



United States Department of the Interior
 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
 Colorado River Valley Field Office
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DOCUMENTATION OF LAND USE PLAN CONFORMANCE AND NEPA ADEQUACY

NEPA NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-N040-2013-0123-DNA

CASEFILE NUMBER: 0507726

PROJECT NAME: Grazing Permit Renewal on the Horse Mountain (#08719) allotment.

LOCATION: Eagle CO

LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS: T., 5 S., R., 83 W., All/part Sections 7, 29 and 30. See attached map

APPLICANT: Grazing Permittee

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION:

The Proposed Action is to renew the term grazing permit for the applicant. The number of livestock, class of livestock, period of use and AUMs are the same as what was indicated on the previous permit. This permit will be issued for a 10-year period, unless the base property is leased for less, but for purposes of this DNA, we are assuming 10 years of grazing by this or another applicant (in case of transfer). The proposed action is in accordance with 43 CFR 4130.2. The tables below summarize the level of grazing use and permitted use.

Mandatory Terms and Conditions/Scheduled Grazing Use:

Operator No.	Allotment Name & No.	Livestock No. & Kind	Period of use	Public Land %	AUMs
0507726	Horse Mountain No. 08719	110 Cattle	06/01 to 10/15	8	44

Grazing Preference AUMS:

Operator No.	Allotment Name & No.	Active	Suspended	Total
0507726	Horse Mountain No. 08719	44	31	75

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

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 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 notified in writing to proceed by the authorized officer.

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. Maintenance activities shall be restricted to the footprint (previously disturbed area) of the project as it existed when it was initially constructed. The Bureau of Land Management shall be given a 48 hour 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 for 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; and amended in October 2012 - Approved Resource Management Plan Amendments/ Record of Decision (ROD) for Solar Energy Development in Six Southwestern States.

- 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: CO-140-2004-0021-EA Issue grazing permits on the Horse Mountain Allotment.

Date Approved: 01/12/2004

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).

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 essentially similar to the 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 analysis contained in the existing NEPA document remains valid in light of new studies and/or resource assessment information. A formal land health assessment was conducted on this allotment in 2002 and the report finalized in 2003, prior to the previous permit renewal analysis. The circumstances upon which the existing NEPA document is based remain valid and germane to the Proposed Action. No new threatened, endangered or sensitive species

have been identified on the allotment and the Proposed Action would not adversely impact migratory birds per EO 13186.

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 essentially similar to 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. 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 proposed action were received.

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	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, Vegetation, T/E/S Plants, Land Health Standards
Kimberly Miller	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Wild and Scenic Rivers, Wilderness, Recreation
Erin Leifeld	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources and Native American Religious Concerns

REMARKS:

Cultural Resources and Native American Religious Concerns

Cultural Resources Assessment Summary							
Allotment Name and Number	Land Status	Acres Inventoried at a Class III level	Acres NOT Inventoried at a Class III Level	Percent Allotment Inventoried at a Class III Level (%)	Number of Cultural Resources known in Allotment	Potential of Historic Properties	Management Recommendations (Additional inventory required and historic properties to be visited)
Horse Mountain #08719	BLM	183.1	96.2	65.5%	5	Moderate/Low	No inventory needed and no sites to monitor
	Private	159.5	3864.1	3.9%			

Seven cultural resource inventories (CRVFO# 807, 808, 845, 9409, 5498-18, 5498-19, 15912.2) have been previously conducted within the Horse Mountain Allotment #08719 resulting in the survey coverage of 342.6 acres at a Class III level. The allotment is 93.5% private land with only 279.3 acres of the allotment being BLM lands. Cultural resource inventory on BLM land totals 183.1 acres meaning 65.5% of the allotment which is BLM land has been inventoried. Five cultural resources have been documented within the Horse Mountain allotment all of which are historic sites. Of the five historic sites, one is potentially eligible (needs data) (5EA.520), three are not eligible (5EA.1524, 5EA.1521.1, 5EA.1829), and one has not been assessed (5EA.221) for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Of these five sites, only two occur on BLM lands (5EA.1829 and 5EA.1521.1) and both are not eligible for the NRHP. Looking at the General Land Office (GLO) Patents from 1922, indicated there is potential for historic sites throughout the area but they are all on private land.

No areas were identified for cultural resource inventory in the previous environmental analysis. Continued use of the allotment in livestock kind, number, or season of use will not likely have impacts to cultural resources. This information does not bring to light any changes to the previous analysis and no new areas of inventory are needed and no cultural resources need to be monitored. New range improvements, maintenance of existing range improvements, or additional feeding areas may require cultural resource inventories, monitoring, and/or data recovery.

The cultural resource evaluation of this allotment describing known cultural resources and their condition was sent to the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, and the Uinta and Ouray Agency Ute Indian Tribe. The letter, sent on February 4, 2014, requested the tribes to identify issues and areas of concern within the allotment. No comments or concerns were received at that time.

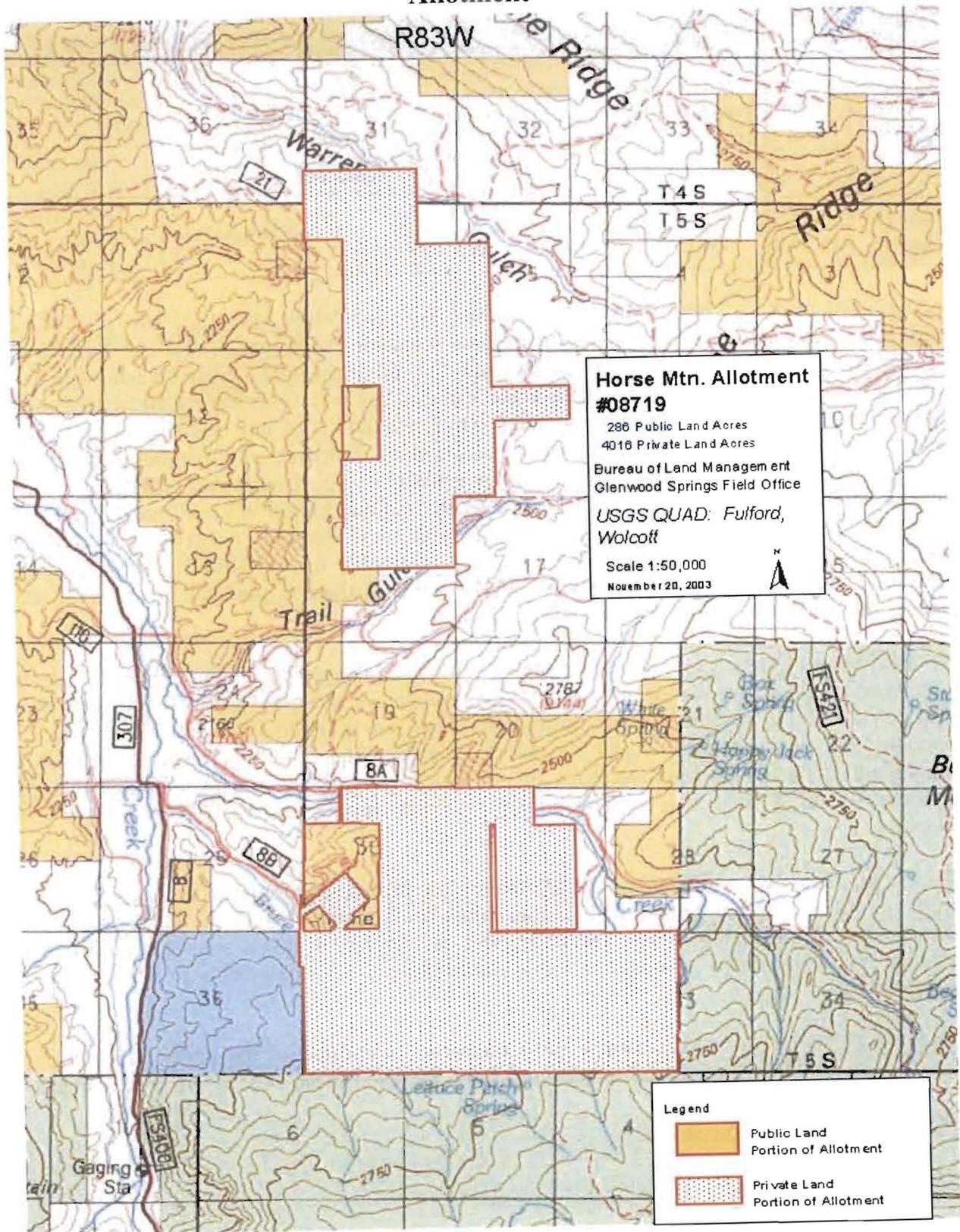
MITIGATION: The "Other Terms and Conditions" identified in the proposed action are substantially the same mitigation measures that were approved in the existing NEPA document.

COMPLIANCE PLAN (optional):

NAME OF PREPARER: Everett Bartz

DATE: 3/27/2014

Attachment 1: Horse Mountain Allotment

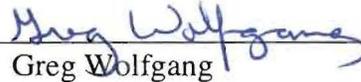


CONCLUSION

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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:



Greg Wolfgang
Supervisory Natural Resource Specialist

DATE SIGNED:

5/1/14

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.