

**UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
GRAND JUNCTION FIELD OFFICE**

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

**10 Year Permit Renewal for
Dolores Point Allotment**

DOI-BLM-CO-N030 2015-0023-EA

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the attached environmental assessment, and considering the significance criteria in 40 CFR §1508.27, I have determined that the Proposed Action will not have a significant effect on the human environment. An environmental impact statement is therefore not required.

BACKGROUND

The Bureau of Land Management prepared an Environmental Assessment which analyzed the effects of re-authorization of Grazing Permit #0504579 for Lazy 3X Ranch c/o Mark Hill on the Dolores Point Allotment to determine impacts and mitigation required to continue to allow grazing on public lands in a responsible manner that is compatible with Standards for Public Land Health, other resource uses and objectives, and in compliance with grazing regulations under 43 CFR 4110.1(a) (1). In order to graze livestock on public land, the livestock permittee must hold a valid grazing permit

The EA identified a proposed action which proposes to modify the grazing schedule by shifting some of the AUM's authorized in the spring to fall use to reduce grazing pressure in the spring during the critical growth period. The total number of AUM's authorized on the allotment would not change. Utilization levels for key forage species will be established in the terms and conditions of the permit. If utilization levels are exceeded then movement of livestock off of the allotment will be required. The proposed action also includes the addition of Adaptive Management. The permittee with approval by the BLM would be allowed to change the grazing dates by one week prior to and one week after the grazing dates shown on the permit. Adaptive management would allow for flexibility in changes in climate and annual weather patterns including timing of moisture received and temperatures during growing seasons. These factors would influence plant growth and range readiness. This flexibility would also allow for minor adjustments to the permittees operation.

Temporary Non-Renewable use may be authorized by the BLM Authorized Officer (AO) if additional forage is available due to above normal precipitation or optimal growing conditions and utilization levels would not be exceeded.

RATIONALE: The analysis demonstrates that the proposed action would not have any significant impacts to the natural resources. The proposed grazing plan would allow for growth and reproduction of key forage species and the rangeland monitoring program would continue measuring the impacts of grazing. The proposed action is in accordance with 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §4130.2.

Intensity

I have considered the potential intensity/severity of the impacts anticipated from the Dolores Point Allotment Permit Renewal project decision relative to each of the ten areas suggested for consideration by the CEQ. The following findings have been made with regard to each of the ten CEQ considerations:

- 1. Impacts that may be both beneficial and adverse.** The grazing program is expected to benefit the soil and vegetation resource and the resources on which health of these resources is based.
- 2. The degree to which the proposed action affects public health and safety.** The proposed action is not expected to impact public health and safety.
- 3. Unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity of historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas.** The proposed action would not significantly impact the unique characteristics of the historical or cultural resources on the allotments. There are no significant impacts to parklands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wilderness, special designations or wild and scenic rivers within the project area. There are no municipal water supplies in the project area.
- 4. The degree to which the effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be highly controversial.** The proposed action is expected to improve the quality of the human environment by improving the resources. The effects are relatively well understood by the academic and practicing communities
- 5. The degree to which the possible effects on the human environment are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks.** Livestock grazing has a long history in the region and poses no unique or unknown risks.
- 6. The degree to which the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration.**
This decision is like one of many that have previously been made and will continue to be made by BLM responsible officials regarding livestock grazing on public lands. The decision is within the scope of the Resource Management Plan and is not expected to establish a precedent for future actions. The decision does not represent a decision in principle about a future consideration.
- 7. Whether the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts.** There are no significant cumulative effects on the

environment, either when combined with the effects created by past and concurrent projects, or when combined with the effects from natural changes taking place in the environment or from reasonably foreseeable future projects.

8. The degree to which the action may adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or may cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historic resources. Cultural inventories have been conducted to establish potential impacts from livestock grazing. Potential impacts are mitigated when identified. No adverse impacts have been identified for the proposed action at this time.

9. The degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act of 1973. No impacts were brought forward that would indicate any adverse impacts to endangered or threatened species or its habitats. A No Effect determination was made.

10. Whether the action threatens a violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment. This decision complies with other Federal, State, or local laws and requirements imposed for the protection of the environment.

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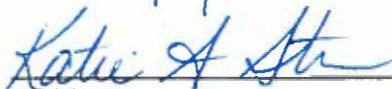
On the basis of the information contained in the EA, and all other information available to me, it is my determination that: 1) the implementation of the Proposed Action would not have significant environmental impacts beyond those already addressed in the "Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan," for the Grand Junction Resource Area (*January 1987*); (2) the Proposed Action is in conformance with the Resource Management Plans; and (3) the Proposed Action does not constitute a major federal action having a significant effect on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement or a supplement to the existing environmental impact statement is not necessary and will not be prepared.

This finding is based on my consideration of the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) criteria for significance (40 CFR '1508.27), both with regard to the context and to the intensity of the impacts described in the EA.

NAME OF PREPARER: Jim Dollerschell

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Christina Stark

DATE: 8/11/15



Field Manager
Grand Junction Field Office

8-14-2015

Date