

# United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management

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Environmental Assessment  
DOI-BLM-UT-W020-2015-0001-EA

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June 2015

## WEST BENCH ALLOTMENT TERM GRAZING PERMIT

**Location:** The West Bench Allotment is located approximately 5 miles west of Scipio, Utah. T17 S., R3W., sections 23, 24, 25, 26 and 35. And T.18S., R.3W., Sections 2 and 11 (See attached map).

**Applicant/Address:** *Private Land Owners of intermingled private lands within the West Bench Allotment*

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**WEST BENCH ALLOTMENT TERM GRAZING PERMIT**  
**DOI-BLM-UT-W020-2015-0001-EA**

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**CHAPTER 1**  
**INTRODUCTION AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION**

**INTRODUCTION**

It is proposed to issue grazing permits for public lands intermingled with state and private lands on the bench west of Scipio, Utah to the owners of the intermingled private lands. The area has been grazed since settlement times but those grazing the area have never been issued grazing permits for the public lands. The area would continue to be grazed as in the past. It has been grazed during the fall, winter and spring, with pasture rotation in the spring.

**PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION**

The area being analyzed in this EA as the West Bench Allotment has been grazed for many years. No authorization for this grazing has ever occurred. The proposed action would authorize use that is occurring and would be authorized as it has been grazed in the past. This authorization needs to occur so that the grazing of these lands can be controlled and managed.

Section 4130.2 of the grazing regulations (43CFR) provides for the issuance of grazing permits to qualified applicants for public lands that have been designated as available for livestock grazing through lands use plans. The grazing regulations (43CFR 4110.2-2) specify that permitted use is granted to holders of grazing preference and shall be specified in grazing permits. These permits would be issued under the authority of the Taylor Grazing Act (TGA), Federal Land Policy Management Act (FLPMA) and the 1987 House Range Resource Area Resource Management Plan (HRRR RMP) subsequent to this Environmental Assessment (EA).

**CONFORMANCE WITH BLM LAND USE PLAN(S)**

Although the allotment listed in the proposed action is not within an existing grazing allotment, the October 1987 HRRR Record of Decision (ROD) states under Planned Actions in paragraph 1 on page 16 that "Areas presently unallotted for livestock use will remain unallotted unless environmental analysis determines that grazing is a compatible use for the area." This environmental analysis is being conducted to make such a determination.

On Page 24 of the HRRR ROD paragraph 11 states that "Grazing licenses/permits will specify the allotment, number of AUMS, period/pattern of use, numbers, and kinds of livestock".

Paragraph 3 on page 16 indicates that monitoring studies will be continued to obtain data needed to support future forage allocation and that until determined otherwise, livestock forage will continue to be used at the current active preference level.

## **RELATIONSHIPS TO STATUTES, REGULATIONS AND OTHER PLANS**

The Millard County General Plan of 1998 supports livestock grazing as an important use on public lands.

In conformance with the policy developed by the Utah State Director and approved by the Secretary of Interior (Decision Record for The Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Management for BLM Lands in Utah), the alternatives would be in compliance with the following:

The alternatives consider 43 CFR 4100.0-8, which states, in part, "The authorized officer shall manage livestock grazing on public lands under the principle of multiple use and sustained yield, and in accordance with applicable land use plans." The alternatives also consider 43 CFR 4130.2(a) which states, in part, "Grazing permits or leases shall be issued to qualified applicants to authorize use on the public lands and other lands under the administration of the Bureau of Land Management that are designated as available for livestock grazing through land use plans."

The alternatives are in compliance with the Fundamentals of Rangeland Health (43 CFR 4180.1) and associated Standards (43 CFR 4180.2), which address watersheds, ecological site condition, water quality and habitat for special status species. These resources are either analyzed later in this document or, if not impacted, are listed in Appendix A of this EA.

The Proposed Action and alternative incorporates the analysis contained in the FFO Temporary Non-Renewable (TNR) Grazing Authorization EA (#DOI-BLM-UT-W020-2012-0009-EA) which was issued through grazing decision on December 13, 2012 and became Final on January 29, 2013. This EA and Decision authorize the use of TNR grazing in the FFO. Specific analysis for the allotments considered in this EA was included in the TNR EA.

In addition, the Proposed Action and alternatives would comply with the following laws and/or agency regulations, other plans and are consistent with Federal, state and local laws, regulations, and plans to the maximum extent possible:

- Taylor Grazing Act (TGA) of 1934
- Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.)
- Public Rangelands Improvement Act (PRIA) of 1978
- Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 as amended
- Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918
- 43 CFR 4100 Grazing Administration-Exclusive of Alaska
- Standards of Quality for Waters of the State, R317-2-6, Utah Administrative Code, December 1997
- Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended)
- National Environmental Policy Act of 1969
- The Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Management for BLM Lands in Utah May 1997.
- BLM. 1987. House Range Resource Area RMP. Fillmore Field Office

- BLM. 2008. Manual 6840, Special Status Species Management
- BLM. 2010. Utah BLM Sensitive Fish and Wildlife Species List
- UDWR. 2005. Utah Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy, Effective October 1, 2005-2015
- USFWS. 1940. Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act 1940 as amended.
- USFWS. 1999. Utah Field Office Guidelines for Raptor Protection from Human and Land Use Disturbances
- USFWS. 2010. Memorandum of Understanding Between BLM and USFWS to Promote the Conservation of Migratory Birds

## CHAPTER 2 DESCRIPTION OF ALTERNATIVES

### INTRODUCTION

The alternatives discussed in this section will be the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative. Also, considered are the alternatives considered but eliminated from further analysis.

The alternatives considered but eliminated from further analysis include:

- No Grazing. Under this alternative, livestock grazing would not be authorized for this allotment. This alternative was not considered for detailed environmental analysis for the following reasons:
  - It would be inconsistent with the intent of the Taylor Grazing Act (TGA). This allotment is within Utah's Juab Grazing District 10 established under the authority of the TGA. The TGA provides that the Secretary shall make provision for the protection, administration, regulation and improvement of such grazing districts.
  - A no grazing alternative was considered but not carried forward for analysis in the House Range Resource Area RMP Final EIS. The EIS states that, "The elimination of livestock grazing would not serve any identified need. In addition, the "No Grazing" Alternative does not constitute a reasonable or viable alternative and is not consistent with the congressionally mandated Public Rangeland and Improvement Act of 1978." (HRRMP EIS, September 1986) Therefore, consideration of a "No Grazing" Alternative would be inconsistent with the HRRMP.
  - Studies by Anderson (1994) comparing "ungrazed" fenced highway rights-of-way and enclosures with adjacent "grazed" rangelands indicate that some livestock grazing can best achieve management objectives. With proper grazing use, more vegetation cover was observed on grazed sites.
  - Many other studies have shown that grazing can be authorized without causing irreparable damage to vegetative resources or watershed values. In fact, forage species and site conditions can be sustained under proper grazing management

(CAST, 1996). Livestock grazing as proposed in the alternatives in this EA is considered to be appropriate and proper management.

- There were no issues that required a “No livestock grazing (no grazing for an indefinite period of time) alternative” to resolve them. That being the case, a reasonable range of alternatives was carried forward.

The No Action alternative is considered and analyzed to provide a baseline for comparison of the impacts of the proposed action.

**PROPOSED ACTION**

The Bureau of Land Management proposes to issue Term Grazing Permits for the West Bench Allotment for a period of up to ten years (see map in Appendix B).

There are 1,001 acres of Public Land, 2,081 acres of Private Land and 78 acres of State Land within the allotment.

The proposed grazing preference would be as listed in Table 1.

**TABLE 1 – PROPOSED GRAZING PREFERENCE**

| Allotment  | Permittee           | Livestock Number & Kind | Season of Use | Active AUMs | Suspended AUMs | Total AUMs | Percent Public Land |
|------------|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------|-------------|----------------|------------|---------------------|
| West Bench | Mark and Lee Monroe | 33 Cattle               | 5/1 – 6/11    | 15          | 0              | 58         | 32                  |
|            |                     |                         | 10/1 – 2/1    | 43          |                |            |                     |
|            | Bob Monroe          | 37 Cattle               | 5/1 – 6/11    | 16          | 0              | 64         |                     |
|            |                     |                         | 10/1 – 2/1    | 48          |                |            |                     |
|            | Victor Monroe       | 40 Cattle               | 5/1 – 6/11    | 18          | 0              | 70         |                     |
|            |                     |                         | 10/1 – 2/1    | 52          |                |            |                     |
| TOTAL      | 110 Cattle          |                         | 192           | 0           | 192            |            |                     |

While the grazing season for the allotment is as specified in Table 1, spring grazing would be alternated every other year in a rest rotation system. The allotment is made up of three pastures. Fall and winter use would be in one of the three pastures. The other two pastures would be grazed during late spring in alternate years.

Changes in use requested by the permittee (such as temporary and nonrenewable use during the summer dormant season), which are outside the limits of the authorized use specified in the permit, would be presented and discussed with the Field Office Manager for approval.

The placement of supplements (such as crystalax), salt and/or protein block in strategic locations to improve livestock distribution is encouraged. Water hauling could be necessary on this allotment due to the lack of live water. Water would be hauled to various locations throughout the allotment along existing roads and trails.

Heavy grazing of cheatgrass during the fall would be encouraged during years when cheatgrass is abundant. During these years, increased livestock numbers and grazing outside the proposed grazing season could be authorized during the fall, in an effort to reduce cheatgrass and increase desired species. Livestock (cattle and/or sheep) would be concentrated in areas dominated by cheatgrass. Water hauling, temporary electric fences and supplemental feeding may be used to concentrate the livestock on the specified area.

Adjustments in the grazing system may be required during periods of drought, following wildfire, or other natural causes. These changes would be worked out following consultation, cooperation and coordination with the permittees.

Rangeland Health Assessments have not been done on this allotment but would be conducted as the priority for assessment occurs.

The following range studies (Table 2), would be conducted in accordance with BLM manual procedures. All data collected would be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the grazing system. The evaluation would be used to determine future adjustments to grazing use of the allotment.

| <b>Table 2 - MONITORING STUDIES</b> |                       |  |                                       |   |                       |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|--|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| <b>TYPE OF STUDY</b>                | <b>METHOD</b>         | <b>LOCATION</b>                                    | <b>COMPLETION DATE</b>                | <b>FREQUENCY</b>                                    | <b>RESPONSIBILITY</b> |
| ACTUAL USE                          | BLM Actual Use Form   | Sent To Permittees Following Scheduled Grazing Use | During the latter part of June        | annually  | Permittees            |
| UTILIZATION                         | Key Forage Plant      | Key Areas In Each Pasture                          | Within 15 Days of End of Grazing Use, | Yearly  | BLM and permittee     |
| TREND*                              | Key Species Frequency | Key Areas  | June                                  | Every 6 or 8 Years (at completion of grazing cycle) | BLM and Permittee     |
| RAINFALL                            | NOAA Climate Data     | Levan  | Annually                              | Annually  | BLM                   |

\* At least one line intercept/nested frequency transect would be established sometime in the future as the priority for establishment occurs.

### **NO ACTION**

Do not authorize grazing on the West Bench Allotment. The applications of the applicants for grazing permits would be denied.

## **CHAPTER 3 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT**

### **INTRODUCTION AND GENERAL SETTING**

The affected environment was considered and analyzed by an interdisciplinary team as documented in the Interdisciplinary Team Checklist (Appendix A). The checklist indicates which resources of concern are either not present in the project area or would not be impacted to a degree that requires detailed analysis. Resources which could be impacted to a level requiring further analysis are described in Chapter 3 and impacts on these resources are analyzed in Chapter 4 below.

The allotment involved in this proposal is located in the eastern portion of Millard County. This area has hot, dry summers; cool wet springs, cold winters; and cool, usually dry falls. Elevations of the allotment are between 5,000 and 6,000 feet above sea level. Wildland fire and vegetation treatments have resulted in much of the allotment being dominated by introduced grasses. Prior to changes in vegetation, sagebrush was the dominate species throughout the allotment. Average annual precipitation is between twelve and fifteen inches.

### **Livestock Grazing and Vegetation**

Livestock have been grazing the area since settlement times. For many years it has been grazed as described in the proposed action. The vegetative type within the allotment is sagebrush/grass. Some areas are dominated by cheatgrass and sagebrush. Much of the allotment has burned at one time or another. Subsequent fire rehabilitation treatments have resulted in vigorous stands of introduced grasses in portions of the allotment. Sagebrush, cheatgrass, bitterbrush, crested wheatgrass, pubescent wheatgrass and Russian wildrye are the most common species of vegetation in the area.

### **Wildlife**

The BLM parcels being offered under a grazing permit have been grazed in the past by the adjacent landowners. The newly created West Bench Allotment would be a Category C allotment. No rangeland health assessment or vegetation trend information is available at this time and may not be available for another 6-8 years given the low priority of Category C Allotments. The ecological site description in general is a sagebrush/grass community although it has been altered by past vegetation treatments to remove shrubs and plant crested wheatgrass. Currently, the vegetation community is comprised largely by crested wheatgrass, bluebunch wheatgrass, and squirreltail with a smaller scattering of sagebrush, bitterbrush, and a few junipers.

A site visit was conducted on 2/2/15 and later on 4/6/15. In February, primarily in the winter pasture, wildlife habitat conditions showed a less than favorable amount of vegetative structure for hiding and escape cover. In this pasture (as well in the other pastures), past range treatments were done to remove sagebrush and seeded with crested wheatgrass. A substantial amount of dead stalks/branches of sagebrush combined with active grazing and mid-winter conditions showed a reduced occurrence of overstory shrubs and a greater

occurrence of understory grasses. Also, the bitterbrush showed substantial hedging and the bluebunch wheatgrass had been heavily targeted by livestock with a lesser use on the crested wheatgrass and almost no use on the squirrel.

The other two spring pastures are the same plant community as the winter pasture and vegetation treatments were conducted as well. Because of the treatments, the shrub component was much reduced leaving a predominantly open grass dominated community. In these pastures, because of the reduced abundance of an overstory shrub component, wildlife habitat structure and cover was also reduced.

### Special Status Species

Special status species as identified by the BLM Utah Special Status Species 2010 that have the potential to occur within or reasonably near the Proposed Action include bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*), dark kangaroo mouse (*Microdipodops megacephalus*), Ferruginous hawk (*Buteo regalis*), golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), kit fox (*Vulpes macrotis*), long-billed curlew (*Numenius Americana*), lewis woodpecker (*Melanerpes americanus*), short-eared owl (*Asio flammeus*), and Townsend's big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii*).

### Migratory Birds

All of the West Bench Allotment is located in habitats used by migratory birds at some degree or another throughout the year. The Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 protects migratory birds. Executive Order 13186 (2001), directs federal agencies to evaluate the effects of actions and agency plans on migratory birds. Migratory birds can be found to use a variety of habitats within this area throughout the year. Nesting success is a primary importance.

Migratory birds that could be found in this portion of Millard County that could potentially utilize the environment within the vicinity of the Proposed Action include, but not limited to: golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*), Ferruginous hawk (*Buteo regalis*), black-throated gray warbler (*dendroica nigrescens*), Brewer's sparrow (*Spizella breweri*), broad-tailed hummingbird (*selasphorus platycercus*), loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*) northern harrier (*Circus cyaneus*), pinyon jay (*Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus*), prairie falcon (*Falco mexicanus*), and sage sparrow (*amphispiza belli*).

### Wildlife and Fish Excluding Designated/Special Status Species

Wildlife species that could be found to utilize habitat within or reasonably near the Proposed Action include, but are not limited to: mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*), mountain lion (*Felis concolor*), blacktail jackrabbits (*Lepus californicus*), coyote (*Canis latrans*), Great Basin rattlesnake (*Crotalus oreganus lutosus*), and greater short-horned lizard (*Phrynosoma hernandesi*).

All of the West Bench Allotment lies within critical mule deer winter range and to a lesser extent, elk winter range.

## **CHAPTER 4 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS**

### **DIRECT AND INDIRECT IMPACTS**

#### **PROPOSED ACTION**

This section analyzes the impacts of the proposed action to those potentially impacting resources described in the affected environment Chapter 3, above.

#### **Livestock Grazing and Vegetation**

Since the allotment has been grazed as proposed for many years there would be no new impact to the grazing operations of the applicants and it is anticipated that there would be no changes in the composition and structure of vegetation as time progresses following authorization of such grazing. Since monitoring of vegetation would be implemented, any substantial changes in vegetation composition would be noticed and steps to prevent detrimental impacts to vegetation could be implemented. Should Rangeland Health Assessments indicate that vegetative resources were at risk, adjustments in the management of the allotment would be made that would remedy the situation. If this occurred then livestock operations would be affected depending on the nature of the management changes.

#### **Wildlife**

Habitat attributes required by fish and wildlife species include an ample availability of cover (nesting, hiding, and security), food, water and space (includes spring, summer, fall and winter ranges). If any of these habitat attributes are not in adequate availability and/or are disproportionately impacted, there is a potential for individuals to be reduced and population numbers to decline.

Direct impacts are actions that result in the immediate mortality of individuals or species and the permanent loss of habitat. Indirect impacts would be the results of actions that occur later in time that may reduce the quality and quantity of habitat and alter species behavioral patterns of the area, thus reducing reproduction and productivity. Cumulatively, actions may contribute to impacts resulting from other or reasonably foreseeable actions near proposed parcels.

#### **Special Status Species**

Special status species cover a variety of mammal and avian species identified by the BLM for added conservation attention. The direct and indirect effects of livestock grazing and vegetation treatments have changed the composition and structure of the plant community and results in a reduced diversity, abundance, and distribution of wildlife species.

Under this Alternative, continued spring grazing (5/1 to 6/11) every-other-year in one of the spring pastures would occur during the height of the critical growth period of the plant community and during the period of active nesting, denning, and rearing of offspring. Grazing this period would reduce important nesting, security, and escape cover as well as the availability of forage which would negatively influence the reproductive success of many species.

However, under this grazing strategy, one spring pasture would not be grazed for a full year and cattle would be removed in the winter pasture (2/1) prior to the onset of spring. This leaves two pastures that would not be grazed during the critical growth period of the plant community and during the period of active nesting, denning, and offspring rearing. Under this strategy, the plant community in two out-of-three pastures would have a period to regenerate and provide improved habit composition, structure, cover, and forage for nesting, denning, and rearing offspring.

Overall, the impacts of the Proposed Action to Special Status Species would be the same as the No Action Alternative. Conditions resulting from the present grazing system can be anticipated to continue. The benefit of the Proposed Action is that the BLM parcels would be under a grazing permit allowing for a greater regulatory influence on the grazing practices and the management of special status species on BLM lands.

#### Migratory Birds

The proposed West Bench Allotment can be used by a variety species of migratory birds (passerines, raptors, and including bats) through the year at some level or another. Direct and indirect impacts of livestock grazing to migratory birds would involve trampling of nests or the modification of habitat composition and structure and the reduced availability of cover and forage.

Under this Alternative, continued spring grazing (5/1 to 6/11) would occur during the height of the critical growth period of the plant community and during the migratory bird nesting season (3/1 to 7/15). This is a sensitive period for nesting and brood-rearing for many species. Grazing this period would reduce important nesting, security, and escape cover from predators as well as reduce the availability of forage which would negatively influence the reproductive success of many species. Also, the absence of bird escape ramps in the concrete troughs would continue to trap and drown individuals accessing the water.

Although, under this grazing strategy, one spring pasture would not be grazed for a full year and cattle would be removed in the winter pasture (2/1) prior to the onset of spring. This leaves two pastures that would not be grazed during the critical growth period of the plant community and during the migratory bird nesting season (3/1 to 7/15). Under this strategy, the plant community in two out-of-three pastures would have a period to regenerate and provide improved habit composition, structure, cover, and forage for nesting and rearing offspring.

Overall, the impacts of the Proposed Action on migratory birds would be the same as the No Action Alternative. Conditions resulting from the present grazing system can be anticipated to continue. The benefit of the Proposed Action is that the BLM parcels would be under a grazing permit allowing for a greater regulatory influence on the grazing practices and management of migratory birds on BLM lands.

#### Wildlife and Fish Excluding Designated/Special Status Species

The West Bench Allotment overlaps with critical winter habitat used by mule deer and elk. Forage competition can occur between cattle and wild ungulates, especially during the winter months when mule deer and elk will frequent and concentrate on lower elevation ranges. Big game species require high quality woody species (i.e. bitterbrush) to carry them through the winter season until herbaceous plant species become available in the spring.

Under this alternative, grazing during the late fall and winter months (10/1 to 1/2) would continue to occur in the same pasture annually. For the most part, big game species avoid cattle and will seek other ranges to use. Under this grazing strategy, this pasture provides little benefit to big game species during the fall and winter until cattle have been removed and herbaceous green-up occurs in the spring. Also, because of heavy browsing by cattle on bitterbrush during the winter in this pasture, the availability of any woody browse material for deer and elk is largely not available.

Although, under this grazing strategy, the two spring pastures would not be grazed during the winter months or early spring. Mule deer and elk can be anticipated to frequent these pasture more readily because of the absence of cattle and the availability to forage. Although browse species were targeted by past vegetation treatments to be removed, it can be anticipated that recovery and re-establishment of woody species (i.e. bitterbrush) would occur in time and improve big game habitat forage and cover.

To lessen impacts to wildlife, all watering facilities (temporary and permanent) are to be equipped with escape ramps to facilitate trapped birds, bats, and small mammals within the trough. An appropriate number of escape ramps would be 1 ramp/10' diameter trough (3 ramps/30' diameter trough).

Overall, the impacts of the Proposed Action on big game would be the same as the No Action Alternative. Conditions resulting from the present grazing system can be anticipated to continue. The benefit of the Proposed Action is that the BLM parcels would be under a grazing permit allowing for a greater regulatory influence on the grazing practices and the management of big game habitat on BLM lands.

#### **NO ACTION**

#### **Livestock Grazing and Vegetation**

Since grazing of this area of public lands would continue to occur because these lands are intermingled with private and state lands the current livestock operation would continue or

could be changed at the discretion of the private land owners. The opportunity to manage grazing on the federal lands would be forgone.

### **Wildlife**

Under this Alternative, an official grazing permit would not be offered or be established. The adjacent landowner may attempt to graze as they have been without any BLM authorization. Habitat conditions for special status species, migratory birds and big game would be expected to stay as they are currently. This alternative does not provide any grazing management or resource conservation certainty for special status species, migratory birds, or big game species.

## **CUMULATIVE IMPACTS**

### **Livestock Grazing and Vegetation**

The cumulative impact area would be the West Bench Allotment as proposed and lands adjacent to it within Round Valley.

Since grazing as proposed has been and is occurring there would be no additive effects to vegetation or to wildlife other than those which have occurred for many years. There would be no additional impacts of grazing on the vegetation or wildlife that inhabit the area.

### **Wildlife**

The cumulative analysis area would include lands adjacent to and within reasonable distance from the proposed parcels; primarily the lands within the western portion of Round Valley. This area is primarily grazing country dissected by public lands, private property, and county roads with access to recreational areas. The area is visited by Off Highway Vehicle riders, hunters, and other outdoor enthusiasts.

### Proposed Action

Under the proposed action (granting a permit) it can be anticipated that the existing condition would continue. Cumulatively, the incremental impact of the Proposed Action in combination with other and reasonably foreseeable actions would have little influence to the existing condition within the western portion of the Round Valley area for special status, migratory birds, and big game species. However, granting a permit would provide a greater level of certainty that wildlife habitat would have management inclusion on the BLM parcels and thus should provide an overall benefit for the greater analysis area into the future.

### No Action

Under the no action alternative there would not be any wildlife habitat management certainty or assurances and unauthorized grazing can be anticipated to continue. Cumulatively, the incremental impact of the No Action Alternative without any BLM grazing authorization in combination with other and reasonably foreseeable actions has a greater potential to

negatively contribute to the existing condition within the western portion of the Round Valley area for special status, migratory birds, and big game species. In that, by not granting a grazing permit, there will not be any certainty that wildlife habitat will have management inclusion on the BLM parcels into the future.

**CHAPTER 5**  
**PERSONS, GROUPS, AND AGENCIES CONSULTED**

The Proposed Action was posted for public input to the Utah BLM Environmental Notification Bulletin Board on 11/20/2014. To date, no public input has been received. The proposal was also sent to the necessary Tribes for Tribal Consultation, no concerns from any Tribes were received. The BLM received State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) concurrence of a determination of No Adverse Effect on 5/4/2015.

**Table 3. List of Persons, Agencies and Organizations Consulted**

| Name  | Purpose & Authorities for Consultation or Coordination  | Findings & Conclusions |
|---|---|------------------------|
| STATE INSTITUTIONAL TRUST LANDS ADMINISTRATION          | To determine if SITLA is in agreement with the proposal for these grazing allotments, if they have any suggestions for management and to find out if they have any concerns.. | No reply               |
| MILLARD AND JUAB COUNTY PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSIONS | Notified the counties to provide them with an opportunity to comment on the proposal since the project area is in Millard County but adjacent to the Juab County Line.        | No reply               |
| UTAH CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION                            | Notified the Utah Cattlemen's Association since they are interested in the issuance of grazing permits.   | No reply               |

## List of Preparers

**Table 4. List of Preparers**

### BLM Preparers

| Name                | Title                                    | Responsible for the Following Section(s) of this Document  |
|---------------------|--|--|
| William J. Thompson | Range Mgt. Specialist and ID Team Leader | Technical Coordination and Quality Control as well as Impact analysis for Wetlands/Riparian Areas, Livestock Grazing, Rangeland Health Standards, Prime and Unique Farmlands, and Vegetation Excluding Designated Special Status Species |
| James Priest        | Wildlife Biologist                       | Threatened, Endangered, or Candidate Animal Species; Sensitive Animal Species; Migratory Birds; Wildlife and Fish Excluding Designated/Special Status Species  |
| Cindy Ledbetter     | NEPA Planning Coordinator                | Review and NEPA Compliance   |
| Eric Reid           | Assistant Field Manager                  | Review   |

**APPENDICES**  
**APPENDIX A**  
**INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM CHECKLIST**

**APPENDIX B  
ALLOTMENT MAP**

## INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM CHECKLIST

**Project Title:** West Bench Allotment Term Grazing Permit

**NEPA Log Number:** DOI-BLM-UT-W020-2015-0001-EA

**File/Serial Number:**

**Project Leader:** Bill Thompson

**DETERMINATION OF STAFF: (Choose one of the following abbreviated options for the left column)**

NP = not present in the area impacted by the proposed or alternative actions

NI = present, but not affected to a degree that detailed analysis is required

PI = present with potential for relevant impact that need to be analyzed in detail in the EA

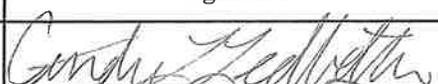
NC = (DNAs only) actions and impacts not changed from those disclosed in the existing NEPA documents cited in Section D of the DNA form. The Rationale column may include NI and NP discussions.

| Determi-<br>nation   | Resource                                      | Rationale for Determination  | Signature           | Date      |
|--|---|--|---------------------|-----------|
| <b>RESOURCES AND ISSUES CONSIDERED (INCLUDES SUPPLEMENTAL AUTHORITIES APPENDIX 1 H-1790-1)</b> |   |  |                     |           |
| NI   | Air Quality                                   | Air quality would not be impacted by this proposal.  | /s/ Paul Caso       | 12/10/14  |
| NP   | Areas of Critical Environmental Concern       | There are no ACEC's in the allotment area.   | /s/SBonar           | 12/4/14   |
| NI   | Cultural Resources                            | The fenceline has been inventoried and will have no effect on historic properties. The proposed grazing permit issuance has been determined to have No Adverse Effect on historic properties.  | /s/ Joelle McCarthy | 3-30-15   |
| NI   | Greenhouse Gas Emissions                      | BLM does not have the ability to associate an action's contribution in a localized area to impact global climate change. Further, an IPCC assessment states that, "difficulties remain in attributing observed temperature changes at a smaller than continental scale"  | /s/ Cindy Ledbetter | 11/25/14  |
| NI   | Environmental Justice                         | Low income or minority populations would not be disproportionately impacted by the project.  | /s/ Cindy Ledbetter | 11/25/14  |
| NI   | Farmlands (Prime or Unique)                   | A review of a map prepared by the NRCS shows that there are soils that may qualify as prime or unique farmlands (if irrigated) in the project area. Grazing as proposed would not result in impacts to soils that would degrade them. Therefore, there would not be any impacts to soils that could disqualify them from being prime or unique farmlands | /s/ Bill Thompson   | 1/13/15   |
| NI   | Floodplains                                   | Floodplains would not be impacted by this proposal.  | /s/ Paul Caso       | 12/10/14  |
| NI   | Fire/Fuels Management                         | Wildland fire management and future hazardous fuel projects should not be impacted by the proposed action.   | /s/ Gary Bishop     | 12/1/14   |
| NP   | Geology / Mineral Resources/Energy Production | There are no actively used mineral resources on BLM land within the project area.  | /s/ Duane Bays      | 2/05/2015 |
| NI   | Invasive Species/Noxious Weeds (EO 13112)     | Livestock should either graze on or be fed weed free forage at least 3 days prior to being turned out on the allotment. Any other animals used for the management of the livestock would be fed certified weed free hay while on the allotment.  | /s/R.B. Probert     | 1/28/15   |
| NI   | Lands/Access                                  | Grazing would not affect access to lands. The proposed action would be subject to valid prior existing rights-of-way (Rows).   | /s/ Teresa Frampton | 12/3/2014 |

| Determination | Resource  | Rationale for Determination   | Signature           | Date      |
|---------------|---|---|---------------------|-----------|
|               |   | If the project would affect these existing ROWs then contact should be made with the Holders (see contact information in Realty report).  |                     |           |
| PI            | Livestock Grazing   | Permitting grazing as proposed would continue livestock grazing as it has occurred in the past. Under the proposed action the cattlemen that graze their livestock in this area would be authorized to graze on public lands, where before they were unauthorized.  | /s/ Bill Thompson   | 1/13/15   |
| PI            | Migratory Birds   | The proposed West Bench Allotment can be used by a variety species of migratory birds (passerines, raptors, and including bats) through the year at some level or another. Direct and indirect impacts of livestock grazing to migratory birds would involve trampling of nests or the modification of habitat composition and structure and the reduced availability of cover and forage.  | /s/ J. Priest       | 4/8/15    |
| NP            | National Historic Trails  | No National Historic Trails exist in the proposed allotment.  | /s/ Joelle McCarthy | 3-30-15   |
| NI            | Native American Religious Concerns                                | Tribal consultation was initiated on April 16, 2015. Tribes did not express any concerns regarding the proposed project.  | /s/ Joelle McCarthy | 5-27-15   |
| NP            | Paleontology  | There are no known paleontological resources in the project area.   | /s/ Duane Bays      | 2/05/2015 |
| NI            | Property Boundary Evaluation                                      | Cadastral identified the property boundaries for proper grazing allotment fencing.  | /s/ Kyle Monroe     | 4/13/15   |
| NI            | Rangeland Health Standards  | Soils would continue to exhibit permeability and infiltration rates that sustain soil productivity (Standard #1). There are no riparian areas within the allotment nor are there riparian areas adjacent to the allotment into which runoff from the allotment could enter (Standard #2). Since desirable palatable forage species are most easily damaged by grazing during the spring and rotation of grazing during the spring is proposed it is anticipated that desirable species would be maintained (Standard #3). It is anticipated that water quality of surface or ground water would not be affected by grazing as proposed on this allotment (Standard #4). | /s/ Bill Thompson   | 1/13/15   |
| NI            | Recreation  | There would be no impacts to casual recreation.   | /s/SBonar           | 12/4/14   |
| PI            | Sensitive Animal Species  | BLM special status species can potentially use the BLM parcels under the proposed and no action alternatives. Direct and indirect impacts of special status species would involve trampling of nests, burrows, denning sites or the modification of habitat composition and structure and the reduced availability of cover and forage.   | /s/J. Priest        | 4/8/15    |
| NI            | Socio-Economics   | No quantifiable increased or decreased economic impact to the local area would be caused by the proposed action.  | /s/ Cindy Ledbetter | 11/25/14  |
| NI            | Soils   | Soils would not be impacted by this proposal.   | /s/ Paul Caso       | 12/10/14  |
| NP            | Threatened, Endangered, Candidate or Special Status Plant Species | There are no known federally-listed or other rare plant species on the BLM lands within this new grazing allotment.   | /s/ DWhitaker       | 1/14/15   |
| NA            | Threatened, Endangered, or Candidate Animal Species               | There are no known federally listed threatened or endangered species known to occur within or reasonably near the proposed action.  | /s/ J. Priest       | 4/8/15    |
| NI            | Wastes (hazardous or solid)                                       | A grazing permit renewal has no impact on hazardous wastes.   | /s/R.B. Probert     | 3/9/15    |

| Determination | Resource  | Rationale for Determination   | Signature         | Date     |
|---------------|---|---|-------------------|----------|
| NI            | Water Resources/Quality (drinking/surface/ground)             | Water resources/quality would not be impacted by this proposal.   | /s/ Paul Caso     | 12/10/14 |
| NI            | Water Rights  | Water rights would not be impacted by this proposal.  | /s/ Paul Caso     | 12/10/14 |
| NP            | Wetlands/Riparian Zones                                       | There are no riparian or wetlands within the allotment and there are none adjacent to the allotment either.   | /s/ Bill Thompson | 1/13/15  |
| NP            | Wilderness/WSA  | There are no Wilderness/WSA's in the allotment area.  | /s/SBonar         | 12/4/14  |
| PI            | Wildlife and Fish Excluding Designated/Special Status Species | The West Bench Allotment overlaps with habitat used by mule deer and elk. Forage competition can occur between cattle and wild ungulates, especially during the winter months when cattle are being grazed on big game winter range.  | /s/ J. Priest     | 4/8/15   |
| NI            | Woodland / Forestry   | There would be no impact to Woodland/Forestry products with implementation of the proposed action.  | /s/ Eric Reid     | 11/26/14 |
| PI            | Vegetation Excluding Designated/Special Status Species        | Since grazing could affect desirable forage species the proposed action includes rotation of grazing during the spring between pastures. Since desirable palatable forage species are most easily damaged by grazing during the spring and rotation of grazing during the spring is proposed it is anticipated that desirable species would be maintained | /s/ Bill Thompson | 1/13/15  |
| NI            | Visual Resources  | There are no impacts to the VRM Class IV in the allotment area.   | /s/SBonar         | 12/4/14  |
| NP            | Wild Horses and Burros  | There are no wild horse HMAs within the proposed project area.  | /s/ Eric Reid     | 11/26/14 |
| NP            | Lands with Wilderness Characteristics                         | The allotment area is less than the 5,000 acre requirement for the need to conduct an LWC inventory.  | /s/SBonar         | 12/4/14  |

**FINAL REVIEW:**

| Reviewer Title            | Signature   | Date       | Comments |
|---------------------------|---|------------|----------|
| Environmental Coordinator |  | 1/8/2015   |          |
| Authorized Officer        |  | 10/10/2015 |          |





