



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT BADLANDS AND GOSHUTE MOUNTAIN ALLOTMENTS GRAZING PERMIT RENEWAL DOI-BLM-NV-N030-2011-0023-EA

Based on the attached Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Badlands and Goshute Mountain Allotments Grazing Permit Renewal (DOI-BLM-NV-N030-2011-0023-EA) and supporting documents, I have determined that the Proposed Action, as described and analyzed in the EA, will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment, individually or cumulatively with other actions in the general area. Therefore, preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required.

Context:

The Proposed Action focuses on livestock grazing management on 23,793 acres of public land within the Badlands and Goshute Mountain Allotments located approximately 45 miles south of Wendover, NV. The analysis of monitoring data in the revised 2013 Standards and Guidelines Assessment concluded that Standards 1 and 4 are being met. Standards 3 and 5 are not being met, but current livestock grazing management practices was determined to **not** be a causal factor. Current livestock grazing practices are considered to be in conformance with the guidelines. Standard 2 was not reviewed because there are **no** riparian or wetland sites within the allotments. The Proposed Action would result in the renewal of a livestock grazing permit with after the fact billing and some other minor changes to the terms and conditions, allowing the permittee to continue grazing livestock on public lands.

Intensity:

1) *Impacts may be both beneficial and adverse.*

The analysis identifies any beneficial or adverse impacts on vegetation, livestock grazing, invasive, non-native species, soils, wild horses, wildlife, special status species, threatened or endangered species, migratory birds, cultural resources and Native American concerns that may arise as a result of the proposed grazing permit renewal. Measures are incorporated to avoid or reduce adverse impacts from grazing, conserve habitat for the sensitive species, and identify and protect cultural resources.

2) *The degree to which the proposed action affects public health or safety.*

The Proposed Action will have no effect on public health or safety.

3) *Unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farm lands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas.*

There are no unique characteristics such as park lands, special recreation management areas, prime farm lands, wetlands, areas of critical environmental concern, wild and scenic rivers, designated wilderness or wilderness study areas in the allotments or that would possibly be affected by the Proposed Action.

4) *The degree to which the effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be highly controversial.*

A draft standards and guidelines assessment was released for public comment in June 2009. The EA was released for a 30-day public review period which ended November 4, 2011. Based on the small number and contents of comments received from the public, the effects on the quality of the human environment are not considered highly controversial.

5) *The degree to which the possible effects on the human environment are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks.*

No highly uncertain or unknown risks to the human environment were identified during analysis of the Proposed Action.

6) *The degree to which the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration.*

The Proposed Action neither establishes a precedent for future BLM actions with significant effects nor represents a decision in principle about future consideration.

7) *Whether the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts.*

No individually or cumulatively significant impacts were identified for the Proposed Action. Any adverse impacts identified, in conjunction with any adverse impacts of other past, present, or reasonably foreseeable future actions will result in negligible to moderate impacts to natural and cultural resources.

8) *The degree to which the action may adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in or eligible for listing in the NRHP or may cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historic resources.*

There is currently one known sites within the Badlands and Goshute Mountain Allotments which is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The Proposed Action is unlikely to have an adverse effect, and it is expected that the cultural resources would remain in the same condition as they are currently.

9) *The degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the ESA of 1973.*

No listed species are known to occur within the Badlands and Goshute Mountain Allotments, and no critical habitat for any species has been designated in the area. As discussed in "Section 3.3 Special Status Species, Migratory Birds and Other Wildlife" of the EA, the allotments do provide habitat for Greater Sage-Grouse, a Federal candidate species, and several BLM Sensitive

