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

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-120-2009-0012-EA

PROJECT NAME: Renewal of Livestock Grazing Permit # 051779 on Allotment 07556 (Orr) and Livestock Grazing Lease # 051933 on Allotment 07770 (Orr T) for Grady Culbreath

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Kremmling Field Office (KFO) administered land includes all or part of the following:

Allotment 07556 (Orr) for livestock grazing permit # 051779

T.1N, R.80W, Sec. 14, 23, 25-29, 32-36

T.1S, R.79W, Sec. 7

T.1S, R.80W, Sec. 1-4, 10-14

Allotment 07770 (Orr T) for livestock grazing lease # 051933

T.1S, R.79W, Sec. 7, 8

APPLICANT: Grady Culbreath

PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE ACTION:

Grady Culbreath's livestock grazing permit # 051779 that authorizes livestock grazing on Allotment 07556 (Orr) and livestock grazing lease # 051933 that authorizes livestock grazing on Allotment 07770 (Orr T) expire on February 28, 2009. Grady Culbreath has applied for renewal of his permit and lease. The permit and lease are subject to renewal at the discretion of the Secretary of the Interior for a period of up to 10 years. Renewal of this permit and lease would allow Grady Culbreath to continue grazing on his designated allotments for a period of 10 years beginning on March 1, 2009.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES:

Background/Introduction/Issues and Concerns:

During the 1999 grazing permit renewal process, Allotment 07556 (Orr) was assessed for compliance with the Standards for Public Land Health in Colorado (Standards) on August 17, 1998. It was determined that 120 acres of the 3536 acres in the allotment did not meet Standard # 1 (soils) or Standard # 3 (upland vegetation and wildlife) due to historic vegetation manipulation by disking and seeding. At that time, a rest rotation grazing system was implemented as the appropriate action to bring the allotment into compliance with the Standards (Attachment 1).

Since the 1999 permit renewal, the permittee has implemented a new grazing system with approval of the Kremmling Field Office. The permittee runs a guest ranch operation where the guests receive a more traditional cowboy experience. Each day the guests move the livestock away from water and loafing areas to areas within the allotment that have sufficient vegetation for the livestock. This results in even grazing and low use of riparian areas and reduces the amount of time the cattle spend loafing in one area.

To assess the results of the new grazing regime, Allotment 07556 (Orr) was reassessed for compliance with the Standards on June 8, 2006. An interdisciplinary (ID) team from the Kremmling Field Office determined that the allotment is now in compliance with all of the Standards.

If the permittee decides to return to a cow/calf or yearling operation, he would be required to follow the rest rotation grazing system implemented during the 1999 permit renewal process.

Allotment 07770 (Orr T) is a category "C" allotment. Therefore, no assessment for compliance with the Standards is required. However, the allotment was monitored in 2008, and no issues or concerns were identified with this allotment.

Proposed Action:

The Proposed Action would renew livestock grazing permit # 051779 and livestock grazing lease 051933 for 10 years beginning on March 1, 2009.

- The permit and lease would be renewed for a period of 10 years from March 1, 2009 through February 28, 2019,
- Standard terms and conditions would apply (Attachment 2),
- There would be no changes to the number or kind of livestock, season of use, or amount of livestock grazing preference as expressed in AUMs*.

* AUM = animal unit month = the amount of forage needed to sustain one cow and her calf for one month.

Renewed livestock grazing permit # 051779 would authorize livestock grazing to the following extent:

Allotment	Livestock Number Kind	Season of Use	Percent Public Land	AUMs
07556 (Orr)	149 Cattle	6/1 – 10/1	100	603

Renewed livestock grazing lease # 051933 would authorize livestock grazing to the following extent:

Allotment	Livestock Number Kind	Season of Use	Percent Public Land	AUMs
07770 (Orr T)	20 Cattle	6/1 – 10/1	100	81

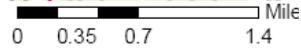
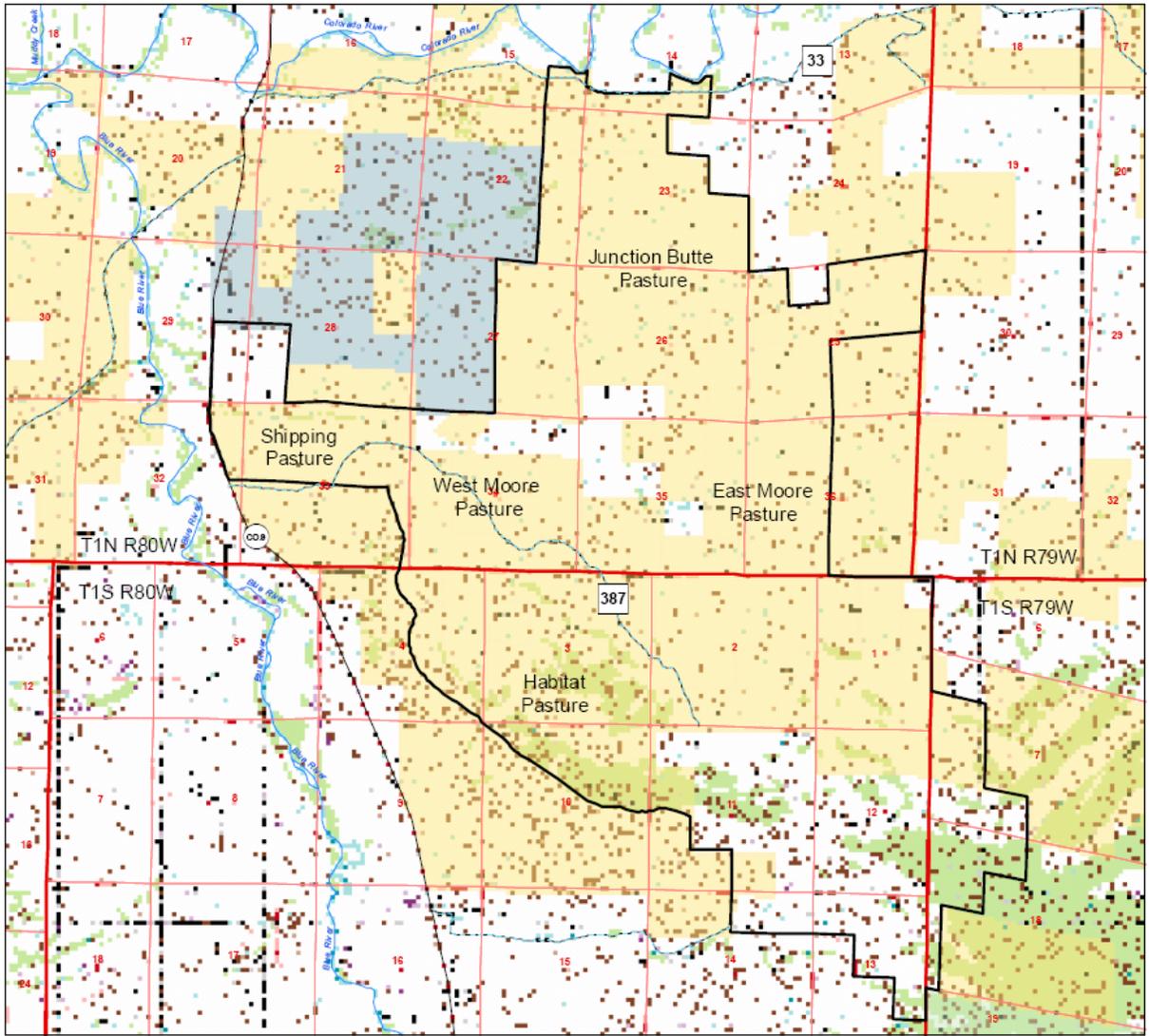
The total livestock grazing preference for permit # 051779 on Allotment 07556 (Orr) is 603 AUMs and for lease # 051933 on Allotment 07770 (Orr T) is 84 AUMs. A copy of the proposed permits with standard terms and conditions is enclosed as Attachment 2.

Design Features of the Proposed Action:

- The permittee would be responsible for notifying the BLM of all county listed noxious weeds which result from their livestock grazing operations.
- The BLM would be responsible for implementing control measures, which would include partnership with the Grand County Weed Abatement Program.
- Temporary exemptions to the 1988 Off-Road Vehicle Implementation Plan would include:
 - Permitting of motorized travel for fence maintenance. Permittee would travel only along fencelines for this purpose with no cross country travel permitted. In the event a fenceline is also a landownership boundary, all motorized travel would occur on the non-BLM side of the fence.
 - Permit case-by-case motorized cross-country travel for instances of retrieving injured animals or other emergencies. All instances should be approved by the authorizing officer beforehand when possible. In the case of an emergency, any motorized cross-country travel would be reported to the BLM immediately. Any permitted or emergency cross-country travel will be evaluated for resource damage. Any rutting of soil or damage to vegetation found to be excessive and establishing a new route would have reclamation completed by the permittee.
- Specific restrictions and exemptions of the 1988 Off-Road Vehicle Implementation Plan would be part of the Terms and Conditions of the grazing permit.



07556 ORR



Legend	
	County Roads
	Major Roads
	07556 ORR
	Reservoirs
	Major Streams
	Wilderness Study Area
	ACEC
Land Status	
	Bureau of Land Mgt
	Division of Wildlife
	National Park
	National Rec Area
	National Wildlife Refuge
	Private
	State
	State Forest
	US Forest Service

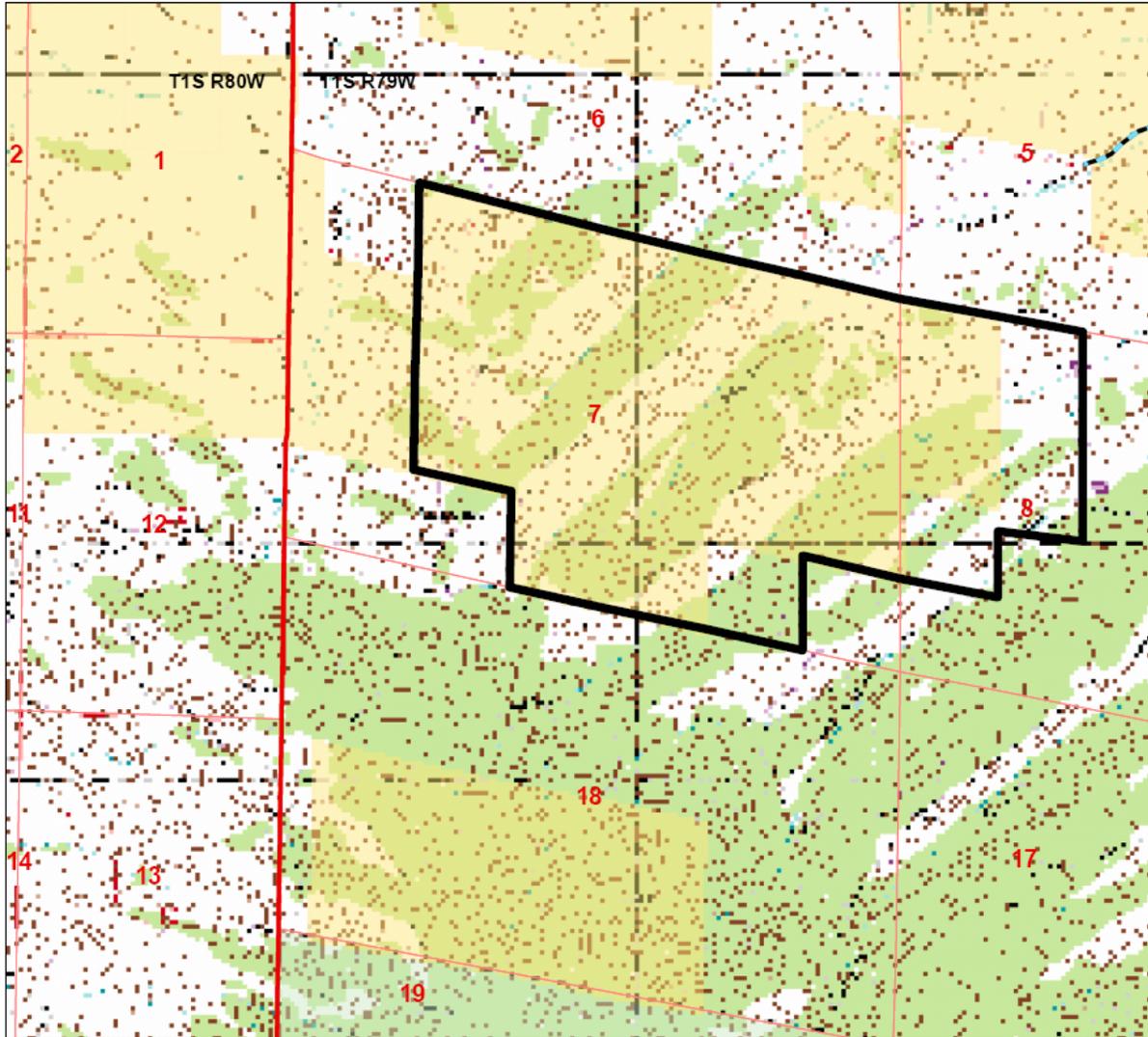
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No Warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the Accuracy, Reliability, or Completeness of this Data for Individual Use or Aggregate Use with Other Data.

Maps: Junction Butte, Kremmling Sheephorn Mountain, King Creek BLM, Kremmling FO 10/242008



07770 ORR T



Legend	
	County Roads
	Major Roads
	07770 ORR T
	Reservoirs
	Major Streams
	Wilderness Study Area
	ACEC
Land Status	
	Bureau of Land Mgt
	Division of Wildlife
	National Park
	National Rec Area
	National Wildlife Refuge
	Private
	State
	State Forest
	US Forest Service

0 0.125 0.25 0.5 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: King Creek
BLM, Kremmling FO 10/28/2008

No Action Alternative: The No Action Alternative is the same as the Proposed Action.

Alternatives Considered But Eliminated From Further Analysis:

No livestock grazing was considered but eliminated from further analysis for the following reasons:

- Livestock grazing with the Kremmling Field Office was fully analyzed and authorized in the RMP/EIS as recorded in the 1984 Approved Plan and Record of Decision. At that time a “No Grazing Alternative” was considered but not selected.
- This alternative is not consistent with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) that stated: “the public lands be managed in a manner which recognizes the Nation’s need for domestic sources of minerals, food, timber, and fiber from public lands.....”
- During public scoping and staff review there were no issues or concerns identified that would support a “No Grazing Alternative.”
- It has been determined that significant progress toward achieving compliance with the Standards for Public Land Health in Colorado would occur with the appropriate livestock grazing guidelines set forth in the Proposed Action.

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: Livestock Grazing: pages 6 and 8, as revised

Decision Language: Objectives of the RMP/ROD include allocation of a base level of livestock forage and maintaining or improving forage production and condition in areas where livestock grazing is a priority or compatible. The RMP designated the project area with livestock grazing and wildlife priority. Livestock grazing is compatible with these designations.

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT / ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES / MITIGATION MEASURES:

INVASIVE, NON-NATIVE SPECIES

Affected Environment: Past actions such as livestock grazing, motorized travel, recreation, etc. that have caused disturbance of vegetation and soil contributed to the invasion and spread of invasive, non-native species (noxious weeds). There are known invasive, non-native species (noxious weeds) growing within the allotments. These species include houndstongue (*Cynoglossum officinale*), cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*), and Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*). These species are generally located along roadways and in high-use areas, such as livestock watering areas. Soil or vegetation disturbing activities provide an avenue for the establishment and expansion of invasive, non-native species. The BLM monitors these known areas to control the spread of these species.

Environmental Consequences: Any type of soil or vegetation disturbance in an area where non-native, invasive species are established promotes their expansion. Although the renewed grazing permit would not change the livestock grazing management, there is the chance for invasion or spread of invasive, non-native species.

The No Action Alternative is the same as the Proposed Action so the environmental consequences would be the same.

Mitigation: None

WATER QUALITY, SURFACE AND GROUND (includes a finding on Standard 5)

Affected Environment: Attached to the 1999 Environmental Assessment (CO-018-99-69 EA) are water quality reports for each allotment. The reports summarize runoff pathways on the pastures and any water quality concerns. The allotments are within 'the Lower Blue River', 'the Williams Fork', and 'the Colorado River above Kremmling' 5th order watersheds. Most of the drainages within the allotments are ephemeral, with two intermittent ones- Barger Gulch and Elliott Creek. The 2008 305(b) report lists Elliott Creek and its tributaries as fully supporting all water uses except aquatic life. There is insufficient data to determine its status for coldwater aquatic life- class 1, so this use was not assessed. There may be impairment from iron levels due to historic mining.

The Williams Fork River and tributaries are fully supporting all water uses and the reservoir is considered mesotrophic (2006-2007 data). Its chlorophyll levels were low, almost placing the reservoir in an oligotrophic status. This segment of the Colorado River and tributaries are considered to be fully supporting all water uses except cold water aquatic life-class 1, which was not assessed due to insufficient data. There may be concerns for selenium levels, which would have an unknown source.

The Colorado, Blue, and Williams Fork Rivers are extensively monitored by the USGS and other entities. As part of a collaborative effort, the BLM monitors summer water temperatures just downstream from this allotment.

Environmental Consequences: During the 2006 allotment field assessments, the overall watershed conditions were good. The current management practices are maintaining or

improving vegetative ground cover and vigor, and there were no areas of accelerated erosion observed that were due to livestock. If future data indicates there are water quality concerns for the Colorado or Elliott Creek, the BLM will reassess the allotments' potential to impact water quality, and if necessary, implement additional management to protect water quality.

The No Action Alternative is the same as the Proposed Action so the environmental consequences would be the same.

Mitigation: None

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for water quality: The BLM lands were assessed as meeting Standard # 5 (water quality) due to the allotments' observed conditions. The current management is maintaining or improving the watershed health.

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

Affected Environment: The 1999 Environmental Assessment (and attached water reports) describes the isolated wetlands and short riparian segments within the allotments. Generally the areas support sedge or sedge/willow communities that are in good condition. Most drainages are ephemeral, with Barger Gulch and Elliott Creek having small intermittent segments.

Environmental Consequences: The current use under the existing permit results in few cattle impacts to the wetlands and riparian areas due to use of riders. Cattle do not loaf or heavily graze along the riparian areas and good vegetative vigor and production are maintained. If the permittee changed his operation, the required grazing plan splits allotment 7556 into five pastures. Four of the pastures rotate in use between periods of spring and late fall grazing and a year of rest. One pasture is not rested, West Moore, which does not have any wetland values. There is a private segment of Elliott Creek in the pasture that is ponded for livestock water but supports no wetland values. The permit's grazing plan would help maintain wetland areas if the permittee switched his current operation.

The No Action Alternative is the same as the Proposed Action so the environmental consequences would be the same.

Mitigation: None

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for riparian systems: The areas are in proper functioning condition and are meeting Standard # 2 (riparian systems). The current operation or the permit's grazing plan will maintain these conditions on the allotment.

RANGE MANAGEMENT

Affected Environment: The livestock grazing system on Allotment 07556 (Orr) was changed to rotation grazing system during the 1999 permit renewal process. Since the 1999 permit renewal, the permittee has implemented a new grazing system with approval of the Kremmling Field Office. The permittee runs a guest ranch operation where the guests receive a more traditional recreational experience. Each day the guests move the livestock away from

water and loafing areas to areas within the allotment that have sufficient vegetation for the livestock. This results in even grazing and low use of riparian areas and reduces the amount of time the cattle spend loafing in one area.

Allotment 07770 (Orr T) is a category “C” allotment with no issues or concerns.

Environmental Consequences: Since Allotment 07556 (Orr) is in compliance with the Standards and the permittee has not requested any changes, the Proposed Action would be implemented with no changes to the number or kind of livestock, season of use, or amount of authorized grazing preference.

The permittee has requested no changes to the livestock grazing on Allotment 07770 (Orr T). Therefore the Proposed Action would be implemented with no changes to the number or kind of livestock, season of use, or amount of authorized grazing preference.

The No Action Alternative is the same as the Proposed Action so the environmental consequences would be the same.

Mitigation: None

SOILS (includes a finding on Standard 1)

Affected Environment: Soils are described in the 1999 Environmental Assessment and the attached water quality reports. The 120 acres that were not meeting Standards were a old (1960s) site that had been disked/plowed and seeded. The treatment, or more likely, the management following treatment, resulted in poor vegetative cover and increased soil erosion. The 1990s grazing levels were not degrading the site, but they weren't improving it either. The rest-rotation grazing system was designed to help the entire allotment, with the acknowledgement that a vegetative treatment would be needed to improve the old treatment area. In 2006, the interdisciplinary team found that the permittee's use of riders resulted in good livestock distribution and vegetative conditions. To complement the grazing system, the BLM brush beat the West Moore Pasture in FY2006 that provided litter to the old treatment and helped release grasses and forbs, increasing overall ground cover. In the fall of 2008, a Dixie harrow treatment was done in the Habitat and East Moore pastures, which will also benefit the soils within the allotment by reducing the shrub canopy to encourage more vegetation in the interspaces. The harrow leaves the sagebrush scattered on the ground, reducing runoff and soil loss from water or wind movement.

Environmental Consequences: The current grazing system results in livestock using all areas of the pasture and avoids livestock impacts in any area. Utilization levels are light and trampling and compaction are minimized. The grazing system is allowing the full benefit to be gained from vegetation manipulations, as treated areas generally draw too much livestock use. The permittee's riders insure that treatment areas are not over-grazed and that new vegetation is well-established.

The No Action Alternative is the same as the Proposed Action so the environmental consequences would be the same.

Mitigation: None

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for upland soils: The allotment is meeting Standard #1 (upland soils) and the permitted use is maintaining or improving the allotment's soil health.

VEGETATION (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: Allotment 07556 (Orr) and Allotment 07770 (Orr T) consist mostly of sagebrush steppe vegetation communities. The dominant species is big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*) with an understory of perennial cool season grasses and annual and perennial forbs. The grasses include but are not limited to bluegrasses (*Poa* spp), western wheatgrass (*Pascopyrum smithii*), bluebunch wheatgrass (*Pseudoroegneria spicata*), pine needlegrass (*Achnatherum pinetorum*), bottlebrush squirreltail, (*Elymus elymoides*), fescues (*Festuca* spp), Indian ricegrass (*Achnatherum hymenoides*), brome (*Bromus* spp), and prairie Junegrass (*Koeleria macrantha*). Common forbs include wild buckwheat (*Eriogonum* spp), lupine (*Lupinus agrenteus*), phlox (*Phlox* spp), Indian paintbrush (*Castilleja* spp), groundsel (*Senecio* spp), penstemons (*Penstemon* spp), pussytoes (*Antennaria* spp), daisies (*Erigeron* spp), fringed sage (*Artemisia frigida*), milkvetch (*Astragalus* spp), and mountain bluebell (*Mertensia lanceolata*). Other shrubs that inhabit the sagebrush steppe include snowberry (*Symphoricarpos oreophilus*), serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*), rabbitbrush (*Chrysothamnus* spp), broom snakeweed (*Gutierrezia sarothrae*), and antelope bitterbrush (*Purshia tridentata*).

Approximately 120 acres of Allotment 07556 (Orr) was seeded to crested wheatgrass (*Agropyron cristatum*) a number of years ago. This area still has a significant amount of crested wheatgrass remaining. However, native species have reestablished within the crested wheatgrass and it now contains a mixture of native species along with the crested wheatgrass.

Environmental Consequences: A rest rotation grazing system was implemented as a best management practice (BMP) during the 1999 permit renewal process and the vegetation has improved so the allotment is now in compliance with Standard # 3 (upland vegetation and wildlife). Since the Proposed Action would implement no changes to the livestock grazing in Allotment 07556 (Orr), the beneficial impacts to the vegetation resulting from the rest rotation grazing system would continue.

The Proposed Action would renew livestock grazing lease # 051993 with no changes to number or kind of livestock, season of use, or amount of authorized grazing preference. Therefore, no changes to the vegetation in Allotment # 07770 (Orr T) would be anticipated from implementation of the Proposed Action.

The No Action Alternative is the same as the Proposed Action so the environmental consequences would be the same.

Mitigation: None

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Wildlife, Aquatic and Wildlife, Terrestrial): Allotment 07556 (Orr) was assessed for compliance with the Standards on June 8, 2006. An interdisciplinary team (ID) from the Kremmling Field

Office determined the allotment is in compliance with Standard #3 (upland vegetation and wildlife).

Allotment 07770 (Orr T) is a category “C” allotment that does not require assessment for compliance with the Standards. However, the allotment was monitored in 2008 and no issues or concerns were identified.

ACCESS/TRANSPORTATION:

Affected Environment: The location of the proposed action has allotments within the Lawson Ridge area that have travel management decisions made through the Off-Road Vehicle Implementation Plan, September 20, 1988. Allotment 07556 is within an area designated as ‘Limited’. Under the Off-Road Vehicle Implementation Plan decision, The Lawson Ridge area is ‘Limited to Existing Roads and Trails’. Designations are for BLM administered lands only and do not effect private lands or lands administered by other agencies. The designation purpose as stated within the plan is: “To protect wildlife habitat and prevent livestock harassment.” Under the 1988 Off-Road Vehicle Implementation Plan specific resource programs were identified for responsibility of the area. The identified resource program responsible for Lawson Ridge was 4351-Wildlife Management. No known exemptions were made for grazing leases within the area under the limited designation. Since this designation, adjacent lands have been acquired and are now administered by the BLM. Lands acquired and adjacent to an area having travel designations assume such designations. No updates to the identified existing route system of the area have taken place since the 1988 Off-Road Vehicle Implementation Plan. Currently, the area has limited signing providing information on which routes are open or closed. Under the current Resource Management Plan (RMP) revision, implementation level designations for Comprehensive Travel Management will be made. Implementing Colorado Comprehensive Travel Management throughout the state has been a high priority for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Instruction Memorandum No. CO-2007-020 states “In establishing designated road and trail networks through the planning process, field offices are able to manage all modes of travel on public lands. A well-designed travel system can direct use away from sensitive areas, yet provide quality recreational activities and access for commercial, administrative and recreational needs.”

Environmental Consequences: Under the Off-Road Vehicle Implementation Plan decision, the Lawson Ridge area is ‘Limited to Existing Roads and Trails’. Cross-country travel during times of moist soils or repetitive use will inherently create resource damage and a new established route through rutting and vegetation damage. The area is used for hunting, camping, horseback riding and wildlife viewing with low to moderate visitation. Once a route becomes established through cross-country travel, it becomes much more difficult to prevent visitors of the area from traveling on such routes due to their visibility. If visitors to the area see others traveling cross-country with motorized vehicles they may believe this is an accepted and allowed use of the area. Motorized cross-country travel not only creates damage to the resources, it leads to other unauthorized uses as well. Motorized cross-country travel would be detrimental to the area resources and be inconsistent with the 1988 Off-Road Vehicle Implementation Plan decision. Impacts would be minimized with the design features of the proposed action.

The No Action Alternative is the same as the Proposed Action so the environmental consequences would be the same.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS SUMMARY:

Livestock grazing has been an important use of the public lands in the Kremmling Field Office since the introduction of domestic livestock in the 1870s. Presently, the Field Office supports a grazing program on approximately 378,000 acres of BLM-administered public lands. Currently, these public ranges are licensed at a level of approximately 39,726 Animal Unit Months (AUMs) for livestock.

For the purpose of this EA, the general geographic boundary for cumulative impact analysis is Middle Park. The Kremmling Field Office is divided north to south by the Continental Divide. The public lands to the north of the divide are generally referred to as North Park, and those to the south of the divide, Middle Park. In Middle Park, there are approximately 137,179 acres of BLM-administered public lands that are currently being grazed, and 13,070 AUMs that are licensed.

In looking at past actions within the geographic area over the past ten years, there have not been any major changes to the Middle Park allotments. A majority of the allotments have been assessed for standards and the permits modified where needed due to non-compliance with specific standards or new information that has arrived (i.e. new sage grouse lek). There are not any reasonably foreseeable actions outside of minor range improvement projects that are projected to occur in the Middle Park allotments. However, fast growing residential development is occurring and projected to continue on the east end of Middle Park. This loss of habitat is impacting Greater sage-grouse populations in Middle Park.

The Proposed Action would not change the number of AUMs that have been licensed on the allotment for the past ten years. Thus, there would be minimal cumulative impacts to Greater sage-grouse. In terms of cumulative impacts to cultural resources, grazing may cause substantial ground disturbance and cause cumulative, long term, irreversible adverse effects to historic properties throughout the Kremmling Field Office. However, as part of the BLM permit renewal process, allotments are being assessed and inventoried for cultural resources. If resources are found, and eligible for NRHP, mitigation is implemented. This process is attempting to mitigate any major cumulative impacts to cultural resources in the Kremmling Field Office.

PERSONS / AGENCIES CONSULTED: Grady Culbreath

Starting in January 2007, a scoping process was begun to request information concerning the renewal of grazing permits/leases and to prioritize areas or allotments with issues and concerns. The Kremmling Field Office sent scoping letters, along with land status maps showing the affected allotments to the following groups and agencies: Colorado Division of Wildlife (Steamboat Springs, Walden, Hot Sulphur Springs, Fort Collins); District Board of Grazing Advisors; County Commissioners of Grand and Jackson counties; Stock Growers Association (Middle Park, North Park, Upper Big Laramie River Ranch Assoc.); Northwest Resource Advisory Council, United States Forest Service (Silverthorne, Granby, Walden); US Fish and Wildlife Service (Arapaho National Wildlife Refuge); Tribal Councils (Arapaho, Shoshone, Southern Ute); Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs; Ute Indian Tribe Uintah and Ouray Agency Business Committee; Colorado Environmental Coalition; and Colorado State Land Board (Lane Osborn).

The BLM Colorado State Office also mailed outreach letters concerning the renewal of grazing permits/leases to all Congressional offices, State and Federal agencies, and major environmental, conservation, and user group organizations.

In addition, individual letters were sent to the affected permittees/lessees informing them that their permit/lease was up for renewal and requested any information they wanted included in, or taken into consideration during the permit renewal process. A Notice of Public Scoping was posted on the internet at the Colorado BLM homepage, and in Grand and Jackson county newspapers asking for public input on permit/lease renewals and the assessment for compliance with the Standards for Public Land Health in Colorado within the Kremmling Field Office. This notice was followed up with an internet posting of the Kremmling Field Office prioritization of allotments and a determination as to which allotments would be assessed according to the Standards for Public Land Health in Colorado. The proposed permit renewal was also posted on the Kremmling Field Office Internet NEPA register.

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW: See IDT-RRC in Appendix 1.

FONSI

DOI-BLM-CO-120-2009-0012-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 and renew livestock grazing permit # 051779 and livestock grazing lease # 051933 to be in effect from March 1, 2009 to February 28, 2019. This decision is contingent on meeting all mitigation measures and monitoring requirements listed below.

RATIONALE: When a livestock grazing permit or lease expires, it is subject to renewal at the discretion of the Secretary of the Interior for a period of up to ten years. Livestock grazing when properly managed in accordance with good rangeland ecology practices, has been proven to result in improved land health. The public benefits from public lands which are maintained in a healthy condition and are able to produce sustainable resources for a variety of uses.

MITIGATION MEASURES: None

COMPLIANCE/MONITORING: Compliance with the renewed livestock grazing permit and its associated terms and conditions would be accomplished through the Kremmling Field Office Range Management Program. Livestock grazing would be monitored by the range staff and other area personnel, as appropriate, to ensure compliance. The Kremmling Field Office Range Monitoring Plan would be used to schedule periodic utilization checks, collect trend data, and evaluate allotment condition. When activity plans have been developed covering an allotment, monitoring methods and schedules included in them would be applied to the allotment. Changes would be made to the permit, based on monitoring, when changes are determined necessary to protect land health.

NAME OF PREPARER: Richard Johnson

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Susan Cassel

DATE: 4/21/09

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL: /s/ Peter McFadden

DATE SIGNED: 4/21/09

ATTACHMENTS:

- 1) Rest Rotation Grazing System
- 2) Livestock grazing permit # 051779 and livestock grazing lease # 051993 with standard terms and conditions
- 3) Map of Lawson Ridge Area: Limited to Existing Roads and Trails

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1 – Interdisciplinary Team Analysis Review Record and Checklist

Appendix 1

INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM ANALYSIS REVIEW RECORD AND CHECKLIST:

Project Title: Renewal of Livestock Grazing Permits # 051779 and # 051933 for Grady Culbreath

Project Leader: Richard Johnson

Date Proposal Received: (Only for external proposals)

Date Submitted for Comment: 12/4/08

Due Date for Comments: 1/31/09

Consultation/Permit Requirements:

Consultation	Date Initiated	Date Completed	Responsible Specialist/ Contractor	Comments
Cultural/Archeological Clearance/SHPO	1/20/2009	1/20/2009	BBW	Past actions have resulted in a cultural resource inventory to determine if those actions would cause potential adverse affects to known and unknown cultural resources sites from livestock grazing, motorized travel, and recreational use. When project undertakings are identified a cultural resource inventory would be conducted to determine if sites are present and their eligibility, project effects, and mitigation requirements if necessary.
Native American	1/20/2009	1/20/2009	BBW	Consultation was conducted on the original allotment renewal. Future undertakings would require tribal consultation to identify traditional cultural properties.
T&E Species/FWS	N/A	NA	MM	
Permits Needed (i.e. Air or Water)	N/A	NA	PB	

(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	2/20/2009	PB	The grazing allotment does not impact air quality.
NP	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern Cassel			There are no Areas of Critical Environmental Concern in the proximity of the proposed project area.
NI	Cultural Resources Wyatt	1/20/2009	BBW	Past actions have resulted in a cultural resource inventory to determine if those actions would cause potential adverse affects to known and unknown cultural resources sites from livestock grazing, motorized travel, and recreational use.

					When project undertakings are identified a cultural resource inventory would be conducted to determine if sites are present and their eligibility, project effects, and mitigation requirements if necessary.
NP	Environmental Justice	Casseol	3/5/09	SC	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	2/20/2009	PB	There are no farmlands, prime or unique, in the proximity of the proposed project area.
NP	Floodplains	Belcher	2/20/2009	PB	The allotments are upland allotments and do not impact any floodplains.
NI	Invasive, Non-native Species	Johnson Torma Scott	1-7-09	MS	See Write Up in EA
NI	Migratory Birds	McGuire	1/21/2009	MM	The allotments are currently in good condition. Since there are no changes proposed to the existing permit, impacts would not occur.
NI	Native American Religious Concerns	Wyatt	1/20/2009	BBW	Consultation was done on the original allotment renewal. Future undertakings would require tribal consultation to identify traditional cultural properties.
NI	T/E, and Sensitive Species (Finding on Standard 4)	McGuire	1/21/2009	MM	No T/E species. Greater sage-grouse, a BLM sensitive species, occur in the allotments. The allotments are currently in good condition. Since there are no changes proposed to the existing permit, impacts would not occur.
NP	Wastes, Hazardous and Solid	Hodgson	1/7/09	KH	There are no quantities of wastes, hazardous or solid, located on BLM-administered lands in the proposed project area, and there would be no wastes generated as a result of the Proposed Action or No Action alternative.
PI	Water Quality, Surface and Ground (Finding on Standard 5)	Belcher	2/23/2009	PB	See write-up
PI	Wetlands & Riparian Zones (Finding on Standard 2)	Belcher	2/23/2009	PB	See write-up
NP	Wild and Scenic Rivers	Cassel	3/5/09	SC	There are no eligible Wild and Scenic River segments in the proposed project area.
NP	Wilderness	Monkouski	3/5/09	SC	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	2/23/2009	PB	See write-up
PI	Vegetation (Finding on Standard 3)	Johnson Torma Scott	1/7/09	RJ	See analysis in EA
NI	Wildlife, Aquatic (Finding on Standard 3)	McGuire	1/21/2009	MM	The allotments are currently in good condition. Since there are no changes proposed to the existing permit, impacts would not occur.
NI	Wildlife, Terrestrial (Finding on Standard 3)	McGuire	1/21/2009	MM	The allotments are currently in good condition. Since there are no changes proposed to the existing permit, impacts would not occur.
OTHER NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS					
PI	Access/Transportation	Monkouski	3/2/09	JJM	See Analysis.
NP	Forest Management	K. Belcher	1/30/2009	KB	Forest resources not present.

NI	Geology and Minerals	Hodgson	1/7/09	KH	No impacts.
NP	Fire	Wyatt	1/20/2009	BBW	Grazing would reduce light flashy fuels.
NI	Hydrology/Water Rights	Belcher	2/23/2009	PB	Hydrologic concerns are included in the Wetlands, Water Quality, and Soil sections of this E.A. There are no impacts to water rights from the Proposed Action.
NI	Paleontology	Rupp	1/16/2009	FGR	No impacts to fossil resources from renewing permit, or the no action alternative. Proposed ground disturbing projects will be reviewed on a project by project basis to determine the need for paleontological inventory.
NI	Noise	Monkouski	3/2/09	JJM	No impacts.
PI	Range Management	Johnson Torma Scott	1/7/09	RJ	See analysis in EA
NI	Lands/ Realty Authorizations	Cassel	12/16/08	SC	There are no leases or permits in the location of the proposed action. There are several ROW's: COC-40634, COC-68429, COC-68428, COD-51744A, C-776, COC-69311, COC-40634 to WAPA; COC-67932, COC-40595, COD-013842 to Culbreaths for roads, water pipeline and a ditch; COC-48522 & COC-71048 to Grand County for County Roads; COC-8296 to Public Service; COC-37762 & COC-64636 to Mountain Parks Electric; and COC-48501 to Steve Schake for a spring. These ROWs would not affect the proposed action or the no action alternative.
NI	Recreation	Monkouski Windsor	3/2/09	JJM	Under the proposed action no impacts would occur to recreational opportunities that include Off Highway Vehicle use, camping, hunting, hiking, and watching wildlife.
NI	Socio-Economics	Cassel	3/5/09	SC	Since there would be no change in use, there would be no socio-economic impacts.
NI	Visual Resources	Windsor	3/6/09	AW	The Proposed Action and No Action Alternative would not impact the visual resources.
PI	Cumulative Impact Summary				See analysis
FINAL REVIEW					
	P&E Coordinator				