

DECISION RECORD

DOI-BLM-NM-P010-2015-016-DNA

Proposed Decision: It is my decision to implement the BLM-Preferred Alternative as described in DOI-BLM-NM-P010-2015-016-DNA and to issue permit for the allotments analyzed in this document. The mitigation measures identified in the original EA have been formulated into terms and conditions that will be attached to the grazing permit. This decision incorporates, by reference, those conditions identified in the attached Environmental Assessment. A summary table follows:

Table 1. Animal Units/Animal Unit Months

Allotment Number	Allotment Name	Acres of Public Land	Percent Public Land	Animal Units Authorized	Animal Unit Months Authorized	Livestock	Livestock Number
65094	Comanche Hill 03	5254	65%	120	936	Cattle	120
65095	Comanche Hill 15	364	100%	4	48	Cattle	4

Rationale: Based on the rangeland health assessments (RHAs) and previous monitoring, resource conditions on these allotments are sufficient and sustainable to support the level of use outlined in the term grazing permit.

The Proposed Action will be in compliance with the 1997 Roswell Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision and the 2001 New Mexico Standards for Public Land Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management.

If you wish to protest this proposed decision in accordance with 43 CFR 4160.2, you are allowed 15 days to do so in person or in writing to the authorized officer, after the receipt of this decision. Please be specific in your points of protest.

The protest shall be filed with the Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, 2909 West 2nd, Roswell, NM 88201. This protest should specify, clearly and concisely, why you think the proposed action is in error.

In the absence of a protest within the time allowed, the above decision shall constitute my final decision. Should this notice become the final decision, you are allowed an additional 30 days within which to file an appeal for the purpose of a hearing before the Interior Board of Land Appeals, and to petition for stay of the decision pending final determination on the appeal (43 CFR 4.21 and 4.410). If a petition for stay is not requested and granted, the decision will be put into effect following the 30-day appeal period. The appeal and petition for stay should be filed with the Field Manager at the above address. The appeal should specify, clearly and concisely, why you think the decision is in error. The petition for stay should specify how you will be harmed if the stay is not granted.

/s/ Kyle S. Arnold
Kyle Arnold
Acting Assistant Field Manager

01/07/2015
Date

**Worksheet
Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management**

OFFICE: Roswell Field Office

TRACKING NUMBER: DOI-BLM-NM-P010-2015-016

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER: Allotments 65094 & 65095

PROPOSED ACTION TITLE/TYPE: Issuance of a term grazing permit

LOCATION/LLEGAL DESCRIPTION: See attached map. Public lands lay in Township 10 S., Range 25 E. Sections 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 34, 35 & 36; T. 10 S., R. 26 E. Section 19, 21, 29, 30 & 31;

APPLICANT (if any):

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

The proposed action is to issue a new term grazing permit on allotment 65094 – Comanche Hill 3 and on allotment 65095 – Comanche Hill 15. The permit will authorize the following levels of use.

Allotment 65094	120 Cattle	03/01 – 02/28	65% pl	936 Animal Unit Months
Allotment 65095	4 Cattle	03/01 – 02/28	100% pl	48 Animal Unit Months

B. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance

**List applicable LUPs (for example, resource management plans; activity, project, management, or program plans; or applicable amendments thereto)*

LUP Name* Roswell Resource Management Plan, **Date Approved:** October 1997

Other document (s): EA NM-510-2005-026, dated 6/6/2005

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

The Roswell Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (October 1997) has been reviewed to determine if the proposed action conforms with the land use plan's Record of Decision. The Roswell Resource Management Plan/ Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/EIS) states Allotment categorization and initial grazing use allocations made in the East Roswell Grazing Environmental Impact Statement (1979) and the Roswell Resource Area Management Framework Plan amendment/Environmental Impact Statement (1984) will be used as the basis for continued livestock grazing. Changes in use allocations will continue to be made on the basis of monitoring data.

43 Code of Federal Regulations Part 4100, Subpart 4130.2 states: Grazing permits or leases shall be issued to qualified applicants to authorize use on the public lands and other lands under the administration of the Bureau of Land management that are designated as available for livestock grazing through land use plans. Permits or leases shall specify the types and levels of use authorized including livestock grazing and suspended use.

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.

EA NM-510-2005-026, dated 6/6/2005

List by name and date other documents 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? Documentation of answer and explanation:**

Yes. The current Proposed Action was analyzed in the above mentioned Environmental Assessment (EA). The proposed action is the same action analyzed in the existing NEPA document.

- 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? Documentation of answer and explanation:**

Yes, the range of alternatives analyzed in the 2005 grazing ea are still appropriate with the respect to the new proposed action. No new environmental concerns or interests have arisen on the two allotments.

- 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? Documentation of answer and explanation:**

Yes, the existing analysis is valid. A rangeland health assessment was completed on November 13, 2012 and both of the allotments met the Rangeland Standards.

- 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? Documentation of answer and explanation:**

Yes, the direct, indirect and cumulative effects that would result from implementation of re-issuing a grazing permit on these two allotments would be similar as to those addressed in the 2005 EA.

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

Yes, the public and interagency review associated with the 2005 EA was documented at that time. No protests or appeals were received against the issuance of a new term grazing permit on these allotments.

E. Cultural Resources

Concerning cultural resources, grazing has the potential for impacts. The Roswell Field Office reviews the local office and NMCRIS databases for every grazing permit or leasing action at both the Environmental Assessment level and this Documentation of NEPA Adequacy level. In situations where sensitive sites lie within an allotment, site specific visits may be conducted to assess the presence of effects. Twenty plus surveys and seventeen plus sites have been reported in these allotments. No site specific visits have been conducted at this time. Currently, there is no evidence that grazing activities at this intensity have adversely impacted cultural resources; however, unforeseen impacts may occur. Any future range improvement involving earth disturbing activities will require a cultural inventory prior to approval.

F. Persons/Agencies/BLM Staff Consulted

NAME	TITLE	AGENCY REPRESENTED
Helen Miller	Rangeland Management Specialist	BLM
Michael McGee	Hydrologist	BLM
Laura Hronic	Archaeologist	BLM
Dan Baggao	Wildlife Biologist	BLM
Mike Bilbo	Cave & VRM Specialist	BLM
Glen Garnand	Planning & Environmental Coordinator	BLM

Note: Refer to the EA/EIS for a complete list of the team members participating in the preparation of the existing environmental analysis or planning documents.

Conclusion

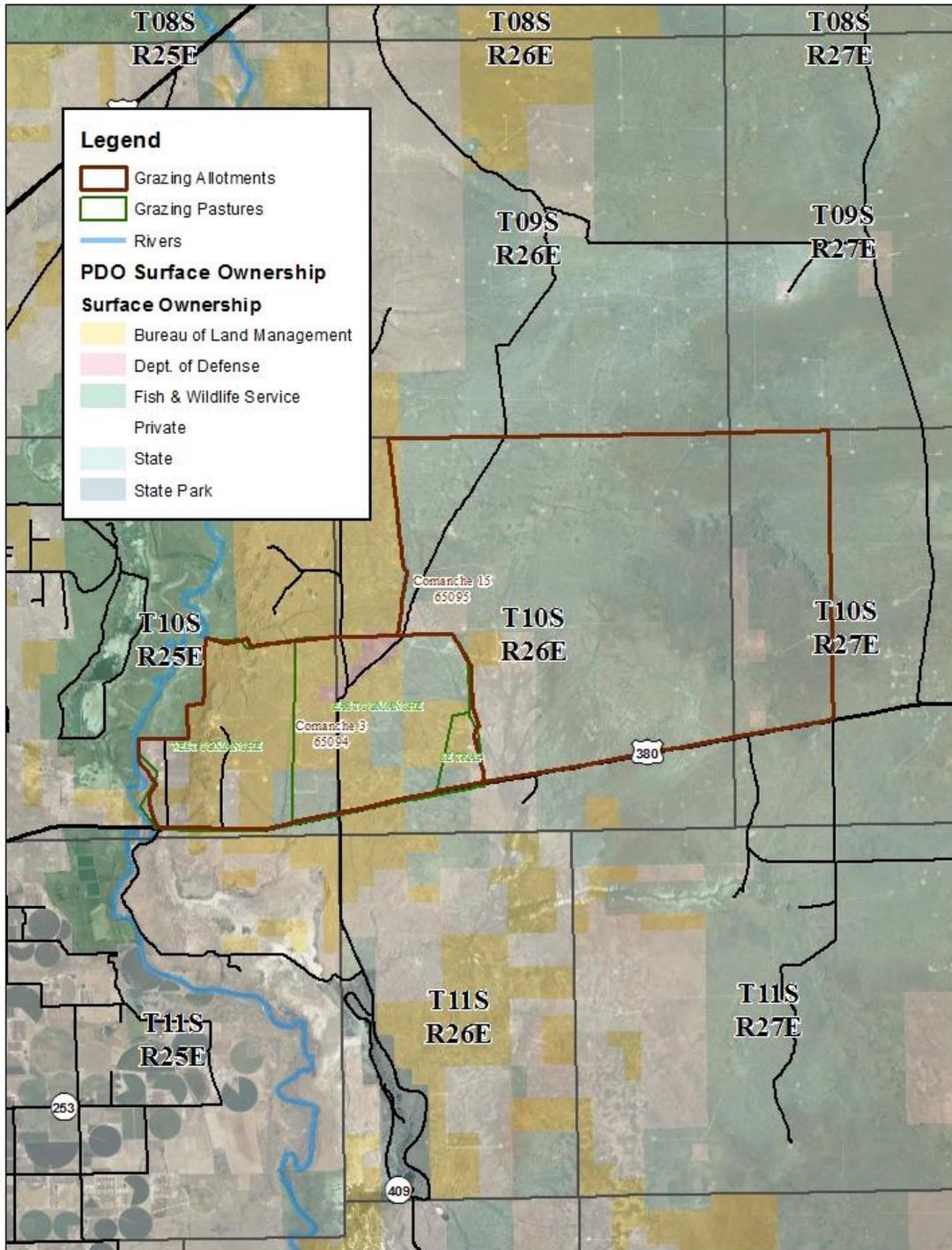
Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitute BLM's compliance with the requirements of the NEPA.

/s/ Kyle S. Arnold
Acting Assistant Field Manager

01/06/2015
Date

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.

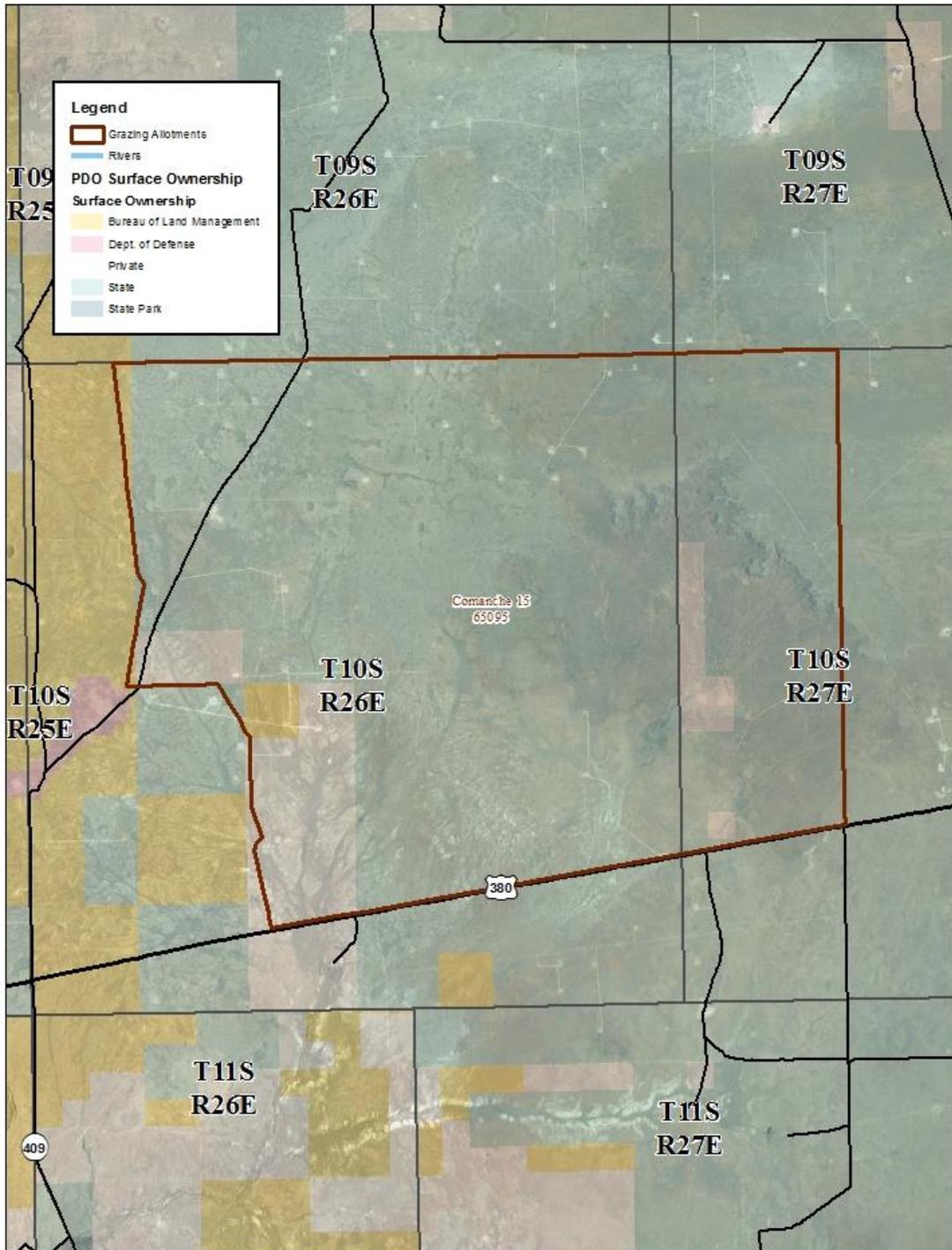
Allotment 65094 & 65095



No Warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data, or for purposes not intended by the BLM. Spatial information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This information is subject to change without notification.



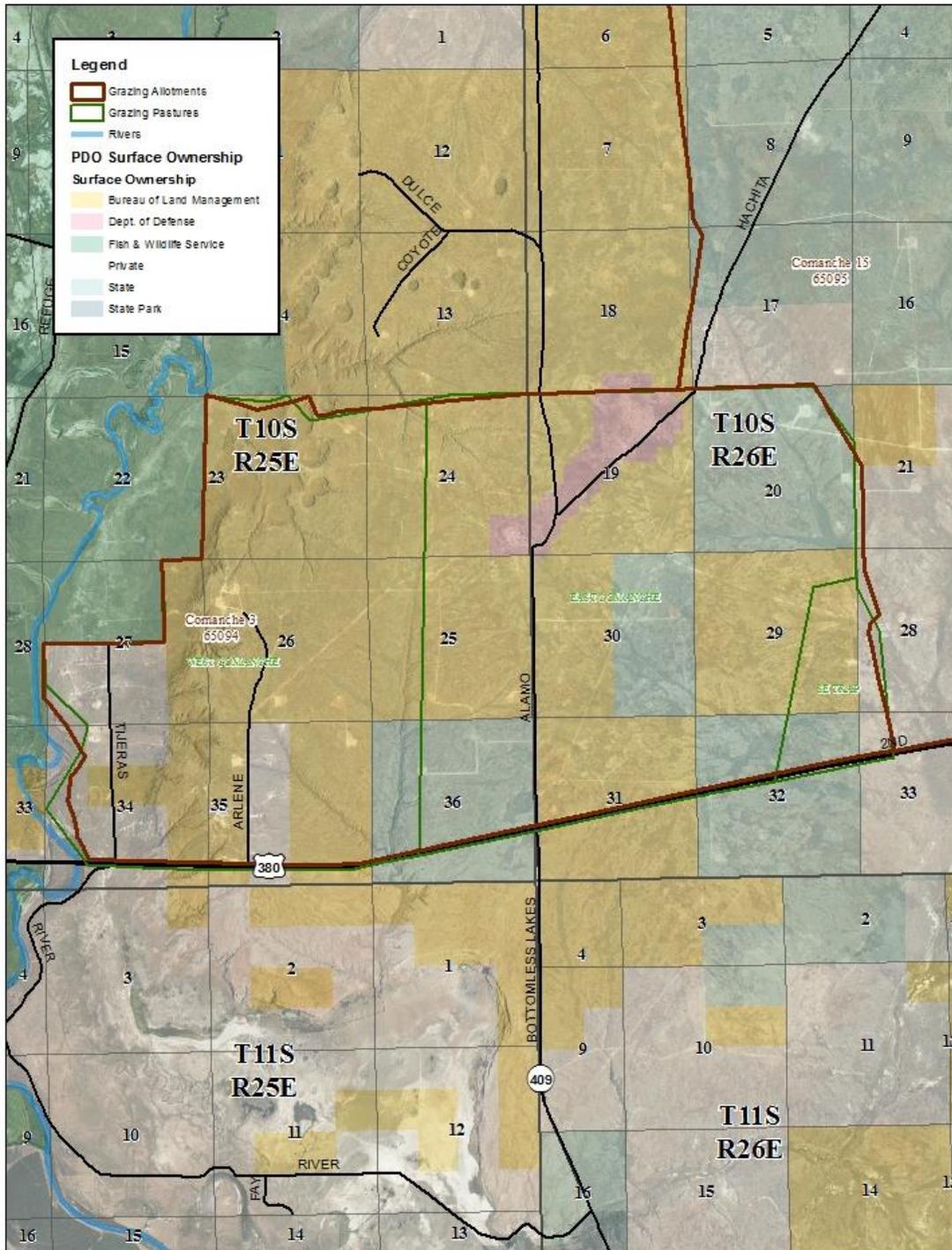
Allotment 65095



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Allotment 65094



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