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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-120-2010-0013-EA

PROJECT NAME: Vils RX Burn

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T. 7 N., R. 78 W., Sec. 17, 6th P.M.

KREMMLING FIELD OFFICE, KREMMLING, COLORADO

APPLICANT: BLM

PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE ACTION: Currently vegetation within the proposed project area is mixture of sagebrush and an understory of grasses and forbs. Much of the sagebrush is unhealthy because the stands are even aged, old and decedent. To improve the health of the sagebrush, it was determined that the sagebrush needed to be treated with fire to increase young sagebrush, grasses and forb production.

Background/Introduction/Issues and Concerns: During a 2009 spring meeting with Silver Spur Ranches, project ideas were discussed for lands within the Owl Ridge area that Silver Spur Ranches own, leases or is permitted to run livestock on. These projects included brush beating on private and Colorado State Land Board land and a prescribed burn on BLM land. The goals are to improve forage production on private lands for livestock and improve wildlife habitat on all lands. Since the spring meeting, a 100 acre brush beating has occurred on private lands. The prescribed burn is proposed for 2010 and the brush beating on Colorado State Land Board land is proposed for 2011 or 2012.

During initial planning for the burn, it was determined that a prescribed burn had occurred in 1988 on adjacent BLM lands. Visual observation of this burn showed reduced sagebrush, good grass production and a good diversity of grasses and forbs.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES:

Proposed Action: A prescribed burn would occur in the early spring or fall in 2010 on 150-200 acres of BLM lands in the livestock grazing allotment 07179(see Map below). The vegetation found in the treatment location is a mixture of sagebrush with an understory of grasses and forbs. One goal of the fire is to produce a mosaic pattern where some vegetation would not be burned

and thus improve habitat for wildlife through the edge effect. Another goal of the fire is to increase diversity and production of grasses, forbs and bitterbrush and to remove stands of over mature sagebrush. This would benefit elk, deer, antelope and livestock by increasing the palatability of grasses and forbs and improve livestock distribution. In order to reach these goals, the overall intensity of the fire would be low to prevent loss of vegetation.

The details of the prescribed burn include the following:

- The total project area is 250 acres. The prescribed burn would treat 150-200 acres.
- Fire line construction may be needed within the project area. This would be determined by the burn boss prior to ignition.
- Due to changes in weather, staffing and fuel moisture, this project would continue for the next 5 years or until the project goals are reached.

Design features of Proposed Action (see Attachment #1 for Standard Operating Procedures):

- Livestock grazing would be excluded from the burn area until sufficient vegetative cover is re-established. In most cases, this would require 2 years of rest, however in some instances only 1 year of rest would be needed.

-All eligible sites within the project area would be protected using hand or wet line construction, while all heavy fuel on eligible sites would be removed by hand. Historic structures, though not eligible, would be avoided by removing biomass material from around the site by hand or mechanical means.

-An engine would remain at site 5JA429 to prevent fire carrying across the site.

-The BLM would inspect disturbed areas for noxious weeds for two growing seasons after the project is completed. If weeds are found, it would be the responsibility of the BLM to treat the weed infestations. Any soil disturbance (including fire holding lines) would be rehabilitated to reduce the spread of weeds.

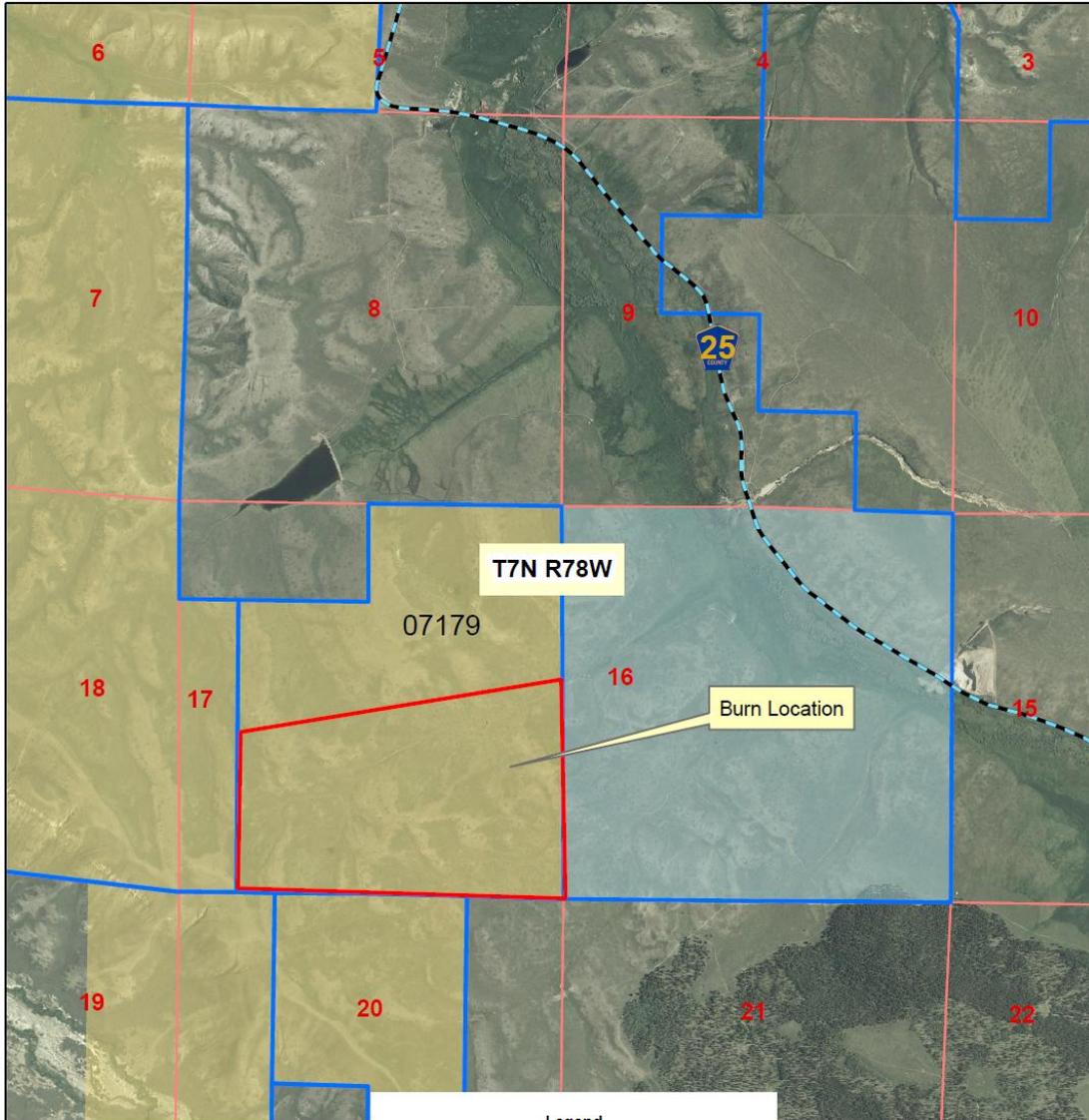
-Line construction and burn patterns would repeat existing line patterns in vegetation to minimize introduction of straight, contrasting lines in the landscape.

-If the burn's intensity is high or the mosaic pattern does not provide adequate surface roughness, then a field review will determine if best management practices are needed to slow water movement and deposit sediment prior to reaching the ditch. Field review would consider the slope and soils of the trail, the contributing side slopes, and look for evidence of soil rilling or sealing (water repellency).

- If the revegetation of grasses/forbs does not provide ground cover equal to, or greater, of pre-burn conditions at the end of two growing seasons, then additional soil stabilization measures would be required.

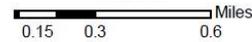


Vils Burn



- Legend**
- County Roads
 - Major Roads
 - allotment_np polygon
 - Reservoirs
 - Major Streams
 - Wilderness Study Area
 - ACEC
 - Bureau of Land Mgt
 - Division of Wildlife
 - National Park
 - US Forest Service
 - National Wildlife Refuge
 - Private
 - State
 - State Forest
- naip_1-1_1n_s_co057_2005_1.sic
- RGB
- Red: Band_1
 - Green: Band_2
 - Blue: Band_3

1:24,000



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NAME - DATE
FILE LOCATION

No Action Alternative: In the No Action Alternative, the burn would not be completed. Sagebrush health would continue to be low and grass and forb production would not increase.

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 4 through 8, as revised.

Decision Language: Investing in cost-effective range improvements (primarily through public investment) as needs arise to further improve forage condition.

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT / ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES / MITIGATION MEASURES:

AIR QUALITY

Affected Environment: North Park air quality is good, with few sources of pollutants. Although there is limited data for the air quality, the park is considered to be meeting the National Ambient Air Quality Standards. The park is sparsely populated, with 2 small oil and gas fields to the north of Walden. There are no communities or residences within the project area. The nearest ranch is approximately 1.6 miles north of the burn unit. Prevailing winds in the park are out of the southwest/west. The park is bordered by 3 Class 1 areas- Rocky Mountain National Park in the southeast, Mount Zirkel Wilderness to the west, and the Rawah Wilderness to the east. Class 1 Areas have the highest level of air quality protection, allowing the least amount of change (ie: increase in pollutants).

Environmental Consequences: Prescribed fires emit greenhouse gases and particulates, which could impact visibility and air quality. The proposed action would require a burn plan and a smoke permit from the state, which would detail the conditions required to allow burning and result in good smoke dispersal and minimize air quality impacts. The BLM would comply with all applicable measures including cessation of burning activities if favorable conditions deteriorate during the burn. Landowners in the surrounding area would be notified prior to the burn. Impacts from prescribed fires on federal lands have been found by the state of Colorado to have insignificant impacts to visibility in nearby Class 1 areas and have only limited short duration impacts.

Under the No Action Alternative, the burn would not occur. There would be no air quality impacts, unless a wildfire occurred within the area. Wildfires, depending on conditions at the time of the fire, can emit more smoke and pollutants than the planned burn, due to the

intensity and size of the burn, and burn longer than the prescribed burn, but impacts would also be of a short duration.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Affected Environment: Cultural Resource report CR-10-20 located no new cultural resource sites. Site 5JA429 a prehistoric campsite lies adjacent to the burn area on Owl Ridge.

Environmental Consequences: Prescribed fire activities would be restricted to the draws and kept off of Owl Ridge to the south. Vegetation is mostly short grass on the ridges and would not carry fire.

MIGRATORY BIRDS

Affected Environment: A variety of migratory bird species, including birds of prey, use the project area. Surveys conducted in 1994 by the Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas Partnership recorded many species in the area including Swainson's hawks, Red-tailed hawks, Green-tailed Towhee, Mountain and Western Bluebirds, Sage Thrasher, Horned Lark, Western Kingbirds, American Kestrels, and Common Nighthawks in the sagebrush habitat common to allotment #07179. No species within the project area have been identified by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as Birds of Conservation Concern (2008).

Environmental Consequences: The proposed treatment should improve habitat conditions for migratory birds using the treatment area. The proposed treatment would provide for grass and forb production by reducing sagebrush occurring in the treatment area. The expected increase in grass and forb productivity would provide additional high quality forage, cover, and nesting habitat. Young sagebrush plants would return to the treated areas over time and would also provide high quality cover and nesting habitat, adding diversity to the existing monotypic age class of sagebrush which currently exists in the project area. If the treatment occurred in the spring during nesting (May 15-July 15) a few ground nests may be destroyed or abandoned.

The No Action alternative would result in the continued limited productivity of vegetation within the burn project area. Understory grasses and forbs would not be able to flourish due to the continued dominance of sagebrush on these sites. Food, cover, and nesting habitat for migratory birds would be limited in the future due to the low productivity of grasses and forbs in the sagebrush understory and overabundance of mature sagebrush.

RANGELAND MANAGEMENT

Affected Environment: The proposed treatment would occur in grazing allotment 07179 which is currently permitted for 48 AUMs on 500 acres of BLM lands. The allotment is grazed by Silver Spur Ranches cattle.

Environmental Consequences: The proposed project would temporally cause an increase in grasses and forbs which is preferred by livestock. This project would help improve livestock distribution by increasing grass and forb production in areas livestock do not utilize. Depending on the intensity of the fire and depending upon vegetation response to the fire, livestock may be

rested from the treatment area for 1-2 years. The permittee is aware of this and has agreed to rest the area until the vegetation is ready for livestock use.

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

Affected Environment: A list of threatened, endangered, and candidate species which could inhabit the proposed project area was received from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on March 12, 2010. Analysis of this list indicated that no threatened or endangered species reside in the proposed allotments.

Greater sage-grouse, a Federal Candidate species and BLM Sensitive Species, are residents in the project area. Allotment # 07179 provides important nesting habitat for sage-grouse as two active strutting grounds (leks) are located within 3.0 miles of the treatment area. The nearest lek is 2.0 miles to the southwest. The area is also within the Sage-grouse Core Area identified by the Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW).

Environmental Consequences: The proposed treatment would benefit sage-grouse if sufficient sagebrush canopy remains to provide nesting cover. If a mosaic pattern is achieved, the project would leave sufficient cover and improve sage-grouse nesting habitat. However, if too much sagebrush is removed, it would reduce the sagebrush canopy to a level which would render treated areas unusable for sage-grouse nesting for several years in the future. In addition, if the treatment occurred in the spring during sage-grouse nesting (March 1-June 30) a few nests may be destroyed or abandoned.

Under the No Action Alternative, the project areas would remain as they currently exist. Understory grasses and forbs would continue to exist at levels below optimum for wildlife, especially sage-grouse. Sagebrush canopy would continue to prohibit grass and forb production to increase in both quality and quantity. Sage-grouse nesting and brood rearing would continue to be limited by the over-abundance of sagebrush and lack of grass and forb understory.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for Threatened & Endangered species: Neither the Proposed Action nor the No Action Alternative would impact Standard 4 in this area.

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

Affected Environment: The proposed burn is within the Michigan River 5th order watershed, within the Owl Creek drainage, a perennial tributary to the Michigan River. Owl Creek flows from the southeast to the northwest, and is approximately one half mile to the northeast of the burn unit. The BLM does not monitor Owl Creek, as it is primarily privately owned. There are no known water quality concerns for Owl Creek or the Michigan River, and both are considered to be fully supporting their designated uses: coldwater class 1 aquatic life, agriculture, and domestic purposes. Owl Creek is designated for existing primary contact use for recreational uses, and the Michigan River is designated "not primary contact use", as the water quality is not suitable for recreational uses.

The proposed burn unit does not contain any known surface waters, but from aerial photographs, it does appear to contain a very well defined ephemeral drainage that cattle trail from the

southwest to the northeast portion of the burn. The trail is to the allotment's water gap- a private irrigation ditch segment that is included within the fenced allotment to provide livestock water.

Owl Ridge, at the southern edge of the project creates the watershed boundary between the Michigan and the Illinois Rivers. The ridge is a groundwater recharge area for the Coalmont formation. There are no known seeps or springs within the allotment, however, and groundwater quality will not be affected by the proposed burn.

Environmental Consequences: The impacts from a managed fire depend on the fire's location in the drainage, the size, and the fire's intensity. The proposed burn is planned to have a mosaic pattern and a low intensity fire. This will help reduce overland flow, as there will be areas within the runoff flow pathway that still have sagebrush skeletons and/or vegetative litter. This surface roughness helps slow water movement and encourages infiltration. A spring or fall burn would allow grasses and forbs to take advantage of any higher soil moisture from the winter's snowmelt. The dark-colored ash and sagebrush skeletons also help warm the soil, encouraging seed germination and plant growth. The burn unit would have some new grass and forb vegetative cover prior to the summer's high intensity rainstorms. Thunderstorms have the greatest potential to generate runoff as they exceed the soil's "rate of water intake" (permeability). Runoff can erode the soil surface and carry sediment loads to surface waters, impairing the water's ability to support designated uses. Runoff that does reach the defined trail could find a compacted surface that transports water. If the drainage is not too compacted, however, there may be better surface cover than the surrounding lands due to drainage having more soil moisture. Any surface runoff from the burn would generally travel in a northeasterly direction, in the cattle trail or other ephemeral drainages. If runoff were to leave the allotment, the Troy Ditch- a private irrigation ditch- would intercept the runoff. This is the ditch that provides water to the allotment. It is unlikely that any surface flows from the burn would reach Owl Creek.

Under the No Action Alternative, the existing conditions would be expected to continue. The site has not been assessed for the Land Health Standards.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for water quality: The proposed action would not be expected to impact surface or ground water quality. The ability to meet the standard would not be affected.

SOILS (includes a finding on Standard 1)

Affected Environment: Soil information is from the Jackson County Soil Survey and has not been supplemented with field information. The burn unit is mapped as primarily Fluetsch-Tiagos association, a very common North Park rangeland soil. The association often results in a visible banded vegetative pattern, as the Fluetsch sandy loam is on more convex, gentle slopes, and the Tiagos fine sandy loam is generally on side slopes and more protected areas. The soils are placed in a Valley Bench/Dry Mountain Loam range site. Permeability is moderate to moderately rapid and plant available water is high. The soils have slow to medium runoff rates and slight to moderate wind erosion rates. The north half of the burn unit is mapped as being Leavitt loams (about 80 acres), which is a Mountain Loam range site, with gentle slopes and only slight hazards of wind or water erosion. The permeability is moderate and the plant available moisture is high. Other surrounding soil units that could possibly occur within the burn unit

have similar characteristics to those described. It is not likely that soils with high erosion rates or poor infiltration would occur within the unit.

Environmental Consequences: The actual soil impacts from a fire are dependent on the fire's intensity, and the soil's texture and moisture at the time of the burn. The planned low intensity fire that has an irregular boundary would help lessen soil impacts. A low intensity fire helps maintain the soil's longterm health by not eradicating the mycorrhizal populations. Too high of an intensity, especially in very wet, fine textured soils, can steam the microorganisms, and result in sterile soil. The planned mosaic also helps shelter the soil, especially from wind erosion. The burn unit's slope location also helps reduce the amount of wind erosion. If revegetation of grasses/forbs are not at least equal to pre-burn conditions after two growing seasons, then additional soil stabilization would be required (ie: seeding, or mulches, or other erosion control practices). Once revegetation occurs, the resulting grass/forb areas would have less sagebrush canopy, but would have increased ground cover for soil protection. Resulting soil erosion would be equal to or less than pre-project levels within a few growing seasons.

Under the No Action Alternative, the proposed burn would not occur. The present livestock distribution pattern would continue, with areas having higher utilization. Older sagebrush stands often have large bare interspaces, exposing soils to water erosion. The longterm soil fertility in high utilization areas can tend to decrease due to compacted soils inhibiting water movement and less litter incorporation into the soil.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for upland soils: The burn unit's allotment has not been evaluated for the Standards. The existing vegetation description and livestock distribution would not appear to promote longterm soil health, so the No Action Alternative would forego this opportunity to improve overall soil health. The Proposed Action could result in areas of increased soil erosion (see also Water Section), but would promote increased ground cover in the unit, protecting longterm soil health.

VEGETATION (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: The proposed action would burn 150-200 acres of native vegetation. The current vegetation is a mixture of sagebrush with an understory of grasses and forbs. Within the proposed treatment area much of the sagebrush is three inches tall, decadent and even aged. The understory vegetation is a heavy thatch of grasses and forbs. Adjacent to the proposed burn, a prescribed fire was conducted in 1988. The effects of this burn showed reduced sagebrush and increased grasses compared to the proposed treatment site.

Environmental Consequences: Base on an adjacent burn that occurred in 1988, the proposed project would reduce the native sagebrush while increasing the grass and forbs component. This change could last for 20 years.

The proposed project would use a low intensity fire which would not remove all of the vegetation. The mosaic type pattern would result in some vegetation not being affected by fire which should increase the diversity and health of the native vegetation. There would also be less potential to harm native vegetation using a low intensity fire. If the fire intensity increases, there would be the potential for sagebrush and grasses to be killed or harmed. In these areas, follow

up seeding may be needed. Because livestock graze this area, livestock would be required to rest the project area 1-2 years following treatment.

Under the No Action Alternative, the proposed burn would not occur. Older sagebrush stands would continue resulting in reduced rangeland health.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Wildlife, Aquatic and Wildlife, Terrestrial): This area has not been assessed for the Colorado Standards for Public Land Health. A site visit by various staff has not noted issues with the vegetations ability to meet this standard after the fire.

WILDLIFE, TERRESTRIAL (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: These allotments provide habitat for a variety of upland wildlife. Mule deer, pronghorn antelope, moose and Rocky Mountain elk occupy the area at different times of the year while badgers, coyotes, red foxes, white-tailed jackrabbits, and a variety of small rodents live in the allotments on a year-long basis. Pronghorn antelope, moose, and mule deer are occasional inhabitants/migrants during the summer and elk use the area during winter. Existing habitat conditions include an over-abundance of mature sagebrush with little understory vegetation. Grasses and forbs are lacking and habitat conditions for the species listed above are not as high quality as they should be because of the dominance of sagebrush on the site proposed for treatment.

Environmental Consequences: The proposed treatment should improve habitat conditions for terrestrial wildlife using the treatment area. The treatment would provide for grass and forb production by reducing sagebrush occurring in the treatment area. The expected increase in grass and forb productivity would provide additional high quality forage for deer, elk, and pronghorn during the seasons they inhabit the area, especially winter, and would provide more cover for small mammals. Young sagebrush plants would return to the treated areas over time and would also provide high quality food and cover, adding diversity to the existing monotypic age class of sagebrush which currently exists on the area proposed for treatment.

The No Action alternative would result in the continued limited productivity of vegetation in the project area. Understory grasses and forbs would not be able to flourish due to the continued dominance of sagebrush. Wildlife food and cover would be limited in the future due to the low productivity of grasses and forbs in the sagebrush understory. Winter forage for elk would continue to be less than optimum on the area proposed for treatment.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Vegetation and Wildlife, Aquatic): Neither the Proposed Action nor the No Action Alternative would impact Standard 3 in this area.

ACCESS/TRANSPORTATION

Affected Environment: The allotment of the proposed action includes fenceline routes that provide access. Currently, the designation for this area is "Open" for Off Highway Vehicle use. Accesses along these routes are utilized for fence maintenance and recreational hunting access. This area has also been identified for a proposed snowmobile route that would follow the

fenceline separating BLM administered lands from State Land Board administered lands. The proposed snowmobile route is to provide access between the towns of Walden and Gould.

Environmental Consequences: The proposed action would create a short term displacement of public access within the project area. Any requirements for additional closures would require a Temporary Closure order by the authorized officer. If the proposed snowmobile route was authorized in the future, it most likely would not be impacted since grooming operations would not be permitted until there was a minimum of 12 inches of snow and the ground is frozen. If the proposed trail would create impacts to the proposed action, a new route alignment on BLM administered lands may be found.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS SUMMARY:

The cumulative impact analysis boundary for the Vils prescribed fire includes the area within Jackson County (North Park). Within North Park, there is a mixture of federal lands, state and private lands, with approximately 186,000 acres of BLM administered lands.

When looking at past similar actions within North Park, there have been very few prescribed fires but there have been numerous sagebrush treatments. These treatments have resulted in beneficial impacts for vegetation, wildlife and livestock producers which rely on public land for livestock grazing by increasing diversity, production and land health. In the future, prescribed fire and vegetation treatments are expected to continue because of the bark-beetle infestation, wildlife and livestock concerns, and BLM land health objectives. The short term impacts from these treatments would result in minor adverse impacts to livestock and wildlife due to a reduction in lands available for grazing. However, over the long term these treatments would result in beneficial impacts by increasing forage and improving land health within North Park.

PERSONS / AGENCIES CONSULTED: In February 2010, a scoping letter was sent to the following people: Jack Lewis, Town of Walden, Colorado State Forest Service, Jackson County Commissioners, Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW), US Forest Service, NRCS, Silver Spur Land and Cattle, North Park Stock Growers, USFWS, Board of Land Commissioners, Liza Rossi (CDOW), Patrick McConathy, Buffalo Creek Ranch, Rocky Mountain Ranch. On March 22, 2010, a scoping letter was sent to various Native American Tribes (See Appendix 2 for Tribal List). No new information has been provided through the scoping process.

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW: See IDT-RRC in Appendix 1.

FONSI

DOI-BLM-CO-120-2010-0013-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 proposed action was chosen because it will improve wildlife habitat and forage for livestock and wildlife.

MITIGATION MEASURES: None

COMPLIANCE/MONITORING:

The BLM would inspect disturbed areas for noxious weeds for two growing seasons after the project is completed. If weeds are found, it would be the responsibility of the BLM to treat the weed infestations

If the burn's intensity is high or the mosaic pattern does not provide adequate surface roughness, then a field review will determine if best management practices are needed to slow water movement and deposit sediment prior to reaching the ditch. Field review will consider the slope and soils of the trail, the contributing side slopes, and look for evidence of soil riling or sealing (water repellency).

NAME OF PREPARER: Peter Torma

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Susan Cassel

DATE: 3/26/2010

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL: /s/ Susan Cassel

DATE SIGNED: 3/26/2010

APPENDICES:

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

Appendix 1

INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM ANALYSIS REVIEW RECORD AND CHECKLIST:

Project Title: Vils RX Burn
Project Leader: Peter Torma
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: See EA

Consultation/Permit Requirements:

Consultation	Date Initiated	Date Completed	Responsible Specialist/ Contractor	Comments
Cultural/Archeological Clearance/SHPO	3/18/2010	3/18/2010	BBW	See analysis. Avoid site 5JA429.
Native American	3/26/2010	4/27/2010	BBW	To date no American Indian tribe has identified any area of spiritual concern.
T&E Species/FWS	N/A	N/A	M. McGuire	
Permits Needed (i.e. Air or Water)	Water- n/a Air-	Water-n/a Air-	PB JK	

(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				
PI	Air Quality Belcher	2/1/10	PB	See Air Quality Section
NP	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern McGuire	3/10/2010	M M	There are no Areas of Critical Environmental Concern in the proximity of the proposed project area.
	Cultural Resources Wyatt	3/18/2010	BBW	See analysis. Avoid site 5JA429.
NP	Environmental Justice Cassel	12/16/09	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	2/1/10	PB	There are no farmlands, prime or unique, in the proximity of the proposed project area.
NP	Floodplains Belcher	2/1/10	PB	The project area is within the uplands and would not impact the floodplain or effect flood hazard.
NP	Invasive, Johnson	02/2/10	ZH	There are no known invasive, non-native

	Non-native Species	Torma Hughes			species (noxious weeds) growing in the project area. Since soil or vegetation disturbing activities and or fire provide an avenue for the establishment or expansion of invasive, non-native species, the BLM would monitor the project area as specified in the Proposed Action.
PI	Migratory Birds	McGuire	3/10/2010	MM	See analysis.
NI	Native American Religious Concerns	Wyatt	3/26/2010	BW	Indian Consultation was provided to the Native Americans with a 30 day comment period. To date no American Indian tribe has identified any area of spiritual concern.
PI	T/E, and Sensitive Species (Finding on Standard 4)	McGuire	3/10/2010	MM	See analysis.
NP	Wastes, Hazardous and Solid	Hodgson	12/03/09	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	2/2/2010	PB	See Water Quality Section.
NP	Wetlands & Riparian Zones (Finding on Standard 2)	Belcher	2/1/10	PB	The project area is in an upland area and would not directly or indirectly affect a wetland or riparian zone.
NP	Wild and Scenic Rivers	Windsor	3/22/10	AW	There are no eligible Wild and Scenic River segments in the proposed project area.
NP	Wilderness	Monkouski	3/15/2010	JJM	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	2/2/10	PB	See the Soils Section of the E.A.
PI	Vegetation (Finding on Standard 3)	Johnson Torma	12/22/09	PT	See Vegetation section
NP	Wildlife, Aquatic (Finding on Standard 3)	McGuire	3/10/2010	MM	There is no aquatic wildlife present in the proposed project area.
PI	Wildlife, Terrestrial (Finding on Standard 3)	McGuire	3/10/2010	MM	See analysis.
OTHER NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS					
PI	Access/Transportation	Monkouski	3/15/2010	JJM	See analysis.
NP	Forest Management	K. Belcher	3/5/10	KB	No forest resources present.
NI	Geology and Minerals	Hodgson	12/03/09	KH	No impacts.
NI	Fire	Wyatt	3/18/2010	BBW	See associated prescribed fire Burn Plan. Prescribed fire ignition would not start until the approving official signature.
NI	Hydrology/Water Rights	Belcher	2/1/10	PB	Any hydrologic concerns are addressed in the Water Quality and Soils sections of this document. There would be no impact to water rights.
NI	Paleontology	Rupp	11/13/09	FGR	There would be no impact to paleontological resources as a result of implementing the proposed action.
NI	Noise	Monkouski	3/15/2010	JJM	There would be minimal short term impacts from noise during the proposed action.
PI	Range Management	Johnson Torma	12/22/09	PT	See Range Management section

NP	Lands/ Realty Authorizations Cassel	12/17/09	AS	There are no leases, permits or rights-of-ways in the proposed project area.
NI	Recreation Monkouski Windsor	3/15/2010	JJM	Existing recreational uses in the general area include hunting, hiking, wildlife viewing; snowmobiling and driving for pleasure. There are no recreation activity plans or other special recreation designations for this area. The proposed action should have no impacts to the recreation resource.
NI	Socio-Economics Cassel	12/16/09	SC	As long as the proposed burn follows the burn plan, there would be no impacts to the socio-economics of the area from the proposed action or the no action alternatives.
NI	Visual Resources Windsor	3/22/10	AW	The proposed project is in a Visual Resource Inventory (VRI) Class III area. Since the 1984 Resource Management Plan (RMP) did not designate Visual Resource Management (VRM) classes, BLM manages visual resources to protect the VRI by applying management class objectives to the inventory. Objectives for VRM Class III are to partially retain the existing landscape. Changes to the landscape should be moderate and may attract attention, but should not dominate the landscape. The project is designed to reduce contrast in the landscape. Visual resources would not be impacted by the proposed action or the no action alternative.
	Cumulative Impact Summary	3/25/2010	PT	See analysis
FINAL REVIEW				
	P&E Coordinator Cassel	3/26/2010	SC	

Appendix 2

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