

## **Finding of No Significant Impact**

Based upon a review of the EA and the supporting documents, I have determined that the proposed action is not a major federal action and will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment, individually or cumulatively with other actions in the general area. No environmental effects meet the definition of significance in context or intensity, as defined at 40 CFR 1508.27 and do not exceed those effects as described in the Little Snake Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision (2011). Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not required. This finding is based on the context and intensity of the project as described below.

### **Context:**

The project is a site-specific action directly involving BLM administered public lands that do not in and of itself have international, national, regional, or state-wide importance.

### **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 proposed action:

#### **1. Impacts that may be both beneficial and adverse:**

The beneficial effects of the proposed action include: in authorizing public land grazing this action sustains the local economy as grazing operations would continue to supply personal income to the operator and employees, and would have a proportional influence on the regional, Colorado, and national economy. This action supports the western livestock industry. The authorized livestock operator has mandatory and special terms and conditions that must be met to maintain their grazing preference. This provides a certain level of stewardship of public lands in that if these lands were to become degraded by any activity or event, natural or human in origin, grazing and or other authorized uses would be terminated. This stewardship role of the livestock operator not only mandates proper livestock and forage management but also provides communication with the BLM as to other activities or events that could cause degradation to public lands.

#### **2. Degree of effect on public health and safety:**

There would be no effect to public health and safety.

#### **3. Unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas:**

There are no park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas in the area of proposed action. As described in the EA, impacts to cultural resources were identified for the proposed action. As this action is not a new action but a continuation of historic land uses in this area there would be no affect to unique characteristics of the geographic area.

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

Public input regarding the proposed action has been solicited during the planning process. The information about the EA was posted in the NEPA document log on the Internet, at the Colorado BLM LSFO Home Page. Communication with the lessee and partners was extensive during the renewal process and information was taken into consideration.

#### **5. Degree to which the possible effects on the quality of the human environment are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risk.**

No highly uncertain or unknown risks to the human environment were identified during analysis of the proposed action.

**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:**

The proposed action neither establishes a precedent for future BLM actions with significant effects nor represents a decision in principle about a future consideration.

**7. Whether the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts:**

No individually or cumulatively significant impacts were identified for the proposed action. Any adverse impacts identified for the proposed action, in conjunction with any adverse impacts of other past, present, or reasonably foreseeable future actions will result in negligible impacts to natural and cultural resources.

**8. Degree to which the action may adversely affect district, 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:**

There would be no loss or destruction to these resources.

**9. Degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its critical habitat:**

The Biological Assessment prepared to analyze the effects of the proposed action on threatened and endangered species within the allotment determined that this proposed action "May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect" the Colorado pikeminnow and ute ladies'-tresses orchid. The US Fish and Wildlife Service concurred with this determination.

**10. Whether the action threatens a violation of federal, state, or local environmental protection law:**

The proposed action violates no federal, state, or local environmental protection laws.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:



DATE SIGNED:

3/12/15