

**DECISION RECORD
DOI-BLM-NM-P010-2016-0017-DNA**

Proposed Decision: It is my decision to implement the BLM-Preferred Alternative as described in DOI-BLM-NM-P010-2016-0017 DNA and to issue 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 |
| 64079 | West Side | 5797 | 52% | 181 | 1128 | Cattle | 181 |
| 64093 | Walnut Creek | 240 | 100 | 5 | 60 | Cattle | 60 |

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
 Assistant Field Manager, Resources

03/23/2016
 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-P010-2016-0017-DNA

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER: 64079 & 64093

PROPOSED ACTION TITLE/TYPE: Term Grazing Permit

LOCATION/LLEGAL DESCRIPTION: Chaves County, New Mexico

APPLICANT (if any): Allottee of Allotment 64079 & 64093

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

The proposed action is to authorize the grazing permit on allotment #64079 for 181 Animal Units (AUs) year-long for 1,129 animal unit months (AUMs) and on allotment 64093 for 5 AUs yearlong for 60 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): *NM-510-2006-0107-EA*

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.

NM-510-2006-0107-EA, May 2006, Allotment 64079 & 64093

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, “meets” the standards of Rangeland health.

| Allotments | Date RHA completed |
|------------|--------------------|
| 64079 | 11/19/2013 |
| 64093 | 11/19/2013 |

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 2006 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. Six surveys and three sites have been reported in allotment 64079 and four surveys and 1 historic site have been reported in allotment 64093. 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. Paleontology

Under the Potential Fossil Yield Classification (PFYC) System the surface formations of the allotments were 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 allotments contain 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 sites 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 |
|---------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Emily Metcalf | Rangeland Management Specialist | BLM |
| Michael McGee | Hydrologist | BLM |
| Laura Hronec | Archaeologist | BLM |
| Randy Howard | 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.

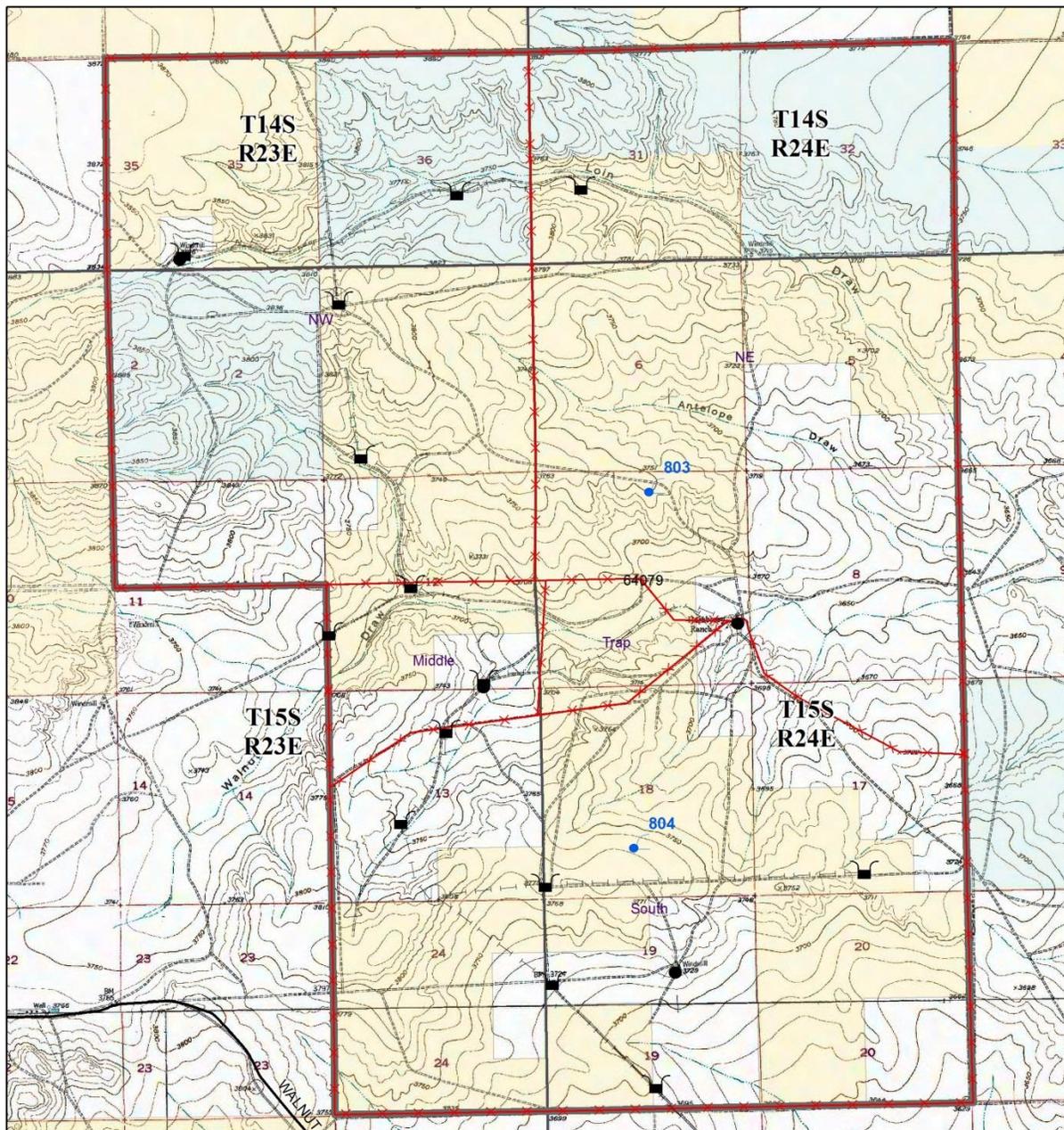
Conclusion

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
Resources

03/23/2016
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 #64079 West Side

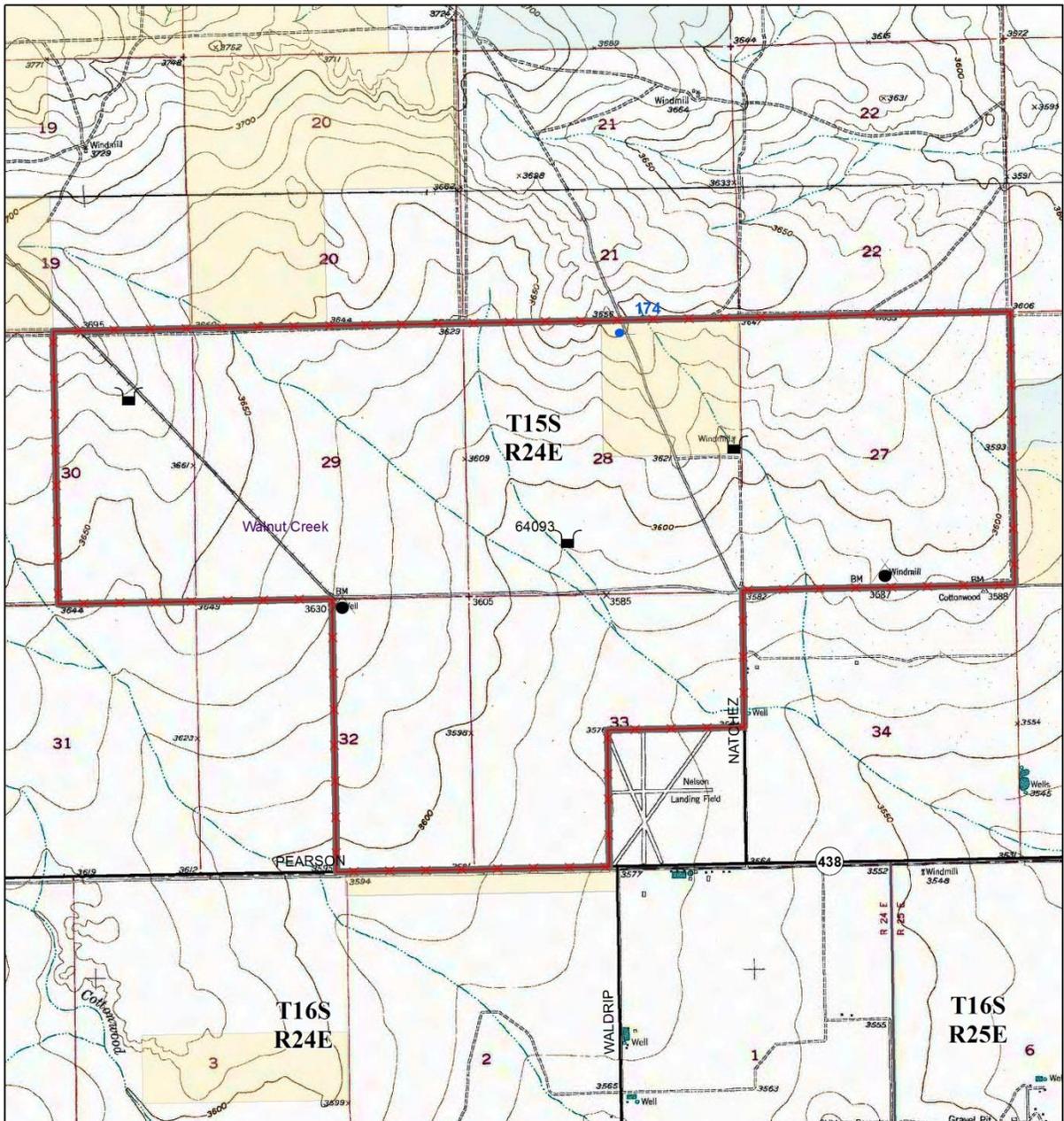


1:38,899

-  Range Studies
-  Storage Tank
-  Trough
-  Well with Storage
-  Fence
-  Pipeline
-  Allotments
-  BLM
-  Private
-  State



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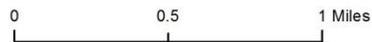


Allotment #64093 Walnut Creek



1:30,083

- Range Studies
- Trough
- Well with Storage
- Fence
- Pipeline
- Allotments
- BLM
- Private
- State



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