

**Finding of No Significant Impact  
Evaluation of Livestock Grazing  
Sage Chicken Flat Allotment #01436**

DOI-BLM-WY-D090-2011-0065-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-D090-2011-0065-EA, to analyze the effects of renewing livestock grazing permits in the Sage Chicken Flat Allotment located in Lincoln County. The proposed action would renew the current livestock grazing permittees' permits 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 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.

This finding is based on the context and intensity of the project as described. 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).

**2.1 Context**

The proposed action would occur within the Sage Chicken Flat 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 796 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 alternative.

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:**

No aspect of the Action/Alternatives would have an effect on public health and safety.

**2.2.3 Unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, wetlands, mineral resources, recreation/travel opportunities and Lands with Wilderness Characteristics:**

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.

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

Sage Chicken Flat has no controversial issues within the allotment.

**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.

**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:**

This project does not have any significant effects or represent a decision in principle about future considerations. The actions considered in the selected alternative were considered by the interdisciplinary team within the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions. Significant cumulative effects are not predicted. An analysis of the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of the alternatives is described in Chapter 4 of the EA.

**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.

**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, 4 and 5.

**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 Sage Chicken Flat Allotment is located.

**Authorized Official:**   
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Date