

**NEPA COMPLIANCE RECORD**  
**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CX)**  
Safford Field Office

NEPA #: DOI-BLM-AZ-G010-2013-0007-CX

Serial/ Case File No. Midway Canyon Grazing Allotment (#05116)

Proposed Action Title/Type: The proposed action is the transfer of grazing preference on the Midway Canyon Grazing allotment.

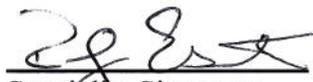
Location of Proposed Action (include name of 7.5 topographic map): The Midway Canyon Grazing allotment is located in the southeast portion of Graham County and northwest portion of Cochise County, approximately 40 miles southeast of Safford, AZ, and is a part of the Peloncillo Mountains. Topography is characterized by intermediate mountains and small valleys. Elevation varies from 3900 feet in Indian Springs Canyon to approximately 5,600 feet at the east end of the allotment (Midway Canyon). This area is covered by the Orange Butte USGS Quadrangle 7.5 Minute Map as shown in Figure 1.

Description of Proposed Action: Transfer the existing grazing preference from the current permittee (Gerald Gamblin) to Shelby and Lynne Ray. All terms and conditions of the permit would remain the same.

Applicant (if any): Shelby and Lynne Ray

PART I: PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW. This proposed action is subject to the following land use plan: Safford District Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Record of Decision approved September 1992 and July 1994.

The proposed action has been reviewed and determined to be in conformance with this plan (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM MS 1617.3).

  
Specialist Signature

  
Date

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
SAFFORD FIELD OFFICE

**PART II: CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW**

NEPA #: G010-2013-0007-CX

**ASSIGNMENT AND REVIEW**

Subactivity: \_\_\_\_\_  
Case/Project No.: 05116

Project Name: Midway Canyon Allotment Transfer  
Location (legal description): T 12S , R. 31E W. Sec. 1,2,3,13,14  
NLCS Unit: \_\_\_\_\_  
Quad Name: Orange Butte 7.5 quadrangle  
Project Lead: RJ Estes

Draft Review: Unit Manager/Supervisor: Heidi Blasius Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Technical Review:**

Applies?		NAME	EXCEPTION	SIGNATURE	DATE
Yes	No				
		RJ Estes	(1) Have Significant adverse effects on public health or safety?	<i>RE</i>	2/6/13
( )	(X)	Heidi Blasius	(2) Have adverse effects on such unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources, parks, recreation or refuge lands, wilderness areas, wild or scenic rivers, sole or principal drinking water aquifers, prime farmlands, wetlands, floodplains or ecologically significant or critical areas including those listed on the Department's National Register of Natural Landmarks.	<i>H Blasius</i>	2/6/13
( )	(X)	<i>Estes</i>	(3) Have highly controversial environmental effects	<i>RE</i>	2/6/13
( )	(X)	Dan McGrew	(4) Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.	<i>DM</i>	2/6/13
( )	(X)	Tim Goodman	(5) Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.	<i>Tim Goodman</i>	2/6/13
( )	(X)	Dave Arthun	(6) Individually Insignificant, but cumulatively significant effects.	<i>DA</i>	2-6-13
( )	(X)	Dan McGrew	(7) Have adverse effects on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.	<i>DM</i>	2/6/13
( )	(X)	Tim Goodman	(8) Have adverse effects on species listed on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have adverse effects on designated Critical Habitat for these species.	<i>Tim Goodman</i>	2/6/13
( )	(X)	Dan McGrew	(9) Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.	<i>DM</i>	2/6/13
( )	(X)	<i>Estes</i>	(10) Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations.	<i>RE</i>	2/6/13
( )	(X)	Dan McGrew	(11) Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners.	<i>DM</i>	2/6/13
( )	(X)	Dave Arthun	(12) Contribute to the introduction, continuation existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species.	<i>DA</i>	2-6-13

**Final Review:**

Environmental Coordinator: *[Signature]* Date: 2/6/13

This proposed action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under the National Environmental Policy Act in accordance with 516 DM 11, 11.9, D (1): Rangeland Management-Approval of transfers of grazing preference.

This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. It has been reviewed to determine if any of the exceptions described in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2, apply.

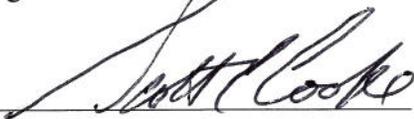
The action does not have significant adverse effects on public health and safety nor does the action adversely affect such unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources, parks, recreation, or refuge lands, wilderness areas, wild or scenic rivers, sole or principal drinking water aquifers, prime farmlands, wetlands, floodplains, or ecologically significant or critical areas, including those listed on the Department's National Register of Natural Landmarks. The action does not have highly controversial environmental effects nor have highly uncertain environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risk nor does it adversely affect a species listed or proposed to be listed on the list of endangered or threatened species. It does not establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about a future consideration with significant environmental effects or related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects. The proposed action does not adversely affect properties listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or threaten to violate a Federal, State, local or tribal law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment or which require compliance with Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management), Executive Order 11990 (Protection of Wetlands) or the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act.

**Mitigation Measures/Stipulations:**

No mitigation measures or stipulations are warranted in this transfer.

**Part III: Decision.** I have reviewed this plan conformance and NEPA compliance record and have determined that the proposed action does not conflict with major land-use-plans and will not have any major adverse impacts on other resources. Therefore, it does not represent an exception, and is categorically excluded from further environmental review. It is my decision to implement the project, as described, with the mitigation measures attached.

Authorized Official: \_\_\_\_\_



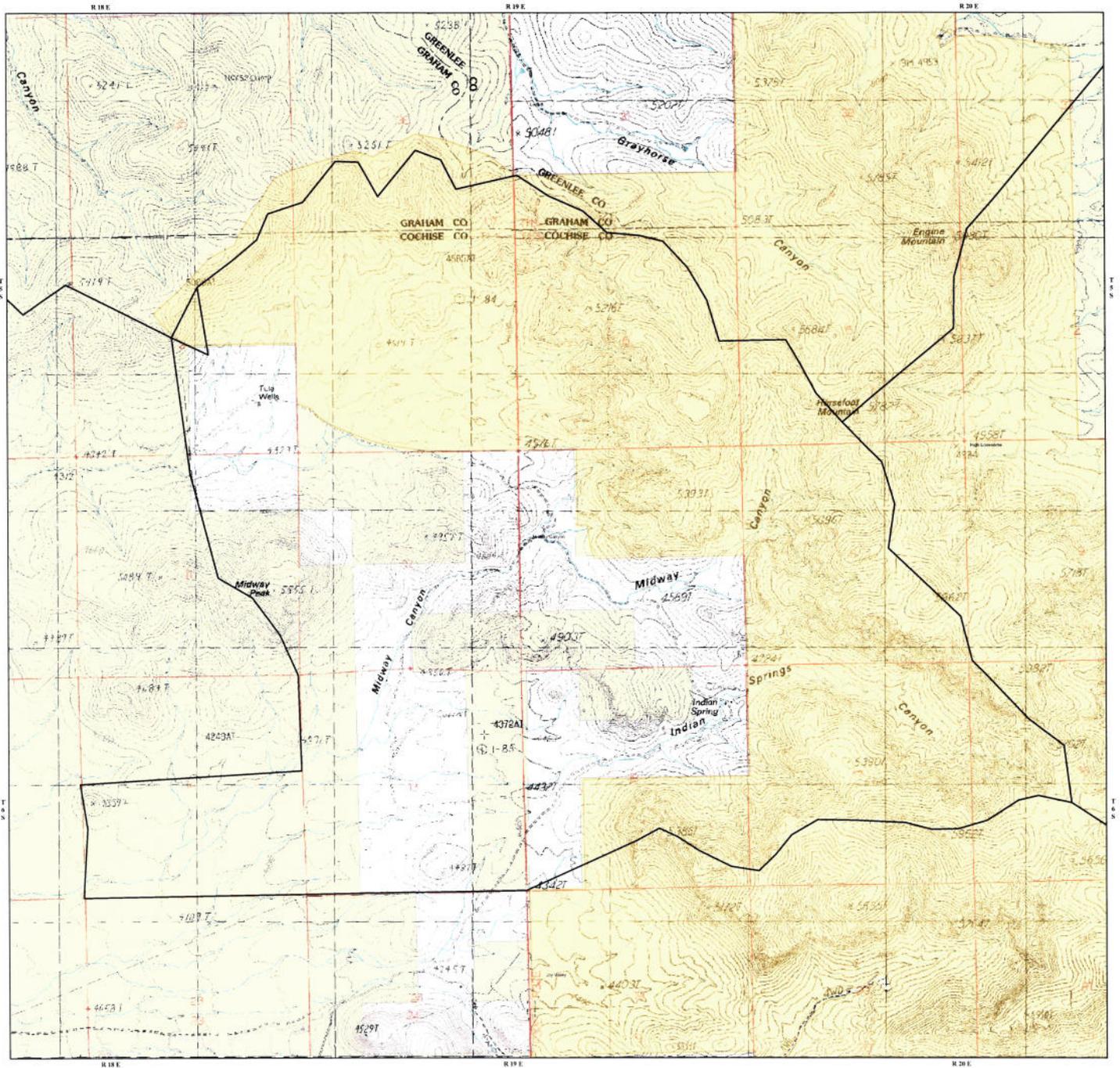
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

2/6/13

Figure 1: Midway Canyon Allotment

State of Arizona

Surface Management Responsibility - Custom 1:24,000 Scale



**LAND OWNERSHIP LEGEND**

Private Lands	Indian Lands or Reservations	BLM Wilderness Area	BLM National Monument
State Lands	Bureau of Land Management (BLM)	Forest Service Wilderness Area	National Conservation Area
State Wildlife Area	National Forest Lands (USFS)	NPS Wilderness Area	Military Reservations/Corps of Engineers
City/State/County Parks	National Park Service (NPS)	USFS Service Wilderness Area	Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)
County Lands	USFS Service National Wildlife Refuge		

Scale: 1:24,000

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

0 0.5 1 2 Kilometers

Surface Management Responsibility - Custom 1:24,000 Scale



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
ARIZONA STATE OFFICE  
Map prepared by the BLM Phoenix District Office  
Mapping Services Group. Last Edition updated on 11 August 2010

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