United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Colorado River Valley Field Office
2300 River Frontage Road
Silt, Colorado 81652
www.co.blm.gov

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

DOI-BLM-CO-N040-2015-0044-CX

BACKGROUND.

Permit/Serial/Case File Number: 0505407

PROPOSED ACTION.

Grazing Preference Transfer

LOCATION OF PROPOSED ACTION.

Legal description: T5S, R92W, Sixth Principal Meridian, Garfield County, Colorado.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION.

The proposed action is to transfer grazing preference from the Carl and Margaret Wittwer Family Trust to X Bar Z Ranch, LLC. The proposed action is in accordance with 43 CFR 4110.2-3.

Table 1. Grazing Preference (AUMS) to be Transferred.

Allotment Name & No.	Active AUMs	Suspended AUMs	Temporary Suspended	Permitted AUMs
Wittwer #08038	4	3	0	7

LAND USE PLAN CONFORMANCE.

Name of Plan. Glenwood Springs Resource Management Plan

Date Approved. Jan. 1984, revised 1988, amended in November 1991 - Oil and Gas Leasing and Development - Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement; amended Nov. 1996 - Colorado Standards and Guidelines; amended in August 1997 - Castle Peak Travel Management Plan; amended in March 1999 - Oil and Gas Leasing & Development Final Supplemental

Environmental Impact Statement; amended in November 1999 - Red Hill Plan Amendment; and amended in September 2002 – Fire Management Plan for Wildland Fire Management and Prescriptive Vegetation Treatment Guidance; amended in September 2009; and amended in October 2012 - Approved Resource Management Plan Amendments/ Record of Decision (ROD) for Solar Energy Development in Six Southwestern States.

The Proposed Action is in conformance with the LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decision(s):

Decision Number/Page. The action is in conformance with Administrative Actions (pg. 5) and Livestock Grazing Management (pg. 20).

Decision Language. Administrative actions state, "Various types of actions will require special attention beyond the scope of this plan. Administrative actions are the day-to-day transactions required to serve the public and to provide optimal use of the resources. These actions are in conformance with the plan". The livestock grazing management objective as amended states, "To provide 56,885 animal unit months of livestock forage commensurate with meeting public land health standards."

COMPLIANCE WITH NEPA.

The proposed action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9, Section: D, Range Management, Number 1, Approval of transfers of grazing preference.

The Departmental Manual (516 DM 2.3A(3) & App. 2) requires that before any action described in the following list of categorical exclusions is used, the exceptions must be reviewed for applicability in each case. The proposed action cannot be categorically excluded if one or more of the exceptions apply, thus requiring either an EA or an EIS. When no exceptions apply, the following types of bureau actions normally do not require the preparation of an EA or EIS.

None of the following exceptions in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2, apply.

Table 2. Exclusions.

EXCLUSION	YES	NO
1. Have significant impacts on public health or safety.		X
2. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.		X
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section		X

102(2)(E)].		
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		X
5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		X
6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		X
7. Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.		X
8. Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.		X
9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		X
10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).		X
11. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).		X
12. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).		X

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW.

Table 3. BLM Interdisciplinary Team Authors and Reviewers.

Name	Title	Area of Responsibility
Issac Pittman	Rangeland Management Specialist	Rangeland Management
Hjalmar P. Sandberg	Range Technician	Rangeland Management
Brian Hopkins	Planning and Environmental Coordinator	NEPA Compliance

REMARKS/MITIGATION.

There are no impacts to public land since the transfer action only results in a transfer of grazing preference.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS AND DECISION.

I considered this action and determined that it may be categorically excluded. I have evaluated the action relative to the 12 criteria listed above and have determined that it does not represent an exception and is, therefore, categorically excluded from further environmental analysis.

Signature.

Authorizing Official: _____ Date: 3/2/15
Monte Senor
Acting Supervisory Natural Resource Specialist

Contact Person. For additional information concerning this CX review, contact Isaac Pittman, Rangeland Management Specialist at 970-876-9069, Colorado River Valley Field Office, 2300 River Frontage Road, Silt, CO 81652.

United States Department of the Interior

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Colorado River Valley Field Office
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IN REPLY REFER TO:
ON 0505407 (CON040)

X BAR Z Ranch, LLC
Dorothea E. Lowery
0873 Highway 325
Rifle, CO 81650

Dear Mrs. Lowery:

On February 19, 2015 you submitted an application to transfer grazing preference from the Carl and Margaret Wittwer Family Trust to X Bar Z Ranch, L.L.C. for the Wittwer #08038 allotment. The transfer involves you now controlling the base property for the allotment (identified as Exhibit A in your application) which meets the requirements of base property as outlined in the grazing regulations.

This permit or lease is issued under the authority of Section 402(c)(2) of FLPMA, 1976 as amended, and contains the same terms and conditions as the previous permit or lease. This permit or lease may be canceled, suspended, or modified, in whole or in part to meet the requirements of applicable laws and regulations.

Please take a moment to review your enclosed grazing permit. **If you do not have any concerns with the permit as offered, please sign, date, and return both copies to our office.** If you have any questions, contact Isaac Pittman of my range staff at 970-876-9069.

Sincerely,

Monte Senor
Acting Supervisory Natural
Resource Specialist

3/2/2015
Date

Enclosure(s)
BLM Form 4130-2a (Grazing Permit)