

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
White River Field Office
220 E Market St
Meeker, CO 81641

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-110-2010-0103-EA

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER:

PROJECT NAME: Slash EV Pasture Boundary Fence

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T 2S, R 97W Sec 22, SESW

APPLICANT: Slash EV Ranch

ISSUES AND CONCERNS (optional):

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES:

Background/Introduction: Slash EV Ranch has applied for construction of a fence along the northeast border of the Big Jimmy pasture of the Slash EV allotment (06023). This fence would replace the existing fence which served as the pasture boundary fence located to the south and west of the proposed fence. The existing fence was destroyed by construction of a natural gas well pad and did not follow the actual pasture or allotment boundary.

Proposed Action: The Proposed Action is for the permittee to construct approximately ¼ mile of 4-strand type D barb-wire fence in order to confine cattle to the hay meadows during the winter and spring (November through mid May). Minimal clearing will be necessary as an existing jeep trail will be used for the fenceline right-of-way. There will be very limited earthen disturbance which will be associated with digging post holes to set wood posts for H braces. The proposed fence would enclose about seven acres of BLM, approximately 90% of which is a hay meadow. Design features of the Proposed Action include: no clearing of the right-of-way by a caterpillar tractor and any areas of earthen disturbance will be revegetated using Native Seed Mix #3.

No Action Alternative:

The No Action Alternative would be to not permit fence construction and thereby maintain the existing situation.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT NOT CARRIED FORWARD

Construction of Fence Along Lines of Land Ownership: Under this alternative the applicant would need to install approximately 1,500 feet of 4-strand type D barbwire fence to exclude cattle use on BLM administered lands beyond the fence line. This alternative would require vegetation clearing along the entire route. The BLM did not pursue this alternative since it does not follow the existing grazing permit boundary for the Slash EV Allotment (number 06023) and due to the increased cost and disturbance associated with the proposal.

NEED FOR THE ACTION: The purpose of the action is to construct a fence to control livestock. The need for the action is that grazing schedule that was developed for the Slash EV allotment cannot be followed if livestock are allowed to roam freely between the private hay meadow and the Big Jimmy pasture. The BLM will decide whether or not to allow construction of the fence, and under what conditions.

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

Name of Plan: White River Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (ROD/RMP).

Date Approved: July 1, 1997

The Proposed Action is in conformance with the LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decision:

Decision Number/Page: Page 2-25

Decision Language: "Rangeland improvements will be identified in activity plans. Range improvements are necessary to control livestock use and improve rangeland condition."

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT / ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES / MITIGATION MEASURES

STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC LAND HEALTH: In January 1997, Colorado Bureau of Land Management (BLM) approved the Standards for Public Land Health. These standards cover upland soils, riparian systems, plant and animal communities, threatened and endangered species, and water quality. Standards describe conditions needed to sustain public land health and relate to all uses of the public lands. Because a standard exists for these five categories, a finding must be made for each of them in an environmental analysis. These findings are located in specific elements listed below:

NATURAL, BIOLOGICAL, AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

AIR QUALITY

Affected Environment: The entire White River Resource area has been classified as either attainment or unclassified for all air pollutants, and most of the area has been designated for the prevention of significant deterioration (PSD) class II. Air quality conditions near the proposed location indicate generally good air quality.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Visible dust is likely to increase due to construction activities and vehicle traffic during the construction of the fence. The Colorado Air Pollution Control Division (APCD) estimates the maximum PM₁₀ levels (24-hour average) in rural portions of western Colorado to be near 50 micrograms per cubic meter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$). This project is not likely to exceed this western Colorado dust standard.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no change from the present situation.

Mitigation: None.

SOILS (includes a finding on Standard 1)

Affected Environment: Soils at the project site are in the Rentsac channery loam map unit. These soils are shallow and well drained and are formed in residuum from calcareous sandstone parent material. The corresponding ecological/woodland sites are stony foothills and pinyon-juniper woodland.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The project is expected to have no negative impact on soils at the site.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no change from the present situation.

Mitigation: See design features of the Proposed Action.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for upland soils: Soils in the project area meet the Standard on a site, watershed, and landscape scale and are expected to meet or exceed the standard in the future following project implementation.

WASTES, HAZARDOUS OR SOLID

Affected Environment: There are no known hazardous wastes on the subject lands. No hazardous materials are known to have been used, stored, or disposed of at sites included in the project area. There are no known solid waste dump sites within the project area

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: No listed or extremely hazardous materials are proposed for use in this project.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: No hazardous or other solid wastes would be generated under the no-action alternative.

Mitigation: The following items should be added as conditions of approval.

1. The release of any chemical, oil, petroleum product, etc, must be contained immediately, cleaned up as soon as possible, and reported by the project proponent to the Bureau of Land Management.

WATER QUALITY, SURFACE AND GROUND (includes a finding on Standard 5)

Affected Environment: The proposed fence route is mostly along existing disturbance. Areas will be hand cleared and little surface disturbance should take place other than setting fence posts. The fence will be constructed along the toe of the slope west of Piceance Creek. Piceance Creek is segment 15, and is protected for Aquatic Life Cold 2, non-primary contact recreation and agricultural.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The setting of fence posts will create some temporary disturbance, however these small areas should be quickly colonized by surrounding vegetation and impacts should be minimal. The use of ATVs and other vehicles during fence construction may have more lasting impacts due the potential to create preferential flow paths in tire ruts. Where this occurs local erosion would occur.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: No fence would be constructed and no surface disturbance would occur.

Mitigation: None.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for water quality: This fencing project is not likely to cause an exceedance of Colorado water quality standards.

WETLANDS AND RIPARIAN ZONES (includes a finding on Standard 2)

Affected Environment: The nearest riparian zone to the project is Piceance creek which is located approximately 200 yards to the northeast and is located on private land.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The Proposed Action is not expected to have any effect on wetland or riparian zones located on BLM within the project area.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no change from the present situation.

Mitigation: None.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for riparian systems: The proposed and no-action alternatives are not expected to affect the functionality of riparian and wetland zones in the project area.

VEGETATION (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: Vegetation at the project site is primarily an open shrubland dominated by Wyoming big sagebrush, low rabbitbrush, basin big sagebrush, and perennial bunchgrasses with some scattered Utah juniper. The principal ecological site is stony foothills.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Fence construction is expected to result in some cutting of principally Wyoming and basin big sagebrush and rabbitbrush. There will be no long term negative impact on vegetation at the site.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no change from the present situation.

Mitigation: see design features of the Proposed Action.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Wildlife, Aquatic and Wildlife, Terrestrial): Plant communities in the project area meet the Standard on a site, watershed and landscape scale and are expected to meet or exceed the standard in the future following project implementation.

INVASIVE, NON-NATIVE SPECIES

Affected Environment: There are no noxious weeds at the project site. The alien annual cheatgrass is present at the site, but represents less than 5% of the vegetation composition by weight.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The Proposed Action is not expected to have any impact or effect on noxious weeds or cheatgrass, nor promote the establishment or spread of invasive/non-native species.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There will be no change from the present situation.

Mitigation: None.

THREATENED, ENDANGERED, AND SENSITIVE PLANT SPECIES (includes a finding on Standard 4)

Affected Environment: The Proposed Action is located within previously mapped potential habitat for *Physaria obcordata*, the Dudley Bluffs twinpod. *P. obcordata* is federally listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. All potential *P. obcordata* habitat within 600 meters of the proposed project was surveyed for threatened plants by the BLM botanist.

The majority of the surveyed area lacked the characteristics of suitable *P. obcordata* habitat. Reddish-tan was the dominant soil color, while suitable *P. obcordata* habitat is generally whitish. The soils appeared to be derived from rocks of the Uinta formation, while *P. obcordata* is generally associated with shales of the Green River formation. No shale rocks were apparent in the bulk of the surveyed area. One small patch of suitable habitat was found on private land near the northern edge of the 600 meter boundary. This area was small enough (less than 1 acre) to thoroughly survey for threatened plants. Any plants with a leaf shape similar to that of *P. obcordata* were examined with a hand lens. No *P. obcordata* individuals were located.

The proposed project is located approximately 505 meters from the nearest Dudley Bluffs twinpod population. Piceance Creek and Rio Blanco County Road 5 are both located between the proposed project and this *P. obcordata* population. This population was also surveyed by the BLM to ensure that spatial data on the extent of the population is up-to-date.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The Proposed Action is anticipated to have no effect on threatened plant populations. Generally, indirect effects to threatened plants are expected if a project is located within 600 meters of threatened plant populations. However, in this case it is implausible that dust generated from the project could migrate across the Piceance Creek corridor to affect the nearest *P. obcordata* population. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service concurred by telephone on 8/02/2010 that no effects on threatened plants are anticipated from this project and that no consultation pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act is necessary.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: The no action alternative is not expected to affect special status plant species or associated habitats.

Mitigation: None.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for Threatened & Endangered species: The proposed and no-action alternatives are not expected to affect populations or habitats of plants associated with the Endangered Species Act or BLM sensitive species and, as such, should have no influence on the status of applicable Land Health Standards.

THREATENED, ENDANGERED, AND SENSITIVE ANIMAL SPECIES (includes a finding on Standard 4)

Affected Environment: There are no listed or proposed threatened or endangered animals associated with the proposed project area. Several BLM-sensitive animals occupy or have potential to inhabit lands potentially influenced by fencing, namely Brewer's sparrow, Great Basin spadefoot toad, mountain and flannelmouth suckers, and northern leopard frog. Brewer's sparrows are abundant and widespread in virtually all big sagebrush communities in the WRFO, returning here to nest by the end of May and completing core reproductive use by early August. There is scant information on the distribution of Great Basin spadefoot toad in the Piceance Basin, but there are several historic records and one recent sighting in the general project vicinity. Normally associated with ephemeral waters in the WRFO, the toads may be capable of using wetlands or backwater features associated with Piceance Creek to fulfill reproductive functions. Riparian and aquatic habitats associated with Piceance Creek are substantially influenced by agricultural practices, including concentrated winter and early spring grazing and hayland irrigation, but support persistent populations of native nongame fish and discontinuous populations of leopard frog. The project site and the associated allotment pasture are entirely privately owned; the nearest manageable BLM-administered parcel along the creek is 14 valley miles downstream.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Fencing would aid in limiting premature and additive livestock use of up to 1,000 acres of toeslope and bottomland shrubland and pinyon-juniper woodland communities adjacent to the irrigated meadows. Reducing additional early spring use on these sites would contribute incrementally to ground cover vigor and the subsequent availability of that ground cover as forage and cover for Brewer's sparrow nesting and (potentially) concealment for dispersing spadefoot toads. Conversely, the fence would increase the intensity of livestock use of the Piceance Creek channel and valley; however, relative to the degree of seasonal use this pasture currently receives, there would be no discernible modification in use intensity or physical or vegetation effects on channel or terrace conditions.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: The incremental benefits derived from the Proposed Action, including improved vigor in herbaceous ground cover and improved availability in early season and residual ground cover for Brewer's sparrow and spadefoot toad reproductive functions would not be realized. Compared to the Proposed Action, the current and somewhat moderated livestock use of irrigated haylands or channel features along Piceance Creek offer no opportunity for effective or discernible change in the condition or function of on-site or downstream aquatic habitats associated with Piceance Creek.

Mitigation: None.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for Threatened & Endangered species: The project site generally meets the land health standard four by providing habitat that supports stable populations of animal communities appropriate to the site (the no action alternative). The Proposed Action would be more consistent with the land health standard by controlling the duration and intensity of livestock grazing use and its influence on the sustained utility of upland habitats for BLM special status species.

MIGRATORY BIRDS

Affected Environment: Large arrays of migratory birds use the project area's shrubland and woodland habitats for nesting from mid-April through early August. Birds representative of these communities include shrubland associated Brewer's sparrow and green-tailed towhee, and the woodland associates, black-throated gray warbler and juniper titmouse.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: See discussion for the Proposed Action in *Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Animals* section above.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: See discussion for the No Action alternative in *Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Animals* section above.

Mitigation: None.

WILDLIFE, AQUATIC (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: Aquatic resources associated with the proposed project site are adequately addressed in the Affected Environment, *Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Animals* section above.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: See discussion for the Proposed Action in *Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Animals* section above.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: See discussion for the No Action Alternative in *Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Animals* section above.

Mitigation: None.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Vegetation and Wildlife, Terrestrial): Although not applicable to privately-owned resources, the Proposed Action would not further compromise the condition or function of on-site or downstream indicators addressed in land health standard three concerning Piceance Creek's aquatic habitats.

WILDLIFE, TERRESTRIAL (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: The project area is used predominantly from October through early May by mule deer. The irrigated haylands in the Piceance Creek valley and adjacent uplands sustain concentrated deer use from February through early May. Emerging herbaceous growth available on these severe winter ranges is of paramount importance for deer in recovering from the nutritional deficits of winter and gaining a nutritional plane that supports successful gestation. Small mammal populations and distribution are poorly documented; however, the 20 or so species potentially occurring in Piceance Basin's woodland and shrubland communities are widely distributed throughout the State and the Great Basin or Rocky Mountain regions. Even though several species have relatively specialized habitat affiliation (i.e., riparian associates), all species display broad ecological tolerance and most are documented from habitats ranging from foothill to alpine sites. No narrowly distributed or highly specialized species or subspecific populations are known to occur in Piceance Basin.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Fencing (Type D) would aid in limiting premature and additive livestock use of up to 1,000 acres of toeslope and bottomland shrubland and pinyon-juniper woodland communities adjacent to the irrigated meadows. Reducing additional early spring use on these sites would contribute incrementally to ground cover vigor and the subsequent availability of that ground cover as forage for seasonal mule deer use, and yearlong forage and cover for small mammal communities outside (west of) the fence. The fence would increase the intensity of livestock use of irrigated terrace and channel features along Piceance Creek, but relative to the degree of seasonal use this pasture currently receives, there would be no discernible modification in use intensity or physical or vegetation effects on habitat conditions for small mammals.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: The incremental benefits derived from the Proposed Action, including improved vigor in herbaceous ground cover and improved availability of early season and residual ground cover as big game spring forage and yearlong small mammal habitat would not be realized. Compared to the Proposed Action, the current and somewhat moderated livestock use of irrigated haylands or channel features along Piceance Creek offer no opportunity for effective or discernible change in the condition or function of terrestrial wildlife habitats.

Mitigation: None.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Vegetation and Wildlife, Aquatic): The project site generally meets the land health standard four by providing habitat that supports stable populations of animal communities appropriate to the site (the no action alternative). The Proposed Action would be more consistent with the land health standard by controlling the duration and intensity of livestock grazing use and its influence on the sustained utility of upland habitats for terrestrial wildlife.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Affected Environment: The majority of the undertaking's area of potential effect (APE) was inventoried for cultural resources at the Class III (100 percent pedestrian) level. No cultural resources were located within the APE of the project area initially identified for inventory in the work order provided to cultural staff (Haymes 2010). Field observations indicated that the project's APE, as a whole, was exemptible from inventory based on 1) slopes greater than 30percent and 2) deep alluvia unlikely to contain *in situ* cultural materials and wholly obscured by dense vegetation. A 15 percent sample inventory of the project areas environs located one site within 100m (approximately 90m): 5RB.6056 (Elkins and McKibbin 2008). Site 5RB.6065 is a historic Euroamerican brush fence officially determined Not Eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The Proposed Action will have no foreseeable effect on cultural resources.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: The No Action Alternative would result in no effect to cultural resources.

Mitigation: None required beyond standard discovery stipulations and generic cultural resource protection laws.

PALEONTOLOGY

Affected Environment: The project area has been generally mapped as the following formations, known to produce scientifically valuable fossil specimens (Tweto 1979, Armstrong and Wolny 1989):

Modern Alluvium—PFYC 3a—Holocene animals, including Bison and horses.

Uinta Formation—PFYC 5—Eocene mammals (titanotheres, uintatheres, miacid carnivores, possibly others), reptiles (turtles and crocodilians), fish (vertebrae, spines, and scales, likely including *Lepisosteidae*), gastropods (high-spined and turitellid snails), insect larvae, and plants (leaves, wood, algae, etc.).

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The project will not likely impact the underlying bedrock (native sedimentary stone). Any potential impacts to the underlying bedrock will occur in the form of post holes. Disturbance of this nature is unlikely to produce intact, scientifically valuable fossil specimens. Consequently, the Proposed Action is considered to have a negligible and un-mitigatable potential to affect paleontological resources.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: The No Action Alternative would result in no effect to paleontological resources.

Mitigation: Paleontological monitoring will NOT be required. No mitigation beyond generic paleontological resource protection laws is necessary.

ELEMENTS NOT PRESENT OR NOT AFFECTED:

No flood plains, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, Wilderness Study areas, or prime and unique farmlands exist within the area affected by the Proposed Action. There are also no known Native American religious or environmental justice concerns associated with the Proposed Action.

OTHER ELEMENTS: For the following elements, only those brought forward for analysis will be addressed further.

Other Element	NA or Not Present	Applicable or Present, Not Brought Forward for Analysis	Applicable & Present and Brought Forward for Analysis
Visual Resources		X	
Fire Management		X	
Forest Management	X		
Hydrology/Water Rights	X		
Rangeland Management			X
Realty Authorizations			X
Recreation		X	
Access and Transportation		X	
Geology and Minerals	X		
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	X		
Wilderness	X		
Wild and Scenic Rivers	X		
Cadastral	X		
Socio-Economics		X	
Law Enforcement	X		
Wild Horses	X		

RANGELAND MANAGEMENT

Affected Environment: The current situation of an unfenced boundary between the irrigated haylands in the Piceance Creek bottom allows for cattle to leave the feed grounds in the spring and graze on the BLM uplands prior to the authorized period of grazing use. The proposed fence will follow the allotment boundary, separating winter feed grounds/hay meadows from the Slash EV grazing allotment (06023).

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: With the proposed fence in place, cattle would not be allowed to access approximately 1,000 acres of BLM land outside of the authorized grazing period. Thus there would be limited potential for occurrence of trespass

livestock grazing. The primarily late fall, winter, and early spring grazing use of the subject lands is compatible with vegetation growth maintenance and stability.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no change from the present situation of potential unmanaged grazing.

Mitigation: see design features of the Proposed Action.

REALTY AUTHORIZATIONS

Affected Environment: The location of the proposed fence is in an undeveloped area with only one power line as an existing linear feature. The route does not follow the lines of land ownership, but it is only for the purpose of managing a grazing allotment. There are indications of agricultural use on public lands adjacent to the location.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The fence would not have any effect on other use authorizations. Unauthorized agricultural use will be pursued with the concerned companies/individuals as a separate matter.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: None.

Mitigation: None.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS SUMMARY: This action is consistent with the scope of impacts addressed in the White River ROD/RMP. The cumulative impacts of construction and maintenance of range improvements are addressed in the White River ROD/RMP for each resource value that would be affected by the Proposed Action.

REFERENCES CITED:

Armstrong, Harley J. and David G. Wolny

1989 *Paleontological Resources of Northwest Colorado: A Regional Analysis.* Museum of Western Colorado, Grand Junction, Colorado.

Elkins, Melissa and Anne McKibbin

2008 Class III Cultural Resource Inventory of Proposed Seismic Lines for ExxonMobil Corporation's 2009 Piceance 3D Seismic Survey Project, Rio Blanco County, Colorado. Metcalf Archaeological Consultants, Eagle, Colorado. WRFO CRIR# 09-54-02

Haymes, Geoffrey

2010 *Class III Inventory for the Slash EV Pasture Fence in Rio Blanco County, Colorado.* Bureau of Land Management – White River Field Office, Meeker, Colorado. WRFO CRIR# 10-10-18.

Tweto, Ogden
 1979 Geologic Map of Colorado. United States Geologic Survey, Department of the Interior,
 Reston, Virginia.

PERSONS / AGENCIES CONSULTED:

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

Name	Title	Area of Responsibility
Bob Lange	Hydrologist	Air Quality, Wastes (Hazardous or Solids), Water Quality (Surface and Ground), and Hydrology and Water Rights
Jill Schulte	Botanist	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, Threatened and Endangered Plant Species
Geoffrey Haymes	Archeologist	Cultural Resources, Paleontological Resources
Mark Hafkenschiel	Rangeland Management Specialist	Invasive, Non-Native Species, Vegetation , Rangeland Management Wetlands and Riparian Zones
Ed Hollowed	Wildlife Biologist	Migratory Birds, Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Animal Species, Terrestrial and Aquatic Wildlife,
Jim Michels	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Wilderness, Access and Transportation, Recreation,
Jim Michels	Forester /Fire / Fuels Technician	Fire Management, Forest Management
Paul Daggett	Mining Engineer	Geology and Minerals
Linda Jones	Realty Specialist	Realty Authorizations
Jim Michels	Natural Resource Specialist / Outdoor Recreation Planner	Visual Resources
Melissa Kindall	Range Technician	Wild Horse Management

Finding of No Significant Impact/Decision Record (FONSI/DR)

DOI-BLM-CO-110-2010-0000-EA

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)/RATIONALE: The environmental assessment and analysis of the environmental effects of the Proposed Action have been reviewed. The approved mitigation measures (listed below) result in a Finding of No Significant Impact on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not necessary to further analyze the environmental effects of the Proposed Action.

DECISION/RATIONALE: It is my decision to approve the construction of the Slash EV allotment fence as outlined in the Proposed Action, subject to the described mitigating measures. The proposed fence will provide for improved grazing management and prevent cattle from trespassing onto the grazing allotment outside of the authorized season of use.

MITIGATION MEASURES:

1. The release of any chemical, oil, petroleum product, etc, must be contained immediately, cleaned up as soon as possible, and reported by the project proponent to the Bureau of Land Management.
2. The applicant is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing archaeological sites or for collecting artifacts.
3. If any archaeological materials are discovered as a result of operations under this authorization, activity in the vicinity of the discovery will cease, and the BLM WRFO Archaeologist will be notified immediately. Work may not resume at that location until approved by the AO. The applicant will make every effort to protect the site from further impacts including looting, erosion, or other human or natural damage until BLM determines a treatment approach, and the treatment is completed. Unless previously determined in treatment plans or agreements, BLM will evaluate the cultural resources and, in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), select the appropriate mitigation option within 48 hours of the discovery. The applicant, under guidance of the BLM, will implement the mitigation in a timely manner. The process will be fully documented in reports, site forms, maps, drawings, and photographs. The BLM will forward documentation to the SHPO for review and concurrence.
4. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g), the applicant must notify the AO, by telephone and written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), the

applicant must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the AO.

5. The applicant is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project operations that they will be subject to prosecution for disturbing or collecting vertebrate fossils, collecting large amounts of petrified wood (over 25lbs./day, up to 250lbs./year), or collecting fossils for commercial purposes on public lands.
6. If any paleontological resources are discovered as a result of operations under this authorization, the applicant or any of his agents must stop work immediately at that site, immediately contact the BLM Paleontology Coordinator, and make every effort to protect the site from further impacts, including looting, erosion, or other human or natural damage. Work may not resume at that location until approved by the AO. The BLM or designated paleontologist will evaluate the discovery and take action to protect or remove the resource within 10 working days. Within 10 days, the operator will be allowed to continue construction through the site, or will be given the choice of either (a) following the Paleontology Coordinator's instructions for stabilizing the fossil resource in place and avoiding further disturbance to the fossil resource, or (b) following the Paleontology Coordinator's instructions for mitigating impacts to the fossil resource prior to continuing construction through the project area.

COMPLIANCE/MONITORING: Upon completion of construction, the project will be inspected by WRFO staff to ensure compliance with mitigation measures and design features developed in this Environmental Assessment.

NAME OF PREPARER: Tyrell Turner

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Heather Sauls

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:



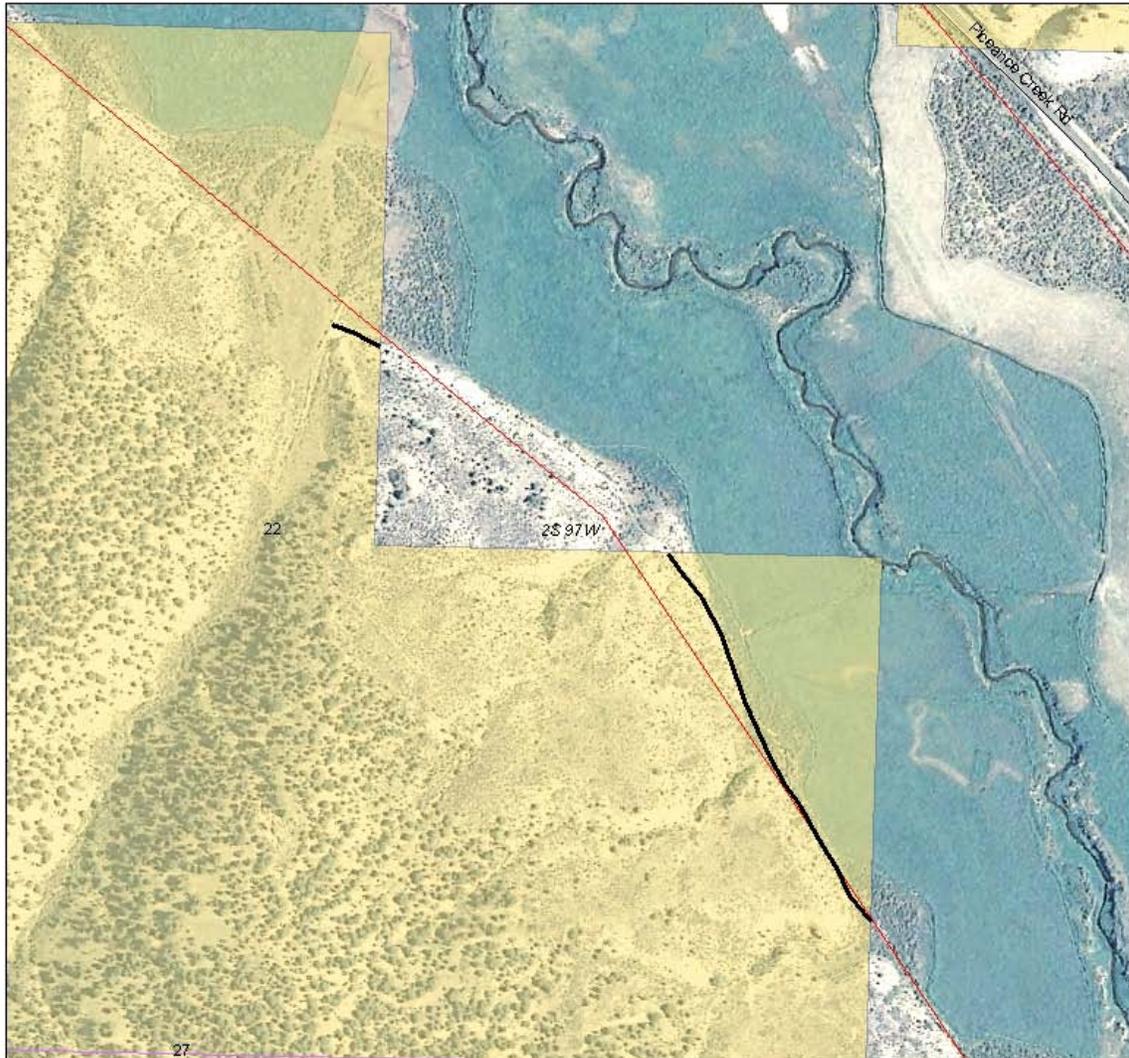
Field Manager

DATE SIGNED:

07/06/11

ATTACHMENTS: Map of Proposed Fenceline

Slash EV Pasture Boundary Fence



- ReHOLite_Boundary_JAR FO
- Proposed Fence
- Allotment Boundaries
- PUS2_Sections_G0082008
- PUS2_Townships_G0082008
- BLM
- CDOW
- County
- ROR
- MPO
- PRI
- CR



0 0.020.04 0.08 Miles

Sources:
BLM, USGS, CDOW, etc.

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