

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

## **CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION**

NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-110-2011-0113-CX

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER: 0501532

PROJECT NAME: Grazing Preference Transfer – Karl Cox allotment

LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

Allotment			Legal Description		
No.:	Name:	BLM Acres:	TWP (S):	RGE (W.):	Section(s)/Lot(s) \or Portions of
06832	Karl Cox	520	T3S,	R 94W	Sec: 10, 11, 14, and 15

APPLICANT: Ruth Cox

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION: The Proposed Action is to transfer the grazing preference associated with the Karl Cox allotment, #06832, to Ruth Cox. Ruth Cox acquired the base property through an inheritance and has made application for the associated grazing preference.

A livestock grazing lease for the transferred preference will be issued to Ruth Cox through the Continuing Appropriations Act 2011. The livestock are owned by Ruth Cox. This grazing preference transfer will not result in any change in livestock management on the ground.

This allotment is classified as a maintenance allotment.

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

Date Approved: July 1, 1997

Decision Number/Page: 2-23

Decision Language: “With minor exceptions, livestock grazing will be managed as described in the 1981 *Rangeland Program Summary* (RPS). That document is the Record of Decision for the 1981 *White River Grazing Management Environmental Impact Statement* (Grazing EIS).”

**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW**: The Proposed Action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 11.9, Number (D.1): “*Approval of transfers of grazing preference*”.

The Proposed Action has been reviewed with the list of extraordinary circumstances described in the table below. This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. None of the following exceptions in 43 CFR 46.215 apply.

Exception	YES	NO
1. Have significant adverse effects on public health and 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; 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, in the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau of office.		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.		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 affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites.		X

<b>Exception</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
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:**

The Proposed Action was presented to, and reviewed by the White River Field Office interdisciplinary team on May 10, 2011. A list of resource specialists who participated in this review is available upon request from the White River Field Office. The table below lists resource specialists who provided additional remarks concerning cultural resources and special status species.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Resource</b>	<b>Date</b>
Kristin Bowen	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources, Native American Religious Concerns	5/11/11
Lisa Belmonte	Wildlife Biologist	Threatened and Endangered Wildlife Species	05/11/11
Zoe Miller	Ecologist	Threatened and Endangered Plant Species	6/23/11

**REMARKS:**

*Cultural Resources:* This transfer will not change any management of the BLM administered land, and therefore, in itself will not have any adverse effect on any properties eligible for the National Register. (KB 05/11/11)

*Native American Religious Concerns:* No known concerns. (KB 05/11/11)

*Threatened and Endangered Wildlife Species:* There are no additional wildlife-related issues or concerns associated with the Proposed Action. (LRB 05/11/11)

*Threatened and Endangered Plant Species:* No threatened plant populations are known within 600 meters of the allotment. The transfer of management is expected to have no impact on special status plant species populations or habitats. (ZMM 06/23/11)

**MITIGATION:** None.

**COMPLIANCE PLAN** (optional): On-going compliance inspections and monitoring will be conducted by White River Field Office staff at various times. The permittee will be notified of

compliance related issues in writing, and depending on the nature of the issue(s), will be provided adequate time to resolve such issue(s).

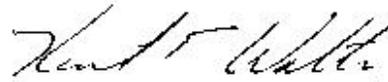
NAME OF PREPARER: Melissa J. Kindall

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Heather Sauls

DECISION AND RATIONALE: I have reviewed this CX and have decided to approve 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 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:



Field Manager

DATE SIGNED:

07/07/11

ATTACHMENTS: Map of Karl Cox allotment

Figure 1: Map of the Fourteen Mile and Karl Cox Allotments

Karl & Nancy Cox - Fourteen mile and Karl Cox allotments  
 (will states that Cox properties east of Hwy 13 are Ruth's  
 and Cox properties west of highway 13 are Ellen's)

