

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
White River Field Office
73544 Hwy 64
Meeker, CO 81641**

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

NUMBER: CO-110-2005-111-EA

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER: Devil's Hole (06629)

PROJECT NAME: Grazing Permit Renewal for Scott and Katherine Hert (0501475)

LOCATION OF PROPOSED ACTION: Rio Blanco County

LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

Allotment			Legal Description		
Number	Name	BLM Acres	Township	Range	Section(s)/Lots/or Portions of
06629	Devil's Hole	120	2N	94W	Sec 17

APPLICANT: Scott and Katherine Hert (0501475)

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES:

Background/Introduction: The Devil's Hole allotment is located approximately 7 miles north of Meeker and is generally bordered by county roads 7 and 9 in Rio Blanco County. The allotment was established in 1987 through a base property transfer from the Horlock Land and Cattle Company (previously part of the Cabin Gulch Allotment) for 20 animal unit months (AUMs) active preference to 200 acres of deeded land; the 20 AUMs were for 120 acres of adjoining BLM land. The historic season of use was from May 23 through September 30 but in 1995 it was changed to June 15 through September 15. In 1996 Scott and Katherine Hert acquired the base property and completed a transfer for the 20 AUMs. Herts rested the allotment from livestock grazing for one year to provide a re-growth and recovery period for the native vegetation.

This small allotment is entirely fenced as one pasture with all BLM land in the northeast corner. A small artesian well-fed pond is located in the southern third of the allotment providing a permanent water source for the entire allotment. Another pond is located in the center third of the allotment on private land but appears to only hold water occasionally. The longest distance livestock have to travel to water is 0.8 of a mile. Precipitation in this area averages from 12 -16 inches. The growing season, and more than 50 percent of the annual precipitation, occurs between April 1 and September 30. Elevation in this allotment ranges from 6600 to 6800 feet. Associated vegetation communities include big sage and grassy swales, and pinyon-juniper,

gamble oak slopes. A steep rocky ridge in the extreme northeast corner of the allotment is inaccessible to livestock and is currently fenced out of the allotment.

The White River Field Office (WRFO) has categorized all grazing allotments into three management categories that define management intensity: (1) Improve, (2) Custodial, and (3) Maintain. The categories define rangeland management objectives broadly in response to analysis of each allotment’s resource characteristics, potential, opportunities, and needs. The Devil’s Hole allotment has been categorized as Custodial, having no significant problems, issues and/or resource conflicts. The current grazing schedule for this allotment is satisfactory but calculated AUMs on BLM lands have been adjusted resulting in a decrease in overall use. The tables below are a breakdown the acreages by land status within the Devil’s Hole Allotment.

Breakdown of Total Acres within the Devil’s Hole Allotment (06629)					
Allotment		BLM Acres	State Acres	Private Acres	Total Acres
Name	No.				
Devil’s Hole	06629	120	0	206	326

A. Proposed Action (Allotment Management Plan): Renew the grazing permit of Scott and Katherine Hert (0501475) for a ten year period as outlined in the proposed grazing permit table below. The grazing schedule will be incorporated into the grazing permit and will also function as an Allotment Management Plan (AMP). A Term and Condition on the permit will require the permittee to follow the prescribed grazing schedule within the limits of flexibility as outlined in this Environmental Assessment (EA). Active AUMs have been adjusted to more accurately reflect the carrying capacity of the rangelands and assure that the Standards for Public Land Health (Standards) are met on public lands within this allotment.

The proposed grazing schedule was discussed with and agreed to by the grazing permittee (Scott Hert). This grazing schedule meets the requirements established by the White River ROD/RMP. Objectives of this AMP are to:

- Maintain or enhance a healthy rangeland vegetation composition and species diversity capable of supplying forage at a sustained yield to meet the current forage demands for livestock and wildlife.
- Provide for adequate forage plant growth and or re-growth opportunities necessary to replenish plants’ food reserves and produce sufficient seed to meet the reproduction needs necessary to maintain an ecological presence in the plant community.
- Establish a grazing system where the permittee can graze livestock in this allotment with a strategy that provides for plant growth requirements and provides for the most economical use of all forage resources available to the ranch operation.

Proposed Grazing Permit (0501475) for Devil’s Hole Allotment										
Allotment		Livestock		Date		% PL	BLM AUMs	Active AUMs	Susp. AUMs	Total AUMs
Name	No.	Number	Kind	On	Off					
Devil’s Hole	06629	15	C	06/15	09/14	36%	16	16	0	16

The proposed action also includes the relocation of a previously undocumented fence across the northeast corner of the allotment. This project is detailed in the Range Improvement section below. The percent public land (%PL), which is the percentage of BLM AUMs in relation to total AUMs (BLM, and private AUMs combined), was recalculated for the allotment. Advances in technology (e.g. computer calculations using ArcView and Excel spreadsheets) produced more accurate forage allocation based on land ownership, allowed the adjustment in percent public land (See Range section of this document). Previously the %PL had been 30% but has been recalculated to 36%. Based on more accurate ecological site and forage allocation analysis, calculated livestock carrying capacity has also been reduced by 8 AUMs to reflect a more accurate and sustainable stocking rate.

Plan of Operation:

Each year, thirty days prior to turnout in the Devil's Hole allotment, the permittee will submit a plan of operation (grazing application) for the grazing year to the BLM for approval. The plan of operation will include the anticipated turnout dates and numbers of animals.

Limits of Flexibility:

In order to adjust to changing climatic conditions, forage availability and operational needs, the permittee will be allowed some flexibility from the submitted plan of operation during the grazing year that will not require prior approval from BLM. This flexibility will be limited to flexibility of the on or off dates (up to 10 days) and number of animals (+/- 10%) provided the total number AUMs used does not exceed the total number of AUMs scheduled. Flexibilities requiring approval by the BLM are adjustments made beyond the above criteria. BLM approved flexibilities and/or changes to this plan may be required due to forage conditions, drought, fire, and/or water availability. The BLM may also adjust this plan in order to meet Standards (e.g. when utilization levels reach 50 percent, cattle will be removed and adjustments will be made to future stocking levels accordingly).

Rangeland Improvements Necessary to Implement the Grazing System:

There is currently a discrepancy between the established allotment boundary and an undocumented fence line across the northeast corner of the allotment. This fence does not meet BLM fence height or wire spacing standards for big game habitat and its origin is unknown. In meetings with the affected permittees it was cooperatively agreed to relocate this fence to approximately 210 yards northeast of its present location to incorporate all usable rangeland into the Devil's Hole allotment. Relocating the fence was determined to be the best compromise in order to meet the livestock access needs of the adjoining grazing allotment while maximizing the usable acreage within the Devil's Hole allotment; however, the new fence location will still not match the exact established allotment boundary. The fence will be built to meet BLM fencing standards for big game habitat. It will then become a BLM approved range improvement and will be under a cooperative maintenance agreement. Maintenance responsibilities will be shared between the two affected grazing permittees. A map of the allotment and the proposed fence location is attached at the end of this document.

No other rangeland improvements are planned in order to implement the proposed grazing schedule. If future evaluations identify necessary improvements, a separate environmental

assessment would be completed and approved on a project specific basis. The artesian well-fed pond on private land provides a permanent and reliable water source for the entire allotment.

Monitoring and Evaluation:

Previously there were no trend sites within the Devil's Hole Allotment. Two repeatable photo plots, and one repeatable Daubenmire transect to measure ground cover and frequency have been established in 2005. The study site was located in a key area to monitor livestock grazing use. This study site was established under protocol developed in the *Grazing Allotment Monitoring Plan for the White River Resource Area*. The trend plot will be re-read in 4-5 years (2009, 2010), and/or in 9-10 years (2014, 2015), prior to the future renewal of the grazing permit in 2015. Reading trend studies by BLM staff in the future will be partially dependent on workload capabilities and priorities.

Grazing Permit Terms and Conditions:

The following terms and conditions as required by 43 CFR 4130.3 would be included in the grazing permit issued under this alternative:

1. The permittee or lessee must provide reasonable administrative access across private and leased lands to the BLM for the orderly management and protection of the public lands, as outlined 43 CFR 4130.3-2(h).
2. It is unlawful for the permittee, agents or employees to knowingly disturb or collect cultural, historical or paleontological materials on public lands. If cultural, historical or paleontological materials are found, including human remains, funerary items or objects of cultural patrimony, the permittee is to stop activities that might disturb such materials, and notify the authorized officer immediately.
3. No grazing use can be authorized under this grazing permit/lease during any period of delinquency in the payment of amounts due in settlement for unauthorized grazing use.
4. Grazing use authorized under this grazing permit/lease may be suspended, in whole or in part, for violation by the permittee/lessee of any of the provisions of the rules or regulations now or hereafter approved by the Secretary of the Interior.
5. This grazing permit/lease is subject to cancellation, in whole or in part, at any time because of:
 - a. Noncompliance by the permittee/lessee with rules and regulations now or hereafter approved by the Secretary of the Interior.
 - b. Loss of control by the permittee/lessee of all or a part of the property upon which it is based.
 - c. A transfer of grazing preference by the permittee/lessee to another party.
 - d. A decrease in the lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management within the allotment(s) described herein.
 - e. Repeated willful unauthorized grazing use.

B. Continuation of Current Management Alternative: This alternative would renew the expiring permit for a period of 10 years with no changes made in livestock kind, numbers, season of use, or type of use (active, suspended, nonuse). Livestock grazing would continue as permitted based upon the following schedule.

Current Grazing Permit (0501475) for Devil's Hole Allotment										
Allotment		Livestock		Date		% PL	BLM AUMs	Active AUMs	Susp. AUMs	Total AUMs
Name	No.	Number	Kind	On	Off					
Devil's Hole	06629	22	C	06/15	09/14	30%	20	20	0	20

C. No Action Alternative: The No Action alternative consists of not issuing a grazing permit for livestock use. There would be no livestock grazing on public lands within the allotment on which it is currently permitted. This alternative would not be in compliance with the RMP decision to provide for livestock grazing as one of the acceptable multiple uses.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT NOT CARRIED FORWARD: none

NEED FOR THE ACTION: BLM grazing permit (0501475), which authorizes grazing on the Devil's Hole allotment (#06629) expires on February 28, 2006. This permit is subject to renewal or transfer at the discretion of the Secretary of the Interior for a period of up to ten years. The Bureau of Land Management has the authority to renew the livestock grazing permit/lease consistent with the provisions of the *Taylor Grazing Act, Public Rangelands Improvement Act, Federal Land Policy and Management Act and the White River Resource area Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement*. The grazing permittee has a preference right to receive the permits, which is recognized as a primary use under the land use plan, the White River Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan. In order to graze livestock on public land, the livestock producer (permittee) must hold a grazing permit.

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

Name of Plan: White River Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (ROD/RMP).

Date Approved: July 1, 1997

Decision Number/Page: pages 2-22 through 2-26

Decision Language: Livestock grazing will be managed as described in the 1981 Rangeland Program Summary (RPS). That document is the Record of Decision for the 1981 White River Grazing Management Final Environmental Impact Statement (Grazing EIS). The proposed action implements the Resource Management Plan Livestock Grazing management objective found on page 2-22 through 2-26:

- to maintain or enhance a healthy rangeland vegetative composition and species diversity, capable of supplying forage at a sustained yield to meet the demand for livestock grazing, and

- to provide for adequate forage plant growth and/or regrowth opportunity necessary to: 1) replenish plants' food reserves; and 2) produce sufficient seed to meet the reproduction needs necessary to maintain an ecological presence in the plant community. This objective will be accomplished by developing a grazing program which allows for the forage plants' requirements for growth and reproduction.

Also as stated on page 2-10, the goal of the livestock management program is to improve the rangeland forage resource by managing toward a desired plant community. "In the future, allotment categorization, levels of management, and permit modifications could be made if additional information suggests that this is warranted in order to achieve or make significant progress toward achieving the Colorado Standards for Rangeland Health" (43 CFR 4180).

The proposed action has been reviewed for conformance with this plan (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM 1617.3).

COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 302 OF FLPMA RELATIVE TO THE COMB WASH GRAZING DECISION: A review of applicable planning documents and a thoughtful consideration of the new issues and new demands for the use of the public lands involved with these allotments have been made. This analysis concludes that the current multiple use allocation of resources is appropriate.

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT / ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES / MITIGATION MEASURES:

STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC LAND HEALTH: In January 1997, Colorado Bureau of Land Management (BLM) approved the Standards for Public Land Health. These Standards cover upland soils, riparian systems, plant and animal communities, threatened and endangered species, and water quality. Standards describe conditions needed to sustain public land health and relate to all uses of the public lands. Because a standard exists for these five categories, a finding must be made for each of them in an environmental analysis. These findings are located in specific elements listed below:

STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC LAND HEALTH Devil's Hole Allotment (06629)							
Standard	Current Situation			With Proposed Action		With No Grazing	
	Acres Achieving or Moving Towards Achieving	Acres Not Achieving	Causative Factors	Acres Achieving or Moving Towards Achieving	Acres Not Achieving	Acres Achieving or Moving Towards Achieving	Acres Not Achieving
#1-Upland Soils							
	111	9	Historic grazing practices (cheatgrass)	120	0	120	0
#2-Riparian Systems							
	n/a	n/a	No riparian	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC LAND HEALTH Devil's Hole Allotment (06629)							
Standard	Current Situation			With Proposed Action		With No Grazing	
	Acres Achieving or Moving Towards Achieving	Acres Not Achieving	Causative Factors	Acres Achieving or Moving Towards Achieving	Acres Not Achieving	Acres Achieving or Moving Towards Achieving	Acres Not Achieving
#3-Plant Communities							
	111	9	Historic grazing practices (cheatgrass)	120	0	120	0
#3-Animal Communities							
	111	9	Historic grazing practices (cheatgrass)	120	0	120	0
#4-Special Status, T&E Species							
	n/a	n/a	No T&E species inhabit the allotment	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
#5-Water Quality (stream miles)							
	~0.6	0	N/A	~0.6	0	~0.6	0

CRITICAL ELEMENTS

AIR QUALITY

Affected Environment: The entire White River RA has been designated as either attainment or unclassified for all pollutants, and most of the area has been designated prevention of significant deterioration (PSD) class II. The proposed grazing permit renewal is not located within a 20 mile radius of any special designated air-sheds or non-attainment areas.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: No adverse environmental consequences are anticipated from implementation of the proposed grazing permit renewal.

Environmental Consequences of the Continuation of Current Management Alternative: No adverse environmental consequences are anticipated from the continuation of current management alternative.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: None

Mitigation: None

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Affected Environment: There are no recorded cultural resource sites on this allotment. A Class III pedestrian survey on 120 acres was completed. No cultural resources were found.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: None

Environmental Consequences of the Continuation of Current Management Alternative:
None

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: None

Mitigation: The operator is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project 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 uncovered during any project or construction activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities in the immediate area of the find that might further disturb such materials, and immediately contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the operator as to:

- whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places
- the mitigation measures the operator will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary)
- a timeframe for the AO to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800-11 to confirm, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, that the findings of the AO are correct and that mitigation is appropriate.

If the operator wishes, at any time, to relocate activities to avoid the expense of mitigation and/or the delays associated with this process, the AO will assume responsibility for whatever recordation and stabilization of the exposed materials may be required. Otherwise, the operator will be responsible for mitigation cost. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation. Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the operator will then be allowed to resume construction.

2. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g) the holder of this authorization must notify the AO, 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.

INVASIVE, NON-NATIVE SPECIES

Affected Environment: Cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) is a non-native, invasive species present to some extent in the clayey foothill plant communities in the Devil's Hole allotment but it is not dominant. Historic grazing practices such as continuous grazing season use at heavy stocking rates contributed to the presence cheatgrass within the native plant communities. While noxious weed species readily invade rangelands at all seral stages, the rate and extent of invasion would be less for mid and late-seral rangelands which have a vigorous, competitive complement of perennial grasses and forbs. There are no known infestations of Colorado listed noxious

weeds located on BLM administered lands within this allotment. There are small infestations of Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) and bull thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*) around the ponds on private land.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed action of implementing a grazing schedule with a moderate stocking rate has the best potential to maximize vigor and improve reproductive potential of the native grass component on the ecological sites involved. It is likely that livestock grazing at this level will not promote or accelerate the rate or extent of cheatgrass invasion. The grazing permittee has been made aware of the small infestations of Canada thistle and bull thistle and has implemented control measures. Given the limited extent of these infestations, complete eradication is expected. Noxious and invasive weed management would continue to take place on an active basis as the grazing permittee would maintain treatment efforts.

Environmental Consequences of the Continuation of Current Management Alternative: Based on current analysis of the grazing capacity for this allotment, livestock grazing permitted at the existing level exceeds the sustainable rangeland carrying capacity. Under this alternative if livestock grazing was to occur at the current permitted level negative impacts would be likely on potentially vulnerable ecological sites. Close monitoring of utilization levels would be critical to assure that livestock were removed before desirable forage species were over-utilized, especially in key areas. Under this alternative if the native plant community were repeatedly subjected to heavy utilization the likelihood of noxious weed establishment and the spread of cheatgrass would be greater. The permittee would continue to serve as the primary monitor for and control of noxious weeds.

Environmental Consequences of the No Grazing Alternative: The no grazing alternative would allow full growth potential of perennial grasses resulting in a robust plant community resistant to invasion of invasive, noxious or non-native species. However without the grazing permittee actively monitoring BLM administered lands there is greater potential for undesirable plant populations to avoid detection and spread.

Mitigation: None

MIGRATORY BIRDS

Affected Environment: Vegetation communities within the BLM portion of the Devil's Hole allotment are comprised of Wyoming big sagebrush, early to mid-successional pinyon-juniper and an herbaceous understory consisting of crested wheatgrass, Kentucky bluegrass, June grass, and western wheatgrass with low densities of cheatgrass interspersed throughout. These communities typically provide nesting habitat for a large array of migratory birds during the breeding season (May, June and July). Those bird populations identified as having higher conservation interest (i.e., Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, Partners in Flight program) that are commonly found in these habitats include Brewer's sparrow in the shrublands and juniper titmouse, black-throated gray warbler and green-tailed towhee in the woodlands. None of the species associated with these communities are narrowly restricted in abundance, distribution, or habitat preference.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Although the proposed grazing schedule coincides with a portion of the breeding season, it is unlikely this action would reduce the extent or quality of habitat available for migratory bird breeding functions. Inspections conducted in September 2005 indicated incidental livestock use on the BLM portion of the allotment, due in part to the lack of water. Use tends to be concentrated near the water source which is located on private land. While some of the more common species (e.g., meadowlark, Vesper's sparrow) may utilize these areas for nesting purposes, most of the species of higher conservation interest are found in mountain shrub habitats, in areas that are not heavily utilized by livestock. The allotment itself represents a small portion of habitat that is available for breeding functions within the resource area.

Environmental Consequences of the Continuation of Current Management Alternative: Slow community improvements (e.g., ground cover, native species composition) associated with the continuation of current grazing practices would have little influence on the abundance or distribution of breeding migratory birds over the course of this permit.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: The effects of livestock removal on this allotment's vegetation resources as forage and cover for migratory birds would not be expected to differ markedly from the proposed action. The most prominent difference would likely result in minor increases in the amount of herbaceous groundcover, which in turn would result in increased numbers of species such as meadowlark and Vesper's sparrow, which are widely represented in the resource area.

Mitigation: None

THREATENED, ENDANGERED, AND SENSITIVE ANIMAL SPECIES (includes a finding on Standard 4)

Affected Environment: There are no threatened, endangered or sensitive animal species that inhabit or derive important benefit from the Devil's Hole allotment.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed action would have no conceivable affect on animals listed, proposed, candidate, or petitioned for listing under the Endangered Species Act. Similarly, there are no animals considered sensitive by BLM that would be potentially influenced by this action.

Environmental Consequences of the Continuation of Current Management Alternative: Impacts would be the same as the proposed alternative.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: None

Mitigation: None

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for Threatened & Endangered species: The proposed and no-action alternative would have no effective influence on special status species or associated habitat and would, therefore, have no potential to influence the status of applicable land health standards.

WASTES, HAZARDOUS OR SOLID

Affected Environment: There are no known hazardous or other solid wastes on the subject lands.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: No hazardous wastes would be generated. Small quantities of solid could be potentially be generated by day to day operations.

Environmental Consequences of the Continuation of Current Management Alternative: No hazardous wastes would be generated. Small quantities of solid waste could be potentially be generated by day to day operations.

Environmental Consequences of the No Grazing Alternative: None

Mitigation: The permittee shall be required to collect and properly dispose of any solid wastes generated by the proposed action.

WATER QUALITY, SURFACE AND GROUND (includes a finding on Standard 5)

Affected Environment: The proposed grazing permit renewal is located entirely within the Strawberry Creek watershed. Sub-drainages within the allotment boundaries include Strawberry Gulch and Devil's Hole Gulch, both are ephemeral drainages. Strawberry Creek is situated in stream segment 9a of the White River Basin.

A review of the Colorado's 1989 Nonpoint Source Assessment Report (plus updates), the 305(b) report, the 303(d) list, the White River Resource Area RMP, and the Unified Watershed Assessment was done to see if any water quality concerns have been identified. Stream segment 9a of the White River basin is defined as all tributaries to the White River, including all wetlands, from the confluence of the North and South Forks to a point immediately above the confluence with Piceance Creek, which are not within the boundary of national forest lands, except for the specific listings in segments 9b and 10b. Segment 9a has been designated as "Use Protected". The state has classified stream segment 9a as beneficial for the following uses: Cold Aquatic Life 2, Recreation 2, Water Supply, and Agriculture. The antidegradation review requirements in the Antidegradation Rule are not applicable to waters designated use-protected. For those waters, only the protection specified in each reach will apply. Minimum standards for four parameters have been listed, these parameters are: dissolved oxygen = 6.0 mg/l, pH = 6.5 - 9.0, Fecal Coliform = 2000/100 ml, and 630/100 ml E. coli.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Reductions in vegetal cover due to grazing (and drought conditions) may leave soils exposed to erosional processes increasing sedimentation to lower reaches of the affected watersheds. However, with implementation of the proposed grazing permit no adverse environmental consequences are anticipated.

Environmental Consequences of the Continuation of Current Management Alternative: Under the continuation of current management alternative livestock grazing on BLM lands is

permitted at 22 AUMs. This is above the calculated rangeland carrying capacity. If grazing were to occur at this level there is high potential for negative impacts resulting in degradation of the rangelands. This degradation contributes to erosion and water quality problems. Typically, annual runoff is dynamic and dependent aspects we control, such as the amount of vegetation retained for watershed protection and vegetation density. Depleting the vegetation cover needed to protect watersheds from raindrop impact and runoff could cause long-term erosion and water quality problems for these tributaries of Strawberry Creek and the White River.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: The no grazing alternative would help increase water quality within the permit area by sustaining sufficient amounts of ground cover. Increased ground cover (vegetation and litter accumulation) will reduce surface erosion and sedimentation to lower portions of the affected watersheds.

Mitigation: Compliance monitoring for vegetation improvement to identify if additional actions are needed to comply with the *Clean Water Act*.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for water quality: Currently the White River meets the Public Land Health Standard and would continue to do so with the implementation of the proposed action.

CRITICAL ELEMENTS NOT PRESENT OR NOT AFFECTED:

No ACEC’s, flood plains, prime and unique farmlands, wetlands and riparian zones, wilderness, or wild and scenic rivers, nor do any threatened, endangered or sensitive plants exist within the area affected by the proposed action. For threatened, endangered and sensitive plant species Public Land Health Standard is not applicable since neither the proposed nor the no-action alternative would have any influence on populations of, or habitats potentially occupied by, special status plants. There are also no Native American religious or environmental justice concerns associated with the proposed action.

NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS

The following elements **must** be addressed due to the involvement of Standards for Public Land Health:

SOILS (includes a finding on Standard 1)

Affected Environment: Soils analyzed in this document are presented in the Soil Survey of Rio Blanco County, published by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). The Soil Survey delineates individual soil unit polygons and associated ecological sites. The table below is derived from the Rio Blanco County Soil Survey and is a breakdown of the individual soil units and associated ecological sites on BLM administered lands.

Devil’s Hole Allotment 06629		
Soil Unit	Ecological Site	BLM Acres

Devil's Hole Allotment 06629		
Soil Unit	Ecological Site	BLM Acres
Arbor Clay Loam, 5-30% slopes	Clayey Foothills	113
Rentsac-Moyerson-Rock Outcrop, Complex, 5-65% slopes	PJ Woodlands/Clayey Slopes	7
Total:		120

Soils with plant communities rated as a mid-seral, late-seral, or PNC (Potential Natural Community) have sufficient cover of desirable plant species to produce adequate litter and ground cover to minimize runoff and provide for soil protection (refer to the Vegetation section below). These soils are meeting the Colorado Public Land Health Standard for upland soils. The Devil's Hole Allotment has 111 BLM acres (92.5%) achieving or moving toward achieving the Standards (refer to Vegetation section below). These 111 acres currently meet the requirements to maintain soil integrity and structure through adequate vegetative ground cover.

Soils that have been rated as not meeting Standards account for 9 BLM acres (7.5%) (See table below). The condition of these acres is related to historic grazing practices that led to establishment of cheatgrass within the native bunchgrass plant community in the clayey foothills ecological sites. Overall, under the proposed action the current plant community structure and ground cover on these sites is expected to gradually improve to provide adequate soil protection.

Devil's Hole Allotment Acres not Meeting Standards		
Soil Unit	Ecological Site	BLM Acres
Arbor Clay Loam, 5-30% slopes	Clayey Foothills	9
Totals:		9

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Ground cover of native perennial plant species and litter accumulation are central to the protection and stabilization of soils. Livestock management under the proposed action would continue to allow critical growing season rest and re-growth opportunities resulting in adequate surface litter accumulation, plant canopy cover, and ground cover. Lands currently meeting land health standards (111 acres) will not be appreciably influenced by the proposed action. On soils with late-seral or PNC plant communities (92 acres), little change from the current status is expected. Though present on soils with mid and early-seral plant communities (21 acres), cheatgrass is not expected to increase appreciably under the proposed grazing schedule. This grazing schedule is expected to result in improvement on the early and mid-seral plant communities as the native perennial grasses still present continue to increase and surface litter accumulates.

Environmental Consequences of the Continuation of Current Management Alternative: Under this alternative if grazing was to occur at the current permitted level negative impacts would be likely on potentially vulnerable ecological sites if utilization levels were not closely monitored and livestock removed accordingly. Mid-seral sites and to a lesser degree late-seral plant communities have potential for negative impacts to soils including downward change in species composition, diversity, desired plant cover, and/or reduced production for much of the rangeland. PNC communities would most likely continue to meet Standards and the early-seral

communities with presence of cheatgrass could be pushed over the threshold to long term cheatgrass dominance.

Environmental Consequences of the No Grazing Alternative: Discontinuation of livestock grazing would result in increases in both perennial plant cover and soil surface litter accumulation. Increased perennial plant cover would probably be most evident on early and mid-seral ecological sites. Soils associated with PNC ecological sites would continue to meet Standards and experience minimal changes in plant species composition and diversity.

Mitigation: Continue monitoring key area to identify trends and changes in plant community cover and composition.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial: see also Wildlife, Aquatic and Wildlife, Terrestrial): Soils of early-seral plant communities, though minimal in this allotment (approximately 9 acres), generally are not meeting land health standards due to inadequate soil surface protection, caused by a notable component of non-native annual grasses (primarily cheatgrass). As noted in the vegetation section below, historic grazing practices created the situation where most early-seral plant communities do not meet the Standard for upland soils. Given the presence of native perennial grasses in these areas, it is expected that over time these sites will improve. Soils of mid-seral, late-seral, and PNC communities make up the bulk of the acreage included in this allotment and currently meet Standards. Implementation of the proposed action will enhance the ability of the rangelands to meet the Standards in the future.

VEGETATION (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: The following table lists plant communities and the dominant plant species for the ecological sites or woodland types throughout the allotment as associated with the proposed action.

Ecological Site / Woodland Type	Plant Community Appearance	Predominant Plant Species in the Plant Community
Brushy Loam	Deciduous Shrub/grass Shrubland	Serviceberry, oakbrush, snowberry, mountain brome, slender wheatgrass, western wheatgrass, Letterman and Columbia needle grasses
Clayey Foothills	Grass/Open Shrub Shrubland	Western wheatgrass, muttongrass, Indian rice grass, squirreltail, June grass, Wyoming big sagebrush, black sagebrush
Deep Loam	Grassland	Bluebunch wheatgrass, muttongrass, needle-and-thread, western wheatgrass, slender wheatgrass, big sagebrush, serviceberry, snowberry.
Pinyon-Juniper	Pinyon/Juniper Woodland	Pinyon pine, Utah juniper, mountain mahogany, bitterbrush, serviceberry, Wyoming big sagebrush, beardless bluebunch wheatgrass, western wheatgrass, June grass, Indian rice grass, mutton grass

The majority of the Devil’s Hole allotment is clayey foothills grass/shrubland with some deep loam grassland ecological sites. There is also some pinyon-juniper woodland in the northeast corner of the allotment. The shrublands and grasslands areas are primarily vegetated with a combination of big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*), serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*) and snowberry (*Symphoricarpos spp.*) with a grass understory of western wheatgrass (*Agropyron*

smithii), needle-and-thread grass (*Stipa comata*), Indian rice grass (*Oryzopsis hymenoides*) and some Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*). Common forbs within the allotment are globemallow (*Sphaeralcea spp.*), lupine (*Lupinus spp.*), arrowleaf balsamroot (*Balsamorhiza sagittata*), buckwheat (*Eriogonum spp.*), and phlox (*Phlox spp.*).

The following table shows the seral rating system used by BLM to rate rangeland plant communities in comparison to the potential natural plant community for a particular rangeland site.

ECOLOGICAL SITE SIMILARITY RATINGS	
Seral Rating	% Similarity to the Potential Natural Plant Community (PNC)
Potential Natural community (PNC)	76-100% composition of species in the PNC
Late-Seral	51-75% composition of species in the PNC
Mid-Seral	26-50% composition of species in the PNC
Early-Seral	0-25% composition of species in the PNC

The following tables show an estimate of the public land acreage falling within each of the seral ratings for each ecological site on the allotment. These estimates are based upon professional judgments of the Rangeland Management Specialist trained in the use of the rating system. During the 2005 field season ecological sites were visited for a plant community assessment of the Colorado Standards for the allotment.

Devil's Hole Allotment Ecological Site Similarity Ratings						
ECOLOGICAL SITE	Total BLM Acres In Pasture	PNC	Late-Seral	Mid-Seral	Early-Seral	BLM Ac. Classified
Clayey Foothills	113	75	17	12	9	113
P/J Woodland / Clayey Slopes	7	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Total	120	75	17	12	9	113
% BLM Acres Classified	100%	62.5%	14%	10%	7.5%	94%

As shown for the Devil's Hole allotment, 104 acres, or 86.5% of the ecological sites in the pasture represent plant communities within the acceptable thresholds for healthy communities and within acceptable limits of a desired plant community as defined in the White River ROD/RMP. Vegetation production and species composition on these acres provide adequate cover for soil protection and sufficient forage production to meet forage demands and provide for sustainability. There are 7 acres, or 6% of the BLM pasture acreage comprised of pinyon-juniper woodlands and rock outcrops; this acreage is unclassifiable by seral stage. Though the 9 acres of early-seral sites may have significant desirable perennial species in their composition, they currently do not meet the Colorado Standards for species diversity, soil protection or forage production due to the presence of non-native invasive annual grasses such as cheatgrass.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Under the proposed action grazing will be within the calculated rangeland livestock carrying capacity (AUMs) to meet Standards and goals set forth in the RMP (see Rangeland Management Section). The PNC and

late-seral stage Clayey Foothills ecological sites that are currently meeting vegetation requirements should continue to provide healthy rangeland vegetative composition and species diversity capable of producing a sustainable supply of forage to meet the demand for livestock grazing. Under this grazing schedule vegetation communities on BLM administrated lands will also have the opportunity to meet their physiological needs and maintain themselves in a vigorous and productive state. They should be able to provide sufficient ground cover, and meet nutrient requirements to maintain a favorable ecological presence in the plant community. Early-seral sites though not currently meeting land health standards appear to have an adequate presence of the necessary native perennial plants to progress toward a healthy rangeland plant community.

Environmental Consequences of the Continuation of Current Management Alternative: Based on ecological site analysis and calculated livestock carrying capacity, grazing at the current permitted level appears to be an over-allocation of available forage. Grazing at this level would likely result in over-utilization and degradation of vegetation communities that are currently meeting land health standards. Key forage species would likely be over-utilized and have inadequate opportunity to meet their physiological needs to maintain themselves or to produce enough seed for reproduction. Currently healthy ecological sites could be degraded to a point where they no longer meet land health standards. The potential is high for early-seral sites with cheatgrass present to cross a relatively permanent threshold to cheatgrass domination as key forage species are stressed by over-utilization.

Environmental Consequences of the No Grazing Alternative: Under a no grazing by livestock scenario, late-seral and PNC ecological sites would continue to meet standards and experience minimal changes in plant species composition and diversity. There would most likely be a short-term increase in both perennial plant cover and soil surface litter accumulation. Mid and early-seral ecological sites would likely experience the greatest benefit of increased soil surface litter accumulation and perennial plant cover.

Mitigation: Continue monitoring key area to identify trends and changes in plant community cover and composition over time and make adjustments as necessary.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Wildlife, Aquatic and Wildlife, Terrestrial): The 9 acres of early-seral plant communities are mostly not meeting the Standards due to soil loss within plant interspaces due to presence of non-native annual grasses and lack of adequate native perennial vegetation. Implementation of the proposed grazing schedule will improve the ability of the rangelands to meet land health standards in the future.

WILDLIFE, AQUATIC (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: There are no aquatic systems located within the Devil's Hole allotment.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: None

Environmental Consequences of the Continuation of Current Management Alternative:
None

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: This alternative would have no potential to affect aquatic wildlife or habitat within the Devil's Hole allotment.

Mitigation: None

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Vegetation and Wildlife, Terrestrial): The proposed action would have no conceivable influence on aquatic wildlife or habitat conditions addressed in the Standards.

WILDLIFE, TERRESTRIAL (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: The sagebrush/grassland and pinyon-juniper woodlands located within the BLM parcel constitute general winter range for both deer and elk. These ranges are generally occupied by the largest number of animals from October through January and April through early May. During allotment inspections conducted in September 2005, BLM biologists observed no obvious instances of prolonged animal concentration or forage conditions that indicated excessive levels of seasonal use.

While raptors may opportunistically forage throughout the area, the younger-aged stands located within the allotment typically do not provide adequate nesting substrate for woodland raptors. Nongame bird communities in the allotment are representative of big sagebrush shrublands, grasslands and xeric pinyon-juniper woodlands with no apparent deficiencies in composition or abundance.

Small mammal populations are poorly documented, however, the 14 or so species that are likely to occur in this area display broad ecological tolerance and are widely distributed throughout the Great Basin and/or Rocky Mountain regions. No narrowly distributed or highly specialized species or subspecific populations are known to occur in this allotment.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: It is unlikely that continued grazing would negatively impact the extent or quality of habitat available for terrestrial wildlife within the allotment. Inspections conducted in September 2005 show no evidence to suggest that current levels of cumulative use by livestock and big game are causing inappropriate or potentially damaging levels of use on plant vigor, composition or regeneration. Current livestock use has no apparent influence on the availability or production of woody forage for big game winter use.

Environmental Consequences of the Continuation of Current Management Alternative: Slow community improvements (e.g., ground cover, native species composition) associated with the continuation of current grazing practices would have limited influence on the abundance or availability of herbaceous forage and/or cover for big game and small mammal populations over the course of this permit.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: The effects of livestock removal on this allotment’s vegetation resources as forage and cover for all wildlife forms would not be expected to differ markedly from the proposed action. The most prominent difference would likely involve an incremental increase of herbaceous groundcover and woody forage.

Mitigation: None

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Vegetation and Wildlife, Aquatic): The proposed action would have no conceivable influence on terrestrial wildlife or habitat conditions addressed in the Standards.

OTHER NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS: For the following elements, only those brought forward for analysis will be addressed further.

Non-Critical Element	NA or Not Present	Applicable or Present, No Impact	Applicable & Present and Brought Forward for Analysis
Access and Transportation		X	
Cadastral Survey	X		
Fire Management	X		
Forest Management		X	
Geology and Minerals	X		
Hydrology/Water Rights	X		
Law Enforcement		X	
Noise	X		
Paleontology	X		
Rangeland Management			X
Realty Authorizations	X		
Recreation		X	
Socio-Economics		X	
Visual Resources		X	
Wild Horses	X		

RANGELAND MANAGEMENT

Affected Environment: Scott and Katherine Hert are the authorized grazing permit holders for the Devil’s Hole Allotment (06629) and currently hold preference to the existing grazing permit (0501475). Information from the Forage Production tables below show the current calculated livestock carrying capacity (AUMs) for the allotment by surface ownership. An AUM is the amount of forage necessary to sustain one cow for a one month period.

The tables are broken down by soil type and associated ecological site, by acres, by acres per AUM, and by the number of AUMs produced on that ecological site. These tables are based on moderate stocking levels generally less than the stocking rates recommended by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for each specific ecological site to account for such

factors as slope, distance to water and current site production levels. The permittee has agreed to operate at a moderate stocking level in relation to rangeland carrying capacity and current rangeland conditions in order to assure sustainability of Standards.

Forage Production analysis on all lands within the Devil's Hole Allotment

Devil's Hole BLM only				
Soil Unit Name	Ecological Site	Acres	Acres/AUM	AUMs
Abor Clay Loam, 5-30% slopes	Clayey Foothills	113	7	16.14
Rentsac-Moyerson-Rock Outcrop, complex 5-65% slope	PJ Woodlands/Clayey Slopes	7	14	.50
Totals		120	7.5	16

Devil's Hole Private AUMs				
Soil Unit Name	Ecological Site	Acres	Acres/AUM	AUMs
Abor Clay Loam, 5-30% slopes	Clayey Foothills	90	7	12.86
Jerry-Thornburgh-Rhone complex, 8-65% slopes	Brushy Loam/Brushy Loam	13	4	3.25
Rentsac-Moyerson-Rock Outcrop, complex 5-65% slope	PJ Woodlands/ Clayey Slopes	91	12	7.58
Work Loam, 3-8% slopes	Deep Loam	13	3	4.33
Totals		207	7.4	28

The following table (Acres & AUM Breakdown) summarizes the Forage Production tables above. The tables were used in part to determine the available forage contribution produced on public land (%PL). The percent Public Land (%PL) is the percentage of AUMs generated on BLM lands in relation to total AUMs and it too was re-calculated for this allotment.

Acres & AUM Breakdown for Scott and Katherine Hert (Devil's Hole Allotment): Livestock Grazing Capacity										
Allotment	BLM AUMs	BLM Acres/AUM	Pvt AUMs	Pvt Acres/AUM	Total AUMs (BLM & Pvt)	% PL	BLM Acres	Pvt Acres	Total Acres	% BLM Acres
Devil's Hole	16	7.5	28	7.4	44	36%	120	206	326	37%

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Refer to the Vegetation and Soils sections of this document for the analyses of rangeland vegetation and soils impacts. These sections detail how implementation of the grazing schedule presented in the proposed action will provide improved opportunities for plant rest and re-growth. The Proposed Grazing Permit table below outlines the active BLM AUMs (16 AUMs). This level of use is within the current calculated livestock grazing capacity and will allow rangelands to support this level of livestock use in a sustainable manner while continuing to meet Standards. Under the proposed grazing schedule vegetation will have an adequate opportunity to produce seed, propagate, replenish root reserves, and accumulate biomass for site preservation and plant health. The ability to utilize forage both on BLM and private lands within this allotment is vital for the permittee to continue his livestock operation as he has in the past.

Proposed Grazing Permit (0501475) for Devil's Hole Allotment								
Allotment	Livestock	Date	%	BLM	Active	Susp.	Total	

Name	No.	Number	Kind	On	Off	PL	AUMs	AUMs	AUMs	AUMs
Devil's Hole	06629	15	C	06/15	09/14	36%	16	16	0	16

Environmental Consequences of the Continuation of Current Management Alternative: Under the continuation of current management alternative livestock grazing on BLM lands is permitted at 22 AUMs. This is above the calculated rangeland carrying capacity. If grazing were to occur at this level there is high potential for negative impacts resulting in degradation of the rangelands. It is likely that key forage species would be over-utilized, stressed and potentially eliminated from ecological sites where they are currently well established. This change would also produce an increase in density and distribution of cheatgrass as well as optimal conditions for establishment of noxious weed species. Based on these changes it is likely that forage production throughout the allotment would be reduced. Without adequate biomass accumulation for site preservation soil loss due to erosion would be expected to accelerate. Under this alternative it is likely that in the future Standards would not be met on most ecological sites.

Environmental Consequences of the No Grazing Alternative: Under this alternative, Scott and Katherine Hert would not be authorized to graze livestock on BLM lands within the Devil's Hole allotment. Private lands within the allotment produce an average of 64 percent of the forage and it is not feasible to fence these lands separate from BLM lands. Without availability of public land forage, it is likely that Herts could no longer have a viable cattle operation.

Mitigation: Continue long-term trend monitoring.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS SUMMARY: Cumulative impacts from the proposed action would not exceed those discussed in the White River Resource Area RMP and/or White River Resource Area Grazing Management Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

PERSONS / AGENCIES CONSULTED: A Public Notice of the NEPA action is posted on the White River Field Office Internet website at the Colorado BLM Home Page asking for public input on Grazing Permit renewals and the assessment of Standards within the White River Field Office area. Local notification is published in the Rio Blanco Herald Times newspaper located here in Meeker, Colorado on a monthly basis. The Grazing Advisory Board was notified of impending Grazing Permit renewals. Also, individual letters are sent to the lessees/permittees informing them that their lease is up for renewal and request any information they want included in or taken into consideration during the renewal process.

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

Name	Title	Area of Responsibility
Nate Dieterich	Hydrologist	Air Quality
Tamara Meagley	Natural Resource Specialist	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern
Tamara Meagley	Natural Resource Specialist	Threatened and Endangered Plant Species
Gabrielle Elliott	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources Paleontological Resources
Mary Taylor	Rangeland Mgmt. Specialist	Invasive, Non-Native Species
Lisa Belmonte	Wildlife Biologist	Migratory Birds
Lisa Belmonte	Wildlife Biologist	Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Animal Species, Wildlife
Melissa Kindall	Collateral Hazmat	Wastes, Hazardous or Solid
Nate Dieterich	Hydrologist	Water Quality, Surface and Ground Hydrology and Water Rights
Mary Taylor	Rangeland Mgmt. Specialist	Wetlands and Riparian Zones
Chris Ham	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Wilderness
Mary Taylor	Rangeland Mgmt. Specialist	Soils
Mary Taylor	Rangeland Mgmt. Specialist	Vegetation
Lisa Belmonte	Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife Terrestrial and Aquatic
Chris Ham	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Access and Transportation
Ken Holsinger	Natural Resource Specialist	Fire Management
Robert Fowler	Forester	Forest Management
Paul Daggett	Mining Engineer	Geology and Minerals
Mary Taylor	Rangeland Mgmt. Specialist	Rangeland Management
Linda Jones	Realty Specialist	Realty Authorizations
Chris Ham	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Recreation
Chris Ham	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Visual Resources
Valerie Dobrich	Natural Resource Specialist	Wild Horses

Finding of No Significant Impact/Decision Record (FONSI/DR)

CO-110-2005-111-EA

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)/RATIONALE: The environmental assessment and analyzing the environmental effects of the proposed action have been reviewed. The approved mitigation measures (listed below) result in a Finding of No Significant Impact on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not necessary to further analyze the environmental effects of the proposed action.

DECISION/RATIONALE: It is my decision to implement the proposed action for a period of ten years and to approve the allotment management plan for the Devil's Hole allotment covered by the grazing permit as described in the proposed action with the addition of the below mitigation.

MITIGATION MEASURES:

1. The operator is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project 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 uncovered during any project or construction activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities in the immediate area of the find that might further disturb such materials, and immediately contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the operator as to:

- whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places
- the mitigation measures the operator will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary)
- a timeframe for the AO to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800-11 to confirm, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, that the findings of the AO are correct and that mitigation is appropriate.

If the operator wishes, at any time, to relocate activities to avoid the expense of mitigation and/or the delays associated with this process, the AO will assume responsibility for whatever recordation and stabilization of the exposed materials may be required. Otherwise, the operator will be responsible for mitigation cost. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation. Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the operator will then be allowed to resume construction.

2. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g) the holder of this authorization must notify the AO, 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.

3. Compliance monitoring for vegetation improvement would help identify if additional actions were needed to comply with the *Clean Water Act*.
4. Continue monitoring key area to identify trends and changes in plant community cover and composition.
5. Continue long-term trend monitoring.

COMPLIANCE/MONITORING: Compliance with renewed razing permits will be accomplished through the White River Field Office Range Monitoring Program. Monitoring will be done by the staff using Colorado Public Land Standards for Rangeland Health.

NAME OF PREPARER: Mary Taylor

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Caroline Hollowed

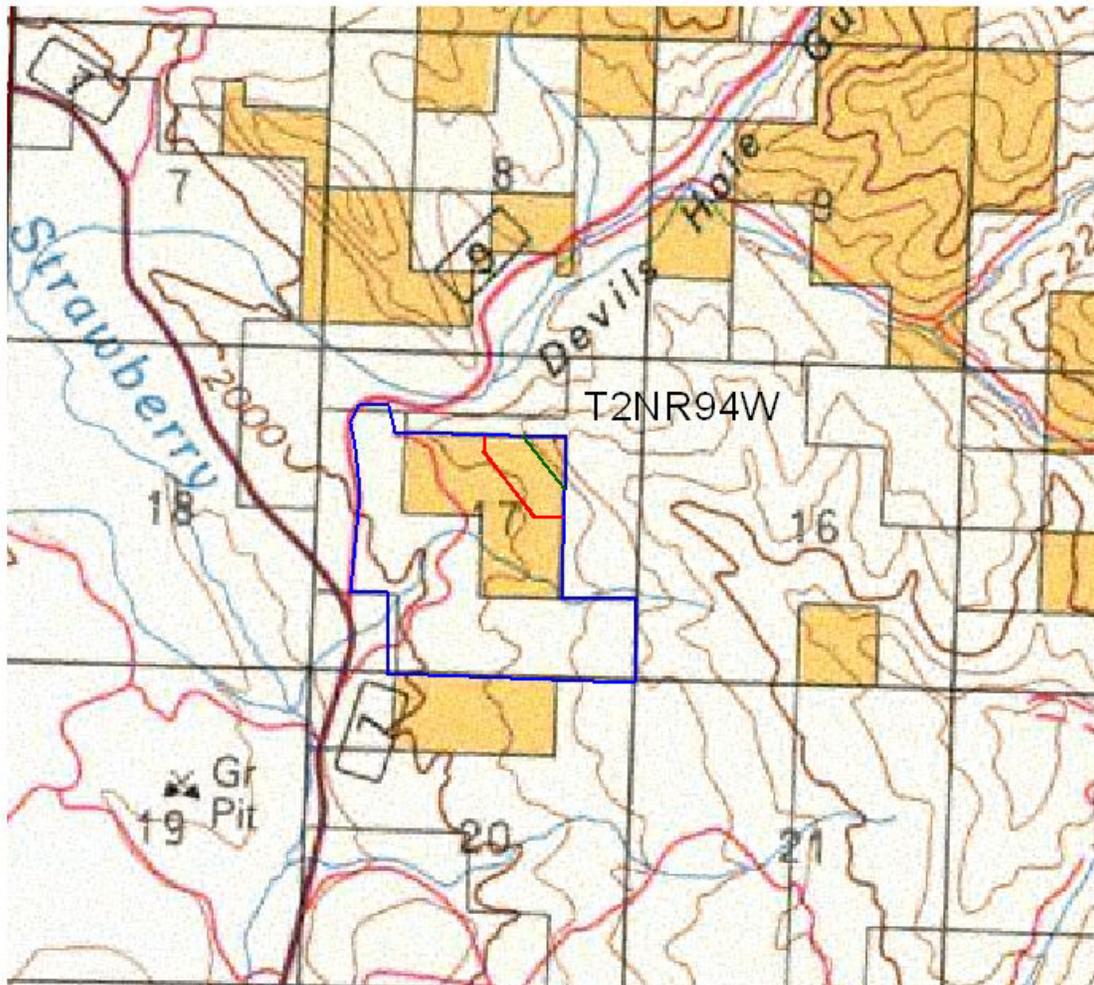
SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL: Theresa E. Walth
Field Manager

DATE SIGNED: 12/28/05

ATTACHMENTS: Figure 1: Map of the Proposed Action
Location Map of the Proposed Action

Figure 1: Map of the Proposed Action including fence re-location

Devil's Hole Allotment 06629
Grazing Permit Renewal



- Existing fence location.shp
- New fence location.shp
- Twnrng_wr



Location of Proposed Action CO-110-2005-111-EA

