

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
GRAND JUNCTION Field Office
2815 H ROAD
GRAND JUNCTION, CO 81506**

DOCUMENTATION OF LAND USE PLAN CONFORMANCE AND NEPA ADEQUACY

NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-130-2012-0045-DNA

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER (optional): Grazing Permit #0507143

PROJECT NAME: Grazing Permit Renewal for Sally Smith on the Kannah Creek Individual Allotment (#06207).

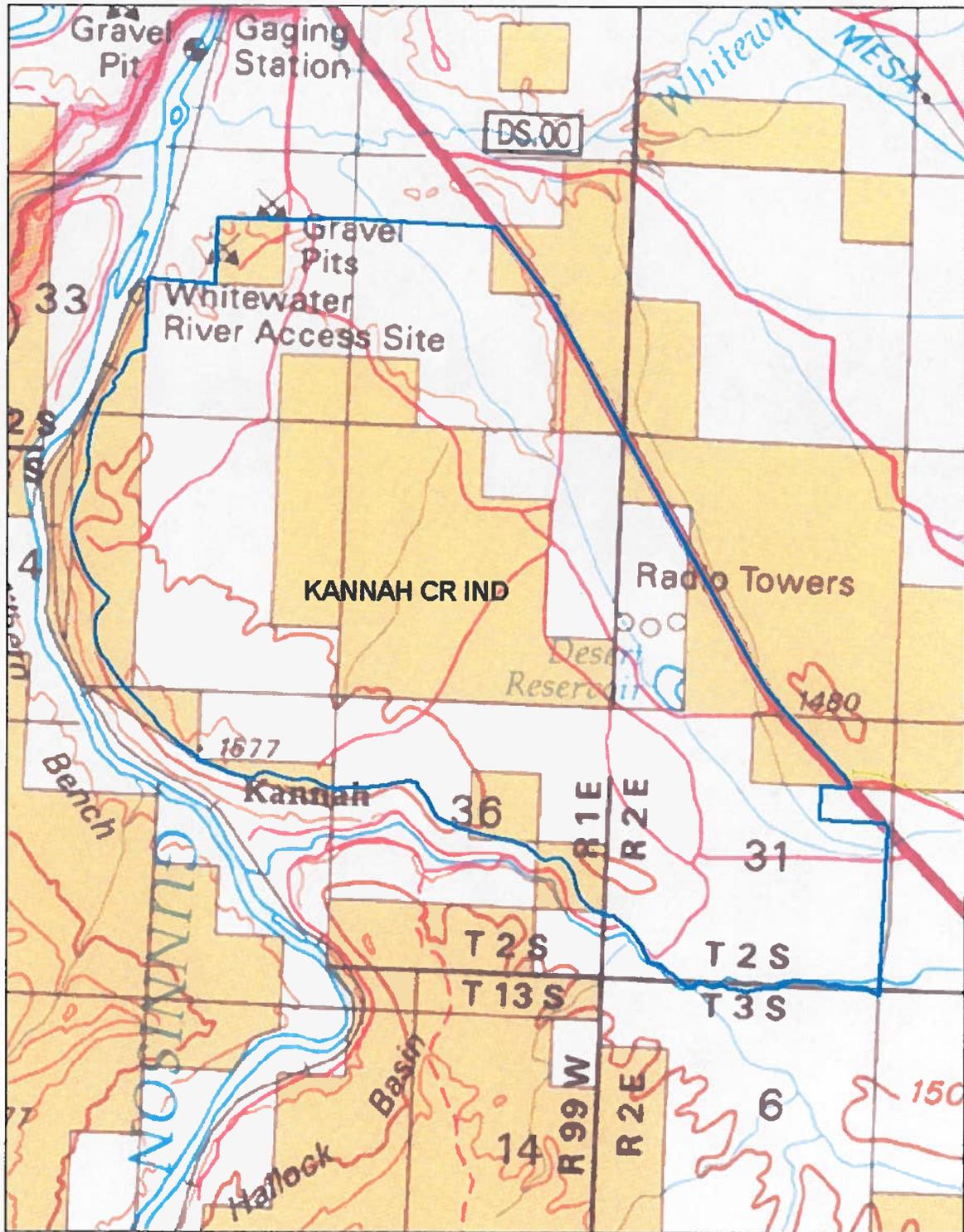
PLANNING UNIT: Whitewater, CO

APPLICANT: Sally M. Smith

ISSUES AND CONCERNS: An environmental assessment #CO-GJFO-02-73-EA was completed in 2002 for the grazing permit renewal of Sally Smith's grazing permit (#0507143) for Kannah Creek Individual (#06207). The term for this permit was for ten years starting on October 1, 2002 to September 30, 2012. The Kannah Creek Individual allotment is a Custodial, "C" category allotment based on a low percentage of public lands and no major current issues.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION:
Sec. 24 and 25 T2S, R1 E Ute PM
See Map below

Allotment Map



DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION

The proposed action is to approve Sally Smith's application for grazing permit renewal on the Kannah Creek Individual Allotment (#06207), grazing permit number #0507143. A new permit will be issued to Sally Smith for the Kannah Creek Individual Allotment for a period of ten years. The new permit will authorize the same grazing use as the previous permit and no changes in grazing use are proposed. The term of the new ten year Grazing Permit would be from October 1, 2012 to September 30, 2022.

The proposed grazing schedule is as follows:

Allotment/#	Livestock Number	Livestock Kind	Grazing Period		%PL	Type Use	AUMs
			ON	OFF			
Kannah Creek Individual	18	C	9/01	2/28	100	A	107

%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/calf pair or its equivalent for a period of one month.

Allotment Summary:

Allotment	Federal Acres	Private Acres	Animal Unit Months (AUMs)		
			Active	Suspended	Total
Kannah Creek Common	1150	0	107	0	107

Terms and Conditions on the Grazing Permit would be:

1. Livestock grazing utilization levels shall not exceed 40% during the growing season and 50% during the dormant period. If utilization levels are approaching allowable use, livestock will be required to be moved to areas within the pasture or to other pastures that are not approaching allowable use levels. When such areas are not available, livestock will be removed from the allotment when allowable use rates are met. Management adjustments will be made the following year to avoid recurring instances of over utilization.
2. To allow for variations in climate, plant growth conditions, and flexibility in permittee livestock operations, the BLM may adjust the authorized grazing period by up to two weeks on either end of the permitted grazing period only if the majority of the grazing area is meeting Land Health Standards.
3. Temporary Non-renewable (TNR) or Adaptive Use may be approved by the authorized BLM officer if additional forage, such as annuals are deemed available within the authorized grazing period and the vast majority of the grazing area is meeting Land Health Standards.
4. Use supervision checks by BLM staff will be conducted to assure grazing compliance. The Grand Junction Field Office will be 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.

5. 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. An example includes but not limited to cleaning of ponds with heavy equipment, which would involve soil surface disturbance.
6. Permittees or leasees 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.
7. This permit is subject to change if results from a land a health assessment conclude that the Standards for Rangeland Health are not being met and livestock grazing is determined to be the cause.
8. It is the responsibility of the permittee to inform all persons associated with work on federal lands subject to the permit that would be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts.
9. Surface disturbing range improvements associated with the allotment (e.g., fences, ponds) are subject to compliance requirements under Section 106 and will undergo standard cultural resources inventory and evaluation procedures.
10. 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.
11. Additional standard terms and conditions can be found on the signature page of the Grazing Permit. The permittee shall submit an Actual Use form within 15 days after completing their annual grazing use as outlined in 43 CFR 4130.3-2(d).
12. 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.
13. Surface disturbing range improvements associated with the allotment (e.g., fences, ponds) are subject to compliance requirements under Section 106 and will undergo standard cultural resources inventory and evaluation procedures.

14. 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).
15. 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.

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:

Name of Document: Kannah Creek Individual Permit Renewal (#06207)
CO-GJFO-02-73-EA

Date Approved: August 21, 2002

NEPA ADEQUACY CRITERIA:

1. Is the Proposed Action substantially the same action and at the site specifically analyzed in an existing document? *The Permit to be issued has exactly the same grazing schedules and permit requirements as analyzed in the existing documents.*
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 to allow grazing on public lands in a responsible manner that is compatible with Standards for Public Land Health.

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 2002 prior to permit renewal.*
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 2002 was acceptable and no new information has come forward.*
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 2002 document was completely appropriate for development of the proposed action.*
6. Are the direct and indirect impacts of the Proposed Action unchanged from those identified in the existing NEPA document? *The direct and indirect impacts are unchanged from the existing NEPA document in that changing the operator and maintaining the same grazing schedules and Permit terms and conditions maintain consistency.*
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 remain unchanged. The parent document did not find any cumulative impacts.*
8. Is the public involvement and interagency review associated with the existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the Proposed Action? *Public involvement was conducted through the NEPA log process, which is accessible to the public, 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 Plant and Animal Species	JT 7/31/12
Anna Lincoln	Ecologist/Special Status Species	JT 7/31/12
Alissa Leavitt-Reynolds	Archaeologist	ALR 8/16/12

Nate Dieterich	Hydrologist (Water/Soil/Air Resources)	6/28/12
Sparky Taber	Natural Resource Spec. (Weeds)	6/27/12
Alan Kraus	Hazardous Materials Program Coord.	7/31/12

REMARKS:

Cultural Resources and Native American Religious Concerns:

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). This information was not available in the 2002 assessment for this allotment and would not have been applied during NEPA for any of the permit renewals.

A file search for this allotment was completed for this allotment as part of the 2009 synthesis. The allotment assessed by this document is in Physiographic Unit E along the lowland benches of the Gunnison River south of Whitewater (2009:48). The physiographic unit has been modified from the 2003 synthesis, and now includes the Uncompahgre Plateau south of the Gunnison River to the Forest Service Boundary and west dividing Unit B and Unit E at the public private land boundary from the East and West Creek Divide, north to Snyder Flats and Ladder Canyon to the Colorado Canyons Monument Boundary. By 2009 twenty four allotments had been previously evaluated and approximately 40,400 acres or 18.5 percent of the allotments have had cultural resource inventory completed on BLM lands. Based on previous inventory the average site/acre ratio in this area is 1:43 (2009:50).

Since the initial evaluation of this allotment in 2002, additional cultural surveys have been identified (BLM GJFO CRIR 797-01, ME.CH.R8, 1096-09, 1189-16, 1190-29, 1190-30 and 1190-31). All but approximately 50 of the 1106 federal acres in the allotment have been covered by previous surveys. The surveys in this allotment have revealed 29 isolated finds and 20 cultural resource sites. Overall cultural resource density (site or isolate/acres) in this allotment is 1:37 and cultural resource sites are 1:92 (site/acres). The overall cultural resource density is comparable with the expected density of 1:43 for this physiographic unit.

Most of the cultural resources in this allotment are prehistoric open camps or sheltered camps or open lithic sites. Many of the cultural resources are located on private land. Eleven of the sites have been determined or recommended not eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), three have been recommended potentially eligible "needs data" and four are currently unevaluated for NRHP register eligibility and two sites are recommended as eligible to the NRHP.

Aerial photos indicate that the public lands at the west end of the allotment are sparse pinyon-juniper woodland. This environment has a moderate potential for cultural resources but because of the lack of grass understory these are not areas where cattle concentrate. There are no known BLM managed ponds or water hauling locations within the allotment that would cause cattle concentration. The number of cattle and the duration of grazing are low so significant impacts should not be directly attributed to the renewal of this permit. No further work or additional consultation is recommended at this time.

Native American Religious Concerns: Grand Junction Field Office has consulted with the Uinta and Ouray Agency Ute Indian Tribe and the Southern Ute Indian Tribe for grazing permit renewals since 1999. This consultation included allotments adjacent to those addressed in the current document. No response was received. In 2002 the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe was included in the consultations. The Southern Ute Indian Tribe was the only tribe to respond to the 2002 letter, indicating that there were no concerns with the grazing permit renewals. The cultural resource evaluations for all 2003 grazing permit renewals, and a map showing the allotment locations, was sent to the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, and the Uinta and Ouray Agency Ute Indian Tribe (Northern Ute), requesting the tribes to identify issues and areas of concern. The Grazing Permit renewals were also brought forward at an information meeting in the Fall of 2002 with both the Northern and Southern Ute. Correspondence was followed by phone calls to the Cultural Resource Directors. Based on the results of the current literature review, there is no other known evidence that suggests that the continued grazing of this allotment will impact areas or sites that hold special significance for Native Americans. No additional consultation was conducted.

ALR 8/16/12

Weeds: The conditions in the permit, if followed, should provide for a healthy plant community capable of providing competition against noxious weed invasion. The permittee should be proactive in reporting weed invasions to the BLM range and weed staff in order for the BLM programs to implement an Early Detection and Rapid Response strategy.

MT 6/27/12

Water/Soil/Air Resources: The terms and conditions of the existing/proposed permit are adequate to protect water quality, soil health, and air quality. No further analysis is necessary.

ND 6/28/2012

Riparian and Wetland: Kannah Creek runs through the southeast portion of the grazing allotment on private property. Terms and conditions developed in the 2002 EA along with winter grazing and low grazing intensity would project the riparian zone along Kannah Creek.

CARS 7/13/12

Threatened Endangered, and Sensitive Species: The only threatened, endangered, or sensitive species that is present in the allotment is the Colorado Hookless Cactus. It is known at one location on private land within the allotment; surveys have not been done on the public lands. Grazing will be conducted according to conservation measures described in **Programmatic Biological Assessment: Effects to listed plant species from the Bureau of Land Management livestock grazing program: Colorado hookless cactus, Clay-loving wild buckwheat, and Debeque phacelia**, (BIO-Logic, 2012).

Land Health: This allotment has not had a formal Land Health assessment completed. Recent monitoring (2001 & 2011) indicates low diversity of native vegetation, as expected for the site. Most common native species include galleta, shadscale, ricegrass, hedgehog and prickly pear cactus. Invasive species, including halogeton, cheatgrass, and annual wheatgrass are present but not dominant. The land health status is likely meeting, or meeting with problems (low native plant diversity and weeds).

Wildlife: Monitoring information shows some mule deer use in 2001, but very little in 2011.
 JT 7/31/12

Resources	Not Present On Location	No Impact	Potentially Impacted	Mitigation necessary	Comments included in DNA text	BLM Evaluator Initial & Date
PHYSICAL RESOURCES						
Air and Climate	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ND 6/28/12
Geological	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	JAM 8/2/12
Mineral Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	JAM 8/2/12
Soils	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ND 6/28/12
Water (surface & subsurface, floodplains)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ND 6/28/12
Invasive, Non-native Species	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MT 6/27/12
Sensitive Species		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	JT 7/31/12
Threatened or Endangered Species		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	JT 7/31/12
Vegetation, Forestry	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	JAM 6/21/12
Wetlands/Riparian Zones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	CARS 7/13/12
Wildlife	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	JT 7/31/12
Cultural or Historical	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ALR 8/16/12
Paleontological	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	JAM 8/2/12
Tribal & American Indian Religious Concerns	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ALR 8/16/12
Visual Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	CPP 7/30/12
Social	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	JAM 7/31/12
Economic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	JAM 7/31/12
Environmental Justice	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	JAM 7/31/12
Transportation and Access	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	CPP 7/30/12
Wastes, Hazardous or Solid	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AEK 7/31/12
Prime or Unique Farmlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	JAM 7/31/12
Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	CPP 7/30/12
Special Designations (ACEC, SMAs etc.)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	CPP 7/30/12
Wild and Scenic Rivers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	CPP 7/30/12
Wilderness	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	CPP 7/30/12
Range Management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	JAM 6/21/12
Wild Horse and Burros	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	JAM 7/31/12
Land Tenure, ROW, Other Uses	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	RBL 8/2/12

NAME OF PREPARER: Jacob A. Martin - RMS

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Collin Ewing

DATE: 8/2/12

CONCLUSION

DOI-BLM-CO-130-2012-0045-DNA

Grazing Permit Renewal for Sally Smith on the Kannah Creek Individual Allotment (06207)

 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 worksheet is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal decision process and does not constitute an appealable decision.

REVIEW OF EXISTING NEPA DOCUMENTS:

Name of Document: Kannah Creek Individual Permit Renewal (06207)
CO-GJFO-02-73-EA

Date Approved: August 21, 2002

SIGNATURE OF RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL:

Wayne W. H.
for GRAND JUNCTION, Field Manager

DATE SIGNED: 8-21-12