

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Little Snake Field Office
455 Emerson Street
Craig, CO 81625**

DOCUMENTATION OF LAND USE PLAN CONFORMANCE AND NEPA ADEQUACY

NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-N010-2009-0084-DNA

CASEFILE/ALLOTMENT NUMBER: 0501080/04306, 04308; 0501058/04309

PROJECT NAME: Renewal of the grazing permits on the East Douglas Mountain #04306, Sawmill Canyon #04308, and Teepee Draw #04309 Allotments.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Also see allotment maps, attachments #1a, 1b, 1c.

East Douglas Mountain #04306

T6N R99W sections 4-6
T6N R100W section 1
T7N R98W sections 6, 7
T7N R99W sections 1-3, 8-24, 26-35
T7N R100W sections 24-26, 35, 36
T8N R98W section 3
T8N R99W sections 26, 35, 36

5,749 acres private lands
664 acres State Land Board lands
15,728 acres BLM lands
22,141 total acres

Sawmill Canyon #04308

T6N R98W sections 2-23
T6N R99W sections 1-5, 7-17, 22-27
T7N R98W sections 31, 32
T7N R99W sections 34-36

5,749 acres private lands
17,496 acres BLM lands
23,245 total acres

Tepee Draw #04309

T6N R100W sections 1-4

T7N R100W sections 15-17, 20-23, 26-29, 33-35

963 acres private lands

7,842 acres BLM lands

8,805 total acres

APPLICANT: Monty Sheridan

A. Describe the Proposed Action

Renew the grazing permit on the East Douglas Mountain #04306 and Sawmill Canyon #04308 Allotments for a period of three years expiring on 09/01/2012. Renew the grazing permit on the Teepee Draw #04309 Allotment for a period of five years expiring on 05/31/2014. No changes would be made to the mandatory terms and conditions of the existing authorizations. The permits would be renewed as follows:

Authorization #0501080

| Allotment Name & Number | Livestock Number & Kind | Dates | | %PL | AUMs |
|--|--|--------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|
| | | From | To | | |
| East Douglas Mountain #04306 | 99 Cattle | 03/14 | 12/31 | 63 | 601 |
| Headquarters Pasture | 3 Cattle | 03/01 | 02/28 | 100 | <u>36</u> |
| | | | | Total | 637 |
| Sawmill Canyon #04308 | 70 Cattle | 10/01 | 11/30 | 72 | 101 |
| | 15 Cattle | 12/01 | 12/15 | 72 | <u>5</u> |
| | | | | Unscheduled | 1 |
| | | | | Total | 106 |

Special Terms and Conditions:

1. Cattle or horses are authorized in the East Douglas Mountain Allotment for the Headquarters pasture.

The above permit is subject to the Standard and Common Terms and Conditions (attachment #2)

Authorization #0501058

| Allotment Name & Numbe | Livestock Number & Kind | Dates | | %PL | AUMs |
|---------------------------------------|--|--------------|-----------|------------|-------------|
| | | From | To | | |
| Teepee Draw #04309 | 146 Cattle | 07/01 | 09/25 | 77 | 322 |

The above permit is subject to the Standard and Common Terms and Conditions (attachment #2)

B. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance

LUP Name: Little Snake Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision (ROD)

Date Approved: April 26, 1989

Final RMP/EIS, September 1986

Draft RMP/EIS, February 1986

Other Documents:

Standards for Public Land Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing in Colorado

Date Approved: February 12, 1997

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as Amended (43 USC 1752)

Rangeland Reform Final Environmental Impact Statement, December 1994.

The Proposed Action is in conformance with the applicable LUPs because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decisions.

The Proposed Action implements the Resource Management Plan Livestock Grazing Management objective on page 10 of the ROD to improve range conditions through proper utilization of key forage plants and adjust livestock stocking rates. Also, as stated on page 11 of the ROD, the goal of the livestock management program is to improve the rangeland forage resource by managing toward a desired plant community, and states “In the future, allotment categorization, levels of management, and permit modifications could be made if additional information suggests that this is warranted in order to achieve or make significant progress toward achieving the Colorado Standards for Rangeland Health” (43 CFR 4180). The proposed action has been reviewed for conformance with this plan (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM 1617.3). The proposed action of renewal of these grazing permits is in conformance with the Little Snake RMP/ROD.

C. Identify applicable NEPA documents and other related documents that cover the Proposed Action.

Rangeland Program Summary (RPS), Little Snake Resource Area, November 15, 1990

Standard Terms and Conditions (See Attachment 2).

Colorado Public Land Health Standards, March 1997.

Federal Land Policy and Management Act, Section 402, as amended (43 USC 1752).

Colorado Public Land Health Standards, Decision Record & Finding of No Significant Impact and Environmental Assessment, March 1997.

Environmental Assessment CO-016-LS-99-14: 4305,4306,4307,4308,4309,4304,4311 grazing permit renewal

D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

1. Is the current Proposed Action substantially the same action (or is a part of that action) as previously analyzed? Is the current Proposed Action located at a site specifically analyzed in an existing document?

Yes. The public lands within the, East Douglas Mountain, Sawmill Canyon, and Teepee Draw Allotments were analyzed in the RMP/EIS and were designated as “M” (Maintain) for East Douglas Mtn. and Teepee Draw, and “I” (Improve) for the Sawmill Canyon Allotment. The Proposed Action received site-specific analysis in Environmental Assessment CO-016-LS-99-114. This EA analyzed grazing use that is to be continued under the Proposed Action.

2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the current Proposed Action, given current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values?

Yes, the multiple use alternatives analyzed in the valid NEPA documents are still appropriate. The current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values are essentially the same as those in 1998. No new alternatives have been proposed by the public to address current or additional issues or concerns.

3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances?

Yes. The Proposed Action would have no disproportionate impacts on minority populations or low income communities per Executive Order (EO) 12898 and would not adversely impact migratory birds per EO 13186.

Current management of the resource conditions on the East Douglas Mountain, Sawmill Canyon, and Teepee Draw Allotments meets objectives and goals. The previous analysis remains valid. No new, threatened or endangered plant or animal species have been identified on the allotments. Data reaffirms that the RMP identified all resource concerns for these allotments.

4. Do the methodology and analytical approach used in the existing NEPA document(s) continue to be appropriate for the current Proposed Action?

Yes, the methodology and analytical approach used in the existing NEPA documents continue to be appropriate for the Proposed Action. Impacts to all resources were analyzed.

5. Are the direct and indirect impacts of the current Proposed Action substantially unchanged from those identified in the existing NEPA document(s)? Does the existing NEPA document analyze site-specific impacts related to the current Proposed Action?

Yes. Direct and indirect impacts of the Proposed Action are within the parameters of those identified in the existing NEPA documents. Impacts regarding the Proposed Action to authorize livestock grazing at the current grazing intensity and period of use are within those parameters. Monitoring data, including an allotment-specific analysis of resource conditions, supports compliance with the Colorado Public Land Health Standards. No adverse site specific impacts were identified under the Proposed Action in this analysis (see attachments #3a, 3b, 3c).

The Proposed Action would provide for at least the minimum legal requirements for cultural resources management and protection and would generally result in benefits through cultural resource data acquisition resulting from required cultural resource survey work.

Previously identified sites and new sites recorded and evaluated as eligible and/or need data sites during a Class III survey will need to be monitored. Initial recordation of new sites and reevaluation of known sites will establish the current condition of the resource and help in developing a monitoring plan for all of these sites. Some sites will have to be monitored more often than others. Sites that are found to be impacted by grazing activities will need physical protection or other mitigative measures developed (see attachment #4).

6. Can you conclude without additional analysis or information that the cumulative impacts that would result from implementation of the current Proposed Action substantially unchanged from those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)?

Yes. The cumulative impacts that would result from the implementation of the Proposed Action would remain unchanged from those identified in the existing NEPA documents. No additional activities have been implemented on either that would change the impacts resulting from the Proposed Action.

7. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequately for the current Proposed Action?

Yes. Extensive public outreach through scoping and involvement of the public and other agencies occurred during the development of the RMP/EIS.

E. Interdisciplinary Analysis: Identify those team members conducting or participating in the preparation of this worksheet.

| Name | Title | Resource | Initials | Date |
|-------------|----------------------------|--|-----------------|-------------|
| Mark Lowrey | Rangeland Management Spec. | Air Quality, Floodplains Prime/Unique Farmlands, Water Quality – Surface | ML | 07/23/09 |

| | | | | |
|------------------|----------------------------|--|-----|----------|
| Robyn Morris | Archaeologist | Cultural Resources, Native American Concerns | RWM | 07/20/09 |
| Louise McMinn | Realty Specialist | Environmental Justice | LM | 07/07/09 |
| Mark Lowrey | Rangeland Management Spec. | Hazardous Materials | ML | 07/05/09 |
| Chris Rhyne | Rangeland Management Spec. | Invasive Non-native Species | CR | 7/20/09 |
| Hunter Seim | Rangeland Management Spec. | Sensitive Plants, T&E Plant | JHS | 7/21/09 |
| Tim Novotny | Wildlife Biologist | T&E Animal | TMN | 7/10/09 |
| Jennifer Maiolo | Mining Engineer | Water Quality - Ground | JAM | 07/08/09 |
| Mark Lowrey | Rangeland Management Spec. | Wetlands/Riparian Zones | ML | 07/23/09 |
| Kimberly Miller | Recreation Specialist | WSA, W&S Rivers | KMM | 7/14/09 |
| Standards | | | | |
| Tim Novotny | Wildlife Biologist | Animal Communities | TMN | 7/10/09 |
| Tim Novotny | Wildlife Biologist | Special Status, T&E Animal | TMN | 7/10/09 |
| Mark Lowrey | Rangeland Management Spec | Plant Communities | ML | 07/05/09 |
| Hunter Seim | Rangeland Management Spec | Special Status, T&E Plant | JHS | 7/21/09 |
| Mark Lowrey | Rangeland Management Spec. | Riparian Systems | ML | 07/05/09 |
| Mark Lowrey | Rangeland Management Spec. | Water Quality | ML | 07/05/09 |
| Mark Lowrey | Rangeland Management Spec. | Upland Soils | ML | 07/05/09 |

Land Health Assessment

This proposed action has been reviewed for conformance with the BLM's Public Land Health Standards adopted February 12, 1997. This proposed action will not adversely affect achievement of the Public Land Health Standards.

All allotments under the proposed action were included in the Douglas Mountain Landscape Health Assessment (stops 12-21) in 2004. Over the entire landscape: Standard 2 (Riparian) and Standard 3 (Plant and Animal Communities and Habitats) failed during the 2004 assessment. Sites that failed in 2004 within the allotments under the proposed action were 13, 14, 16, 17, and 20.

In 2009, individual allotment land health assessments were conducted on the allotments under the proposed action. All sites are meeting standards or failed due to reasons other than current livestock management (see attachments #3a, 3b, 3c for details).

Conclusion

Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the NEPA documentation fully covers the Proposed Action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of NEPA.

Signature of Lead Specialist _____ Date _____

Signature of NEPA Coordinator _____ Date _____

Signature of the Authorizing Official _____ Date _____

Note: The signed Conclusion on this document is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal decision process and does not constitute an appealable decision.

ATTACHMENT #2
DOI-BLM-CO-N010-2009-0084 DNA
TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Standard Terms and Conditions

- 1) Grazing permit or lease terms and conditions and the fees charged for grazing use are established in accordance with the provisions of the grazing regulations now or hereafter approved by the Secretary of the Interior.
- 2) They are subject to cancellation, in whole or in part, at any time because of:
 - a. Noncompliance by the permittee/lessee with rules and regulations;
 - b. Loss of control by the permittee/lessee of all or a part of the property upon which it is based;
 - c. A transfer of grazing preference by the permittee/lessee to another party;
 - d. A decrease in the lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management within the allotment(s) described;
 - e. Repeated willful unauthorized grazing use;
 - f. Loss of qualifications to hold a permit or lease.
- 3) They are subject to the terms and conditions of allotment management plans if such plans have been prepared. Allotment management plans **MUST** be incorporated in permits and leases when completed.
- 4) Those holding permits or leases **MUST** own or control and be responsible for the management of livestock authorized to graze.
- 5) The authorized officer may require counting and/or additional or special marking or tagging of the livestock authorized to graze.
- 6) The permittee's/lessee's grazing case file is available for public inspection as required by the Freedom of Information Act.
- 7) Grazing permits or leases are subject to the nondiscrimination clauses set forth in Executive Order 11246 of September 24, 1964, as amended. A copy of this order may be obtained from the authorized officer.
- 8) Livestock grazing use that is different from that authorized by a permit or lease **MUST** be applied for prior to the grazing period and **MUST** be filed with and approved by the authorized officer before grazing use can be made.
- 9) Billing notices are issued which specify fees due. Billing notices, when paid, become a part of the grazing permit or lease. Grazing use cannot be authorized during any period of delinquency in the payment of amounts due, including settlement for unauthorized use.

- 10) Grazing fee payments are due on the date specified on the billing notice and **MUST** be paid in full within 15 days of the due date, except as otherwise provided in the grazing permit or lease. If payment is not made within that time frame, a late fee (the greater of \$25 or 10 percent of the amount owed but not more than \$250) will be assessed.
- 11) No member of, or Delegate to, Congress or Resident Commissioner, after his/her election of appointment, or either before or after he/she has qualified, and during his/her continuance in office, and no officer, agent, or employee of the Department of Interior, other than members of Advisory committees appointed in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App. 1) and Sections 309 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) shall be admitted to any share or part in a permit or lease, or derive any benefit to arise therefrom; and the provision of Section 3741 Revised Statute (41 U.S.C. 22), 18 U.S.C. Sections 431-433, and 43 CFR Part 7, enter into and form a part of a grazing permit or lease, so far as the same may be applicable.

Common Terms and Conditions

- A) Grazing use will not be authorized in excess of the amount of specified grazing use (AUM number) for each allotment. Numbers of livestock annually authorized in the allotment(s) may be more or less than the number listed on the permit/lease within the grazing use periods as long as the amount of specified grazing use is not exceeded.
- B) Unless there is a specific term and condition addressing utilization, the intensity of grazing use will insure that no more than 50% of the key grass species and 40% of the key browse species current years growth, by weight, is utilized at the end of the grazing season for winter allotments and the end of the growing season for allotments used during the growing season. Application of this term needs to recognize recurring livestock management that includes opportunity for regrowth, opportunity for spring growth prior to grazing, or growing season deferment.
- C) Failure to maintain range improvements to BLM standards in accordance with signed cooperative agreements and/or range improvement permits may result in the suspension of the annual grazing authorization, cancellation of the cooperative agreement or range improvement permit, and/or the eventual cancellation of this permit/lease.
- D) Storing or feeding supplemental forage on public lands other than salt or minerals must have prior approval. Forage to be fed or stored on public lands must be certified noxious weed-free. Salt and/or other mineral supplements shall be placed at least one-quarter mile from water sources or in such a manner as to promote even livestock distribution in the allotment or pasture.
- E) Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g), the holder of this authorization must notify the authorized officer, by telephone, with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), you must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the authorized officer.

The operator is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the allotment operations that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are encountered or uncovered during any allotment activities or grazing activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities in the immediate vicinity and immediately contact the authorized officer. Within five working days the authorized officer will inform the operator as to:

- whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places;
- the mitigation measures the operator will likely have to undertake before the identified area can be used for grazing activities again.

If paleontological materials (fossils) are uncovered during allotment activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities that might further disturb such materials and contact the authorized officer. The operator and the authorized officer will consult and determine the best options for avoiding or mitigating paleontological site damage.

- F) No hazardous materials/hazardous or solid waste/trash shall be disposed of on public lands. If a release does occur, it shall immediately be reported to this office at (970) 826-5000.
- G) The permittee/lessee shall provide reasonable administrative access across private and leased lands to the BLM and its agents for the orderly management and protection of public lands.
- H) Application of a chemical or release of pathogens or insects on public lands must be approved by the authorized officer.
- I) The terms and conditions of these permits may be modified if additional information indicates that revision is necessary to conform with 43 CFR 4180.

ATTACHMENT #3a
DOI-BLM-CO-N010-2009-0084 DNA
East Douglas Mountain Allotment #04306
Standards and Assessments

This allotment is meeting all standards

There were two separate site assessed within this allotment on 06/18/09, DM (Douglas Mountain) 16 & 17. These site references continue the original site references established in the 2004 Douglas Mountain Landscape Assessment and were completed in approximately the same locations as the 2004 assessment.

STANDARD 1. Upland soils exhibit infiltration and permeability rates that are appropriate to soil type, climate, land form, and geologic processes. Adequate soil infiltration and permeability allows for the accumulation of soil moisture necessary for optimal plant growth and vigor, and minimizes surface runoff.

This allotment has good diversity associated with slope, aspect, and elevation. There is good to moderate vigor and recruitment in all herbaceous species and shrubs. Naturally occurring stands of pinion/juniper is starting to encroach into sagebrush flats and other areas that would not be expected under a normal fire regime. There is no sign of erosion and the soils are well protected with vegetation and litter cover. This standard is met for this allotment and would continue to be met with implementation of the proposed action.

Name of specialist and date: Mark Lowrey, 06/18/09

STANDARD 2. Riparian systems associated with both running and standing water functions properly and has the ability to recover from major disturbances such as fire, severe grazing, or 100-year floods. Riparian vegetation captures sediment and provides forage, habitat, and biodiversity. Water quality is improved or maintained. Stable soils store and release water slowly.

There are no riparian areas within this allotment, this standard does not apply.

Name of specialist and date: Mark Lowrey, 06/18/09

STANDARD 3. Healthy, productive plant and animal communities of native and other desirable species are maintained at viable population levels commensurate with the species and habitat potential. Plants and animals at both the community and population levels are productive, resilient, diverse, vigorous, and able to reproduce and sustain natural fluctuations and ecological processes.

Vegetative components include native plant species expected to occur on this allotment. Overall, vegetation composition, diversity, and production is what would be expected for this area. During the 2004 landscape assessment DM 16 failed to meet standards due to the potential presence of the noxious weed, leafy spurge. Notes from 2004 indicate that the weed was present but not in flower so never truly identified. During the 2009 assessment there was no sign or indication of leafy spurge, there was however a large presence of a native forb from the sunflower family, genus *Senecio*. This plant was not yet in flower at the time of the 2009 assessment and at this time the ID

team thought that it may have been possible that this plant, at this state of phenology, may have been mistaken for leafy spurge. At site DM 17 the standard was not met in 2004 with the reasons cited as: lack of perennial grasses and an overabundance of the forb, arrowleaf balsamroot (*Balsamorhiza sagittata*). During the 2009 assessment it was determined that this site did meet all standards, the overabundance of arrowleaf balsamroot was still noted but is not causing degradation to the site or the diversity, health, and vigor of other native perennials. This standard is met on this allotment for both animal and plant communities, and would continue to be met with implementation of the proposed action.

Name of specialist and date: Timothy Novotny, 06/18/09

STANDARD 4. Special status, threatened, and endangered species (federal and state), and other plants and animals officially designated by BLM, and their habitats are maintained or enhanced by sustaining healthy native plant and animal communities.

There are no special status species within this allotment. This standard does not apply.

Name of specialist and date: Hunter Seim, 07/21/09

STANDARD 5. The water quality of all water bodies, including ground water where applicable, located on or influenced by BLM lands will achieve or exceed the Water Quality Standards established by the State of Colorado. Water Quality Standards for surface and ground waters include the designated beneficial uses, numeric criteria, narrative criteria, and anti-degradation requirement set forth under State law as found in 5 CCR 1002-8, as required by Section 303 of the Clean Water Act.

There are no natural water bodies, or perennial water channels on this allotment. Surface runoff on the southern side of the allotment flows into the Yampa River, which is supporting classified uses. Surface runoff on the northern side of the allotment flows into Thompson Draw and eventually the Little Snake River, which is supporting classified uses. There is no reason to suspect any ground water impairment on this allotment. This standard is met for this allotment, and will continue to be met with implementation of the proposed action.

Name of specialist and date: Mark Lowrey, 06/18/09

**ATTACHMENT #3b
DOI-BLM-CO-N010-2009-0084 DNA
Sawmill Canyon Allotment #04308
Standards and Assessments**

This allotment is meeting all standards.

STANDARD 1. Upland soils exhibit infiltration and permeability rates that are appropriate to soil type, climate, land form, and geologic processes. Adequate soil infiltration and permeability allows for the accumulation of soil moisture necessary for optimal plant growth and vigor, and minimizes surface runoff.

This allotment has good diversity associated with slope, aspect, and elevation. There is good to moderate vigor and recruitment in all herbaceous species and shrubs. There is no sign of erosion and the soils are well protected with vegetation and litter cover. In south and south east area of the allotment, on the clayey salt desert range site, areas of some rills and gully erosion is evident but is not excessive to what would be anticipated to occur on this site. This standard is met for this allotment, and would continue to be met with implementation of the proposed action.

Name of specialist and date: Mark Lowrey, 06/15/09

STANDARD 2. Riparian systems associated with both running and standing water functions properly and has the ability to recover from major disturbances such as fire, severe grazing, or 100-year floods. Riparian vegetation captures sediment and provides forage, habitat, and biodiversity. Water quality is improved or maintained. Stable soils store and release water slowly.

There are no riparian areas within this allotment, this standard does not apply.

Name of specialist and date: Mark Lowrey, 06/15/09

STANDARD 3. Healthy, productive plant and animal communities of native and other desirable species are maintained at viable population levels commensurate with the species and habitat potential. Plants and animals at both the community and population levels are productive, resilient, diverse, vigorous, and able to reproduce and sustain natural fluctuations and ecological processes.

Vegetative components include native plant species expected to occur on this allotment. Overall, vegetation composition, diversity, and production is what would be expected for this area. There is a small cheatgrass component occurring in isolated patches through the allotment. The health and vigor of native vegetation is preventing the spread of cheatgrass. It was observed by one ID team member that participated in the 2004 landscape assessment, that site DM 20 which did not meet standards in 2004 due to lack of perennial grasses not only met all standards in 2009, but the site looked better than the team member anticipated. This standard is being met on this allotment for both animal and plant communities, and would continue to be met with implementation of the proposed action.

Name of specialist and date: Timothy Novotny, 06/15/09

STANDARD 4. Special status, threatened, and endangered species (federal and state), and other plants and animals officially designated by BLM, and their habitats are maintained or enhanced by sustaining healthy native plant and animal communities.

There are no special status species within this allotment. This standard does not apply.

Name of specialist and date: Hunter Seim, 07/21/09

STANDARD 5. The water quality of all water bodies, including ground water where applicable, located on or influenced by BLM lands will achieve or exceed the Water Quality Standards established by the State of Colorado. Water Quality Standards for surface and ground waters include the designated beneficial uses, numeric criteria, narrative criteria, and anti-degradation requirement set forth under State law as found in 5 CCR 1002-8, as required by Section 303 of the Clean Water Act.

There are no natural water bodies, or perennial water channels on this allotment. Surface runoff flows into the Little Snake or Yampa River, both of these water bodies are supporting classified uses. There is no reason to suspect any ground water impairment on this allotment. This standard is being met for this allotment, and would continue to be met with implementation of the proposed action.

Name of specialist and date: Mark Lowrey, 06/15/09

ATTACHMENT #3c
DOI-BLM-CO-N010-2009-0084 DNA
Teepee Draw Allotment #04309
Standards and Assessments

**This allotment is not meeting standards due to noxious weeds (leafy spurge).
Current livestock management is not a causal factor or significantly contributing to the
spread of this noxious weed infestation.**

There were four separate site assessed within this allotment on 06/18/09, DM (Douglas Mountain) 12 – 15. These site references continue the original site references established in the 2004 Douglas Mountain Landscape Assessment and were completed in the approximate same locations as the 2004 assessment.

STANDARD 1. Upland soils exhibit infiltration and permeability rates that are appropriate to soil type, climate, land form, and geologic processes. Adequate soil infiltration and permeability allows for the accumulation of soil moisture necessary for optimal plant growth and vigor, and minimizes surface runoff.

This allotment has good diversity associated with slope, aspect, and elevation. There is good to moderate vigor and recruitment in all herbaceous species and shrubs. Naturally occurring stands of pinion/juniper is starting to encroach into sagebrush flats and other areas that would not be expected under a normal fire regime. There is no sign of erosion and the soils are well protected with vegetation and litter cover. This standard is met for this allotment, and would continue to be met with implementation of the proposed action.

Name of specialist and date: Mark Lowrey, 06/18/09

STANDARD 2. Riparian systems associated with both running and standing water functions properly and has the ability to recover from major disturbances such as fire, severe grazing, or 100-year floods. Riparian vegetation captures sediment and provides forage, habitat, and biodiversity. Water quality is improved or maintained. Stable soils store and release water slowly.

There are no riparian areas within this allotment, this standard does not apply.

Name of specialist and date: Mark Lowrey, 06/18/09

STANDARD 3. Healthy, productive plant and animal communities of native and other desirable species are maintained at viable population levels commensurate with the species and habitat potential. Plants and animals at both the community and population levels are productive, resilient, diverse, vigorous, and able to reproduce and sustain natural fluctuations and ecological processes.

Vegetative components include native plant species expected to occur on this allotment. Overall, vegetation composition, diversity, and production is what would be expected for this area. There is a large area of the noxious weed, leafy spurge that originated from an emergency feeding of contaminated hay to snow stranded livestock in the 1950's. The majority of this infestation (~200 acres) is on private lands surrounded by public lands within allotment boundaries. This infestation

is spreading at a slower than expected rate considering the aggressiveness of this noxious weed. This indicates that the surrounding lands are healthy and offer resilience to the potential domination of leafy spurge. Current livestock management is not significantly contributing to this spread, assessment site DM 13 failed to meet all standards due to leafy spurge. There is a cheatgrass component occurring in patches through the allotment and is not spreading at a noticeable rate. Once again, indicating that the health and vigor of native vegetation is helping to prevent the spread of cheatgrass. Site DM 14, which did not meet standards in 2004 due to cheatgrass, met all standards in 2009 based on the density, health, and vigor of native species. This standard is not met on this allotment for both animal and plant communities, but livestock grazing is not a causal factor. Continuing current livestock management would not significantly contribute to this standard not being met.

Name of specialist and date: Timothy Novotny, 06/18/09

STANDARD 4. Special status, threatened, and endangered species (federal and state), and other plants and animals officially designated by BLM, and their habitats are maintained or enhanced by sustaining healthy native plant and animal communities.

There are no special status species within this allotment. This standard does not apply.

Name of specialist and date: Hunter Seim, 07/21/09

STANDARD 5. The water quality of all water bodies, including ground water where applicable, located on or influenced by BLM lands will achieve or exceed the Water Quality Standards established by the State of Colorado. Water Quality Standards for surface and ground waters include the designated beneficial uses, numeric criteria, narrative criteria, and anti-degradation requirement set forth under State law as found in 5 CCR 1002-8, as required by Section 303 of the Clean Water Act.

There are no natural water bodies, or perennial water channels on this allotment. Surface runoff flows into the Yampa River, which is supporting classified uses. There is no reason to suspect any ground water impairment on this allotment. This standard is being met for this allotment and would continue to be met with implementation of the proposed action.

Name of specialist and date: Mark Lowrey, 06/18/09

ATTACHMENT 4
DOI-BLM-CO-N010-2009-0084 DNA
Cultural Resource and Native American Concerns

Affected Environment: Grazing authorization renewals are undertakings under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. During Section 106 review, a cultural resource assessment was completed for each allotment on July 15, 2009 by Robyn Watkins Morris, Little Snake Field Office Archaeologist. The assessment followed the procedures and guidance outlined in the 1980 National Programmatic Agreement Regarding the Livestock Grazing and Range Improvement Program, IM-WO-99-039, IM-CO-99-007, IM-CO-99-019, and IM-CO-01-026. The results of the assessment are summarized in the table below. Copies of the cultural resource assessments are in the Field Office archaeology files.

Data developed here was taken from the cultural program project report files, site report files, and base maps kept at the Little Snake Field Office as well as from General Land Office (GLO) maps, BLM land patent records, An Overview of Prehistoric Cultural Resources Little Snake Resource Area, Northwestern Colorado, Bureau of Land Management Colorado, Cultural Resources Series, Number 20, and An Isolated Empire, A History of Northwestern Colorado, Bureau of Land Management Colorado, Cultural Resource Series, Number 2 and Appendix 21 of the Little Snake Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement, Draft February 1986, Bureau of Land Management, Craig, Colorado District, Little Snake Resource Area.

The table below is based on the allotment specific analysis developed for the allotments in this DNA. The table shows known cultural resources, eligible and need data, and those that are anticipated to be in each allotment.

| Allotment Number | Acres Surveyed at a Class III Level | Acres NOT Surveyed at a Class III Level | Percent of Allotment Inventoried at a Class III Level | Eligible or Need Data Sites- Known in Allotment | Estimated Sites for the Allotment *(total number) | Estimated Eligible or Need Data Sites in the Allotment (number) |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| 04308 | 17 | 23228 (23,245) | .07% | 5 | 617 | 185 |
| 04306 | 52 | 22089 (22,141) | .2% | 0 | 586 | 176 |
| 04309 | 0 | 8,805 | 0% | 2 | 233 | 70 |

(Note *Estimates of site densities are based on known inventory data. Estimates should be accepted as minimum figures which may be revised upwards based on future inventory findings.)

Three cultural resource inventories were conducted within allotment #04308 resulting in the complete coverage of seventeen acres and the recording of fourteen cultural resources. One is an historic farm, three are open lithics, one is an open camp, and nine prehistoric isolated finds. The historic GLO plat maps were consulted. Nothing was found on the 1881 T6N R98W GLO or on the 1881 6N R99W maps. On the 1905 T6N R98W GLO there were the historic roads that are now County Road 25 and Yampa Bench road. On the T6N R99W sec. 2, 11, 14, 24 a historic road that is currently a “4WD” road.

Three cultural resource inventories were conducted within allotment #04306 resulting in the complete coverage of 52 acres and the recording of no cultural resources. The historic GLO plat maps were consulted. Nothing was found on T6N R99W 1884 or 1905 GLO plats; T7N R99W 1881 GLO plat; T8N R98W 1906 or 1881 GLO plats; T7N R98W 1881 GLO plat; T7N R100W 1881 and 1909 GLO plat. On T7N R99W 1910 GLO plat there was a “timber smelter road” where County Road 10 is today and a road in section 34 that is today a jeep trail. On the R7N R98W 1906 GLO plat there was a “Road to Brown’s Park” that is County Road 10 today.

No cultural resource inventories were conducted within allotment #04309. Three cultural resources have been recorded. One is an historic homestead, one is an open camp, and one is a paleontology site. The historic GLO plat maps were consulted. Nothing was found on T7N R100W 1908 or 1881 GLO plat or T7N R100W 1881 and 1909 GLO plat map.

Based on the paucity of available data, it is difficult to determine whether there is a high or low likelihood of cultural resources. Subsequent cultural resource inventory will be conducted in areas where livestock concentrate. Subsequent field inventory is to be completed within ten year period of the permit.

1. In allotment #04306, a Class II inventory is needed in about 240 acres of land in T7N R100W sec. 20, 28, and 33.
2. In allotment #04309, a Class II inventory is needed in T7N R99W section 27 near road/riparian area in Wild Cow Draw; T7N R99W section 12 in Thompson Canyon near riparian area; T7N R99W section 10 and T7N R99W section 10, 15, 16 due to possible rock art areas.
3. In allotment #04308, a Class I inventory is needed in T6N R99W section 4 and 10

If historic properties are located during the subsequent field inventory, and BLM determines that grazing activities will adversely impact the properties, mitigation will be identified and implemented in consultation with the Colorado SHPO.

Environmental Consequences

The direct impacts that occur where livestock concentrate, during normal livestock grazing activity, include trampling, chiseling, and churning of site soils, cultural features, and cultural artifacts, artifact breakage, and impacts from standing, leaning, and rubbing against historic structures, above-ground cultural features, and rock art. Indirect impacts include soil erosion, gullyng, and increased potential for unlawful collection and vandalism. Continued livestock use in these concentration areas may cause substantial ground disturbance and cause irreversible adverse effects to historic properties.

Standard Stipulations for cultural resources are included in Standard and Common Terms and Conditions (Attachment 2).

There are no changes proposed either to timing or number of AUMs in this DNA. Saltblock placement, which creates a concentration area, along roads or anywhere in the allotment would potentially impact historic properties if they are in proximity of the placement.

Mitigation Measures: None

Name of specialist and date: Robyn Watkins Morris, 07/20/09

NATIVE AMERICAN RELIGIOUS CONCERNS

A letter was sent to the Uinta and Ouray Tribal Council, Southern Ute Tribal Council, Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Council on May 5, 2008. The letter listed the FY08 and FY09 projects that the BLM would notify them on and projects that would not require notification. A follow up phone call was performed on June 16, 2008. No comments were received (Letter on file at the Little Snake Field Office). This project requires no additional notification.

Name of specialist and date: Robyn Watkins Morris, 07/20/09