

Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)

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

OFFICE: San Luis Valley Field Office

PROJECT NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-300-2013-0010-DNA

CASEFILE: GR-0505007

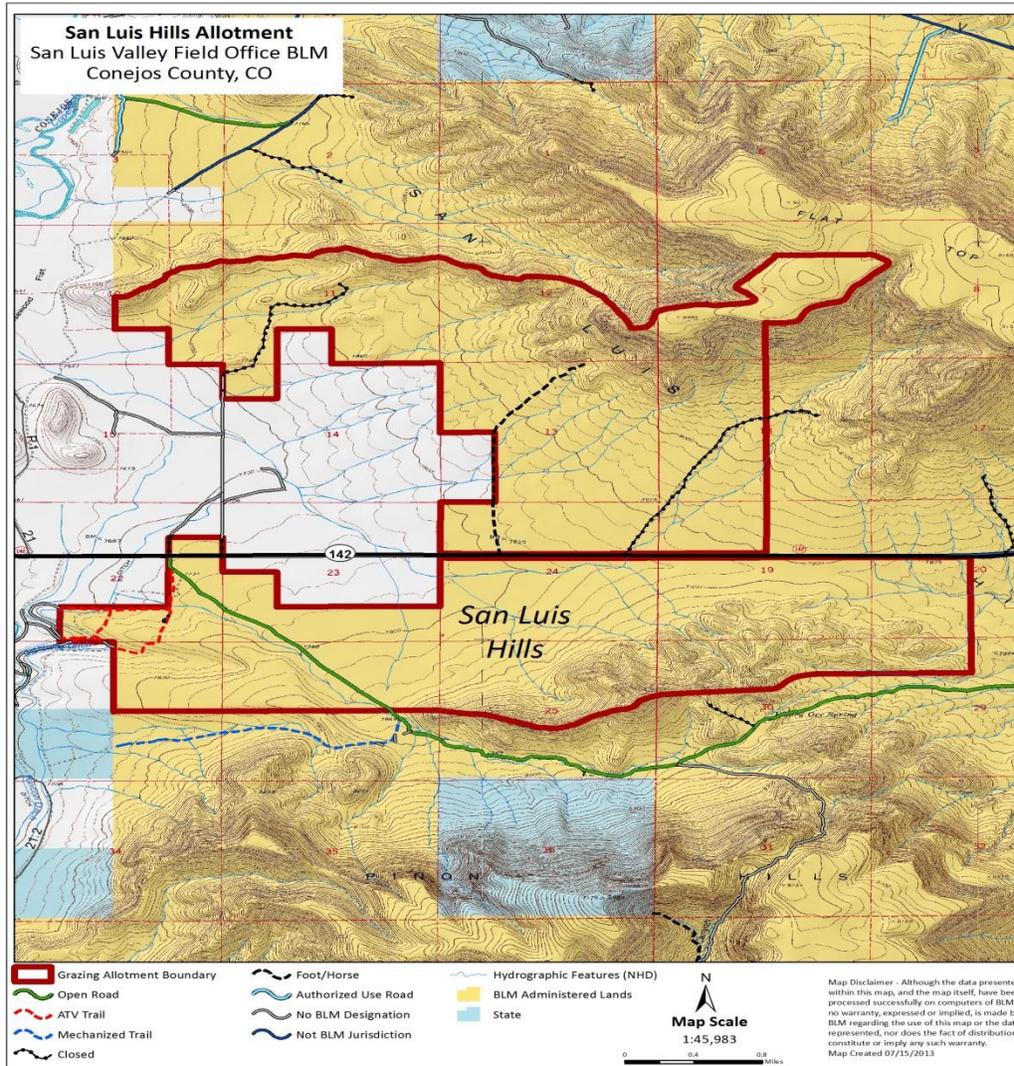
PROPOSED ACTION TITLE/TYPE: Range – Grazing Permit Renewal for the San Luis Hills allotment #04252

LOCATION/LEGAL DESCRIPTION: BLM lands in Conejos County, San Luis Hills allotment: T34N, R10E, S. 10, 11, 12, 13 & 24; T34N, R11E, Sec. 7, 18, & 19

A. Description of the Proposed Action and any applicable mitigation measures

The proposed action is to renew the authorization (permit) to graze livestock on public lands included in the San Luis Hills Allotment. The permit would be issued for ten years as was previously done. Grazing use on the allotment will remain as previously scheduled. There will be no changes in livestock numbers, grazing dates, animal unit months (aums), or the terms and conditions on the grazing permit.

As per CFR 4130.3-3 the authorized officer may modify the grazing schedule, terms and conditions of the permits at any time during the term when the active use or related management practices are not meeting the land use plan, allotment management plan, activity plan, or management objectives.



B. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance

LUP Name SLA Resource Management Plan	Date Approved 12/18/1991
Other Document	Date Approved
Other Document	Date Approved

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decisions:

The proposed action is in conformance with the LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decisions (objectives, terms, and conditions):

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

List by name and date all applicable NEPA documents that cover the proposed action.

Term Permit Renewal for the San Luis Hills allotment CO-501-04-002-EA

List by name and date other documentation relevant to the proposed action (e.g., biological assessment, biological opinion, watershed assessment, allotment evaluation, and monitoring report).

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 previous EA analyzed grazing use and permit renewal for the same allotment. The Proposed Action is substantially the same action and at the same site specifically analyzed in the existing NEPA document. Grazing use on the allotment will remain as previously scheduled. There will be no changes in livestock numbers, grazing dates, animal use months (aums), nor the terms and conditions of the permit.

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

Yes. The RMP and San Luis Hills TPR EA considered a range of alternatives. The RMP consisted of the existing management alternative, the natural resource enhancement alternative, and the preferred alternative. The existing San Luis Hills EA continues to be appropriate for permit renewal for current conditions. The EA included and analyzed a proposed action alternative, a current grazing management alternative and an alternative which modified the current grazing to exclude the allotment rest every three years. No new environmental conditions or changes in resource values have arisen that would invalidate those alternatives analyzed.

3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances (such as, rangeland health standard assessment, recent endangered species listings, updated lists 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?

The information and circumstances surrounding the grazing permit in this renewal are unchanged from the previous analysis. No new evidence or circumstances have arisen that would change the analysis.

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. There are no negative direct or indirect impacts associated with the proposed action. The impacts analyzed in the permit renewal EA for the San Luis Hills allotment remain unchanged.

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

Yes. Public scoping was conducted for the previous NEPA analysis. A pre-DNA was circulated thought out the interagency Interdisciplinary Team for review at this time and no new issues were brought forward as a result of this scoping.

E. Persons/Agencies /BLM Staff Consulted

INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM REVIEW			
NAME	TITLE	AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY	Initials/date
Alyssa Radcliff	Wildlife Biologist	Terrestrial Wildlife, T&E, Migratory Birds, Fisheries	AR 7/22/2013
Melissa Shawcroft	Range Management Spec.	Range, Vegetation	MS 8/2/2013
Eduardo Duran	NRS	Riparian, T&E species, Farmland	END 9/23/13
Andrew Archuleta	Physical Scientist	Minerals, Paleontology, Waste Hazardous or Solid	AsA 9/23/13
Negussie Tedela	Hydrologist	Hydrology, Water Quality/Rights, Soils, Air Quality	NT 7/22/2013
Sean Noonan	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Recreation, Wilderness, LWCs, Visual, ACEC, W&S Rivers,	SN 8/2/2013
Alyssa Radcliff	Invasive Plants Coordinator	Invasive Plants	AR 7/22/2013
Martin Weimer	NEPA Coordinator	Environmental Justice, Noise, SocioEconomics	mw, 9/13/13
Jeff Brown	Archaeologist	Cultural, Native American	JGB 9/17/2013
Leon Montoya	Realty Specialist	Realty	LM 07/15/2013

Other Agency Represented:

REMARKS:

MITIGATION:

CONCLUSION

DOI-BLM-CO-200-2013-0010 DNA

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.

SIGNATURE OF PROJECT LEAD: Melissa Shawcroft

SIGNATURE OF NEPA COORDINATOR: /s/ Martin Weimer

SIGNATURE OF THE RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL: /s/ Andrew Archuleta
Andrew Archuleta Field Manager

DATE: 9/23/13

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.