Decision for DOI-BLM-NM-P010-2013-114-DNA

The Proposed Action is in conformance with the Roswell Resource Management Plan, as amended, and was analyzed in **EA-NM-060-99-068**, September 1999. The Term Grazing Lease will be offered for 98 Animal Units from 03/01 to 02/28 (yearlong) at 36% public land for 423 Animal Unit Months on Allotment 63000. Class of livestock will continue to be cattle.

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/ 8/19/15

Kyle S. Arnold
Assistant Field Manager
Resources

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-P010-2013-114-DNA

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER: 63000

PROPOSED ACTION TITLE/TYPE: Term Grazing Lease

LOCATION/LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Chaves County, New Mexico

APPLICANT (if any): Allottee of Allotment 63000

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

The proposed action is to authorize the grazing permit on allotment #63000 for 98 Animal Units (AUs) year-long for 423 animal unit months (AUMs). Class of livestock will continue to be cattle.

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
LUP Name* New Mexico Standards for Rangeland Health & Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management, **Date Approved**: January 2001

Other document (s): **EA-NM-060-99-068**, September 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 a livestock grazing management goal of providing effective and efficient management of allotments to maintain, improve and monitor range conditions. The proposed action is consistent with the RMP/EIS.

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-060-99-068, September 1999, Allotment 63000

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 existing NEPA documents analyzed the proposed action as well as a reasonable range of alternatives. The EA was reviewed by identified public interests and no conflicts or concerns were identified. The same applies to the current proposed action given current concerns, interests, and resource values.

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 proposed action is the same as the proposed action as analyzed in the EA. The EA was recently completed and there is no new information or circumstances in regard to this allotment which would warrant further analysis. In support to the existing document a Rangeland Health assessments was conducted on the allotment. In the Rangeland Health assessment it was found that both Upland and Biotic Indicators, "do not meet" the standards of Rangeland health. A rangeland agreement is in place prohibiting grazing on the allotment until both Upland and Biotic Indicators "meet".

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 would be the same as stated in the existing NEPA document. The effects would not be changed considering the proposed action is the same as the proposed action as analyzed in the EA, along with no change in management.

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. Preparation of the EIS for the 1997 Roswell RMP included full participation of the public and government agencies consistency review. The 1999 EA was prepared based on scoping and review from the public and other agencies.

E. Cultural Resources

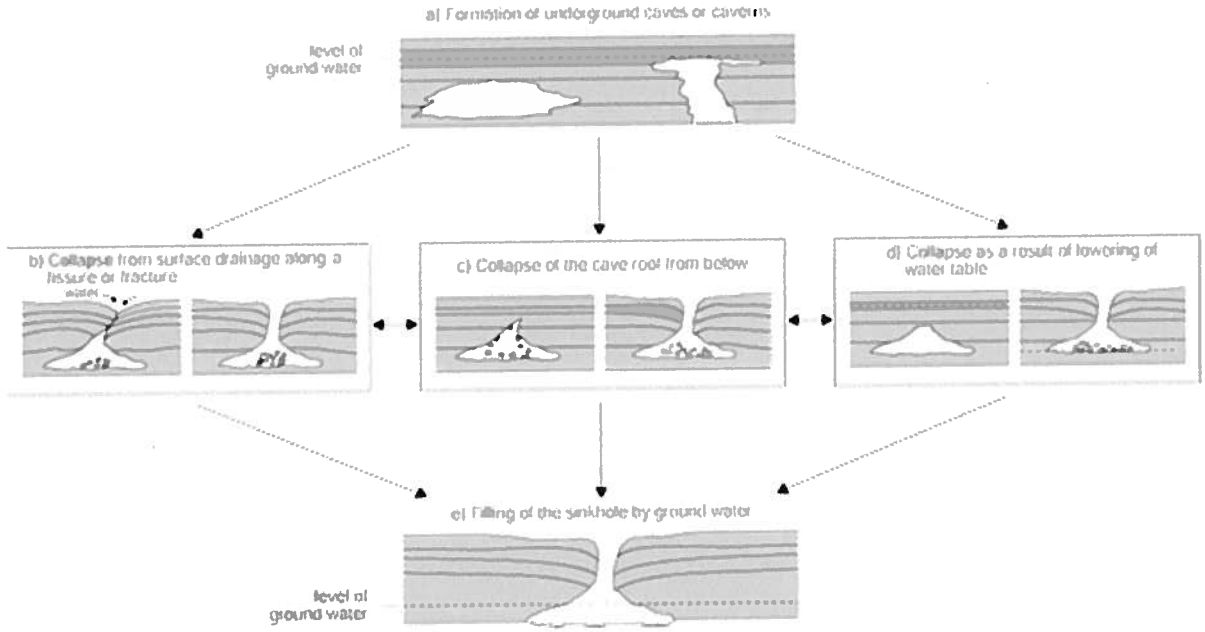
Concerning cultural resources, grazing has the potential for impacts. The Roswell Field Office reviews the local office and NMCRIS databases for every grazing permit or leasing action at both the

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 surveys and no sites have been reported in this allotment. Currently, there is no evidence that grazing activities at this intensity have adversely impacted any cultural resources; however, unforeseen impacts may occur. Any future range improvement involving earth disturbing activities will require a cultural inventory prior to approval.

F. Cave & Karst Resources

Since preparation of the 1997 RMP and 1999 EA, the possibility of the area as high karst potential has arisen. Numerous sinkholes exist in the region centered on Santa Rosa and the region should be analyzed for that resource at such time as an RMP amendment is prepared. At this time no caves or karst features are known to exist on public land within the allotment.

Livestock operations generally do not impact cave or karst resources. However, such resources could be a threat to livestock. Livestock grazing could be affected by the presence of karst features if livestock became entrapped in deep sinkholes. This could be prevented by creating exclosures around identified karst features that pose a livestock hazard. In the event that range improvement projects are proposed, the presence of karst features would be further analyzed in related environmental assessments.



Sinkhole Development *(http://geoinfo.nmt.edu/tour/state/bottomless_lakes/home.html)*

Mitigation

Any cave or karst feature, such as a deep sinkhole, discovered by the co-operator/contractor or any person working on the co-operator's/contractor behalf, on BLM-managed public land shall be immediately reported to the authorized officer. An evaluation of the discovery will be made by the authorized officer to determine appropriate action(s). Any decision as to the further mitigation measures will be made by the Authorized Officer after consulting with the co-operator/contractor.

White Nose Syndrome and Identified Hibernacula

Another situation that has arisen since preparation of the 1997 RMP and 1998 EA is the threat of White

Nose Syndrome (WNS). The region centering on Santa Rosa is 226 miles southwest of a confirmed WNS location near Guymon, Oklahoma. White Nose Syndrome) was first documented on hibernating bats in New York and by 2011 it had moved over 450 miles across eleven states and had killed well over 8 million bats. By spring of 2010, White Nose Syndrome (WNS) had been found in Oklahoma on cave myotis (*Myotis velifer incautus*), the first evidence of it infecting a western bat species.

Pursuant to Federal Register Notices, Vol. 76, No. 16, page 4373, January 23, 2011, all known Roswell Field Office hibernacula are temporarily closed to public entry to monitor for the presence of WNS and attempt to prevent its spread if it arrives. Any proposed entry whatsoever of these hibernation sites on BLM-managed public land must be formally proposed to BLM.

G. Visual Resources.

The affected environment for visual resources was not described in the original EA. That is therefore done here with mitigation. The landscape is one of broad plains and rolling limestone hills. Wide-area landscape tends to be horizontal in line and flat in form, with a smooth texture. The setting presents a winter gray color pattern and in warm months, with foliage, a gray to gray-green color pattern.

Environmental Impacts & Mitigation

The basic landscape elements of form, line color and texture would not change within the allotment. Potential impacts to visual resources would be analyzed and mitigated as allotment management activities are proposed in the future. Range facilities such as windmills and fences tend to be a translucent grey in color and blend favorably with grey and grey-green settings, To further blend favorably with the setting tanks would be low profile, not exceeding 8 feet high, and painted a flat grey or grey-green color. Other translucent colors, such as juniper green and brown can be used, as long as they blend with the setting.

H. Persons/Agencies/BLM Staff Consulted

NAME	TITLE	AGENCY REPRESENTED
Helen Miller	Rangeland Management Specialist	BLM
Michael McGee	Hydrologist	BLM
Jeremy Iliff	Archaeologist	BLM
Dan Baggao	Wildlife Biologist	BLM
Mike Bilbó	Cave Specialist & VRM	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/ _____ 8/19/15

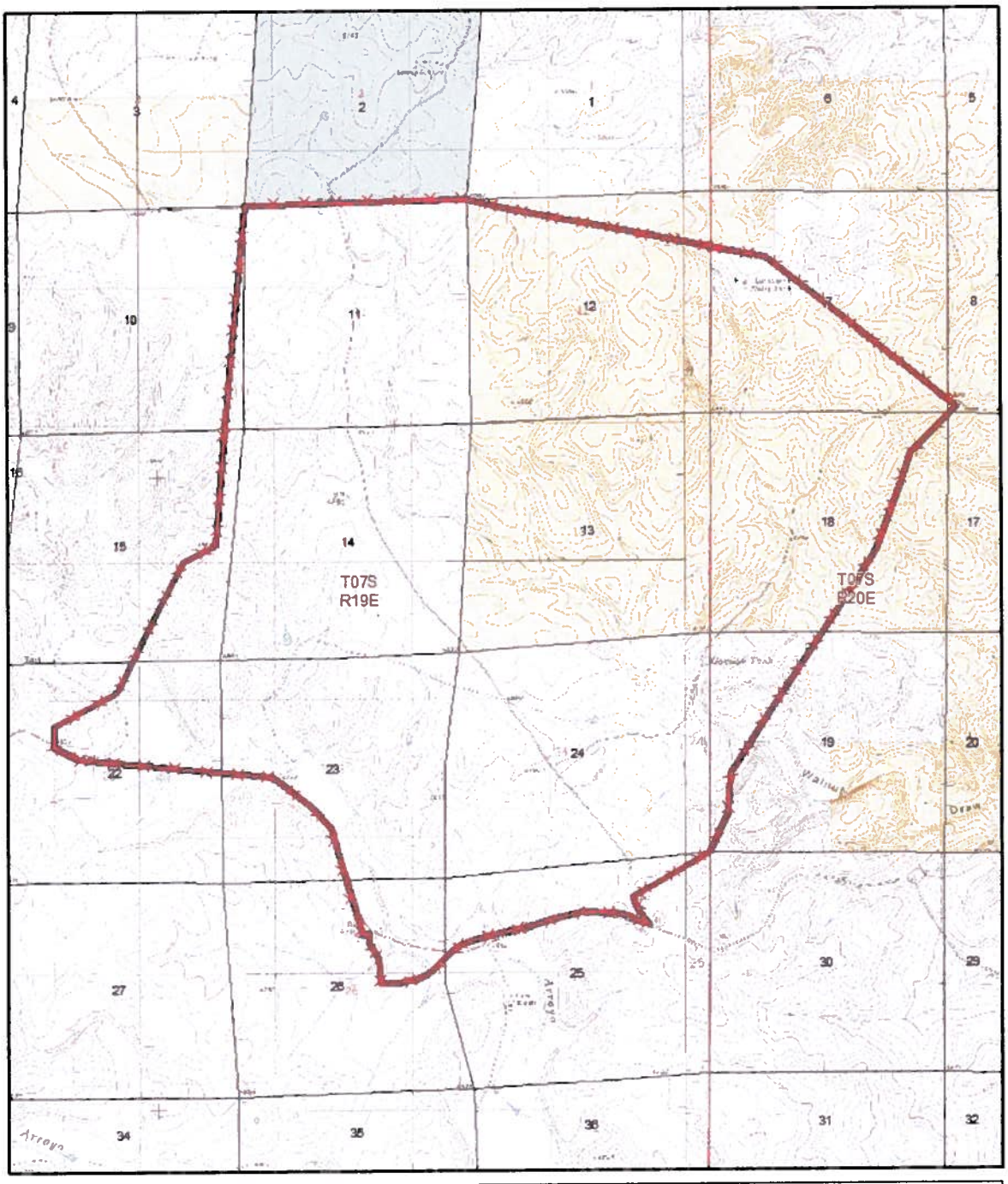
Kyle S. Arnold
Assistant Field Manager, Roswell Field Office

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.

Bureau of Land Management, Roswell Field Office
Environmental Assessment Checklist, DOI-BLM- NM- P010-2013-114-DNA

Resources	Not Present on Site	No Impacts	May Be Impacts	Mitigation Included	BLM Reviewer	Date
Air Quality			X	X	*/s/ Michael McGee* Hydrologist	1/18/2013
Soils			X	X		
Watershed Hydrology			X	X		
Floodplains	X					
Water Quality - Surface			X	X		
Water Quality - Ground			X	X	*/s/ Michael McGee* Geologist/Hydrologist	1/18/2013
Cultural Resources			X	X	*/s/ Jeremy Iliff* Archaeologist	1/22/2013
Native American Religious Concerns	X					
Paleontology		X			/s/ Al Collar Geologist	1/28/2013
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	X				/s/ Glen Garnand Plan & Env. Coord.	1/23/2013
Farmlands, Prime or Unique	X				/s/ Realty Tate Salas	1/09/2013
Rights-of-Way	X					
Invasive, Non-native Species			X	X	/s/ Emily Peterson Range Mgmt. Spec.	1-7-13
Vegetation			X	X		
Livestock Grazing			X	X		
Wastes, Hazardous or Solid		X			*/s/ Al Collar* geologist	1/28/2013
Threatened or Endangered Species	X				*/s/ D Baggao* Biologist	1/11/2013
Special Status Species	X					
Wildlife			X	X		
Wetlands/Riparian Zones	X					
Wild and Scenic Rivers	X				*/s/ Christopher J Brown* Outdoor Rec Planner	1/17/13
Wilderness	X					
Recreation		X				
Visual Resources		X			*/s/ Michael J. Bilbo* VRM & Cave Specialist	1/29/2013
Cave/Karst			X	X		
Environmental Justice		X			/s/ Beth Skaggs Natural Resources Specialist	15 Jan 2013
Public Health and Safety		X				
Solid Mineral Resources		X			*/s/ Al Collar* Geologist	1/28/2013
Fluid Mineral Resources		X			*/s/ John S. Simitz* Geologist	Jan 22, 2013



Miller Place
Allotment #63000

N
W E
S

1:36,051

0 0.3 0.6 Miles

Barbed Wire Fence
Allotment Boundary

BLM
Private
State