United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
High Desert District
Kemmerer Field Office
430 North Highway 189
Kemmerer, Wyoming 83101-9711
www.blm.gov/wy

September 29, 2014

Issue Livestock Grazing Permits (#4915588) on the Wilkinson Creek Allotment #21037
With Modified Terms and Conditions
Errata Sheet

Dear Permittees and Interested Publics:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Kemmerer Field Office (KFO) announces a correction to the Wilkinson Creek Allotment Environmental Assessment (EA) number via this Errata Sheet. After completion of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents to include the Wilkinson Creek EA, Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and Proposed Decision Record (DR), it was discovered that the Wilkinson Creek Allotment EA number was incorrect. An errata correcting only the EA numbers in all three NEPA documents will be updated as of the date noted above and these updated documents will replace the existing versions of the previous NEPA documents on the KFO website. The initial EA number assigned to the Wilkinson Creek Allotment EA was DOI-BLM-WY-D090-2011-0011-EA. The new EA number assigned to the Wilkinson Creek Allotment will be DOI-BLM-WY-D090-2014-0144-EA.

The public comment period is not being extended because all documentation was accurately reflected in the NEPA document preparation and this is only an administrative change to the assigned NEPA register number associated with the Wilkinson Creek Allotment EA.

*To access Environmental Assessment DOI-BLM-WY-D090-2014-0144-EA go to the following internet address:
http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/kfo/grazing.html

If you have any questions or do not have internet access and would like a paper copy mailed to you, please contact Carl Bezanson, Rangeland Management Specialist at (307) 828-4522.

Sincerely,

Basia Trout

Basia Trout
Acting Field Manager

Copies Sent To:

Circle B Cattle Company, Inc.
P.O. Box 51298
Idaho, Falls, ID 83405

Seven C Ranch
c/o Robert Kirk
P.O. Box 100
Cokeville, WY 83114

Lincoln County Conservation Dist.
c/o DeMont Grandy
P.O. Box 98
Cokeville, WY 83114-0098

Wyoming State Grazing Board
P.O. Box 1202
Lander, WY 82520

Western Watershed Project
Johnathan B. Ratner
P.O. Box 1160
Pinedale, WY 82941-1160

Wyoming Department of Agriculture
2219 Carey Ave.,
Cheyenne, WY 82002

State Historic and Preservation Office
Barrett Building, 3rd Floor
Cheyenne, WY 82002

Wyoming Livestock Board
1934 Wyott Drive
Cheyenne, WY 82002

Wyoming Game and Fish Department
5400 Bishop Blvd.
Cheyenne, WY 82006

Wyoming Game and Fish Department
351 Astle
Green River, WY 82935

Office of State Lands and Investments
Herschler Bldg., 3rd Floor West
122 West 25th Street
Cheyenne, WY 82002

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
5353 Yellowstone Road, STE 308A
Cheyenne, WY 82009

Finding of No Significant Impact
Evaluation of Livestock Grazing
Wilkinson Creek Allotment #21037

DOI-BLM-WY-D090-2011-0011-EA
US Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management
Kemmerer Field Office, High Desert District, Wyoming

1. Introduction

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has conducted an Environmental Assessment (EA), DOI-BLM-WY-D090-2011-0011-EA, to analyze the effects of renewing livestock grazing permits in the Wilkinson Creek Allotment located in Lincoln County. The Proposed Action would renew the current livestock grazing permittee permit for a term of ten years, or for the term of their valid base property lease, if applicable with current and additional terms and conditions to allow the rangeland to continue to meet plant health and vigor.

2. Finding of No Significant Impact

Based upon a review of the EA (DOI-BLM-WY-D090-2011-0011-EA) and the supporting documents, I have determined that the project is not a major federal action and will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment, individually or cumulatively with other actions in the general area.

In addition, no environmental effects meet the definition of significance in context or intensity as defined by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) criteria for significance (40 CFR 1508.27), and do not exceed those effects described in the Kemmerer Proposed RMP/Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). This finding is based on the context and intensity of the project as described below.

2.1 Context

The proposed action would occur within the Wilkinson Creek Allotment and would have local impacts on the resources similar to and within the scope of those described and considered within the Kemmerer RMP/FEIS, and Record of Decision (ROD). The proposed action is an allotment-specific action directly involving approximately 3,195 acres of BLM-administered land and does not in and of itself have international, national, regional, or state-wide importance.

2.2 Intensity

The following discussion is organized around CEQ's ten significant criteria described in 40 CFR 1508.27. The following have been considered in evaluating intensity for this proposal:

2.2.1 Impacts that may be both beneficial and adverse:

The Action/Alternatives would affect resources as described in the EA. Mitigating measures to reduce impacts to the various resources were incorporated in the design of the action alternatives.

None of the environmental effects discussed in detail in the EA are considered significant, nor do the effects exceed those described in the Kemmerer RMP/FEIS, and ROD.

2.2.2 Degree of effect on public health or safety:

For this measurement of intensity, I have considered the effects to resources such as air quality and water quality. WDEQ monitoring data identifies that there are no air quality concerns within the allotment related to livestock grazing. Since previous authorization of livestock grazing within the allotment has not impacted water quality, none of the alternatives are expected to impair water quality condition. However, if future WDEQ monitoring results identify that agriculture use is impacting water quality, a monitoring program along with modifications to the agriculture use would be put in place to conform with 43 CFR 4180.

2.2.3 Unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas:

The historic and cultural resources of the area have been reviewed and potential impacts mitigated in the design of the alternatives. Resources such as invasive species, wildlife and wetland vegetation, heritage resources, recreation, energy and mineral resources are discussed and potential impacts analyzed. Wilderness Characteristics are not present in the area. The remaining components of the human environment resource issues such as air, soil, water, social and economic conditions, are also discussed and analyzed in the EA (see Appendix A).

2.2.4 Degree to which the possible effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be highly controversial:

No anticipated effects have been identified that are scientifically controversial. As a factor for determining, within the meaning of 40 CFR 1508.27(b)(4), whether or not to prepare a detailed environmental impact statement, 'controversy' is not equated with 'the existence of opposition to a use' (Northwest Environmental Defense Center v. Bonneville Power Administration, 117 F.3d 1520, 1536 (9th Cit. 1997). The term 'highly controversial' refers to instances in which 'a substantial dispute exists as to the size, nature, or effect of the major federal action rather than the mere existence of opposition to a use (Hells Canyon Preservation Council v. Jacoby, 9 F.Supp.2d 1216, 1242 (D. Or. 1998). Substantial dispute within the scientific community about the effects would indicate there is a high level of controversy. I do not see such a dispute over the effects of livestock grazing if the Proposed Action were implemented.

2.2.5 Degree to which the possible effects on the quality of the human environment are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risk:

The project is not unique or unusual. The BLM has experience implementing similar actions in similar areas. The environmental effects to the human environment are fully analyzed in the EA. There are no predicted effects on the human environment that are considered to be highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks. Significance does not arise from the presence of a risk; rather, it arises from a high degree of unique or unknown risks. If the risks are known and

have been incurred for similar actions in the past, significance is not implicated. The analysis did not identify any effects on the human environment that are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks. Grazing has been the primary use in this area for over 100 years. Therefore the effects of the proposed action on the human environment are not highly uncertain, and do not involve unique or unknown risks. The effects analysis demonstrates that the effects are not uncertain and do not involve unique or unknown risks.

2.2.6 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 analysis showed how the alternatives would implement direction in the KFO RMP and would not establish precedent for any future actions. BLM has previously chosen to implement specific term and conditions in livestock grazing permits and has previously chosen to take steps to protect riparian resources. The activities are not connected to any other future actions. Implementation of this decision would not trigger other actions, nor is it a part of a larger action in the project area encompassed by this decision. Actions for this permit renewal do not represent a decision in principle about future considerations.

2.2.7 Whether the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts:

The environmental analysis did not reveal any cumulative effects beyond those already analyzed in the Kemmerer RMP/FEIS. The interdisciplinary team evaluated the possible actions in context of past, present and reasonably foreseeable actions.

2.2.8 Degree to which the action may adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed on the National Register of Historic Places or may cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources:

A cultural resources survey was completed as part of the EA process, the results of which are discussed in Chapter 3 of the EA. All reasonable precautions, including buffer zones, are included in Chapter 4. The proposed action would build no additional infrastructure or facilities that would increase the number or intensity of livestock congregation areas that could increase the risk to these resources.

2.2.9 Degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its critical habitat:

Mitigating measures to reduce impacts to wildlife have been incorporated into the design of the action alternative through proper stocking rates and timing of use and utilization stipulations. These are discussed and analyzed thoroughly in Chapters 3.3 and 4.2.3.

2.2.10 Whether the action threatens a violation of federal, state, or local environmental protection law:

The action does not threaten to violate any law. The action is in conformance with the Kemmerer RMP, which provides the direction and guidance for public land management for the area where the Wilkinson Creek Allotment is located.

Authorized Official: Basia Trout 8/29/14

Basia Trout
Acting Field Manager
Kemmerer Field Office

Date