

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

DOI-BLM-MT-C020-2016-0011-DNA
(DOI-BLM-MT-C020-2015-0155-DNA)
October 7, 2015

GIBBS GRAZING RENEWAL

Location: Garfield Co., Montana

T18N R42E Sections 10, 12, 14 & 24,
T18N R43E Sections 8 & 18

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Worksheet
Documentation of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)
 U.S. Department of the Interior
 Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

BLM Office: Miles City

NEPA Number: DOI-BLM-MT-C020-2016-0011-DNA
 (DOI-BLM-MT-C020-2015-0155-DNA)

Case File/Project No: 2502106

Proposed Action Title/Type: Gibbs Allotment Renewal

Location/Legal Description: Garfield Co., Montana - See map attached at end of document
 T18N R42E Sections 10,12,14 & 24, T18N R43E Sections 8 & 18

A: Description of the Proposed Action:

The proposed action is to ensure the allotment continues to meet the Land Health Standards and issue a permit for the Gibbs Allotment (#00127) to the current applicant. The term permit would be issued for ten years (March 1, 2015 through February 28th, 2025). No changes would be made to the existing grazing schedule, grazing preference, kind of livestock, percent public land, type of use or the terms and conditions. The permit would be issued as follows:

GR# 2502106

Gibbs Allotment #00127	Livestock Number	Livestock Kind	Grazing Begin	Period End	% PL	Type Use	AUMs
Calamity Coulee	48	Cattle	6/01	1/03	53	Active	182
	5	Horses	10/30	2/28	53	Active	13
East Pasture	4	Cattle	3/01	2/28	100	Custodial	44
	2	Horses	3/01	2/28	100	Custodial	24
Sec. 14 Exchange	1	Cattle	3/01	2/28	100	Custodial	12

Total Active AUMs: 275

Terms and Conditions:

Lines 1 & 2: Includes Calamity Coulee Pasture. Grazing is authorized during the listed season with variable numbers. Grazing will not exceed the surveyed carrying capacity of the public land.

Lines 3 & 4: Includes East Pasture. Grazing is authorized during the listed season for the recognized capacity of the public land. Livestock will not be on the public land continuously for the entire season. Livestock numbers are not restricted.

Line 5: Exchange of use. 12 AUMs paid for by GR #00127 (Gibbs), used by #00129 (Gibbs & Wittmeyer).

There are also an additional 9 AUMs of public land paid for by #00121 (Frady) used in #00127 (Gibbs).

Applicant: Permittee
County: Garfield County
DNA Originator: Kirk Anderson

B. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance

LUP Name* * Big Dry RMP, ROD Date Approved: 1996

Other document** Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing for Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota Date Approved: 1999

Other document** DOI-BLM-MT-C020-2015-0060-EA Date Approved: July 31, 2015

**List applicable LUPs (for example, resource management plans; activity, project, management, or program plans; or applicable amendments thereto)*

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUPs because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decisions:

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). *This proposed action is in accordance with the BLM 2015 Miles City Field Office Approved Resource Management Plan (ARMP), The ARMP states on page 3-11, Livestock Grazing Authorization, MD LG 7 “Approximately 2,700,000 acres and an estimated 546,496 animal unit months (AUMs) are available for livestock grazing; and page 3-10, MD LG 2: “The BLM will follow the BLM’s 1997 Record of Decision for Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management Final Environmental Impact Statement for Montana and north and South Dakota.”.*

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

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

- *BLM 2015 Miles City Field Office Approved Resource Management Plan (ARMP)*
- *Gibbs 00127 Renewal EA signed July 31, 2015 (DOI-BLM-MT-C020-2015-0060-EA)*

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).

- *S & G EA MT-020-99-73. The Gibbs Allotment passed the Standards for Rangeland Health assessment in 1999. The allotment is still considered to be meeting the Standards for Rangeland health according to allotment inspections conducted in 2015.*
- *Cultural Report MT-020-15-074*

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 proposed action is similar to those analyzed in the above referenced documents. The EA analyzed issuing the permit for the Gibbs Allotment while analyzing grazing schedule, grazing preference, kind of livestock, percent public land, type of use, or the terms and conditions.

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, resource values? Yes. The alternatives in the existing Environmental Assessment analyzed the effects of livestock grazing. These alternatives were determined to be appropriate for the current proposed action.

3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances (such as rangeland health standard assessment, recent endangered species listings, updated lists of BLM-sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that new information and new circumstance would not substantially change the analysis of the new proposed action? Yes. No new information has been obtained since the original transfer EA was signed in July, 2015.

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? Yes. The direct and indirect impact of the current proposed action is unchanged from the existing Environmental Assessment. The current proposed action is a renewal and the terms and conditions remain unchanged. The original EA analyzed the site-specific impacts livestock grazing would have on the allotment.

5. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current proposed action? Yes. The public involvement and interagency review associated with the existing EA is adequate for the current proposed action per agency requirements. The EA was posted on the MCFO NEPA log and was available to the public online.

E. Interdisciplinary Analysis: Identify those team members conducting or participating in the preparation of this worksheet.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Resource Represented</u>	<u>Initials & Date</u>
Kent Undlin	Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife	KU 9/24/15
Reyer Rens	Supervisory RMS	Review	RR 11/20/2015

/s/ Kathy Bockness
Environmental Coordinator

12/2/2015
Date

F. Mitigation Measures: List any applicable mitigation measures that were identified, analyzed, and approved in relevant LUPs and existing NEPA document(s). List the specific mitigation measures or identify an attachment that includes those specific mitigation measures. Document that these applicable mitigation measures must be incorporated and implemented.

CONCLUSION

Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the NEPA documentation in EA MT-020-2008-317 fully covers the proposed action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of NEPA.

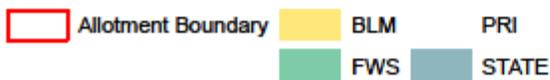
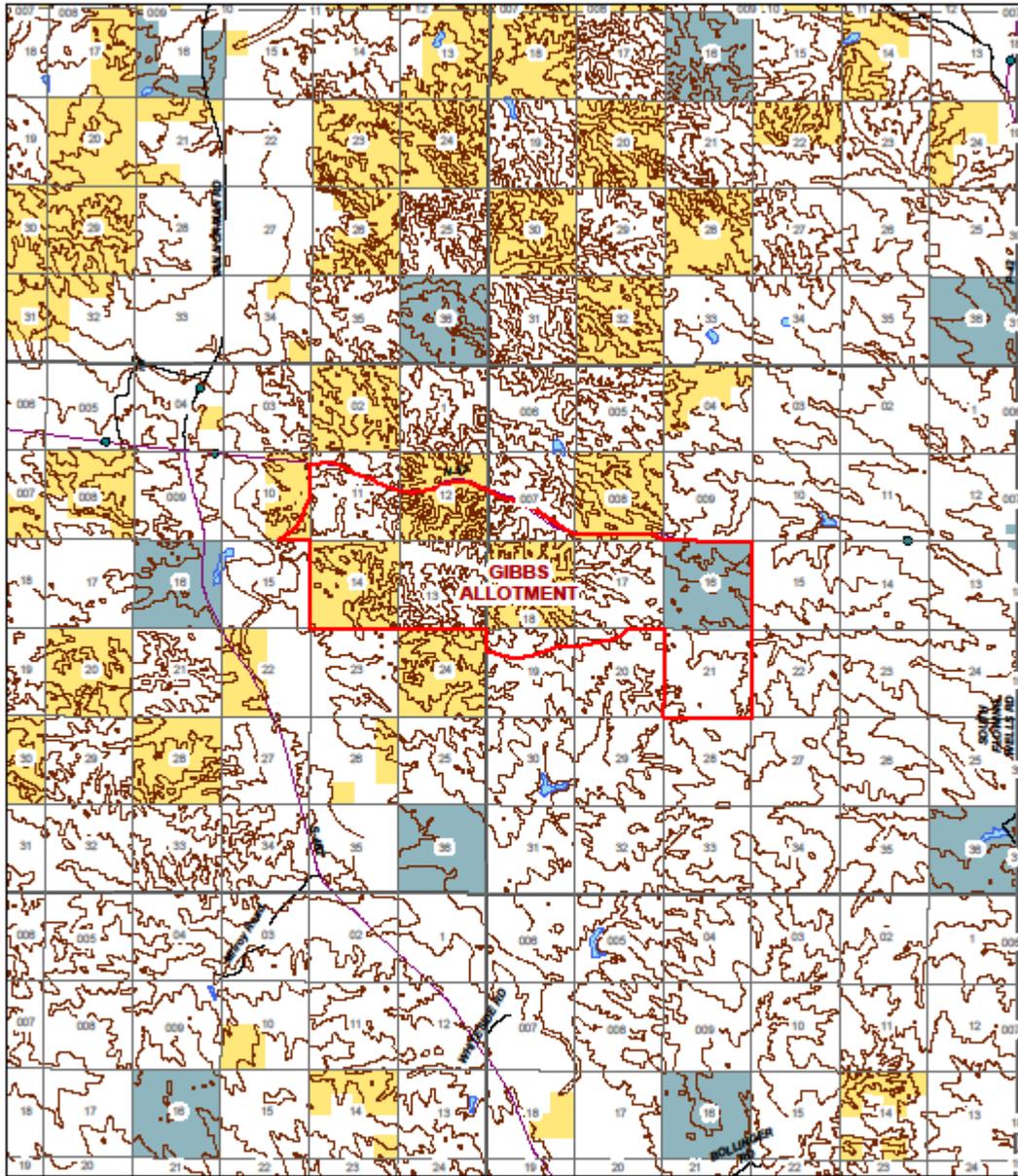
Note: If one or more of the criteria are not met, a conclusion of conformance and/or NEPA adequacy cannot be made and this box cannot be checked

/s/ Shane Findlay
Todd D. Yeager
Field Manager
Miles City Field Office

12/2/2015
Date



Gibbs Allotment - #00127



June 8, 2015

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management for the use of the data for purposes not intended by the BLM.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
MILES CITY FIELD OFFICE

CAUTION:
Land ownership data is derived from less accurate data than the 1:24000 scale base map. Therefore, land ownership may not be shown for parcels smaller than 40 acres, and land ownership lines may have plotting errors due to source data.