

**U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Glenwood Springs Field Office  
2300 River Frontage Road  
Silt, CO 81652**

## **DOCUMENTATION OF LAND USE PLAN CONFORMANCE AND NEPA ADEQUACY**

NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-N040-2010-0012 DNA

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER: 0507658

PROJECT NAME: N Thompson Creek Com Livestock Grazing Permit Renewal

PLANNING UNIT: Garfield and Pitkin County

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: N. Thompson Creek Com. (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 EA, we are assuming 10 years of grazing by this or another applicant (in case of transfer). The proposed actions are in accordance with 43 CFR 4130.2. The tables below summarize the level of grazing use and permitted use for the lease.

**Grazing Use:**

| <b>Operator No.</b> | <b>Allotment Name &amp; No.</b> | <b>Livestock Kind &amp; No.</b> | <b>Period of use</b> | <b>%PL</b> | <b>AUMs</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|------------|-------------|
| 0507658             | N. Thompson Creek Com (#08348)  | 90 Cattle                       | 06/01 - 06/15        | 50         | 22          |
|                     |                                 | 90 Cattle                       | 10/10 – 10/16        | 50         | 10          |

**Permitted Use (AUMS):**

| <b>Operator No.</b> | <b>Allotment Name &amp; No.</b> | <b>Total</b> | <b>Suspended</b> | <b>Active</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|--------------|------------------|---------------|
| 0507658             | N. Thompson Creek Com           | 44           | 12               | 32            |

The following terms and conditions existed on the previous permit and will be carried forward on the renewed permit:

- Maintenance of range improvements is required and shall be in accordance with all approved cooperative agreements and range improvement permits. Maintenance shall be completed prior to turn out.
- As time and funding permits, BLM will conduct additional cultural surveys and make necessary changes to the terms and conditions of the permit to mitigate effects to cultural and paleontological resources. In the meantime, continue using already modified sites for the placement of supplements rather than disturbing additional ground. Changes to supplement placements site will be approved by the BLM.
- The operator is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the allotment operations that if historic or archaeological materials are discovered during any allotment activities and/or grazing 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 and the mitigation measures the operator will likely have to undertake before the identified area can be used for grazing activities again.
- 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.
- Two known historic properties will be field visited to assess the livestock grazing impacts, BLM will determine if grazing activities will adversely impact the properties and determine mitigation measures, developed in consultation with the Colorado SHPO. These measures will be implemented within the term of the permit.
- Grazing in riparian areas by livestock such as along Thomas Creek and North Thompson Creek should leave an average minimum 4 inch stubble height of herbaceous vegetation and will not exceed an average utilization of 40% of the current year's growth for browse species. Livestock will be removed immediately from the allotment when the above utilization levels by livestock occur.
- Within the uplands, average livestock utilization levels will be limited to 50% by weight on key grass species and 40% of current year's growth on key browse species. Livestock will be moved to another portion of the allotment, moved to the next scheduled pasture, or removed immediately from the allotment when the above utilization levels occur.
- If an assessment of rangeland health results in a determination that changes are necessary in order to comply with the standards for public land health and guidelines for livestock grazing management in Colorado, this permit will be reissued subject to revised terms and conditions.

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.

- 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(s): C0-140-2002-0013 EA, Grazing Permit Renewal: Grazing permits.

Date Approved: February 20, 2002.

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:

Cultural Resource Assessment (GSFO#1002-6), dated December 10, 2001  
2002 draft 303(d) list superseded by the 2004 303(d) list

## 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 the same action 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. No unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources were identified through public scoping; therefore, other alternatives were not analyzed. The same applies to the current proposed action given current concerns, interests, and resource values.

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 state 303(d) list issued in April 2004 supersedes draft 2002 listing used in the environmental analysis. Review of the current list does not raise issues with the surface water in the permit area. Consequently, the water quality analysis remains valid.

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 assessments 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. A Notice of Public Scoping was posted on Colorado BLM's internet web page for the current proposed action. No comments specific to the N. Thompson Creek Allotment were received through either 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>                             |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|---|
| Jeff O'Connell  | Hydrologist                     | Soil, Water, Geology                                |
| Dereck Wilson   | Rangeland Management Specialist | NEPA Lead, Range, Weeds                             |
| Mike Kinser     | Rangeland Management Specialist | Riparian Zones                                      |
| Greg Wolfgang   | Outdoor Recreation Planner      | Wilderness  |
| Carla DeYoung   | Ecologist                       | ACECs, T/E/S Plants, Vegetation<br>Land Health Stds |
| Cheryl Harrison | Archaeologist                   | Cultural & Native American<br>Concerns              |
| Brian Hopkins   | Wildlife Biologist              | Wildlife, T/E/S Animals                             |

REMARKS:

Cultural Resource/Native American Concerns: No new data has been generated since this allotment was analyzed in the C0140-2002-0013 EA. Mitigation measures remain the same the Education/Discovery Stipulation.

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

COMPLIANCE PLAN (optional):

NAME OF PREPARER: Dereck Wilson

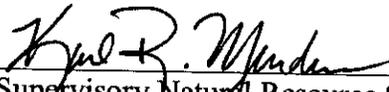
DATE: January 20, 2010

## CONCLUSION

DOI-BLM-CO-N040-2010-0012-DNA

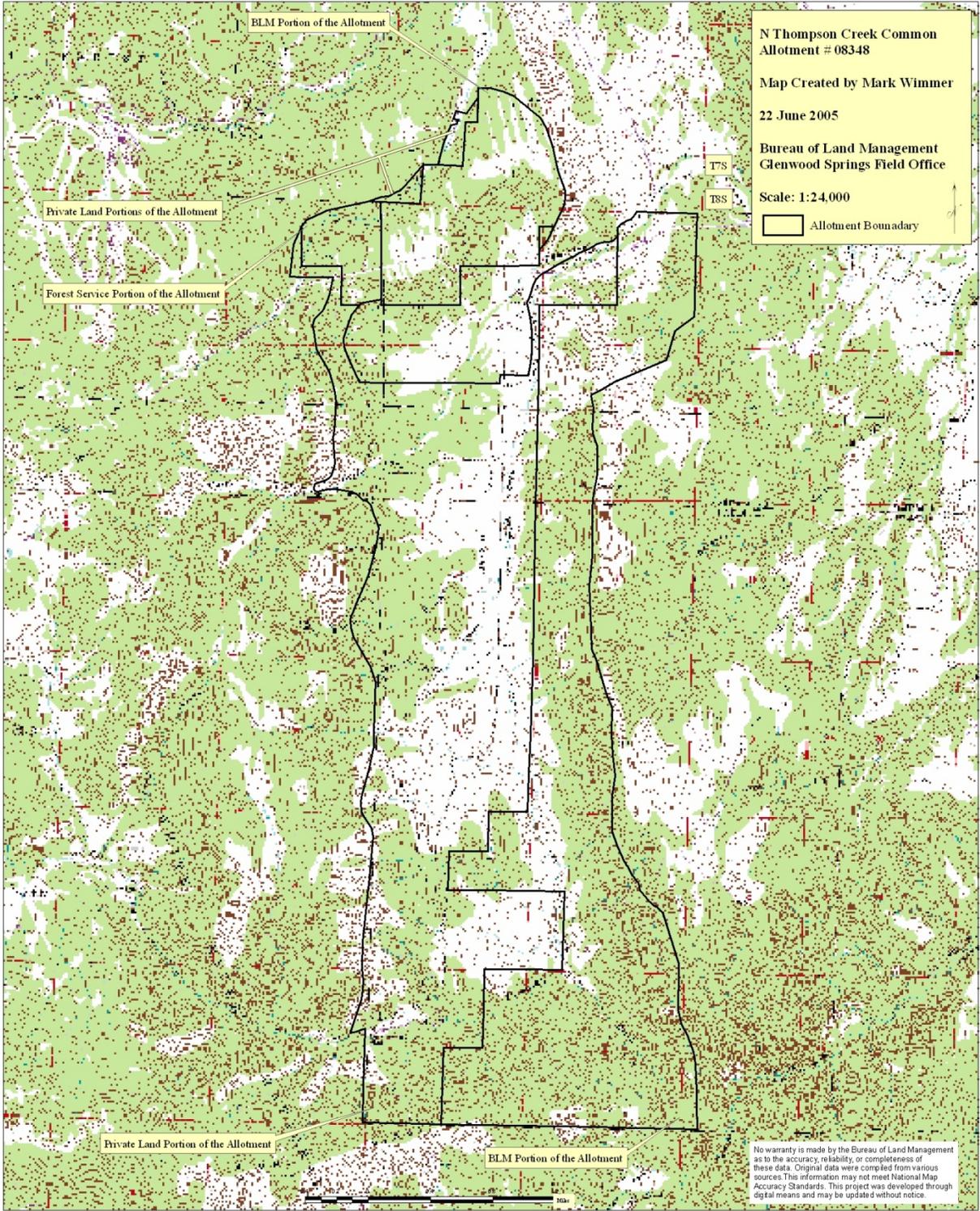
Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the land use plan and that the NEPA documentation previously prepared fully covers the Proposed Action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of NEPA.

SIGNATURE OF RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL:

  
Supervisory Natural Resource Specialist

DATE SIGNED: 3/5/2010

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.



N Thompson Creek Common  
Allotment # 08348

Map Created by Mark Wimmer

22 June 2005

Bureau of Land Management  
Glenwood Springs Field Office

Scale: 1:24,000

□ Allotment Boundary

Private Land Portions of the Allotment

Forest Service Portion of the Allotment

BLM Portion of the Allotment

Private Land Portion of the Allotment

BLM Portion of the Allotment

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