

**U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Royal Gorge Field Office  
3028 E. Main Street  
Canon City, CO 81212**

## **CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION**

NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-200-2013-075 CX

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER: Range Improvement No. 016508

PROJECT NAME: Range – Union Creek Pasture Cattleguard

PLANNING UNIT: South Park Sub-region #4

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Park County: 6<sup>th</sup> PM, T. 13S., R. 73W., sec. 26

APPLICANT: BLM & Grazing Permittee: Elk Mountain Cattle Company, Monte Downare, GR#0505330

### DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION

The Proposed Action is to install a new cattleguard using a backhoe on Forest Road #890 at the BLM boundary and tie into existing barbed wire fence. This cattleguard will replace the existing barbed wire gate that is difficult to open and close and often is left open by the public thus allowing cattle to drift into the pasture when not authorized. This cattleguard will prevent cattle drifting into the Union Creek Pasture of the Elevenmile Canyon Allotment when they are not authorized to be in the pasture.

The BLM will provide the cattleguard to the permittee who will install the cattleguard. The permittee will provide the annual maintenance of the cattleguard through a cooperative range improvement agreement.

### PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW:

Name of Plan: Royal Gorge Resource Management Plan

Date Approved: May 13, 1996

Decision Number: 4-1, 4-5, C-107

Decision Language: Vegetation management will be as follows: -vegetation will be managed to accomplish other BLM initiatives i.e., Riparian, Wildlife, etc; -improved forage conditions will be distributed through cooperative efforts i.e., Colorado Habitat Partnership Program; -management of forest lands will be for enhancement of other values; -Desired Plant Condition objectives will be developed for all Integrated Activity Plans (IAPs); -vegetation monitoring will be accomplished on an interdisciplinary basis.

Livestock drift onto uncontrolled private land will be eliminated through BLM fencing, cooperative projects, or by eliminating grazing.

C-107 Require cattleguards for public roads on lands allocated for grazing.

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW: This proposed action is listed as a Categorical Exclusion in DOI Departmental Manual Part 516 Chapter 11.9 G(2). None of the following exceptions in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2, apply.

Exclusion Criteria	YES	NO
1. Have significant impacts on public health or safety.		X
2. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness areas; lands with wilderness characteristics; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands; floodplains; national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.		X
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.		X
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		X
5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		X
6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		X
7. Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.		X
8. Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.		X
9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		X
10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations.		X
11. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites.		X
12. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species.		X

<b>INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM REVIEW</b>			
<b>NAME</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY</b>	<b>Initials/date</b>
Matt Rustand	Wildlife Biologist	Terrestrial Wildlife, T&E, Migratory Birds	MR, 6/17/2013
Jeff Williams	Range Management Spec.	Range, Vegetation, Farmland	-----
Chris Cloninger	Range Management Spec.	Range, Vegetation, Farmland	CC, 6/3/13
John Lamman	Range Management Spec.	Weeds	JL, 06/11/2013
Dave Gilbert	Fisheries Biologist	Aquatic Wildlife, Riparian/Wetlands	DG, 6/7/13
Stephanie Carter	Geologist	Minerals, Paleontology, Waste Hazardous or Solid	SSC, 7/11/13
Melissa Smeins	Geologist	Minerals, Paleontology	-----
John Smeins	Hydrologist	Hydrology, Water Quality/Rights, Soils	JS, 6/4/13
Ty Webb	Prescribed Fire Specialist	Air Quality	mw for TY 6/25
Jeff Covington	Cadastral Surveyor	Cadastral Survey	JC, 6/4/13
Kalem Lenard	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Recreation, Wilderness, LWCs, Visual, ACEC, W&S Rivers,	KL, 6/4/2013
John Nahomenuk	River Manager	Recreation, Wilderness, LWCs, Visual, ACEC, W&S Rivers	-----
Ken Reed	Forester	Forestry	KR, 6/6/13
Martin Weimer	NEPA Coordinator	Environmental Justice, Noise, SocioEconomics	mw, 6/4/13
Monica Weimer	Archaeologist	Cultural, Native American	-----
Michael Troyer	Archaeologist	Cultural, Native American	MDT 6/4/2013
Steve Craddock	Realty Specialist	Realty	SRC 6/19/2013
Steve Cunningham	Law Enforcement Ranger	Law Enforcement	-----
Bob Hurley	Fire Management Officer	Fire Management	BH, 6/4/2013

**REMARKS:**

Cultural Resources: No historic properties were found in the area of potential effect [see report CR-RG-13-21 (N)]. Therefore, the proposed undertaking will have no effect on any historic properties (those eligible for the NRHP).

Native American Religious Concerns: No possible traditional cultural properties were located during the cultural resources inventory (see above). There is no other known evidence that suggests the project area holds special significance for Native Americans.

Threatened and Endangered Species: There are no records of any federally listed or BLM sensitive species within or near the project area. The Proposed Action will not result in impacts to TES species.

COMPLIANCE PLAN (optional):

NAME OF PREPARER: Christine Cloninger, Rangeland Management Specialist, RGFO

SUPERVISORY REVIEW: Melissa K.S. Garcia, Assistant Field Manager (Renewable Resources)

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: /s/ Martin Weimer

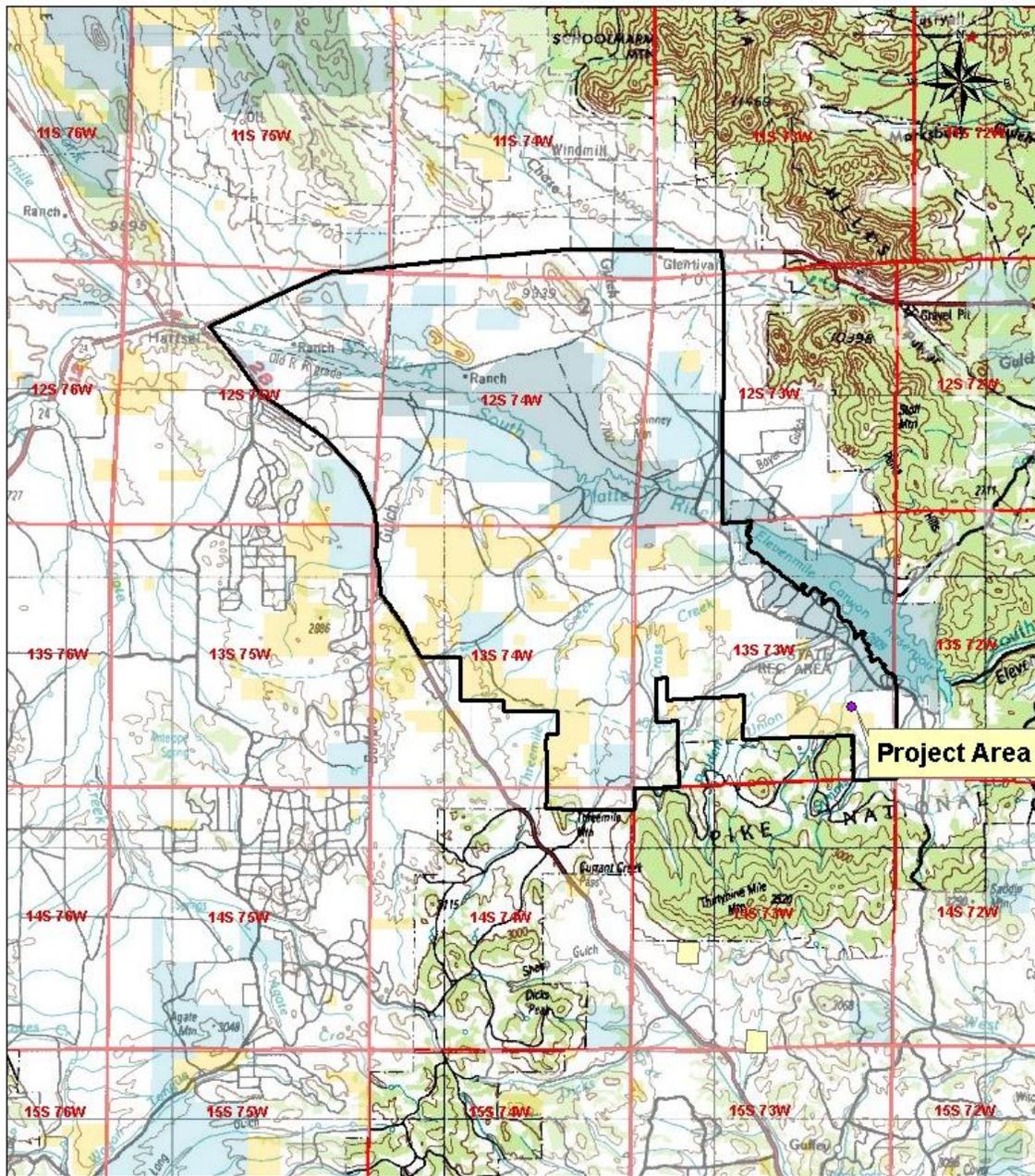
DATE: 7/25/13

DECISION AND RATIONALE: I have reviewed this Categorical Exclusion and have decided to implement the Proposed Action.

This action is listed in the Department Manual as an action that may be categorically excluded. I have evaluated the action relative to the 10 criteria listed above and have determined that it does not represent an exception and is, therefore, categorically excluded from further environmental analysis.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL: /s/ Melissa K. Garcia for  
Keith E. Berger, Field Manager

DATE SIGNED: 7/25/13



**LOCATION MAP - PROPOSED**  
**Union Creek Pasture Cattleguard**  
**Elevenmile Canyon Allotment #5141**

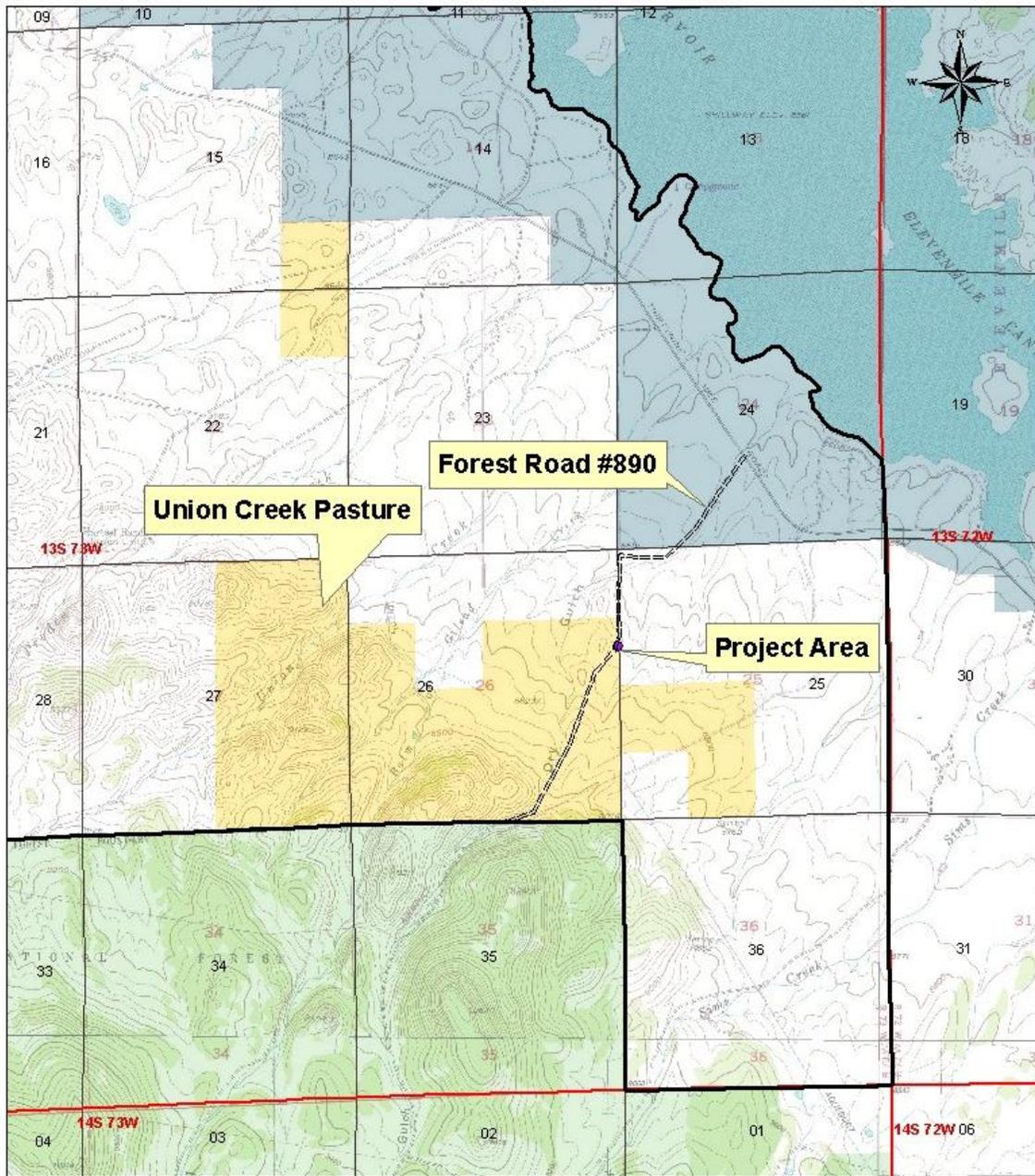
BLM-CO-2013-075 CX

**Legend**

- Proposed Cattleguard
- Elevenmile Canyon Allotment
- Bureau of Land Management
- Private
- State
- State, County, City, Areas

0      2.5      5  
Miles

**NOTE TO MAP USERS**  
No warrantee is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of the data layers shown on this map. The official land records of the data providers should be checked or current status on any specific tract of land.



**PROJECT MAP-**  
**Proposed Union Creek**  
**Pasture Cattleguard**

BLM-CO-2013-075 CX

**Legend**

- Elevenmile Canyon Allotment
- ◆ Proposed Cattleguard
- Bureau of Land Management Private
- State, County, City, Areas
- US Forest Service

0      0.5      1  
Miles

**NOTE TO MAP USERS**  
No warrantee is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of the data layers shown on this map. The official land records of the data providers should be checked or current status on any specific tract of land.