

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
San Luis Valley Field Office
46525 Highway 114
Saguache, CO 81212**

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-F03-2014-0012 CX

PROJECT NAME: Range – Grazing Permit Transfer for Bishop Rock #14406 and Turquoise Gulch #24510 Allotments.

PLANNING UNIT: Southern Rio Grande Basin of the Great Plains-Palouse Dry Steppe.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

Bishop Rock Allotment

T 38 N, R 7 E, sections 7-11, 15, 17-22, 28-35, T 38 N, R 6 E sections 12-15, 22-27, 34-36, T 37 N, R 7 E sections 2-6 and T 37 N, R 6 E, sections 1-3, 11, 12. Rio Grande County

Turquoise Gulch Allotment

T47N, R8E, sections 13, 14, 24; T47N, R9E, sections 17 through 20, 28, 29, 31, 32. Saguache County

APPLICANT:

Shane Johnson – Bishop Rock Allotment

Chris Burns – Turquoise Gulch Allotment

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION

The action is to transfer the existing grazing permit from a previous permittee to a new permittee based on change of ownership or control of the base property. The new permit will contain the same grazing schedule and terms of the previous permit. The term of the new permit will be for the remaining time of the previous permit. The new permit is issued under the authority of Section 411 which states: “The new permit is issued under the authority of Section 411, PL 113-76 as a result of a transfer of grazing preference and contains the same terms and conditions as the previous permit. This permit may be cancelled, suspended, or modified, in whole or in part to meet the requirements of applicable laws and regulations.”

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW:

Name of Plan: SLA Resource Management Plan

Date Approved: 12/18/1991

Decision Number:

Decision Language:

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW: This proposed action is listed as a Categorical Exclusion in DOI Departmental Manual Part 516 Chapter 11 _(). 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

INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM REVIEW			
NAME	TITLE	AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY	Initials/date
Alyssa Radcliff	Wildlife Biologist	Terrestrial Wildlife, T&E, Migratory Birds, Fisheries, Invasive Plants	ANR 4/28/14
Jeff Williams, Melissa Shawcroft	Range Management Spec.	Range, Vegetation, Farmland	JW, 4/24/14
Sue Swift- Miller/Jill Lucero	Wildlife Biologist	Wetlands/Fisheries	JRL 5/28/2014
Eduardo Duran	NRS	Riparian, T&E species	END, 5/20/2014
Andrew Archuleta	Physical Scientist	Minerals, Paleontology, Waste Hazardous or Solid	ASA 6/3/14
Negussie Tedela	Hydrologist	Hydrology, Water Quality/Rights, Soils, Air Quality	NT 05/14/2014
Leon Montoya Sean Hines	Cadastral Surveyor	Cadastral Survey	LM 4/28/2014
Sean Noonan	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Recreation, Wilderness, LWCs, Visual, ACEC, W&S Rivers,	STN, 4/25/14
Martin Weimer	NEPA Coordinator	Environmental Justice, Noise, SocioEconomics	mw, 5/28/14
Jeff Brown	Archaeologist	Cultural, Native American	JGB 5/15/2014
Leon Montoya	Realty Specialist	Realty	LM 4/28/2014
Brian Garcia	LEO	Law Enforcement	n/a

REMARKS: None

COMPLIANCE PLAN (optional):

NAME OF PREPARER: Jeff Williams

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: /s/ Martin Weimer

DATE: 5/28/14

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/ Andrew Archulta
Andrew Archuleta, Field Manager

DATE SIGNED: 6/3/14