

Posted: _____

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

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-120-2010-0030-EA

PROJECT NAME: Livestock grazing permit renewal for Grizzly Land LLC #0504033

LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

Allotment 7192 (Baker Draw): T8N, R81W, Part of sections: 22, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28, 33, 34 & 35 (2436 BLM acres).

Allotment 7193 (Upper Meadow): T8N, R81W, Part of sections: 34 & 35
T7N, R81W, Part of sections: 3 & 12 (344 BLM acres).

APPLICANT:

PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE ACTION: Grizzly Land LLC grazing permit # 0504033 that authorized livestock grazing on Allotments 07192 (Baker Draw) and 07193 (Upper Meadow) expired on February 28, 2010. Grizzly Land has applied to renew their livestock grazing permit. The permit is subject to renewal at the discretion of the Secretary of the Interior for a period of up to 10 years. Renewal of livestock grazing permit # 0504033 would allow Silver Spur Ranches to continue grazing on their designated allotment for a period of 10 years beginning on March 1, 2010.

Background/Introduction/Issues and Concerns: In 2009, grazing permit #0504033 was renewed under the Administrative Procedure Act 5 U.S.C 558(c). This does not constitute a fully processed permit renewal. In order to fully process a permit renewal, an environmental analysis must be completed.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES:

Proposed Action: The Proposed Action would renew livestock grazing permit #0504033 for Grizzly Land LLC. There would be no changes to the livestock grazing on any of these allotments. There would be no change to the number or kind of livestock, season of use, or authorized grazing preference expressed in AUMs (animal unit months*) for allotments 07193 or 07192.

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

Allotment 07193 (Upper Meadow) is a category C allotment where the objective is to maintain the existing allotment situation and provide management opportunities as needs arise with operators/other land use agencies. These allotments have a low forage production potential, minimal conflicting resource uses, or public lands that have been designated for disposal. Allotment 07192 (Baker Draw) was assessed for compliance with the Standards for Public Land Health in Colorado on June 15, 2006 by a Kremmling Field Office interdisciplinary (ID) team. The ID team determined the allotment was in compliance with the Standards. There have been no changes to the livestock grazing since completion of Standards.

A copy of the permits with standard terms and conditions is enclosed as Attachment 1.

The Proposed Action would authorize livestock grazing on the following BLM Allotments as follows:

Allotment Number	Number of Livestock	Kind of Livestock	Grazing Season Start	Grazing Season End	% Public Land*	Type of Use	AUMs
07192	238	cattle	6/1	8/30	64	Active	456
07193	300	cattle	8/20	10/18	17	Active	101

*% Public Land is the percentage of forage within the public land (BLM) portion of the allotment

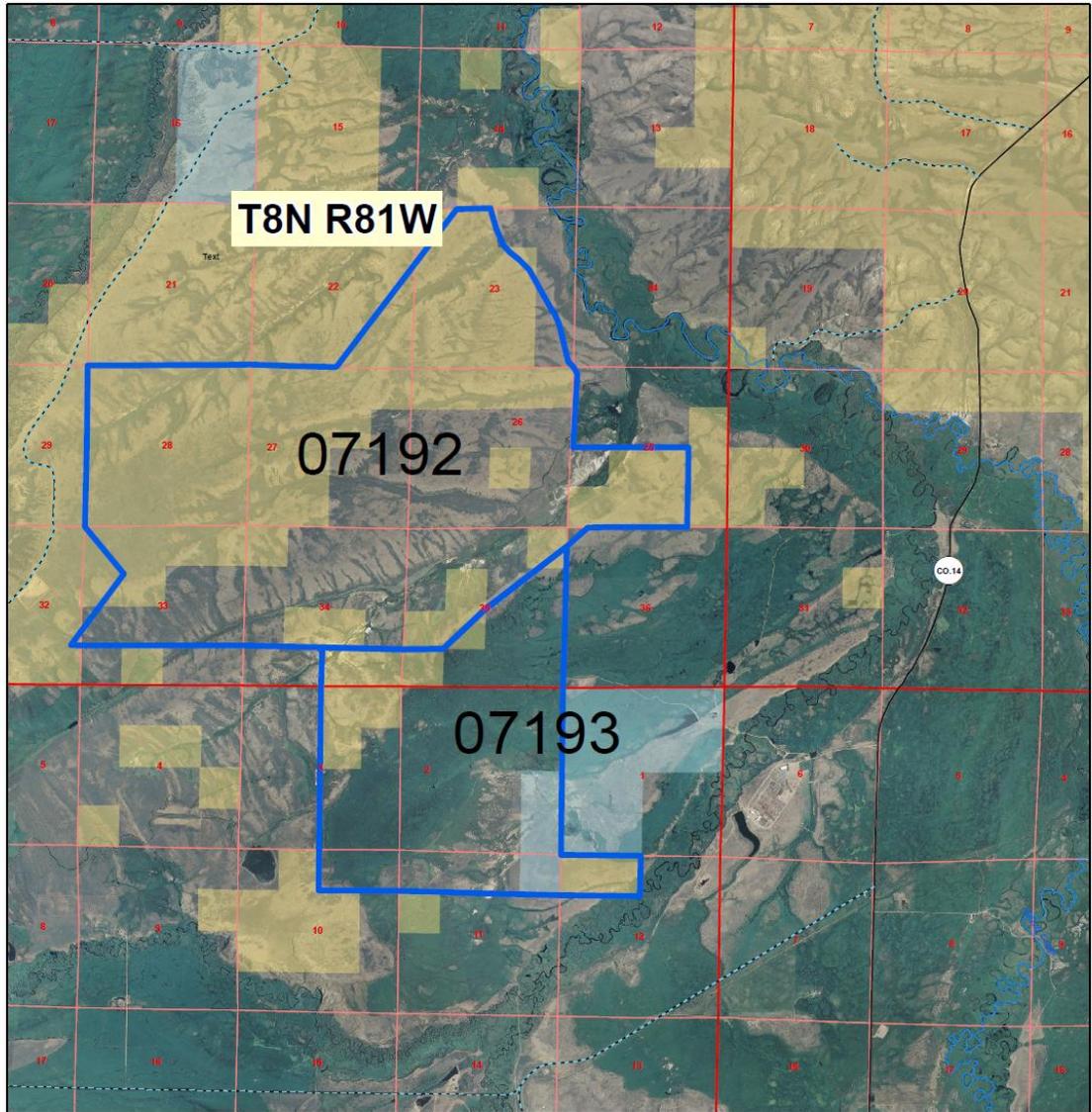
Yearlings use is authorized at a rate not to exceed 1.5 yearlings/cow.

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 operation.
- The BLM would be responsible for implementing noxious weed control measures, which would include partnership with the Jackson County Weed Abatement Program



Allotments 07193 and 07192



Legend

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



No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use with other data. Original data were compiled from various sources. This information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This product was developed through digital means and may be updated without notification.

NAME - DATE
FILE LOCATION

No Action Alternative: The no action alternative would be the same as the proposed action since there would be no change in the season of use, permitted AUMs or number of livestock

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)

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 is compatible with the land use priority.

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT / ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES / MITIGATION MEASURES:

AIR QUALITY

Affected Environment:

Environmental Consequences:

Mitigation:

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Affected Environment:

Environmental Consequences:

Mitigation:

FLOODPLAINS

Affected Environment:

Environmental Consequences:

Mitigation:

INVASIVE, NON-NATIVE SPECIES

Affected Environment:

Environmental Consequences:

Mitigation:

MIGRATORY BIRDS

Affected Environment:

Environmental Consequences:

Mitigation:

THREATENED, ENDANGERED, AND SENSITIVE SPECIES (includes a finding on Standard 4)

Affected Environment:

Environmental Consequences:

Mitigation:

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for Threatened & Endangered species:

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

Affected Environment:

Environmental Consequences:

Mitigation:

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for water quality:

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

Affected Environment:

Environmental Consequences:

Mitigation:

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for riparian systems:

SOILS (includes a finding on Standard 1)

Affected Environment:

Environmental Consequences:

Mitigation:

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for upland soils:

VEGETATION (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment:

Environmental Consequences:

Mitigation:

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Wildlife, Aquatic and Wildlife, Terrestrial):

WILDLIFE, AQUATIC (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment:

Environmental Consequences:

Mitigation:

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Vegetation and Wildlife, Terrestrial):

WILDLIFE, TERRESTRIAL (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment:

Environmental Consequences:

Mitigation:

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Vegetation and Wildlife, Aquatic):

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. In North Park, there are

approximately 260,000 acres of BLM-administered public lands that are currently being grazed, and 26,656 AUMs that are licensed.

For the purpose of this EA, the general geographic boundary for cumulative impact analysis is North Park. The lands administered by the Kremmling Field Office are 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 looking at reasonably foreseeable actions in North Park, there has been recent interest in oil and gas exploration on private and federal lands. There is a potential this activity could impact livestock grazing by increasing weeds, reducing forage or displacing livestock. Other reasonably foreseeable actions that are projected within North Park include range improvement projects, timber sales, prescribed fire and vegetation treatments. The majority of these projects are anticipated to occur on BLM lands. Projects like these would improve vegetation for livestock on both private and public land.

PERSONS / AGENCIES CONSULTED: See Appendix 2 for Tribal List.

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.

The Kremmling Field Office received 3 comments from the scoping effort. The CDOW had no concerns with the permit/lease renewals. The US Forest Service, Sulphur District of the Arapaho

National Forest expressed no issues or concerns with renewing the permits/leases. In a comment letter from the Grand County Commissioners, they strongly support the renewal of all Middle Park and North Park permits/leases. They said the preservation of agricultural is extremely important in Middle Park and North Park.

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW: See IDT-RRC in Appendix 1.

FONSI

DOI-BLM-CO-120-2010-0030-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 # 0501828 to be in effect from March 1, 2010 to February 28, 2020. This decision is contingent on meeting any mitigation measures and monitoring requirements listed below.

RATIONALE: When a livestock grazing lease/permit 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.

The livestock producer benefits from a renewed livestock grazing permit/lease to graze forage on BLM managed land. Livestock grazing on BLM managed land is an integral part of the livestock producer's operation, and an important part of local rural economies.

MITIGATION MEASURES: None

COMPLIANCE/MONITORING: Compliance with the renewed livestock grazing lease/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 lease, based on monitoring, when changes are determined necessary to protect land health.

NAME OF PREPARER: Peter Torma

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Susan Cassel

DATE:

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:

DATE SIGNED:

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1 – Interdisciplinary Team Analysis Review Record and Checklist
Appendix 2 – Native American Tribal List

ATTACHMENTS:

1) Stipulations

Appendix 1

INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM ANALYSIS REVIEW RECORD AND CHECKLIST:

Project Title:

Project Leader:

Date Proposal Received: (Only for external proposals)

Date Submitted for Comment:

Due Date for Comments:

Need for a field Exam: (If so, schedule a date/time)

Scoping Needs/Interested or Affected Publics: (Identify public scoping needs)

Consultation/Permit Requirements:

Consultation	Date Initiated	Date Completed	Responsible Specialist/ Contractor	Comments
Cultural/Archeological Clearance/SHPO				
Native American				
T&E Species/FWS				
Permits Needed (i.e. Air or Water)				

(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				
	Air Quality Belcher			
NP	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern McGuire			There are no Areas of Critical Environmental Concern in the proximity of the proposed project area.

	Cultural Resources	Wyatt			
NP	Environmental Justice	Cassel			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			There are no farmlands, prime or unique, in the proximity of the proposed project area.
	Floodplains	Belcher			
	Invasive, Non-native Species	Johnson Torma Hughes			
	Migratory Birds	McGuire			
	Native American Religious Concerns	Wyatt			
	T/E, and Sensitive Species (Finding on Standard 4)	McGuire			
NP	Wastes, Hazardous and Solid	Hodgson			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.
	Water Quality, Surface and Ground (Finding on Standard 5)	Belcher			
	Wetlands & Riparian Zones (Finding on Standard 2)	Belcher			
NP	Wild and Scenic Rivers	Windsor			There are no eligible Wild and Scenic River segments in the proposed project area.
NP	Wilderness	Monkouski			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)					
	Soils (Finding on Standard 1)	Belcher			
	Vegetation (Finding on Standard 3)	Johnson Torma			
	Wildlife, Aquatic (Finding on Standard 3)	McGuire			
	Wildlife, Terrestrial (Finding on Standard 3)	McGuire			
OTHER NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS					
	Access/Transportation	Monkouski			
	Forest Management	K. Belcher			
	Geology and Minerals	Hodgson			
	Fire	Wyatt			
	Hydrology/Water Rights	Belcher			
	Paleontology	Rupp			
	Noise	Monkouski			
	Range Management	Johnson Torma			
	Lands/ Realty Authorizations	Sperandio			
	Recreation	Monkouski Windsor			
NI	Socio-Economics	Cassel			

	Visual Resources	Windsor			
	Cumulative Impact Summary				
FINAL REVIEW					
	P&E Coordinator	McFadden			

Appendix 2

NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES CONTACTED:

Ivan Posey, Chairman
Shoshone Business Council
Shoshone Tribe
P O Box 538
Ft. Washakie, WY 82514

Arlen Shoyo, THPO
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Shoshone Tribe, Cultural Center
P.O. Box 538
Fort Washakie, WY 82514

Ernest House, Sr., Chairman
Ute Mountain Ute Tribe
P O Box JJ
Towaoc, CO 81334

Mr. Terry Knight, Sr., NAGPRA Representative
Ute Mountain Ute Tribe
P O Box 468
Towaoc, CO 81334

Darlene Conrad, THPO Director
Northern Arapaho Tribe
P O Box 396
Fort Washakie, WY 82514

Ernest House, Jr., Executive Secretary
Colorado Commissioner of Indian Affairs
130 State Capitol
Denver, Colorado 80203

Robert Goggles, NAGPRA Representative
Northern Arapaho Tribe
328 Seventeen Mile Road
Arapaho, WY 82510

Mathew Box, Chairman
Southern Ute Indian Tribe
P O Box 737
Ignacio, CO 81137

Neil Cloud, NAGPRA Representative
Southern Ute Tribe
Mail Stop #73
Ignacio, CO 81137

Curtis Cesspooch, Chairman
Uintah & Ouray Tribal Business Committee
P O Box 190
Ft. Duchesne, UT 84026

Betsy Chapoose, Director
Cultural Rights & Protection Specialist
Uintah & Ouray Tribe
P O Box 190
Fort Duchesne, UT 84026