

**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-N040-2011-0015-DNA

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER (optional): 0507552

PROJECT NAME: Livestock Grazing Permit Renewal on the Dodo Allotment

PLANNING UNIT: Garfield County

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Dodo Allotment #18025, T5S R91W portions of sec(s). 3, 4, 9, 10, 15, 16 & T4S R91W portions of sec(s). 33, 34. (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:**

<b>Allotment Name &amp; No.</b>	<b>Livestock No. &amp; Kind</b>	<b>Period of use</b>	<b>Percent Public Land</b>	<b>AUMs</b>
Dodo 18025	25 Cattle	5/15 to 6/15	69	18

### **Grazing Preference AUMS:**

<b>Allotment Name &amp; No.</b>	<b>Active</b>	<b>Suspended</b>	<b>Total</b>
Dodo 18025	18	18	36

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.
- Average utilization levels by livestock should not exceed 50% by weight on key grass species and 40% of the key browse species current year's growth at the end of the growing season. Application of this term may be flexible to recognize livestock management that includes sufficient opportunity for regrowth, spring growth prior to grazing, or growing season deferment. Grazing in riparian areas by livestock 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 growth for 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.
- 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.

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-GSFO-01-008 EA, Grazing Permit Renewal on the Dodo and Bowen Isolated Tract allotments, Case-file numbers: 0507552 and 0507560

Date Approved: April 20, 2001.

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:

- Dodo Allotment Land Health Assessment Evaluation and Determination Document, dated May 11, 2007.

#### 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 2007, a formal land health assessment determined that the allotment was meeting all applicable land health standards. Utilization studies conducted in 2004, 2009 and 2010 show slight use on key grasses.

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. No comments specific to the Dodo Allotment were received.

**INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:**

<i>Name</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Responsibility</i>
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 Health 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, Aquatic Wildlife, T/E/S Terrestrial & Aquatic Wildlife
Monte Senor	Rangeland Management Specialist	Invasive, Non-native Species

**REMARKS:**

Cultural/Native American Concerns: No new significant information has come to light which would change the earlier analysis. The Discovery/Education Stipulation has been updated.

**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

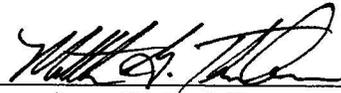
**DATE:** 12/20/2010

## CONCLUSION

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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: 12-20-2010

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.

# Dodo Allotment

Dodo Allotment #18025  
T4 & 5S R91W  
BLM- 2175 acres  
Private- 396 acres

