United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Colorado River Valley Field Office
2300 River Frontage Road
Silt, Colorado 81652
www.co.blm.gov

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

DOI-BLM-CO-N040-2012-0070-CX

A. Background

BLM Office: Colorado River Valley Field Office

Lease/Serial/Case File No. 0507631

Proposed Action Title/Type: Grazing Transfer

Location of Proposed Action: See attached map.

Description of Proposed Action: The proposed action is the transfer of grazing preference from Charles and Angela Ryden to Wayne Pollard. Grazing preference would be transferred from base property owned by Charles and Angela Ryden to base property owned by Mr. Pollard. Grazing preference is associated with the Ryden (#18024), Hogback Common (#18026), Kissel (#18003), and Red Mountain (#18028) allotments. The description of the grazing preference is outlined below:

Section 3 Permit – Grazing Preference (AUMS)

Allotment Name/No.	Active	Suspended	Temporary Suspended	Total
Ryden (#18024)	88	146	0	234
Hogback Common (#18026)	45	0	0	45
Kissel (#18003)	44	0	0	44
Red Mountain (#18028)	44	16	0	60

B. Land Use Plan Conformance:

Land Use Plan Name: Record of Decision and 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 2008 - Record of Decision for the Designation of Areas of Critical Environmental Concern for the Roan Plateau Resource Management Plan.

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."

C. Compliance with NEPA

The proposed action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9, Section: D, Range Management, Number 1, Approval of transfers of grazing preference.

The Departmental Manual (516 DM 2.3A(3) & App. 2) requires that before any action described in the following list of categorical exclusions is used, the exceptions must be reviewed for applicability in each case. The proposed action cannot be categorically excluded if one or more of the exceptions apply, thus requiring either an EA or an EIS. When no exceptions apply, the following types of bureau actions normally do not require the preparation of an EA or EIS.

None of the following exceptions in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2, apply.

EXCLUSION	YES	NO
1. Have significant impacts on public health or safety.		X
2. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.		X
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].		X
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		X
5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		X
6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		X
7. Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.		X
8. Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.		X
9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		X
10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).		X
11. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the		X

physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).		
12. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).		X

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

BLM Interdisciplinary Team Authors and Reviewers		
Name	*Title*	*Areas of Participation*
Isaac Pittman	Rangeland Management Specialist	NEPA Lead, Range Management
Pauline Adams	Hydrologist	Air Quality, Water Quality, and Soil
Monte Senor	Rangeland Management Specialist	Invasive, Non-native Species
Carla DeYoung	Ecologist	ACEC, Vegetation, T/E/S Plants, Land Heath Standards
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
Everett Bartz	Rangeland Management Specialist	Wetlands & Riparian Zones
Brian Hopkins	Wildlife Biologist	Migratory Birds, Terrestrial Wildlife and T/E/S Terrestrial Wildlife, Aquatic Wildlife and T/E/S Aquatic Wildlife

REMARKS/MITIGATION: Transfer of grazing preference results in no impacts to the public lands and is only an administrative process.

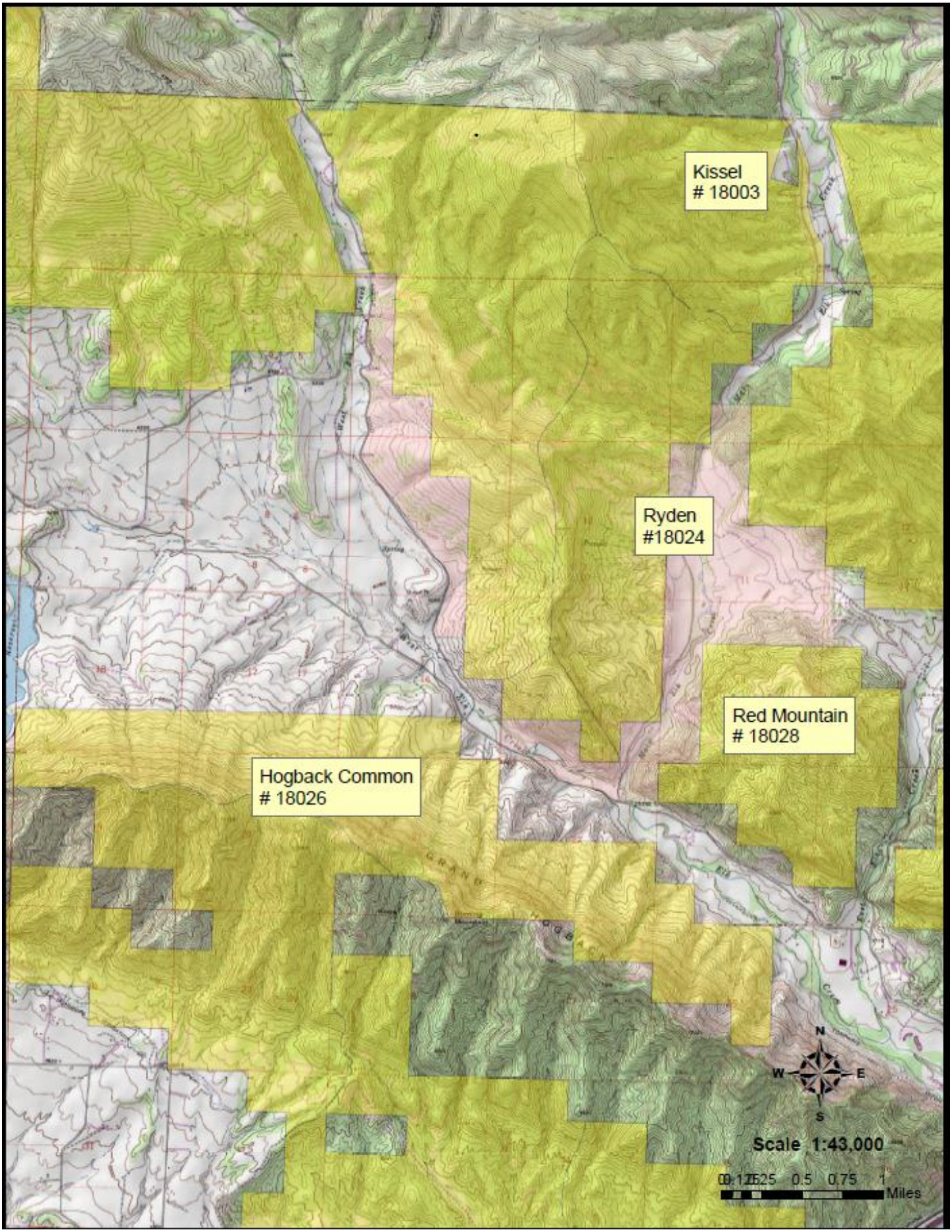
I considered this action and determined that it may be categorically excluded. I have evaluated the action relative to the 12 criteria listed above and have determined that it does not represent an exception and is, therefore, categorically excluded from further environmental analysis.

D. Signature

Authorized Official: _____ Date: 5-9-2012

Name: Matthew G. Thorburn
Title: Supervisory Natural Resource Specialist

Contact Person
For additional information concerning this CX review, contact Isaac Pittman, Rangeland Management Specialist, Colorado River Valley Field Office, 2300 River Frontage Road, Silt, CO 81652, Phone No. 970-876-9069.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18003
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#18024
Red Mountain
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Hogback Common
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