

DECISION RECORD
DOI-BLM-NM-P010-2016-0025-DNA

Proposed Decision: It is my decision to implement the BLM-Preferred Alternative as described in NM-066-1998-144 and to issue a term permit for the allotment 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
62064	Conejo Basin	1537	100%	36	432	Cattle	36

Rationale: Based on the rangeland health assessments (RHAs) and previous monitoring, resource conditions on this allotment is 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 S. Arnold
 Assistant Field Manager, Resources

11/24/2015
 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-P010-2016-0025 DNA

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER:

PROPOSED ACTION TITLE/TYPE: Renewal of Grazing Lease on allotment 62064 Conejo Basin

LOCATION/LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Public lands are located in Township 1 North, Range 24 East, Section 31 NE¼ NW¼; Sec. 34 NW¼NW¼, SW¼; T. 1 South, Range 23 East, Sec. 1 S½ N½ ; Sec 5 Lot 4; Sec 6 that portion of Lot 8 lying east of the fence; Sec 12, W½ SW¼; Sec 13 NE¼ NE¼; Section 26 W½ W½; Sec 35 NE¼ NE¼, SW¼, SW¼ SE¼; T. 1 South, R. 24 E. Sec. 18 W½ NW¼; Sec. 19, NE¼ SE¼; Sec 20 SE¼ SW¼, SW¼ SE¼; Sec 21 NW¼ SW¼; T. 2 S., R. 24 E. Sec 8 NW¼ SW¼; Sec 17 N½ NE¼, NE¼ NW¼; Sec. 19 NW¼ NW¼, NE¼; Sec 32 E½ NE¼, DeBaca County, NMPM, New Mexico for a total of 1,537.54 acres mol

APPLICANT (if any):

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

The proposed action is to re-authorize grazing on Allotment 62064, Conejo Mesa at the following levels:

Allotment 62064	36 Cattle	03/01-02/28	100% pl	432 Animal Unit Months
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B. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance

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

Other document (s): EA#NM -066-1998-144, dated 01/19/1999

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 -066-1998-144, dated 01/19/1999

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 in the 1999 grazing EA is still appropriate with the respect to the new proposed action. No new environmental concerns or interests have arisen on the 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 in 2015 on the allotment and it 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 the re-issuance of the grazing permit and lease on these allotments would be similar as to those addressed in the 1999 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 1999 EA was documented at that time. No protests or appeals were received against the issuance of a new permit or lease 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. Two block surveys that sporadically cover the allotment and seven 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. Paleontology

Under the Potential Fossil Yield Classification (PFYC) System the surface formations of the allotment are designated as Class 2. Class 2 is comprised of geologic formations that are unlikely to yield any vertebrate fossils or any scientifically noteworthy invertebrate or plant fossils.

The allotment contains no known fossil sites and currently there is no evidence that grazing at these levels is likely to have any impact on fossil resources. However the potential for scientifically significant finds may occur as a result of surface disturbing activities. If the allottee encounters previously undocumented paleontological the allottee shall notify the paleontological monitor or BLM/RFO paleontology resource staff. The BLM would then evaluate the site. Should the discovery be evaluated as significant, it will be protected in place until mitigation measures can be developed and implemented according to guidelines set by the BLM.

G. 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.

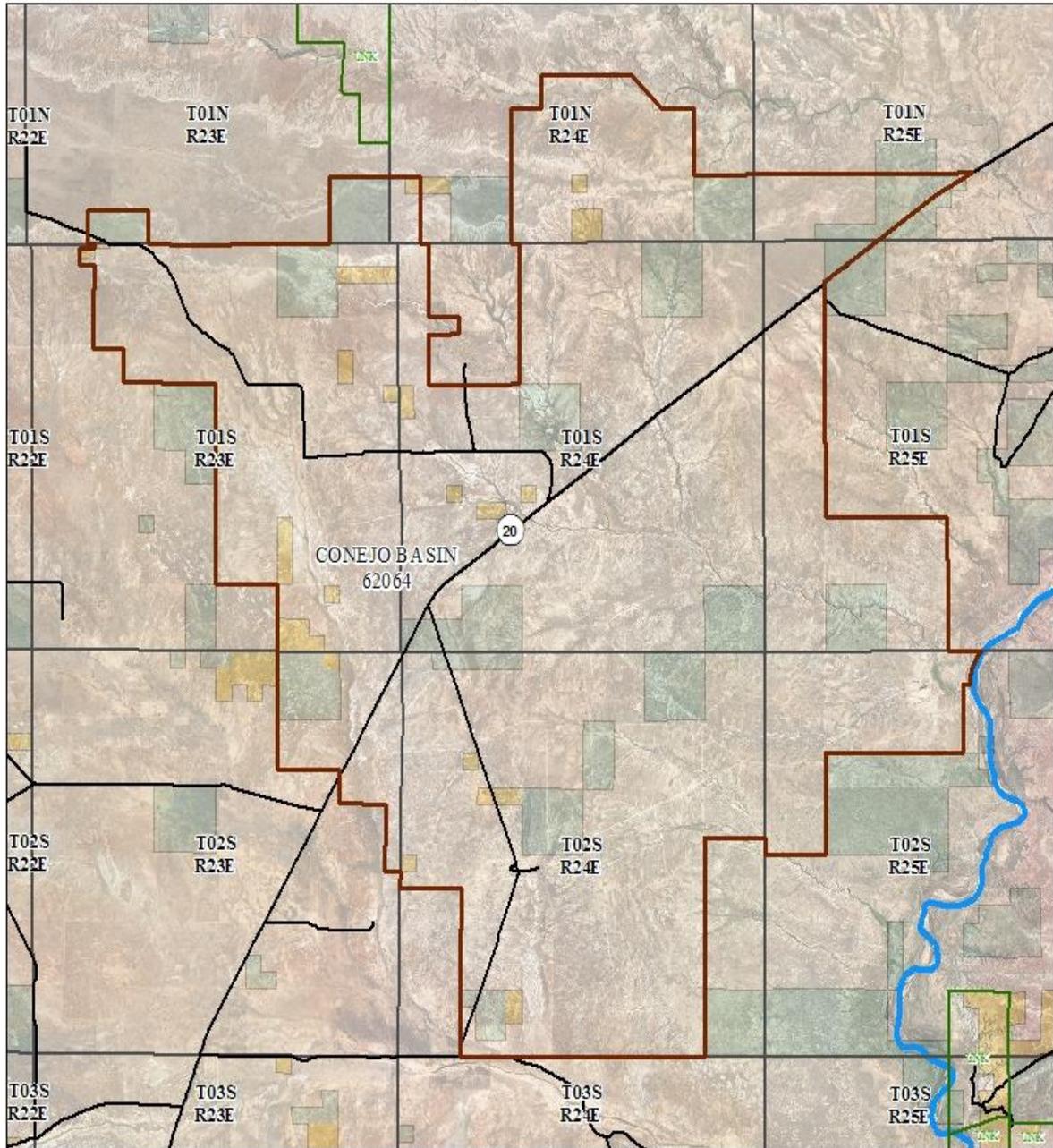
 /s/ Kyle S. Arnold
Kyle S. Arnold
Assistant Field Manager

 11/24/2015
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 62064 Conejo Basin



Legend

- Grazing Allotments
- Pastures
- TOWNSHIPS
- PDO Surface Ownership**
- Surface Ownership**
- Bureau of Land Management
- Forest Service
- Private
- State

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.

