

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Kremmling Field Office
P.O. Box 68
Kremmling, CO 80459**

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

NUMBER: CO-120-2008-32-EA

PROJECT NAME: Kremmling Fireworks Display

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T.1N., R. 80W., Section 8: NW¼

APPLICANT: Kremmling Fire Protection District

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES:

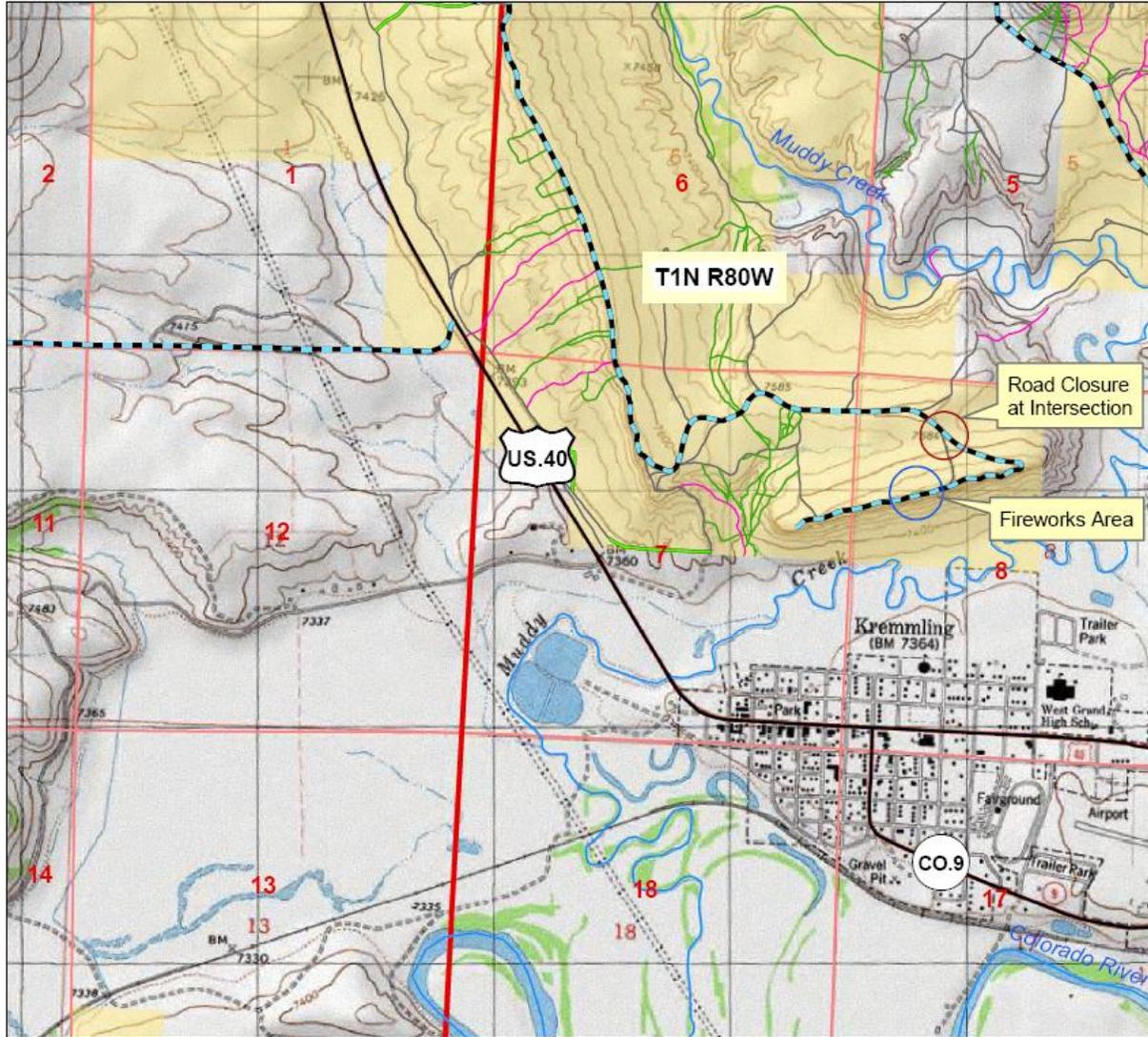
Background/Introduction/Issues and Concerns: The Kremmling Fireworks display has traditionally been authorized by a Special Recreation Permit. Since the action of displaying the fireworks does not involve the public recreating, it was decided that the correct authorization for the event should be a permit to the Kremmling Fire Protection District each year the event is held.

Proposed Action: The Kremmling Fire Protection District has applied for a permit for the July 4th fireworks display for the Town of Kremmling (see Attachment #1 for Standard Operating Procedures).

- The proposed size of the project area on BLM administered public land is approximately 50' X 300'.
- Setup for the display would begin July 3, 2008 and cleanup would conclude July 5, 2008. Up to eight people would be onsite on July 4, 2008 to produce the display.
- The ground disturbance would be limited to 4 trenches, approximately three feet deep and not to exceed 6 feet long and 2 feet wide. All holes would be filled back in at the original grade level. A single backhoe would be needed for trenching.
- The only other equipment would be the mortars used for loading the fireworks. Some of the mortars would be placed in the trenches and some would be located on the ground surface.
- Grand County Road 227 would be the access to the site. The only restriction required would be closing GCR 227 at the intersection marked on the map below on July 4, 2008.
- There would be constant radio communication with the Kremmling Fire Dept. and Grand County EMS and as part of the safety plan.



Kremmling Fireworks Display



Legend

County Roads	Land Status
Major Roads	Bureau of Land Mgt
Reservoirs	Division of Wildlife
Major Streams	National Park
Wilderness Study Area	National Rec Area
ACEC	National Wildlife Refuge
	Private
	State
	State Forest
	US Forest Service

0 0.1 0.2 0.4 Miles

1:24,000

No Warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the Accuracy, Reliability, or Completeness of this Data for Individual Use or Aggregate Use with Other Data.

Maps: Kremmling BLM, Kremmling FO 02/19/2008 gisuser/scassel/fireworks

No Action Alternative: The No Action Alternative would be to deny the permit to the Kremmling Fire Protection District and the fireworks display would have to be moved to an alternate location.

PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE ACTION: The Bureau of Land Management is considering the application from the Kremmling Fire Protection District to be authorized to use public land for the annual fireworks display on July 4th. The authorization would allow the Kremmling Fire Protection District to assume liability for the display because public safety is the number one issue.

The Kremmling Fire Protection District and the Town of Kremmling believe there is a need to use the proposed location on BLM-administered public lands due to its proximity to the town and traditional use of the area during the 4th of July holiday celebrations.

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: Kremmling Resource Management Plan (RMP), Record of Decision (ROD)

Date Approved: December 19, 1984; Updated February 1999

Decision Number/Page: II-B-12 pg. 14

Decision Language: Provide the opportunity to utilize public lands for development of facilities which benefit the public, while considering environmental and agency concerns.

Standards for Public Land Health: In January 1997, Colorado Bureau of Land Management (BLM) approved the Standards for Public Land Health. Standards describe conditions needed to sustain public land health and relate to all uses of the public lands. The following are the approved standards:

Standard	Definition/Statement
#1 Upland Soils	Upland soils exhibit infiltration and permeability rates that are appropriate to soil type, climate, land form, and geologic processes. Adequate soil infiltration and permeability allows for the accumulation of soil moisture necessary for optimal plant growth and vigor, and minimizes surface runoff.
#2 Riparian Systems	Riparian systems associated with both running and standing water, function properly and have the ability to recover from major surface disturbances such as fire, severe grazing, or 100-year floods. Riparian vegetation captures sediment, and provides forage, habitat and bio-diversity. Water quality is improved or maintained. Stable soils store and release water slowly.
#3 Plant and Animal Communities	Healthy, productive plant and animal communities of native and other desirable species are maintained at viable population levels commensurate with the species and habitat's potential. Plants and animals at both the community and population level are productive, resilient, diverse, vigorous, and able to reproduce and sustain natural fluctuations, and ecological processes.
#4 Threatened and Endangered Species	Special status, threatened and endangered species (federal and state), and other plants and animals officially designated by the BLM, and their habitats are maintained or enhanced by sustaining healthy, native plant and animal communities.
#5 Water Quality	The water quality of all water bodies, including ground water where applicable, located on or influenced by BLM lands will achieve or exceed the Water Quality Standards established by

	the State of Colorado. Water Quality Standards for surface and ground waters include the designated beneficial uses, numeric criteria, narrative criteria, and anti-degradation requirements set forth under State law as found in (5 CCR 1002-8), as required by Section 303(c) of the Clean Water Act.
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Because a standard exists for these five categories, a finding must be made for each of them in the environmental analysis. These findings are located in specific elements below or in the Interdisciplinary Team Analysis Review Record and Checklist (IDT-RRC) (Appendix 1).

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT / ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES / MITIGATION MEASURES:

CRITICAL ELEMENTS: The following critical elements: Air Quality, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, Environmental Justice, Native American Religious Concerns, Farmlands- Prime and Unique, Floodplains, Water Quality, Wastes, Hazardous or Solid, Wild and Scenic Rivers, and Wilderness, etc. were evaluated and determined that they were not present or that there would be no impact to them from the Proposed Action or No Action Alternative. See IDT-RRC in Appendix 1 for further information.

The following critical elements were determined to be potentially impacted and were carried forward for analysis from the IDT-RRC in Appendix 1.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Affected Environment: The Area of Potential Effect (APE) is located within the site boundaries of cultural site 5GA143, which has been evaluated as a “need data” site for eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places.

Environmental Consequences/Mitigation: The APE for this project was re-inventoried in 2007. The portion of cultural site 5GA143 within the APE is heavily disturbed from past fire works shows and other public recreational use. The Kremmling Cliffs have been traditionally used for the Kremmling fireworks display for many decades. Continuous public use of the cliffs and ease of access from Kremmling has undoubtedly led to the loss of cultural resources. Continuous use would affect the remaining cultural resources of site 5GA143, and perhaps other unknown cultural sites, by theft, vandalism and inadvertent destruction. This portion of site 5GA143 is evaluated as a non-contributing element to the NRHP eligibility of site 5GA143, and issuance of the permit is recommended.

WETLANDS & RIPARIAN ZONES (includes a finding on Standard 2)

Affected Environment: The Proposed Action shoots fireworks from the Kremmling Cliffs, overlooking Muddy Creek. Muddy Creek is a sinuous unconfined creek that supports a willow/sedge floodplain of approximately 400-600 feet in width. Although there is a reservoir upstream, occasionally spring stream-flows still overtop the bank, filling small oxbows and creating shallow ponds. As adjacent upland developments have increased, only limited increases in public use have been observed. The riparian area is primarily privately owned and is considered to be in proper functioning condition.

Environmental Consequences: Most of the Muddy Creek segment and riparian areas below the cliffs are on private lands, with BLM-administered public lands just upstream. There would be no impact to riparian areas if the proposed mitigation is followed.

Mitigation: Monitoring of sparks and possible ignitions should be confined to existing roads and trails as much as possible to reduce impacts to the riparian zone due to multiple routes and vegetation damage.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for riparian systems: The adjacent riparian area is on private land and not assessed for standards. The upstream public land is meeting Standard #2 and the Proposed Action would not affect its ability to continue to meet it.

NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS: The following non-critical elements were determined to be potentially impacted and were carried forward for analysis from the IDT-RRC in Appendix 1.

SOILS (includes a finding on Standard 1)

Affected Environment: The Proposed Action occurs in an area where the fireworks and recreational activities have disturbed the soils for many decades. The area around the county road and top of the cliffs is mapped in the Grand County Soil Survey as Roxal loams, 15-50% slopes. Undisturbed Roxal loams have a top layer of loamy soils approximately 6 inches thick, and are underlain by clay loam to sandy clay loams. The depth to weathered bedrock is only about 15-19 inches, and the soil is considered highly erodible by both wind and water. Re-vegetation can be difficult due to the soil's limited plant available water.

Environmental Consequences: Due to the amount of public use, the firework locations have limited vegetation and would be difficult to re-vegetate. The shallow trenches also represent a repetitive soil disturbance that on a landscape scale is minor in evaluating soil health. Under the No Action Alternative, the trenches would not be dug, but recreational use would continue and the current soil conditions would persist.

Mitigation:

-Trench locations of approximately 10 feet by 6 feet each should be delineated to encourage repeated use each year, however, to confine the disturbances to a general area.

PALEONTOLOGY

Affected Environment: The Area of Potential Effect (APE) is geologically mapped as the Pierre Shale, and further delineated as the Muddy Butte and Kremmling Sandstone Members of the Pierre Shale. The Pierre Shale is given a Potential Fossil Yield Classification and a ranking of 3, and Condition 2. This means the area has a high potential to contain vertebrate fossils of noteworthy occurrences and in-vertebrate or plant fossils.

Environmental Consequences/Mitigation: The KFO staff archaeologist/paleontological contact would complete a preliminary paleontological resource inventory of the APE prior to the 4th of July, 2008 fireworks display. If fossils are located or their potential is indicated, any needed monitoring or mitigation would be identified, so that a qualified and BLM permitted Paleontologist can be contracted to complete this work.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS SUMMARY: Recreational activities within the Wolford Mountain Travel Management Area have contributed towards cumulative impacts to cultural resources. Since the Proposed Action is within a heavily disturbed area, it would not contribute to any additional cumulative impacts.

PERSONS / AGENCIES CONSULTED: Town of Kremmling

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW: See IDT-RRC in Appendix 1.

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CO-120-2008-32-EA

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the attached environmental assessment, and considering the significance criteria in 40 CFR 1508.27, I have determined that the Proposed Action will not have a significant effect on the human environment. An environmental impact statement is therefore not required.

DECISION RECORD

DECISION: It is my decision to authorize the Proposed Action as described in the attached EA. This decision is contingent on meeting all mitigation measures and monitoring requirements listed below.

RATIONALE: The decision was made to grant Kremmling Fire Department a permit to allow the annual Kremmling Fireworks display. The fireworks display is an annual event that has been taking place for years on BLM-administered public lands. The BLM considered a number of factors such as impacts to water quality, soils, and cultural resources. These impacts will be mitigated through implementation of the mitigation measures below.

MITIGATION MEASURES:

Wetlands & Riparian Zones:

-Monitoring of sparks and possible ignitions should be confined to existing roads and trails as much as possible to reduce impacts to the riparian zone due to multiple routes and vegetation damage.

Soils:

-Trench locations of approximately 10 feet by 6 feet each will be delineated to encourage repeated use each year, however, to confine the disturbances to a general area.

COMPLIANCE/MONITORING: The permitted location would be inspected and monitored after the permit expires to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the permit.

NAME OF PREPARER: Susan L. Cassel

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Joe Stout

DATE: 4/22/08

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL: /s/ Peter McFadden

DATE SIGNED: 4/22/08

ATTACHMENTS:

1). Standard Operating Procedures

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1 – Interdisciplinary Team Analysis Review Record and Checklist

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

Cultural & Paleontological:

- The holder shall immediately bring to the attention of the Authorized Officer any and all antiquities, or other objects of historic, paleontological, or scientific interest including but not limited to, historic or prehistoric ruins or artifacts DISCOVERED as a result of operations under this authorization (16 U.S.C. 470.-3, 36 CFR 800.112). The holder shall immediately suspend all activities in the area of the object and shall leave such discoveries intact until written approval to proceed is obtained from the Authorized Officer. Approval to proceed will be based upon evaluation of the object(s). Evaluation shall be by a qualified professional selected by the Authorized Officer from a Federal agency insofar as practicable (BLM Manual 8142.06E). When not practicable, the holder shall bear the cost of the services of a non-Federal professional.
- Within five working days the Authorized Officer will inform the holder as to:
 - Whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places;
 - The mitigation measures the holder will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary); and,
 - A timeframe for the Authorized Officer to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800.11 to confirm, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, that the findings of the Authorized Officer are correct and that mitigation is appropriate.
- If the holder wishes, at any time, to relocate activities to avoid the expense of mitigation and/or the delays associated with this process, the Authorized Officer will assume responsibility for whatever recordation and stabilization of the exposed materials may be required. Otherwise, the holder will be responsible for mitigation costs. The Authorized Officer will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation. Upon verification from the Authorized Officer that the required mitigation has been completed, the holder will then be allowed to resume construction.
- Antiquities, historic, prehistoric ruins, paleontological or objects of scientific interest that are outside of the authorization boundaries but directly associated with the impacted resource will also be included in this evaluation and/or mitigation.
- Antiquities, historic, prehistoric ruins, paleontological or objects of scientific interest, identified or unidentified, that are outside of the authorization and not associated with the resource within the authorization will also be protected. Impacts that occur to such resources, which are related to the authorizations activities, will be mitigated at the holder's cost.
- Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g), the holder of this authorization must notify the Authorized Officer, by telephone, with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human

remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4 (c) and (d), you must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the Authorized Officer.

Appendix #1

INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM ANALYSIS REVIEW RECORD AND CHECKLIST:

Project Title: Kremmling Fireworks Display

Project Leader: Susan Cassel

Consultation/Permit Requirements:

Consultation	Date Initiated	Date Completed	Responsible Specialist/ Contractor	Comments
Cultural/Archeological Clearance/SHPO	8/18-19/2005	Report in Preparation	F. Rupp M. Licha	Intensive pedestrian inventory of the APE.
Native American	1/18/08	2/18/08		No Comments received
T&E Species/FWS	N/A	N/A	M. McGuire	
Permits Needed (i.e. Air or Water)	N/A	N/A	P. Belcher	

(NP) = Not Present

(NI) = Resource/Use Present but Not Impacted

(PI) = Potentially Impacted and Brought Forward for Analysis.

NP NI PI	Discipline/Name	Date Review Comp.	Initials	Review Comments (required for Critical Element NIs, and for elements that require a finding but are not carried forward for analysis.)
CRITICAL ELEMENTS				
NI	Air Quality Belcher	4/15/08	PB	Air Quality is good and considered meeting national air quality standards. No impacts from this small event that lasts one evening..
NP	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern J. Stout	4/22/08	JS	There are no Areas of Critical Environmental Concern in the proximity of the proposed project area.
NI	Cultural Resources Rupp	3/12/08	FGR	The APE is located within cultural site 5GA143, however, the APE is heavily disturbed from past 4th of July events and public recreational use, and this portion of the site does not contribute to NRHP eligibility of site 5GA143.
NP	Environmental Justice J. Stout	4/22/08	JS	According to the most recent Census Bureau statistics (2000), there are no minority or low income communities within the Kremmling Planning Area.
NP	Farmlands, Prime and Unique Belcher	4/15/08	PB	There are no farmlands, prime or unique, in the proximity of the proposed project area.
NI	Floodplains Belcher	4/15/08	PB	The proposed action would occur in the uplands, no impact to the adjacent floodplain functionality or flood hazard.
NI	Invasive, Non-native Species Johnson	4/12/08	RJ	Invasive, non-native species would not be impacted by the proposed action.
NI	Migratory Birds McGuire	4/15/08	MM	A variety of migratory birds use the proposed area, however, since there are no impacts to vegetation and the event occurs at night, no impacts to migratory birds are expected.

NI	Native American Religious Concerns	Rupp	3/12/08	FGR	There would be no impacts.
NI	T/E, and Sensitive Species (Finding on Standard 4)	McGuire	4/15/08	MM	No T/E species occur in the project area and sensitive species such as sage-grouse that may occur in the area will be not impacted by the Proposed Action. Finding: Standards have not been assessed for the project area.
NP	Wastes, Hazardous and Solid	Hodgson	4/14/08	KH	There are no quantities of wastes, hazardous or solid, located on BLM-administered lands in the proposed project area. Kremmling Fire Protection District would remove all solid wastes generated as a result of the Proposed Action, therefore there would be no impacts.
NI	Water Quality, Surface and Ground (Finding on Standard 5)	Belcher	4/15/08	PB	Finding: The event is short duration and would not impact ground or surface water quality.
PI	Wetlands & Riparian Zones (Finding on Standard 2)	Belcher	4/15/08	PB	Finding: See Wetlands Section
NP	Wild and Scenic Rivers	Sterin	4/15/08	BS	There are no eligible Wild and Scenic River segments in the proposed project area.
NP	Wilderness	Sterin	4/15/08	BS	There is no designated Wilderness or Wilderness Study Areas in the proximity of the proposed project area.
NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS (A finding must be made for these elements)					
PI	Soils (Finding on Standard 1)	Belcher	4/15/08	PB	Finding: See Soil Section
NI	Vegetation (Finding on Standard 3)	Johnson	4/14/08	RJ	The vegetation would not be impacted by the proposed action. Finding: The area is not part of a livestock grazing allotment. Standards have not been assessed for the project area.
NP	Wildlife, Aquatic (Finding on Standard 3)	McGuire	4/15/08	MM	No aquatic wildlife present. Finding: N/A
NI	Wildlife, Terrestrial (Finding on Standard 3)	McGuire	4/15/08	MM	A variety of terrestrial wildlife such as mule deer and elk use the proposed area, however, since there are no impacts to vegetation and the event occurs at night, no impacts to wildlife are expected. Finding: Standards have not been assessed for the project area.
OTHER NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS					
NI	Access/Transportation	Monkouski	4/16/08	BS	No impact.
NP	Forest Management	Rosene	4/15/2008	SC	No forest products in project location.
NI	Geology and Minerals	Hodgson	4/14/08	KH	No impact.
NI	Hydrology/Water Rights	Belcher	4/15/08	PB	No impacts
PI	Paleontology	Rupp	3/12/08	FGR	See write up for Paleontological Resources.
NI	Noise	Monkouski	4/16/08	BS	Impacts are temporary and short term.
NP	Range Management	Johnson Torma	4/14/08	RJ	The project area is not included in a livestock grazing permit/lease.
NI	Lands/ Realty Authorizations	Cassel	4/15/2008	SC	There are no leases or permits in the location of the proposed action. There is a ROW for a buried pipeline issued to Public Service (COC-23293) that is north of the disturbance and would not be impacted.
NI	Recreation	Sterin	4/15/08	BS	The proposed project is temporary and would therefore have no impact on recreation.
NI	Socio-Economics	J. Stout	4/22/08	JS	There would be no impacts.
NI	Visual Resources	Hodgson	4/14/08	KH	No impact.

	Cumulative Impact Summary J. Stout	4/22/08	JS	There would be no impacts.
FINAL REVIEW				
	P&E Coordinator J. Stout	4/22/08	JS	
	Field Manager D. Stout			