

Worksheet

Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

OFFICE: BLM Kemmerer Field Office
312 Highway 189 North
Kemmerer, WY 83101

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER: 4913467

PROPOSED ACTION TITLE/TYPE: Grazing Permit Transfer/Renewal

LOCATION/LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Sidehill (#11415), Jackman (#11410) & Gourley (#11412) allotments, Uinta County, Wyoming, USA. (See attached Map for Details).

T 14N & 15N R 114W & 115W

Secs: 6, 7, 13, 14, 15, 18, 19, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 31

APPLICANT (if any):

Hickman Investments LLC #4913467

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

Hickman Investments LLC recently applied for a permit on the Sidehill, Jackman & Gourley allotments as part of a preference transfer. The Proposed Action is to issue a grazing permit to Hickman Investments LLC on the Sidehill (#11415), Jackman (#11410) & Gourley (#11412) allotments, with the same terms and conditions as existed on the previous permit for those allotments. All three of these allotments are "C" (Custodial) category allotments. The objective is to maintain range conditions on these allotments.

B. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance

LUP Name*Kemmerer Resource Management Plan Date Approved 5/24/2010

**List applicable LUPs (for example, resource management plans; activity, project, management, or program plans; or applicable amendments thereto)*

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decisions:

Decision #	Decision/Management Action
6014	Develop and implement appropriate livestock grazing management actions to address rangeland health standards, improve forage for livestock, and enhance rangeland health.
6015	Authorize current amounts, kinds, and season of livestock grazing uses until rangeland health standards assessment results and (or) monitoring indicates a grazing use adjustment is necessary, or that a kind and (or) class of livestock or season of use modification can be accommodated.
6019	The planning area is open to livestock grazing. A few small parcels are not permitted or leased for livestock grazing at the present time. The BLM can consider issuing 10-year renewable permits, temporary nonrenewable permits, or not issuing grazing permits for these parcels.
6023	All areas except developed campgrounds are currently available for livestock grazing.
6025	Improve range conditions on I allotments and maintain M and C allotments. Design grazing systems and range improvements to achieve management objectives.

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.

Environmental Assessment (EA) #: WY-090-EA07-130.

Bridger Valley Allotments Grazing Permit Renewals.

FONSI (Finding of No Significant Impact) - 10/25/2007

List by name and date other documentation relevant to the proposed action (e.g. biological assessment, biological opinion, watershed assessment, allotment evaluation, and monitoring report).

Wildlife Clearance – Sidehill allotment (#11415) - 3/18/2010

Wildlife Clearance – Jackman allotment (#11410) – 3/17/2010

Wildlife Clearance – Gourley allotment (#11412) – 3/18/2010

Cultural Clearance – Sidehill allotment (#11415) – 1/29/2010

Cultural Clearance – Jackman allotment (#11410) – 1/29/2010

Cultural Clearance – Gourley allotment (#11412) – 1/29/2010

Letter from the Wyoming Game and Fish Department – 2/5/2010 – Stating they have no terrestrial wildlife or aquatic concerns pertaining to the proposed action.

D. NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) 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 new proposed action is identical to the proposed action analyzed in EA #: WY-090-EA07-130. There are no changes in location, action, or terms and conditions.

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 range of alternatives analyzed in EA #: WY-090-EA07-130 adequately analyzes a broad spectrum of potential management actions on these allotments, including the Proposed Action alternative, a No Action alternative, and a No Grazing alternative. As EA #: WY-090-EA07-130 was written only 3 years ago, there are no significant differences in environmental concerns, interests and resource values on these allotments. The only change in resource concerns involves the management of Sage grouse, which have been listed as a candidate species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). This issue is addressed under #3 below.

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.

Since EA #: WY-090-EA07-130 was written in 2007 the Sage grouse has been listed as a candidate species under the ESA. In accordance with the respective wildlife clearances completed for these allotments, neither the Sidehill or Jackman allotments contain potential Sage grouse habitat. The Gourley allotment contains potential habitat but is not within a Sage Grouse Key Habitat Area. The terms and conditions specified in the Proposed Action alternative of EA #: WY-090-EA07-130 will adequately manage this land to protect or enhance Sage grouse habitat. Specifically, the Proposed Action alternative in the EA establishes requirements for leaving adequate residual vegetation after grazing to provide cover and forage for Sage grouse.

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.

Because the new Proposed Action is identical to the Proposed Action alternative in EA #: WY-090-EA07-130, the direct, indirect and cumulative effects of the new proposed action are the same as those analyzed in the EA.

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.

EA #: WY-090-EA07-130 went through a full NEPA process, including a scoping process that involved all interested or involved parties. After completion of the EA, grazing decisions were written and sent to all interested parties. A copy of the EA was included with the respective grazing decisions.

For the new Proposed Action, a scoping notice was sent to all interested parties on 1/7/2010. The only response received was a letter from the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, dated 2/5/2010, that stated they have no terrestrial wildlife or aquatic concerns regarding the proposed action on these allotments.

E. Persons/Agencies/BLM Staff Consulted

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Resource/Agency Represented</u>
Spencer Allred	Rangeland Management Specialist	BLM
Jennifer Siani	Wildlife Biologist	BLM
Ed Jess	Archeologist	BLM
Michele Easley	Assistant Field Manager – Resources	BLM

Note: Refer to EA/EIS for a complete list of the team members participating in the preparation of the original environmental analysis or planning documents.

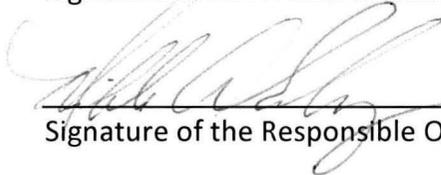
Conclusion (If you found that one or more of these criteria is not met, you will not be able to check this box.)

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 constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of the NEPA.



Signature of Project Lead

Signature of NEPA Coordinator



Signature of the Responsible Official:



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.