

**United States Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management**

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**Determination of NEPA Adequacy  
DOI-BLM-CO-S010-2013-0039-DNA**

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**July, 2013**

**Indian Valley Allotment Fence**

***Location:***

Indian Valley Allotment; T42N R17W Section 42

***Applicant/Address: Slickrock Grazing Assoc.,LLC  
C/O David James  
33790 Highway 550  
Durango, CO 81301***

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## Determination of NEPA Adequacy

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Tres Rios Field Office

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OFFICE: Tres Rios Field Office

TRACKING NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-SO10-2013-0039-DNA

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-SO10-2013-0039-DNA

PROPOSED ACTION TITLE/TYPE: Indian Valley Allotment Fence

LOCATION/LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T42N R17W Section 24

APPLICANT (if any): Slickrock Grazing Association., LLC

### **A. Description of the Proposed Action and Any Applicable Mitigation Measures**

The objective of this project is to maintain the allotment boundary between the Indian Valley allotment and the Disappointment Creek allotment. Each allotment is categorized as an "I" (Improved) priority management designation. Due to a fire passing through the area a few years ago the forage became more usable and the natural topographic boundary was no longer serving as an adequate barrier to ensure that cattle did not cross from each allotment.

The proposed action is to install a drift fence that would complete a barrier and essentially tie into the existing topographic features providing the necessary barrier to maintain the allotment boundary. Located T42N R17W Section 42. Please see the attached "Planned Indian Valley Allotment Fence" map. The proposed fence is approximately 800 feet in length and will be constructed to meet wildlife friendly standards. The permittee proposed labor for their in kind contribution while the fence materials will be provided via 8100 BLM funds.

This fence will also serve as an improvement structure that will ensure the allotments are stocked at their permitted use. Therefore alleviating any additional pressure to vegetation and will assist in sustaining critical wildlife habitat for elk and deer. This was identified as a plan of action in the Programmatic Environmental Assessment (CO-800-2005-074).

All cultural, vegetation, and wildlife clearances have been completed.

## **B. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance**

The proposed action is subject to the following Land Use Plan (LUP) and associated decision:

Name of Plan: *San Juan/ San Miguel Planning Area Resource Management plan (RMP)*

Date Approved: 1985, as amended

Decision Name/Page/Language: LIVESTOCK GRAZING MANAGEMENT, Range Improvements Page 6:

Typical range improvements and the general procedures to be followed in implementing them are described in Appendix Nine-F in the Draft RMP. The extent, location, and timing of such actions will be based on the allotment-specific management objectives adopted through the AMP process, interdisciplinary development and review of proposed actions, contributions from operators and others, and BLM funding capability.

The proposed action does not conflict with any of the Land Use Plan Decisions in the San Juan/ San Miguel RMP.

## **C. Identify the applicable National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents and other related documents that cover the proposed action.**

Wildlife habitat Improvement Projects- Programmatic Environmental Assessment- CO- 800-2005-074

## **D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria**

**1. Is the new proposed action a feature of, or essentially similar to, an alternative analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? Is the project within the same analysis area, or if the project location is different, are the geographic and resource conditions sufficiently similar to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? If there are differences, can you explain why they are not substantial?**

Yes, the proposed action is identified within the Programmatic Environmental Assessment (EA). It is within the analysis area identified within that document. Identified impacts of fencing to implement proper livestock grazing is authorized and is within the guidelines of big game management. Please view pages 50-52 within the Grazing Management section.

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

Yes, the range of alternatives analyzed in the programmatic EA is appropriate. The EA analyzed a no action alternative and a proposed action with design features. These alternatives are appropriate for the proposed Indian Valley Allotment Fence.

**3. Is existing analysis adequate in light of any new information or circumstances (such as, rangeland health standards assessment; recent endangered species listings, updated list of BLM sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that new information and new circumstances would not substantially change the analysis of the new proposed action?**

Yes, there is no new information or circumstances that substantially change the analysis for this proposed project. There have been no changes to existing resource plans, policies, or programs; or new legal requirements such as statutes, case law, or regulations since the existing EA was prepared.

**4. Are the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects that would result from implementation of the new proposed action similar (both quantitatively and qualitatively) to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document?**

Yes, the direct, indirect and cumulative impacts of the current proposed action are similar to those analyzed in the existing EA.

**5. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current proposed action?**

Yes, the existing EA was prepared with the input of the Colorado Division of Wildlife (now Colorado Parks and Wildlife) and local wildlife habitat working groups, the EA was released to the public including several individuals who expressed interest.

**E. Persons/Agencies/BLM Staff Consulted:**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Resource Represented</u>
Nate West	Supervisory Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife
Julie Bell	Archaeologist	Archaeology
Dayle Funka	Rangeland Management Specialist	Range
Tom Rice	Assistant Field Manager	Natural Resources/ NEPA

Note: Refer to the EA/EIS for a complete list of the team members participating in the preparation of the original environmental analysis or planning documents.

Wildlife Habitat Improvement Projects- Programmatic Environmental Assessment- CO-800-2005-074

**Project Lead:** Dayle Funka

**NEPA Coordinator:** Christina Reed

**CONCLUSION** *(If you found that one or more of these criteria is not met, then you cannot conclude that the NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action).*

Plan Conformance:

- This proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan.
- This proposal does not conform to the applicable land use plan

Determination of NEPA Adequacy

- 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 the NEPA.
- The existing NEPA documentation does not fully cover the proposed action. Additional NEPA documentation is needed if the project is to be further considered.



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Signature of the Responsible Official

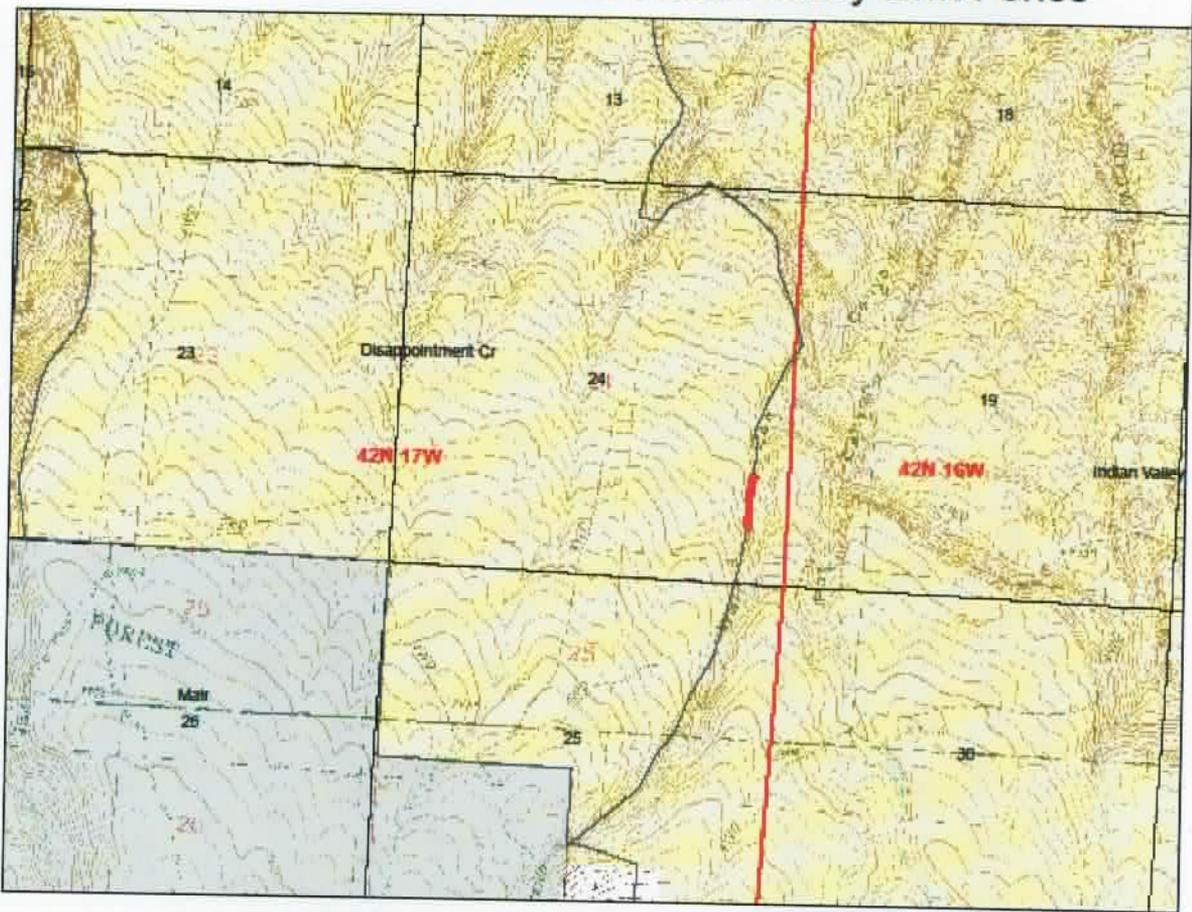
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\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Note:** The signed Conclusion on this Worksheet is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal decision process and does not constitute an appealable decision. However, the lease, permit, or other authorization based on this DNA is subject to protest or appeal under 43 CFR Part 4 and the program-specific regulations.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

### Planned Indian Valley Drift Fence



No Warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.



**Legend**

- Proposed Fence\_6\_13\_12
- Allotments
- Township & Range
- Sections
- Bureau of Land Management
- National Park Service
- Other Federal
- Private
- State
- State, County, City, Areas
- US Forest Service