

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-N010-2010-0138-DNA

CASEFILE/ALLOTMENT NUMBER: 0503739/04190
0501276/04185
0501158/04152, 04163, 04150, 04155

PROJECT NAME: Renewal of the grazing lease on the Middle Hunt Creek Allotment #04190, renewal of the grazing lease on the Lower Raspberry Creek Allotment #04185, and renewal of the grazing lease on the Bunker Creek Allotment #04152, Grassy Creek Allotment #04163, Gill Reservoir Allotments #04150, and the Temple Gulch Allotment #04155.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: see Allotment Maps, Attachment #1a-c

Middle Hunt Creek #04190	T2N R86W section 3 106 acres BLM
Lower Raspberry Creek #04185	T3N R85W parts of sections 2, 3, 10, 11 989 acres private <u>331 acres BLM</u> 1,320 acres total
Bunker Creek #04152	T3N R88W parts of section 36 T3N R87W parts of sections 31, 32, 33 T2N R87W parts of section 6 1,329 acres private <u>191 acres BLM</u> 1,520 acres total
Grassy Creek #04163	T3N R88W parts of sections 4, 9, 10 T4N R88W all or parts of sections 8-15, 22-28, 33-36

T5N R88W all or parts of sections 19, 20, 28, 29, 31-34, 36

T4N R87W all or parts of sections 7, 8, 10-12, 14-19, 30-32

T5N R87W all or parts of sections 16, 17, 20-35

30,023 acres private

598 acres State Land Board

311 acres BLM

30,932 acres total

Gill Reservoir #04150

T3N R88W all or parts of sections 14-16, 21-24, 34-35

3,638 acres private

159 acres BLM

3,797 acres total

Temple Gulch #04155

T5N R88W parts of sections 5, 6

510 acres private

25 acres BLM

535 acres total

APPLICANT: Lessee #0503739/04190, Lessee #0501276/04185, Cross Mountain Ranch LP #0501158/04152, 04163, 04150, 04155.

A. Describe the Proposed Action

Renew the grazing lease (#0503739) on the Middle Hunt Creek Allotment #04190, for a period of three years, coinciding with a base property lease and expiring November 15, 2013. The lease would be reissued with the same terms and conditions as the expiring lease which is as follows:

#0503937

Allotment Name and Number	Livestock Number and Kind	Grazing Period		%PL	AUMs
		Begin	End		
Middle Hunt Creek	6 Cattle	05/01	09/30	100	30
#04190	4 Cattle	06/01	06/30	100	<u>4</u>
Total					34

The above lease would be subject to the Standard and Common Terms and Conditions; see Attachment #2.

Renew the grazing lease (#0501276) on the Lower Raspberry Creek Allotment #04185 for a period of ten years, expiring February 28, 2011. The lease would be reissued with the same terms and conditions as the expiring lease which is as follows:

#0501276

Allotment Name and Number	Livestock Number and Kind	Grazing Period		%PL	AUMs
		Begin	End		
Lower Raspberry Creek #04185	24 Cattle	06/15	11/03	100	112

The above lease would be subject to the Standard and Common Terms and Conditions; see Attachment #2.

Administrative Actions: Allotment administrative boundaries will be adjusted to only encompass the public land parcel.

Renew the grazing lease (#0501158) on the Bunker Creek Allotment #04152, Grassy Creek Allotment #04163, Gill Reservoir Allotment #04150, and Temple Gulch Allotment #04155 for a period of ten years, expiring February 28, 2021. The lease would be reissued with the same terms and conditions as the expiring lease which is as follows:

#0501158

Allotment Name and Number	Livestock Number and Kind	Grazing Period		%PL	AUMs
		Begin	End		
Bunker Creek #04152	25 Sheep	06/01	09/30	100	20
	5 Cattle	06/01	09/30	100	<u>20</u>
				Total	40
Grassy Creek #04163	73 Sheep	05/15	10/14	100	73
	8 Cattle	06/01	09/30	100	<u>32</u>
				Total	105
Gill Reservoir #04150	20 Sheep	06/01	09/30	100	16
	4 Cattle	06/01	09/30	100	<u>16</u>
				Total	32
Temple Gulch #04155	5 Sheep	05/01	09/30	100	5

Special Terms and Conditions:

1. Cattle and/or sheep may be authorized to graze in the Temple Gulch Allotment #04155.
2. Cattle may graze in these allotments for no more than 60 days during the grazing season.
3. Sheep use will be limited to 30 days during the spring and 30 days in the fall, except on the Grassy Creek Allotment #04163, where sheep use may occur within the dates shown.

The above leases would be subject to the Standard and Common Terms and Conditions; see Attachment #2.

Administrative Actions: Allotment administrative boundaries will be adjusted to only encompass the public land parcels.

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 lease 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 the grazing leases 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).

Standards for Public Land Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing in Colorado
Date Approved: February 12, 1997

FLPMA, 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-99-018 Middle Hunt Creek Grazing Lease Renewal.

Environmental Assessment CO-016-LS-00-019 Lower Raspberry Creek Grazing Lease Renewal.

Environmental Assessment CO-016-LS-00-017 Grazing Lease Renewal for the Bunker Creek, Grassy Creek, Gill Reservoir, and Temple Gulch Allotments.

Biological Assessments for Canada Lynx – 2000 and 2010 (see Attachment#5)

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 all allotments were analyzed in the RMP/EIS and were categorized as “C” Custodial Management Status, and also analyzed in the following Environmental Assessments.

C (Custodial) – Allotment has low production potential for livestock forage; No major resource conflicts or controversy exist; Present management is accomplishing the desired results.

Environmental Assessment CO-016-LS-99-018 Middle Hunt Creek Grazing Lease Renewal.

Environmental Assessment CO-016-LS-00-019 Lower Raspberry Creek Grazing Lease Renewal.

Environmental Assessment CO-016-LS-00-017 Grazing Lease Renewal for the Bunker Creek, Grassy Creek, Gill Reservoir, and Temple Gulch Allotments.

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 1999 & 2000. 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.

The Bunker Creek allotment provides habitat for Canada lynx, a species listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. Impacts to this species were discussed in the original Environmental Assessment (CO-016-LS-00-017). Section 7 consultation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service was completed for the Proposed Action in 2000 and 2010. A "may affect, not likely to adversely affect" finding was made for both consultations (see Attachment #5).

Resource conditions on the allotments currently meet 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 on these allotments at the current grazing intensity and period of use are within the scope of the existing analysis. Monitoring data, including an allotment-specific analysis of resource conditions, assure that these allotments are in compliance with the Colorado Public Land Health Standards. No adverse site specific impacts were identified in this analysis (see Attachment #3).

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) adequate 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 and Environmental Assessments CO-016-LS-99-018 EA, CO-016-LS-00-019 EA, and CO-016-LS-00-017.

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

Name	Title	Resource	Initials	Date
Emily Spencer	Ecologist	Air Quality, Floodplains Prime/Unique Farmlands, Water Quality – Surface	ES	09/08/10
Ethan Morton	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources, Native American Concerns	EM	09/14/10
Barb Blackstun	Realty Specialist	Environmental Justice	BSB	09/13/10
Mark Lowrey	Rangeland Management Specialist	Hazardous Materials	ML	09/08/10
Christina Rhyne	Rangeland Management Spec.	Invasive Non-native Species	CR	09/08/10
Hunter Seim	Rangeland Management Spec.	Sensitive Plants, T&E Plant	JHS	09/08/10
Desa Ausmus	Wildlife Biologist	T&E Animal	DA	12/03/10
Marty O'Mara	Geologist	Water Quality - Ground	EMO	09/08/10
Emily Spencer	Ecologist	Wetlands/Riparian Zones	ES	09/08/10
Shane Dittlinger	Outdoor Recreation Planner	WSA, W&S Rivers	KSD	09/08/10
Standards				
Desa Ausmus	Wildlife Biologist	Animal Communities	DA	12/03/10
Desa Ausmus	Wildlife Biologist	Special Status, T&E Animal	DA	12/03/10
Mark Lowrey	Rangeland Management Spec.	Plant Communities	ML	09/08/10
Hunter Seim	Rangeland Management Spec.	Special Status, T&E Plant	JHS	09/08/10
Emily Spencer	Ecologist	Riparian Systems	ES	09/08/10
Emily Spencer	Ecologist	Water Quality	ES	09/08/10
Emily Spencer	Ecologist	Upland Soils	ES	09/08/10

Land Health Assessment

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

Standard Assessment was conducted on each allotment as listed below. All standards are met on all allotments

Allotment	Assessment Date	Assessment Participants
Bunker Creek #04152 Gill Reservoir #04150	08/09/10	Rangeland Management Specialist, Wildlife Biologist, and Ecologist
Grassy Creek #04163	08/10/10	Rangeland Management Specialist, Wildlife Biologist, and Ecologist
Temple Gulch #04155	08/25/10	Rangeland Management Specialist, Wildlife Biologist, and Ecologist
Lower Raspberry Creek #04185	09/02/10	Rangeland Management Specialist and Wildlife Biologist
Middle Hunt Creek #04190	08/07/08	Wildlife Biologist, Lessee, and a Rangeland Management Specialist

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-N010-2010-0138-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 this permit/lease may be modified if additional information indicates that revision is necessary to conform with 43 CFR 4180.

ATTACHMENT #3
DOI-BLM-CO-N010-2010-0138-DNA
Standards and Assessments

#04190 Middle Hunt Creek Allotment

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.

Public lands within the Middle Hunt Creek Allotment are located on northerly facing moderate and steep slopes. The soils are deep and support lodgepole pine and Douglas fir forests, mountain shrub, and high meadow plant communities. Perennial plants provide considerable cover and there is no accelerated erosion in the form of rills, flow patterns, gullies, or pedestalling occurring. The standard is currently met and would continue to be met under the Proposed Action.

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.

Middle Hunt Creek has not undergone a formal riparian assessment. This perennial stream flows through a deep canyon known locally as “Death Valley” due to the prevalence of poisonous larkspur and monkshood plants in the vicinity. As a consequence, livestock have historically been herded away from this canyon since at least the late 1930’s. Due to the historically light livestock use and the steep nature of the canyon through which Middle Hunt Creek flows through the allotment, the Proposed Action would not preclude this standard from being met.

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.

This standard is met for this allotment. The Middle Hunt Creek Allotment contains good native shrub, forb, and grass diversity. Plant production and vigor are very high. Implementation of the Proposed Action would not preclude the attainment of this standard in the future.

The Middle Hunt Creek Allotment provides productive summer habitat for mule deer and elk. A variety of songbirds, reptiles, and small mammals use public lands within this allotment as well. Despite the small size of the allotment, there is a good diversity of plant communities and habitats, all exhibiting high vigor and diversity, which would continue to provide high quality

habitat for a variety of species. The Proposed Action does not change actions associated with the existing grazing lease and would ensure that this allotment continues to meet this standard.

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.

The Middle Hunt Creek Allotment does not contain any threatened or endangered animal species or habitats for such species. For animals, this standard does not apply.

There are no federally listed threatened or endangered or BLM sensitive plant species within the Middle Hunt Creek Allotment. For plants, this standard does not apply.

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.

The water quality standard for healthy rangelands is met and would continue to be met under the Proposed Action. Runoff from snowmelt and summer storms drains from the Middle Hunt Creek Allotment into stream segments that are presently supporting classified uses. No stream segments are listed as impaired.

#04185 Lower Raspberry Creek Allotment

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 is meeting this standard. There is no evidence of accelerated erosion. Surface soil characteristics are all stable resulting in minimized surface runoff. Abundant vegetation and surface litter is protecting the soil. The plant community is productive and vigorous, this standard would continue to be met under the Proposed Action.

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 on public land within this allotment. This standard does not apply.

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.

Species diversity within the allotment is high with composition appropriate for the area. Overall native species density is appropriate. Production within the allotment is high. Plant community is contributing to desired objectives and providing resilience from human activities. This standard is currently being met for the plant community and would continue to be met under the Proposed Action.

The Lower Raspberry Creek Allotment provides habitat for a variety of wildlife species, including big game, songbirds, reptiles and small mammals. Habitat within the allotment is in good condition, providing suitable and productive habitat for wildlife species. The Proposed Action does not change actions associated with the existing grazing lease and would ensure that this allotment continues to meet this standard.

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 federally listed threatened or endangered or BLM sensitive plant or wildlife species within the Lower Raspberry Creek Allotment. This standard does not apply.

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.

Water quality standards are currently met. The Proposed Action would continue to meet the public land health standard for water quality. Any surface runoff from the allotment drains into the Yampa River just above Stagecoach Reservoir. There are no water quality impairments or suspected water quality issues for this section of the Yampa River.

#04152 Bunker Creek

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 standard is currently being met within the allotment. Soil surface is stable with no evidence of erosion. Vegetation cover, ground cover and litter are all protecting the soil from erosion. This standard would continue to be met under the Proposed Action.

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.

Three tributaries to Bunker Creek (totaling 1.4 stream miles) were assessed in 2010 and found to be in Proper Functioning Condition. Riparian vegetation is diverse, vigorous, and appropriate for the site. Streams are high elevation and steep in character. Little to no livestock use was observed. This standard is being met and would continue to be met under the Proposed Action.

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.

The plant communities within the allotment are associated with aspen/fir woodlands, mountain shrub, and alpine meadow communities. This allotment is high in species diversity and composition is appropriate for this area. Production is high and adequate to provide resilience from human activities. The plant community is contributing to desired objectives. This standard is being met and would continue to be met under the Proposed Action.

The Bunker Creek Allotment provides habitat for a variety of wildlife species, including big game, songbirds, reptiles and small mammals. Habitat within the allotment is in good condition, providing suitable and productive habitat for wildlife species. The Proposed Action does not change actions associated with the existing grazing lease and would ensure that this allotment continues to meet this standard.

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 federally listed threatened or endangered or BLM sensitive plant species within the Bunker Creek Allotment. For plants, this standard does not apply.

The Bunker Creek Allotment provides habitat for Canada lynx, a species listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. Lynx habitat within the allotment is in good condition, providing suitable cover for lynx and suitable cover and forage for prey species. The allotment is meeting this standard and would continue to meet this standard under the Proposed Action.

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.

This standard is met on this allotment the Proposed Action would continue to meet the public land health standard for water quality. Any surface runoff from the allotment drains into Bunker Creek, which is tributary to the East Fork of the Williams Fork River. There are no water quality impairments or suspected water quality issues for any of these waters.

04163 Grassy Creek

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 standard is currently being met within the allotment. Soil surface is stable with no evidence of erosion. Vegetation cover, ground cover, and litter are all protecting the soil from erosion. This standard would continue to be met under the Proposed Action.

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 or wetland resources identified on public lands within the allotment. This standard does not apply.

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.

The plant communities within the allotment are associated with aspen/fir woodlands and mountain shrub communities. This allotment is high in species diversity and composition is appropriate for this area. Production is high and adequate to provide resilience from human activities. The plant community is contributing to desired objectives. The majority of scattered public land parcels that comprise this allotment have limited accessibility; therefore vegetation is not subjected to high levels of herbivory. This standard is being met and would continue to be met under the Proposed Action.

The Grassy Creek Allotment provides habitat for a variety of wildlife species, including big game, songbirds, reptiles and small mammals. Habitat within the allotment is in good condition, providing suitable and productive habitat for wildlife species. The Proposed Action does not change actions associated with the existing grazing lease and would ensure that this allotment continues to meet this standard.

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 federally listed threatened or endangered or BLM sensitive plant species within the Grassy Creek Allotment. For plants, this standard does not apply.

The Grassy Creek Allotment provides habitat for two BLM sensitive species, greater sage-grouse and Columbian sharp-tailed grouse. Greater sage-grouse are also a Candidate species for ESA listing. Vegetative communities within the allotment are in good condition, providing suitable habitat for both species. This standard is met on the allotment.

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.

This standard is currently being met. The Proposed Action would continue to meet the public land health standard for water quality. Any surface runoff from the allotment drains into Willow Creek, the East Fork of the Williams Fork River, or the headwaters of Grassy Creek. There are no water quality impairments or suspected water quality issues for any of these waters.

#04150 Gill Reservoir

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 standard is currently being met within the allotment. Soil surface is stable with no evidence of erosion. Vegetation cover, ground cover, and litter are all protecting the soil from erosion. This standard would continue to be met under the Proposed Action.

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.

The stream below Gill Reservoir (totaling 0.6 stream miles) was assessed in 2010 and found to be in Proper Functioning Condition. Riparian vegetation is diverse, vigorous, and appropriate for the site. Little to no livestock use was observed. This standard is being met and would continue to be met under the Proposed Action.

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.

The plant communities within the allotment are associated with aspen/fir woodlands, mountain shrub, and alpine meadow communities. This allotment is high in species diversity and composition is appropriate for site. Production is high and adequate to provide resilience from human activities. The plant community is contributing to desired objectives. This standard is being met and would continue to be met under the Proposed Action.

The Gill Reservoir Allotment provides habitat for a variety of wildlife species, including big game, songbirds, reptiles and small mammals. Habitat within the allotment is in good condition, providing suitable and productive habitat for wildlife species. The Proposed Action does not change actions associated with the existing grazing lease and would ensure that this allotment continues to meet this standard.

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 federally listed threatened or endangered or BLM sensitive plant or wildlife species within the Gill Reservoir Allotment. This standard does not apply.

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.

This standard is currently met. The Proposed Action would continue to meet the public land health standard for water quality. Any surface runoff from the allotment drains into the East Fork of the Williams Fork River. There are no water quality impairments or suspected water quality issues for any of these waters.

#04155 Temple Gulch

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.

The upland soils within the allotment are stable. Soil characteristics are appropriate for site. There is some movement of particles on slopes and surface litter shows slight movement. Surface rock and fragments are assisting in erosion prevention. Infiltration and permeability are maintaining a productive plant community. This standard is currently being met and would continue to be met under the Proposed Action.

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 systems on public lands within this allotment. This standard does not apply

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.

This standard is currently being met by the plant community and would continue to be met under the Proposed Action. Species diversity and composition is appropriate for the site. There are no invasive or noxious species of concern. The plant community is contributing to desired objectives and providing resilience from human activities.

The Temple Gulch Allotment provides habitat for a variety of wildlife species, including big game, songbirds, reptiles and small mammals. Habitat within the allotment is in good condition, providing suitable and productive habitat for wildlife species. The Proposed Action does not change actions associated with the existing grazing lease and would ensure that this allotment continues to meet this standard.

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 federally listed threatened or endangered or BLM sensitive plant species within the Temple Gulch Allotment. For plants, this standard does not apply.

The Temple Gulch Allotment provides habitat for two BLM sensitive species, greater sage-grouse and Columbian sharp-tailed grouse. Greater sage-grouse are also a Candidate species for ESA listing. Vegetative communities within the allotment are in good condition, providing suitable habitat for both species. This standard is met on the allotment.

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.

Any surface runoff from the allotment drains into Temple Gulch, which is tributary to Dry Creek. Dry Creek (including all tributaries and wetlands from its source to the Yampa River) is on the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's Section 303(d) list of Water Quality Limited Segments because of a low priority iron impairment. Permitting livestock grazing as proposed is consistent with land uses throughout the watershed and is not expected to exacerbate any existing water quality issues, as excessive levels of iron is not likely to result from livestock management practices. This standard is met and the Proposed Action would continue to meet the public land health standard for water quality.

ATTACHMENT #4
DOI-BLM-CO-N010-2010-0138-DNA
Cultural Resources and Native American Concerns - Heritage Rpt. #10.56.2010

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 September 13, 2010 by Ethan Morton, 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) plats, 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 (Morton 2010).

The table below is based on the allotment specific analysis developed for the six 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 (BLM acres)	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)
04190(106)	9	97	11.7%	0	1	1
04185(331)	0	331	0%	0	32	13
04152(191)	44	147	23%	0	5	1
04163(311)	65	246	21%	1	3	1
04150(159)	2	157	<1%	0	3	1
04155(25)	4	21	16%	0	1	0

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.

One cultural resource inventory has been conducted within Middle Hunt Creek Allotment #04190 resulting in survey coverage of 9 acres at a Class III level. No cultural resources have been discovered on BLM within the allotment. A historic ranch (5RT.1401/Boor Ranch,

Redmond Ranch) has been recorded adjacent to the allotment on private land. There are no indications of unrecorded historic resources on the GLO Plats.

No cultural resource inventory has been conducted in the Lower Raspberry Creek Allotment #04185 and no cultural resources have been recorded. There are no indications of unrecorded historic resources on the GLO Plats.

Two cultural resource inventories have been conducted in the Bunker Creek Allotment #04152 resulting in survey coverage of 44 acres at a Class III level. No cultural resources have been discovered on BLM within the allotment. There are no indications of unrecorded historic resources on the GLO Plats.

In the Grassy Creek Allotment #04163, seven cultural resource inventories have been conducted covering 65 acres. Some of the acreage was surveyed twice (12 acres). Two cultural resources have been identified on BLM within the allotment, one prehistoric lithic scatter (5RT.275), and one historic ranch (5RT.1466/Yoast Ranch, Duncley Ranch, Ramshorn Ranch District). The lithic scatter is listed as Need Data and the Historic Ranch is listed as Eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. There are no indications of unrecorded historic resources on the GLO Plats.

One cultural resource inventory has been conducted within the Gill Reservoir Allotment #04150 covering 2 acres. No cultural resources have been recorded and there are no indications of unrecorded historic resources on the General Land Office (GLO) Plats.

In the Temple Gulch Allotment #04155, two cultural resource inventories have been conducted covering 21 acres. No cultural resources have been recorded and there are no indications of unrecorded historic resources on the GLO Plats.

Based on available data (site density), there is a moderate potential for cultural resources in Lower Raspberry Creek Allotment #04185. There is low potential for cultural resources in all other allotments based on very few previously recorded sites and steep slopes where sites are less likely to occur. Subsequent cultural resource inventory will be conducted in areas where livestock concentrate and cultural resources are more likely. These inventories are to be completed within the next ten years.

1. In the Middle Hunt Creek Allotment #04190, the Historic Boor Ranch/Redmond Ranch (5RT.1401) may extend onto BLM (T2N, R86W, Section 3). An archaeological reconnaissance survey is needed to determine if the site extends onto BLM.
2. There is moderate site density in the region of the Lower Raspberry Creek Allotment #04185, however the terrain on BLM is extremely rough and steep and the likelihood of sites in these locations is very low. No Class III inventory is needed at this time.
3. Previously recorded sites (5RT.275 and 5RT.1466) in the Grassy Creek Allotment #04163 require review. A determination of eligibility needs to be made for 5RT.275 (T5N, R88W, Sec 31). The portion of 5RT.1466 on BLM needs to be revisited to

determine the impacts, if any, on the site from grazing (T5N, R87W, Section 32). Class III inventory is needed in several areas within the Grassy Creek Allotment #04163 where livestock congregate in regions with higher potential for cultural resources (drainage bottoms, meadows, along trails, and on mesa tops). Approximately 140 acres of Class III survey is needed in Grassy Creek Allotment #04163 (T5N R88W S19, S31; T4N R87W S18; T5N, R87W S17, S32)..

4. In the Gill Reservoir Allotment #04150, Class III survey is needed on 60 acres southwest of Gill Reservoir (T3N, R88W, Sec 14)
5. In the Temple Gulch Allotment #04155, Class III survey is needed on 23 acres on the drainage bottom. (T5N, R88W, Sec 5-6)

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 to the number of AUMs for each allotment and the timing for livestock use has not changed. 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

There are no proposed range improvements in this DNA and there are no known historic properties that have known adverse effects; therefore, no mitigation is required.

Name of Specialist and date: Ethan Morton, 09/14/10

NATIVE AMERICAN RELIGIOUS CONCERNS

A letter was sent to the Eastern Shoshone, Uinta and Ouray Tribal Council, Southern Ute Tribal Council, Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Council on May 26, 2009. The letter listed the FY2010 projects that the BLM would notify them on and projects that would not require notification. A

followup phone call was performed on July 26, 2009. No comments were received (Letter on file at the Little Snake Field Office). This project requires no additional notification.

Name of specialist and date: Ethan Morton, 01/12/10

References Cited

Morton, Ethan.

2010 *BLM Little Snake Field Office: Allotment Class I Literature Search for DOI-BLM-CO-NO10-2011-0138-DNA within Little Snake Heritage Office and State Historic Preservation Office (10.58.2010)*. On file at Little Snake Field Office, Bureau of Land Management, Craig, Colorado.