



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Glenwood Springs Field Office
50629 Highway 6 and 24
Glenwood Springs, Colorado 81601
www.co.blm.gov



CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

NUMBER: CO-140-2008-046-CE

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER: N/A

PROJECT NAME: Colorado Division of Wildlife Emergency Feeding Program

LEGAL DESCRIPTION (see attached map): Various sections in the following townships:

T2S R83W, T2S R84W, T2S R85W
T3S R83W, T3S R84W, T3S R86W, T3S R87W
T4S R83W, T4S R84W, T4S R85W, T4S R86W, T4S R87W
T5S R84W, T5S R85W, T5S R86W, T5S R87W
T6S R89W
T7S R87W, T7S R88W
T8S R86W, T8S R87W, T8S R88W
T9S R85W, T9S R85W

APPLICANT: Colorado Division of Wildlife

BACKGROUND/INTRODUCTION: Due to extreme snow depth and cold temperatures, big games species, primarily mule deer, need supplemental feeding in order to survive the winter. A request was received for the use of BLM lands as feeding grounds. Potential feeding areas are located throughout the Glenwood Springs Field Office with 25 areas identified on BLM lands (see attached map). CDOW plans on delivering hay and feed pellets to the sites by foot, truck, snowcat and snowmobile.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION: The proposed action is to allow for the emergency supplemental feeding of wildlife on BLM lands. The attached map displays the general area where feeding would potentially occur. Each area may have a couple of feeding sites, however the exact locations are dependant upon snow depth, deer concentrations and access. Roads would be used to access feeding sites with most sites located on or just off the road. Snow in the feeding areas would be compacted via snowcat or snowmobile. No snow plowing is anticipated, however, if snow plowing is needed, it would not be to ground level. Feeding will continue until the Division of Wildlife decides it is no longer necessary, which would likely be by the end of April or the beginning of May.

The emergency feeding would be subject to the attached stipulations. The stipulations address actions required for noxious weed control and protection of cultural resources, among other things.

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:

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW: The Proposed Action is subject to and has been reviewed for and is in conformance with (43 CFR §1610.5 and § 2800, BLM 1617.3) the following plan:

Name of Plan: Record of Decision and Glenwood Springs Resource Management Plan.

Date Approved: January, 1984; revised in 1988; amended in November 1991 - Oil and Gas Leasing and Development - Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement; amended Nov. 1996 - Colorado Standards and Guidelines; amended in August 1997 - Castle Peak Travel Management Plan; amended in March 1999 - Oil and Gas Leasing & Development Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement; amended in November 1999 - Red Hill Plan Amendment; and amended in September 2002 – Fire Management Plan for Wildland Fire Management and Prescriptive Vegetation Treatment Guidance.

Decision Number/Page: 16

Decision Language: To provide approximately 57,933 animal-unit months (AUMs) of big game forage (the amount needed to meet Colorado Division of Wildlife big game population goals in 1988), to improve existing wildlife habitat conditions and to increase wildlife species diversity.

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW: The proposed action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 11.9, Number: D (10). None of the following exceptions in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2, apply.

Exclusion	YES	NO
1. Have significant adverse effects on public health and safety.	_____	_____ <u>X</u>
2. Have adverse effects on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands, floodplains; national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.	_____	_____ <u>X</u>
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.	_____	_____ <u>X</u>
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.	_____	_____ <u>X</u>
5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.	_____	_____ <u>X</u>
6. Be directly related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.	_____	_____ <u>X</u>

- 7. Have adverse effects on properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places. _____ X
- 8. Have adverse effects on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have adverse effects on designated Critical Habitat for these species. _____ X
- 9. Have the potential to violate a Federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment. _____ X
- 10. Have the potential for a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations. _____ X
- 11. Restrict access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites by Indian religious practitioners or adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites. _____ X
- 12. Significantly contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species. _____ X

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Area of Responsibility</u>
Dereck Wilson	Range Management Specialist	Noxious Weeds
Mike Kinser	Range Management Specialist	Riparian/Wetlands
Cheryl Harrison	Archaeologist	Cultural and Native American Concerns
Kay Hopkins	Outdoor Recreation Planner	ACEC, VRM, WSR, Wilderness
Carla DeYoung	Ecologist	T/E/S Plants, Vegetation
Desa Ausmus	Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife, T&E Wildlife, Migratory Birds
Tom Fresques	Fisheries Biologist	Fisheries, T&E Fish

REMARKS:

Cultural Resources: See attached stipulations.

Migratory Birds: The proposed action would not result in the ‘take’ of any migratory bird.

Threatened and Endangered Species: The proposed action would have ‘no effect’ to any federally listed threatened or endangered species.

COMPLIANCE PLAN: The feeding areas will be inspected periodically to ensure that operation and maintenance is in compliance with the terms, conditions and stipulations of the grant.

NAME OF PREPARER: Desa Ausmus

DATE: 2/13/08

Emergency Feeding Stipulations:

1. All feeding materials will be certified weed free according to Title 35, article 27.5: Colorado Weed Forage Crop Certification Act, Sections 35-27.5-101 to 35:27.5-108. This includes hay, alfalfa, pellets, and any other form of feed that may contain noxious and invasive weeds.
2. Any cultural and/or paleontological resource (historic or prehistoric site or object) discovered by the holder, or any person working on his behalf, on public or Federal land shall be immediately reported to the authorized officer. Holder shall suspend all operations in the immediate area of such discovery until written authorization to proceed is issued by the authorized officer. An evaluation of the discovery will be made by the authorized officer to determine appropriate actions to prevent the loss of significant cultural or scientific values. The holder will be responsible for the cost of evaluation and any decision as to proper mitigation measures will be made by the authorized officer after consulting with the holder.
3. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g), the holder of this authorization must notify the authorized officer by telephone, with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), you must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the authorized officer.
4. The area will be monitored by BLM for noxious and invasive weeds over the next three years. If weeds are found, Colorado Division of Wildlife will cooperate with BLM and the County, and they shall share responsibility for weed control costs.
5. The holder shall comply with applicable State standards for public health and safety, environmental protection and siting, construction, operation and maintenance, if these State standards are more stringent than Federal standards for similar projects.

6. The holder shall revegetate all disturbed areas using the following native seed mixture:

<u>Species of Seed</u>	<u>Variety</u>	<u>PLS lbs/ac</u>
Slender wheatgrass	San Luis	4.5
Sandberg bluegrass		0.8
Bluebunch wheatgrass	P-7 or Anatone	4.0
Indian ricegrass	Paloma or Rimrock	2.0
Prairie junegrass		<u>0.2</u>
TOTAL		11.5

Any exceptions or substitutions to the seed mix must be approved by the authorized officer. Since many of the feeding sites are in close proximity to known occurrences of the BLM Sensitive plant, *Penstemon harringtonii*, no non-native species shall be included in the mix.

All seed to be applied on public land must have a valid seed test, within one year of the acceptance date. The seed will be accepted if accompanied by an official seed analysis report that provides documentation to show no noxious, prohibited or restricted weed seed per CO, UT and WY(s) weed law and no more than 0.5% by weight of other weed seeds. Due to the small acreage involved in the proposed action, any of the following three seed test documents will be accepted:

1. A certified "blue" tag or tags.
2. An independent seed lab test.
3. A seed lab analysis supplied by a vendor either by seed lot or by seed mix.

Seed tags or other official documentation shall be supplied to the BLM Glenwood Springs Field Office Ecologist at least 14 days prior to the date of proposed seeding for acceptance. Contact Carla DeYoung at (970) 947-2815 or carla_deyoung@blm.gov. Seed that does not meet the above criteria shall not be applied to public lands.

Certified weed-free straw or mulch should be applied within 24 hours after seeding to improve moisture retention for seed germination and establishment.

Seeding shall be repeated if a satisfactory stand is not obtained as determined by the authorized officer upon evaluation after the second growing season.

7. The authorized officer may suspend or terminate in whole or in part any operation, in his judgment, unforeseen conditions arise which result in the approved terms and conditions being inadequate to protect the public health and safety or to protect the environment.

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Glenwood Springs Field Office

Decision Record
CO-140-2008-046-CE

DECISION AND RATIONALE: I have reviewed this Categorical Exclusion and have decided to implement the proposed action. It is my decision to allow Colorado Division of Wildlife to conduct emergency supplemental feeding of wildlife on the proposed sites for January to May 2008. The feeding shall be subject to the attached standard stipulations.

This action is listed in the Department Manual as an action that may be categorically excluded. I have evaluated the action relative to the 12 criteria listed in the CX and have determined that it does not represent an exception and is, therefore, categorically excluded from further environmental analysis.

The proposed action is to allow for the emergency supplemental feeding of wildlife, and in conjunction with the accompanying stipulations, would not result in any undue or unnecessary degradation of the public and adjacent lands and resources.

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COMPLIANCE PLAN: The feeding sites will be inspected periodically to ensure that operation and maintenance is in compliance with the terms, conditions and stipulations of the grant.

SIGNATURE OF PREPARER: *Debra M. Argentin*

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL: *Kurt R. Mardon*

DATE SIGNED: *2/13/2008*

Potential Feeding Areas - 2008

