United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Proposed Grazing Decision Record
Environmental Assessment
DOI-BLM-CO-S010-2012-0034 EA

January 2016

Term Grazing Permit Renewal
Gypsum Valleys Allotment (#08068)

Location: Gypsum Valleys Grazing Allotment

Applicant/Address: Jimmy G. Suckla & Larry L. Suckla

Tres Rios Field Office
29211 Highway 184
Dolores, Colorado 81323
Phone: 970-882-7296
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CERTIFIED MAIL NUMBER (7015 0640 0004 1433 7801)
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Jimmy G. Suckla & Larry L. Suckla
12588 County Road 23
Cortez, CO 81321

NOTICE OF PROPOSED DECISION

Dear Mr. Jimmy G. and Larry L. Suckla:

INTRODUCTION

The Tres Rios Field Office, BLM prepared environmental assessment DOI-BLM-CO-S010-2012-0034 to analyze the effects of renewing the 10-year term grazing permit for livestock grazing on public lands on the Gypsum Valleys Allotment (#08068). As you are aware, this environmental assessment was a culmination of previous analysis efforts in which two subsequent environmental assessments were issued in 2009 and 2010. This analysis incorporated many of the comments and concerns received to the previous efforts for renewing this term grazing permit.

This latest environmental assessment (DOI-BLM-CO-S010-2012-0034) analyzed potential site-specific impacts on resources that would result from issuing a new 10-year term grazing permit needed to authorize livestock grazing on the Gypsum Valleys Allotment. This 10-year term grazing permit must: 1) address public lands that are failing to achieve the Public Land Health Standards and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management in Colorado due to livestock grazing (43 CFR 4180.2(c)); and 2) comply with the 2015 Tres Rios Field Office Resource Management Plan (RMP).

Five Public Land Health Standards were developed for BLM Colorado. These standards were then incorporated into the 2015 Tres Rios Field Office RMP. The intent of these standards is to improve the health of all BLM public lands in Colorado. These five standards include 1) upland soils; 2) riparian systems; 3) healthy, productive plant and animal communities; 4) special status, threatened and endangered species; and 5) water quality.

A total of five alternatives were evaluated in the EA. These alternatives included Alternative A, proposed by the livestock grazing permitte; Alternative B, no action; Alternative C, adaptive management; Alternative D, reduced grazing and Alternative E, no permitted grazing. The no action alternative provided the option to reissue the applicants' existing term grazing permit.

The EA was released for public comment on June 30, 2015 for a 31 day comment period. The comment deadline was then extended until August 21, 2015 for an additional 21 days for a total comment period of 52 days. After reviewing and evaluating comments received to this analysis from all individuals, organizations, and other government agencies the following proposed grazing decision was developed. Based on the analysis of potential environmental effects documented in the EA and the evaluation of public comments received through this process, it

has been determined that: 1) some Public Land Health Standards are not being met; and 2) changes to the terms and conditions of the previously authorized term grazing permit are required.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Based upon a review of the EA and the supporting documents, it was determined that the project is not a major federal action and will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment, individually or cumulatively with other actions in the general area. No environmental effects meet the definition of significance in context or intensity as defined in 40 CFR 1508.27 and do not exceed those effects described in the Tres Rios Field Office RMP/FEIS. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not needed. Please refer to the signed Finding of No Significant Impact for this project. In addition, all comments received to the analysis were addressed and are contained within Appendix L of the Final Environmental Assessment (DOI-BLM-CO-S010-2012-0034.

PROPOSED DECISION

The following is my proposed decision to issue a new 10-year term grazing permit on the Gypsum Valleys Allotment (#08068) pursuant to 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Subparts 4100 and 4130 of the grazing regulations.

My proposed decision is to implement the Adaptive Management Alternative (Alternative C) described in EA number DOI-BLM-CO-S010-2012-0034 and offer a 10-year term grazing permit to Jimmy G. and Larry L. Suckla. Specifically my proposed decision is to authorize grazing on the Gypsum Valleys Allotment as described below:

Authorized Grazing Use:

The following table reflects the class and number of livestock, the season of use and the permitted Animal Unit Months (AUMs) that will be authorized. In addition, authorized grazing use will be in accordance with the attached design criteria.

Allotment Name	Livestock Number	Grazing Period	Percent Federal Range	BLM AUMs
Gypsum Valleys	312 Cattle	11/1 – 5/31	81%	1,761

Grazing Rotations

The following describes the livestock grazing rotations for Big Gypsum and Little Gypsum Valleys to be implemented in order to provide for deferment and periodic rest during the critical spring growing season on the allotment. Please refer to the attached 3-year grazing rotation schedule.

1. Big Gypsum Valley would use a six pasture deferred rotation system. Pastures would be grazed in a different order each year, to improve plant vigor. Rest would occur during the critical growth period (3/1-5/31) at least once every three years for each pasture.

2. Little Gypsum Valley would use a six pasture deferred rotation system. Pastures would be grazed in a different order each year to improve plant vigor. Rest would occur during the critical growth period (3/1-5/31) at least two years out of every 3 years on four of the pastures and every year on two of the pastures. Grazing rotations would include the following criteria:

    a. Coyote Wash and Silvey's Pocket Pastures should be grazed first each year. This is due to their inaccessibility later in the year.
    b. Coyote Wash can be grazed for ten days each year, even when Silvey's Pocket Pasture is unavailable due to lack of water.
    c. Magpie and River Pastures must always be grazed last due to difficulty in trailing cattle with young calves across the Dolores River during spring run-off.
    d. During dry years, allow the Little Gypsum herd to use either East or West Lavender Pastures. These are small, primarily private land pastures located in Big Gypsum Valley.
    e. Enter the Little Gypsum portion as late as December 1st on years when the permittee has the flexibility to do so. On years when this is possible, days grazed would be reduced in each pasture to lessen grazing effects.

Adaptive Management

Authorized livestock grazing will be in accordance with the adaptive management criteria described below:

1. Utilization Monitoring: Utilization levels by livestock on key forage and browse species would be monitored in at least half of the grazed pastures every year. At least two key monitoring sites will be identified in each pasture. Key monitoring sites would be located in areas between ¼ and ½ mile from livestock waters, in areas of the pastures that receive livestock grazing use, and would be identified and located in accordance with Technical Reference 1734-03 "Utilization Studies & Residual Measurements, Interagency 1999." Key forage species measured would include perennial grass and shrub species that provide value as livestock forage.

    The focus of utilization monitoring will be on those pastures that were 1) identified as not meeting the rangeland health standards; and 2) or where allotment supervision visits indicate excessive utilization is most likely. These pastures include Coyote Wash, Silvey's Pocket, Raven, Bullington, Magpie, Carnation, East Lavender, The Gap, Hughes Gypsum and Dunham.

Utilization Limits by Pasture

Table 1 below identifies the established utilization limits by pasture based on existing resource conditions as identified by the land health assessment and supporting monitoring information.

These utilization limits may be adjusted either up or down if it is determined through long-term monitoring that significant improvement in land health conditions within the allotment and/or pasture has either improved and/or declined over time.

Table 1. Established Utilization Limits by Pasture.

ALLOTMENT	PASTURE	UTILIZATION LIMIT
Gypsum Valleys	Coyote Wash	30%
	Silvey's Pocket	30%
	Raven	30%
	Bullington	30%
	River	40%
	Magpie	30%
	Carnation	30%
	West Lavender	40%
	East Lavender	30%
	The Gap	30%
	Hughes Gypsum	30%
	Dunham	30%

Utilization Adaptive Management Actions

Utilization monitoring will measure the amount of the current year's forage production that is removed by weight for herbaceous and shrub species that provide forage value for livestock.

Changes in authorized grazing use would be triggered, if utilization monitoring documents a pattern of two or more years of excessive use over a 5-year period which exceeds the established acceptable utilization level in the same pasture.

The intent of adjustments to grazing would be to reduce utilization levels down too or below the acceptable utilization limits. Utilization levels would be compared with actual grazing use records for the relevant pastures. Adjustments would be proportionate and applied to the actual grazing levels that occurred.

Example: If two years of utilization data collected over a 5-year period on key forage species in a pasture averaged 10% above the maximum level, then the average level of grazing use that resulted in this overutilization would be the baseline used to decrease the AUM's of livestock grazing in that pasture by 10% in the subsequent grazing seasons.

Any necessary adjustments will be implemented by reducing the number of days used in the pasture. If reduced days of grazing are implemented in a pasture, then the day cattle leave the allotment in the spring would be decreased by that number of days, unless utilization monitoring show that actual grazing use in other pastures have consistently resulted in utilization levels, on key forage species at key monitoring sites, far below the 30% or 40% allowable limit. If this proves to be the case, small increments of no more than the level of adjustment in days grazed may be authorized in those pastures.

Specific Short-Term Monitoring Objectives and Associated Adaptive Management Actions

The following are the short term trend monitoring objectives:

1. Within five years show a statistically significant increase in the amount of native perennial cool season bunchgrass species on a majority of those existing long-term trend transects in which these species currently exist. This data will be analyzed at the 80% confidence interval.

2. Within five years maintain or significantly increase the amount of perennial warm season bunchgrass species at the existing long-term trend transects. This data will be analyzed at the 80% confidence interval.

If it is determined through this trend monitoring that progress has not been made towards increasing the frequency of cool season perennial bunchgrass species and/or maintaining or increasing the amount of warm season perennial grass species then one or more of the following livestock grazing management actions may be implemented:

1. Combine all permitted livestock into one herd from the current two herd operation. This would allow for greater flexibility in providing increased rest and/or deferment from grazing during the critical spring growing season.

2. Reduce the amount of authorized grazing time during the critical spring growing season between March 1st and May 31st to increase the opportunity for cool season perennial bunchgrass species to re-grow, set seed and re-build root reserves.

Drought Management Actions

In order to allow for a rapid response to drought conditions for alleviating the effects of authorized livestock grazing on natural resources that are at risk of being adversely affected within the Gypsum Valleys Allotment the following management actions may be implemented:

1. Temporary partial or complete closure of the allotment from livestock grazing.
2. Temporary reduction in livestock numbers and/or grazing duration within the allotment.
3. Temporary change in season of use outside of the critical growth periods of the vegetation communities within the allotment.
4. Temporary water hauling to improve livestock distribution and/or areas where adequate forage exists within the allotment.

Range Improvement Maintenance

Continue to authorize maintenance of the existing authorized range improvements within this allotment. Maintenance activities may include but not limited to such actions as the following:

1. Cross country travel with earth moving equipment to periodically clean existing pit reservoirs.

2. Cross country travel along existing fence lines using rubber tired vehicles for hauling fence repair materials.
3. Stretching fence wire and pounding fence posts into the ground.
4. Using heavy equipment to clean or replace existing cattle guards.

Desired Future Allotment Conditions

1. Within 10-years increase the amount of native perennial cool season bunchgrass and palatable shrub species relative to ecological site potential(s).

2. Within 10-years maintain or increase the frequency of occurrence of all native perennial bunchgrass species relative to ecological site potential(s).

3. Within 10-years increase the amount of litter and decrease the amount of bare ground relative to climatic conditions (drought) and ecological site potential(s).

4. Within 10-years increase the presence of key forage species for both livestock and wildlife relative to ecological site potential(s).

Long-Term Allotment Specific Objectives

1. Within 10-years increase the measurable amount of cool season perennial grass species by ≥ 20% on existing long-term trend transects for those that currently have cool season perennial bunchgrass species present and/or increase in cover class on the functional/structural group worksheets within the allotment relative to ecological site potential.

2. Within 10-years maintain or increase the measurable amount of warm season perennial grass species by ≥ 20% on existing long-term trend transects relative to ecological site potential.

3. Within 10-years maintain or increase the cover of all perennial grass species on the allotment relative to ecological site potential at the existing long-term trend transect locations and/or the existing land health assessment points.

4. Within 10-years decrease the amount of measurable bare ground by ≥ 10% on the allotment relative to ecological site potential at the existing long-term trend transect locations and/or the existing land health assessment points.

5. Maintain or improve the functional conditions of existing seeps and springs within the allotment. Specifically, improve the riparian functionality of the Silvey's Pocket Spring.

Monitoring and Assessment

AIM Monitoring – Over the next 10-year term of the grazing permit, establish baseline monitoring in accordance with the monitoring strategy outlined in the BLM's Assessment,

Inventory, and Monitoring (AIM) Strategy for Integrated Renewable Resource Management. At a minimum the new AIM monitoring protocol will be established and baseline monitoring data collected at existing long-term trend monitoring locations.

The AIM protocol collects information regarding 1) soil cover, including vegetation, litter amounts, rocks, biological crusts and vegetation height using line-point intercept methodology for data collection; 2) gap Intercept measurements to provide information on the size of gaps between plants; soil stability test; 3) plant species inventory; 4) photo points; and 5) soil identification through soil test pit(s).

Long-term trend transects – Long term trend will continue to be collected at the existing trend plot locations and will be re-read on a five year schedule. The following indicators will be monitored: frequency of plant species, ground cover and litter by category, bare ground and biological soil crusts.

Riparian PFC Assessments – PFC assessments will be conducted on Silvey's Pocket Spring.

Utilization Monitoring – Utilization monitoring information will be collected annually on the allotment as per the adaptive management section outlined above for this alternative.

As directed by the Rangeland Health Standards Handbook (H-4180-1), all monitoring information collected during the term of the proposed grazing permit will be used to complete a new land health assessment for determining whether or not rangeland health standards are being met or significant progress is being made towards their attainment for this allotment. Additional monitoring methods or data needs not identified above may be collected if determined necessary during the 10-year term of the grazing permit.

RATIONALE

1. Failing to Achieve Public Land Health Standards for Colorado

The Public Land Health Standards and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management in Colorado were approved by the Secretary of the Interior in 1997. These standards and guidelines were developed in partnership with the three Colorado Resource Advisory Councils, utilizing input received during numerous public workshops and meetings, consultations with academicians, and from public comment. These five standards include 1) upland soils; 2) riparian systems; 3) healthy, productive plant and animal communities; 4) special status, threatened and endangered species; and 5) water quality.

Monitoring and inventory information considered in determining if the five Public Land Health Standards are being achieved, making significant progress towards achieving, or not achieved include the 2006 rangeland health assessment, proper functioning conditions assessments for streams, seeps and springs, vegetation trend information, livestock utilization information and livestock actual grazing use information. Using these data, determinations if the Public Land Health Standards are being achieved or not achieved for the Gypsum Valleys Allotment were signed by the Tres Rios Field Officer Manager in June, 2015. Current livestock grazing was

identified as one of the causal factor for not achieving the Standard for upland soils and healthy, productive plant and animal communities. These determinations and their causal factor(s) are provided in Appendix H of the Environmental Assessment (EA).

2006 Rangeland Health Assessment – This assessment focused on ecological processes such as the water cycle, energy flow, and nutrient cycle. This assessment relies upon a suite of 18 indicators to gauge three attributes of rangeland health: 1) biotic integrity, 2) site-soil stability, and 3) hydrologic function. The indicators for each of the attributes can be found in Appendix C of the EA. For each attribute, site indicators were given a qualitative rating based upon departure from the Natural Resource Conservation Service's ecological site descriptions. These qualitative rating include: 1) none to slight; 2) slight to moderate; 3) moderate; 4) moderate to extreme; or 5) extreme. A moderate rating is analogous to an 'at risk' rating and indicates rangelands have a reversible loss in productive capability, but have increased vulnerability to irreversible degradation. A moderate to extreme or extreme rating indicates rangelands are less likely to have reversible loss in productive capability.

For the Gypsum Valleys Allotment more than half the rated acres fell within the "Moderate" or "Moderate to Extreme" rangeland health ratings for Soil and Site Stability and Hydrologic Function Attributes. In addition, more than half the rated acres fell within the "Moderate", "Moderate to Extreme" or "Extreme to Total" rangeland health ratings for healthy, productive plant communities. This places the majority of the acres within the allotment in the 'at risk' or 'beyond at risk' level, with recovery questionable without some changes to current grazing management.

It was determined that under current grazing management the 'at risk' category for this allotment would move towards an even more extreme degree of departure from site potential. As these sites are further degraded to conditions in the extreme categories, it is likely that these changes would be irreversible.

Vegetation Trend – There are eleven long-term trend monitoring location on the allotment that monitor species composition, number of plants present and amounts of ground cover. Two of the transects show a stable or stable to upward trend, one is stable but in such a degraded condition change is unlikely and seven show either a downward or stable to downward trend. A downward trend indicates a loss in the number of species or a significant change in the number of plants occurring on a monitoring transect.

Specifically, the long-term trend information combined with 2006 Rangeland Health Assessment indicates that there has been an overall decline in the amount of cool season perennial bunchgrasses on the allotment. These species are sensitive to grazing during the critical spring growing season at which time they are actively growing and trying to complete their lifecycle prior to soil moisture levels being depleted.

2. Fundamentals of Rangeland Health and Standards and Guidelines for Grazing Administration (43 CFR 4180)

In order to comply with the grazing regulations contained within 43 CFR 4180.2(c), which states in part ***"The authorized officer shall take appropriate action as soon as practicable but not later than the start of the next grazing year upon determining that existing grazing management practices or levels of grazing use on public lands are significant factors in failing to achieve the standards and conform with the guidelines that are made effective under this section…"*** the Tres Rios Field Office Manager is obliged to take appropriate action.

3. Appropriate Action

By implementing the Adaptive Management Alternative, it is anticipated that there will be improvements in rangeland health conditions on the allotment. These improvements in rangeland health conditions will make significant progress towards achieving the Public Land Health Standards for upland soils and healthy, productive plant and animal communities.

This alternative will reduce the current authorized grazing level from 1,807 AUMs to 1,761 AUMs. In addition, this alternative implements an intensive 3-year deferred rotational grazing system that will defer livestock grazing during the critical spring growing season on a consistent basis for all pastures.

Within the Big Gypsum Valley portion of the allotment there are six pastures. The grazing system will defer grazing use during the critical spring growing season in 2-3 of the six pastures every year. At the end of a 3-year rotation all pastures will have received at least one year rest from livestock grazing, and provide at least three years rest out of the 10-year term of the grazing permit during the critical spring growing season.

Within the Little Gypsum Valley portion of the allotment there are also six pastures. This grazing rotation will defer grazing during the critical spring growing season every year for two of the pastures and every other year for the remaining four pastures, and provide at least five years rest out of the 10-year term of the grazing permit during the critical spring growing season.

By reducing stocking levels and providing existing plant communities regular rest during the critical spring growing season, plant communities will have the opportunity to regularly complete their lifecycles, produce seed, and rebuild root reserves without the pressure from livestock grazing. In addition, the amount of litter accumulation should improve and the amount of bare ground should decrease to what is expected based on site potential.

The adaptive management portion of this alternative establishes utilization limits of either 30% or 40% by pasture on both herbaceous and shrub forage species depending on the existing ecological conditions of the respective pasture. If monitoring indicates that the established utilization levels have been exceeded two or more years in the same pasture over a five year period, the amount of grazing time in that pasture would be reduced proportionally to the amount in which utilization levels were exceeded. The intent of this adaptive management action is to allow for adjustments in grazing levels, in order to reduce the potential of desirable cool season

perennial bunchgrasses and other desirable perennial grass and shrub species from repeatedly receiving excessive use levels during the 10-year term of the grazing permit.

The adaptive management portion of this alternative also established measureable short-term monitoring objectives within the allotment for 1) increasing the amount of desirable cool season perennial bunchgrasses, and 2) maintaining or increasing the amount of warm season perennial grass species. If after five years from issuance of the term grazing permit trend monitoring indicates that there has not been a significant increase in desired cool season perennial grass species or a decline in warm season perennial grass species, further adjustments to livestock grazing as identified in this alternative may be implemented. The intent of this action is to determine whether or not the changes initially implemented are making progress towards improving the ecological conditions of the allotment, and whether or not additional modifications in livestock grazing management are needed.

In addition, this alternative identifies a suite of temporary livestock management actions that may be implemented to mitigate impacts during drought conditions.

This alternative also establishes desired future conditions, specific long-term measurable objectives and additional monitoring efforts for this allotment. The specific long-term objectives will allow for determination as to whether or not grazing management is making progress towards the desired future conditions for the allotment.

AUTHORITY

Authority for the actions described above in the proposed decision is found in 43 CFR Parts 4100.0-8, 4110.2-2, 4110.3, 4110.3-2, 4110.3-3, 4130.3, 4130.3-1, 4130.3-2, 4130.3-3, 4160.1, 4160.3 and 4180.2.

RIGHTS OF PROTEST AND/OR APPEAL

Any applicant, permittee, lessee, or other interested public may protest this proposed decision within 15 days following its receipt in accordance with 43 CFR 4160.2. The protest may be submitted in person or in writing to the Tres Rios Field Office Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Tres Rios Field Office, 29211 Highway 184, Dolores, CO, 81323.

In the event that this proposed decision becomes the final decision without further notice, any applicant, permittee, lessee, or other person whose interest is adversely affected by the final BLM grazing decision may file an appeal for the purpose of a hearing before an administrative law judge in accordance with 43 CFR 4160.3(c), 4160.4, 4.21, and 4.470. The appeal must be filed within 30-days following receipt of the final decision or 30 days after the date the proposed decision becomes final. The appeal should state the reasons, clearly and concisely, why the appellant thinks the final BLM grazing decision is in error. A petition for a stay of the decision pending final determination of the appeal by the administrative law judge may also be submitted during this same 30-day time period. The appeal, or the appeal and petition for stay, must be in writing and delivered in person, via the United States Postal Service mail system, or other common carrier, to the Tres Rios Field Office as noted above. The person/party must also serve

a copy of the appeal on any person named [43 CFR 4.421(h)] in the decision and the Office of the Solicitor, 755 Parfet St., Suite 151, Lakewood, CO 80215. The BLM does not accept appeals by facsimile or email.

Should you wish to file a petition for a stay in accordance with 43 CFR Section 4.471(c), the appellant shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

1. The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied;
2. The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits;
3. The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted, and
4. Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

Within 15 days of filing the appeal, or the appeal and petition for stay, with the BLM officer named above, the appellant must serve copies to any other person named in this decision and on the Office of the Regional Solicitor located at 755 Parfet, St., Suite 151, Lakewood, CO 80215, in accordance with 43 CFR 4.470(a) and 4.471(b).

Connie Clementson, Field Office Manager

1-11-16
Date

Attachement(s):

1. Grazing Management Design Criteria
2. 3-year Livestock Grazing Rotation

GRAZING MANAGEMENT DESIGN CRITERIA
Gypsum Valleys Allotment
DOI-BLM-CO-S010-2012-0034

1. Big Gypsum Valley would use a six pasture deferred rotation system. Pastures would be grazed in a different order each year, to improve plant vigor. Rest would occur during the critical growth period (3/1-5/31) at least once every three years for each pasture.

2. Little Gypsum Valley would use a six pasture rotation system. Pastures would be grazed in a different order each year, with a few stipulations proposed by Larry Suckla:

    a. Coyote Wash and Silvey's pocket pastures should be grazed first each year. This is due to their inaccessibility later in the year.
    b. Coyote Wash can be grazed for ten days each year, even when Silvey's Pocket is unavailable due to lack of water. Livestock operators may not find it worthwhile to trail cattle from the Raven pasture to Coyote Wash for ten days of grazing.
    c. Magpie and River Pastures must always be grazed last. This is due to difficulty in trailing cattle with young calves across the Dolores River, during spring run-off.
    d. During dry years, allow the Little Gypsum herd to use either East or West Lavender pasture. These are small, primarily private land pastures located in Big Gypsum Valley.
    e. Enter the Little Gypsum portion as late as December 1, on years when the permittee has the flexibility to do so. On years when this is possible, days grazed would be reduced in each pasture to lessen grazing effects.

3. The pasture rotation schedule described above and contained in Appendix D of the EA would serve as a guideline. The grazing permittee and the BLM will meet annually to establish each season's pasture rotation schedule. Even after the grazing season begins, the rotation schedule could still be modified based on environmental conditions. Any modifications will be in coordination with the BLM and must be approved by the authorized officer.

4. All proposed grazing rotations are deferred rotation systems. Spring Deferment may equal season long rest on some years.

5. If one or more pastures are unavailable because of lack of water, and the grazing permittee cannot haul adequate livestock water into that pasture, then the pasture would be taken out of the rotation for that year and the cattle would leave the allotment early, rather than make up those lost grazing days in other pastures.

6. Use existing roads for water hauling, placing supplemental feed (truck access) and chopping ice (ATV access). Authorization to maintain specific segments of these BLM roads would be documented via approval of a Cooperative Agreement for Rangeland Improvements, which would not be issued until after site specific cultural resource inventory and clearance was conducted. No new NEPA analysis would be necessary prior to authorizing maintenance of existing BLM system roads. Use of existing roads,

whether casual or BLM system roads, where no additional maintenance is needed and no resource damage would result, would not require this specific authorization. See Appendix E contained in the EA for a display of motorized access routes used for livestock operations. The authorization for use of the existing roads identified in Appendix E may be modified or eliminated upon completion of the Tres Rios Field Office, BLM travel management planning process and subsequent decision.

7. The placement of salt blocks, supplemental feed, temporary water tanks, holding pens or other facilities on public lands requires prior authorization from BLM. Proposed locations should be flagged prior to seeking authorization. All archaeological or historic sites or conflicts with T&E species must be avoided. All water tanks will be required to be equipped with a wildlife escape ramp. No structures or other facilities (reservoirs, springs, corrals, roads, etc.) may be maintained on public lands, unless authorized under an existing Range Improvement Permit or Cooperative Agreement from the BLM. This written authorization must be on-site when the work is being performed.

8. Occasionally cross-country travel by ATV or other vehicles may be needed to place supplements or transport materials for fence maintenance. In these circumstances the BLM will approve the location and timing prior to use.

9. If it is determined through monitoring that authorized grazing use by livestock is damaging exiting cultural sites within the allotment then appropriate mitigation measures will be developed and implemented in order to address the effects. If appropriate mitigation measure cannot be implemented and continued livestock use is jeopardizing cultural resources on public lands within the allotment, the grazing permit may be modified or canceled in whole or in part to address the effects.

10. If archaeological or historic artifacts (for example structures or burials) are discovered by the permittee or their representatives during the course of allotment operations, the BLM will be notified as soon as possible so that further deterioration and resource loss can be prevented.

11. The operator is responsible for informing all persons associated with their livestock operation that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing Native American Indian shrines, historic and prehistoric archaeology sites, or for collecting artifacts of any kind, including historic items and/or arrowheads and pottery fragments from Federal lands.

12. In both weed-infested and relatively weed-free pastures, pasture rotations shall be timed if possible to prevent livestock movement from infested to non-infested pastures after weed seed set.

13. To help prevent the establishment of noxious weed infestations, all heavy equipment (including motor graders, bulldozers, backhoes, and trenchers) used in the construction or maintenance of public land range improvements shall be pressure washed at an offsite location prior to entering public lands. Pickup trucks and passenger vehicles are not

subject to this requirement. If heavy equipment is removed from a project area, it shall again be pressure washed at an offsite location prior to re-entering the project area. In areas of heavy weed infestations, equipment shall also be cleaned prior to moving from the area. Any gravel or fill imported onto BLM lands must come from sources approved by the BLM.

14. If livestock are to be placed on a BLM grazing allotment following the use of areas with heavy weed infestations, the livestock will be quarantined and fed only weed-free feed for 24 hours prior to entering the allotment.

15. Conduct survey for cultural resources, rare plants, lichens or associated biologic crust communities prior to issuing authorization for: 1) any new structural range improvement or new maintenance authorizations for existing structures; or 2) prior to authorizing the placement of supplemental feed or temporary drinking troughs for hauled livestock water. This would be done to ensure that cultural resources, the aforementioned plant occurrences or their potential habitat would not suffer direct or indirect effects from livestock grazing.

16. Exiting range improvements (i.e. stock ponds, fences etc.) within the allotment that are not currently authorized under a cooperative range improvement agreement will be assessed in order to determine if they are needed for proper grazing management activities. If it is determined that authorization of the improvement(s) are necessary for proper livestock management, then the appropriate clearances and/or surveys will be completed and if feasible the improvement(s) will be authorized under a cooperative agreement with the existing permittee. Any authorization(s) issued will allow for appropriate maintenance activities.

17. Existing range improvements such as old retention dams, dikes, soil contouring, and seeding areas determined to not be functioning or necessary for livestock management will be abandoned and removed from any existing cooperative agreements.

18. No motorized vehicles (OHVs such as ATVs, motorcycles, UTVs, and/or full size vehicles) may be used to monitor, move, or 'check-on,' livestock within any Wilderness Study Area (WSA). The following pastures of the Gypsum Valleys Allotment all contain parts of the Dolores River Canyon WSA: Coyote Wash, Silvey's Pocket, Raven, Bullington, and River.

19. Coordinate with the Utah, BLM to address any unauthorized grazing use in the Coyote Wash Pasture.

20. If riparian proper functioning assessments (PFC) or other riparian monitoring data collected indicates that sensitive aquatic and/or riparian systems are being negatively impacted by current livestock grazing, then grazing management practices will be modified.

21. The operator is responsible for informing all persons associated with their livestock operation that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly harming, taking or harassing a Threatened, Endangered or candidate species; as listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. If a known listed or candidate species is discovered within the allotment at any time, the BLM field office is to be notified immediately.

22. Any existing Allotment Management Plans (AMPs) will be superseded and replaced by the final grazing permit decision resulting from this analysis.

PASTURE ROTATION SCHEDULE
Gypsum Valleys Allotment

PERMITTEE	YEAR	PASTURE	GRAZING PERIOD	DAYS
Jimmy Suckla	Year 1	Hughes Gyp	11/1 – 11/30	30
		East Lavender	12/1 – 12/30	30
		West Lavender	12/31 – 1/19	20
		Carnation	1/20 – 3/13	53
		Gyp Gap	3/14 – 5/12	60
		Dunham	5/13 – 5/31	19
	Year 2	Dunham	11/1 – 11/19	19
		Gyp Gap	11/20 – 1/17	60
		Carnation	1/18 – 3/11	53
		West Lavender	3/12 – 3/31	20
		East Lavender	4/1 – 4/30	30
		Hughes Gyp	5/1 – 5/31	30
	Year 3	Carnation	11/1 – 12/23	53
		Gyp Gap	12/24 – 2/21	60
		West Lavender	2/22 – 3/14	20
		East Lavender	3/15 – 4/14	30
		Hughes Gyp	4/15 – 5/14	30
		Dunham	5/15 – 5/31	19
	Year 4	Hughes Gyp	11/1 – 11/30	30
		East Lavender	12/1 – 12/30	30
		West Lavender	12/31 – 1/19	20
		Carnation	1/20 – 3/13	53
		Gyp Gap	3/14 – 5/12	60
		Dunham	5/13 – 5/31	19

PERMITTEE	YEAR	PASTURE	GRAZING PERIOD	DAYS
Larry Suckla	Year 1	Silvey's Pocket/Coyote Wash	11/1 – 12/10	40
		Magpie	12/11 – 1/31	52
		Raven	2/1 – 2/28	28
		Bullington	3/1 – 3/31	31
		River	4/1 – 5/31	61
	Year 2	Silvey's Pocket/Coyote Wash	11/1 – 12/10	40
		River	12/11 – 1/31	52
		Bullington	2/1 – 2/28	28
		Raven	3/1 – 3/31	31
		Magpie	4/1 – 5/31	61
	Year 3	Silvey's Pocket/Coyote Wash	11/1 – 12/10	40
		Magpie	12/11 – 1/31	52
		Raven	2/1 – 2/28	28
		Bullington	3/1 – 3/31	31
		River	4/1 – 5/31	61
	Year 4	Silvey's Pocket/Coyote Wash	11/1 – 12/10	40
		River	12/11 – 1/31	52
		Bullington	2/1 – 2/28	28
		Raven	3/1 – 3/31	31
		Magpie	4/1 – 5/31	61