation/Travel Mgmt		RS 3/10/08	
Socio-Economics		LM 03/05/08	
Solid Minerals		JAM 03/10/08	
Visual Resources		RS 3/10/08	
Wild Horse & Burro Mgmt	KLM 03/04/08		

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS SUMMARY: The allotments and the areas surrounding them have historically been grazed by both sheep and cattle. Numerous maintained and un-maintained roads exist throughout the area, including on the allotments. These roads are used regularly by local residents and ranchers as well as by hunters, the primary recreation users in the area. Wildlife populations in the area are high, especially for deer and elk that compete with livestock for available forage throughout the area. Oil and gas development has increased in the allotments and is evidenced by the presence of an interstate energy corridor which traverses the allotments as did a seismic project during the summer of 2007. The primary impacts from all of these activities are most immediately seen in the presence of roads, increased vehicular traffic, cultivation on private lands, and weed presence. The Proposed Action to allow a temporary early

turnout of livestock these allotments 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: The four allotments currently provide habitat that is capable of supporting healthy, diverse populations of wildlife. These allotments are currently meeting this standard. Both the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative would ensure that this standard continues to be met in the future.

Name of specialist and date: Timothy Novotny, 03/10/08

SPECIAL STATUS, THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES (animal) STANDARD: The change in season of use could potentially benefit greater sage-grouse populations within the Piskwik allotment because there would be no use within this allotment during the breeding and nesting season. It is unlikely that changes proposed for the other three allotments would impact grouse. The No Action Alternative would not impact greater sage-grouse or their habitats in a negative way. This standard is currently being met and will continue to be met under the Proposed Action or the No Action Alternative.

Name of specialist and date: Timothy Novotny, 03/10/08

PLANT AND ANIMAL COMMUNITY (plant) STANDARD: The Piskwik and Seven Mile Allotments were assessed during the 2003 Powder Wash Landscape Health Assessment. Each of the assessment locations within the allotments was found to be meeting all standards. A review of the utilization monitoring data collected on the allotments indicates that key forage plants were not over-utilized by the amount of specified livestock grazing permitted on these allotments. Monitoring photos and field observations indicate there is a diversity of native and introduced plant communities in various age classes sufficient to sustain recruitment and mortality fluctuations on the rolling loam and sandy land range sites that are common to these allotments. Monitoring data indicate fair to excellent plant vigor and density on all of the allotments. Additionally, the deviation, as proposed, would provide a rest from livestock grazing during critical growth periods. The ecological site inventory conducted on the Ricegrass and Seven Mile allotments classified the majority of the allotments in mid- or late seral stages. Based on the above, the Proposed Action would meet this standard. The No Action Alternative would also meet this standard.

Name of specialist and date: Kathy McKinstry, 03/11/08

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

Name of specialist and date: Hunter Seim, 03/05/08

RIPARIAN SYSTEMS STANDARD: The riparian standard for healthy rangelands is met. Wetland vegetation comprised of sedges and rushes is present throughout the channel downstream. Trampling by cattle occurs during the grazing period, but the wetland area remains stable with vegetation persisting within the channel and spreading the flow of water across the width of the channel. The long term trend of this wetland system has been upward.

Name of specialist and date: Ole Olsen, 03/11/08

WATER QUALITY STANDARD: The water quality standard for healthy rangelands is presently being met for these allotments. This standard would be met for both the Proposed and the No Action Alternatives. Runoff waters from snowmelt and rain would drain to the Little Snake River which is presently supporting classified uses. No stream segments or tributaries are currently listed as having impaired water quality. Rotational grazing practices are considered to be best management practices that will help reduce the overall sediment load of runoff waters from these grazing allotments. Insuring that consecutive spring grazing periods in the same allotments does not occur is necessary to maintain soil properties and desirable forage resources.

Name of specialist and date: Ole Olsen, 3/12/08

UPLAND SOILS STANDARD: The upland soil standard would be met for both the Proposed and the No Action Alternatives. Both alternatives include rotational grazing practices that would promote better grazing distribution and allow the grass component to have increased vigor and provide more soil cover. The early spring and extended spring grazing that is proposed for this year in the Seven Mile and Thornburg Gulch Allotments would increase the potential for soil compaction to occur. However, if this is limited to alternate years or more preferable one in three years use, this potential is reduced and natural processes are more likely to correct compaction that may result from spring livestock grazing.

Name of specialist and date: Ole Olsen, 03/12/08

PERSONS/AGENCIES CONSULTED: Uintah and Ouray Tribal Council, Colorado Native American Commission, Colorado State Historic Preservation Office, Weibel Land LLC, Colorado Division of Wildlife, Moffat County.

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 (FONSI)

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in EA CO-100-2008-039 and all other available information, I have determined that the proposal and the alternatives analyzed do not constitute a major Federal action that would adversely impact the quality of the human environment. Therefore, an EIS is unnecessary and will not be prepared. This determination is based on the following factors:

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 Field Office jurisdiction 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:

Bibliography

Bawtree, Alfred H. "Recognizing Range Readiness." Rangelands 11(12). April 1989

Attachment 2
EA CO-100-2008-039
Standard Terms and Conditions

- 1) Grazing permit or lease terms and conditions and the fees charged for grazing use are established in accordance with 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. Non compliance by the permittee/lessee with rules and regulations;
 - b. Loss of control by the permittee/lessee of all or 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 allotments(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 of 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 due 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 the 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 to be 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.
- I) The terms and conditions of this permit may be modified if additional information indicates that revision is necessary to conform with 43 CFR 4180.