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

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**Categorical Exclusion**
**DOI-BLM-CO-SO50-2014-0019 CX**

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**May 2014**

## TL Bar Ranch Grazing Preference Transfer

***Location:*** *Norwood, Colorado*

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**U.S. Department of the Interior**
**Bureau of Land Management**
**Uncompahgre Field Office**
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BLM

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# CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-S050-2014-0019 CX

PROJECT NAME: TL Bar Ranch Grazing Preference Transfer

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T. 44 N. R. 12. W. sec. 31-33, T. 43 N. R. 12. W. sec. 4-9 & 18-19

APPLICANT: T.L. Bar Ranch Partnership, L.L.L.P

BACKGROUND:
Grazing on Little Baldy allotment #07223 has been permitted to Mario Zadra since the 1970's. Mr. Zadra died in 2013, and the BLM discovered that the base property which allows grazing preference on Little Baldy allotment had changed ownership from his personal name to his family partnership, called T. L. Bar Ranch, L.L.L.P. (T.L. Bar Ranch). T.L. Bar Ranch has submitted a Grazing Preference Transfer Application to BLM to have grazing preference transferred from Mario Zadra's name to their name.

The transfer of grazing preference is considered administrative in nature and serves to transfer livestock grazing privileges, with the same class of livestock and forage allocation, from one grazing preference holder to another. Approval of grazing preference transfers are outlined in 43 CFR 4110.2-1(d) and 4110.2-3.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION:
The proposed action is to transfer grazing preference from Mario Zadra to T.L. Bar Ranch, L.L.L.P. This grazing preference transfer is the result of a change in the ownership of the base property associated with the allotment. TL Bar Ranch is a qualified applicant.

The grazing allotment involved and the associated grazing preference and season of use are summarized in the table below. The proposed action is compliant with 43 CFR 4110.2-1(d) and 4110.2-3.

| Allotment Name & No. | Percent Public Land | Active AUM's | Suspended AUM's | Permitted AUM's | Permitted Season of Use |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Little Baldy No. 07223 | 20 | 100 | 0 | 100 | 5/16 – 7/15 |
| | | 75 | 0 | 75 | 10/1 – 11/14 |

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW: The Proposed Action is subject to and has been reviewed for conformance with (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM 1617.3) the following plan:

Name of Plan: San Juan-San Miguel Resource Management Plan

Date Approved: September 5, 1985

Decision Number/Page: Page 26

Decision Language: The San Juan-San Miguel RMP management guidance states "Management direction will emphasize increasing forage and livestock production on a sustained yield basis. Emphasis is upon increasing forage, red meat and animal fiber production ..."

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW: The proposed action qualifies as a Categorical Exclusion under 516 DM 11.9, Number D.1, which allows "approval of transfers of grazing preference". This is the administrative approval of grazing preference transfer applications.

None of the following exceptions in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2, apply.

| Exclusion | YES | NO |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Have significant adverse effects on public health and safety. | ____ | X |
| 2. Have adverse effects on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness areas; 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. Be directly related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects. | ____ | X |
| 7. Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places. | ____ | X |
| 8. Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have adverse effects on designated Critical Habitat for these species. | ____ | ____ |
| 9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment. | ____ | X |

10. Have disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations. ____ X
11. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites by Indian religious practitioners or 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 REVIEW:

| Name | Title |
|---|---|
| Glade Hadden | Archeologist |
| Missy Siders | Wildlife and T&E Biologist |

REMARKS:

Cultural Resources: Transfer of grazing preference will have no direct or indirect impact to any National Register or otherwise eligible historic properties. No inventory is required under the provisions of BLM 2110.23B4 and no further work is required.

Native American Religious Concerns: There are none known or anticipated for this action.

Threatened and Endangered Species: Transfer of grazing preference will have no direct or indirect impact. The Little Baldy Allotment contains 574.7 acres (17% of allotment) of Proposed Critical Habitat for the Gunnison Sage Grouse (Proposed Endangered), and contains 1948.6 acres (59% of allotment) of priority nesting habitat (within 2 miles of active leks). This action is an administrative action to transfer base property on the permit.

NAME OF PREPARER: Angela LoSasso

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Bruce Krickbaum

DATE: May 6, 2014

DECISION AND RATIONALE:
I have reviewed this Categorical Exclusion and have decided to approve the administrative transfer of grazing preference from Mario Zadra to T.L. Bar Ranch, L.L.L.P.

There are no impacts to public land since the transfer action only results in a transfer of grazing preference. The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under

the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9, Section: D, Range Management, Number 1, which allows "approval of transfers of grazing preference". I have evaluated the action relative to the 12 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: Barbara Sharrow

Barbara Sharrow
Field Manager
Uncompahgre Field Office

DATE SIGNED: 5-9-14