

**United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management**

**Categorical Exclusion
DOI-BLM-CO-SO50-2015-039 CX**

May 2015

**Colorado – Mullins Land Co., Inc.
Change of Base Property Designation
for Baldy Allotment #05568**

Location: Montrose, Colorado

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Uncompahgre Field Office
2465 South Townsend Avenue
Montrose, CO 81401
Phone: (970) 240-5300**



**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Uncompahgre Field Office
2465 South Townsend Avenue
Montrose, CO 81401**

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-S050-2015-039 CX

PROJECT NAME: Colorado – Mullins Land Co., Inc. Change of Base Property Designation for Baldy Allotment #05568

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Baldy Allotment #05568: T. 45 N. R. 8 W. Sec. 36

APPLICANT: Colorado – Mullins Land Co., Inc.

BACKGROUND: Base property and grazing preference for Baldy Allotment #05568 are held by Colorado – Mullins Land Co., Inc. The corporation has submitted BLM form 4130-1a (Grazing Preference Transfer Application) to BLM to change the base property designation from 200 acres of hillside rangeland to 80 acres of irrigated farm land. Colorado – Mullins Land Co., Inc. is the owner of both parcels.

The change of base property is considered administrative in nature. There are no changes to the grazing preference, class of livestock, forage allocation or season of use. The base property meets requirements outlined in 43 CFR §4110.2-1.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION:

The proposed action is to administratively change the designated base property for the Baldy allotment #05568 from 200 acres of hillside rangeland in T. 45 N, R. 8 W., Sections 22 and 27; to 80 acres in T. 45 N, R. 8 W., Section 11: SW1/4SE1/4 and Section 14: NW1/4NE1/4. Colorado – Mullins Land Co., Inc. is a qualified applicant under 43 CFR §4110.1 and §4110.2-3.

The grazing allotment involved and the associated grazing preference and season of use are summarized in the table below.

Allotment Name & No.	Percent Public Land	Active AUM's	Suspended AUM's	Permitted AUM's	Permitted Season of Use
Baldy No. 05568	100	88	0	88	7/3 – 7/26

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW: The Proposed Action is subject to and has been reviewed for conformance with (43 CFR 1610.5) the following plan:

Name of Plan: Uncompahgre Basin Resource Management Plan

Date Approved: July, 1989

Decision Number/Page: Page 15

Decision Language: In Management Unit 2 Livestock grazing will continue at current forage allocation levels and seasons of use unless studies determine adjustments are needed.

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW: The proposed action qualifies as a Categorical Exclusion under 516 DM 11.9, Number D.1, which allows "approval of transfers of grazing preference". This is the administrative approval of grazing preference transfer applications.

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

Exclusion	YES	NO
1. Have significant adverse effects on public health and safety.	___	<u>X</u>
2. Have adverse effects 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, floodplains; national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.	___	<u>X</u>
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.	___	<u>X</u>
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.	___	<u>X</u>
5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.	___	<u>X</u>
6. Be directly related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.	___	<u>X</u>
7. Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places.	___	<u>X</u>
8. Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have adverse effects on designated Critical Habitat for these species.	___	<u>X</u>
9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.	___	<u>X</u>
10. Have disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations.	___	<u>X</u>

- 11. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites by Indian religious practitioners or adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites. _____ 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. _____ X

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>
Glade Hadden	Archeologist
Missy Sidors	Wildlife
Ken Holsinger	T&E Species

REMARKS:

Cultural Resources: A change of base property designation will have no direct or indirect impact to any National Register or otherwise eligible historic properties. No inventory is required under the provisions of BLM 2110.23B4 and no further work is required.

Native American Religious Concerns: There are none known or anticipated for this action.

Transfer of grazing preference will have no direct or indirect impact to ESA listed or BLM sensitive species. There are no animal or plant species listed, proposed, or candidate to the Endangered Species Act that are known to inhabit or derive important use of the Baldy Allotment.

NAME OF PREPARER: Deborah Burch-Hawks

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Jedd Sondergard

DATE: 5/15/15

DECISION AND RATIONALE:

I have reviewed this Categorical Exclusion and have decided to approve the administrative change in base property for Colorado – Mullins Land Co., Inc.

There are no impacts to public land since the transfer action only results in a change of base property designation. 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, which allows “approval of transfers of grazing preference”. 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 OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL: Barbara Sharrow

Barbara Sharrow
Field Manager
Uncompahgre Field Office

DATE SIGNED: 5-18-15