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## DOCUMENTATION OF LAND USE PLAN CONFORMANCE AND NEPA ADEQUACY

**NUMBER:** DOI-BLM-CO-N040-2012-0058-DNA

**CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER:** 0507706

**PROJECT NAME:** Livestock grazing permit transfer and issuance for: Onion Ridge (No. 08647) and Upper Jack Spring (No. 08645) allotments. Refer to attached allotment maps.

**PLANNING AREA:** Garfield and Eagle Counties, north of Dotsero, CO

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION:**

T., 3 S., R., 87 W., Sections 10, 11, 13, 34 & 36;

T., 3 S., R., 86 W., Section 1;

T., 4 S., R., 87 W., Sections 1 & 3.

See attached map.

**APPLICANT:** Grazing Permittee

**DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION:** The Proposed Action is to transfer grazing preference from the current grazing permittee to a new grazing permittee. The existing base property has been leased to the applicant for the grazing permit. The transfer action is categorically excluded in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and no extraordinary circumstances apply and therefore no further analysis is required (516 DM 11.9 D1).

A new grazing permit would be issued to the 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 would be issued for the term of the base property lease (3 years, expiring on March 31, 2015). The proposed action is in accordance with 43 CFR 4130.2. Scheduled grazing use and grazing preference for the permit are summarized below.

**Scheduled Grazing Use:**

Allotment Name/No.	Livestock No./Kind	Grazing Period	%PL	AUMS
Onion Ridge 08647	245 Cattle	05/16 – 07/10	100	451
Upper Jack Spring 08645	16 Cattle	07/01 – 10/01	100	49
Onion Ridge 08647	245 Cattle	09/29 – 10/01	100	24

### Grazing Preference (AUMS)

Allotment Name/No.	Total	Suspended	Active
Onion Ridge 08647	476	454	930
Upper Jack Spring 08645	50	0	50

The following terms and conditions will be included on the renewed permit:

- Grazing use shall be in accordance with the Onion Ridge Allotment Management Plan approved on October 28, 1986.
- 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 resource are encountered, the proponent shall immediately suspend all activities in the immediate vicinity and notify the BLM authorized officer of the findings. The discovery must be protected until notified in writing to proceed by the authorized officer (36 CFR 800.110 & .112, 43 CFR 0.4)
- In the Onion Ridge Allotment, project maintenance is required to conform with Visual Resource Management Class I objectives and Closed Off Road Vehicle designation to maintain the Deep Creek Area of Critical Environmental (ACEC) values.
- 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 turnout. Maintenance activities shall be restricted to the existing footprint (previously disturbed area) of the project as it existed when it was initially constructed. The Bureau of Land Management shall be given 48 hours advanced notice of any maintenance work that will involve heavy equipment. Disturbed areas will be reseeded with a certified weed free seed mixture of native species adapted to the site.

**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; amended in September 2009.

✓ 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): CO-GSFO-2004-025 EA, Grazing Permit Renewal

Date Approved: May 5, 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 Documents:

Cultural Resource Assessment GSFO #1004-14, January 15, 2004  
Section 7 Consultation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service – Glenwood Springs Field Office Programmatic Grazing Biological Opinion (ES/GJ-6-CO-03-F-103) dated December 4, 2003 and Six Grazing Permit Renewal Addendum to Programmatic Grazing Biological Opinion dated March 16, 2004.  
2004 303(d) list draft 2006 303(d) list  
Deep Creek Land Health Assessment 2008

### **NEPA ADEQUACY CRITERIA:**

1. Is the new proposed action a feature of, or essentially similar to, an alternative analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? Is the project within the same analysis area, or if the project location is different, are the geographic and resource conditions sufficiently similar to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? If there are differences, can you explain why they are not substantial?

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. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the new proposed action, given 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. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances such as, rangeland health standard assessment, recent endangered species listings, and updated lists of BLM-sensitive species? Can you reasonably conclude that new information and new circumstances would not substantially change the analysis of the new proposed action?

Documentation of answer and explanation: Yes. The Deep Creek Land Health Assessment, 2008, determined that Onion Ridge and Upper Jack Spring allotments were meeting all 5 Land Health Standards and were in conformance with livestock grazing guidelines.

4. Are the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects that would result from implementation of the new proposed action similar (both quantitatively and qualitatively) to those analyzed 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 and cumulative 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.

5. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with the existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current proposed action?

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.

**INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:**

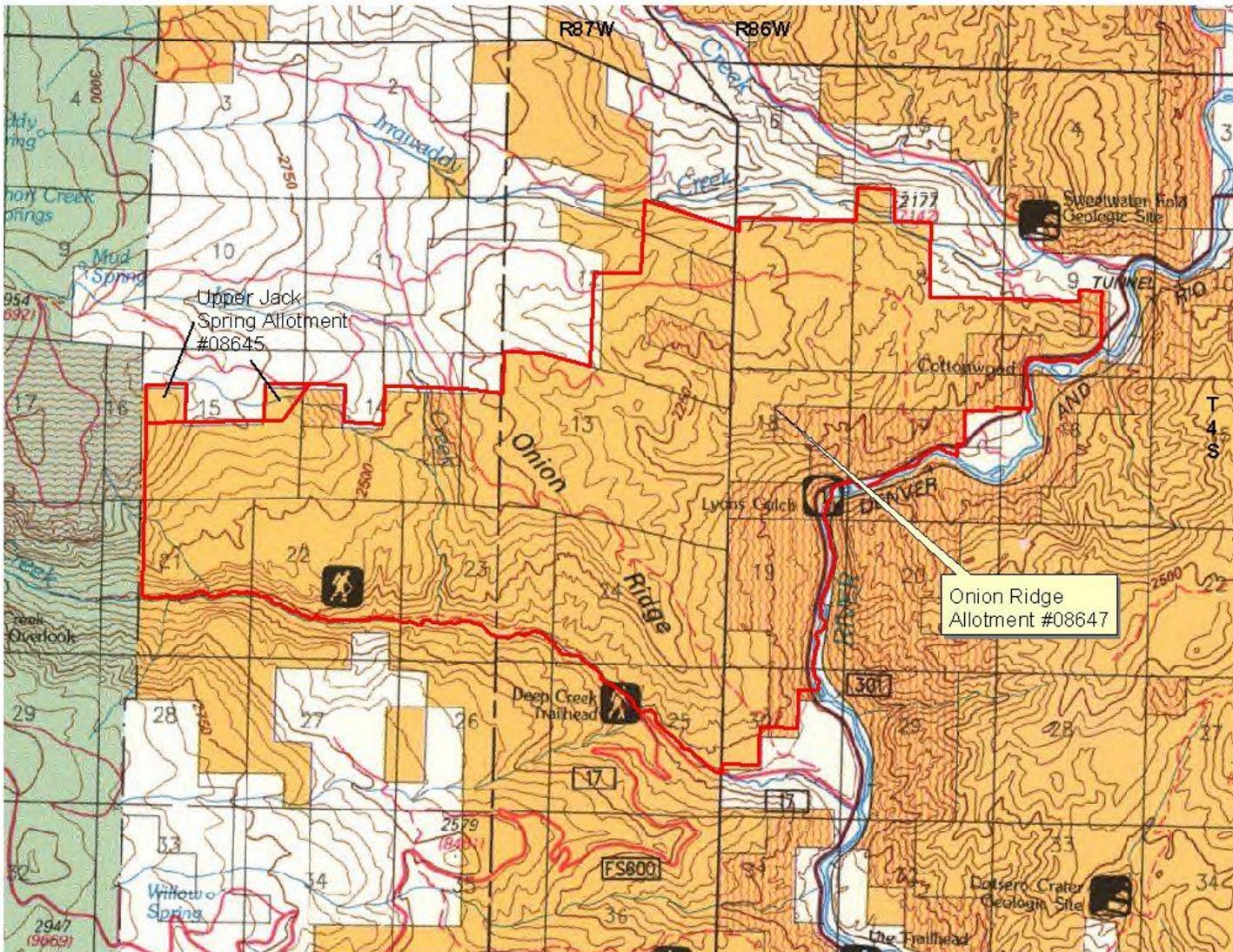
<i>Name</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Responsibility</i>
Everett Bartz	Rangeland Management Specialist	NEPA Lead, Range Management, Riparian and Wetlands
Carla DeYoung	Ecologist	ACEC, Vegetation, T/E/S Plants, Land Health Stds
Pauline Adams	Hydrologist	Air Quality, Water Quality, Soils
Greg Wolfgang	Outdoor Recreation Planner	VRM, Recreation, Travel Management
Kimberly Miller	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Wild and Scenic Rivers, Wilderness, Recreation
Erin Leifeld	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources and Native American Concerns
Brian Hopkins	Wildlife Biologist	Migratory Birds, Terrestrial Wildlife, Aquatic Wildlife, T/E/S Terrestrial & Aquatic Wildlife
Monte Senior	Rangeland Management Specialist	Invasive, Non-native Species

**MITIGATION:** The “Other Terms and Conditions” identified in the new proposed action are substantially the same mitigation measures that were approved in the existing NEPA document.

**NAME OF PREPARER:** Everett Bartz

**DATE:** 2/8/2012

**Appendix – Grazing Allotment Maps**

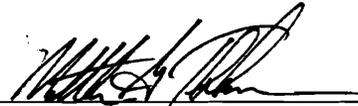


## CONCLUSION

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Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitute BLM's compliance with the requirements of the NEPA.

SIGNATURE OF RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL:

  
Supervisory Natural Resource Specialist

DATE SIGNED:

4-9-2012

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.