U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Little Snake Field Office
455 Emerson Street
Craig, CO 81625

DOCUMENTATION OF LAND USE PLAN CONFORMANCE AND NEPA ADEQUACY

NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-N010-2015-0012-DNA

CASEFILE / ALLOTMENT NUMBER: 0505233 / 04544

PROJECT NAME: Authorization of temporary, non-renewable livestock grazing on the East Experiment Station #04544 Allotment.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: see Allotment Map, Attachment 1

East Experiment Station Allotment #04544 — T9N R93W Sec. 5, por. Sec. 6, N ½ Sec. 8, NW ¼ Sec. 9

1,379 acres BLM LU

APPLICANT: Stephen Andrew

A. Describe the Proposed Action

Issue a temporary, non-renewable grazing permit on the East Experiment Station Allotment #04544 for a period of two years, expiring October 2, 2016. The permit would be issued as follows:

Allotment Name & Number	Livestock Number & Kind	Dates Begin	End	%PL	AUMs
East Experiment Station #04544	55 Cattle	5/15	10/1	100	253

All temporary, non-renewable authorizations on the above allotment would be subject to the following Special Terms and Conditions:

1) The applicant must inspect and ensure that all fences and water developments are fully functional prior to turnout. The livestock operator will be responsible for all maintenance of range improvements during the period(s) that livestock are present within the allotment(s). If more than one operator is authorized within an allotment at the same time, each operator will

provide BLM with a signed agreement describing which operator is responsible for each improvement.

2) No single pasture will receive use for the entire period between May 15 and October 1.

3) Pastures used in the fall will be deferred until seed-set the following year.

4) The operator will provide BLM with an Actual Use Report, Form 4130-5, within two weeks of the end of grazing use.

The above permit would be subject to the Standard and Common Terms and Conditions, see Attachment 2.

B. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance

LUP Name: Little Snake Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (RMP)
Date Approved: October, 2011

Final RMP/EIS, August, 2010

Draft RMP/EIS, January, 2007

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

The Proposed Action implements the Livestock Grazing Management Goals and Objectives on page RMP-41 of the RMP to manage resources, vegetation, and watersheds to sustain a variety of uses, including livestock grazing, and to maintain the long-term health of the rangelands; provide for efficient management of livestock grazing allotments; and contribute to the stability and sustainability of the livestock industry. The proposed action has been reviewed for conformance with this plan (43 CFR 1610.5 BLM 1617.3). The proposed action of renewal of the grazing lease is in conformance with the Little Snake Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (ROD/RMP).

C. Identify applicable NEPA documents and other related documents that cover the proposed action.

Authorization of temporary, non-renewable livestock grazing on the College Station #04528 and East Experiment Station #04544 Allotments DOI-BLM-CO-N010-2010-0078-EA.

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as Amended (43 USC 1752).

Rangeland Reform Final Environmental Impact Statement, December 1994.

Colorado Public Land Health Standards, Decision Record & Finding of No Significant Impact and Environmental Assessment, March 1997.

D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

1. Is the current proposed action substantially the same action (or is a part of that action) as previously analyzed? Is the current proposed action located at a site specifically analyzed in an existing document?

Yes, this authorization would be for the same AUMs, period of use, delineated acreage, and type of livestock that was analyzed in DOI-BLM-CO-N010-2010-0078-EA.

2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the current proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values?

Yes, the ranges of alternatives addressed in DOI-BLM-CO-N010-2010-0078-EA are appropriate to the current proposed action. Current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values are the same as those in 2010. No new alternatives have been proposed by the public to address current or additional issues or concerns on this allotment. No new information has been identified that requires change or consideration of new alternatives.

3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances?

The previous analysis remains valid. No new threatened or endangered plant or animal species have been identified on the East Experiment Station Allotment #04544.

Subject to WO-IM 2011-154 and in accordance with BLM policy, the proposed project area was evaluated for suitability as lands with wilderness characteristics and did not meet the size criteria for an area greater than 5,000 acres. Therefore, the proposed action would not affect lands with wilderness characteristics.

This allotment was mapped as preliminary priority habitat in 2012, after the completion of the original environmental assessment in 2010. However, in 2010, greater sage-grouse were already designated as a BLM sensitive species and a candidate for listing under the endangered species act. Due to these designations, sage-grouse habitat in the allotment was considered high priority and concerns were addressed in the EA. The existing analysis included in the EA remains valid.

4. Do the methodology and analytical approach used in the existing NEPA document(s) continue to be appropriate for the current proposed action?

Yes, the methodology and analytical approach used in the existing NEPA documents continue to be appropriate for the proposed action. Impacts to all resources were identified.

5. Are the direct and indirect impacts of the current proposed action substantially unchanged from those identified in the existing NEPA document(s)? Does the existing NEPA document analyze site-specific impacts related to the current proposed action?

Direct and indirect impacts of the proposed action are unchanged from those identified in the existing NEPA documents.

6. Can you conclude without additional analysis or information that the cumulative impacts that would result from implementation of the current proposed action substantially unchanged from those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)?

Yes. The cumulative impacts that would result from implementation of the proposed action would remain unchanged from those identified in the existing NEPA documents. No additional activities have been proposed that would change the impacts resulting from the proposed action.

7. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current proposed action?

Yes. The original EA was posted on the 2010 NEPA log on the Little Snake Field Office web site on May 3, 2010. Additionally, this DNA will again be posted on the 2015 NEPA log for the Little Snake Field office and affected interests will receive copies of grazing permit decisions.

E. Interdisciplinary Analysis:

Title	Resource	Date
Hydrologist	Air Quality, Floodplains Prime/Unique Farmlands, Water Quality – Surface, Wetlands/Riparian Zones	2/23/2015
Archaeologist	Cultural Resources, Native American Concerns	1/21/2015
Realty Specialist	Environmental Justice	1/13/2015
Environmental Coord. NEPA	Hazardous Materials	1/12/2015
Rangeland Management Spec.	Invasive Non-native Species	1/12/2015
Rangeland Management Spec.	Sensitive Plants, T&E Plant	1/21/2015
Wildlife Biologist	T&E Animal	1/16/2015
Hydrologist	Water Quality - Ground	2/17/15
Recreation Specialist	WSA, W&S Rivers, ACECs, LWCs	2/03/2015
Wildlife Biologist	Animal Communities	1/16/2015
Wildlife Biologist	Special Status, T&E Animal	1/16/2015
Rangeland Management Spec	Plant Communities	1/12/2015
Hydrologist	Riparian Systems	2/23/2015
Hydrologist	Water Quality	2/23/2015

Rangeland Management Spec	Upland Soils	1/26/2015

Land Health Assessment

This action has been reviewed for conformance with the BLM's Public Land Health Standards adopted February 12, 1997. This action will not adversely affect achievement of the Public Land Health Standards. A standards assessment was conducted on June 6, 2003 by four rangeland management specialists and two wildlife biologists.

Conclusion

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 NEPA.

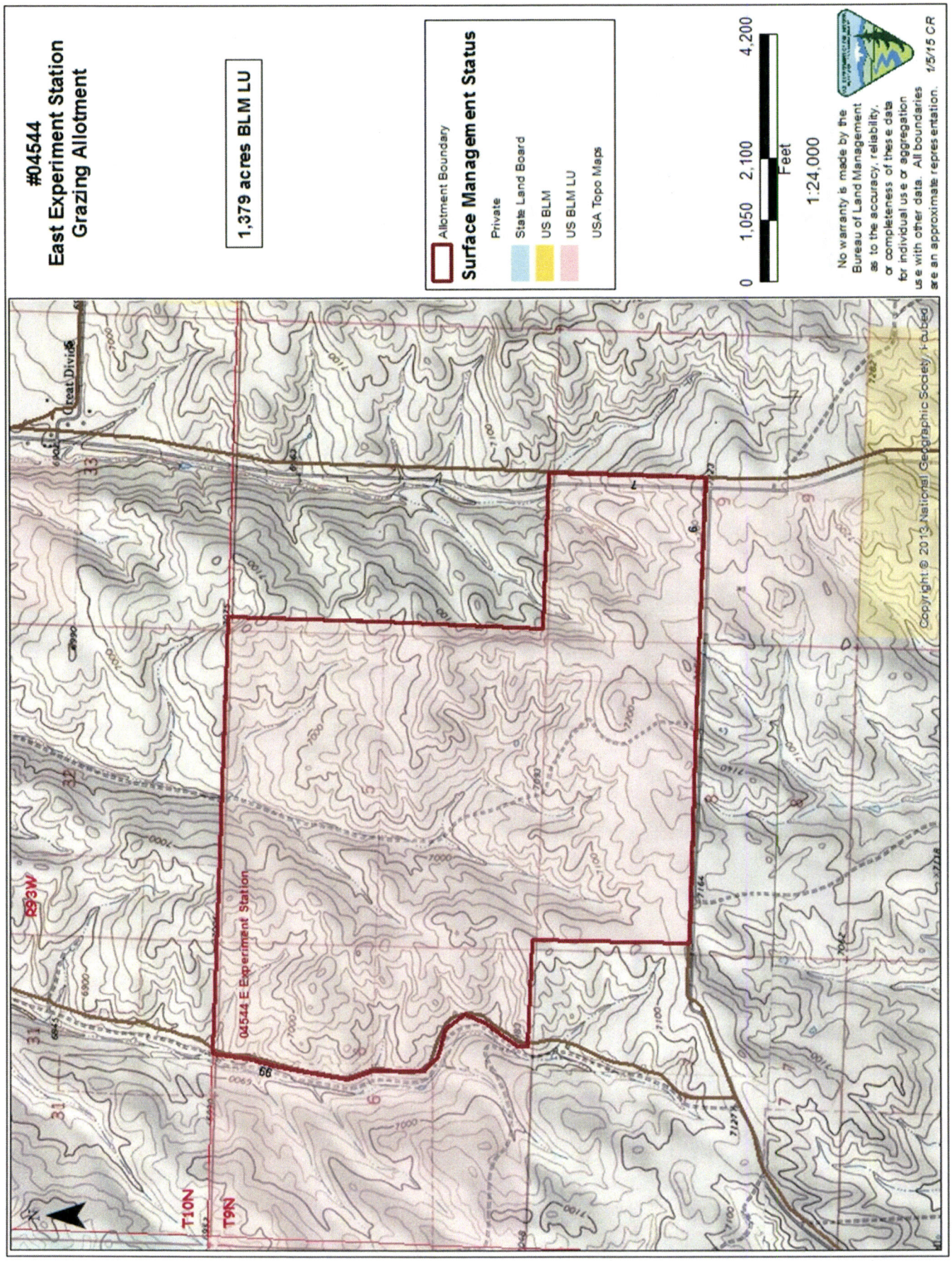
Signature of Lead Specialist Christina Rhyne Date 3/16/15

Signature of NEPA Coordinator Kathy McKinstry Date 3/16/15

Signature of the Authorizing Official Wendy Reynolds Date 3/20/15
Wendy Reynolds, Field Manager

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.

ATTACHMENT #1
DOI-BLM-CO-N010-2015-0012-DNA



ATTACHMENT #2
DOI-BLM-CO-N010-2015-0012-DNA
TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Standard Terms and Conditions

1) Grazing permit or lease terms and conditions and the fees charged for grazing use are established in accordance with the provisions of the grazing regulations now or hereafter approved by the Secretary of the Interior.

2) They are subject to cancellation, in whole or in part, at any time because of:
a. Noncompliance by the permittee/lessee with rules and regulations;
b. Loss of control by the permittee/lessee of all or a part of the property upon which it is based;
c. A transfer of grazing preference by the permittee/lessee to another party;
d. A decrease in the lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management within the allotment(s) described;
e. Repeated willful unauthorized grazing use;
f. Loss of qualifications to hold a permit or lease.

3) They are subject to the terms and conditions of allotment management plans if such plans have been prepared. Allotment management plans MUST be incorporated in permits and leases when completed.

4) Those holding permits or leases MUST own or control and be responsible for the management of livestock authorized to graze.

5) The authorized officer may require counting and/or additional or special marking or tagging of the livestock authorized to graze.

6) The permittee's/lessee's grazing case file is available for public inspection as required by the Freedom of Information Act.

7) Grazing permits or leases are subject to the nondiscrimination clauses set forth in Executive Order 11246 of September 24, 1964, as amended. A copy of this order may be obtained from the authorized officer.

8) Livestock grazing use that is different from that authorized by a permit or lease MUST be applied for prior to the grazing period and MUST be filed with and approved by the authorized officer before grazing use can be made.

9) Billing notices are issued which specify fees due. Billing notices, when paid, become a part of the grazing permit or lease. Grazing use cannot be authorized during any period of delinquency in the payment of amounts due, including settlement for unauthorized use.

10) Grazing fee payments are due on the date specified on the billing notice and MUST be paid in full within 15 days of the due date, except as otherwise provided in the grazing permit or lease. If payment is not made within that time frame, a late fee (the greater of $25 or 10 percent of the amount owed but not more than $250) will be assessed.

11) No member of, or Delegate to, Congress or Resident Commissioner, after his/her election of appointment, or either before or after he/she has qualified, and during his/her continuance in office, and no officer, agent, or employee of the Department of Interior, other than members of Advisory committees appointed in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App. 1) and Sections 309 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) shall be admitted to any share or part in a permit or lease, or derive any benefit to arise therefrom; and the provision of Section 3741 Revised Statute (41 U.S.C. 22), 18 U.S.C. Sections 431-433, and 43 CFR Part 7, enter into and form a part of a grazing permit or lease, so far as the same may be applicable.

Common Terms and Conditions

A) Grazing use will not be authorized in excess of the amount of specified grazing use (AUM number) for each allotment. Numbers of livestock annually authorized in the allotment(s) may be more or less than the number listed on the permit/lease within the grazing use periods as long as the amount of specified grazing use is not exceeded.

B) Unless there is a specific term and condition addressing utilization, the intensity of grazing use will insure that no more than 50% of the key grass species and 40% of the key browse species current years growth, by weight, is utilized at the end of the grazing season for winter allotments and the end of the growing season for allotments used during the growing season. Application of this term needs to recognize recurring livestock management that includes opportunity for regrowth, opportunity for spring growth prior to grazing, or growing season deferment.

C) Failure to maintain range improvements to BLM standards in accordance with signed cooperative agreements and/or range improvement permits may result in the suspension of the annual grazing authorization, cancellation of the cooperative agreement or range improvement permit, and/or the eventual cancellation of this permit/lease.

D) If used, salt and/or other mineral supplements shall be placed at least one-quarter mile from water sources or in such a manner as to promote even livestock distribution in the allotment or pasture.

E) Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g), the holder of this authorization must notify the authorized officer, by telephone, with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further,

pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), you must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the authorized officer.

The operator is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the allotment operations that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are encountered or uncovered during any allotment activities or grazing activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities in the immediate vicinity and immediately contact the authorized officer. Within five working days the authorized officer will inform the operator as to:

-whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places;
-the mitigation measures the operator will likely have to undertake before the identified area can be used for grazing activities again.

If paleontological materials (fossils) are uncovered during allotment activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities that might further disturb such materials and contact the authorized officer. The operator and the authorized officer will consult and determine the best options for avoiding or mitigating paleontological site damage.

F) No hazardous materials/hazardous or solid waste/trash shall be disposed of on public lands. If a release does occur, it shall immediately be reported to this office at (970) 826-5000.

G) The permittee/lessee shall provide reasonable administrative access across private and leased lands to the BLM and its agents for the orderly management and protection of public lands.

H) Application of a chemical or release of pathogens or insects on public lands must be approved by the authorized officer.

I) The terms and conditions of this permit/lease may be modified if additional information indicates that revision is necessary to conform with 43 CFR 4180.

ATTACHMENT #3
DOI-BLM-CO-N010-2015-0012-DNA

East Experiment Station #04544
Standards and Assessments
Executive Summary

This allotment is meeting all standards. An assessment was conducted on June 6, 2003 by four rangeland management specialists and two wildlife biologists as part of the Powderwash Landscape Assesmment.

STANDARD 1. Upland soils exhibit infiltration and permeability rates that are appropriate to soil type, climate, land form, and geologic processes. Adequate soil infiltration and permeability allows for the accumulation of soil moisture necessary for optimal plant growth and vigor, and minimizes surface runoff.

Surface soil characteristics within this allotment are meeting land health standards. There is no evidence of accelerated erosion. Additionally, there is very good canopy and ground cover to protect from erosion.

STANDARD 2. Riparian systems associated with both running and standing water functions properly and has the ability to recover from major disturbances such as fire, severe grazing, or 100-year floods. Riparian vegetation captures sediment and provides forage, habitat, and biodiversity. Water quality is improved or maintained. Stable soils store and release water slowly.

Several lentic riparian areas exist on this allotment. Four sites were assessed according to the riparian assessment Proper Functioning Condition methodology. The most recent assessments for these sites rate three of the four areas to be in Proper Functioning Condition, while the fourth site is rated as Functional—At Risk. Overall, these riparian systems function properly, and have the ability to recover from major disturbances.

STANDARD 3. Healthy, productive plant and animal communities of native and other desirable species are maintained at viable population levels commensurate with the species and habitat potential. Plants and animals at both the community and population levels are productive, resilient, diverse, vigorous, and able to reproduce and sustain natural fluctuations and ecological processes.

The vegetation community within the allotment contains appropriate age class and structure of woody and perennial species composition to contribute to the desired objectives. Past management that included crested wheatgrass seedings within the allotment have affected the diversity and composition of the allotment. However, the density and production of the allotment is appropriate. Perennial pepperweed and cheatgrass are present but are at acceptable levels. This standard is being met for the plant community.

The allotment provides habitat for a variety of wildlife species. Elk and mule deer utilize this area for winter habitat. Overall, vegetative communities within the allotment are in good condition, providing suitable habitat for terrestrial wildlife species. Shrub cover was adequate to provide winter habitat for browsing species. This standard is met and habitat conditions would continue to be met under the Proposed Action.

STANDARD 4. Special status, threatened, and endangered species (federal and state), and other plants and animals officially designated by BLM, and their habitats are maintained or enhanced by sustaining healthy native plant and animal communities.

The allotment provides habitat for greater sage-grouse, a BLM sensitive species and a candidate for listing under the Endangered Species Act. Sagebrush and grass communities on the allotment are in good condition, providing suitable habitat greater sage-grouse. Overall, native vegetation is appropriate and healthy and meets this standard. This standard would continue to be met under the Proposed Action.

There are no federally listed threatened or endangered or BLM sensitive plant species present on public lands within this allotment. This standard does not apply.

STANDARD 5. The water quality of all water bodies, including ground water where applicable, located on or influenced by BLM lands will achieve or exceed the Water Quality Standards established by the State of Colorado. Water Quality Standards for surface and ground waters include the designated beneficial uses, numeric criteria, narrative criteria, and anti-degradation requirement set forth under State law as found in 5 CCR 1002-8, as required by Section 303 of the Clean Water Act.

Surface runoff from this allotment drains into Bighole Gulch, a tributary to the Little Snake River over 15 miles downstream of the allotment. Water quality for all tributaries of the Little Snake River (below its confluence with Fourmile Creek) is use protected and must support Aquatic Life Warm 2, Recreation N, and Agricultural uses. There are no water quality impairments or suspected water quality issues for waters influenced by East Experiment Station Allotment.