

**Documentation of Land Use Plan Conformance and NEPA Adequacy (DNA)  
U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management  
Grand Junction Field Office, Colorado**

**Davis, Guthrie Place, and Milholland Allotments Grazing Permit Renewals**

**DOI-BLM-CO-N030-2015-0010-DNA**

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBERS: Grazing Permits: #0507032 Butch Jarvis, #0507165 Alan Baier, and #0507100 Tony Elkins

APPLICANTS AND ALLOTMENTS: Butch Jarvis (Davis Allotment #16818), Alan Baier (Guthrie Place Allotment #16814), and Tony Elkins (Milholland Allotment #06840)

PLANNING UNIT: Mesa and Collbran, Colorado

BACKGROUND:

The Davis Allotment is located approximately one mile northwest of Mesa, Colorado. The allotment consists of 483 public acres and 207 private acres with 35 Animal Unit Months (AUMs) permitted for cattle. Pinyon-juniper and sagebrush are the dominating vegetation types with understories of Indian ricegrass, poa, and western wheat. Elevation on the allotment ranges from 5,200 feet to 6,160 feet and average annual precipitation is 9 – 12 inches. A Land Health Assessment conducted in 2010 determined the allotment was meeting Land Health Standards 1, 3, and 4 (soils, biotic, and sensitive species). Approximately 1.4 miles of King Gulch passes through the Davis Allotment. Records indicate that several species of sedges and rushes, and cottonwoods occur along the upper reaches of the creek. While tamarisk and Russian olive were noted, the creek was determined to be properly functioning and meeting Land Health Standard 2.

The Guthrie Place Allotment is isolated public land managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) that is surrounded by private land, and is located 5 miles southeast of Collbran, Colorado. The allotment is comprised of 143 public acres and 123 private acres associated with 18 active AUMs for cattle. Vegetation is dominated by brushy loam that includes Gambel oak, serviceberry, and snowberry. Stands of Aspen occur in the southern portion of the allotment. Smooth brome, stipa, and poa are the main understory grasses. Annual average precipitation is 15 - 18 inches and elevation ranges from 7,080 feet to 8,000 feet. Land Health Assessment conducted on the allotment in 2010 found the allotment meeting Land Health Standards 1, 3, and 4 (soils, biotic and sensitive species). A very small portion of Oak Creek flows through the Guthrie Place Allotment. Records indicate that the creek is properly functioning, and meeting Land Health Standard 2.

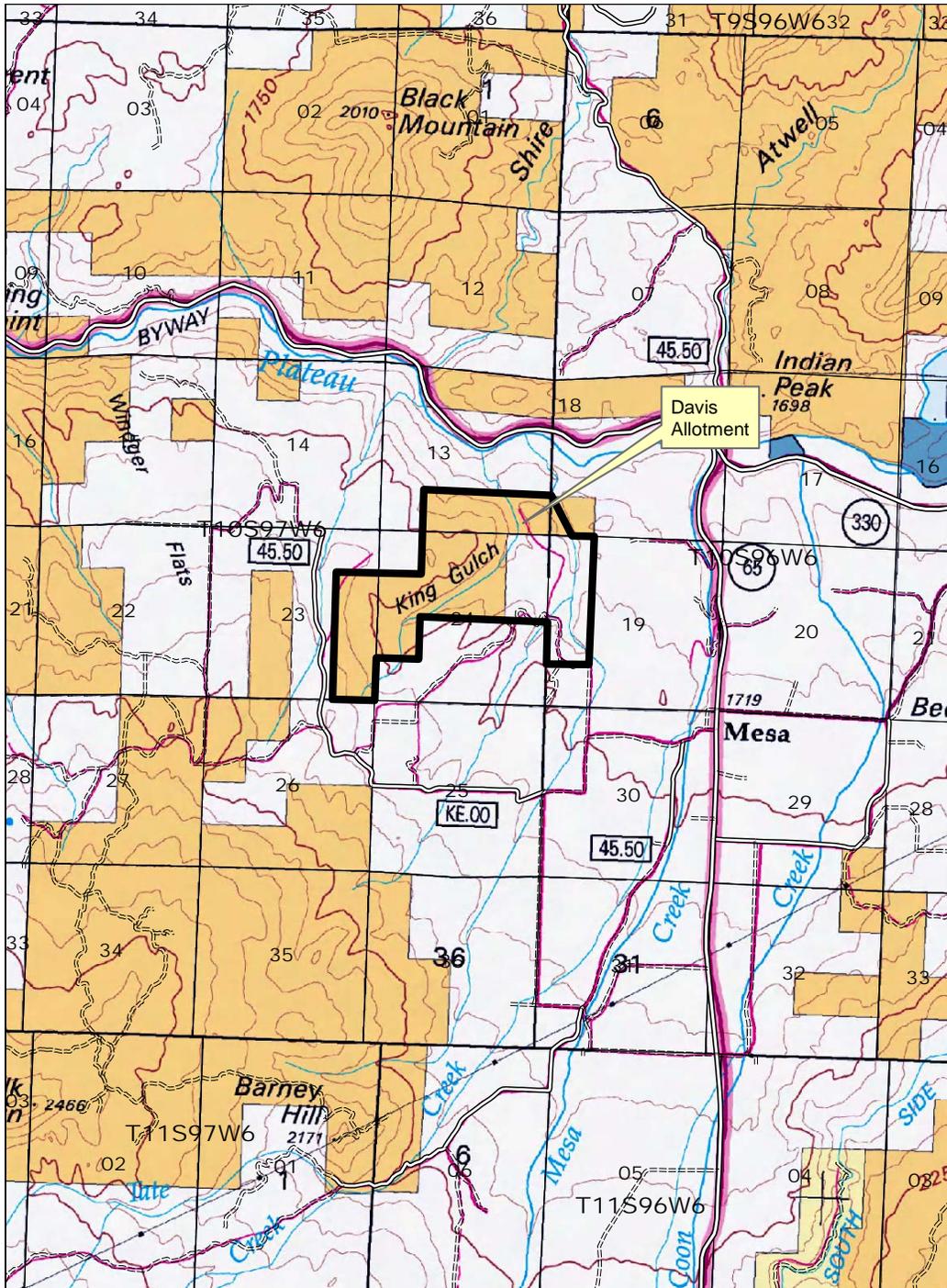
The Milholland Allotment is located four miles east of Mesa, Colorado. The allotment consists of 272 public acres and 464 private acres with 27 authorized AUMs for cattle. Vegetation is dominated by Mountain Pinyon and Pinyon/Juniper sites with understories of Indian ricegrass, western wheat, squirreltail, poa, and elk sedge. For this allotment, annual precipitation averages 13 - 16 inches and elevation ranges from 5,960 feet to 6,800 feet. A Land Health

Assessment conducted in 2010 found the allotment meeting Land Health Standards 1, 3, and 4 (soils, biotic, and sensitive species).

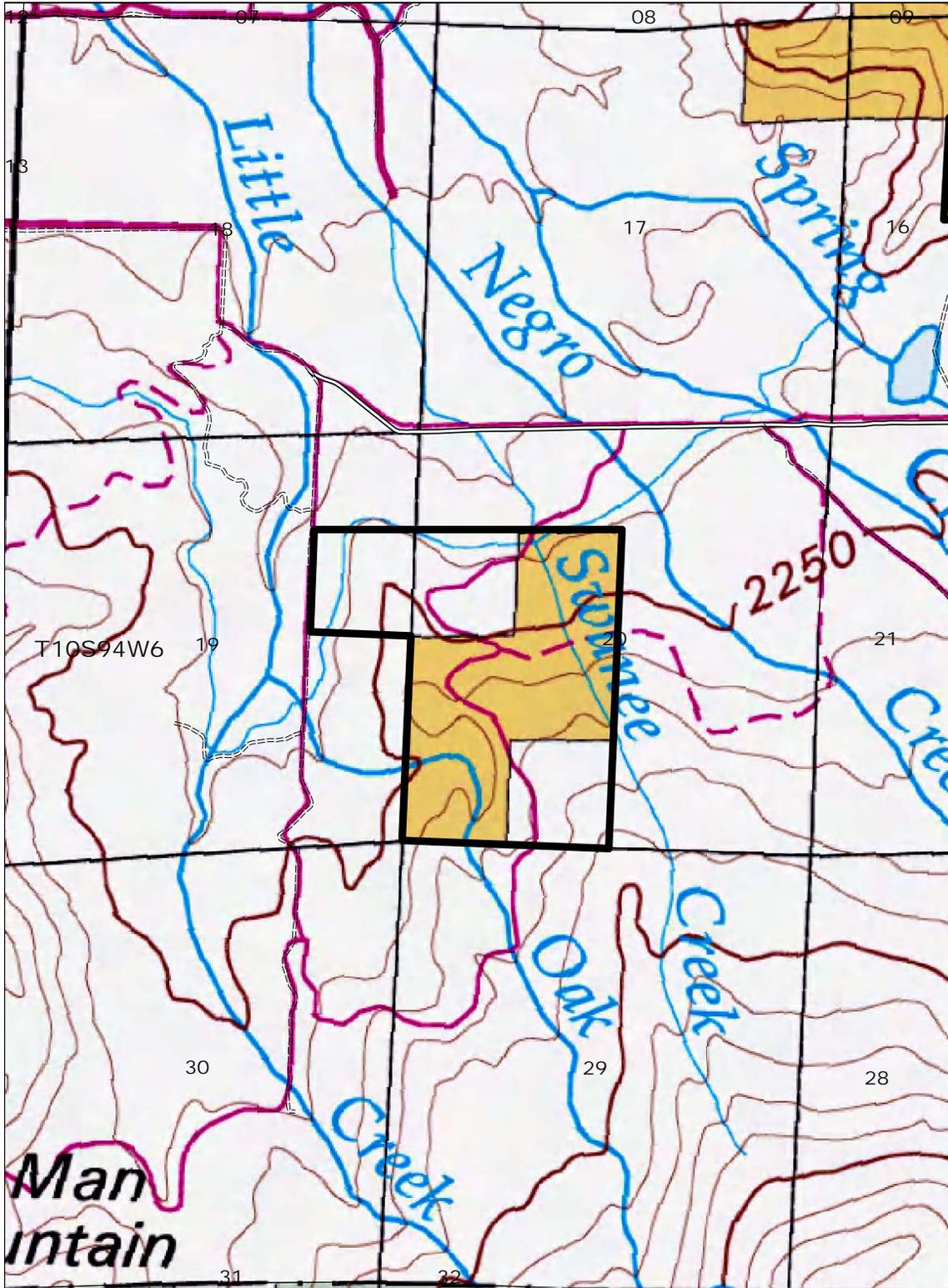
ISSUES AND CONCERNS: No issues or concerns have been brought forth; the allotments contained in this permit are ranked in the Custodial “C” category based on their small size and no major issues.

ALLOTMENT MAPS WITH LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS:

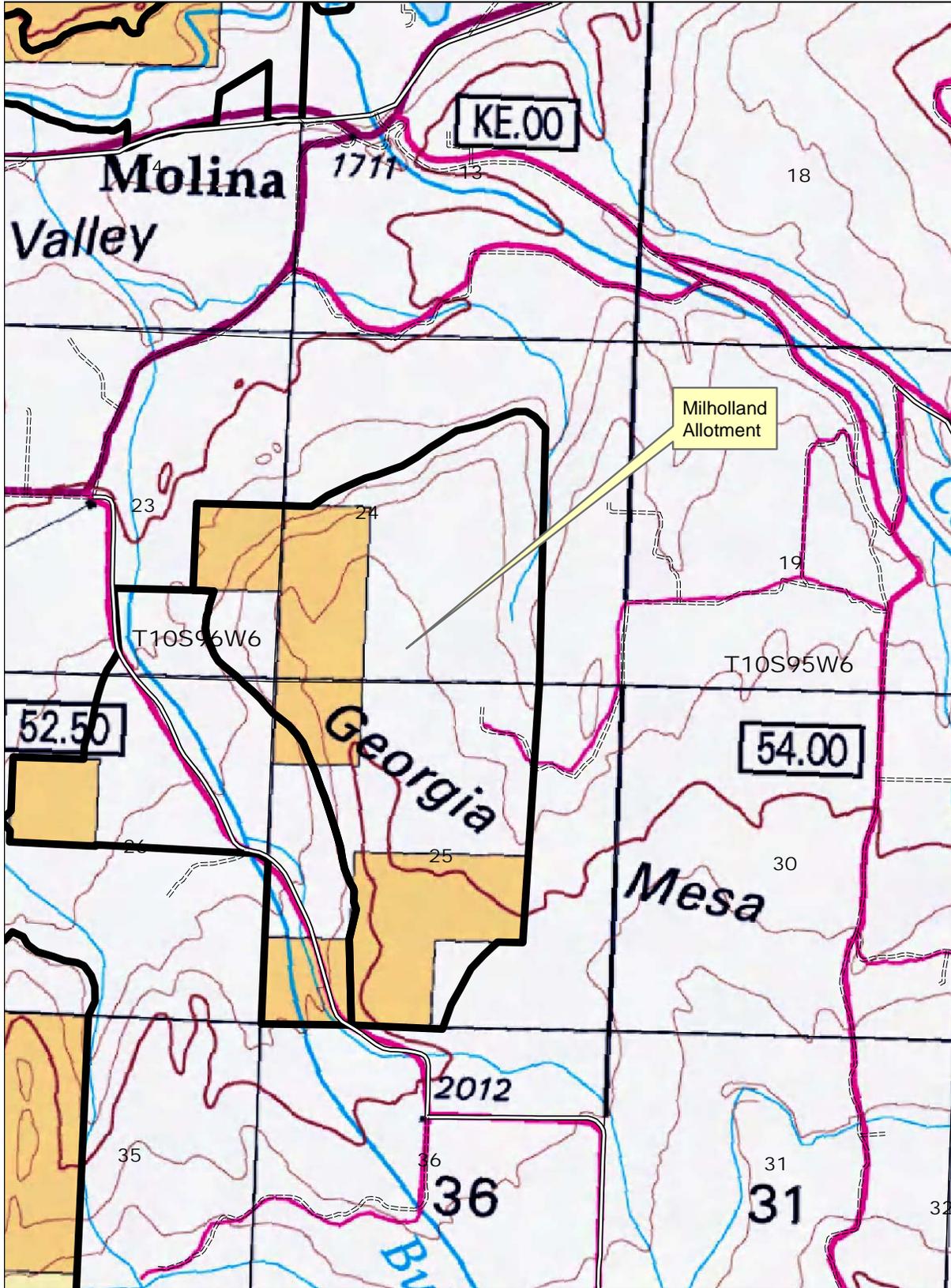
**Davis Allotment (#16818)**



**Guthrie Place Allotment (#16814)**



Milholland Allotment (#06840)



**DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION:**

The proposed action is to allow for the continuation of livestock grazing on public lands and to process Grazing Permit Renewals for Butch Jarvis, Grazing Permit #0507032; Alan Baier, Grazing permit #0507165; and Tony Elkins, Grazing Permit #0507100.

The proposed grazing schedules would be as follows:

Allotment/#	Livestock Number	Livestock Kind	Grazing Period		%PL	Type Use	AUMs
			ON	OFF			
Davis/ #16818	44	Cattle	05/01	05/15	83	Active	18
	42	Cattle	09/25	10/09	83	Active	17
Guthrie Place/ #16814	12	Cattle	06/01	07/31	75	Active	18
Milholland/ #06840	90	Cattle	05/01	06/15	20	Active	27

%PL is the percentage of BLM lands used for grazing within the allotment.

AUM-The amount of forage necessary for the sustenance of one cow or its equivalent for a period of one month.

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS:**

Terms and Conditions of the Grazing Permits would be the following if the permit is approved:

1. Use supervision checks by BLM staff will be conducted to assure grazing compliance. The Grand Junction Field Office will use utilization checks, collect trend data, and evaluate allotments whenever necessary. Evaluation of monitoring will be used to make appropriate changes to grazing management in order to protect land health.
2. This permit is subject to change if results from a land health or riparian proper functioning condition assessment conclude that the Standards for Rangeland Health or Riparian Health are not being met and livestock grazing is determined to be the cause.
3. Salting and mineral blocks will be placed at least one quarter (1/4) mile or further from water sources and riparian areas. Less than one quarter mile may be allowed if terrain does not allow for one quarter mile distance and approved by the BLM Authorized Officer (AO).
4. All new range improvement projects will be in accordance with BLM standards.
  - Example - wildlife escape ramps are required in water troughs under BLM standards.
5. Water source areas will be monitored by the permittee and BLM for infestation of noxious weeds. The permittee and BLM will coordinate to treat and eradicate any weed infestations should they occur.

6. Upon approval by the AO, the permittee will have the option to apply for more cattle over a shorter time period as long as AUMs are not exceeded in a grazing season and use is within the season of use.
7. Maintenance of all structural rangeland improvements (RI) and other projects are the responsibility of the permittee to which they have been assigned. Maintenance would be in accordance with cooperative agreements and/or range improvement permits (43 CFR §4120.3-1). Failure to maintain assigned projects in a satisfactory/functional condition may result in withholding authorization to graze livestock until maintenance is completed. Construction of new RI on BLM administered lands is prohibited without approval from the authorized officer.
  - a. The BLM authorized officer will be contacted prior to any range project maintenance activity involving soil surface disturbance. An example includes but not limited to cleaning of ponds with heavy equipment, which would involve soil surface disturbance. All heavy equipment will be washed and free of debris and weed seeds before entering BLM lands.
8. Permittees or lessees shall provide reasonable access across private and leased lands to the Bureau of Land Management for the orderly management and protection of the public lands related to grazing administration.
9. Grazing will be deferred on new vegetation treatments and rehabilitated burned areas to allow two growing seasons of rest unless otherwise authorized. Coordination and cooperation will occur with the permittee prior to any treatment.
10. It is the responsibility of the Permittee to inform all persons associated with work on federal lands subject to the permit that they would be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts.
11. Surface disturbing range improvements associated with the allotment (e.g. fences, ponds, etc.) are subject to compliance requirements under Section 106 and will undergo standard cultural resources inventory and evaluation procedures.
12. If newly discovered cultural resources are identified during project implementation, work in that area should stop and the BLM Authorized Officer should be notified immediately (36 CFR §800.13).
13. Notify the Authorized Officer (AO) by telephone and with written confirmation, immediately upon discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Activities would stop in the immediate area of the find, and the discovery would be protected for 30 days or until notified to proceed in writing by the AO.
14. During dry and drought conditions adjustments will be made that involve reduction of AUMs or non-use as stated under Code of Federal Regulations §4110.3-2

“Decreasing permitted use (a) Permitted use may be suspended in whole or in part on a temporary basis due to drought, fire, ....”, and §4110.3-3 “Implementing reductions in permitted use (a) After consultation, cooperation, and coordination with the affected permittee or lessee ... reductions of permitted use shall be implemented through a documented agreement or by decision of the authorized officer. (b) When the authorized officer determines that the soil, vegetation, or other resources on the public lands require immediate protection because of conditions such as drought, fire, ... the authorized officer shall close allotments or portions of allotments to grazing by any kind of livestock or modify authorized grazing use notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (a) of this section.”

Additional Standard Terms and Conditions can be found on the signature page of the Grazing Permit.

Allotments Summary:

Allotment	Federal Acres	Private Acres	Animal Unit Months (AUMs)		
			Active	Suspended	Total
Davis	483	207	35	0	35
Guthrie Place	143	123	18	0	18
Milholland	272	464	27	0	27

LAND USE PLAN (LUP) CONFORMANCE REVIEW: The proposed action is subject to the following plan:

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

Name of Plan: Grand Junction Resource Management Plan

Date Approved: January 1987

Decision Number/Page: 2-17

Decision Language: Manage livestock grazing as described in the Grand Junction Grazing Management Environmental Statement using the new priorities and general management categories established through the allotment categorization process and this plan.

REVIEW OF EXISTING NEPA DOCUMENTS:

List by name and date all existing NEPA documents that cover the Proposed Action.

Name of Document: CO-130-2005-016-EA; Guthrie (6814), Davis (6818), Milholland (6840) Permit Renewals

Date Approved: July 8, 2005

## NEPA ADEQUACY CRITERIA:

1. *Is the Proposed Action substantially the same action and at the site specifically analyzed in an existing document?*  
The proposed permits have the same grazing schedules and are at the same specific locations as those analyzed in the existing document. The proposed terms and conditions have been slightly altered to protect various resource needs.
2. *Was a reasonable range of alternatives to the Proposed Action analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s), and does that range and analysis appropriately consider current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values?*  
Other than the proposed action alternative, there was only the No Action alternative which was eliminated from detailed analysis because it does not meet the purpose and need for the action, which is to allow grazing on public lands in a responsible manner that is compatible with Standards for Public Land Health. Current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values are the same as those analyzed in the 2005 NEPA document.
3. *Does the information or circumstances upon which the existing NEPA document(s) are based remain valid and connected to the Proposed Action?*  
The information is valid and connected to the proposed action. This allotment was reviewed in 2005 prior to permit renewal.

Cultural Resources: Range permit renewals are undertakings under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. For the purposes of Section 106 review, a cultural resource assessment of allotments in the GJFO began in 1999 and was completed in 2009, reviewing existing site and survey information to compare against the results of other known literature reviews conducted for grazing evaluation. A Class I assessment synthesizing ten years of permit renewal evaluations of 240 grazing allotments managed by GJFO was completed for the BLM by Grand River Institute (GJFO-CRIR 1109-09; Conner & Darnell 2009), which updated and upgraded the previous 5 year grazing permit renewal synthesis (McDonald 2003).

The **Davis, Milholland, and Guthrie Place** allotments are located in Physiographic Unit H, located on the upland benches on the slopes of the Grand Mesa and Battlement Mesa, both north and south of Plateau Creek and east of the Colorado River. The physiographic unit is roughly the same as the 2003 synthesis. As of 2009, thirty five allotments had been previously evaluated and approximately 19,300 acres or 28.5 percent of the allotments have had cultural resource inventory completed on BLM lands. This Unit has the highest level of inventory in the field office, almost double the average for the field office as a whole. Based on previous inventory the average site/acre ratio in this area is 1:68 and of the 35 allotments previously reviewed the site density ranged from Moderate to High (Conner and Darnell 2009:50).

**Davis (16818)**

In the 2005 permit renewal EA, no additional inventory was recommended for the Davis allotment. Since 2005, however, 120 acres have been inventoried within the allotment by OAH document numbers ME.LM.NR335, ME.LM.NR525, and MC.LM.R142. No cultural resources were located by these surveys within the Davis allotment. No further inventory is recommended at this time.

**Milholland (06840)**

Two surveys have been completed within the Milholland Allotment—ME.LM.R185 and 1180-13 (OAH no. pending)—with two prehistoric isolates found (5ME11763 and 5ME11764, both not eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places). The surveys were for a right-of-way, road realignment, and underground cable placement. Neither survey includes any mention of grazing impacts in the analysis. In the 2005 permit renewal EA, no additional inventory was recommended for the Milholland allotment. Since 2005, no new inventory has occurred within the allotment. At least 20 acres of survey is recommended for baseline information within this allotment during the course of this 10-year permit renewal

**Guthrie Place (16814)**

One survey has been completed within the allotment—ME.LM.NR178—with no cultural resource sites or isolates found. The survey was conducted in 1988 for a proposed seismic line. In the 2005 permit renewal EA, no additional inventory was recommended for the Guthrie Place allotment. Since 2005, no new inventory has occurred within the allotment. At least 20 acres of survey is recommended for baseline information within this allotment during the course of this 10-year permit renewal.

Native American Religious Concerns: The Ute have a generalized concept of spiritual significance that is not easily transferred to Western models or definitions. As such the BLM recognizes that they have identified sites that are of concern because of their association with Ute occupation of the area as part of their traditional lands. Any sites that the Ute occupied are important to them as a tie to their ancestral home but none are recorded in this allotment to date. No consultation was conducted for this renewal. If any sites are identified by further survey then additional consultation would be conducted.

Special Status Species: As originally analyzed in the existing Environmental Assessment, there are no rare plants known to occur within the Davis, Milholland, and Guthrie Place individual grazing allotments. A review of BLM and Colorado Natural Heritage Program records confirmed the continued absence of rare plants on these allotments.

4. *Is the analysis still valid in light of new studies or resource assessment information?*  
Most recent monitoring information combined with the assessment of resource conditions found that the previous analysis in 2005 is still valid. No new information has been presented.

5. *Does the methodology and analytical approach used in the existing NEPA document(s) continue to be appropriate for the Proposed Action?*

The methodology and analytical approach used in the 2005 document was completely appropriate for development of the proposed action.

Migratory Birds: The birds of conservation concern list has been updated since the 2005 EA, however impacts to migratory birds are expected to be the same as those described in the previous EA.

6. *Are the direct and indirect impacts of the Proposed Action unchanged from those identified in the existing NEPA document?*

Although terms and conditions have been added to clarify the protection of various resource needs analyzed in the 2005 EA, direct and indirect impacts are unchanged from those identified in the existing NEPA document.

7. *Are the cumulative impacts that would result from implementation of the Proposed Action unchanged from those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)?*

The cumulative impacts would remain the same as those analyzed in the 2005 EA.

8. *Is the public involvement and interagency review associated with the existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the Proposed Action?*

Public involvement was conducted along with interagency review. This review was adequate for the Proposed Action.

**INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:** Identify those team members conducting or participating in the NEPA analysis and preparation of this work sheet (by name and title).

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Review Completed</u>
Heidi Plank	Wildlife Biologist/Special Status Animal Species	2/13/15
Amanda Ewing	Wildlife Biologist/ Special Status Plant and Animal Species	2/12/15
Anna Lincoln	Ecologist/Special Status Plant Species, Riparian	2/24/15
Natalie Clark	Archaeologist	2/13/15
Sparky Taber	Weed Management Specialist	2/20/15
Christina Stark	Planning & Environmental Coordinator	2/19/5
Andy Windsor	Outdoor Recreation Planner	2/20/15

Table 1 – Potentially Impacted Resources

Resources	Not Present On Location	No Impact	Potentially Impacted	Effects sufficiently analyzed/ mitigated in previous NEPA document or proposed action?	Comments included in DNA text	BLM Evaluator Initial & Date
<b>PHYSICAL RESOURCES</b>						
Air and Climate	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PLB 2/20/2015
Geological	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	DSG 2/10/15
Mineral Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	DSG 2/10/15
Soils	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PLB 2/20/2015
Water (surface & subsurface, floodplains)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PLB 2/20/2015
Invasive, Non-native Species	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MT 2/20/15
Sensitive Species	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ALE 2/12/15
Threatened or Endangered Species	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ALE 2/12/15
Vegetation, Forestry	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SC 2/24/15
Wetlands/Riparian Zones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ARL 2/24/15
Wildlife	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	HLP 2/13/15
Cultural or Historical	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NFC 2/13/15
Paleontological	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	DSG 2/10/15
Tribal & American Indian Religious Concerns	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NFC 2/13/15
Visual Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	AW 2/20/15
Social	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	CS 2/15/15
Economic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	CS 2/15/15
Environmental Justice	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	CS 2/15/15
Transportation and Access	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	AW 2/20/15
Wastes, Hazardous or Solid	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	AEK 2/26/2015
Prime or Unique Farmlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	CS 2/15/15
Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	AW 2/20/15
Special Designations (ACEC, SMAs etc.)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	AW 2/20/15
Wild and Scenic Rivers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	AW 2/20/15
Wilderness	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	AW 2/20/15
Range Management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SC 2/24/15
Wild Horse and Burros	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SC 2/24/15
Land Tenure, ROW, Other Uses	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	RBL 2/17/15

NAME OF PREPARER: Scott Clarke - RMS

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Christina Stark

DATE: 3/4/15

References:

- Conner, Carl and Nicole Darnell. 2009. A Class I Synthesis of Two Hundred and Forty Grazing Permit Renewal Allotments Administered by the Bureau of Land Management Grand Junction Field Office in Delta, Garfield, Mesa, and Montrose Counties, Colorado Volume I: Literature Review and Synthesis and Volume II: Summary of Individual Grazing Allotments. BLM GJFO CRIR 1109-09. Ms. on file at GJFO.
- McDonald, Kae, 2006. Cultural Resource Literature Review of Fifteen Grazing Allotments Administered by the Grand Junction Field Office Bureau of Land Management BLM GJFO CRIR 15406-03. Ms. on file at GJFO.



# CONCLUSION

## DOI-BLM-CO-N030-2015-0010-DNA

### Grazing Permit Renewals for Butch Jarvis #0507032, Alan Baier #0507165 and Tony Elkins #0507100

X Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the land use plan and that the NEPA documentation previously prepared fully covers the Proposed Action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of NEPA.

\_\_\_\_\_ Based on the review documented above, I conclude that either the proposal does not conform with the land use plan, or that additional NEPA analysis is needed.

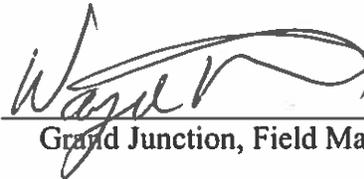
Note: The signed Conclusion on this document is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal decision process and does not constitute an appealable decision. However, the lease, permit, or other authorization based on this DNA is subject to protest or appeal under 43 CFR Part 4 and the program-specific regulations.

#### REVIEW OF EXISTING NEPA DOCUMENTS:

Name of Document: CO-130-2005-016-EA; Guthrie (6814), Davis (6818), Milholland (6840) Permit Renewals

Date Approved: July 8, 2005

SIGNATURE OF RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL:



Grand Junction, Field Manager

DATE SIGNED: 3-26-15