



# United States Department of the Interior



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## ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

### 1. Introduction

NUMBER: **DOI-BLM-CO-040-2013-0044 EA**

CASEFILE NUMBER: 0507685

PROJECT NAME: Black Mountain Allotment (No. 08662) grazing lease renewal.

LOCATION: Five miles north of McCoy Colorado.

LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS: T., 1 S., R., 83 w., All/part Sections 2, 3, 4 and 10.

APPLICANT: Grazing permittee

#### PURPOSE AND NEED FOR ACTION:

These permits/leases are subject to renewal or transfer at the discretion of the Secretary of the Interior for a period of up to ten years. The U.S. Bureau of Land Management has the authority to renew the livestock grazing permits/leases consistent with the provisions of the Taylor Grazing Act, Public Rangelands Improvement Act, Federal Land Policy and Management Act, Roan Plateau Resource Management Plan Amendment, and the Colorado Public Land Health Standards.

The mission of the BLM is “to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations”. Land Health Standards and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management were developed between the BLM and the Colorado Resource Advisory Council to ensure that the mission of the BLM will be achieved.

This action is needed to determine whether or not to reissue grazing permits on the following allotments and if so under what terms and conditions to ensure that Public Land Health Standards and objectives for resource management are or will continue to be achieved.

#### SCOPING AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND ISSUES:

This action was scoped internally with the NEPA Interdisciplinary Team on March 30, 2013. Issues raised during the internal scoping are itemized in table 3-1 and analyzed in Section 3 Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences.

## 2. Proposed Action and Alternatives

### DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION

The proposed action is to renew a term grazing lease for Black Mountain Ranch. The number, kind of livestock, period of use, percent public land and animal unit months (AUMs) will all remain the same as the previous lease. The lease would be issued for a 10-year period unless the base property is leased for less, but for purposes of the EA, 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. Scheduled grazing use and grazing preference for the lease are summarized below.

**Table 2-1: Mandatory Terms and Conditions**

#### **Scheduled Grazing Use:**

Allotment & No.	Livestock No. & Kind	Period of use	Percent Public Land	AUMs
Black Mountain No. 08662	13 cattle	06/01 – 09/30	100	52

**Table 2-2: Grazing Preference AUMS:**

Allotment & No.	Active	Suspended	Total
Black Mountain No. 08662	52	0	52

Current Terms and Conditions from the expiring lease and carried forward onto the new lease.

Although this grazing authorization is for 13 cattle from June 01 to September 30 at 100% public land, it is recognized that the lessee runs a trail riding operation involving both public and private lands. The majority of grazing use occurs on private land and there is not continuous use on public lands during the authorized period (June 01 to September 30). Livestock numbers vary and include up to 40 cattle during trail rides. To provide flexibility for this type of operation and prevent resource damage, the following shall apply to this grazing lease:

To compensate for limited use of public land during the grazing period, livestock numbers will be allowed to fluctuate but will not exceed 40 cow/calf pairs. This flexibility will be allowed provided that resource damage to public land does not occur. In the event that resource damage does occur, this lease will be reissued subject to revised terms and conditions.

Grazing use on public land will be confined to the authorized period of June 01 to September 30.

Continuous use on public land will not be allowed during the above grazing period and will consist of a trail riding operation that utilizes both public and private land. Generally, trail rides and grazing use will occur on public land two or three times per week.

The following Other Terms and Conditions will be included on the renewed lease:

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 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 advance 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.

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.

#### NO GRAZING ALTERNATIVE

Under this alternative a grazing lease would not be reissued. As a result, no grazing would be authorized on the Black Mountain Allotment. This alternative would initiate the process in accordance with 43 CFR parts 4100 and 1600 to eliminate grazing on this allotment and would amend the resource management plan.

#### ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT NOT ANALYZED IN DETAIL

The “No Action” alternative has been eliminated from further consideration. This alternative would involve continuing the current management which would not conform to Colorado State Office and Washington Office guidance.

#### 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 Sept 2009 – Record of Decision for the Approval of Portions of the Roan Plateau Resource Management Plan Amendment; amended in March 2009 - Record of Decision for the Designation of Areas of Critical Environmental Concern for the Roan Plateau Resource Management Plan; and amended in October 2012 - Approved Resource Management Plan Amendments/ Record of Decision (ROD) for Solar Energy Development in Six Southwestern States.

##### 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.”

### RELATIONSHIP TO STATUTES, REGULATIONS, OTHER PLANS

- Taylor Grazing Act of 1934 as amended;
- Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976;
- Public Rangelands Improvement Act of 1978;
- Title 43 of the Code of Federal Regulations Subpart 4100 – Grazing Administration;
- Noxious Weed Act of 1974;
- Endangered Species Act of 1973;
- National Environmental Policy Act of 1969;
- Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918;
- National Historic Preservation Act (16 USC 470f);
- Archeological Resources Protection Act;
- Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act;
- Indian Sacred Sites – EO 13007;
- Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments – EO 13175; and
- Colorado Public Health Standards and Livestock Grazing Management Guidelines -March 1997

### STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC LAND HEALTH

In January 1997, Colorado Bureau of Land Management (BLM) approved the Standards for Public Land Health. The five standards cover upland soils, riparian systems, plant and animal communities, threatened and endangered species, and water quality. Standards describe conditions needed to sustain public land health and relate to all uses of the public lands.

The Black Mountain allotment is located within the King Mountain landscape. The King Mountain Land Health Assessment was signed in October 2012. The assessment determined that the Black Mountain allotment was meeting all of the standards.

The impact analysis addresses whether the proposed action or any alternatives being analyzed would result in impacts that would maintain, improve, or deteriorate land health conditions for each of the five standards. These analyses are located in the program-specific analysis in this document.

### 3. Affected Environment & Environmental Consequences

#### DIRECT AND INDIRECT EFFECTS, MITIGATION MEASURES

This section provides a description of the human and natural environmental resources that could be affected by the proposed action and alternatives. In addition, the section presents comparative analyses of the direct and indirect consequences on the affected environment stemming from the implementation of the various actions.

A variety of laws, regulations, and policy directives mandate the evaluation of the effects of a proposed action and alternative(s) on certain environmental elements. Not all programs, resources or uses are present in the area, or if they are present, may not be affected by the proposed action and alternatives (Table 3-1). Only those elements that are present and potentially affected are described and brought forth for detailed analysis.

<i>Table 3-1. Programs, Resources, and Uses (Including Supplemental Authorities)</i>	<i>Potentially Affected?</i>	
	Yes	No
Access and Transportation		X
Air Quality		X
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern		X
Cadastral Survey		X
Cultural Resources	X	
Native American Religious Concerns	X	
Environmental Justice		X
Farmlands, Prime or Unique		X
Fire/Fuels Management		X
Floodplains		X
Forests		X
Geology and Minerals		X
Law Enforcement		X
Livestock Grazing Management	X	
Noise		X
Paleontology		X
Plants: Invasive, Non-native Species (Noxious Weeds)	X	
Plants: Sensitive, Threatened, or Endangered		X
Plants: Vegetation	X	
Realty Authorizations		X
Recreation		X
Social and/or Economics		X
Soils	X	
Visual Resources		X
Wastes, Hazardous or Solid		X

Water Quality, Surface and Ground		X
Water Rights		X
Wetlands and Riparian Zones	X	
Wild and Scenic Rivers		X
Wilderness/WSAs/Wilderness Characteristics		X
Wildlife: Aquatic / Fisheries		X
Wildlife: Migratory Birds		X
Wildlife: Sensitive, Threatened, and Endangered Species		X
Wildlife: Terrestrial		X

## Cultural Resources

### Affected Environment

Grazing authorization renewals are undertakings under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. During Section 106 review, a cultural resource assessment (CRVFO#1013-31) was completed for the Black Mountain allotment on April 29, 2013 by Erin Leifeld, Colorado River Valley Field Office Archaeologist. The assessment followed the procedures and guidance outlined in the 1980 National Programmatic Agreement Regarding the Livestock Grazing and Range Improvement Program, IM-WO-99-039, IM-CO-99-007, IM-CO-99-019, and IM-CO-01-026. The results of the assessment are summarized in the table below. Copies of the cultural resource assessments are available at the Colorado River Valley Field Office archaeology files.

Data developed here was taken from the cultural program project report files, site report files, and base maps filed at the Colorado River Valley Field Office as well as information from General Land Office (GLO) maps, BLM land patent records, and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) site records, report records, and GIS data.

The table below is based on the allotment specific analysis for the allotment in this EA. The table shows known cultural resources, the potential of Historic Properties, and Management recommendations.

Allotment Name and Number	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 (Low/Mod/High)	Management Recommendations (Additional inventory required and historic properties to be visited)
Black Mountain #08662	100.1	847.5	10.5%	4	Moderate	No additional inventory, no properties to be monitored

Eight cultural resource inventories (CRVFO# 440, 721, 893, 908, 5401-2, 15806-7 and 5411-1) have occurred within the Black Mountain Allotment #08662 resulting in the survey coverage of 100.1 acres at a Class III level. Four cultural resources have been documented within the allotment and include on historic isolated find (5RT.1612, one prehistoric isolated find (5RT.1611) and one historic site (5RT.1610) which are all not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). One historic site (5RT.2959.1), the Kayser Mutual Ditch, is eligible

for the NRHP. Looking at the General Land Office (GLO) Patent from 1935 shows the eligible historic ditch. No areas were identified for cultural resource inventory in the previous environmental analysis.

### Environmental Consequences

#### *Proposed Action Alternative*

The direct impacts that occur where livestock concentrate, during normal livestock grazing activity, can include trampling, chiseling, artifact breakage, and churning of site soils, cultural features, and cultural artifacts. Impacts from livestock standing, leaning, and rubbing against historic structures, above-ground cultural features, and rock art can also have direct impacts to cultural resources. Indirect impacts include soil erosion and gullying, which can lead to increased ground visibility which has the potential to increase unlawful collection and vandalism. Continued livestock use in these concentration areas has the potential to cause substantial ground disturbance and in turn, irreversible adverse effects to historic properties.

The limited nature of grazing in this allotment is will likely have little impact to cultural resources. No further cultural resource inventory is recommended and no cultural resources are recommended to be monitored for impacts during this permit.

#### *No Grazing Alternative*

Under this alternative, direct and indirect impacts to cultural resources from grazing would be reduced based on the absence of livestock and no related surface disturbing activities.

### Mitigation Measures

New range improvements, maintenance of existing range improvements, or additional feeding areas may require cultural resource inventories, monitoring, and/or data recovery.

This allotment may contain undiscovered historic properties and/or resources protected under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), American Indian Religious Freedom Act, Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, E.O. 13007, or other statutes and executive orders. If the BLM determines that grazing activities will adversely impact the properties, mitigation will be identified and implemented in consultation with the Colorado SHPO. The BLM may also require modification to development proposals to protect such properties, or disapprove any activity that is likely to result in damage to historic properties or areas of Native American concern.

## **Native American Religious Concerns**

### Affected Environment

American Indian religious concerns are legislatively considered under the American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978 (PL 95-341), the Native American Graves Environmental Assessment Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 (PL 101-601), and Executive Order 13007 (1996; Indian Sacred Sites). These require, in concert with other provisions such as those found in the NHPA and Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA), that the federal government carefully and proactively take into consideration traditional and religious Native American culture and life. This ensures, to the degree possible, that access to sacred sites, the treatment of human remains, the possession of sacred items, the conduct of traditional religious practices, and the preservation of important cultural properties are considered and not unduly infringed upon. In some cases, these concerns are directly related to “historic properties” and “archaeological

resources”. In other cases, elements of the landscape without archaeological or other human material remains may be involved. Identification of these concerns is normally completed during the land use planning efforts, reference to existing studies, or via direct consultation.

The Ute have a generalized concept of spiritual significance that is not easily transferred to Euro-American models or definitions. The BLM recognizes that the Ute have identified sites that are of concern because of their association with Ute occupation of the area as part of their traditional lands. The cultural resource evaluation of these allotments 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 allotments. No comments or concerns were received.

### Environmental Consequences

#### *Proposed Action Alternative*

No traditional cultural properties, unique natural resources, or properties of a type previously identified as being of interest to local tribes, were identified during the overview of the cultural resources inventory of the project area. Therefore, areas of concern to Native American tribes will not be affected.

#### *No Grazing Alternative*

Under this alternative, direct and indirect impacts to cultural resources from grazing would be reduced based on the absence of livestock and no related surface disturbing activities. Therefore, areas of concern to Native American tribes would not be affected.

#### *Mitigation*

Following the *Mitigation* measures in the Cultural Resources section will help to ensure direct and indirect impacts are not occurring in areas where concern is unknown.

### **Livestock Grazing Management**

#### Affected Environment

The grazing lease for the Black Mountain Allotment is a non-traditional lease in that the allotment is used as a place to stage “cattle drives”. Cattle are herded from private lands to locations within the allotment and back again. These cattle drives typically occur 2 to 3 times per week with livestock grazing occurring on both private and public lands. None of the private land is fenced from the public lands. Up to 24 guests at the Black Mountain Ranch are the cattle drive “herders” who are supplied horses when pushing cattle. The horses do not stay on public lands and are ridden back to the private land daily. Livestock use of public lands typically last one to two days per week with the majority of use occurring on private land because that is where most of the forage base is.

#### Environmental Effects

##### *Proposed Action*

The proposed action is using public land to stage cattle drives is essentially the same as previous leases and has been ongoing for at least twenty years.

### *No Grazing Alternative*

Without the presence of cattle on Black Mountain, resource impacts from livestock would not exist. However, there are no fences to keep livestock from private lands off public lands creating a potential for livestock trespass onto public lands.

## **Plants: Invasive Non-Native Species (Noxious Weeds)**

### Affected Environment

A landscape-wide noxious weed inventory has not been completed on the Black Mountain allotment. Infestations of a variety of species of thistles, hounds tongue, diffuse knapweed, common burdock, common mullein, and hoary cress are documented on neighboring allotments, and given the nature of noxious weed infestations it can be assumed these and other noxious weeds may be found in the Black Mountain allotment.

### Environmental Effects

#### *Proposed Action*

Weeds generally germinate and become established in areas of surface disturbing activities. Livestock grazing can contribute to the establishment and expansion of noxious weeds through various mechanisms. Improperly managed grazing, such as overgrazing, can cause a decline in desirable native plant species and ground cover which provides a niche for noxious weed invasion. In addition, noxious weed seed can be transported and introduced to new areas by fecal deposition or by seed that clings to animal's coats. This effect is minimal compared to other weed seed dispersal vectors such as recreation and ground disturbing activities. Conversely, properly managed livestock grazing maintains the vigor and health of native plant species which inhibits the spread of noxious weeds. Since the proposed action was designed to sustain and/or improve land health, no significant impacts to non-native, invasive species are expected. Noxious and invasive plant species are not expected to radically increase as a result of the continuation of livestock grazing practices. Most infestations will be isolated to watering facilities, salting areas, and other areas where livestock concentrate.

### *No Grazing Alternative*

Under this alternative, no livestock grazing would occur on the allotment and there would be no direct or indirect impacts to noxious weeds from livestock use. Grazing by wildlife may continue to create localized disturbances that would enable weed expansion. Wildlife and recreation would continue to be vectors for the transportation and spread of noxious weed seeds.

## **Plants: Vegetation**

### Affected Environment

The Black Mountain allotment lies north of McCoy, Colorado between Rock Creek canyon on the west and Black Mountain on the east. The allotment ranges in elevation from 7,800 feet along the banks of Rock Creek to 9,600 feet on the middle slopes of Black Mountain. Nearly 80 percent of the allotment consists of dense stands of spruce-fir and lodgepole pine. The remainder consists of several small, forest openings dominated by mesic mountain shrubs such as mountain big sagebrush, antelope bitterbrush, and serviceberry and a variety of perennial grasses and forbs.

Very little monitoring data is available for this allotment, however, a lynx habitat condition assessment reported that the allotment was in good condition.

## Environmental Effects

### *Proposed Action*

Direct impacts to vegetation from livestock grazing include removal of vegetation and trampling damage. Indirect impacts may include increased plant mortality (increased bare ground), changes in species composition and increases in noxious weeds and other undesirable species. Poorly managed grazing can result in excessive utilization or repeated defoliations that do not allow sufficient time for rest and recovery of plant species. Reduced vigor or death of plant species may result as well as increased potential for invasion of noxious weeds and other undesirable vegetation. Excess trampling damage can lead to soil compaction and erosion which can impede root growth and seedling establishment. Well-managed grazing can remove old or dead growth that allows for an increase in photosynthesis and green matter (re-growth). Well-managed grazing also allows adequate time for plant regrowth and seed set following grazing or prior to grazing.

The proposed action involves using the allotment to stage cattle drives throughout the summer. The permit allows periodic cattle grazing from June 1 to September 30<sup>th</sup>. The allotment is used in conjunction with adjacent private lands and cattle are driven back and forth with use occurring on public lands generally two to three days per week. This operation has been conducted for the past 20 years with little or no evidence of adverse impacts on vegetation.

### *No Grazing Alternative*

Under this alternative, no livestock grazing would occur and there would be no direct or indirect impacts to vegetation from livestock use. Trampling or removal of plant material may still occur from wildlife grazing.

### *Land Health Standards*

A formal Land Health Assessment was conducted on the Black Mountain allotment in 2011. The plant communities were in good condition at the time of the assessment with good species diversity, good ground cover and very few noxious weeds observed. Many beetle-killed conifers were noted. The allotment was meeting Standard 3 for healthy plant communities and the proposed action is not likely to result in a downward trend in vegetative conditions.

## Soils

### Affected Environment

A review of the soil survey by the NRCS for the *Routt Area, Colorado, Parts of Rio Blanco and Routt Counties* (NRCS 2007), indicate six soil map units occur within the proposed allotment. The NRCS soil map unit descriptions (NRCS 2011) are provided below for the three dominant soils:

**Fulvance very gravelly sandy loam, very stony (78F)** - This component is on mountains of 25 to 65 percent slopes. The parent material consists of colluvium derived from sandstone and/or slope alluvium derived from sandstone. Depth to a root restrictive layer is greater than 60 inches. The natural drainage class is well drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is moderately high. Available water to a depth of 60 inches is low. Shrink-swell potential is low. This soil does not meet hydric criteria.

**Perfecto very gravelly sandy loam (146)** - This component is on mountain slopes of 3 to 65 percent slopes. The parent material consists of colluvium derived from sandstone and shale

and/or slope alluvium derived from sandstone and shale. Depth to a root restrictive layer is greater than 60 inches. Available water to a depth of 60 inches is very low. Shrink-swell potential is low. There is no zone of water saturation within a depth of 72 inches.

**Namela-Rogert complex (114)** - This component is on mountain slopes 35 to 80 percent. The parent material consists of colluvium derived from sandstone and shale and/or slope alluvium derived from sandstone and shale. The natural drainage class is well drained. Shrink-swell potential is low. The Rogert component makes up approximately 35 percent of the map unit.

Soil health was evaluated in 2011 during the King Mountain Land Health Assessment. BLM staff concluded that soils were meeting land health standards throughout the proposed allotment, with several slight to moderate departures from expected conditions. Soil conditions had more bare ground than expected, evidence of shallow gullies and increased litter movement (BLM 2011).

### Environmental Effects

#### *Proposed Action*

Grazing activities result in direct soil compaction and displacement that increase the likelihood of erosional processes, especially on steep slopes and areas devoid of vegetation. Soil detachment and sediment transport are likely to occur during runoff events associated with spring snowmelt and short-duration high intensity thunderstorms. Indirect impacts include soil erosion and gullying. Based on existing soil conditions and generally good vegetative cover; the likelihood of livestock grazing contributing to excessive soil degradation and transport to nearby drainages is not expected. Grazing activities on the proposed allotment would not likely create long term effects that would compromise soil stability on a large scale. Small-scale and localized disturbances would likely be limited to trails and watering areas.

#### *No Grazing Alternative*

Under this alternative, no livestock grazing would occur and there would be no direct or indirect impacts to soils from livestock use. Trampling or removal of plant material may still occur from wildlife grazing. In addition, soil disturbance and erosion may persist due to other surface disturbing activities, such as roads and trails that exist throughout the allotment.

#### *Land Health Standard 1 for Soils*

Based on the King Mountain Land Health Assessment, BLM staff concluded that soils are meeting Standard 1 (BLM 2012). Implementation of the proposed action is not anticipated to degrade soil health from current conditions.

## **Water Quality, Surface and Ground**

### Affected Environment

This allotment lies within the Rock Creek watershed. Both the perennially flowing Black Creek and an unnamed intermittent tributary to Rock Creek carry overland flow from the allotment. USGS operated a gaging station on Rock Creek (09060770) at McCoy, which are miles downstream of the allotment boundary. Rock Creek has a seasonal variation of flow, with high flow occurring in mid-April through mid-June. Natural flow has been modified somewhat by irrigation withdrawal within the basin. Data were collected on Rock Creek by BLM in the early 1980s, and periodic specific conductance measurements were made by USGS at the gaging station. Those data indicate very good water quality, with specific conductance below 500

micromhos per centimeter, pH slightly basic in the 8.1 range, and very low turbidity suggesting low sediment levels. During the King Mountain Land Health Assessment, limited field water quality data was sampled and summarized below:

Stream Name	Date	Estimated Discharge (cfs)	pH	Temp. (°C)	Conductivity (umhos/cm)	Salinity (ppt)	Dissolved Oxygen		Hardness (mg/L)
							%	mg/l	
Rock Cr	7/20/2011	18.00	5.06	19.0	109.4	0.1	41.1	4.67	189.6
Black Cr	7/27/2011	1.00	8.39	10.7	65.5	0.0	27.7	3.12	155.2
Johns Pond (Black Mnt Res)	7/27/2011	-	8.54	9.5	158.6	0.1	29.8	3.44	258.6

The State of Colorado has developed *Stream Classifications and Water Quality Standards* that identify beneficial uses of water and numeric standards used to determine allowable concentrations of water quality parameters (CDPHE 2010a). Tributaries in the proposed allotment are listed under the Upper Colorado River Basin (Region 12) and have water use classifications described below:

Stream Segment Description	Classifications
7b. Mainstem of Rock Creek, including all tributaries and wetlands from their sources to their confluences with the Colorado River, which are not on National Forest lands.	Aquatic Life Cold 1 Recreation E Agriculture Water Supply

The State of Colorado has developed a *303(d) List of Water Quality Limited Segments Requiring TMDLS and Monitoring and Evaluation List* (CDPHE 2010b) that identifies stream segments that are not currently meeting water quality standards with technology based controls alone. No streams in the proposed allotment are on this list suggesting water quality standards are currently being met.

### Environmental Effects

#### *Proposed Action*

Direct impacts to water quality resulting from grazing could be elevated nutrient levels (i.e. fecal coliform) if cattle begin to congregate near water sources for extended periods of time. Hoof action and trail riding along a stream channel can cause surface compaction, stream bank shearing, elevated erosion rates and subsequent deterioration of water quality. Indirect impacts may result from excessive utilization in upland watershed areas reducing effective vegetative cover, elevating erosion potential and increasing sediment delivery to streams, which could negatively impact water quality. The proposed stocking rates and duration are not expected to have a negative effect on water quality. Any sediment that is produced in areas where livestock may congregate would likely be captured by the existing vegetative ground cover.

#### *No Grazing Alternative*

Under this alternative, no livestock grazing would occur and there would be no direct or indirect impacts to water quality from livestock use. Trampling or removal of plant material may still occur from wildlife grazing, and soil disturbance and erosion may persist due to other surface

disturbing activities, such as roads and trails that exists throughout the allotment, which could potentially affect water quality.

*Land Health Standards for Water Resources*

Based on the King Mountain Land Health Assessment, BLM staff concluded that water quality is meeting Standard 5 (BLM 2011). Implementation of the proposed action is not anticipated to degrade water quality from current conditions.

**Wetlands and Riparian Zones**

Affected Environment

The table below lists known riparian areas and their Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) assessment for the Black Mountain Allotment:

Year	Riparian Area	Miles	Condition Rating
2011	Black Creek	2.13	Proper Functioning Condition

**Black Creek:**

There are just over two miles of creek bottom associated with Black Creek within the allotment. The CRVFO ID team rated this riparian area at PFC in 2011.

*Proposed Action*

The renewal of this term grazing lease is not expected to have substantial riparian impacts to Black Creek because this livestock operation is non-traditional in that the livestock operator uses the allotment as a place to stage cattle drives. The cattle are under total control of cow pokes who ride along with the cattle, moving them around within the allotment. Monitoring results suggest that the proposed action would have little to no impact to riparian areas but the potential does exist if livestock are unattended.

*No Grazing Alternative*

This alternative of no grazing is expected to benefit riparian areas because livestock grazing would not be authorized on the allotment.

*Land Health Standard 2 for Riparian Systems*

During the King Mountain Land Health Assessment of 2011, BLM staff determined that the riparian area in the Black Mountain Allotment was meeting Standard 2. Implementation of the proposed action is not anticipated to degrade riparian systems from current conditions.

**Wildlife: Aquatic / Fisheries**

Affected Environment

A small stretch of Rock Creek cross the Black Mountain allotment. This large stream crosses a couple of larger parcels of BLM lands prior to entering the Colorado River. This stream contains rainbow and brown trout as well as mottled sculpin and longnose sucker. Recent fishery surveys demonstrate fish densities were good. Native mottled sculpin were particularly abundant. Stream habitat was in good condition with abundant quality pool habitat. Riparian vegetation was diverse, dense, and lush along the entire BLM segment. The stream contains adequate year-round flow to sustain resident fish species. Other habitats associated with Black Creek and a number of seeps and lentic ponds could also support Boreal Toad and Northern leopard frog

populations. Presence of these species is not confirmed and surveys within the area have been limited.

### Environmental Effects

#### *Proposed Action*

The proposed action is using public land to stage cattle drives is essentially the same as previous leases and has been ongoing for at least twenty years. If cattle are allowed to remain in lotic or lentic water sources, the proposed action could negatively impact aquatic wildlife. Compacted soil, erosion, channel entrenchment, increased sediment loading, reduction of riparian vegetation, and increased water temperatures from nitrogen runoff are all potential negative impacts associated with the proposed action. These impacts are unlikely to be realized under grazing numbers and short durations relative to actual use of the proposed action on public lands. Based on Land Health Standards this area is currently meeting all standards for plant and animal communities, this historic use is having little negative impact on the long term health of aquatic species.

#### *No Grazing Alternative*

This action would have no impact on aquatic wildlife species.

#### *Land Health Standards*

Meeting standard 3 for animal and plant communities and standard 4 for threatened and endangered aquatic species. Due to the low level of grazing and lack of changes being proposed for this long running permit, it is unlikely that the proposed action would alter or negatively impact standards 3 and 4 for aquatic species. The no grazing alternative would not negatively impact land health standards.

### **Wildlife: Migratory Birds**

#### Affected Environment

The CRVFO planning area provides both foraging and nesting habitat for a variety of migratory birds that summer, winter, or migrate through the area. The affected environment as it relates to migratory bird habitat is largely roadside vegetation and herbaceous cover reduction associated with incidental grazing that takes place during trailing operations. Given the vegetation at the trailing sites, these areas provide cover, forage, and nesting habitat for a variety of migratory bird species.

Raptors and neotropical migrants (both game and nongame) are afforded protection under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Neotropical migrants include birds that breed in the United States and Canada and winter in Latin America (Nicholoff 2003). BLM Instruction Memorandum No. 2008-050 provides guidance toward meeting the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) responsibilities under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Executive Order (EO) 13186. The guidance directs Field Offices to promote the maintenance and improvement of habitat quantity and quality. To avoid, reduce or mitigate adverse impacts on the habitats of migratory bird species of conservation concern to the extent feasible, and in a manner consistent with regional or statewide bird conservation priorities.

The 1988 amendment to the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act mandates the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to "identify species, subspecies, and populations of all migratory nongame birds that, without additional conservation actions, are likely to become candidates for

listing under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973.” The “*BIRDS OF CONSERVATION CONCERN 2008*” (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2009) is the most recent effort to carry out this mandate.

The MBTA prohibits the “take” of a protected species. Under the Act, the term “take” means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct. The USFWS interprets “harm” and “kill” to include loss of eggs or nestlings due to abandonment or reduced attentiveness by one or both adults as a result of disturbance by human activity, as well as physical destruction of an occupied nest.

The conservation concerns are the result of population declines - naturally or human-caused, small ranges or population sizes, threats to habitat, or other factors. Although there are general patterns that can be inferred, there is no single reason why any species is on the list. Habitat loss is believed to be the major reason for the declines of many species. When considering potential impacts to migratory birds the impact on habitat, including: 1) the degree of fragmentation/connectivity expected from the proposed project relative to before the proposed project; and 2) the fragmentation/connectivity within and between habitat types (e.g., within nesting habitat or between nesting and feeding habitats. Continued private land development, surface disturbing actions in key habitats (e.g. riparian areas) and the proliferation of roads, pipelines, powerlines and trails are local factors that reduce habitat quality and quantity for many species.

**Birds of Conservation Concern in the Black Mountain Allotment**

Species	Status	Winter	Spring Migrant	Summer	Fall Migrant
Bald eagle ( <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> )	Resident	Fairly Common	Uncommon	Uncommon	Uncommon
Ferruginous hawk ( <i>Buteo regalis</i> )	Migrant	Uncommon	Rare	Rare	Rare
Golden eagle ( <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> )	Resident	Uncommon	Uncommon	Uncommon	Uncommon
Prairie falcon ( <i>Falco mexicanus</i> )	Resident	Uncommon	Uncommon	Uncommon	Uncommon
Lewis's woodpecker ( <i>Melanerpes lewis</i> )	Resident	Uncommon	Uncommon	Uncommon	Uncommon
Willow flycatcher ( <i>Empidonax traillii</i> )	Breeding	NA	Resident	Uncommon	Resident
Pinyon jay ( <i>Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus</i> )	Resident	Fairly Common	Fairly Common	Fairly Common	Fairly Common
Juniper titmouse ( <i>Baeolophus griseus</i> )	Resident	Uncommon	Uncommon	Uncommon	Uncommon
Veery ( <i>Catharus fuscescens</i> )	Migrant	NA	Resident	Resident	Resident
Black rosy-finch ( <i>Leucosticte atrata</i> )	Winters	Rare	NA	NA	NA
Brown-capped rosy-finch ( <i>Leucosticte australis</i> )	Resident	Uncommon	Uncommon	Uncommon	Uncommon
Cassin's finch ( <i>Cassin's Finch</i> )	Resident	Fairly Common	Fairly Common	Fairly Common	Fairly Common

Species	Status	Winter	Spring Migrant	Summer	Fall Migrant
<p><b>Resident</b> – Found year-round in the area. Numbers may fluctuate due to the arrival of migrant population and to partial seasonal withdrawals. Local elevation fluctuations may occur.</p> <p><b>Breeding</b> – Migratory species. Nests in the area, some years a few may winter.</p> <p><b>Migrant</b> – Species that migrates through the area in spring or fall. Some may be found in summer but do not breed.</p> <p><b>Winters</b> – Migratory species that winters but does not nest in the area.</p> <p><b>Fairly Common</b> – Present in smaller numbers in suitable habitat, likely to be seen daily.</p> <p><b>Uncommon</b> – Occurs in small numbers in suitable habitat, not always seen daily.</p> <p><b>Causal/Accidental</b> – Sporadic and unexpected, vagrant species outside of its normal range.</p>					

Many species of raptors (red-tailed hawks, kestrels and owls) not on the Fish & Wildlife Service’s Birds of Conservation Concern list in addition to listed species would irregularly pass through the area or forage within the area if prey was sighted.

Environmental Effects

*Proposed Action*

A variety of migratory bird species are present on this allotment given the diverse mix of vegetation and topography that encompasses the area. Due to the arboreal nesting nature of birds in this area it is unlikely that livestock grazing of this magnitude will have any negative effect to migratory birds, and no intentional take of native bird species is anticipated. The proposed action and grazing management regimes allow for adequate rest and regrowth periods that should result in retainment of vegetation important to migratory birds. Nesting, breeding, and foraging areas should not be impacted.

*No Grazing Alternative*

Migratory birds would not be impacted under this alternative.

**Wildlife: Sensitive, Threatened, and Endangered**

Affected Environment

**Canada Lynx**

Lynx are currently listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. The Black Mountain trail occurs within a lynx landscape linkage. The Black Mountain Allotment is dominated by conifer with some interspersed aspen and small sagebrush parks. These habitats provide cover for movement and dispersal, and habitat for alternative prey species, including jackrabbits, squirrels, chipmunks, mice, and sage grouse, among others. Land Health Standard 3 and 4 are being met for prey forage species and vegetation requirements to fulfill lynx movement through the landscape.

**Northern Goshawk**

The Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*) is the largest North American accipiter and is currently listed as a BLM sensitive species. It maneuvers through dense woods, taking prey as small as squirrels and as large as grouse, crows, and snowshoe hare. It prefers nesting in mature forest often selecting nests atop mature aspen trees in topographically isolated stands with thick understory to hunt. Due to this narrow nesting habitat relative to the proposed area it is likely that successful offspring would select nest sites nearby and expand their territories. Northern goshawks are known to nest near this allotment. These raptors likely forage in the vicinity of this allotment.

## Environmental Effects

### *Proposed Action*

#### ***Canada Lynx***

It is unlikely that cattle grazing of low magnitude associated with this action would directly impact the structural vegetation complexity to the extent that lynx need to cross this landscape linkage. Indirect effects associated reduction of herbaceous cover from cattle grazing may impact alternate prey species of lynx but should be minimal due to the relatively short duration (spatially and temporally) of the proposed grazing action. Future private developments and increased recreational OHV use are main threats to this landscape linkage for lynx but are not yet to the point that cattle trailing would cumulatively compromise the ability for lynx to move across the landscape.

#### ***Northern Goshawk***

Due to the proposed action overlapping with goshawk nesting period it is possible that the proposed action may disrupt these activities. These birds will commonly attack people and other animals that approach the nest too closely. This conflict with the historically occurring activity has led to no reported or recorded incidents of such occurrence suggesting that “dude ranch” activities have not disrupted nest sites in the past. Therefore it is reasonable to conclude that this identical action would not cause a conflict under the proposed action. Typically livestock grazing of low magnitude is not considered a threat to this species as they occupy remote areas of low disturbance. Main threats to this species include logging, fire, habitat fragmentation, and high frequency recreational use within occupied nesting habitats.

### *No Grazing Alternative*

Canada lynx and Northern goshawk would not be impacted by this alternative.

### *Mitigation*

The permittee will report any significant deviation of grazing outside of historically used areas as to not encroach on any unknown existing Northern goshawk nest sites. The permittee will also report any confirmed or possible goshawk sightings or encounters most notably if goshawks are observed defending nest or hunting territories. These encounters would warrant goshawk surveys to be completed by a Colorado River Valley Field Office biologist to identify nesting sites.

### *Land Health Standards*

Standard 4 is being met for threatened and endangered wildlife species for the proposed area. Understory in climax and pine beetle kill stands may not be meeting requirements for primary prey species for lynx in the project area. Likewise, prey availability may be a limiting factor for Northern goshawk in these climax lodgepole communities making marginal forage opportunities. The proposed action is largely independent of these conditions due to the low magnitude of grazing and are not expected to impact land health standards.

The No Grazing alternative is not expected to improve limiting factors to TES species and therefore have little influence on the overall influence on land health determinations.

## **Wildlife: Terrestrial**

### Affected Environment

#### ***Large Mammals***

**Mule Deer.** Mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) are a recreationally important species which are common throughout suitable habitats in the region. Deer are migratory, meaning they summer at higher elevations and move down to lower elevations as winter approaches. Deer are considered primarily browsers and forage on sagebrush-dominated ridges and south-facing slopes at lower elevation in the winter.

**Rocky Mountain Elk.** Another recreationally important big game ungulate (hoofed animal), the Rocky Mountain elk (*Cervus elaphus nelsonii*), is also present. Rocky mountain elk can be found in most habitat types and elevations at least on a seasonal basis. Elk are considered generalist feeders that utilize grasses, forbs, and shrubs. Calving grounds are carefully selected by the cows and are generally in locations where cover, forage, and water are found together. Elk tend to inhabit higher elevations during spring and summer and migrate to lower elevations for winter range. Elk form large, sometimes mixed, herds on favored winter range.

**Moose.** Shiras Moose (*Alces alces shirasi*), in the Black Mountain landscape are managed in DAU M-3. A herd management plan has not been completed for this herd. Moose rarely compete with livestock or other big game for forage as they forage primarily on willows (CDOW 2008a). Moose tend to be found along riparian areas and in timbered areas, though they will cross semi-desert shrublands at times. Moose scat was observed on Black Mountain (mapped overall/summer range).

**Mountain Lions.** Mountain lions (*Puma concolor*) within the landscape assessment area are managed in DAU L-6, which encompasses Game Management Units (GMU) 15, 25, 26, 34, 35, 36, 43, 44, 45, 47, 444, 471 (CDOW 2004). Mountain lions are primarily associated with the lower elevation habitats within the DAU among the rocky, steep canyons. As in most areas in Colorado, lion habitat overlaps with the range of their principle food source, mule deer. This landscape contains a complete range of mountain lion habitat. This landscape is in the northern part of the DAU. Unlike the southern portion of the DAU, the northern part has not seen a tremendous growth in land development.

Mountain lions are classified as big game species and require a license to hunt with annual seasons and quotas. The long-term goal in DAU L-6 is to maintain a healthy sustainable lion population while providing continued opportunity for sport harvest, minimizing human lion conflicts and mitigating domestic livestock loss by lions. The preferred management strategy for L-6 is to maintain an acceptable annual mortality rate, including hunting and non-hunting, in a range between 8% and 15% of the hunt-able population. The annual harvest (10-year average) in this DAU averages 22 lions. The CDOW calculated population projection of available lion habitat within the DAU was determined to be approximately 301 lion (CDOW 2004).

#### *Resident Raptors and Other Birds*

Northern goshawks and Cooper's hawks are known to nest near this allotment. These and other raptors likely forage in the vicinity of the proposed action area.

#### *Reptiles and Amphibians*

##### Environmental Effects

##### *Proposed Action*

Big game summer habitat overlap with this allotment is unlikely to compete and/or be impacted by the proposed magnitude of grazing relative to current land health determinations.

Northern goshawks and Cooper’s hawks are known to nest near this allotment. These and other raptors likely forage in the vicinity of this allotment. Raptors should not be negatively affected by continued livestock grazing. Adequate forage exists to maintain adequate prey species and nesting habitat.

*No Grazing Alternative*

This alternative would not impact Terrestrial wildlife.

*Land Health Standards*

Standard 3 is being met in the proposed area. Due to the limited survey data in the area, terrestrial wildlife are closely tied to conditions of vegetation in their respective habitats. The plant communities were in good condition at the time of the assessment (2011) with good species diversity, good ground cover and very few noxious weeds observed. Many beetle-killed conifers were noted. The allotment was meeting Standard 3 for healthy plant communities and the proposed action is not likely to result in a downward trend in vegetative conditions.

The No Grazing alternative would be expected to increase land health standards for terrestrial wildlife as most species would benefit from more available herbaceous cover and forage. Due to the low level of grazing potentially being removed, benefits would be difficult to measure.

CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

**Soil and Water.** Cumulative impacts to soil and water resources can occur from existing roads and trails throughout the allotment. Roads and trails can contribute to increased surface runoff and accelerated erosion, especially where proper drainage is lacking. Other impacts such as vegetation treatments or weed treatments may also change water infiltration or runoff rates and affect soil and water resources. Based on limited land management activities occurring across the allotment, it is assumed that cumulative effects to soil and water are minor if proper best management practices are implemented.

RESIDUAL EFFECTS

**5. Tribes, Individuals, Organizations, or Agencies Consulted**

**6. List of Preparers**

Members of the CRVFO Interdisciplinary Team who participated in the impact analysis of the Proposed Action and alternatives, development of appropriate mitigation measures, and preparation of this EA are listed in Table 6-1, along with their areas of responsibility.

Table 6-1. BLM Interdisciplinary Team Authors and Reviewers		
<i>Name</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Areas of Participation</i>
Everett Bartz	Rangeland Management Specialist	Livestock Grazing Management and Riparian
Kimberly Miller	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Wilderness, Wild and Scenic Rivers, Recreation
Darren Long	Wildlife Biologist	T/E/S Aquatic and Terrestrial

Table 6-1. BLM Interdisciplinary Team Authors and Reviewers		
<i>Name</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Areas of Participation</i>
		Wildlife, Migratory Birds, Terrestrial Wildlife
Pauline Adams	Hydrologist	Soil, Water, Air Quality
Carla DeYoung	Ecologist	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, Vegetation, T/E/S Plants
Erin Leifeld	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources and Native American Religious Concerns

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
COLORADO RIVER VALLEY FIELD OFFICE  
SILT, COLORADO

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

**DOI-BLM-N040-2012-0044-EA**

**Finding of No Significant Impact**

I have reviewed the direct, indirect and cumulative effects of the proposed action documented in the EA referenced above. The effects of the proposed action are disclosed in the Alternatives and Environmental Effects sections of the EA. Implementing regulations for NEPA (40 CFR 1508.27) provide criteria for determining the significance of the effects. Significant, as used in NEPA, requires consideration of both *context* and *intensity* as follows:

(a) Context. This requirement means that the significance of an action must be analyzed in several contexts such as society as a whole (human, national), the affected region, the affected interests, and the locality. Significance varies with the setting of the proposed action. For instance, in the case of a site-specific action, significance would usually depend upon the effects in the locale rather than in the world as a whole. Both short and long-term effects are relevant (40 CFR 1508.27):

The disclosure of effects in the EA found the actions limited in context. The planning area is limited in size and activities limited in potential. Effects are local in nature and are not likely to significantly affect regional or national resources.

(b) Intensity. This requirement refers to the severity of the impact. Responsible officials must bear in mind that more than one agency may make decisions about partial aspects of a major action. The following are considered in evaluating intensity (40 CFR 1508.27).

*1. Impacts that may be both beneficial and/or adverse.*

Impacts associated with this livestock grazing lease renewal are identified and discussed in the Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences section of the EA. The proposed action will not have any significant beneficial or adverse impacts on the resources identified and described in the EA.

*2. The degree to which the proposed action affects health or safety.*

The proposed activities will not significantly affect public health or safety. The purpose of the proposed action is to allow for multiple uses while maintaining or improving resource conditions to meet standards for rangeland health in the allotment. Similar actions have not significantly affected public health or safety.

*3. Unique characteristics of the geographic area such as prime and unique farmlands, caves, wild and scenic rivers, wilderness study areas, or ACECs.*

There are no unique characteristics of the geographic area.

*4. The degree to which the effects are likely to be highly controversial.*

The possible effects of continued livestock grazing are not likely to be highly controversial.

*5. The degree to which the effects are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks.*

The possible effects on the human environment are not highly uncertain nor do they involve unique or uncertain risks. The technical analyses conducted for the determination of the impacts to the resources are supportable with the use of accepted techniques, reliable data, and professional judgment. Therefore, I conclude that there are no highly uncertain, unique, or unknown risks.

*6. The degree to which the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represent a decision in principle about a future consideration.*

This EA is specific to the Black Mountain Allotment. It is not expected to set precedent for future actions with significant effects or represent a decision in principle about a future management consideration in or outside of this allotment.

*7. Whether the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts.*

The area covered by the proposed action only comprises a small portion of the watershed. Cumulatively, many of the future actions planned on private and other lands may have some undetermined effect on wildlife including special status species habitat. The proposed action would create negligible landscape-level cumulative impacts to wildlife when viewed in conjunction with those activities currently occurring and reasonably certain to occur on adjacent private/other lands.

*8. The degree to which the action may adversely affect scientific, cultural, or historical resources, including those listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.*

Of the 4 cultural resources identified, 1 has been determined eligible or potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Subsequent site field visits, inventory, and periodic monitoring may have to be done to identify if other historic properties are present as well as determine if there are impacts to these properties within the term of the permit and as funds are made available. If the BLM determines that grazing activities adversely impact the properties, mitigation will be identified and implemented in consultation with the Colorado SHPO. The EA discloses the adverse impacts that could occur to cultural resources from livestock grazing.

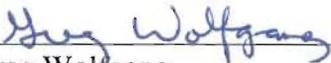
9. *The degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.*

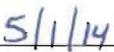
There is no endangered or threatened species or its habitat included within the assessment area.

10. *Whether the action threatens a violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment.*

The proposed action does not violate or threaten to violate any Federal, State or local laws or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment.

Based upon the review of the test for significance and the environmental analyses conducted, I have determined that the actions analyzed in the EA will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, I have determined that the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not necessary for this proposal.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Greg Wolfgang  
Colorado River Valley Field Office

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

