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

DOCUMENTATION OF LAND USE PLAN CONFORMANCE AND NEPA ADEQUACY

NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-N040-2011-0016-DNA

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER (optional): 0507676

PROJECT NAME: Livestock Grazing Permit Renewal on the East Fork Common Allotment

PLANNING UNIT: Garfield County

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: East Fork Common Allotment #18910, T5S R94 & 95W several sections. (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 transfer). 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.

Mandatory Terms and Conditions
Scheduled Grazing Use:

Allotment Name & No.	Livestock No. & Kind	Period of use	Percent Public Land	AUMs
East Fork Common #18910	12 Cattle	6/16 to 10/15	100	48

Grazing Preference AUMS:

Allotment Name & No.	Active	Suspended	Total
East Fork Common #18910	48	26	74

The following other terms and conditions 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.
- Grazing use shall be in accordance with the current East Fork Allotment Management Plan (AMP). Any deviations must have prior approval from the BLM.
- The permittee and all persons associated with grazing operations must be informed that any person who injures, destroys, excavates, appropriates or removes any historic or prehistoric ruin, artifact, object of antiquity, Native American remains, Native American cultural item, or archaeological resources on public lands is subject to arrest and penalty of law. 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 further notified in writing to proceed by the authorized officer.

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: 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; amended in September 2002 – Fire Management Plan for Wildland Fire Management and Prescriptive Vegetation Treatment Guidance; amended in June 2007 – Record of Decision for the Approval of Portions of the Roan Plateau Resource Management Plan Amendment; and amended in March 2009 - Record of Decision for the Designation of Areas of Critical Environmental Concern for the Roan Plateau Resource Management Plan.

Decision Number/Page: The action is in conformance with Administrative Actions (pg. 5) and Livestock Grazing Management (pg. 20).

Decision Language: 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.”

REVIEW OF EXISTING NEPA DOCUMENTS:

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

Name of Document(s): DOI-BLM-CO-N040-2010-0041-EA, Grazing Permit Renewals on the East Fork Common allotment.

Date Approved: April 22, 2010.

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 Evaluation and Determination Document, dated January 8, 2001.

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. In 2001 it was determined that the allotment was meeting land health standards. Since that time several upland utilization studies have been conducted resulting in use typically below 50%. Further studies have also been implemented in riparian areas to determine current conditions and trends. Trends are either static or improving.

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 resources, 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. No comments specific to the East Fork Common allotment were received.

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

Name	***Title***	***Responsibility***
Isaac Pittman	Rangeland Management Specialist	NEPA Lead, Range Management
Nathan Dieterich	Hydrologist	Air Quality, Water Quality, Soils
Mike Kinser	Rangeland Management Specialist	Riparian and Wetlands
Carla DeYoung	Ecologist	ACEC, Vegetation, T/E/S Plants, Land Heath Stds
Greg Wolfgang	Outdoor Recreation Planner	VRM, Recreation, Travel Management
Kimberly Miller	Outdoor Recreation Planner	WSR, Wilderness, Recreation
Cheryl Harrison	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources and Native American Concerns
Brian Hopkins	Wildlife Biologist	Migratory Birds, Terrestrial Wildlife and T/E/S

		Terrestrial Wildlife, Aquatic Wildlife and T/E/S Aquatic Wildlife
Monte Senor	Rangeland Management Specialist	Invasive, Non-native Species

REMARKS:
Cultural/Native American: *Roan Plateau Planning Area cultural resource management plan will have to be followed* which could include cultural resource inventories, monitoring, and/or data recovery. In order to mitigate this potential affect to historic properties all ground disturbing activity, saltblocks, and the placement of supplemental feed, etc, must be at least 100 m from the areas of concern. A ¼ mile buffer may be required for Traditional Cultural Properties.

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: Isaac Pittman

DATE: 12/14/2010

CONCLUSION

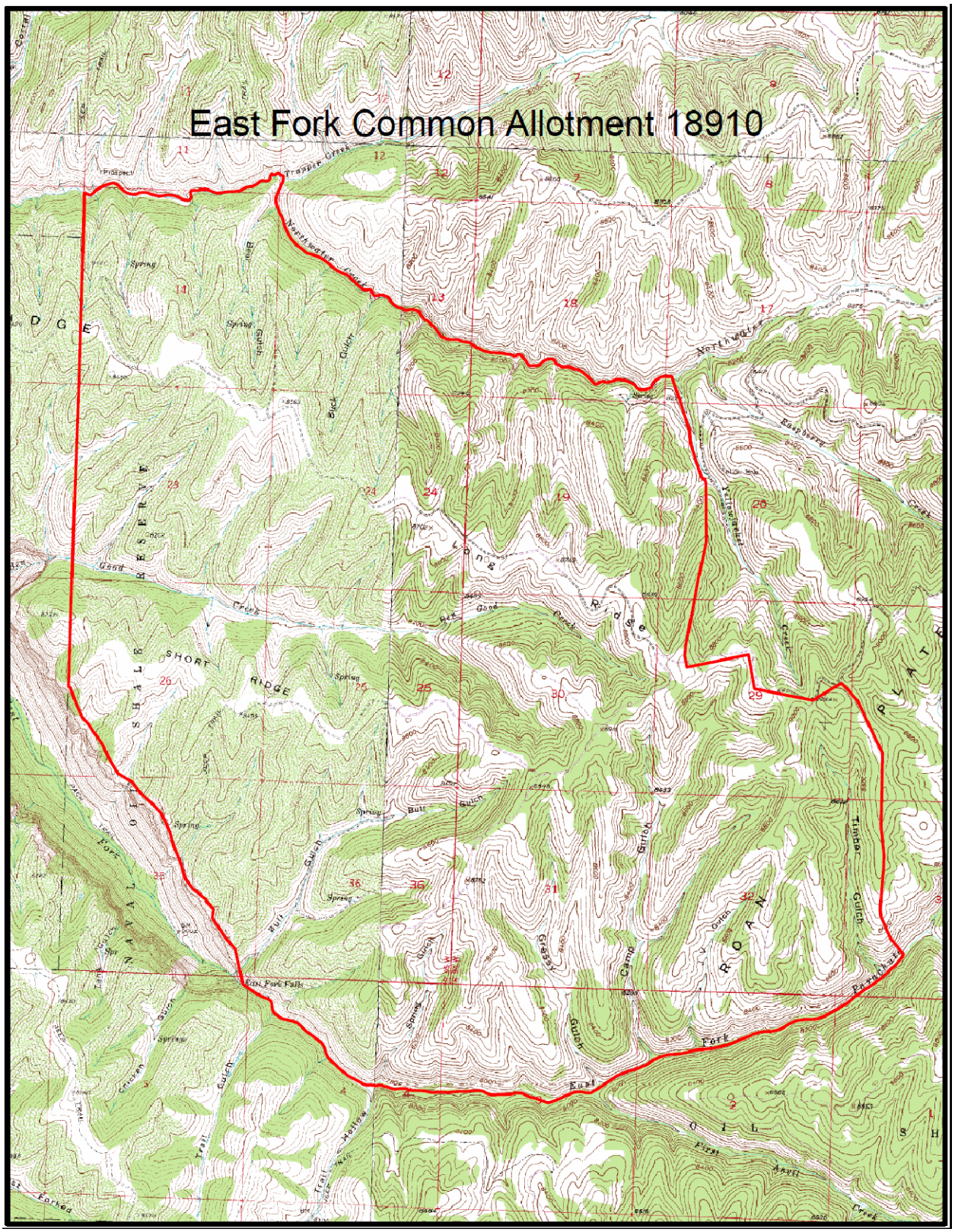
DOI-BLM-CO-N040-2011-0016-DNA

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: 1 - 18 - 11

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.


East Fork Common Allotment 18910