

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

**Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)
Hayden Ranch North Well**

PREPARING OFFICE

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



**Determination of NEPA Adequacy
(DNA)
Hayden Ranch North Well**

DOI-BLM-CO-F02-2014-0051 DN

**Prepared by
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Canon City, CO**

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Chapter 1. Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)

Worksheet

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

OFFICE::LLCOF200

TRACKING NUMBER:

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER: RIP#017563

PROPOSED ACTION TITLE/TYPE: Hayden Ranch North Well

LOCATION/LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Lake County T10S, R80W, S. 27 6th PM

APPLICANT (if any): Canterbury Ranch

A. Description of Proposed Action and any applicable mitigation measures

The Hayden Ranch Allotment consists of an intense rotational grazing system made up of seven pastures. The objective in this system is to allow for grazing in each pasture for a short period of time and then that pasture is rested for the remaining season which promotes full recovery and re-growth of the vegetation. It is critical that each pasture is used separately to reach the intended objective. Currently, livestock water is limited on the north end of the allotment resulting in two pastures not currently used. This project is intended to provide water to two additional pastures and activate these pastures into the grazing rotation. Activating these pastures will reduce the number of days in individual pastures and help meet the vegetation rest and recovery objectives set in place during the environmental analysis.

The proposed action is to authorize construction of a water well, buried electrical cable, water pipeline, and livestock tanks on the Hayden Ranch Allotment #03194. The water well (Well Permit #295815) is a typical sub surface well drilled approximately 100 — 200 feet deep. The well would be powered from the existing Sangre De Cristo power grid located along Highway 24. An electrical cable would be buried from an existing power pole to the well for approximately 250 feet. A water pipeline would be buried from the well to two tire tanks for approximately 200 feet. The tire tanks would be located in the existing fence line to serve livestock from both sides of the fence. The tire tanks will be fitted with an overflow to divert excess water away from the tanks and wildlife escape ramps.

The project is planned for the early winter of 2014 or spring of 2015.

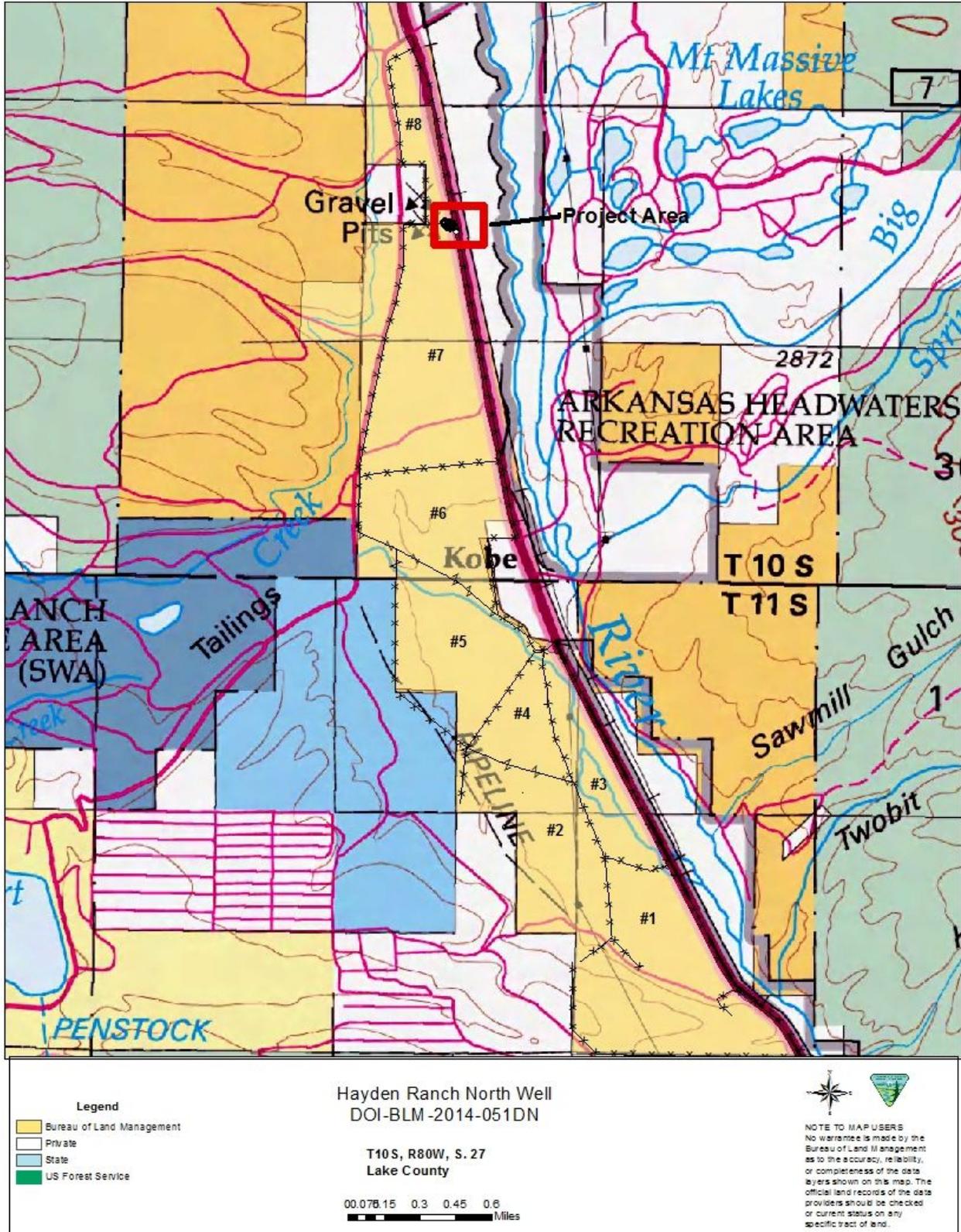


Figure 1.1.

*Chapter 1 Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)
A. Description of Proposed Action and any applicable mitigation measures*

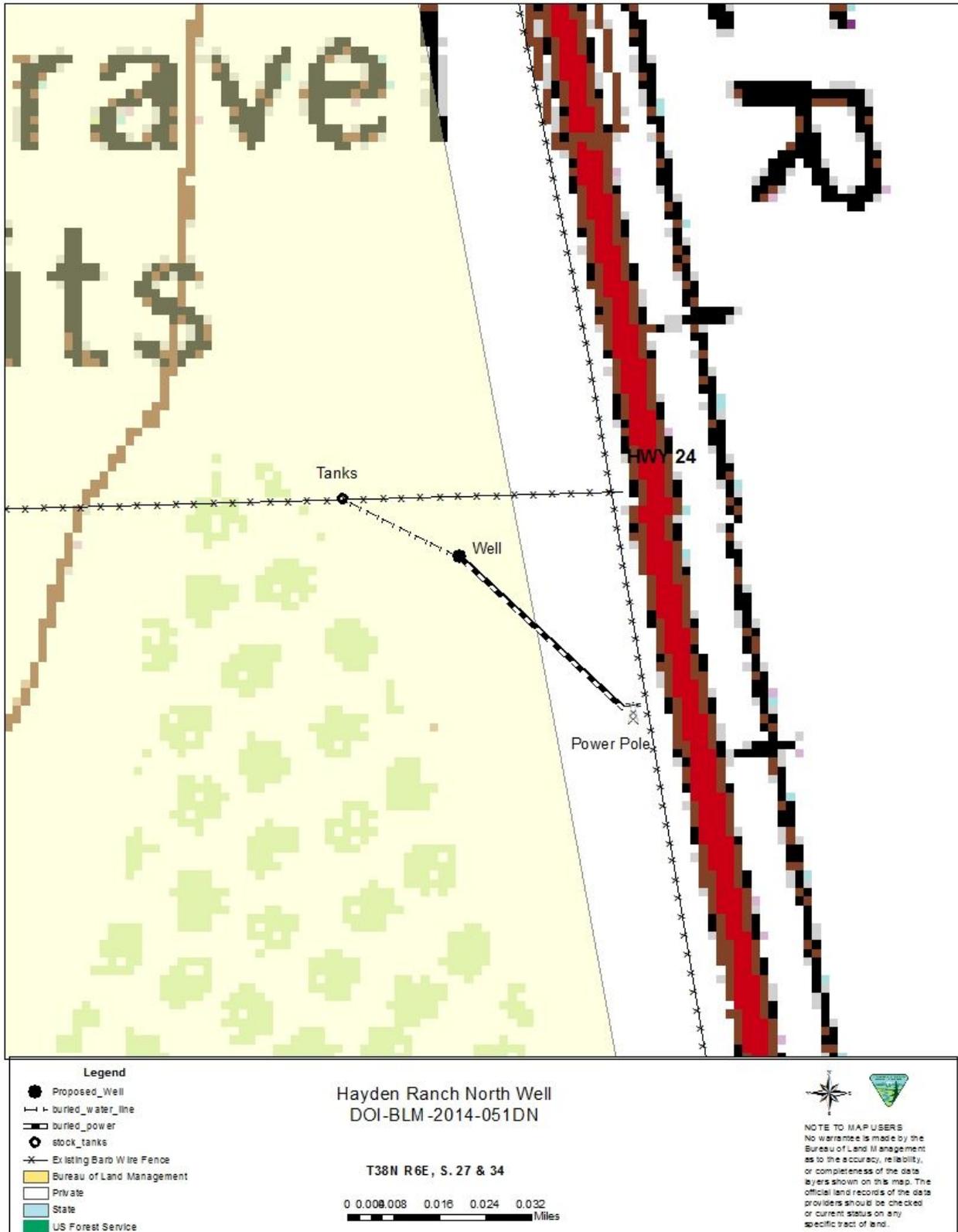


Figure 1.2.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

LUP Name	Date Approved
Royal Gorge Resource Mgmt Plan	5/13/1996
Other Document	Date Approved
Other Document	Date Approved

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decisions (objectives, terms, and conditions).

C-38, Continue to construct range improvements on an as needed basis.

The proposed action is in conformance with the LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decisions (objectives, terms, and conditions):

C. Identify applicable National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents and other related documents that cover the proposed action.

List by name and date all applicable NEPA documents that cover the proposed action.

Royal Gorge Grazing EIS, April 2, 1980

CO-200-2010-0036EA Hayden Ranch Grazing Authorization May 17, 2010

List by name and date other documentation relevant to the proposed action (e.g. biological assessment, biological opinion, watershed assessment, allotment evaluation, and monitoring report).

D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

1. Is the new proposed action a feature of, or essentially similar to, an alternative analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? Is the project within the same analysis area, or if the project location is different, are the geographic and resource conditions sufficiently similar to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? If there are differences, can you explain why they are not substantial?

Yes. The Royal Gorge Field Office Resource Management Plan (RGFO RMP) states that “BLM will continue to construct range improvement projects on an as needed basis. BLM will complete NEPA documentation on each project as needed.” The RMP analyzed the Royal Gorge Field Office area and grazing allotments therein. This project is located within the Royal Gorge Field Office. There are no other differences. The grazing authorization EA covers the site specific allotment.

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

Yes. The RGFO RMP contained four management alternatives, and these are identified as: 1) the Existing Management Alternative, which was a continuation of previous management practices of a mixed level of resource management, utilization and protection; 2) the Resource Conservation Alternative, emphasized resource conservation, providing increased protection for natural resources; 3) the Resource Utilization Alternative provided for utilization, production and development of the natural resources; and 4) the Preferred Alternative that emphasized resource conservation but with moderate levels of development and resource utilization.

The alternatives analyzed in the grazing authorization EA for the Hayden Ranch Allotment was the Proposed Action: Analyzes the allotment, the allotment schedule, terms & conditions, and issued the permit for ten years. The alternative also analyzed the allotment, but allowed for more flexibility in the grazing schedule. The EA also included a No Grazing Alternative.

3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances (such as, rangeland health standard assessments, recent endangered species listings, updated lists of BLM sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that new information and new circumstances would not substantially change the analysis of the new proposed action?

The RMP was concluded in 1996 and the permit renewal EA was done in 2010. There is no new information or issues that would change what was analyzed in the existing NEPA documents.

4. Are the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects that would result from implementation of the new proposed action similar (both quantitatively and qualitatively) to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document?

The RMP decision provided for grazing allotment range improvement projects. The current action, analyzed in the 2010 grazing authorization EA, provides project specific analysis and examination of direct, indirect and cumulative impacts. This DNA ensures that the specialists have reviewed and provided remarks below regarding impacts from the proposed action.

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

The views and concerns of the public were actively solicited during the planning process of the RMP and EA.

E. Persons/Agencies/BLM Staff Consulted

Table 1.1. Interdisciplinary Team

INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM REVIEW			
NAME	TITLE	AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY	Initials/date
Matt Rustand	Wildlife Biologist	Terrestrial Wildlife, T&E, Migratory Birds	MR 11/18/2014
Jeff Williams	Range Management Spec.	Range, Vegetation, Farmland	JW, 10/06/2014
Chris Cloninger	Range Management Spec.	Range, Vegetation, Farmland	n/a
John Lamman	Range Management Spec.	Weeds	10/20/2014

INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM REVIEW			
NAME	TITLE	AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY	Initials/date
Dave Gilbert	Fisheries Biologist	Aquatic Wildlife, Riparian/Wetlands	DG 11/21/14
Melissa Smeins	Geologist	Minerals, Paleontology, Waste Hazardous or Solid	mjs, 10/20/2014
John Smeins	Hydrologist	Hydrology, Water Quality/Rights, Soils	JS, 11/19/2014
Ty Webb	Fire Management Officer	Air Quality	TW, 10/20/14
Jeff Covington	Cadastral Surveyor	Cadastral Survey	JC, 10/16/2014
Linda Skinner	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Recreation, Wilderness, LWCs, Visual, ACEC, W&S Rivers	LS, 12/16/2014
John Nahomenuk	River Manager	Recreation, Wilderness, LWCs, Visual, ACEC, W&S Rivers	JN, 10/17/2014
Ken Reed	Forester	Forestry	KR, 10/21/14
Monica Weimer	Archaeologist	Cultural, Native American	NA
Michael Troyer	Archaeologist	Cultural, Native American	MDT 10/15/14
Rich Rotte	Realty Specialist	Realty	RAR, 10/15/14
Debbie Bellew	Realty Specialist	Realty	n/a
Ty Webb	Fire Management Officer	Fire Management	TW, 10/20/14
Steve Cunningham	Law Enforcement Ranger	Law Enforcement	n/a

Note

Refer to the EA/EIS for a complete list of the team members participating in the preparation of the original environmental analysis or planning documents.

REMARKS:

Cultural Resources: No historic properties were found in the area of potential effect [see report CR-RG-14-131 (N)]. Therefore, the proposed undertaking will have no effect on any historic properties (those eligible for the NRHP).

Native American Religious Concerns: No possible traditional cultural properties were located during the cultural resources inventory (see above). There is no other known evidence that suggests the project area holds special significance for Native Americans.

Threatened and Endangered Species: There are no records of any federally listed or BLM sensitive species within or near the project area. The Proposed Action will not result in impacts to TES species.

Migratory Birds: To be in compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Memorandum of Understanding between BLM and USFWS required by Executive Order 13186, BLM must avoid actions, where possible, that result in a “take” of migratory birds. Pursuant to BLM Instruction Memorandum 2008-050, to reduce impacts to Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC), no habitat disturbance (removal of vegetation such as timber, brush, or grass) is allowed during the periods of May 15 - July 15, the breeding and brood rearing season for most Colorado migratory birds. The provision will not apply to completion activities in disturbed areas that were initiated prior to May 15 and continue into the 60-day period. An exception to this timing limitation will be granted if nesting surveys conducted no more than one week prior to vegetation-disturbing activities indicate no nesting within 30 meters (100 feet) of the area to be disturbed. Surveys shall be conducted by a qualified breeding bird surveyor between sunrise and 10:00 a.m. under favorable conditions.

MITIGATION:

Wastes, Hazardous or Solid: If the project involves oil or fuel usage, transfer or storage, an adequate spill kit and shovels are required to be on-site during project implementation. The project proponent will be responsible for adhering to all applicable local, State and Federal regulations in the event of a spill, which includes following the proper notification procedures in BLM’s Spill Contingency Plan.

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 requirement of NEPA.

Jeff Williams 12/16/2014

Signature of Project Lead

/s/ Sara L. Dawson

Signature of Supervisor

/s/ Martin Weimer

Signature of NEPA Coordinator

/s/ Keith E. Berger

Signature of the Responsible Official

1/27/15

Date

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 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.