

Posted: \_\_\_\_\_

**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-120-2010-0007-EA

PROJECT NAME: Renewal of Livestock Grazing Permit # 0501766 for Grand Colorado Ranches, LLC.

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

Allotment 07553 (Mayhoffer) 2003 acres  
T. 1 N., R. 79 W., 6<sup>th</sup> P.M., Sections 17-19, 30-32;  
T. 1 N., R. 80 W., 6<sup>th</sup> P.M., Sections 13, 24, 25, 36.

APPLICANT: Grand Colorado Ranches, LLC

PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE ACTION: Grand Colorado Ranches LLC livestock grazing permit # 0501766 that authorized livestock grazing on Allotment 07553 (Mayhoffer) expired on February 28, 2010. Grand Colorado Ranches LLC 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. Approving the renewal has been delegated to the local Authorized Officer. Renewal of livestock grazing permit # 0501766 would allow Grand Colorado Ranches LLC to continue grazing on their designated allotment without any changes to the terms and conditions of the permit for a period of 10 years beginning on March 1, 2010.

Background/Introduction/Issues and Concerns: Allotment 07553 (Mayhoffer) was assessed for compliance with the Standards for Public Land Health in Colorado (Standards) during the 2000 permit renewal process. An interdisciplinary (ID) team from the Kremmling Field Office determined that about 850 acres of the allotment was functioning at risk. The Standards protocol requires that appropriate action(s) be implemented to bring an allotment into compliance with the Standards whenever an allotment is determined to be failing a Standard or functioning at risk. A deferred rotation grazing plan was implemented during the 2000 permit renewal process as the appropriate action to bring the allotment into compliance with the Standards. The grazing system implemented in 2000 is enclosed as Attachment 1. In 2008, the permittee requested a change in the grazing system to better accommodate his ranching operation. The grazing system

was changed to defer the grazing until July 17 on one half of the allotment each year. The current authorized livestock grazing system is enclosed as Attachment 2.

On July 9, 2008, an ID team from the Kremmling Field Office reassessed Allotment 07553 (Mayhoffer) for compliance with the Standards. The ID team determined the allotment is now in compliance with all of the Standards. Since the allotment has improved and now meets the Standards, the deferred rotation grazing system implemented in 2008 will remain in effect for the renewed permit.

**DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES:**

**Proposed Action:** The Proposed Action would renew livestock grazing permit # 0501766 with no changes to the number or kind of livestock, season of use, or authorized livestock grazing preference as expressed in AUMs (animal unit months\*). A copy of the permit with standard terms and conditions is enclosed as Attachment 3.

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

Livestock grazing permit # 0501766 will authorize livestock grazing to the following extent:

**EVEN YEARS**

| Pasture | Livestock |        | Season of Use | Percent Public Land | AUMs |
|---------|-----------|--------|---------------|---------------------|------|
|         | Number    | Kind   |               |                     |      |
| North   | 225       | Cattle | 6/20 – 7/16   | 50                  | 100  |
| South   | 225       | Cattle | 7/17 – 8/12   | 50                  | 100  |

**ODD YEARS**

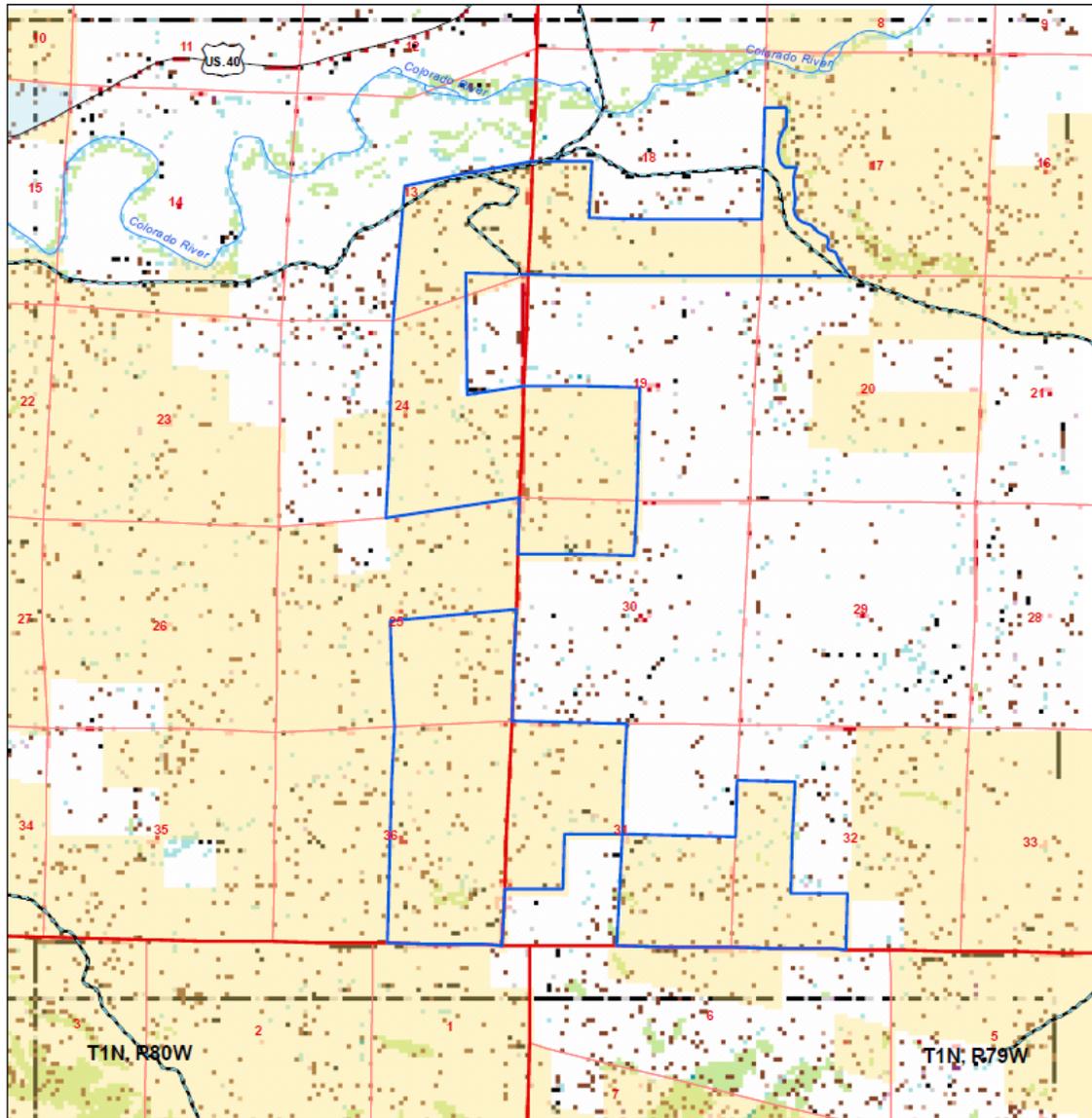
| Pasture | Livestock |        | Season of Use | Percent Public Land | AUMs |
|---------|-----------|--------|---------------|---------------------|------|
|         | Number    | Kind   |               |                     |      |
| North   | 225       | Cattle | 7/17 – 8/12   | 50                  | 100  |
| South   | 225       | Cattle | 6/20 – 7/16   | 50                  | 100  |

**Design Features of the Proposed Action:**

- The permittee would be responsible for notifying the BLM of all suspected noxious weeds found within their livestock grazing allotments.
- The BLM would be responsible for implementing noxious weed control measures, which would include partnership with the Larimer County Weed Abatement Program.
- The allotments would continue to be monitored according to the Compliance/Monitoring Section of this EA.



# ALLOTMENT 07553 MAYHOFFER



T1N, R80W

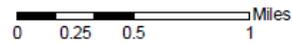
T1N, R79W



### Legend

- |                 |                          |
|-----------------|--------------------------|
| County Roads    | Bureau of Land Mgt       |
| Major Roads     | Division of Wildlife     |
| 07553 Mayhoffer | National Park            |
| Reservoirs      | US Forest Service        |
| Major Streams   | National Wildlife Refuge |
| Land Status     | Private                  |
|                 | State                    |
|                 | State Forest             |

1:40,866



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.

Richard Johnson, 10/15/2009  
 FILE LOCATION: t:\gis\user\range\Allotment 07553

No Action Alternative: The No Action Alternative is the same as the Proposed Action in the case of livestock grazing permit renewals.

Alternatives Considered But Eliminated From Further Analysis:

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

No Grazing

- It is discretionary action to renew livestock grazing permits/leases. However, not renewing this permit does not meet the Purpose and Need of this EA.
- During public scoping, no issues or concerns were identified.
- Not renewing the livestock grazing permit would cause severe economic hardship to the permittee.
- Allotment 07553 (Mayhoffer) meets all of the Standards for Public Land Health in Colorado.

Renew Livestock Grazing Permit # 0501766 With Changes To The Grazing

- Does not meet the Purpose and Need of the Proposed Action.
- Allotment 07553 (Mayhoffer) is in compliance with all of the Standards.
- No issues or concerns have been identified with the allotment.

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 is compatible with the land use priority. The RMP designated the project area with a livestock grazing priority.

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 have 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 allotment. These species include houndstongue (*Cynoglossum officinale*), bull thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*), musk thistle (*Carduus nutans*), and Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*). These species are 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 and vegetation disturbance in an area where invasive, non-native 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: There are no springs or seeps within the allotment. The Proposed Action is unlikely to impact ground water quality due to the absence of heavy use areas near ground water surface contacts.

Since the 2000 Environmental Assessment, the BLM has increased water quality monitoring on Reeder Creek, including the installation of a temperature sensor. The segment's water quality is affected by irrigation return flows from the Big Lake ditch, and livestock impacts are not apparent. Although several days in July routinely have high afternoon water temperatures, the night time recovery temperatures are low enough to make the Maximum Weekly Average Temperature acceptable for coldwater fish. The temperatures are primarily controlled by the private water management and air temperatures. BLM's influence is limited to protecting the riparian vegetation to shade the stream and stabilize the streambanks. Livestock concentrations could influence nutrient loads to the stream, and with warmer waters, vegetation blooms and reduced oxygen concentrations could become a problem. Barger Gulch is not directly monitored for water quality, and riparian conditions are used to indirectly summarize the status. The receiving segment of the Colorado River is listed in the 2010 303(d) List as an impaired water due to temperatures.

Environmental Consequences: The Proposed Action would continue a grazing system that has improved overall watershed conditions within the allotment, and improved Barger Gulch. The vegetation production and ground cover has increased, which benefits the soil/water cycling (ie: more infiltration, less runoff). Barger Gulch has lower levels of utilization, and riparian species have increased, stabilizing the channel. These watershed conditions reduce accelerated erosion and sediment loading in the streams. Renewing the permit should maintain or protect the water quality within the allotment.

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 Allotment is meeting the Standard for water quality. Renewing the permit should maintain current water quality conditions. Water quality monitoring will continue, to insure that the allotment is not contributing to temperature concerns in the Colorado River.

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

Affected Environment: Prior to the 2000 change in the grazing permit, the allotment had season long grazing. In the 2000 assessment, the Reeder Creek riparian area was considered to be in Proper Functioning Condition, although there are several areas of weeds within the riparian zone. Since 2000, riparian field checks are generally done each year. Wildlife use on willows continues to be fairly high. Livestock also tend to graze the riparian area fairly heavy. Field checks after cattle are removed show stubble heights that are generally less than four inches and livestock eating the new willow growth. In 2008, the stream was rechecked at the end of the field season, and found some regrowth, but no seedheads. By June, 2009, the vegetation was doing well, greater than twelve inches in height and seedheads were present. Livestock didn't use the pasture until mid July, and although livestock were out of the Reeder Creek area prior to the end of the grazing schedule, utilization again was heavy.

Barger Gulch was field assessed in 2004, 2005 and in 2008. The initial rest from grazing (2 years), followed with the deferred grazing schedule has improved riparian conditions. The stream segments that were rated "Functioning at Risk" are now considered to be in "Proper Functioning Condition", and the Colorado Natural Heritage Program rated the area as 'functioning near its potential and is in excellent condition' (CNHP, 2005). There are still some houndstongue and other weeds within the drainage.

Environmental Consequences: The riparian areas provide the North Pasture livestock water. The cattle tend to congregate near these areas, especially Reeder Creek. The permittee has been working to improve livestock distribution within the allotment and the overall allotment condition shows better management than prior to 2000. Although the deferred grazing system appears to be allowing sufficient regrowth prior to grazing along Reeder Creek, longterm stream health is not at its potential. The stream channel has some bank sloughing due to livestock trailing and between wildlife/livestock browsing, willows do not provide the expected stream shading and bank stability. Renewing the permit will maintain the overall improvements, but additional actions may be needed to insure longterm riparian health on Reeder Creek.

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

Mitigation: Continued monitoring on Reeder Creek, when average stubble height is less than four inches on sedges and grasses, livestock should be moved. Increase monitoring on Barger Gulch.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for riparian systems: The allotment is considered to be meeting the Standard for riparian areas, but longterm improvement is not occurring on Reeder Creek. The permittee is attempting to improve the allotment condition, and with mitigation, the proposed permit will continue to move the riparian area to its longterm potential.

## RANGE MANAGEMENT

**Affected Environment:** Because portions of Allotment 07553 (Mayhoffer) were determined to not be in compliance with Standard 3 (upland vegetation and wildlife) during the 2000 permit renewal process, a deferred rotation grazing system was implemented as the appropriate action to bring the allotment into compliance with all of the Standards. In 2008, a slight modification to the grazing system was implemented to better meet the needs of the ranching operation. See Attachment 2 for the most current grazing plan.

**Environmental Consequences:** The Proposed Action would keep the 2008 deferred rotation grazing system in effect on the renewed permit. Since the deferred rotation grazing system has allowed the vegetation on the allotment to improve to where it is in compliance with all of the Standards, continuing the grazing system would promote the continued improvement of the vegetation.

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:** The North Pasture is identified in the RMP as a Soil Priority Area and Barger Gulch as a sensitive watershed. Reducing soil loss and controlling erosion are the priorities for these areas, with range management practices that promote soil stability and reduced erosion. In the 2000 Environmental Assessment, there were 500 acres in the North Pasture that were not meeting the Standard. The historic use had resulted in a sagebrush community with little to no vegetation in the interspaces. Although sagebrush provided a canopy, runoff was eroding soils and resulting in little organic matter incorporated into the soils. The North Pasture was rested for 2 years, and then the deferred grazing system was implemented, replacing season long grazing. During the 2008 field assessment, the ID team found the interspaces had improved grass production and vegetative litter was remaining in place, for incorporation into the soil. The South Pasture had not changed and was still in good condition, with vegetative production at its potential, adequately protecting the soils.

**Environmental Consequences:** Renewing the permit will continue the present management. Upland areas can take a long time to respond, but the grazing system appears to be improving the conditions. The grazing system is expected to maintain or improve the upland soil conditions in both allotments.

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 now meeting Standard #1 for Upland Soils. The Proposed Action will maintain or improve the area's ability to continue to meet the Standard.

#### VEGETATION (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: Allotment 07553 (Mayhoffer) is almost entirely a sagebrush steppe vegetation community. There are a few very small stands of lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*) at the higher elevations. The sagebrush steppe is dominated by big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*) with an understory of cool season perennial grasses and annual and perennial forbs. The grasses include western wheatgrass (*Pascopyrum smithii*), Indian ricegrass (*Achnatherum hymenoides*), muttongrass (*Poa fendleriana*), needle and thread (*Hesperostipa comata*), Sandburg bluegrass (*Poa secunda*), pine needlegrass (*Achnatherum pinetorum*), and big bluegrass (*Poa ampla*). Diversity and production of forbs can vary greatly from year to year depending on timing and amount of precipitation. Forbs common to the allotment include wild buckwheat (*Eriogonum* spp), phlox (*Phlox hoodii*), fringed sage (*Artemisia frigida*), daisies (*Erigeron* spp), pussytoes (*Antennaria* spp), chiming bells (*Mertensia* spp), groundsel (*Senecio* spp), broom snakeweed (*Gutierrezia sarothrae*), Indian paintbrush (*Castilleja* spp), scarlet globemallow (*Sphaeralcea coccinea*), and aster (*Machaeranthera tanacetifolia*). Besides big sagebrush, shrubs on the allotment include serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*), rabbitbrush (*Chrysothamnus* spp), and snowberry (*Symphoricarpos oreophilus*).

Environmental Consequences: A deferred rotation grazing system was implemented during the 2000 permit renewal process as the appropriate action to bring the allotment into compliance with the Standards. Since 2000, the vegetation resource has improved. Implementation of the Proposed Action would continue the deferred rotation grazing system and the condition of the vegetation should continue to improve.

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): During the 2000 permit renewal process, portions of Allotment 07553 (Mayhoffer) were determined to not be in compliance with the Standards. A deferred rotation grazing system was implemented as the appropriate action to bring the allotment into compliance with the Standards. On July 9, 2008 an interdisciplinary (ID) team from the Kremmling Field Office reassessed the allotment for compliance with the Standards. The ID team determined all of the allotment is now in compliance with all of the Standards.

#### ACCESS/TRANSPORTATION

Affected Environment: The allotment partially is within a parcel of BLM administered land acquired in the Resource Management Plan Amendment – Land Acquisition Land Use Priorities (June 2000). The SE1/4, Sec. 24, T1NR80W was acquired and prioritized for Livestock Grazing and Water (along Barger Gulch) resources. Vehicle use within this parcel was

designated as “Limited” to designated roads and trails. Implimentation of the “Limited” designation would require further subsequent analysis to identify designated routes. Further analysis for implementation was never conducted. Currently, a Resource Management Plan revision is being conducted that will provide the analysis for route designation.

Environmental Consequences: The proposed action would not create significant impacts to access and the existing transportation system. Limited public access to existing routes of the acquired parcel prevents new route creation within the area. The current Resource Management Plan revision will analyze routes within the parcel for designation. Until the revision is completed no cross country travel would be permitted and travel is limited to the existing routes. Exceptions for fence maintenance and emergency cross country travel may be permitted by the authorizing officer as stated in the design features of the proposed project.

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

Mitigation: None

#### CUMULATIVE IMPACTS SUMMARY:

##### Geographic Scope of the Cumulative Impacts:

For the purpose of this EA, the general geographic boundary for cumulative impact analysis is Allotment 07553 (Mayhoffer). This allotment is located within the Reeder Creek and Barger Gulch drainages which are part of the Upper Colorado River Watershed east of Kremmling. Livestock grazing has been occurring on this allotment since the introduction of domestic livestock in the 01870’s.

##### Past, Present and Foreseeable Action

When considered with past actions, livestock grazing within this allotment did not improve habitat for migratory birds, Greater sage-grouse, wetlands, soils, or vegetation because livestock were not rotated or the pastures rested or deferred within the allotment. Season long grazing resulted in reduced land health as seen by the allotment being determined to be functioning at risk by an ID team from the Kremmling Field Office. In 2000, a deferred rotation grazing system was implemented on the Allotment. In 2008, the times of use were adjusted to better meet the objectives of the permittee’s ranching operation. These practices have allowed the allotment to improve and be in compliance with all of the Standards. Deferred grazing systems have proven to be beneficial to the vegetation resource.

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 ground disturbance and cause cumulative, long term, irreversible adverse effects to historic properties. 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.

When considering future action, livestock grazing allotments and permits are usually renewed or issued for a period of ten years. The next time this permit would be renewed is in 2020. The two year deferred rotation grazing system would remain in effect. Alterations to the grazing system would be implemented if they are beneficial to the vegetation through improved livestock use or if they would financially benefit the permittee's livestock grazing operation. All changes would be subject to the approval of the BLM and lessee.

#### PERSONS / AGENCIES CONSULTED:

Grand Colorado Ranches, LLC, permittee

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.

See Appendix 2 for Tribal List

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW: See IDT-RRC in Appendix 1.

# FONSI

## DOI-BLM-CO-120-2009-0001-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 # 0501766 to be in effect from March 1, 2010 through February 28, 2020. This decision is contingent on meeting all monitoring requirements listed below.

RATIONALE: When a livestock grazing 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. It is my decision to authorize the Proposed Action as described in the attached EA.

MITIGATION MEASURES: None

#### COMPLIANCE/MONITORING:

Compliance with the renewed livestock grazing lease and its associated terms and conditions would be accomplished through the Kremmling Field Office Range Management Program. Allotment 07553 (Mayhoffer) is an "M" (maintain) category allotment. The objective of "M" category allotments is to maintain or improve forage production and condition in grazing allotments that are currently in satisfactory condition. Monitoring of "M" allotments includes collection of actual use, utilization, and climatic data. Compliance checks will be conducted to ensure adherence to annual grazing authorizations. Trend studies would be included for allotments that have Allotment Management Plans.

NAME OF PREPARER: Richard Johnson

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Susan Cassel

DATE:

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL: /s/ David Stout

DATE SIGNED: 6/25//10

APPENDICES:

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

ATTACHMENTS:

1. 2000 deferred rotation grazing plan
2. 2008 amended deferred rotation grazing plan
3. Livestock grazing permit # 0501766 with standard terms and conditions.

Appendix 1

**INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM ANALYSIS REVIEW RECORD AND CHECKLIST:**

**Project Title:** Renewal of Livestock Grazing Permit # 0501766

**Project Leader:** Richard Johnson

**Date Proposal Received: (Only for external proposals)**

**Date Submitted for Comment:** 10/2/2009

**Due Date for Comments:** 4/30/2010

**Need for a field Exam: (If so, schedule a date/time):** Standards assessment was completed on July 9, 2008.

**Scoping Needs/Interested or Affected Publics: (Identify public scoping needs):** Public scoping has been accomplished for the Proposed Action.

**Consultation/Permit Requirements:**

| Consultation                          | Date Initiated | Date Completed | Responsible Specialist/ Contractor | Comments   |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------------------------|--|
| Cultural/Archeological Clearance/SHPO | NA             | 1/12/2010      | B. Wyatt                           | 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                       | 4/10/2009      | 1/12/2010      | B. Wyatt                           | Tribal consultation was initiated and to date no tribe has identified any area of traditoanl spiritual concern. All Section 106 undertakings would initiate additional Native American Tribal consultation to identify any   |

|                                    |     |     |            |  |
|------------------------------------|-----|-----|------------|--|
|                                    |     |     |            | potential effects to traditional spiritual places. |
| T&E Species/FWS                    | N/A | N/A | McGuire    |  |
| Permits Needed (i.e. Air or Water) | N/A | N/A | P. Belcher |  |

(NP) = Not Present

(NI) = Resource/Use Present but Not Impacted

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

| NP<br>NI<br>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.)   |
|--------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------|----------|--|
| <b>CRITICAL ELEMENTS</b> |  |                                     |                   |          |  |
| NI                       | Air Quality  | <b>Belcher</b>                      | 4/22/10           | PB       | The Proposed Action does not affect air quality which is considered to be meeting the National Air Quality Standards.  |
| NP                       | Areas of Critical Environmental Concern            | <b>Cassel</b>                       | 10/21/09          | SC       | There are no Areas of Critical Environmental Concern in the proximity of the proposed project area.  |
| NI                       | Cultural Resources                                 | <b>Wyatt</b>                        | 1/12/2010         | 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                              | <b>Cassel</b>                       | 10/21/09          | 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                        | <b>Belcher</b>                      | 4/22/10           | PB       | There are no farmlands, prime or unique, in the proximity of the proposed project area.  |
| NP                       | Floodplains  | <b>Belcher</b>                      | 4/22/10           | PB       | The allotment is an upland allotment and will not affect the floodplain.   |
| PI                       | Invasive, Non-native Species                       | <b>Johnson<br/>Torma<br/>Hughes</b> | 02/25/10          | ZH       | See invasive, non native section   |
| NI                       | Migratory Birds                                    | <b>McGuire</b>                      | 12/9/2009         | MM       | The allotment is currently in good condition. Since there are no changes proposed to the existing permit, impacts would not occur.   |
| NI                       | Native American Religious Concerns                 | <b>Wyatt</b>                        | 1/12/2010         | BBW      | Tribal consultation was initiated and to date no tribe has identified any area of traditoanl spiritual concern. All Section 106 undertakings would initiate additional Native American Tribal consultation to identify any potential effects to traditional spiritual places.  |
| NI                       | T/E, and Sensitive Species (Finding on Standard 4) | <b>McGuire</b>                      | 12/9/2009         | MM       | No T/E species. Greater sage-grouse, a BLM sensitive species, occur in the allotment. The allotment is currently in good condition. Since there are no changes proposed to the existing permit, impacts would not occur.   |
| NP                       | Wastes, Hazardous and Solid                        | <b>Hodgson</b>                      | 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<br>(Finding on Standard 5) <b>Belcher</b> | 4/22/10   | PB  |  | See Water Quality Section.   |
| PI   | Wetlands & Riparian Zones<br>(Finding on Standard 2) <b>Belcher</b>         | 4/29/10   | PB  |  | See Wetland Section.   |
| NP   | Wild and Scenic Rivers <b>Windsor</b>                                       | 4/2/10    | AW  |  | A small portion of the allotment is within ¼ mile of an eligible segment of the Colorado River. The proposed action would not impact the free-flowing nature, ORVs, or tentative classification of the eligible segment.   |
| NP   | Wilderness <b>Monkouski</b>   | 3/12/2010 | JJM |  | There is no designated Wilderness or Wilderness Study Areas in the proximity of the proposed project area.   |
| <b>NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS</b> (A finding must be made for these elements) |   |           |     |  |  |
| PI   | Soils (Finding on Standard 1) <b>Belcher</b>                                | 4/22/10   | PB  |  | See the Soils section.   |
| PI   | Vegetation<br>(Finding on Standard 3) <b>Johnson Torma</b>                  | 10/29/09  | RJ  |  | See analysis in this EA.   |
| NI   | Wildlife, Aquatic<br>(Finding on Standard 3) <b>McGuire</b>                 | 12/9/2009 | MM  |  | The allotment is currently in good condition. Since there are no changes proposed to the existing permit, impacts would not occur.   |
| NI   | Wildlife, Terrestrial<br>(Finding on Standard 3) <b>McGuire</b>             | 12/9/2009 | MM  |  | The allotment is currently in good condition. Since there are no changes proposed to the existing permit, impacts would not occur.   |
| <b>OTHER NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS</b>                                       |   |           |     |  |  |
| PI   | Access/Transportation <b>Monkouski</b>                                      | 3/12/2010 | JJM |  | See Analysis.  |
| NI   | Forest Management <b>K. Belcher</b>   | 2/18/10   | KB  |  | No impact to forest resources.   |
| NI   | Geology and Minerals <b>Hodgson</b>   | 12/03/09  | KH  |  | No impacts.  |
| NI   | Fire <b>Wyatt</b>   | 1/12/2010 | BBW |  | Grazing would reduce light flashy fuels. Cattle trails that result in the trampling and removal of vegetation would create potential fuel breaks.  |
| NI   | Hydrology/Water Rights <b>Belcher</b>                                       | 4/22/10   | PB  |  | The Proposed Action would not have impact any water rights or hydrology not discussed in the water quality and wetland sections of this document.  |
| NI   | Paleontology <b>Rupp</b>  | 11/13/09  | FGR |  | Environmental Consequences/Mitigation: There would be no impacts to Paleontological resources from renewing the grazing permit. Ground disturbing projects or undertakings will be reviewed to determine the need for Paleontological inventory.   |
| NI   | Noise <b>Monkouski</b>  | 3/12/2010 | JJM |  | No impact.   |
| PI   | Range Management <b>Johnson Torma</b>                                       | 10/29/09  | RJ  |  | See analysis in this EA.   |
| NI   | Lands/ Realty Authorizations<br><b>Cassel</b>                               | 10/21/09  | SC  |  | There are no leases or permits in the location of the proposed action. There are multiple ROW's to Mountain Parks Electric, and WAPA for electric lines and substation. There is a ROW to Public Service for a buried gas pipeline. There is a ROW to Grand County for Grand County Road 33. There would be no impacts to these ROWs from the proposed action. There is a ROW for a ditch to Grady |

|                     |                           |                          |                       |           |   |
|---------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------|---|
|                     |                           |                          |                       |           | and Gail Culbreath. There needs to be some agreement between Culbreaths and Grand Colorado Ranches for the use of this ditch in their cattle operation.   |
| NI                  | Recreation                | <b>Monkouski Windsor</b> | 11/13/09<br>3/12/2010 | AW<br>JJM | The northern part of the allotment along Reeder Creek is within the Upper Colorado River SRMA. BLM manages a parking area and access trail to the Colorado River in the area. There have been no known conflicts in the area between grazing and recreation activities. Recreation along the river would not be impacted by the proposed action or the no action alternative.<br>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 the area outside of the Upper Colorado River SRMA. The proposed action should have no impacts to the recreation resource. |
| NI                  | Socio-Economics           | <b>Cassel</b>            | 10/21/09              | SC        | Since there is no change to the season, type or amount of use, there would be no impact to socio-economics by the proposed action.  |
| NI                  | Visual Resources          | <b>Windsor</b>           | 11/13/09              | AW        | Visual resources would not be impacted by the proposed action or the no action alternative.   |
| PI                  | Cumulative Impact Summary |                          | 6/2/10                | RJ        | See analysis in this EA.  |
| <b>FINAL REVIEW</b> |                           |                          |                       |           |   |
|                     | P&E Coordinator           | <b>Cassel</b>            |                       |           |   |

Appendix 2

**NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES CONTACTED:**

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

Mr. Norman Tidzump  
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

Harvey Spoonhunter, Chairman  
Northern Arapaho Business Council  
P O Box 328  
Fort Washakie, WY 82514

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