

**TU.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Glenwood Springs Field Office
50629 US Highway 6 & 24
Glenwood Springs, CO 81601**

DOCUMENTATION OF LAND USE PLAN CONFORMANCE AND NEPA ADEQUACY

NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-N040-2009-0033-DNA

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER (optional): 0507654

PROJECT NAME: Grazing Permit Renewal

PLANNING UNIT: Rifle

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T4S, R94W Sec. 11-14; (#18022) Simpson-Nichols Allotment, (see attached map).

APPLICANT: Grazing Permittee

ISSUES AND CONCERNS (optional):

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION: The Proposed Action is to renew a term grazing permit for the above applicant. The number/kind of livestock, period of use, percent public land and Animal Unit Months (AUMs) will remain the same as the previous permit. The permit will be issued for a 10-year period, unless the base property is leased for less, but for purposes of the DNA, we are assuming 10 years of grazing by this or another applicant (in case of transfer¹). The proposed actions are in accordance with 43 CFR 4130.2. The tables below summarize the scheduled grazing use and grazing preference for the permit.

Authorized Grazing Use:

Allotment Name/#	Livestock Kind & #	Use Period	% Public Land	AUMs
Simpson and Nichols #18022	Cattle 38	05/20 – 10/10	24	43

Grazing Preference (AUMs):

Allotment Name	Active AUMs	Suspended AUMs	Total AUMs
Simpson and Nichols #18022	43	337	380

The following terms and conditions that existed on the previous permit will also be carried

¹ The grazing preference associated with the permit is currently attached to base property that is owned by Robert Nichols. In the event this property is sold or leased, the permit will be transferred to the new owner or lessee unless the preference is transferred to a different base property prior to sale.

forward on the renewed permit:

The permittee and all persons specifically associated with grazing operations must be informed that any objects or sites of cultural, paleontological, or scientific value such as historic or prehistoric resources, graves or grave markers, human remains, ruins, cabins, rock art, fossils, or artifacts shall not be damaged, destroyed, removed, moved, or disturbed. If in connection with allotment operations under this authorization any of the above resources are encountered, the proponent shall immediately suspend all activities in the immediate vicinity of the discovery that might further disturb such materials and notify the BLM authorized officer of the findings. The discovery must be protected until notified in writing to proceed by the authorized officer (36CFR800.110 & 112, 43CFR 0.4).

The permittee will move salt away from the flatter terrain on public land where livestock tend to concentrate.

The permittee will erect an electric fence every third year (first erected in 2003) to prevent livestock from grazing public land for the entire grazing season.

Maintenance of Range improvements shall be in accordance with all approved cooperative agreements and range improvement permits. Maintenance shall be completed prior to turnout.

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

Name of Plan: Glenwood Springs Resource Management Plan

Date Approved: Jan. 1984, revised 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.

X The Proposed Action is in conformance with the LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decision(s):

Decision Language: The action is in conformance with Administrative Actions (pg. 5) and Livestock Grazing Management (pg. 20). Administrative actions states, “Various types of actions will require special attention beyond the scope of this plan. Administrative actions are the day-to-day transactions required to serve the public and to provide optimal use of the resources. These actions are in conformance with the plan”. The livestock grazing management objective as

amended states, “To provide 56,885 animal unit months of livestock forage commensurate with meeting public land health standards.”

_____ The Proposed Action is in conformance with the LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decisions (objectives, terms, and conditions):

REVIEW OF EXISTING NEPA DOCUMENTS:

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

Name of Document: CO-140-2004-049 EA, Grazing Permit Renewal Simpson-Nichols Allotment.

Date Approved: May 24, 2004

List by name and date any other documentation relevant to the Proposed Action (e.g., biological assessment, biological opinion, watershed assessment, allotment evaluation, and monitoring report).

Name of Document: Land Health Assessment Determination Document, Rifle Creek Assessment Area.

Date Signed: Jan 14, 2003

NEPA ADEQUACY CRITERIA:

1. Is the Proposed Action substantially the same action and at the site specifically analyzed in an existing document?

Documentation of answer and explanation: Yes. The current Proposed Action was analyzed in the above mentioned Environmental Assessment. The proposed action is to renew the permit analyzed in the existing document.

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?

Documentation of answer and explanation: Yes. The existing NEPA document analyzed the proposed action. The proposed action above was the preferred alternative in the existing NEPA document. Two other alternatives were considered but eliminated from further analysis.

3. Does the information or circumstances upon which the existing NEPA document(s) are based remain valid and germane to the Proposed Action? Is the analysis still valid in light of new studies or resource assessment information?

Documentation of answer and explanation: Yes. The analysis contained in existing NEPA document remains valid in light of new studies and/or resource assessment information. The circumstances upon which the existing NEPA document is based remain valid and germane to the Proposed Action. No new threatened or endangered species have been identified on the Simpson-Nichols allotment and the Proposed Action would not adversely impact migratory birds per EO 13186.

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

Documentation of answer and explanation: Yes. We are not aware of any inappropriate methodology or analytical approach in the existing environmental assessment.

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

Documentation of answer and explanation: Yes. The current Proposed Action is the same as what was analyzed in the existing NEPA document. The direct /indirect impacts would be the same as those identified in the existing NEPA document. The environmental assessment thoroughly reviewed the many specific environmental impacts including vegetation, water resources, air quality, wildlife, cultural, threatened and endangered species, wilderness, and riparian resources.

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

Documentation of answer and explanation: Yes. The current Proposed Action is the same as what was analyzed in the existing NEPA document. The cumulative impact remains the same as those analyzed in the existing NEPA document. There have been no new relevant activities that have been implemented or projected that would alter cumulative impacts identified in the existing NEPA document.

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

Documentation of answer and explanation: Yes. For the existing NEPA document, notices of public scoping were issued through Colorado BLM's internet web page seeking public comments on grazing permit/lease renewals. A letter requesting comment on permit/lease renewals was also sent a variety of individuals, groups, organizations, and local governments requesting comments on grazing permit/lease renewals. No comments specific to the Simpson-Nichols allotment were received through the scoping process.

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>
Isaac Pittman	Rangeland Management Specialist	Range, NEPA Lead
Jeff O'Connell	Hydrologist	Water Quality, Hydrology, Air, Soils
Mike Kinser	Rangeland Management Specialist	Riparian Areas
Kay Hopkins	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Wilderness, Recreation
Carla DeYoung	Ecologist	ACEC, T/E/S Plants, Standards, Vegetation
Cheryl Harrison	Archaeologist	Cultural & Native American Concerns
Tom Fresques	Fishery Biologist	Fish, Wildlife, T/E/S Fish and Wildlife, Migratory Birds
Dereck Wilson	Range Management Spec	Invasive, Non-native Species

REMARKS:

MITIGATION: The same mitigation measures that were approved in the existing NEPA document will be incorporated and implemented in the Proposed Action.

According to the schedule in the previous permit, the flatter terrain on the public land portion of the allotment should be fenced to exclude livestock in the 2009 grazing season.

COMPLIANCE PLAN (optional):

NAME OF PREPARER: Isaac Pittman

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR:

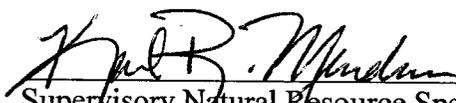
DATE:

CONCLUSION

CO-140-2009-0033 DNA

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.

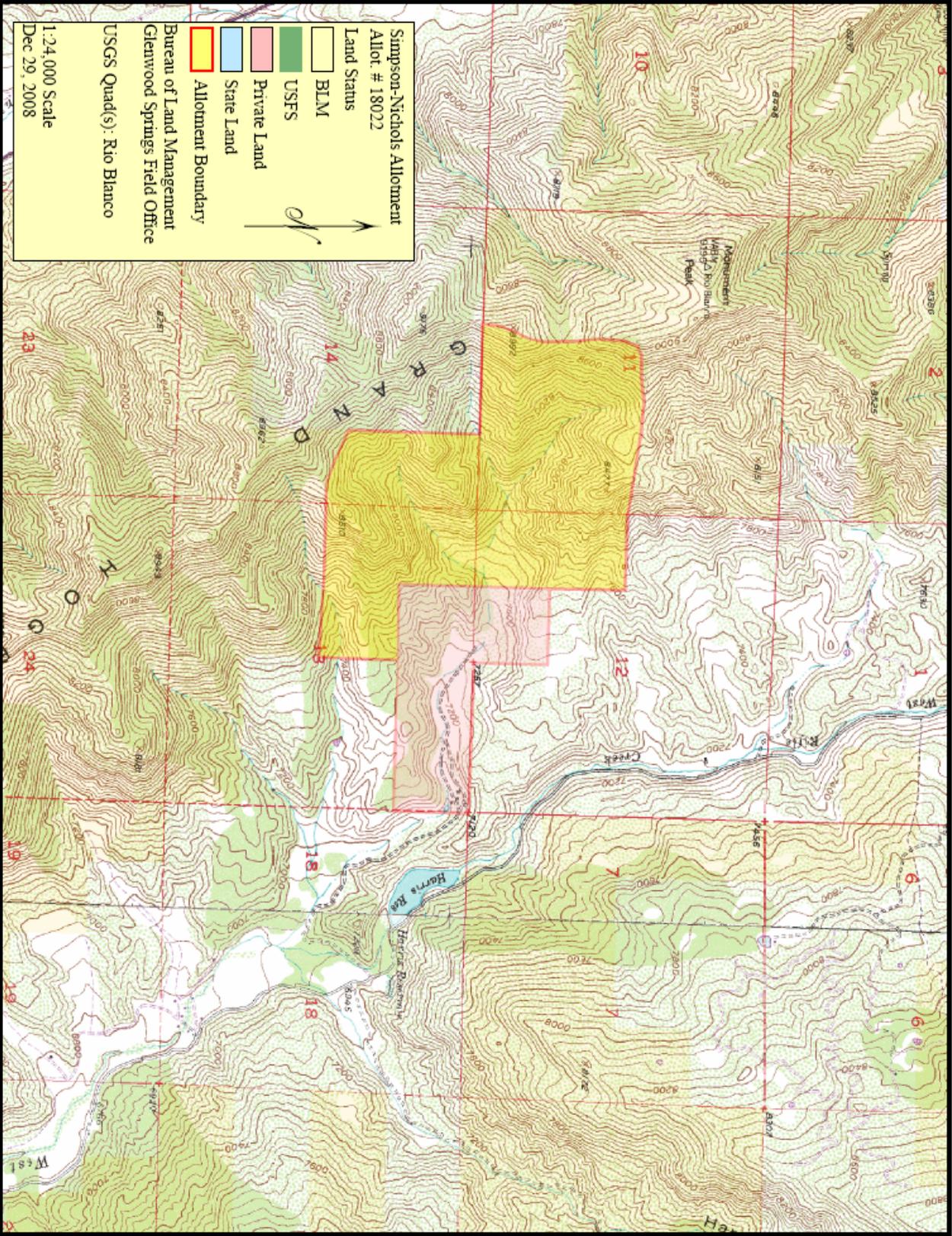
SIGNATURE OF RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL:


Supervisory Natural Resource Specialist

DATE SIGNED:

2/2/2009

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.



Simpson-Nichols Allotment
 Allot # 18022

Land Status

- BLM
- USFS
- Private Land
- State Land
- Allotment Boundary

Bureau of Land Management
 Glenwood Springs Field Office

USGS Quad(s): Rio Blanco

1:24,000 Scale
 Dec 29, 2008