

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

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**Categorical Exclusion  
for  
Nelson Allotment Transfer of Grazing Preference**

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Grand Junction Field Office  
2815 H Road  
Grand Junction, Colorado 81506

DOI-BLM-CO-N030-2016-0008-CX

**March 2016**



INTRODUCTION:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has received a request to transfer the grazing preference on the West Salt Allotment from Palm Springs LLC to Bryce Casto. This transfer is based on a base property (Fish Creek property) lease between the two parties. The term of the lease is for 5 years.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

Township 14 South, Range 102 and 103 West; 6<sup>th</sup> Principal Meridian; Mesa County. See attached map.

APPLICANT: Bryce Casto

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION:

The proposed action is to transfer the grazing preference from Palm Springs LLC to Bryce Casto. The paper work for the transfer has been signed by the transferor and transferee and approved by the BLM Authorized Officer for grazing preference land owned by Palm Springs LLC. Palm Springs LLC was leasing to another party until May 2015 at which time the lease was terminated. Bryce Casto meets all of the qualifications required for the transfer. A new grazing permit will be issued for 5 years based on the term of the lease. The lease may be extended at the time of expiration. The term of the permit will be from April 1, 2016 to April 1, 2020. Terms and conditions, periods of use and AUMs would remain the same as the current permit for the Nelson Allotment. The current grazing schedule for the allotment is as follows:

Allot. Name & #	Livestock		Grazing Period		%PL	Type Use	AUMs
	Number	Kind	Begin	End			
Nelson (06428)	80	cattle	04/25	05/25	50	Active	41
	50	cattle	05/26	07/01	50	Active	30
	40	cattle	10/01	10/19	50	Active	12
	80	cattle	10/20	12/20	50	Active	82
	35	cattle	12/21	01/05	50	Active	<u>9</u>
							174

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW:

The Proposed Action is subject to and has been reviewed for conformance with (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM 1617.3) the following plan:

Name of Plan: Grand Junction Field Office Approved Resource Management Plan

Date Approved: August 2015

Decision Number/Page: 87

Decision Language: Grazing use will be in accordance with the Taylor Grazing Act, FLPMA, Public Rangelands Improvement Act (PRIA), 43 CFR 4100 and 4180, the Wilderness Act, grazing permits, and BLM Policy.

#### CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW:

The proposed action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under H-1790-1, Appendix 4, 516 DM 11.9, D. Range Management (1) Approval of transfers of grazing preference.

#### EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES

There are no extraordinary circumstances having effects, which may significantly affect the environment. I considered the following resource conditions in determining whether extraordinary circumstances related to the proposed action warranted further analysis and documentation in an EA or EIS (516 DM 2, Appendix 2):

**1. Have significant adverse effects on public health and safety.**

The approval of transfer of grazing preference is an administrative action without adverse effects on public health and safety.

**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.**

The approval of transfer of grazing preference would not have adverse effects on these natural resources and characteristics.

**3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.**

No highly controversial environmental effects or unresolved conflicts would occur under this action.

**4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.**

Approval of grazing preference transfers pose no unique or unknown risks.

**5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.**

Transfer of grazing preferences is like one of many that have previously been made and will continue to be made by the BLM. The action is within the scope of the Resource Management Plans and is not expected to establish a precedent for future actions.

- 6. Be directly related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.**

The approval is not related to other actions having cumulative significant environmental effects.

- 7. Have adverse effects on properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places.**

The preference approval would not have adverse effects related on properties that are listed or eligible for listing on the National Register.

- 8. Have adverse effects 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.**

The approval of transfer of grazing preference would not have adverse effects on special status species.

- 9. Have the potential to violate a Federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.**

Approval of transfer of grazing preference action is legal and poses no problems for protection of the environment.

- 10. Have the potential for a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations.**

This action would not have any effects on low income or minority populations.

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

This action does not affect accesses or integrity of ceremonies or sacred sites.

- 12. Significantly, 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.**

This action does not involve management of noxious weeds or non-native species.

NAME OF PREPARER: Jim Dollerschell

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Christina Stark

DATE:

3/24/16

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

DECISION DOCUMENT

NELSON ALLOTMENT GRAZING PREFERENCE TRANSFER  
DOI-BLM-CO-NO30-2016-0008-CX

INTRODUCTION (Optional)

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has received a request to transfer the grazing preference on the Nelson Allotment from Palm Springs LLC to Bryce Casto based on a base property lease between the two parties.

DECISION:

I have reviewed this document and have decided to approve the Nelson Allotment Grazing Preference Transfer project as described above in the proposed action. This project is categorically excluded from documentation in an EA or EIS under 516 Department Manual 11.9, D. Range Management (1) Approval of transfers of grazing preference.

RATIONALE:

This action is listed in the Department Manual as an action that may be categorically excluded. I have evaluated the action relative to the 12 criteria listed above and have determined that no extraordinary circumstances exist.

None of the extraordinary circumstances for effects on the environment listed below are relevant for approval of transfer of grazing preference. Once the transfer of grazing preference is approved in compliance with CFR 4110.2-3 the only proposed change on the permit is the name; all other terms and conditions of the permit remain the same.

SIGNATURES OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIALS:



Katie A. Stevens  
Field Manager  
Grand Junction Field Office

3-24-2016

Date

## Nelson Allotment Map:

