

Finding of No Significant Impact

NEPA Number DOI-BLM-AZ-G020-2013-0025-EA
Limestone Allotment Grazing Lease Renewal
Lease number 45080

The Bureau of Land Management prepared an Environmental Assessment (DOI-BLM-AZ-G020-2013-0025-EA) which analyzed the affects of renewing the grazing lease on the Limestone allotment for a period of ten (10) years. The Proposed Action consists of the renewal of the grazing lease for the Limestone allotment for a period of 10 years with the following Terms and Conditions:

Terms

Allotment Number	Allotment Name	Pasture Type	Number of Livestock	Type of Livestock	Year Begin	Year End	% Public Land	Type of Use	AUMs
4508	Limestone	Upland	54	CATTLE	3/1	2/28 (year-long)	92	ACTIVE	596

Conditions

1. Standard conditions (see pages 18-19 of the Environmental Assessment).
2. If in connection with allotment operations under this authorization, any human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects or objects of cultural patrimony as defined in the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (P.L. 101-601; 104 Stat. 3048; 25 U.S.C. 3001) are discovered, the lessee/permittee shall stop operations in the immediate area of the discovery, protect the remains and objects, and immediately notify the Authorized Officer of the discovery. The lessee/permittee shall continue to protect the immediate area of the discovery until notified by the Authorized Officer that operations may resume.
3. Maximum allowable use levels will be as follows:
 - 40% of the current year's growth on key forage species (Upper Gila-San Simon Grazing Environmental Impact Statement UG-EIS p. 1-9, GM36)

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the attached environmental assessment (EA), and considering the significance criteria in 40 CFR 1508.27, described below, I have determined that the proposed action with the design specifications will

not have a significant affect on the human environment. An Environmental Impact Statement is therefore not required.

Context

The Proposed action would occur on the Limestone allotment which is located on both sides of Highway 77 between Winkelman and Globe in Gila County. The allotment contains 9,130 acres, of which 92 % is public lands. The allotment is currently authorized for Grazing Permitted Use of 719 AUMs with a Suspended Permitted Use of 123 AUMs.

Intensity

The following discussion is organized around the 10 Significance Criteria described at 40 CFR 1508.27. The following have been considered in evaluating intensity for this proposal:

- 1. Impacts that may be both beneficial and adverse:** The EA considered both potential beneficial and adverse affects of the Proposed Action. None of the affects are beyond the range of affects analyzed in the Safford District Resource Management Plan (RMP), approved January 1992.
- 2. Degree of affect on public health and safety:** No affect.
- 3. Unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetland, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas:** There will be no affect to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetland, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas. The desert grassland ACEC is within the allotment but is excluded from grazing by natural barriers.
- 4. Degree to which the possible affects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be highly controversial:** The affects of the proposed action on the quality of the human environment are the same as they have been in the area for the last 20 years and have not been highly controversial.
- 5. Degree to which the possible affects on the quality of the human environment are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risk:** The analysis in the EA has not shown that the affects of the proposed action would involve unique or unknown risks to the human environment.
- 6. Degree to which the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant affects or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration:** This project neither establishes a precedent nor represents a decision in principle about future actions.

