

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

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**Environmental Assessment**

**Mail Draw Polyline and Trough  
DOI-BLM-UT-G010-2014-118-EA**

**PREPARING OFFICE**

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



**Environmental Assessment**  
**Mail Draw Polyline and Trough**  
**DOI-BLM-UT-G010-2014-118-EA**

Prepared by  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**  
**Bureau of Land Management**

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**Environmental Assessment  
DOI-BLM-UT-G010-2014-118  
JULY 24, 2014**

**Polyline And Trough  
MAIL DRAW ALLOTMENT**

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# **Chapter 1. Introduction**

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## **1.1. Identifying Information:**

This Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared to analyze the impacts of a temporary one and a quarter inch polyline running from a private pond to a public pond and the permanent placement of a trough on a disturbed site that would border the private land but be on public lands.

The EA is an analysis of potential impacts that could result with the implementation of the Proposed Action or the No-Action alternative. The EA assists the BLM in project planning and ensuring compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and in making a determination as to whether any “significant” impacts could result from the analyzed actions. “Significance” is defined by NEPA and is found in regulation 40 CFR 1508.27. An EA provides evidence for determining whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a statement of “Finding of No Significant Impact” (FONSI). A FONSI statement, is a document that briefly presents the reasons why implementation of the selected alternative will not result in “significant” environmental impacts (effects) beyond those already addressed in the Vernal Field Office Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision (RMP/ROD), (October 31, 2008). If the decision maker determines that this project has “significant” impacts following the analysis in the EA, then an EIS could be prepared for the project. If not, a Decision Record may be signed for the EA approving the alternative selected.

### **1.1.1. Title, EA number, and type of project:**

Mail Draw Polyline and Trough DOI-BLM-UT-G010-2014-0118

### **1.1.2. Location of Proposed Action:**

Mail Draw: Salt Lake Meridian, Utah: Township 1 S.; R 24 E.; sections: 26, 27, 34, 35

### **1.1.3. Name and Location of Preparing Office:**

Vernal Field Office

### **1.1.4. Applicant Name:**

Clark, Kelly, and Rod Wilkins

### **1.1.5. Background**

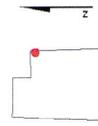
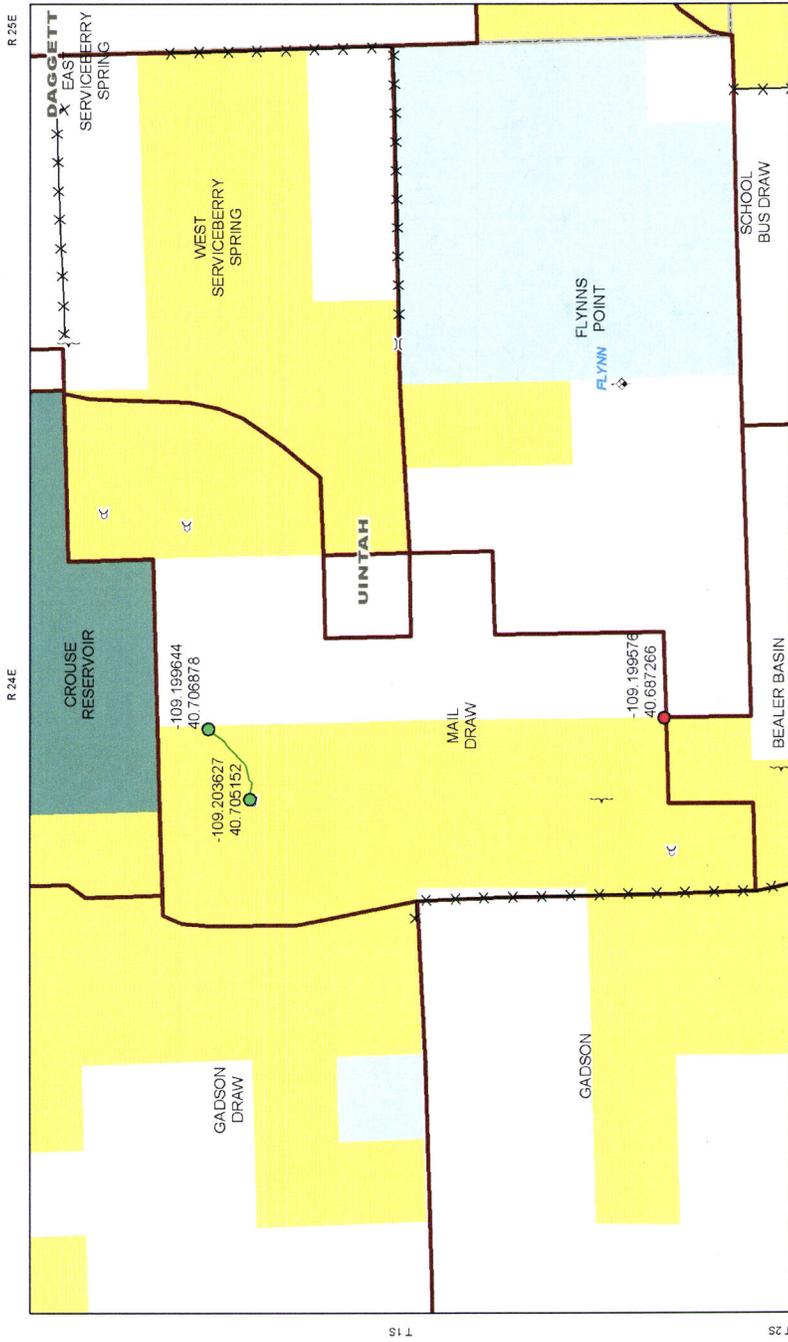
The Mail Draw Allotment (14826) is located approximately 23 miles northeast of Vernal in the Diamond Mountain area. The area is comprised of crucial grouse, deer and elk habitat due to the flat areas of mountain sagebrush, and the mountainous surroundings of Utah serviceberry, Douglas fir and pinyon pine.

The permittees have submitted two proposals to enhance water distribution within the allotment. The permittees would like to pump water through a one and a quarter inch polyline, 500 yards from their pond to the pond located on BLM managed lands. The polyline would cross under the Mail Draw Road through the existing culvert and down the drainage created by the public pond next to the maintenance road (Uintah County road #022514). The permittees would place the

polyline by hand on May 1st of each year and remove the polyline by June 15th to then draw the cattle to the south end of the allotment. No new construction would be needed. The polyline would be placed and removed by hand, and it would cause temporary surface disturbance in the drainage. The permittees would also like to pump water from a pipeline they would construct on their private land to a trough that would be located on the south end of the allotment and placed in a disturbed area where the maintenance road runs along the private/public fence line. The trough would be five by three feet in area and on BLM public land but would be used to alleviate daily traffic of the water truck on the road. See Figure 1.1, "Mail Draw Polyline and Trough" (p. 3).



# Mail Draw Polyline and Trough



### Legend

- polyline end points
- trough
- Polyline

No warranty is made by the BLM for the data for purposes not intended by the BLM.  
 This product may not meet BLM standards for accuracy and content. Different data sources and input scales may cause some misalignment of data layers.

Figure 1.1. Mail Draw Polyline and Trough

## **1.2. Purpose and Need for Action:**

The purpose for the proposed action is to pump water through a one and a quarter inch polyline, 500 yards from the permittees' pond to the pond located on BLM managed lands. The polyline would be placed by hand and cross under the Mail Draw Road through the existing culvert and down the drainage created by the public pond (Uintah County road #022514). The permittees would place the polyline May 1st of each year and remove it by June 15th of each year. The cattle would congregate at the north end of the allotment.

The purpose for the proposed action is to pump water from the permittees' private land through a newly constructed pipeline to a trough that would be located on the south end of the allotment and placed in a disturbed area where the maintenance road runs along the private/public fence line. The trough would be five by three feet in area and be placed on BLM public lands, but it would be used to alleviate daily traffic of the water truck on the road and disperse cattle to the south end of the allotment.

The need for the proposed action is for the BLM to respond to the Wilkins' proposals for Range Improvements that do not qualify for a Categorical Exclusion because they are long term, and that do not qualify for a Range Improvement Permit (Form 4120-7) because the trough will be permanent.

## **Chapter 2. Proposed Action and Alternatives**

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## **2.1. Description of the Proposed Action: Alternative A**

Under the Proposed Action, the permittees would be allowed to construct and pump water through a one and a quarter inch polyline from their private pond to the public pond located on BLM managed lands. This would be from May 1st to June 15th of each year. The permittees would also be allowed to pump water from their private land to a trough that would be located on a maintenance road near the far south corner of the Mail Draw allotment.

## **2.2. Description of Alternatives Analyzed in Detail: No Action, Alternative B**

Under the no action alternative, the permittees would not be allowed to pump water to the pond on public land nor to the trough that would be located on public lands.

## **2.3. Conformance**

The proposed action has been reviewed for conformance with the 2008 Vernal Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan and found to be in conformance. The following 2008 Vernal Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan decisions apply:

RNI-1: specific improvements to rangeland health will include, but not limited to, vegetation treatments, fencing, spring development, reservoirs, guzzlers, pipelines, and wells;

RNI-2: Part or all measures will be implemented to meet resource objectives for habitat enhancement. The Decision identifies this allotment as being open for livestock grazing and as a compatible use on public lands within the Mail Draw allotment within the authority of the 1934 Taylor Grazing Act (TGA), the 1976 Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), and the grazing administration regulations contained in 43 CFR 4100.

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## **Chapter 3. Affected Environment:**

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This section provides information to assist the reader in understanding the existing situation and current grazing management on the allotments. The resources identified below include the relevant physical and biological conditions that may be affected with the implementation of any alternatives described in Chapter 2.

### **3.1. Resources/ Issues Brought Forward for Analysis**

The affected environment of the project area was considered and analyzed by an interdisciplinary team as documented in the Interdisciplinary Team Analysis Record Checklist (Appendix A). The checklist indicates which resources of concern are either not present in the project area or would not be impacted to a degree that requires detailed analysis. Resources which could be impacted to a level requiring further analyses are described in Chapter 3 and impacts on these resources are analyzed in Chapter 4.

### **3.3. Livestock Grazing and Rangeland Health**

The cattle congregation areas on the north end of the allotment are overgrazed or likely to be overgrazed due to the natural dispersion of water and the ease of the road for the water truck to get to the northern pond.

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## **Chapter 4. Environmental Effects:**

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## **4.1. Introduction**

This chapter discusses the potential consequences or effects of implementing either of the alternatives described in Chapter 2. The intent is to provide the scientific and analytical basis for comparison of the effects of each alternative.

## **4.2. Direct and Indirect Impacts**

### **4.2.1. Livestock Grazing and Rangeland Health—Alternative A: Proposed Action**

The impacts from implementing the Proposed Action would include dispersal of cattle throughout the allotment: May to June 15th on the northern end and the remainder of the season on the larger, southern portion. This would decrease the size and impact of the cattle congregation area on the northern portion of the allotment and utilization would be scattered throughout the allotment. Truck traffic on the maintenance road would decrease, but cattle trailing on the road would increase under this alternative.

### **4.2.2. Livestock Grazing and Rangeland Health—Alternative B: No Action**

The impacts from implementing the No Action would include continued congregation and over utilization of the northern end of the allotment throughout the grazing season. Truck traffic on the maintenance road would remain at its current level.

## **4.3. Cumulative Impacts**

### **4.3.1. Cumulative Impact Analysis**

Cumulative impacts” are those impacts resulting from the incremental impact of an action when added to other past, present, or reasonably foreseeable actions regardless of what agency or person undertakes such other actions. The cumulative impact area is the Allotment boundary. Past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions impacting the cumulative impact area include cattle grazing, recreation sites on the northern portion of the allotment have denuded the area and created parking spaces for RVs, campers, ETC. Under the proposed action, these cumulative impacts would be dispersed over the allotment and not focused near the northern pond during the entire use of the permit. Under the proposed action, these cumulative impacts would continue to be concentrated in the northern end of the allotment throughout the grazing season.

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**Chapter 5. Tribes, Individuals,  
Organizations, or Agencies Consulted:**

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Public involvement consisted of posting the project on the BLM eplanning NEPA register. No public inquiries or concerns were submitted on the project.

**Table 5.1. List of Persons, Agencies and Organizations Consulted**

Name	Purpose & Authorities for Consultation or Coordination	Findings & Conclusions
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, Brian Maxfield	Washington Office Instruction Memorandum 2012-044	The project is located within greater sage-grouse PPH. The proposed pipeline and trough will be constructed on BLM lands with no new disturbance, and will be in conformance with WO-IM-2012-043, UDWR was also consulted and agrees with no impacts (B. Maxfield Emails).
Utah State Historic Preservation Office	National Historic Preservation Action Section 106	SHPO consultation completed 6/20/2014. No Historic Properties Affected 36CFR800.4(d)(1).
13 Tribes with ties to the Uinta Basin	Government to Government Consultation	Tribal consultation completed 6/29/14. No Native American Religious Concerns Expressed.

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## **Chapter 6. List of Preparers**

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**Table 6.1. List of Preparers**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Responsible for the Following Section(s) of this Document</b>
Alec Bryan	Rangeland Management Specialist	Livestock Grazing and Rangeland Health

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**Environmental Assessment  
DOI-BLM-UT-G010-2014-118**

**JULY 24, 2014**

**FONSI AND RECORD OF DECISION**

**FINDING OF NO  
SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND  
DECISION RECORD**

# Finding of No Significant Impact

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts of the Mail Draw Polyline and Trough Environmental Assessment DOI-BLM-UT-G010-2014-0118-EA, I have determined that the proposed action will not have any significant impacts on the environment and an environmental impact statement is not required.

## Signatures:

Approved by:



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Michelle Brown  
Assistant Field Manager

July 24, 2014

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# Decision Record

Based on my understanding of the information contained in the *Mail Draw Polyline and Trough Environmental Assessment* EA and my subsequent finding of no significant impact, it is my decision to authorize the actions needed to dispense water to the north and south end of the allotment for better cattle dispersion as set out in DOI-BLM-GO10-2014- 0118-EA

The following actions will be realized:

- The polyline will be in place on the north end of the allotment until June 15th, no later..
- The trough will be built near the southeast corner of the allotment and placed in an already disturbed area.

## Compliance

The proposed action has been reviewed for conformance with the 2008 Vernal Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan and found to be in conformance. The following 2008 Vernal Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan decisions apply:

RNI-1: specific improvements to rangeland health will include, but not limited to, vegetation treatments, fencing, spring development, reservoirs, guzzlers, pipelines, and wells;

RNI-2: Part or all measures will be implemented to meet resource objectives for habitat enhancement. The Decision identifies this allotment as being open for livestock grazing and as a compatible use on public lands within the Mail Draw allotment within the authority of the 1934 Taylor Grazing Act (TGA), the 1976 Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), and the grazing administration regulations contained in 43 CFR 4100.

## Selected Action

Under the selected action, Alternative A, the permittees would be allowed to construct and pump water through a one and a quarter inch polyline from their private pond to the public pond located on BLM managed lands. This would be from May 1st to June 15th of each year. The permittees would also be allowed to pump water from their private land to a trough that would be located on a maintenance road near the far south corner of the Mail Draw allotment.

## Conditions of Approval

The polyline shall be removed no later than June 15th of each year.

## Public Involvement:

The permittees, Kelly, Clark and Rod Wilkins were the only ones to comment. Their comment is responded to by the proposed action. The proposed project was posted to the E-Planning NEPA Register. No other comments were received from the public.

## **Rationale:**

My decision to authorize implementation of the proposed action alternative will not result in any undue or unnecessary environmental degradation to wilderness characteristics, threatened or endangered species, cultural resources, or matters pertaining to Native American religious freedoms or their customs. Realization of the proposed action is in conformance with the existing Vernal RMP (2008) and is consistent with the Uintah County Land Use Plan. The No Action Alternative was not selected because that alternative would not meet the stated purpose and need of pumping water to two locations in an effort to disperse cattle congregation areas.

Implementation of the proposed action will result in the development of reliable water sources for wildlife and livestock use. It will also increase the amount of water which would allow for the use of existing wildlife habitat and livestock forage that is currently not available due to the lack of water.

## **Appeal or Protest Opportunities:**

The decision or approval may be appealed to the Interior Board Of Land Appeals, Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 CFR 4.21. Within 30 days of receipt of the decision, an appeal must be filed to: Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of Hearings and Appeals, U.S. Department of the Interior, 801 North Quincy St., Suite 300, Arlington, Virginia, 22203. A copy of the notice of appeal must also be filed in the Vernal Field Office at 170 South 500 East; Vernal, Utah, 84078, as well as with: Office of the Solicitor, 125 South State Street, Suite 6201, Salt Lake City, Utah, 84138. Public notification of this decision will be considered to have occurred on December 6, 2010. The appellant has the burden of showing that the decision appealed from is in error.

If you wish to file a petition for stay pursuant to 43 CFR 3150.2(b), the petition for stay should accompany your notice of appeal and shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

1. The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied,
2. The likelihood of the appellants success on merits,
3. The likelihood of irreparable harm to the appellant or resources if the stay is not granted, and
4. Whether the public interest favors the granting of the stay

## **Authorizing Official:**



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Michelle Brown  
Assistant Field Manager

July 24, 2014

**U S Department of Interior  
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**Environmental Assessment  
DOI-BLM-UT-G010-2014-118**

**JULY 24, 2014**

**APPENDICES**

**Appendix A – Interdisciplinary Team Checklist**

# Appendix A. Interdisciplinary Team Checklist

**Project Title:** Mail Draw Polyline and Trough

**NEPA Log Number:** DOI-BLM-UT-G010-2014-0118-EA

**File/Serial Number:** Mail Draw 14826

**Project Leader:** Alec Bryan

**DETERMINATION OF STAFF:** *(Choose one of the following abbreviated options for the left column)*

NP = not present in the area impacted by the proposed or alternative actions

NI = present, but not affected to a degree that detailed analysis is required

PI = present with potential for relevant impact that need to be analyzed in detail in the EA

NC = (DNAs only) actions and impacts not changed from those disclosed in the existing NEPA documents cited in Section D of the DNA form. The Rationale column may include NI and NP discussions.

Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination*	Signature	Date
<b>RESOURCES AND ISSUES CONSIDERED (INCLUDES SUPPLEMENTAL AUTHORITIES APPENDIX 1 H-1790-1)</b>				
NI	Air Quality and Greenhouse Gases	Dust and vehicle emissions would be generated during the project. However, impacts from emissions are expected to be short term (during the project only) and indistinguishable from background emissions as measured by monitors or predicted by models.  Greenhouse gas emissions: No greenhouse gas standards have been established by EPA or other regulatory authorities. The assessment of greenhouse gas emissions and climate change is in its earliest stage. Global greenhouse gas models can be inconsistent, and localized models are lacking. Consequently, it is not technically feasible to quantify the net impacts to climate based on local greenhouse gas emissions. It is anticipated that greenhouse gas emissions associated with this action and its alternative(s) would be negligible.	Stephanie Howard	4/17/2014
NP	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	None present as per 2008 VFO RMP and GIS layer review.	Dan Gilfillan	5/7/14
NP	BLM Natural Areas	No natural areas present within the proposed project area	Dan Gilfillan	5/7/14
NP	Cultural Resources	No cultural resources identified within the project APE. SHPO consultation completed 6/20/2014. No Historic Properties Affected 36CFR800.4(d)(1).	Jimmie McKenzie	6/30/14

Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination*	Signature	Date
NI	Environmental Justice	The proposed action and "no action" alternative cannot create a disproportionately high and adverse human health impact or environmental effect on minority or low-income populations as none have been identified in the area.	Alec Bryan	5/6/2014
NP	Farmlands (Prime or Unique)	No prime or unique farm lands as identified by the NRCS are located in the project area; therefore this resource will not be carried forward for analysis.	Alec Bryan	5/6/2014
NI	Fish and Wildlife Excluding USFW Designated Species	Water developments will improve wildlife distribution throughout the summer range.	Dixie Sadlier	7/8/2014
NI	Floodplains	None present per GIS layer	Alec Bryan	5/6/2014
NP	Fuels/Fire Management	The proposed action would not adversely affect the wildland fuels or fire management activities.	Blaine Tarbell	5/2/14
NI	Geology / Mineral Resources/Energy Production	The proposed action would not adversely affect the geology, mineral resources or energy production that may occur within the boundaries of the allotment.	Betty Gamber	4/22/2014
NI	Hydrologic Conditions (stormwater)	Installation of the permanent trough and polyline may have a slight affect to surface water flow patterns but would not constitute alteration of flow patterns and/or would not result in erosion and would not need a storm-water permit as required by Section 402 of the Clean Water Act.	Alec Bryan	4/22/2014
NI	Invasive Plants/Noxious Weeds (EO 13112)	The project involves hand-placement of a surface polyline and no disturbance of vegetation or soil surface. Therefore, this project will not increase the potential for invasive weeds to spread.	Jessi Brunson	5/6/2014
NI	Lands/Access	The proposed area is located within the Vernal Field Office Resource Management Plan area which allows for various types of range improvements. The proposed water pipeline and trough would be for the benefit of livestock under the allotment permit(s); therefore, this project does not require a right-of-way.	Katie White Bull	04/22/2014
NI	Lands with Wilderness Characteristics (LWC)	The project area was not found to possess wilderness character per the survey completed 5/27/2014 (Crouse LWC Unit).	Dan Gilfillan	5/27/14
PI	Livestock Grazing	The proposed polyline and trough would improve the BLM's ability to control cattle movement and would create a new water source on the Mail Draw Allotment improving the permittee's ability to utilize the allotment.	Alec Bryan	5/6/2014
NI	Migratory Birds	Migratory birds may be present. Temporary displacement may occur but is not expected to disrupt nuptial or nesting behavior. There will be no surface disturbance associated with the project.	Dixie Sadlier	7/8/2014
NP	Native American Religious Concerns	No Native American Traditional Cultural Properties present. No Native American Religious Concerns Expressed. Tribal consultation completed 6/29/14.	Jimmie McKenzie	6/30/14
NI	Paleontology	No construction will take place for this project so no impacts to paleontology would occur.	Betty Gamber	4/22/2014
NI	Rangeland Health Standards	Rangeland Health Assessments show the allotments are meeting standards. Vegetation will remain the same, changing little under the grazing system. During Rangeland Health Assessments plant diversity was high as well as plant vigor.	Alec Bryan	5/6/2014

Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination*	Signature	Date
NI	Recreation	No developed recreation sites/trails or Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMAs) exist within the project area. Limited recreational use in the area. Considered part of the Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA), where limited recreation management takes place. The primary use of the project area is dispersed camping. The proposed action will not eliminate this use.	Dan Gilfillan	5/7/14
NI	Socio-Economics	Effects on social and economic values would likely be minimal and would not require further analysis, because of the small-scale nature of the project.	Alec Bryan	5/6/2014
NI	Soils	Soils in these areas were found to be meeting land health standards.	Alec Bryan	5/6/2014
NI	Threatened, Endangered or Candidate Animal Species	The project is located within greater sage-grouse PPH. The proposed pipeline and trough will be constructed on BLM lands with no new disturbance, and will be in conformance with WO-IM-2012-043, UDWR was also consulted and agrees with no impacts (B. Maxfield Emails).	Dixie Sadlier	7/8/14
NI	Threatened, Endangered or Candidate Plant Species	Examination of field office GIS data revealed no known threatened, endangered, candidate or proposed plant species occurring within the project area. Furthermore, GIS data indicate the project area does not contain any potential or suitable habitat for threatened, endangered, candidate or proposed plant species managed by the Vernal Field Office of the BLM.	Jessi Brunson	5/6/14
NI	Vegetation, Excluding USFWS designated species	Examination of field office GIS data revealed no known BLM Sensitive plant species occurring within 5 miles of the proposed project area. Furthermore, GIS data indicate the project area does not appear to contain any potential or suitable habitat for BLM Sensitive plant species. Additionally, the preferred surface pipeline route (north along existing road, away from the pond near south camping area) is likely to reduce impacts to vegetation by concentrating livestock use away from a pond and riparian area.	Jessi Brunson	5/6/2014
NI	Visual Resources	The Unit is designated Visual Resource Management (VRM) Class III and IV. The proposed action and the alternatives analyzed are in compliance with the VRM objectives.	Dan Gilfillan	5/7/14
NP	Wastes (hazardous or solid)	Hazardous waste would not be created by any of the alternatives.	Alec Bryan	5/6/2014
NP	Waters of the U.S.	Waters of the U.S. would not be crossed or impacted.	Alec Bryan	5/6/2014
NI	Water Resources/Quality (drinking/surface)	The surface will not be disturbed. Runoff patterns will remain the same and not be altered.	Alec Bryan	5/6/2014
NP	Ground	The groundwater is already being pumped to ponds on the private ground. No adverse affects would occur by piping water to a trough.	Alec Bryan	5/6/2014
NP	Wetlands/Riparian Zones	No inventoried or known riparian habitat is located within or near the project area.	Alec Bryan	5/6/2014
NP	Wild and Scenic Rivers	None Present as per the Vernal RMP and ROD	Dan Gilfillan	5/7/14

Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination*	Signature	Date
NP	Wild Horses and Burros	None present under the Vernal RMP. No wild horse and burros or horse areas are designated in the area of the proposed alternative.	Alec Bryan	
NP	Wilderness/WSA	No wilderness areas have been designated by the U.S. Congress on BLM lands in the Vernal Field Office.	Dan Gilfillan	5/7/14
NI	Woodland / Forestry	The proposed project will have no impact on Forest or Woodland resources.	David Palmer	4/21/2014
Reviewer Title		Signature	Date	Comments
Environmental Coordinator		Stephanie Howard	7/16/2014	
Authorized Officer		<i>Michelle Brown</i>	7/30/14	