

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Decision Record
DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA
July 2016

Platte County Custodial Allotments Grazing Lease Renewal

Casper Field Office
2987 Prospector Drive
Casper, Wyoming 82604-2968



Selected Alternative

It is my proposed decision to implement the proposed action, renewal of lease with modification as described in the attached Environmental Assessment (DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA) and the attendant Finding of No Significant Impact for authorization of livestock grazing use on the Mitchell (00366) allotment with a term of 10 years.

Specifically, the proposed decision is to offer a new 10-year term grazing lease to the lessee for public lands located within the Mitchell (00366) allotment. Under this proposed action, the allotment would have the authorization to be grazed by cattle, horses, goats, sheep, and/or indigenous livestock up to the AUM's available in each lease. The standard terms and conditions as per 43 CFR 4100 will be applied to the lease. The following additional conditions will be placed on the lease to address assessment of rangeland health and threatened and endangered species:

- The terms and conditions of your lease may be modified if additional information indicates that revision is necessary to conform with 43 CFR 4180.
- Placement of salt, mineral or forage supplements for livestock is not allowed within ¼ mile of water, wetlands, and riparian areas, unless written analysis shows that watershed, riparian, wetland, wildlife, and vegetation values will not be adversely impacted. Forage supplements are required to be “certified weed free.”
- The grazing allotments may contain delineated General Habitat Management Areas for the Greater sage-grouse. In order to effectively manage the annual and long-term influences of grazing and conserve sage-grouse habitats, grazing management will incorporate recommendations as discussed in the publication titled “Grazing Influence, Management, and Objective Development in Wyoming’s Greater Sage Grouse Habitat”, as provided for in IB – WY-2010-022 as recommended by the ARMPA. The primary objective of grazing management would be “to ensure appropriately timed grazing with moderate utilization levels (as described in the Wyoming Rangeland Monitoring Guide) will maintain the preferred Sagebrush/Bunchgrass plant community, and will promote plant vigor and sage-grouse values in less-preferred Sagebrush/Rhizomatous-Bluegrass transitional states.”

Mitigation Measures

- The amount of forage utilized by livestock on the public lands during the grazing year will not exceed the 18 AUM's of forage authorized by the grazing lease.
- Supervision and monitoring of this allotment will follow BLM policy and management guidelines and the Casper Field Office Monitoring Plan.

- The terms and conditions of your lease may be modified if additional information indicates that revision is necessary to conform to 43 CFR 4180
- Placement of salt, mineral or forage supplements for livestock is not allowed within ¼ mile of water, wetlands, and riparian areas, unless written analysis shows that watershed, riparian, wetland, wildlife, and vegetative values will not be adversely impacted. Forage supplements are required to be 'certified weed-free.
- If any surface disturbing activities are proposed in the allotment they will require cultural and wildlife inventories prior to the work being done.
- If noxious weeds or invasive plant species are discovered on public lands they will be aggressively treated using an integrated pesticide management approach to control their spread.
- The lessees shall immediately notify the BLM Authorized Officer of any paleontological resources discovered as a result of operations under this authorization. The lessees shall suspend all activities in the vicinity of such discovery until notified to proceed by the Authorized Officer and shall protect the discovery from damage or looting. The lessees may not be required to suspend all operations if activities can be adjusted to avoid further impacts to a discovered locality or be continued elsewhere. The Authorized Officer will evaluate, or will have evaluated, such discoveries as soon as possible, but not later than 10 working days after being notified. Appropriate measures to mitigate adverse effects to significant paleontological resources will be determined by the Authorized Officer after consulting with the lessee. Within 10 days, the operator will be allowed to continue grazing, or will be given the choice of either (1) following the Authorized Officer's instructions for stabilizing the fossil resource in place and avoiding further disturbance to the fossil resource, or (2) following the Authorized Officer's instructions for mitigating impacts to the fossil resource prior to continuing grazing.
- All persons in the area who are associated with this project are informed that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are uncovered during grazing, the lessee is to immediately stop work that might further disturb such materials, and contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the lessee as to:
 - whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places;
 - the mitigation measures the lessee will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary); and,
 - a timeframe for the AO to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800.11 to confirm, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, that the

findings of the AO are correct and that mitigation is appropriate. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation.

- Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the lessee will then be allowed to resume construction measures.
- To minimize fence collisions by wildlife, hazard fences should be identified, modified and fence markers installed on or with in BLM lands

Authorities

Statutory authorities for this decision are contained in the Taylor Grazing Act of June 28, 1934, as amended (43 U.S.C. 315 through 315r), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976, as amended (Pub. L. 940579); 90 Stat.2743; 43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), and Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Subpart 4100.

Plan Conformance and Consistency

Pursuant to 40 CFR 1508.28 and 1502.21, the EA referenced tiers to and incorporates by reference the information and analysis contained in the PROPOSED Resource Management Plan and FINAL Environmental Impact Statement for the Casper Field Office, the Record of Decision and Approved Casper Resource Management Plan signed in December 2007 as amended by the Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan Amendments for the Rocky Mountain Region, Including the Greater Sage-Grouse Sub-Regions of Lewistown, North Dakota, Northwest Colorado, Wyoming, and the Approved Resource Management Plans for Billings, Buffalo, Cody, HiLine, Miles City, Pompeys Pillar National Monument, South Dakota, Worland: Casper, Kemmerer, Newcastle, Pinedale, Rawlins, and Rock Springs Field Offices Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment for Greater Sage-Grouse. The EA is in conformance and consistent with the referenced Casper RMP and Amendment.

Alternatives Considered

A No Action alternative was considered and analyzed alongside the proposed action to provide a baseline.

No other alternative was considered in the EA.

Public Involvement

No public outreach was needed due to the small amount of BLM administered lands in Platte County.

Rationale for Decision

I have reviewed the Environmental Assessment and the attendant FONSI (DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA) for offering a new 10-year term grazing lease for public lands located in the Mitchell (00366) allotment. Conditioned through mitigation measures, I find that this action will not result in significant impacts on the human environment pursuant to Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations 1508.27 (a) and (b) (1) through (10) and that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. I have determined that the proposed action, renewal of lease with modification, is in conformance with the Record of Decision and Approved Casper Resource Management Plan dated December 7, 2007 and amendments and will not cause unnecessary or undue degradation.

Right of Protest and/or Appeal

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other interested publics may protest a proposed decision under 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 4160.2 in person or in writing to the Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604 within 15 days after receipt of such decision. The BLM will not consider any protests filed after 15 days of receipt. The protest, if filed, should clearly and concisely state the reason(s) why the proposed decision is in error. All reasons for error not stated in the protest shall be considered waived.

In accordance with 43 CFR 4160.3 (a), in the absence of a protest, the proposed decision will become the final decision of the authorized officer without further notice unless otherwise provided in the proposed decision.

In accordance with 43 CFR 4160.3 (b) upon a timely filing of a protest, after a review of protests received and other information pertinent to the case, the authorized officer shall issue a final decision.

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other person whose interest is adversely affected by the final decision may file an appeal in accordance with 43 CFR 4.470 and 43 CFR 4160.3 and 4160.4. The appeal must be filed within 30 days following receipt of the final decision, or within 30 days after the date the proposed decision becomes final. The appeal may be accompanied by a petition for a stay of the decision pending appeal, in accordance with 43 CFR 4.471. The appeal and petition for a stay must be filed or in writing to the Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604. The appellant must serve a copy of the appeal by certified mail on the Office of the Field Solicitor, Rocky Mountain Region, and 755 Parfet Street Suite 151, Lakewood, Colorado, 80215 and person(s) named [43 CFR 4.421(h)] in the Copies sent to: section of this decision.

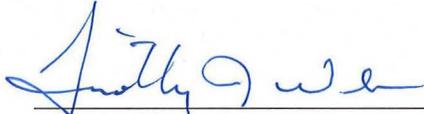
The appeal must clearly and concisely state the reasons why the appellant thinks the final decision is wrong and must otherwise comply with the provisions of 43 CFR 4.470.

Standards for Obtaining a Stay

Should you wish to file a petition for a stay, you must comply with the provisions at 43 CFR 4.471. Among other things, that regulation requires that a petition for a stay show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

- (1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied.
 - (2) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits.
 - (3) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted,
- and
- (4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

Any person named in the decision from which an appeal is taken who wishes to file a response to the petition for a stay may file with the Hearings Division a motion to intervene in the appeal, together with the response, within 10 days after receiving the petition. The person must serve copies of the motion to intervene and response on the appellant, the Office of the Solicitor and any other person named in the decision (43 CFR 4.472(b)).



Timothy J. Wilson
Casper Field Manager

7/1/2014
Date

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Decision Record
DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA
July 2016

Platte County Custodial Allotments Grazing Lease Renewal

Casper Field Office
2987 Prospector Drive
Casper, Wyoming 82604-2968



Selected Alternative

It is my proposed decision to implement the proposed action, renewal of lease with modification as described in the attached Environmental Assessment (DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA) and the attendant Finding of No Significant Impact for authorization of livestock grazing use on the Webb Canyon 3 (10423) allotment with a term of 10 years.

Specifically, the proposed decision is to offer a new 10-year term grazing lease to the lessee for public lands located within the Webb Canyon 3 (10423) allotment. Under this proposed action, the allotment would have the authorization to be grazed by cattle, horses, goats, sheep, and/or indigenous livestock up to the AUM's available in each lease. The standard terms and conditions as per 43 CFR 4100 will be applied to the lease. The following additional conditions will be placed on the lease to address assessment of rangeland health and threatened and endangered species:

- The terms and conditions of your lease may be modified if additional information indicates that revision is necessary to conform with 43 CFR 4180.
- Placement of salt, mineral or forage supplements for livestock is not allowed within ¼ mile of water, wetlands, and riparian areas, unless written analysis shows that watershed, riparian, wetland, wildlife, and vegetation values will not be adversely impacted. Forage supplements are required to be “certified weed free.
- The grazing allotments may contain delineated General Habitat Management Areas for the Greater sage-grouse. In order to effectively manage the annual and long-term influences of grazing and conserve sage-grouse habitats, grazing management will incorporate recommendations as discussed in the publication titled “Grazing Influence, Management, and Objective Development in Wyoming’s Greater Sage Grouse Habitat”, as provided for in IB – WY-2010-022 as recommended by the ARMPA. The primary objective of grazing management would be “to ensure appropriately timed grazing with moderate utilization levels (as described in the Wyoming Rangeland Monitoring Guide) will maintain the preferred Sagebrush/Bunchgrass plant community, and will promote plant vigor and sage-grouse values in less-preferred Sagebrush/Rhizomatous-Bluegrass transitional states.”

Mitigation Measures

- The amount of forage utilized by livestock on the public lands during the grazing year will not exceed the 25 AUM's of forage authorized by the grazing lease.
- Supervision and monitoring of this allotment will follow BLM policy and

management guidelines and the Casper Field Office Monitoring Plan.

- The terms and conditions of your lease may be modified if additional information indicates that revision is necessary to conform to 43 CFR 4180
- Placement of salt, mineral or forage supplements for livestock is not allowed within ¼ mile of water, wetlands, and riparian areas, unless written analysis shows that watershed, riparian, wetland, wildlife, and vegetative values will not be adversely impacted. Forage supplements are required to be ‘certified weed-free.
- If any surface disturbing activities are proposed in the allotment they will require cultural and wildlife inventories prior to the work being done.
- If noxious weeds or invasive plant species are discovered on public lands they will be aggressively treated using an integrated pesticide management approach to control their spread.
- The lessees shall immediately notify the BLM Authorized Officer of any paleontological resources discovered as a result of operations under this authorization. The lessees shall suspend all activities in the vicinity of such discovery until notified to proceed by the Authorized Officer and shall protect the discovery from damage or looting. The lessees may not be required to suspend all operations if activities can be adjusted to avoid further impacts to a discovered locality or be continued elsewhere. The Authorized Officer will evaluate, or will have evaluated, such discoveries as soon as possible, but not later than 10 working days after being notified. Appropriate measures to mitigate adverse effects to significant paleontological resources will be determined by the Authorized Officer after consulting with the lessee. Within 10 days, the operator will be allowed to continue grazing, or will be given the choice of either (1) following the Authorized Officer’s instructions for stabilizing the fossil resource in place and avoiding further disturbance to the fossil resource, or (2) following the Authorized Officer’s instructions for mitigating impacts to the fossil resource prior to continuing grazing.
- All persons in the area who are associated with this project are informed that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are uncovered during grazing, the lessee is to immediately stop work that might further disturb such materials, and contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the lessee as to:
 - whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places;
 - the mitigation measures the lessee will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary); and,

- a timeframe for the AO to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800.11 to confirm, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, that the findings of the AO are correct and that mitigation is appropriate. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation.
- Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the lessee will then be allowed to resume construction measures.
- To minimize fence collisions by wildlife, hazard fences should be identified, modified and fence markers installed on or with in BLM lands

Authorities

Statutory authorities for this decision are contained in the Taylor Grazing Act of June 28, 1934, as amended (43 U.S.C. 315 through 315r), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976, as amended (Pub. L. 940579); 90 Stat.2743; 43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), and Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Subpart 4100.

Plan Conformance and Consistency

Pursuant to 40 CFR 1508.28 and 1502.21, the EA referenced tiers to and incorporates by reference the information and analysis contained in the PROPOSED Resource Management Plan and FINAL Environmental Impact Statement for the Casper Field Office, the Record of Decision and Approved Casper Resource Management Plan signed in December 2007 as amended by the Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan Amendments for the Rocky Mountain Region, Including the Greater Sage-Grouse Sub-Regions of Lewistown, North Dakota, Northwest Colorado, Wyoming, and the Approved Resource Management Plans for Billings, Buffalo, Cody, HiLine, Miles City, Pompeys Pillar National Monument, South Dakota, Worland: Casper, Kemmerer, Newcastle, Pinedale, Rawlins, and Rock Springs Field Offices Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment for Greater Sage-Grouse. The EA is in conformance and consistent with the referenced Casper RMP and Amendment.

Alternatives Considered

A No Action alternative was considered and analyzed alongside the proposed action to provide a baseline.

No other alternative was considered in the EA.

Public Involvement

No public outreach was needed due to the small amount of BLM administered lands in Platte County.

Rationale for Decision

I have reviewed the Environmental Assessment and the attendant FONSI (DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA) for offering a new 10-year term grazing lease for public lands located in the Webb Canyon 3 (10423) allotment. Conditioned through mitigation measures, I find that this action will not result in significant impacts on the human environment pursuant to Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations 1508.27 (a) and (b) (1) through (10) and that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. I have determined that the proposed action, renewal of lease with modification, is in conformance with the Record of Decision and Approved Casper Resource Management Plan dated December 7, 2007 and amendments and will not cause unnecessary or undue degradation.

Right of Protest and/or Appeal

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other interested publics may protest a proposed decision under 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 4160.2 in person or in writing to the Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604 within 15 days after receipt of such decision. The BLM will not consider any protests filed after 15 days of receipt. The protest, if filed, should clearly and concisely state the reason(s) why the proposed decision is in error. All reasons for error not stated in the protest shall be considered waived.

In accordance with 43 CFR 4160.3 (a), in the absence of a protest, the proposed decision will become the final decision of the authorized officer without further notice unless otherwise provided in the proposed decision.

In accordance with 43 CFR 4160.3 (b) upon a timely filing of a protest, after a review of protests received and other information pertinent to the case, the authorized officer shall issue a final decision.

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other person whose interest is adversely affected by the final decision may file an appeal in accordance with 43 CFR 4.470 and 43 CFR 4160.3 and 4160.4. The appeal must be filed within 30 days following receipt of the final decision, or within 30 days after the date the proposed decision becomes final. The appeal may be accompanied by a petition for a stay of the decision pending appeal, in accordance with 43 CFR 4.471. The appeal and petition for a stay must be filed or in writing to the Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604. The appellant must serve a copy of the appeal by certified mail on the Office of the Field Solicitor, Rocky Mountain Region, and 755 Parfet Street Suite 151, Lakewood, Colorado, 80215 and person(s) named [43 CFR 4.421(h)] in the Copies sent to: section of this decision.

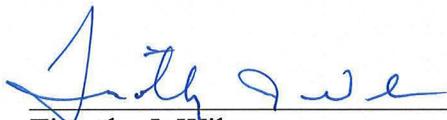
The appeal must clearly and concisely state the reasons why the appellant thinks the final decision is wrong and must otherwise comply with the provisions of 43 CFR 4.470.

Standards for Obtaining a Stay

Should you wish to file a petition for a stay, you must comply with the provisions at 43 CFR 4.471. Among other things, that regulation requires that a petition for a stay show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

- (1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied.
 - (2) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits.
 - (3) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted,
- and
- (4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

Any person named in the decision from which an appeal is taken who wishes to file a response to the petition for a stay may file with the Hearings Division a motion to intervene in the appeal, together with the response, within 10 days after receiving the petition. The person must serve copies of the motion to intervene and response on the appellant, the Office of the Solicitor and any other person named in the decision (43 CFR 4.472(b)).



Timothy J. Wilson
Casper Field Manager

7/1/2014

Date

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Decision Record
DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA
July 2016

Platte County Custodial Allotments Grazing Lease Renewal

Casper Field Office
2987 Prospector Drive
Casper, Wyoming 82604-2968



Selected Alternative

It is my proposed decision to implement the proposed action, renewal of lease with modification as described in the attached Environmental Assessment (DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA) and the attendant Finding of No Significant Impact for authorization of livestock grazing use on the Smith 2 (10441) allotment with a term of 10 years.

Specifically, the proposed decision is to offer a new 10-year term grazing lease to the lessee for public lands located within the Smith 2 (10441) allotment. Under this proposed action, the allotment would have the authorization to be grazed by cattle, horses, goats, sheep, and/or indigenous livestock up to the AUM's available in each lease. The standard terms and conditions as per 43 CFR 4100 will be applied to the lease. The following additional conditions will be placed on the lease to address assessment of rangeland health and threatened and endangered species:

- The terms and conditions of your lease may be modified if additional information indicates that revision is necessary to conform with 43 CFR 4180.
- Placement of salt, mineral or forage supplements for livestock is not allowed within ¼ mile of water, wetlands, and riparian areas, unless written analysis shows that watershed, riparian, wetland, wildlife, and vegetation values will not be adversely impacted. Forage supplements are required to be “certified weed free.
- The grazing allotments may contain delineated General Habitat Management Areas for the Greater sage-grouse. In order to effectively manage the annual and long-term influences of grazing and conserve sage-grouse habitats, grazing management will incorporate recommendations as discussed in the publication titled “Grazing Influence, Management, and Objective Development in Wyoming’s Greater Sage Grouse Habitat”, as provided for in IB – WY-2010-022 as recommended by the ARMPA. The primary objective of grazing management would be “to ensure appropriately timed grazing with moderate utilization levels (as described in the Wyoming Rangeland Monitoring Guide) will maintain the preferred Sagebrush/Bunchgrass plant community, and will promote plant vigor and sage-grouse values in less-preferred Sagebrush/Rhizomatous-Bluegrass transitional states.”

Mitigation Measures

- The amount of forage utilized by livestock on the public lands during the grazing year will not exceed the 29 AUM's of forage authorized by the grazing lease.
- Supervision and monitoring of this allotment will follow BLM policy and management guidelines and the Casper Field Office Monitoring Plan.

- The terms and conditions of your lease may be modified if additional information indicates that revision is necessary to conform to 43 CFR 4180
- Placement of salt, mineral or forage supplements for livestock is not allowed within ¼ mile of water, wetlands, and riparian areas, unless written analysis shows that watershed, riparian, wetland, wildlife, and vegetative values will not be adversely impacted. Forage supplements are required to be 'certified weed-free.
- If any surface disturbing activities are proposed in the allotment they will require cultural and wildlife inventories prior to the work being done.
- If noxious weeds or invasive plant species are discovered on public lands they will be aggressively treated using an integrated pesticide management approach to control their spread.
- The lessees shall immediately notify the BLM Authorized Officer of any paleontological resources discovered as a result of operations under this authorization. The lessees shall suspend all activities in the vicinity of such discovery until notified to proceed by the Authorized Officer and shall protect the discovery from damage or looting. The lessees may not be required to suspend all operations if activities can be adjusted to avoid further impacts to a discovered locality or be continued elsewhere. The Authorized Officer will evaluate, or will have evaluated, such discoveries as soon as possible, but not later than 10 working days after being notified. Appropriate measures to mitigate adverse effects to significant paleontological resources will be determined by the Authorized Officer after consulting with the lessee. Within 10 days, the operator will be allowed to continue grazing, or will be given the choice of either (1) following the Authorized Officer's instructions for stabilizing the fossil resource in place and avoiding further disturbance to the fossil resource, or (2) following the Authorized Officer's instructions for mitigating impacts to the fossil resource prior to continuing grazing.
- All persons in the area who are associated with this project are informed that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are uncovered during grazing, the lessee is to immediately stop work that might further disturb such materials, and contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the lessee as to:
 - whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places;
 - the mitigation measures the lessee will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary); and,
 - a timeframe for the AO to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800.11 to confirm, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, that the

findings of the AO are correct and that mitigation is appropriate. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation.

- Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the lessee will then be allowed to resume construction measures.
- To minimize fence collisions by wildlife, hazard fences should be identified, modified and fence markers installed on or with in BLM lands

Authorities

Statutory authorities for this decision are contained in the Taylor Grazing Act of June 28, 1934, as amended (43 U.S.C. 315 through 315r), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976, as amended (Pub. L. 940579); 90 Stat.2743; 43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), and Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Subpart 4100.

Plan Conformance and Consistency

Pursuant to 40 CFR 1508.28 and 1502.21, the EA referenced tiers to and incorporates by reference the information and analysis contained in the PROPOSED Resource Management Plan and FINAL Environmental Impact Statement for the Casper Field Office, the Record of Decision and Approved Casper Resource Management Plan signed in December 2007 as amended by the Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan Amendments for the Rocky Mountain Region, Including the Greater Sage-Grouse Sub-Regions of Lewistown, North Dakota, Northwest Colorado, Wyoming, and the Approved Resource Management Plans for Billings, Buffalo, Cody, HiLine, Miles City, Pompeys Pillar National Monument, South Dakota, Worland: Casper, Kemmerer, Newcastle, Pinedale, Rawlins, and Rock Springs Field Offices Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment for Greater Sage-Grouse. The EA is in conformance and consistent with the referenced Casper RMP and Amendment.

Alternatives Considered

A No Action alternative was considered and analyzed alongside the proposed action to provide a baseline.

No other alternative was considered in the EA.

Public Involvement

No public outreach was needed due to the small amount of BLM administered lands in Platte County.

Rationale for Decision

I have reviewed the Environmental Assessment and the attendant FONSI (DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA) for offering a new 10-year term grazing lease for public lands located in the Smith 2 (10441) allotment. Conditioned through mitigation measures, I find that this action will not result in significant impacts on the human environment pursuant to Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations 1508.27 (a) and (b) (1) through (10) and that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. I have determined that the proposed action, renewal of lease with modification, is in conformance with the Record of Decision and Approved Casper Resource Management Plan dated December 7, 2007 and amendments and will not cause unnecessary or undue degradation.

Right of Protest and/or Appeal

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other interested publics may protest a proposed decision under 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 4160.2 in person or in writing to the Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604 within 15 days after receipt of such decision. The BLM will not consider any protests filed after 15 days of receipt. The protest, if filed, should clearly and concisely state the reason(s) why the proposed decision is in error. All reasons for error not stated in the protest shall be considered waived.

In accordance with 43 CFR 4160.3 (a), in the absence of a protest, the proposed decision will become the final decision of the authorized officer without further notice unless otherwise provided in the proposed decision.

In accordance with 43 CFR 4160.3 (b) upon a timely filing of a protest, after a review of protests received and other information pertinent to the case, the authorized officer shall issue a final decision.

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other person whose interest is adversely affected by the final decision may file an appeal in accordance with 43 CFR 4.470 and 43 CFR 4160.3 and 4160.4. The appeal must be filed within 30 days following receipt of the final decision, or within 30 days after the date the proposed decision becomes final. The appeal may be accompanied by a petition for a stay of the decision pending appeal, in accordance with 43 CFR 4.471. The appeal and petition for a stay must be filed or in writing to the Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604. The appellant must serve a copy of the appeal by certified mail on the Office of the Field Solicitor, Rocky Mountain Region, and 755 Parfet Street Suite 151, Lakewood, Colorado, 80215 and person(s) named [43 CFR 4.421(h)] in the Copies sent to: section of this decision.

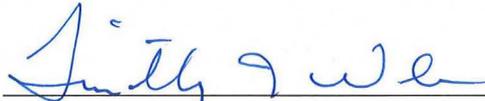
The appeal must clearly and concisely state the reasons why the appellant thinks the final decision is wrong and must otherwise comply with the provisions of 43 CFR 4.470.

Standards for Obtaining a Stay

Should you wish to file a petition for a stay, you must comply with the provisions at 43 CFR 4.471. Among other things, that regulation requires that a petition for a stay show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

- (1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied.
 - (2) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits.
 - (3) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted,
- and
- (4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

Any person named in the decision from which an appeal is taken who wishes to file a response to the petition for a stay may file with the Hearings Division a motion to intervene in the appeal, together with the response, within 10 days after receiving the petition. The person must serve copies of the motion to intervene and response on the appellant, the Office of the Solicitor and any other person named in the decision (43 CFR 4.472(b)).



Timothy J. Wilson
Casper Field Manager

7/1/2014
Date

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Decision Record
DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA
July 2016

Platte County Custodial Allotments Grazing Lease Renewal

Casper Field Office
2987 Prospector Drive
Casper, Wyoming 82604-2968



Selected Alternative

It is my proposed decision to implement the proposed action, renewal of lease with modification as described in the attached Environmental Assessment (DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA) and the attendant Finding of No Significant Impact for authorization of livestock grazing use on the Rabbit Creek 3 (00255) allotment with a term of 10 years.

Specifically, the proposed decision is to offer a new 10-year term grazing lease to the lessee for public lands located within the Rabbit Creek 3 (00255) allotment. Under this proposed action, the allotment would have the authorization to be grazed by cattle, horses, goats, sheep, and/or indigenous livestock up to the AUM's available in each lease. The standard terms and conditions as per 43 CFR 4100 will be applied to the lease. The following additional conditions will be placed on the lease to address assessment of rangeland health and threatened and endangered species:

- The terms and conditions of your lease may be modified if additional information indicates that revision is necessary to conform with 43 CFR 4180.
- Placement of salt, mineral or forage supplements for livestock is not allowed within ¼ mile of water, wetlands, and riparian areas, unless written analysis shows that watershed, riparian, wetland, wildlife, and vegetation values will not be adversely impacted. Forage supplements are required to be “certified weed free.”
- The grazing allotments may contain delineated General Habitat Management Areas for the Greater sage-grouse. In order to effectively manage the annual and long-term influences of grazing and conserve sage-grouse habitats, grazing management will incorporate recommendations as discussed in the publication titled “Grazing Influence, Management, and Objective Development in Wyoming’s Greater Sage Grouse Habitat”, as provided for in IB – WY-2010-022 as recommended by the ARMPA. The primary objective of grazing management would be “to ensure appropriately timed grazing with moderate utilization levels (as described in the Wyoming Rangeland Monitoring Guide) will maintain the preferred Sagebrush/Bunchgrass plant community, and will promote plant vigor and sage-grouse values in less-preferred Sagebrush/Rhizomatous-Bluegrass transitional states.”

Mitigation Measures

- The amount of forage utilized by livestock on the public lands during the grazing year will not exceed the 29 AUM's of forage authorized by the grazing lease.
- Supervision and monitoring of this allotment will follow BLM policy and management guidelines and the Casper Field Office Monitoring Plan.

- The terms and conditions of your lease may be modified if additional information indicates that revision is necessary to conform to 43 CFR 4180
- Placement of salt, mineral or forage supplements for livestock is not allowed within ¼ mile of water, wetlands, and riparian areas, unless written analysis shows that watershed, riparian, wetland, wildlife, and vegetative values will not be adversely impacted. Forage supplements are required to be 'certified weed-free.
- If any surface disturbing activities are proposed in the allotment they will require cultural and wildlife inventories prior to the work being done.
- If noxious weeds or invasive plant species are discovered on public lands they will be aggressively treated using an integrated pesticide management approach to control their spread.
- The lessees shall immediately notify the BLM Authorized Officer of any paleontological resources discovered as a result of operations under this authorization. The lessees shall suspend all activities in the vicinity of such discovery until notified to proceed by the Authorized Officer and shall protect the discovery from damage or looting. The lessees may not be required to suspend all operations if activities can be adjusted to avoid further impacts to a discovered locality or be continued elsewhere. The Authorized Officer will evaluate, or will have evaluated, such discoveries as soon as possible, but not later than 10 working days after being notified. Appropriate measures to mitigate adverse effects to significant paleontological resources will be determined by the Authorized Officer after consulting with the lessee. Within 10 days, the operator will be allowed to continue grazing, or will be given the choice of either (1) following the Authorized Officer's instructions for stabilizing the fossil resource in place and avoiding further disturbance to the fossil resource, or (2) following the Authorized Officer's instructions for mitigating impacts to the fossil resource prior to continuing grazing.
- All persons in the area who are associated with this project are informed that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are uncovered during grazing, the lessee is to immediately stop work that might further disturb such materials, and contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the lessee as to:
 - whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places;
 - the mitigation measures the lessee will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary); and,
 - a timeframe for the AO to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800.11 to confirm, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, that the

findings of the AO are correct and that mitigation is appropriate. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation.

- Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the lessee will then be allowed to resume construction measures.
- To minimize fence collisions by wildlife, hazard fences should be identified, modified and fence markers installed on or with in BLM lands

Authorities

Statutory authorities for this decision are contained in the Taylor Grazing Act of June 28, 1934, as amended (43 U.S.C. 315 through 315r), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976, as amended (Pub. L. 940579); 90 Stat.2743; 43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), and Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Subpart 4100.

Plan Conformance and Consistency

Pursuant to 40 CFR 1508.28 and 1502.21, the EA referenced tiers to and incorporates by reference the information and analysis contained in the PROPOSED Resource Management Plan and FINAL Environmental Impact Statement for the Casper Field Office, the Record of Decision and Approved Casper Resource Management Plan signed in December 2007 as amended by the Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan Amendments for the Rocky Mountain Region, Including the Greater Sage-Grouse Sub-Regions of Lewistown, North Dakota, Northwest Colorado, Wyoming, and the Approved Resource Management Plans for Billings, Buffalo, Cody, HiLine, Miles City, Pompeys Pillar National Monument, South Dakota, Worland: Casper, Kemmerer, Newcastle, Pinedale, Rawlins, and Rock Springs Field Offices Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment for Greater Sage-Grouse. The EA is in conformance and consistent with the referenced Casper RMP and Amendment.

Alternatives Considered

A No Action alternative was considered and analyzed alongside the proposed action to provide a baseline.

No other alternative was considered in the EA.

Public Involvement

No public outreach was needed due to the small amount of BLM administered lands in Platte County.

Rationale for Decision

I have reviewed the Environmental Assessment and the attendant FONSI (DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA) for offering a new 10-year term grazing lease for public lands located in the Rabbit Creek 3 (00255) allotment. Conditioned through mitigation measures, I find that this action will not result in significant impacts on the human environment pursuant to Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations 1508.27 (a) and (b) (1) through (10) and that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. I have determined that the proposed action, renewal of lease with modification, is in conformance with the Record of Decision and Approved Casper Resource Management Plan dated December 7, 2007 and amendments and will not cause unnecessary or undue degradation.

Right of Protest and/or Appeal

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other interested public may protest a proposed decision under 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 4160.2 in person or in writing to the Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604 within 15 days after receipt of such decision. The BLM will not consider any protests filed after 15 days of receipt. The protest, if filed, should clearly and concisely state the reason(s) why the proposed decision is in error. All reasons for error not stated in the protest shall be considered waived.

In accordance with 43 CFR 4160.3 (a), in the absence of a protest, the proposed decision will become the final decision of the authorized officer without further notice unless otherwise provided in the proposed decision.

In accordance with 43 CFR 4160.3 (b) upon a timely filing of a protest, after a review of protests received and other information pertinent to the case, the authorized officer shall issue a final decision.

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other person whose interest is adversely affected by the final decision may file an appeal in accordance with 43 CFR 4.470 and 43 CFR 4160.3 and 4160.4. The appeal must be filed within 30 days following receipt of the final decision, or within 30 days after the date the proposed decision becomes final. The appeal may be accompanied by a petition for a stay of the decision pending appeal, in accordance with 43 CFR 4.471. The appeal and petition for a stay must be filed or in writing to the Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604. The appellant must serve a copy of the appeal by certified mail on the Office of the Field Solicitor, Rocky Mountain Region, and 755 Parfet Street Suite 151, Lakewood, Colorado, 80215 and person(s) named [43 CFR 4.421(h)] in the Copies sent to: section of this decision.

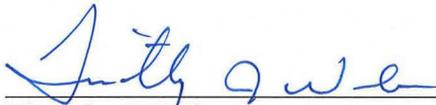
The appeal must clearly and concisely state the reasons why the appellant thinks the final decision is wrong and must otherwise comply with the provisions of 43 CFR 4.470.

Standards for Obtaining a Stay

Should you wish to file a petition for a stay, you must comply with the provisions at 43 CFR 4.471. Among other things, that regulation requires that a petition for a stay show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

- (1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied.
 - (2) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits.
 - (3) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted,
- and
- (4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

Any person named in the decision from which an appeal is taken who wishes to file a response to the petition for a stay may file with the Hearings Division a motion to intervene in the appeal, together with the response, within 10 days after receiving the petition. The person must serve copies of the motion to intervene and response on the appellant, the Office of the Solicitor and any other person named in the decision (43 CFR 4.472(b)).



Timothy J. Wilson
Casper Field Manager

7/1/2016

Date

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Decision Record
DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA
July 2016

Platte County Custodial Allotments Grazing Lease Renewal

Casper Field Office
2987 Prospector Drive
Casper, Wyoming 82604-2968



Selected Alternative

It is my proposed decision to implement the proposed action, renewal of lease with modification as described in the attached Environmental Assessment (DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA) and the attendant Finding of No Significant Impact for authorization of livestock grazing use on the Rabbit Creek (00347) allotment with a term of 10 years.

Specifically, the proposed decision is to offer a new 10-year term grazing lease to the lessee for public lands located within the Rabbit Creek (00347) allotment. Under this proposed action, the allotment would have the authorization to be grazed by cattle, horses, goats, sheep, and/or indigenous livestock up to the AUM's available in each lease. The standard terms and conditions as per 43 CFR 4100 will be applied to the lease. The following additional conditions will be placed on the lease to address assessment of rangeland health and threatened and endangered species:

- The terms and conditions of your lease may be modified if additional information indicates that revision is necessary to conform with 43 CFR 4180.
- Placement of salt, mineral or forage supplements for livestock is not allowed within ¼ mile of water, wetlands, and riparian areas, unless written analysis shows that watershed, riparian, wetland, wildlife, and vegetation values will not be adversely impacted. Forage supplements are required to be “certified weed free.
- The grazing allotments may contain delineated General Habitat Management Areas for the Greater sage-grouse. In order to effectively manage the annual and long-term influences of grazing and conserve sage-grouse habitats, grazing management will incorporate recommendations as discussed in the publication titled “Grazing Influence, Management, and Objective Development in Wyoming’s Greater Sage Grouse Habitat”, as provided for in IB – WY-2010-022 as recommended by the ARMPA. The primary objective of grazing management would be “to ensure appropriately timed grazing with moderate utilization levels (as described in the Wyoming Rangeland Monitoring Guide) will maintain the preferred Sagebrush/Bunchgrass plant community, and will promote plant vigor and sage-grouse values in less-preferred Sagebrush/Rhizomatous-Bluegrass transitional states.”

Mitigation Measures

- The amount of forage utilized by livestock on the public lands during the grazing year will not exceed the 7 AUM's of forage authorized by the grazing lease.
- Supervision and monitoring of this allotment will follow BLM policy and management guidelines and the Casper Field Office Monitoring Plan.

- The terms and conditions of your lease may be modified if additional information indicates that revision is necessary to conform to 43 CFR 4180
- Placement of salt, mineral or forage supplements for livestock is not allowed within ¼ mile of water, wetlands, and riparian areas, unless written analysis shows that watershed, riparian, wetland, wildlife, and vegetative values will not be adversely impacted. Forage supplements are required to be 'certified weed-free.
- If any surface disturbing activities are proposed in the allotment they will require cultural and wildlife inventories prior to the work being done.
- If noxious weeds or invasive plant species are discovered on public lands they will be aggressively treated using an integrated pesticide management approach to control their spread.
- The lessees shall immediately notify the BLM Authorized Officer of any paleontological resources discovered as a result of operations under this authorization. The lessees shall suspend all activities in the vicinity of such discovery until notified to proceed by the Authorized Officer and shall protect the discovery from damage or looting. The lessees may not be required to suspend all operations if activities can be adjusted to avoid further impacts to a discovered locality or be continued elsewhere. The Authorized Officer will evaluate, or will have evaluated, such discoveries as soon as possible, but not later than 10 working days after being notified. Appropriate measures to mitigate adverse effects to significant paleontological resources will be determined by the Authorized Officer after consulting with the lessee. Within 10 days, the operator will be allowed to continue grazing, or will be given the choice of either (1) following the Authorized Officer's instructions for stabilizing the fossil resource in place and avoiding further disturbance to the fossil resource, or (2) following the Authorized Officer's instructions for mitigating impacts to the fossil resource prior to continuing grazing.
- All persons in the area who are associated with this project are informed that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are uncovered during grazing, the lessee is to immediately stop work that might further disturb such materials, and contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the lessee as to:
 - whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places;
 - the mitigation measures the lessee will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary); and,
 - a timeframe for the AO to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800.11 to confirm, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, that the

findings of the AO are correct and that mitigation is appropriate. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation.

- Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the lessee will then be allowed to resume construction measures.
- To minimize fence collisions by wildlife, hazard fences should be identified, modified and fence markers installed on or with in BLM lands

Authorities

Statutory authorities for this decision are contained in the Taylor Grazing Act of June 28, 1934, as amended (43 U.S.C. 315 through 315r), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976, as amended (Pub. L. 940579); 90 Stat.2743; 43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), and Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Subpart 4100.

Plan Conformance and Consistency

Pursuant to 40 CFR 1508.28 and 1502.21, the EA referenced tiers to and incorporates by reference the information and analysis contained in the PROPOSED Resource Management Plan and FINAL Environmental Impact Statement for the Casper Field Office, the Record of Decision and Approved Casper Resource Management Plan signed in December 2007 as amended by the Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan Amendments for the Rocky Mountain Region, Including the Greater Sage-Grouse Sub-Regions of Lewistown, North Dakota, Northwest Colorado, Wyoming, and the Approved Resource Management Plans for Billings, Buffalo, Cody, HiLine, Miles City, Pompeys Pillar National Monument, South Dakota, Worland: Casper, Kemmerer, Newcastle, Pinedale, Rawlins, and Rock Springs Field Offices Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment for Greater Sage-Grouse. The EA is in conformance and consistent with the referenced Casper RMP and Amendment.

Alternatives Considered

A No Action alternative was considered and analyzed alongside the proposed action to provide a baseline.

No other alternative was considered in the EA.

Public Involvement

No public outreach was needed due to the small amount of BLM administered lands in Platte County.

Rationale for Decision

I have reviewed the Environmental Assessment and the attendant FONSI (DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA) for offering a new 10-year term grazing lease for public lands located in the Rabbit Creek (00347) allotment. Conditioned through mitigation measures, I find that this action will not result in significant impacts on the human environment pursuant to Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations 1508.27 (a) and (b) (1) through (10) and that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. I have determined that the proposed action, renewal of lease with modification, is in conformance with the Record of Decision and Approved Casper Resource Management Plan dated December 7, 2007 and amendments and will not cause unnecessary or undue degradation.

Right of Protest and/or Appeal

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other interested publics may protest a proposed decision under 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 4160.2 in person or in writing to the Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604 within 15 days after receipt of such decision. The BLM will not consider any protests filed after 15 days of receipt. The protest, if filed, should clearly and concisely state the reason(s) why the proposed decision is in error. All reasons for error not stated in the protest shall be considered waived.

In accordance with 43 CFR 4160.3 (a), in the absence of a protest, the proposed decision will become the final decision of the authorized officer without further notice unless otherwise provided in the proposed decision.

In accordance with 43 CFR 4160.3 (b) upon a timely filing of a protest, after a review of protests received and other information pertinent to the case, the authorized officer shall issue a final decision.

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other person whose interest is adversely affected by the final decision may file an appeal in accordance with 43 CFR 4.470 and 43 CFR 4160.3 and 4160.4. The appeal must be filed within 30 days following receipt of the final decision, or within 30 days after the date the proposed decision becomes final. The appeal may be accompanied by a petition for a stay of the decision pending appeal, in accordance with 43 CFR 4.471. The appeal and petition for a stay must be filed or in writing to the Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604. The appellant must serve a copy of the appeal by certified mail on the Office of the Field Solicitor, Rocky Mountain Region, and 755 Parfet Street Suite 151, Lakewood, Colorado, 80215 and person(s) named [43 CFR 4.421(h)] in the Copies sent to: section of this decision.

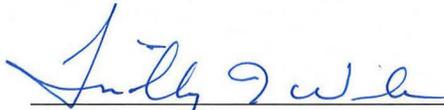
The appeal must clearly and concisely state the reasons why the appellant thinks the final decision is wrong and must otherwise comply with the provisions of 43 CFR 4.470.

Standards for Obtaining a Stay

Should you wish to file a petition for a stay, you must comply with the provisions at 43 CFR 4.471. Among other things, that regulation requires that a petition for a stay show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

- (1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied.
 - (2) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits.
 - (3) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted,
- and
- (4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

Any person named in the decision from which an appeal is taken who wishes to file a response to the petition for a stay may file with the Hearings Division a motion to intervene in the appeal, together with the response, within 10 days after receiving the petition. The person must serve copies of the motion to intervene and response on the appellant, the Office of the Solicitor and any other person named in the decision (43 CFR 4.472(b)).



Timothy J. Wilson
Casper Field Manager

7/1/2010
Date

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Decision Record
DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA
July 2016

Platte County Custodial Allotments Grazing Lease Renewal

Casper Field Office
2987 Prospector Drive
Casper, Wyoming 82604-2968



Selected Alternative

It is my proposed decision to implement the proposed action, renewal of lease with modification as described in the attached Environmental Assessment (DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA) and the attendant Finding of No Significant Impact for authorization of livestock grazing use on the Travnick (20212) allotment with a term of 10 years.

Specifically, the proposed decision is to offer a new 10-year term grazing lease to the lessee for public lands located within the Travnick (20212) allotment. Under this proposed action, the allotment would have the authorization to be grazed by cattle, horses, goats, sheep, and/or indigenous livestock up to the AUM's available in each lease. The standard terms and conditions as per 43 CFR 4100 will be applied to the lease. The following additional conditions will be placed on the lease to address assessment of rangeland health and threatened and endangered species:

- The terms and conditions of your lease may be modified if additional information indicates that revision is necessary to conform with 43 CFR 4180.
- Placement of salt, mineral or forage supplements for livestock is not allowed within ¼ mile of water, wetlands, and riparian areas, unless written analysis shows that watershed, riparian, wetland, wildlife, and vegetation values will not be adversely impacted. Forage supplements are required to be “certified weed free.
- The grazing allotments may contain delineated General Habitat Management Areas for the Greater sage-grouse. In order to effectively manage the annual and long-term influences of grazing and conserve sage-grouse habitats, grazing management will incorporate recommendations as discussed in the publication titled “Grazing Influence, Management, and Objective Development in Wyoming’s Greater Sage Grouse Habitat”, as provided for in IB – WY-2010-022 as recommended by the ARMPA. The primary objective of grazing management would be “to ensure appropriately timed grazing with moderate utilization levels (as described in the Wyoming Rangeland Monitoring Guide) will maintain the preferred Sagebrush/Bunchgrass plant community, and will promote plant vigor and sage-grouse values in less-preferred Sagebrush/Rhizomatous-Bluegrass transitional states.”

Mitigation Measures

- The amount of forage utilized by livestock on the public lands during the grazing year will not exceed the 6 AUM's of forage authorized by the grazing lease.
- Supervision and monitoring of this allotment will follow BLM policy and management guidelines and the Casper Field Office Monitoring Plan.

- The terms and conditions of your lease may be modified if additional information indicates that revision is necessary to conform to 43 CFR 4180
- Placement of salt, mineral or forage supplements for livestock is not allowed within ¼ mile of water, wetlands, and riparian areas, unless written analysis shows that watershed, riparian, wetland, wildlife, and vegetative values will not be adversely impacted. Forage supplements are required to be ‘certified weed-free.
- If any surface disturbing activities are proposed in the allotment they will require cultural and wildlife inventories prior to the work being done.
- If noxious weeds or invasive plant species are discovered on public lands they will be aggressively treated using an integrated pesticide management approach to control their spread.
- The lessees shall immediately notify the BLM Authorized Officer of any paleontological resources discovered as a result of operations under this authorization. The lessees shall suspend all activities in the vicinity of such discovery until notified to proceed by the Authorized Officer and shall protect the discovery from damage or looting. The lessees may not be required to suspend all operations if activities can be adjusted to avoid further impacts to a discovered locality or be continued elsewhere. The Authorized Officer will evaluate, or will have evaluated, such discoveries as soon as possible, but not later than 10 working days after being notified. Appropriate measures to mitigate adverse effects to significant paleontological resources will be determined by the Authorized Officer after consulting with the lessee. Within 10 days, the operator will be allowed to continue grazing, or will be given the choice of either (1) following the Authorized Officer’s instructions for stabilizing the fossil resource in place and avoiding further disturbance to the fossil resource, or (2) following the Authorized Officer’s instructions for mitigating impacts to the fossil resource prior to continuing grazing.
- All persons in the area who are associated with this project are informed that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are uncovered during grazing, the lessee is to immediately stop work that might further disturb such materials, and contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the lessee as to:
 - whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places;
 - the mitigation measures the lessee will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary); and,
 - a timeframe for the AO to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800.11 to confirm, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, that the

findings of the AO are correct and that mitigation is appropriate. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation.

- Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the lessee will then be allowed to resume construction measures.
- To minimize fence collisions by wildlife, hazard fences should be identified, modified and fence markers installed on or with in BLM lands

Authorities

Statutory authorities for this decision are contained in the Taylor Grazing Act of June 28, 1934, as amended (43 U.S.C. 315 through 315r), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976, as amended (Pub. L. 940579); 90 Stat.2743; 43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), and Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Subpart 4100.

Plan Conformance and Consistency

Pursuant to 40 CFR 1508.28 and 1502.21, the EA referenced tiers to and incorporates by reference the information and analysis contained in the PROPOSED Resource Management Plan and FINAL Environmental Impact Statement for the Casper Field Office, the Record of Decision and Approved Casper Resource Management Plan signed in December 2007 as amended by the Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan Amendments for the Rocky Mountain Region, Including the Greater Sage-Grouse Sub-Regions of Lewistown, North Dakota, Northwest Colorado, Wyoming, and the Approved Resource Management Plans for Billings, Buffalo, Cody, HiLine, Miles City, Pompeys Pillar National Monument, South Dakota, Worland: Casper, Kemmerer, Newcastle, Pinedale, Rawlins, and Rock Springs Field Offices Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment for Greater Sage-Grouse. The EA is in conformance and consistent with the referenced Casper RMP and Amendment.

Alternatives Considered

A No Action alternative was considered and analyzed alongside the proposed action to provide a baseline.

No other alternative was considered in the EA.

Public Involvement

No public outreach was needed due to the small amount of BLM administered lands in Platte County.

Rationale for Decision

I have reviewed the Environmental Assessment and the attendant FONSI (DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA) for offering a new 10-year term grazing lease for public lands located in the Travnick (20212) allotment. Conditioned through mitigation measures, I find that this action will not result in significant impacts on the human environment pursuant to Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations 1508.27 (a) and (b) (1) through (10) and that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. I have determined that the proposed action, renewal of lease with modification, is in conformance with the Record of Decision and Approved Casper Resource Management Plan dated December 7, 2007 and amendments and will not cause unnecessary or undue degradation.

Right of Protest and/or Appeal

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other interested publics may protest a proposed decision under 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 4160.2 in person or in writing to the Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604 within 15 days after receipt of such decision. The BLM will not consider any protests filed after 15 days of receipt. The protest, if filed, should clearly and concisely state the reason(s) why the proposed decision is in error. All reasons for error not stated in the protest shall be considered waived.

In accordance with 43 CFR 4160.3 (a), in the absence of a protest, the proposed decision will become the final decision of the authorized officer without further notice unless otherwise provided in the proposed decision.

In accordance with 43 CFR 4160.3 (b) upon a timely filing of a protest, after a review of protests received and other information pertinent to the case, the authorized officer shall issue a final decision.

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other person whose interest is adversely affected by the final decision may file an appeal in accordance with 43 CFR 4.470 and 43 CFR 4160.3 and 4160.4. The appeal must be filed within 30 days following receipt of the final decision, or within 30 days after the date the proposed decision becomes final. The appeal may be accompanied by a petition for a stay of the decision pending appeal, in accordance with 43 CFR 4.471. The appeal and petition for a stay must be filed or in writing to the Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604. The appellant must serve a copy of the appeal by certified mail on the Office of the Field Solicitor, Rocky Mountain Region, and 755 Parfet Street Suite 151, Lakewood, Colorado, 80215 and person(s) named [43 CFR 4.421(h)] in the Copies sent to: section of this decision.

The appeal must clearly and concisely state the reasons why the appellant thinks the final decision is wrong and must otherwise comply with the provisions of 43 CFR 4.470.

Standards for Obtaining a Stay

Should you wish to file a petition for a stay, you must comply with the provisions at 43 CFR 4.471. Among other things, that regulation requires that a petition for a stay show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

- (1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied.
 - (2) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits.
 - (3) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted,
- and
- (4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

Any person named in the decision from which an appeal is taken who wishes to file a response to the petition for a stay may file with the Hearings Division a motion to intervene in the appeal, together with the response, within 10 days after receiving the petition. The person must serve copies of the motion to intervene and response on the appellant, the Office of the Solicitor and any other person named in the decision (43 CFR 4.472(b)).



Timothy J. Wilson
Casper Field Manager

7/1/2014

Date

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Decision Record
DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA
July 2016

Platte County Custodial Allotments Grazing Lease Renewal

Casper Field Office
2987 Prospector Drive
Casper, Wyoming 82604-2968



Selected Alternative

It is my proposed decision to implement the proposed action, renewal of lease with modification as described in the attached Environmental Assessment (DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA) and the attendant Finding of No Significant Impact for authorization of livestock grazing use on the Brush Creek 2 (10177) allotment with a term of 10 years.

Specifically, the proposed decision is to offer a new 10-year term grazing lease to the lessee for public lands located within the Brush Creek 2 (10177) allotment. Under this proposed action, the allotment would have the authorization to be grazed by cattle, horses, goats, sheep, and/or indigenous livestock up to the AUM's available in each lease. The standard terms and conditions as per 43 CFR 4100 will be applied to the lease. The following additional conditions will be placed on the lease to address assessment of rangeland health and threatened and endangered species:

- The terms and conditions of your lease may be modified if additional information indicates that revision is necessary to conform with 43 CFR 4180.
- Placement of salt, mineral or forage supplements for livestock is not allowed within ¼ mile of water, wetlands, and riparian areas, unless written analysis shows that watershed, riparian, wetland, wildlife, and vegetation values will not be adversely impacted. Forage supplements are required to be “certified weed free.”
- The grazing allotments may contain delineated General Habitat Management Areas for the Greater sage-grouse. In order to effectively manage the annual and long-term influences of grazing and conserve sage-grouse habitats, grazing management will incorporate recommendations as discussed in the publication titled “Grazing Influence, Management, and Objective Development in Wyoming’s Greater Sage Grouse Habitat”, as provided for in IB – WY-2010-022 as recommended by the ARMPA. The primary objective of grazing management would be “to ensure appropriately timed grazing with moderate utilization levels (as described in the Wyoming Rangeland Monitoring Guide) will maintain the preferred Sagebrush/Bunchgrass plant community, and will promote plant vigor and sage-grouse values in less-preferred Sagebrush/Rhizomatous-Bluegrass transitional states.”

Mitigation Measures

- The amount of forage utilized by livestock on the public lands during the grazing year will not exceed the 9 AUM's of forage authorized by the grazing lease.
- Supervision and monitoring of this allotment will follow BLM policy and management guidelines and the Casper Field Office Monitoring Plan.

- The terms and conditions of your lease may be modified if additional information indicates that revision is necessary to conform to 43 CFR 4180
- Placement of salt, mineral or forage supplements for livestock is not allowed within ¼ mile of water, wetlands, and riparian areas, unless written analysis shows that watershed, riparian, wetland, wildlife, and vegetative values will not be adversely impacted. Forage supplements are required to be 'certified weed-free.
- If any surface disturbing activities are proposed in the allotment they will require cultural and wildlife inventories prior to the work being done.
- If noxious weeds or invasive plant species are discovered on public lands they will be aggressively treated using an integrated pesticide management approach to control their spread.
- The lessees shall immediately notify the BLM Authorized Officer of any paleontological resources discovered as a result of operations under this authorization. The lessees shall suspend all activities in the vicinity of such discovery until notified to proceed by the Authorized Officer and shall protect the discovery from damage or looting. The lessees may not be required to suspend all operations if activities can be adjusted to avoid further impacts to a discovered locality or be continued elsewhere. The Authorized Officer will evaluate, or will have evaluated, such discoveries as soon as possible, but not later than 10 working days after being notified. Appropriate measures to mitigate adverse effects to significant paleontological resources will be determined by the Authorized Officer after consulting with the lessee. Within 10 days, the operator will be allowed to continue grazing, or will be given the choice of either (1) following the Authorized Officer's instructions for stabilizing the fossil resource in place and avoiding further disturbance to the fossil resource, or (2) following the Authorized Officer's instructions for mitigating impacts to the fossil resource prior to continuing grazing.
- All persons in the area who are associated with this project are informed that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are uncovered during grazing, the lessee is to immediately stop work that might further disturb such materials, and contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the lessee as to:
 - whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places;
 - the mitigation measures the lessee will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary); and,
 - a timeframe for the AO to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800.11 to confirm, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, that the

findings of the AO are correct and that mitigation is appropriate. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation.

- Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the lessee will then be allowed to resume construction measures.
- To minimize fence collisions by wildlife, hazard fences should be identified, modified and fence markers installed on or with in BLM lands

Authorities

Statutory authorities for this decision are contained in the Taylor Grazing Act of June 28, 1934, as amended (43 U.S.C. 315 through 315r), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976, as amended (Pub. L. 940579); 90 Stat.2743; 43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), and Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Subpart 4100.

Plan Conformance and Consistency

Pursuant to 40 CFR 1508.28 and 1502.21, the EA referenced tiers to and incorporates by reference the information and analysis contained in the PROPOSED Resource Management Plan and FINAL Environmental Impact Statement for the Casper Field Office, the Record of Decision and Approved Casper Resource Management Plan signed in December 2007 as amended by the Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan Amendments for the Rocky Mountain Region, Including the Greater Sage-Grouse Sub-Regions of Lewistown, North Dakota, Northwest Colorado, Wyoming, and the Approved Resource Management Plans for Billings, Buffalo, Cody, HiLine, Miles City, Pompeys Pillar National Monument, South Dakota, Worland: Casper, Kemmerer, Newcastle, Pinedale, Rawlins, and Rock Springs Field Offices Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment for Greater Sage-Grouse. The EA is in conformance and consistent with the referenced Casper RMP and Amendment.

Alternatives Considered

A No Action alternative was considered and analyzed alongside the proposed action to provide a baseline.

No other alternative was considered in the EA.

Public Involvement

No public outreach was needed due to the small amount of BLM administered lands in Platte County.

Rationale for Decision

I have reviewed the Environmental Assessment and the attendant FONSI (DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA) for offering a new 10-year term grazing lease for public lands located in the Brush Creek 2 (10177) allotment. Conditioned through mitigation measures, I find that this action will not result in significant impacts on the human environment pursuant to Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations 1508.27 (a) and (b) (1) through (10) and that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. I have determined that the proposed action, renewal of lease with modification, is in conformance with the Record of Decision and Approved Casper Resource Management Plan dated December 7, 2007 and amendments and will not cause unnecessary or undue degradation.

Right of Protest and/or Appeal

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other interested publics may protest a proposed decision under 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 4160.2 in person or in writing to the Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604 within 15 days after receipt of such decision. The BLM will not consider any protests filed after 15 days of receipt. The protest, if filed, should clearly and concisely state the reason(s) why the proposed decision is in error. All reasons for error not stated in the protest shall be considered waived.

In accordance with 43 CFR 4160.3 (a), in the absence of a protest, the proposed decision will become the final decision of the authorized officer without further notice unless otherwise provided in the proposed decision.

In accordance with 43 CFR 4160.3 (b) upon a timely filing of a protest, after a review of protests received and other information pertinent to the case, the authorized officer shall issue a final decision.

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other person whose interest is adversely affected by the final decision may file an appeal in accordance with 43 CFR 4.470 and 43 CFR 4160.3 and 4160.4. The appeal must be filed within 30 days following receipt of the final decision, or within 30 days after the date the proposed decision becomes final. The appeal may be accompanied by a petition for a stay of the decision pending appeal, in accordance with 43 CFR 4.471. The appeal and petition for a stay must be filed or in writing to the Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604. The appellant must serve a copy of the appeal by certified mail on the Office of the Field Solicitor, Rocky Mountain Region, and 755 Parfet Street Suite 151, Lakewood, Colorado, 80215 and person(s) named [43 CFR 4.421(h)] in the Copies sent to: section of this decision.

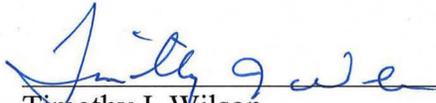
The appeal must clearly and concisely state the reasons why the appellant thinks the final decision is wrong and must otherwise comply with the provisions of 43 CFR 4.470.

Standards for Obtaining a Stay

Should you wish to file a petition for a stay, you must comply with the provisions at 43 CFR 4.471. Among other things, that regulation requires that a petition for a stay show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

- (1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied.
 - (2) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits.
 - (3) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted,
- and
- (4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

Any person named in the decision from which an appeal is taken who wishes to file a response to the petition for a stay may file with the Hearings Division a motion to intervene in the appeal, together with the response, within 10 days after receiving the petition. The person must serve copies of the motion to intervene and response on the appellant, the Office of the Solicitor and any other person named in the decision (43 CFR 4.472(b)).



Timothy J. Wilson
Casper Field Manager

7/1/2016

Date

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Decision Record
DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA
July 2016

Platte County Custodial Allotments Grazing Lease Renewal

Casper Field Office
2987 Prospector Drive
Casper, Wyoming 82604-2968



Selected Alternative

It is my proposed decision to implement the proposed action, renewal of lease with modification as described in the attached Environmental Assessment (DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA) and the attendant Finding of No Significant Impact for authorization of livestock grazing use on the Brush Creek (00474) allotment with a term of 10 years.

Specifically, the proposed decision is to offer a new 10-year term grazing lease to the lessee for public lands located within the Brush Creek (00474) allotment. Under this proposed action, the allotment would have the authorization to be grazed by cattle, horses, goats, sheep, and/or indigenous livestock up to the AUM's available in each lease. The standard terms and conditions as per 43 CFR 4100 will be applied to the lease. The following additional conditions will be placed on the lease to address assessment of rangeland health and threatened and endangered species:

- The terms and conditions of your lease may be modified if additional information indicates that revision is necessary to conform with 43 CFR 4180.
- Placement of salt, mineral or forage supplements for livestock is not allowed within ¼ mile of water, wetlands, and riparian areas, unless written analysis shows that watershed, riparian, wetland, wildlife, and vegetation values will not be adversely impacted. Forage supplements are required to be “certified weed free.
- The grazing allotments may contain delineated General Habitat Management Areas for the Greater sage-grouse. In order to effectively manage the annual and long-term influences of grazing and conserve sage-grouse habitats, grazing management will incorporate recommendations as discussed in the publication titled “Grazing Influence, Management, and Objective Development in Wyoming’s Greater Sage Grouse Habitat”, as provided for in IB – WY-2010-022 as recommended by the ARMPA. The primary objective of grazing management would be “to ensure appropriately timed grazing with moderate utilization levels (as described in the Wyoming Rangeland Monitoring Guide) will maintain the preferred Sagebrush/Bunchgrass plant community, and will promote plant vigor and sage-grouse values in less-preferred Sagebrush/Rhizomatous-Bluegrass transitional states.”

Mitigation Measures

- The amount of forage utilized by livestock on the public lands during the grazing year will not exceed the 18 AUM's of forage authorized by the grazing lease.
- Supervision and monitoring of this allotment will follow BLM policy and management guidelines and the Casper Field Office Monitoring Plan.

- The terms and conditions of your lease may be modified if additional information indicates that revision is necessary to conform to 43 CFR 4180
- Placement of salt, mineral or forage supplements for livestock is not allowed within ¼ mile of water, wetlands, and riparian areas, unless written analysis shows that watershed, riparian, wetland, wildlife, and vegetative values will not be adversely impacted. Forage supplements are required to be 'certified weed-free.
- If any surface disturbing activities are proposed in the allotment they will require cultural and wildlife inventories prior to the work being done.
- If noxious weeds or invasive plant species are discovered on public lands they will be aggressively treated using an integrated pesticide management approach to control their spread.
- The lessees shall immediately notify the BLM Authorized Officer of any paleontological resources discovered as a result of operations under this authorization. The lessees shall suspend all activities in the vicinity of such discovery until notified to proceed by the Authorized Officer and shall protect the discovery from damage or looting. The lessees may not be required to suspend all operations if activities can be adjusted to avoid further impacts to a discovered locality or be continued elsewhere. The Authorized Officer will evaluate, or will have evaluated, such discoveries as soon as possible, but not later than 10 working days after being notified. Appropriate measures to mitigate adverse effects to significant paleontological resources will be determined by the Authorized Officer after consulting with the lessee. Within 10 days, the operator will be allowed to continue grazing, or will be given the choice of either (1) following the Authorized Officer's instructions for stabilizing the fossil resource in place and avoiding further disturbance to the fossil resource, or (2) following the Authorized Officer's instructions for mitigating impacts to the fossil resource prior to continuing grazing.
- All persons in the area who are associated with this project are informed that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are uncovered during grazing, the lessee is to immediately stop work that might further disturb such materials, and contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the lessee as to:
 - whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places;
 - the mitigation measures the lessee will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary); and,
 - a timeframe for the AO to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800.11 to confirm, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, that the

findings of the AO are correct and that mitigation is appropriate. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation.

- Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the lessee will then be allowed to resume construction measures.
- To minimize fence collisions by wildlife, hazard fences should be identified, modified and fence markers installed on or with in BLM lands

Authorities

Statutory authorities for this decision are contained in the Taylor Grazing Act of June 28, 1934, as amended (43 U.S.C. 315 through 315r), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976, as amended (Pub. L. 940579); 90 Stat.2743; 43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), and Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Subpart 4100.

Plan Conformance and Consistency

Pursuant to 40 CFR 1508.28 and 1502.21, the EA referenced tiers to and incorporates by reference the information and analysis contained in the PROPOSED Resource Management Plan and FINAL Environmental Impact Statement for the Casper Field Office, the Record of Decision and Approved Casper Resource Management Plan signed in December 2007 as amended by the Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan Amendments for the Rocky Mountain Region, Including the Greater Sage-Grouse Sub-Regions of Lewistown, North Dakota, Northwest Colorado, Wyoming, and the Approved Resource Management Plans for Billings, Buffalo, Cody, HiLine, Miles City, Pompeys Pillar National Monument, South Dakota, Worland: Casper, Kemmerer, Newcastle, Pinedale, Rawlins, and Rock Springs Field Offices Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment for Greater Sage-Grouse. The EA is in conformance and consistent with the referenced Casper RMP and Amendment.

Alternatives Considered

A No Action alternative was considered and analyzed alongside the proposed action to provide a baseline.

No other alternative was considered in the EA.

Public Involvement

No public outreach was needed due to the small amount of BLM administered lands in Platte County.

Rationale for Decision

I have reviewed the Environmental Assessment and the attendant FONSI (DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA) for offering a new 10-year term grazing lease for public lands located in the Brush Creek (00474) allotment. Conditioned through mitigation measures, I find that this action will not result in significant impacts on the human environment pursuant to Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations 1508.27 (a) and (b) (1) through (10) and that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. I have determined that the proposed action, renewal of lease with modification, is in conformance with the Record of Decision and Approved Casper Resource Management Plan dated December 7, 2007 and amendments and will not cause unnecessary or undue degradation.

Right of Protest and/or Appeal

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other interested publics may protest a proposed decision under 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 4160.2 in person or in writing to the Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604 within 15 days after receipt of such decision. The BLM will not consider any protests filed after 15 days of receipt. The protest, if filed, should clearly and concisely state the reason(s) why the proposed decision is in error. All reasons for error not stated in the protest shall be considered waived.

In accordance with 43 CFR 4160.3 (a), in the absence of a protest, the proposed decision will become the final decision of the authorized officer without further notice unless otherwise provided in the proposed decision.

In accordance with 43 CFR 4160.3 (b) upon a timely filing of a protest, after a review of protests received and other information pertinent to the case, the authorized officer shall issue a final decision.

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other person whose interest is adversely affected by the final decision may file an appeal in accordance with 43 CFR 4.470 and 43 CFR 4160.3 and 4160.4. The appeal must be filed within 30 days following receipt of the final decision, or within 30 days after the date the proposed decision becomes final. The appeal may be accompanied by a petition for a stay of the decision pending appeal, in accordance with 43 CFR 4.471. The appeal and petition for a stay must be filed or in writing to the Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604. The appellant must serve a copy of the appeal by certified mail on the Office of the Field Solicitor, Rocky Mountain Region, and 755 Parfet Street Suite 151, Lakewood, Colorado, 80215 and person(s) named [43 CFR 4.421(h)] in the Copies sent to: section of this decision.

The appeal must clearly and concisely state the reasons why the appellant thinks the final decision is wrong and must otherwise comply with the provisions of 43 CFR 4.470.

Standards for Obtaining a Stay

Should you wish to file a petition for a stay, you must comply with the provisions at 43 CFR 4.471. Among other things, that regulation requires that a petition for a stay show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

- (1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied.
 - (2) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits.
 - (3) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted,
- and
- (4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

Any person named in the decision from which an appeal is taken who wishes to file a response to the petition for a stay may file with the Hearings Division a motion to intervene in the appeal, together with the response, within 10 days after receiving the petition. The person must serve copies of the motion to intervene and response on the appellant, the Office of the Solicitor and any other person named in the decision (43 CFR 4.472(b)).



Timothy J. Wilson
Casper Field Manager

7/1/2016

Date

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Decision Record
DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA
July 2016

Platte County Custodial Allotments Grazing Lease Renewal

Casper Field Office
2987 Prospector Drive
Casper, Wyoming 82604-2968



Selected Alternative

It is my proposed decision to implement the proposed action, renewal of lease with modification as described in the attached Environmental Assessment (DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA) and the attendant Finding of No Significant Impact for authorization of livestock grazing use on the Bowen Place (00498) allotment with a term of 10 years.

Specifically, the proposed decision is to offer a new 10-year term grazing lease to the lessee for public lands located within the Bowen Place (00498) allotment. Under this proposed action, the allotment would have the authorization to be grazed by cattle, horses, goats, sheep, and/or indigenous livestock up to the AUM's available in each lease. The standard terms and conditions as per 43 CFR 4100 will be applied to the lease. The following additional conditions will be placed on the lease to address assessment of rangeland health and threatened and endangered species:

- The terms and conditions of your lease may be modified if additional information indicates that revision is necessary to conform with 43 CFR 4180.
- Placement of salt, mineral or forage supplements for livestock is not allowed within ¼ mile of water, wetlands, and riparian areas, unless written analysis shows that watershed, riparian, wetland, wildlife, and vegetation values will not be adversely impacted. Forage supplements are required to be “certified weed free.
- The grazing allotments may contain delineated General Habitat Management Areas for the Greater sage-grouse. In order to effectively manage the annual and long-term influences of grazing and conserve sage-grouse habitats, grazing management will incorporate recommendations as discussed in the publication titled “Grazing Influence, Management, and Objective Development in Wyoming’s Greater Sage Grouse Habitat”, as provided for in IB – WY-2010-022 as recommended by the ARMPA. The primary objective of grazing management would be “to ensure appropriately timed grazing with moderate utilization levels (as described in the Wyoming Rangeland Monitoring Guide) will maintain the preferred Sagebrush/Bunchgrass plant community, and will promote plant vigor and sage-grouse values in less-preferred Sagebrush/Rhizomatous-Bluegrass transitional states.”

Mitigation Measures

- The amount of forage utilized by livestock on the public lands during the grazing year will not exceed the 6 AUM's of forage authorized by the grazing lease.
- Supervision and monitoring of this allotment will follow BLM policy and management guidelines and the Casper Field Office Monitoring Plan.

- The terms and conditions of your lease may be modified if additional information indicates that revision is necessary to conform to 43 CFR 4180
- Placement of salt, mineral or forage supplements for livestock is not allowed within ¼ mile of water, wetlands, and riparian areas, unless written analysis shows that watershed, riparian, wetland, wildlife, and vegetative values will not be adversely impacted. Forage supplements are required to be 'certified weed-free.
- If any surface disturbing activities are proposed in the allotment they will require cultural and wildlife inventories prior to the work being done.
- If noxious weeds or invasive plant species are discovered on public lands they will be aggressively treated using an integrated pesticide management approach to control their spread.
- The lessees shall immediately notify the BLM Authorized Officer of any paleontological resources discovered as a result of operations under this authorization. The lessees shall suspend all activities in the vicinity of such discovery until notified to proceed by the Authorized Officer and shall protect the discovery from damage or looting. The lessees may not be required to suspend all operations if activities can be adjusted to avoid further impacts to a discovered locality or be continued elsewhere. The Authorized Officer will evaluate, or will have evaluated, such discoveries as soon as possible, but not later than 10 working days after being notified. Appropriate measures to mitigate adverse effects to significant paleontological resources will be determined by the Authorized Officer after consulting with the lessee. Within 10 days, the operator will be allowed to continue grazing, or will be given the choice of either (1) following the Authorized Officer's instructions for stabilizing the fossil resource in place and avoiding further disturbance to the fossil resource, or (2) following the Authorized Officer's instructions for mitigating impacts to the fossil resource prior to continuing grazing.
- All persons in the area who are associated with this project are informed that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are uncovered during grazing, the lessee is to immediately stop work that might further disturb such materials, and contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the lessee as to:
 - whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places;
 - the mitigation measures the lessee will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary); and,
 - a timeframe for the AO to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800.11 to confirm, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, that the

findings of the AO are correct and that mitigation is appropriate. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation.

- Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the lessee will then be allowed to resume construction measures.
- To minimize fence collisions by wildlife, hazard fences should be identified, modified and fence markers installed on or with in BLM lands

Authorities

Statutory authorities for this decision are contained in the Taylor Grazing Act of June 28, 1934, as amended (43 U.S.C. 315 through 315r), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976, as amended (Pub. L. 940579); 90 Stat.2743; 43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), and Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Subpart 4100.

Plan Conformance and Consistency

Pursuant to 40 CFR 1508.28 and 1502.21, the EA referenced tiers to and incorporates by reference the information and analysis contained in the PROPOSED Resource Management Plan and FINAL Environmental Impact Statement for the Casper Field Office, the Record of Decision and Approved Casper Resource Management Plan signed in December 2007 as amended by the Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan Amendments for the Rocky Mountain Region, Including the Greater Sage-Grouse Sub-Regions of Lewistown, North Dakota, Northwest Colorado, Wyoming, and the Approved Resource Management Plans for Billings, Buffalo, Cody, HiLine, Miles City, Pompeys Pillar National Monument, South Dakota, Worland: Casper, Kemmerer, Newcastle, Pinedale, Rawlins, and Rock Springs Field Offices Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment for Greater Sage-Grouse. The EA is in conformance and consistent with the referenced Casper RMP and Amendment.

Alternatives Considered

A No Action alternative was considered and analyzed alongside the proposed action to provide a baseline.

No other alternative was considered in the EA.

Public Involvement

No public outreach was needed due to the small amount of BLM administered lands in Platte County.

Rationale for Decision

I have reviewed the Environmental Assessment and the attendant FONSI (DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA) for offering a new 10-year term grazing lease for public lands located in the Bowen Place (00498) allotment. Conditioned through mitigation measures, I find that this action will not result in significant impacts on the human environment pursuant to Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations 1508.27 (a) and (b) (1) through (10) and that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. I have determined that the proposed action, renewal of lease with modification, is in conformance with the Record of Decision and Approved Casper Resource Management Plan dated December 7, 2007 and amendments and will not cause unnecessary or undue degradation.

Right of Protest and/or Appeal

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other interested public may protest a proposed decision under 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 4160.2 in person or in writing to the Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604 within 15 days after receipt of such decision. The BLM will not consider any protests filed after 15 days of receipt. The protest, if filed, should clearly and concisely state the reason(s) why the proposed decision is in error. All reasons for error not stated in the protest shall be considered waived.

In accordance with 43 CFR 4160.3 (a), in the absence of a protest, the proposed decision will become the final decision of the authorized officer without further notice unless otherwise provided in the proposed decision.

In accordance with 43 CFR 4160.3 (b) upon a timely filing of a protest, after a review of protests received and other information pertinent to the case, the authorized officer shall issue a final decision.

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other person whose interest is adversely affected by the final decision may file an appeal in accordance with 43 CFR 4.470 and 43 CFR 4160.3 and 4160.4. The appeal must be filed within 30 days following receipt of the final decision, or within 30 days after the date the proposed decision becomes final. The appeal may be accompanied by a petition for a stay of the decision pending appeal, in accordance with 43 CFR 4.471. The appeal and petition for a stay must be filed or in writing to the Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604. The appellant must serve a copy of the appeal by certified mail on the Office of the Field Solicitor, Rocky Mountain Region, and 755 Parfet Street Suite 151, Lakewood, Colorado, 80215 and person(s) named [43 CFR 4.421(h)] in the Copies sent to: section of this decision.

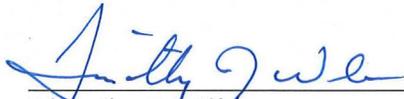
The appeal must clearly and concisely state the reasons why the appellant thinks the final decision is wrong and must otherwise comply with the provisions of 43 CFR 4.470.

Standards for Obtaining a Stay

Should you wish to file a petition for a stay, you must comply with the provisions at 43 CFR 4.471. Among other things, that regulation requires that a petition for a stay show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

- (1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied.
 - (2) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits.
 - (3) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted,
- and
- (4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

Any person named in the decision from which an appeal is taken who wishes to file a response to the petition for a stay may file with the Hearings Division a motion to intervene in the appeal, together with the response, within 10 days after receiving the petition. The person must serve copies of the motion to intervene and response on the appellant, the Office of the Solicitor and any other person named in the decision (43 CFR 4.472(b)).



Timothy J. Wilson
Casper Field Manager

7/1/2016

Date

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Decision Record
DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA
July 2016

Platte County Custodial Allotments Grazing Lease Renewal

Casper Field Office
2987 Prospector Drive
Casper, Wyoming 82604-2968



Selected Alternative

It is my proposed decision to implement the proposed action, renewal of lease with modification as described in the attached Environmental Assessment (DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA) and the attendant Finding of No Significant Impact for authorization of livestock grazing use on the Antelope Gap (10306) allotment with a term of 10 years.

Specifically, the proposed decision is to offer a new 10-year term grazing lease to the lessee for public lands located within the Antelope Gap (10306) allotment. Under this proposed action, the allotment would have the authorization to be grazed by cattle, horses, goats, sheep, and/or indigenous livestock up to the AUM's available in each lease. The standard terms and conditions as per 43 CFR 4100 will be applied to the lease. The following additional conditions will be placed on the lease to address assessment of rangeland health and threatened and endangered species:

- The terms and conditions of your lease may be modified if additional information indicates that revision is necessary to conform with 43 CFR 4180.
- Placement of salt, mineral or forage supplements for livestock is not allowed within ¼ mile of water, wetlands, and riparian areas, unless written analysis shows that watershed, riparian, wetland, wildlife, and vegetation values will not be adversely impacted. Forage supplements are required to be “certified weed free.
- The grazing allotments may contain delineated General Habitat Management Areas for the Greater sage-grouse. In order to effectively manage the annual and long-term influences of grazing and conserve sage-grouse habitats, grazing management will incorporate recommendations as discussed in the publication titled “Grazing Influence, Management, and Objective Development in Wyoming’s Greater Sage Grouse Habitat”, as provided for in IB – WY-2010-022 as recommended by the ARMPA. The primary objective of grazing management would be “to ensure appropriately timed grazing with moderate utilization levels (as described in the Wyoming Rangeland Monitoring Guide) will maintain the preferred Sagebrush/Bunchgrass plant community, and will promote plant vigor and sage-grouse values in less-preferred Sagebrush/Rhizomatous-Bluegrass transitional states.”

Mitigation Measures

- The amount of forage utilized by livestock on the public lands during the grazing year will not exceed the 9 AUM's of forage authorized by the grazing lease.
- Supervision and monitoring of this allotment will follow BLM policy and management guidelines and the Casper Field Office Monitoring Plan.

- The terms and conditions of your lease may be modified if additional information indicates that revision is necessary to conform to 43 CFR 4180
- Placement of salt, mineral or forage supplements for livestock is not allowed within ¼ mile of water, wetlands, and riparian areas, unless written analysis shows that watershed, riparian, wetland, wildlife, and vegetative values will not be adversely impacted. Forage supplements are required to be 'certified weed-free.
- If any surface disturbing activities are proposed in the allotment they will require cultural and wildlife inventories prior to the work being done.
- If noxious weeds or invasive plant species are discovered on public lands they will be aggressively treated using an integrated pesticide management approach to control their spread.
- The lessees shall immediately notify the BLM Authorized Officer of any paleontological resources discovered as a result of operations under this authorization. The lessees shall suspend all activities in the vicinity of such discovery until notified to proceed by the Authorized Officer and shall protect the discovery from damage or looting. The lessees may not be required to suspend all operations if activities can be adjusted to avoid further impacts to a discovered locality or be continued elsewhere. The Authorized Officer will evaluate, or will have evaluated, such discoveries as soon as possible, but not later than 10 working days after being notified. Appropriate measures to mitigate adverse effects to significant paleontological resources will be determined by the Authorized Officer after consulting with the lessee. Within 10 days, the operator will be allowed to continue grazing, or will be given the choice of either (1) following the Authorized Officer's instructions for stabilizing the fossil resource in place and avoiding further disturbance to the fossil resource, or (2) following the Authorized Officer's instructions for mitigating impacts to the fossil resource prior to continuing grazing.
- All persons in the area who are associated with this project are informed that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are uncovered during grazing, the lessee is to immediately stop work that might further disturb such materials, and contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the lessee as to:
 - whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places;
 - the mitigation measures the lessee will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary); and,
 - a timeframe for the AO to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800.11 to confirm, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, that the

findings of the AO are correct and that mitigation is appropriate. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation.

- Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the lessee will then be allowed to resume construction measures.
- To minimize fence collisions by wildlife, hazard fences should be identified, modified and fence markers installed on or with in BLM lands

Authorities

Statutory authorities for this decision are contained in the Taylor Grazing Act of June 28, 1934, as amended (43 U.S.C. 315 through 315r), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976, as amended (Pub. L. 940579); 90 Stat.2743; 43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), and Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Subpart 4100.

Plan Conformance and Consistency

Pursuant to 40 CFR 1508.28 and 1502.21, the EA referenced tiers to and incorporates by reference the information and analysis contained in the PROPOSED Resource Management Plan and FINAL Environmental Impact Statement for the Casper Field Office, the Record of Decision and Approved Casper Resource Management Plan signed in December 2007 as amended by the Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan Amendments for the Rocky Mountain Region, Including the Greater Sage-Grouse Sub-Regions of Lewistown, North Dakota, Northwest Colorado, Wyoming, and the Approved Resource Management Plans for Billings, Buffalo, Cody, HiLine, Miles City, Pompeys Pillar National Monument, South Dakota, Worland: Casper, Kemmerer, Newcastle, Pinedale, Rawlins, and Rock Springs Field Offices Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment for Greater Sage-Grouse. The EA is in conformance and consistent with the referenced Casper RMP and Amendment.

Alternatives Considered

A No Action alternative was considered and analyzed alongside the proposed action to provide a baseline.

No other alternative was considered in the EA.

Public Involvement

No public outreach was needed due to the small amount of BLM administered lands in Platte County.

Rationale for Decision

I have reviewed the Environmental Assessment and the attendant FONSI (DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA) for offering a new 10-year term grazing lease for public lands located in the Antelope Gap (10306) allotment. Conditioned through mitigation measures, I find that this action will not result in significant impacts on the human environment pursuant to Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations 1508.27 (a) and (b) (1) through (10) and that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. I have determined that the proposed action, renewal of lease with modification, is in conformance with the Record of Decision and Approved Casper Resource Management Plan dated December 7, 2007 and amendments and will not cause unnecessary or undue degradation.

Right of Protest and/or Appeal

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other interested publics may protest a proposed decision under 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 4160.2 in person or in writing to the Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604 within 15 days after receipt of such decision. The BLM will not consider any protests filed after 15 days of receipt. The protest, if filed, should clearly and concisely state the reason(s) why the proposed decision is in error. All reasons for error not stated in the protest shall be considered waived.

In accordance with 43 CFR 4160.3 (a), in the absence of a protest, the proposed decision will become the final decision of the authorized officer without further notice unless otherwise provided in the proposed decision.

In accordance with 43 CFR 4160.3 (b) upon a timely filing of a protest, after a review of protests received and other information pertinent to the case, the authorized officer shall issue a final decision.

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other person whose interest is adversely affected by the final decision may file an appeal in accordance with 43 CFR 4.470 and 43 CFR 4160.3 and 4160.4. The appeal must be filed within 30 days following receipt of the final decision, or within 30 days after the date the proposed decision becomes final. The appeal may be accompanied by a petition for a stay of the decision pending appeal, in accordance with 43 CFR 4.471. The appeal and petition for a stay must be filed or in writing to the Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604. The appellant must serve a copy of the appeal by certified mail on the Office of the Field Solicitor, Rocky Mountain Region, and 755 Parfet Street Suite 151, Lakewood, Colorado, 80215 and person(s) named [43 CFR 4.421(h)] in the Copies sent to: section of this decision.

The appeal must clearly and concisely state the reasons why the appellant thinks the final decision is wrong and must otherwise comply with the provisions of 43 CFR 4.470.

Standards for Obtaining a Stay

Should you wish to file a petition for a stay, you must comply with the provisions at 43 CFR 4.471. Among other things, that regulation requires that a petition for a stay show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

- (1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied.
 - (2) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits.
 - (3) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted,
- and
- (4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

Any person named in the decision from which an appeal is taken who wishes to file a response to the petition for a stay may file with the Hearings Division a motion to intervene in the appeal, together with the response, within 10 days after receiving the petition. The person must serve copies of the motion to intervene and response on the appellant, the Office of the Solicitor and any other person named in the decision (43 CFR 4.472(b)).



Timothy J. Wilson
Casper Field Manager

7/1/2016

Date

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Decision Record
DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA
July 2016

Platte County Custodial Allotments Grazing Lease Renewal

Casper Field Office
2987 Prospector Drive
Casper, Wyoming 82604-2968



Selected Alternative

It is my proposed decision to implement the proposed action, renewal of lease with modification as described in the attached Environmental Assessment (DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA) and the attendant Finding of No Significant Impact for authorization of livestock grazing use on the Wheatland Creek (10210) allotment with a term of 10 years.

Specifically, the proposed decision is to offer a new 10-year term grazing lease to the lessee for public lands located within the Wheatland Creek (10210) allotment. Under this proposed action, the allotment would have the authorization to be grazed by cattle, horses, goats, sheep, and/or indigenous livestock up to the AUM's available in each lease. The standard terms and conditions as per 43 CFR 4100 will be applied to the lease. The following additional conditions will be placed on the lease to address assessment of rangeland health and threatened and endangered species:

- The terms and conditions of your lease may be modified if additional information indicates that revision is necessary to conform with 43 CFR 4180.
- Placement of salt, mineral or forage supplements for livestock is not allowed within ¼ mile of water, wetlands, and riparian areas, unless written analysis shows that watershed, riparian, wetland, wildlife, and vegetation values will not be adversely impacted. Forage supplements are required to be “certified weed free.
- The grazing allotments may contain delineated General Habitat Management Areas for the Greater sage-grouse. In order to effectively manage the annual and long-term influences of grazing and conserve sage-grouse habitats, grazing management will incorporate recommendations as discussed in the publication titled “Grazing Influence, Management, and Objective Development in Wyoming’s Greater Sage Grouse Habitat”, as provided for in IB – WY-2010-022 as recommended by the ARMPA. The primary objective of grazing management would be “to ensure appropriately timed grazing with moderate utilization levels (as described in the Wyoming Rangeland Monitoring Guide) will maintain the preferred Sagebrush/Bunchgrass plant community, and will promote plant vigor and sage-grouse values in less-preferred Sagebrush/Rhizomatous-Bluegrass transitional states.”

Mitigation Measures

- The amount of forage utilized by livestock on the public lands during the grazing year will not exceed the 43 AUM's of forage authorized by the grazing lease.
- Supervision and monitoring of this allotment will follow BLM policy and

management guidelines and the Casper Field Office Monitoring Plan.

- The terms and conditions of your lease may be modified if additional information indicates that revision is necessary to conform to 43 CFR 4180
- Placement of salt, mineral or forage supplements for livestock is not allowed within ¼ mile of water, wetlands, and riparian areas, unless written analysis shows that watershed, riparian, wetland, wildlife, and vegetative values will not be adversely impacted. Forage supplements are required to be 'certified weed-free.
- If any surface disturbing activities are proposed in the allotment they will require cultural and wildlife inventories prior to the work being done.
- If noxious weeds or invasive plant species are discovered on public lands they will be aggressively treated using an integrated pesticide management approach to control their spread.
- The lessees shall immediately notify the BLM Authorized Officer of any paleontological resources discovered as a result of operations under this authorization. The lessees shall suspend all activities in the vicinity of such discovery until notified to proceed by the Authorized Officer and shall protect the discovery from damage or looting. The lessees may not be required to suspend all operations if activities can be adjusted to avoid further impacts to a discovered locality or be continued elsewhere. The Authorized Officer will evaluate, or will have evaluated, such discoveries as soon as possible, but not later than 10 working days after being notified. Appropriate measures to mitigate adverse effects to significant paleontological resources will be determined by the Authorized Officer after consulting with the lessee. Within 10 days, the operator will be allowed to continue grazing, or will be given the choice of either (1) following the Authorized Officer's instructions for stabilizing the fossil resource in place and avoiding further disturbance to the fossil resource, or (2) following the Authorized Officer's instructions for mitigating impacts to the fossil resource prior to continuing grazing.
- All persons in the area who are associated with this project are informed that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are uncovered during grazing, the lessee is to immediately stop work that might further disturb such materials, and contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the lessee as to:
 - whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places;
 - the mitigation measures the lessee will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary); and,

- a timeframe for the AO to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800.11 to confirm, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, that the findings of the AO are correct and that mitigation is appropriate. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation.
- Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the lessee will then be allowed to resume construction measures.
- To minimize fence collisions by wildlife, hazard fences should be identified, modified and fence markers installed on or with in BLM lands

Authorities

Statutory authorities for this decision are contained in the Taylor Grazing Act of June 28, 1934, as amended (43 U.S.C. 315 through 315r), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976, as amended (Pub. L. 940579); 90 Stat.2743; 43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), and Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Subpart 4100.

Plan Conformance and Consistency

Pursuant to 40 CFR 1508.28 and 1502.21, the EA referenced tiers to and incorporates by reference the information and analysis contained in the PROPOSED Resource Management Plan and FINAL Environmental Impact Statement for the Casper Field Office, the Record of Decision and Approved Casper Resource Management Plan signed in December 2007 as amended by the Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan Amendments for the Rocky Mountain Region, Including the Greater Sage-Grouse Sub-Regions of Lewistown, North Dakota, Northwest Colorado, Wyoming, and the Approved Resource Management Plans for Billings, Buffalo, Cody, HiLine, Miles City, Pompeys Pillar National Monument, South Dakota, Worland: Casper, Kemmerer, Newcastle, Pinedale, Rawlins, and Rock Springs Field Offices Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment for Greater Sage-Grouse. The EA is in conformance and consistent with the referenced Casper RMP and Amendment.

Alternatives Considered

A No Action alternative was considered and analyzed alongside the proposed action to provide a baseline.

No other alternative was considered in the EA.

Public Involvement

No public outreach was needed due to the small amount of BLM administered lands in Platte County.

Rationale for Decision

I have reviewed the Environmental Assessment and the attendant FONSI (DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA) for offering a new 10-year term grazing lease for public lands located in the Wheatland Creek (10210) allotment. Conditioned through mitigation measures, I find that this action will not result in significant impacts on the human environment pursuant to Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations 1508.27 (a) and (b) (1) through (10) and that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. I have determined that the proposed action, renewal of lease with modification, is in conformance with the Record of Decision and Approved Casper Resource Management Plan dated December 7, 2007 and amendments and will not cause unnecessary or undue degradation.

Right of Protest and/or Appeal

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other interested publics may protest a proposed decision under 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 4160.2 in person or in writing to the Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604 within 15 days after receipt of such decision. The BLM will not consider any protests filed after 15 days of receipt. The protest, if filed, should clearly and concisely state the reason(s) why the proposed decision is in error. All reasons for error not stated in the protest shall be considered waived.

In accordance with 43 CFR 4160.3 (a), in the absence of a protest, the proposed decision will become the final decision of the authorized officer without further notice unless otherwise provided in the proposed decision.

In accordance with 43 CFR 4160.3 (b) upon a timely filing of a protest, after a review of protests received and other information pertinent to the case, the authorized officer shall issue a final decision.

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other person whose interest is adversely affected by the final decision may file an appeal in accordance with 43 CFR 4.470 and 43 CFR 4160.3 and 4160.4. The appeal must be filed within 30 days following receipt of the final decision, or within 30 days after the date the proposed decision becomes final. The appeal may be accompanied by a petition for a stay of the decision pending appeal, in accordance with 43 CFR 4.471. The appeal and petition for a stay must be filed or in writing to the Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604. The appellant must serve a copy of the appeal by certified mail on the Office of the Field Solicitor, Rocky Mountain Region, and 755 Parfet Street Suite 151, Lakewood, Colorado, 80215 and person(s) named [43 CFR 4.421(h)] in the Copies sent to: section of this decision.

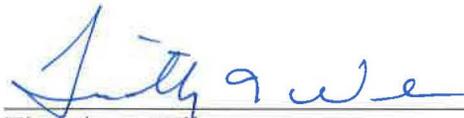
The appeal must clearly and concisely state the reasons why the appellant thinks the final decision is wrong and must otherwise comply with the provisions of 43 CFR 4.470.

Standards for Obtaining a Stay

Should you wish to file a petition for a stay, you must comply with the provisions at 43 CFR 4.471. Among other things, that regulation requires that a petition for a stay show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

- (1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied.
 - (2) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits.
 - (3) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted,
- and
- (4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

Any person named in the decision from which an appeal is taken who wishes to file a response to the petition for a stay may file with the Hearings Division a motion to intervene in the appeal, together with the response, within 10 days after receiving the petition. The person must serve copies of the motion to intervene and response on the appellant, the Office of the Solicitor and any other person named in the decision (43 CFR 4.472(b)).



Timothy J. Wilson
Casper Field Manager

7/1/2014

Date

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

**Decision Record
DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA
July 2016**

Platte County Custodial Allotments Grazing Lease Renewal

**Casper Field Office
2987 Prospector Drive
Casper, Wyoming 82604-2968**



Selected Alternative

It is my proposed decision to implement the proposed action, renewal of lease with modification as described in the attached Environmental Assessment (DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA) and the attendant Finding of No Significant Impact for authorization of livestock grazing use on the Webb Canyon 2 (10116) allotment with a term of 10 years.

Specifically, the proposed decision is to offer a new 10-year term grazing lease to the lessee for public lands located within the Webb Canyon 2 (10116) allotment. Under this proposed action, the allotment would have the authorization to be grazed by cattle, horses, goats, sheep, and/or indigenous livestock up to the AUM's available in each lease. The standard terms and conditions as per 43 CFR 4100 will be applied to the lease. The following additional conditions will be placed on the lease to address assessment of rangeland health and threatened and endangered species:

- The terms and conditions of your lease may be modified if additional information indicates that revision is necessary to conform with 43 CFR 4180.
- Placement of salt, mineral or forage supplements for livestock is not allowed within ¼ mile of water, wetlands, and riparian areas, unless written analysis shows that watershed, riparian, wetland, wildlife, and vegetation values will not be adversely impacted. Forage supplements are required to be “certified weed free.
- The grazing allotments may contain delineated General Habitat Management Areas for the Greater sage-grouse. In order to effectively manage the annual and long-term influences of grazing and conserve sage-grouse habitats, grazing management will incorporate recommendations as discussed in the publication titled “Grazing Influence, Management, and Objective Development in Wyoming’s Greater Sage Grouse Habitat”, as provided for in IB – WY-2010-022 as recommended by the ARMPA. The primary objective of grazing management would be “to ensure appropriately timed grazing with moderate utilization levels (as described in the Wyoming Rangeland Monitoring Guide) will maintain the preferred Sagebrush/Bunchgrass plant community, and will promote plant vigor and sage-grouse values in less-preferred Sagebrush/Rhizomatous-Bluegrass transitional states.”

Mitigation Measures

- The amount of forage utilized by livestock on the public lands during the grazing year will not exceed the 20 AUM's of forage authorized by the grazing lease.
- Supervision and monitoring of this allotment will follow BLM policy and

management guidelines and the Casper Field Office Monitoring Plan.

- The terms and conditions of your lease may be modified if additional information indicates that revision is necessary to conform to 43 CFR 4180
- Placement of salt, mineral or forage supplements for livestock is not allowed within ¼ mile of water, wetlands, and riparian areas, unless written analysis shows that watershed, riparian, wetland, wildlife, and vegetative values will not be adversely impacted. Forage supplements are required to be ‘certified weed-free.
- If any surface disturbing activities are proposed in the allotment they will require cultural and wildlife inventories prior to the work being done.
- If noxious weeds or invasive plant species are discovered on public lands they will be aggressively treated using an integrated pesticide management approach to control their spread.
- The lessees shall immediately notify the BLM Authorized Officer of any paleontological resources discovered as a result of operations under this authorization. The lessees shall suspend all activities in the vicinity of such discovery until notified to proceed by the Authorized Officer and shall protect the discovery from damage or looting. The lessees may not be required to suspend all operations if activities can be adjusted to avoid further impacts to a discovered locality or be continued elsewhere. The Authorized Officer will evaluate, or will have evaluated, such discoveries as soon as possible, but not later than 10 working days after being notified. Appropriate measures to mitigate adverse effects to significant paleontological resources will be determined by the Authorized Officer after consulting with the lessee. Within 10 days, the operator will be allowed to continue grazing, or will be given the choice of either (1) following the Authorized Officer’s instructions for stabilizing the fossil resource in place and avoiding further disturbance to the fossil resource, or (2) following the Authorized Officer’s instructions for mitigating impacts to the fossil resource prior to continuing grazing.
- All persons in the area who are associated with this project are informed that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are uncovered during grazing, the lessee is to immediately stop work that might further disturb such materials, and contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the lessee as to:
 - whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places;
 - the mitigation measures the lessee will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary); and,

- a timeframe for the AO to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800.11 to confirm, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, that the findings of the AO are correct and that mitigation is appropriate. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation.
- Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the lessee will then be allowed to resume construction measures.
- To minimize fence collisions by wildlife, hazard fences should be identified, modified and fence markers installed on or with in BLM lands

Authorities

Statutory authorities for this decision are contained in the Taylor Grazing Act of June 28, 1934, as amended (43 U.S.C. 315 through 315r), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976, as amended (Pub. L. 940579); 90 Stat.2743; 43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), and Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Subpart 4100.

Plan Conformance and Consistency

Pursuant to 40 CFR 1508.28 and 1502.21, the EA referenced tiers to and incorporates by reference the information and analysis contained in the PROPOSED Resource Management Plan and FINAL Environmental Impact Statement for the Casper Field Office, the Record of Decision and Approved Casper Resource Management Plan signed in December 2007 as amended by the Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan Amendments for the Rocky Mountain Region, Including the Greater Sage-Grouse Sub-Regions of Lewistown, North Dakota, Northwest Colorado, Wyoming, and the Approved Resource Management Plans for Billings, Buffalo, Cody, HiLine, Miles City, Pompeys Pillar National Monument, South Dakota, Worland: Casper, Kemmerer, Newcastle, Pinedale, Rawlins, and Rock Springs Field Offices Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment for Greater Sage-Grouse. The EA is in conformance and consistent with the referenced Casper RMP and Amendment.

Alternatives Considered

A No Action alternative was considered and analyzed alongside the proposed action to provide a baseline.

No other alternative was considered in the EA.

Public Involvement

No public outreach was needed due to the small amount of BLM administered lands in Platte County.

Rationale for Decision

I have reviewed the Environmental Assessment and the attendant FONSI (DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA) for offering a new 10-year term grazing lease for public lands located in the Webb Canyon 2 (10116) allotment. Conditioned through mitigation measures, I find that this action will not result in significant impacts on the human environment pursuant to Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations 1508.27 (a) and (b) (1) through (10) and that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. I have determined that the proposed action, renewal of lease with modification, is in conformance with the Record of Decision and Approved Casper Resource Management Plan dated December 7, 2007 and amendments and will not cause unnecessary or undue degradation.

Right of Protest and/or Appeal

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other interested public may protest a proposed decision under 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 4160.2 in person or in writing to the Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604 within 15 days after receipt of such decision. The BLM will not consider any protests filed after 15 days of receipt. The protest, if filed, should clearly and concisely state the reason(s) why the proposed decision is in error. All reasons for error not stated in the protest shall be considered waived.

In accordance with 43 CFR 4160.3 (a), in the absence of a protest, the proposed decision will become the final decision of the authorized officer without further notice unless otherwise provided in the proposed decision.

In accordance with 43 CFR 4160.3 (b) upon a timely filing of a protest, after a review of protests received and other information pertinent to the case, the authorized officer shall issue a final decision.

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other person whose interest is adversely affected by the final decision may file an appeal in accordance with 43 CFR 4.470 and 43 CFR 4160.3 and 4160.4. The appeal must be filed within 30 days following receipt of the final decision, or within 30 days after the date the proposed decision becomes final. The appeal may be accompanied by a petition for a stay of the decision pending appeal, in accordance with 43 CFR 4.471. The appeal and petition for a stay must be filed or in writing to the Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604. The appellant must serve a copy of the appeal by certified mail on the Office of the Field Solicitor, Rocky Mountain Region, and 755 Parfet Street Suite 151, Lakewood, Colorado, 80215 and person(s) named [43 CFR 4.421(h)] in the Copies sent to: section of this decision.

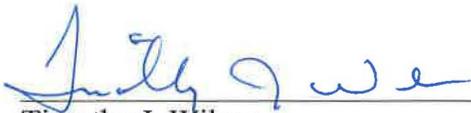
The appeal must clearly and concisely state the reasons why the appellant thinks the final decision is wrong and must otherwise comply with the provisions of 43 CFR 4.470.

Standards for Obtaining a Stay

Should you wish to file a petition for a stay, you must comply with the provisions at 43 CFR 4.471. Among other things, that regulation requires that a petition for a stay show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

- (1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied.
 - (2) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits.
 - (3) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted,
- and
- (4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

Any person named in the decision from which an appeal is taken who wishes to file a response to the petition for a stay may file with the Hearings Division a motion to intervene in the appeal, together with the response, within 10 days after receiving the petition. The person must serve copies of the motion to intervene and response on the appellant, the Office of the Solicitor and any other person named in the decision (43 CFR 4.472(b)).



Timothy J. Wilson
Casper Field Manager

7/11/2014
Date

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Decision Record
DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA
July 2016

Platte County Custodial Allotments Grazing Lease Renewal

Casper Field Office
2987 Prospector Drive
Casper, Wyoming 82604-2968



Selected Alternative

It is my proposed decision to implement the proposed action, renewal of lease with modification as described in the attached Environmental Assessment (DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA) and the attendant Finding of No Significant Impact for authorization of livestock grazing use on the Duff (00237) allotment with a term of 10 years.

Specifically, the proposed decision is to offer a new 10-year term grazing lease to the lessee for public lands located within the Duff (00237) allotment. Under this proposed action, the allotment would have the authorization to be grazed by cattle, horses, goats, sheep, and/or indigenous livestock up to the AUM's available in each lease. The standard terms and conditions as per 43 CFR 4100 will be applied to the lease. The following additional conditions will be placed on the lease to address assessment of rangeland health and threatened and endangered species:

- The terms and conditions of your lease may be modified if additional information indicates that revision is necessary to conform with 43 CFR 4180.
- Placement of salt, mineral or forage supplements for livestock is not allowed within ¼ mile of water, wetlands, and riparian areas, unless written analysis shows that watershed, riparian, wetland, wildlife, and vegetation values will not be adversely impacted. Forage supplements are required to be “certified weed free.”
- The grazing allotments may contain delineated General Habitat Management Areas for the Greater sage-grouse. In order to effectively manage the annual and long-term influences of grazing and conserve sage-grouse habitats, grazing management will incorporate recommendations as discussed in the publication titled “Grazing Influence, Management, and Objective Development in Wyoming’s Greater Sage Grouse Habitat”, as provided for in IB – WY-2010-022 as recommended by the ARMPA. The primary objective of grazing management would be “to ensure appropriately timed grazing with moderate utilization levels (as described in the Wyoming Rangeland Monitoring Guide) will maintain the preferred Sagebrush/Bunchgrass plant community, and will promote plant vigor and sage-grouse values in less-preferred Sagebrush/Rhizomatous-Bluegrass transitional states.”

Mitigation Measures

- The amount of forage utilized by livestock on the public lands during the grazing year will not exceed the 20 AUM's of forage authorized by the grazing lease.
- Supervision and monitoring of this allotment will follow BLM policy and management guidelines and the Casper Field Office Monitoring Plan.

- The terms and conditions of your lease may be modified if additional information indicates that revision is necessary to conform to 43 CFR 4180
- Placement of salt, mineral or forage supplements for livestock is not allowed within ¼ mile of water, wetlands, and riparian areas, unless written analysis shows that watershed, riparian, wetland, wildlife, and vegetative values will not be adversely impacted. Forage supplements are required to be ‘certified weed-free.
- If any surface disturbing activities are proposed in the allotment they will require cultural and wildlife inventories prior to the work being done.
- If noxious weeds or invasive plant species are discovered on public lands they will be aggressively treated using an integrated pesticide management approach to control their spread.
- The lessees shall immediately notify the BLM Authorized Officer of any paleontological resources discovered as a result of operations under this authorization. The lessees shall suspend all activities in the vicinity of such discovery until notified to proceed by the Authorized Officer and shall protect the discovery from damage or looting. The lessees may not be required to suspend all operations if activities can be adjusted to avoid further impacts to a discovered locality or be continued elsewhere. The Authorized Officer will evaluate, or will have evaluated, such discoveries as soon as possible, but not later than 10 working days after being notified. Appropriate measures to mitigate adverse effects to significant paleontological resources will be determined by the Authorized Officer after consulting with the lessee. Within 10 days, the operator will be allowed to continue grazing, or will be given the choice of either (1) following the Authorized Officer’s instructions for stabilizing the fossil resource in place and avoiding further disturbance to the fossil resource, or (2) following the Authorized Officer’s instructions for mitigating impacts to the fossil resource prior to continuing grazing.
- All persons in the area who are associated with this project are informed that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are uncovered during grazing, the lessee is to immediately stop work that might further disturb such materials, and contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the lessee as to:
 - whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places;
 - the mitigation measures the lessee will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary); and,
 - a timeframe for the AO to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800.11 to confirm, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, that the

findings of the AO are correct and that mitigation is appropriate. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation.

- Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the lessee will then be allowed to resume construction measures.
- To minimize fence collisions by wildlife, hazard fences should be identified, modified and fence markers installed on or with in BLM lands

Authorities

Statutory authorities for this decision are contained in the Taylor Grazing Act of June 28, 1934, as amended (43 U.S.C. 315 through 315r), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976, as amended (Pub. L. 940579); 90 Stat.2743; 43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), and Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Subpart 4100.

Plan Conformance and Consistency

Pursuant to 40 CFR 1508.28 and 1502.21, the EA referenced tiers to and incorporates by reference the information and analysis contained in the PROPOSED Resource Management Plan and FINAL Environmental Impact Statement for the Casper Field Office, the Record of Decision and Approved Casper Resource Management Plan signed in December 2007 as amended by the Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan Amendments for the Rocky Mountain Region, Including the Greater Sage-Grouse Sub-Regions of Lewistown, North Dakota, Northwest Colorado, Wyoming, and the Approved Resource Management Plans for Billings, Buffalo, Cody, HiLine, Miles City, Pompeys Pillar National Monument, South Dakota, Worland: Casper, Kemmerer, Newcastle, Pinedale, Rawlins, and Rock Springs Field Offices Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment for Greater Sage-Grouse. The EA is in conformance and consistent with the referenced Casper RMP and Amendment.

Alternatives Considered

A No Action alternative was considered and analyzed alongside the proposed action to provide a baseline.

No other alternative was considered in the EA.

Public Involvement

No public outreach was needed due to the small amount of BLM administered lands in Platte County.

Rationale for Decision

I have reviewed the Environmental Assessment and the attendant FONSI (DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA) for offering a new 10-year term grazing lease for public lands located in the Duff (00237) allotment. Conditioned through mitigation measures, I find that this action will not result in significant impacts on the human environment pursuant to Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations 1508.27 (a) and (b) (1) through (10) and that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. I have determined that the proposed action, renewal of lease with modification, is in conformance with the Record of Decision and Approved Casper Resource Management Plan dated December 7, 2007 and amendments and will not cause unnecessary or undue degradation.

Right of Protest and/or Appeal

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other interested public may protest a proposed decision under 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 4160.2 in person or in writing to the Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604 within 15 days after receipt of such decision. The BLM will not consider any protests filed after 15 days of receipt. The protest, if filed, should clearly and concisely state the reason(s) why the proposed decision is in error. All reasons for error not stated in the protest shall be considered waived.

In accordance with 43 CFR 4160.3 (a), in the absence of a protest, the proposed decision will become the final decision of the authorized officer without further notice unless otherwise provided in the proposed decision.

In accordance with 43 CFR 4160.3 (b) upon a timely filing of a protest, after a review of protests received and other information pertinent to the case, the authorized officer shall issue a final decision.

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other person whose interest is adversely affected by the final decision may file an appeal in accordance with 43 CFR 4.470 and 43 CFR 4160.3 and 4160.4. The appeal must be filed within 30 days following receipt of the final decision, or within 30 days after the date the proposed decision becomes final. The appeal may be accompanied by a petition for a stay of the decision pending appeal, in accordance with 43 CFR 4.471. The appeal and petition for a stay must be filed or in writing to the Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604. The appellant must serve a copy of the appeal by certified mail on the Office of the Field Solicitor, Rocky Mountain Region, and 755 Parfet Street Suite 151, Lakewood, Colorado, 80215 and person(s) named [43 CFR 4.421(h)] in the Copies sent to: section of this decision.

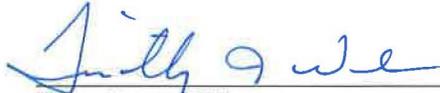
The appeal must clearly and concisely state the reasons why the appellant thinks the final decision is wrong and must otherwise comply with the provisions of 43 CFR 4.470.

Standards for Obtaining a Stay

Should you wish to file a petition for a stay, you must comply with the provisions at 43 CFR 4.471. Among other things, that regulation requires that a petition for a stay show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

- (1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied.
 - (2) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits.
 - (3) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted,
- and
- (4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

Any person named in the decision from which an appeal is taken who wishes to file a response to the petition for a stay may file with the Hearings Division a motion to intervene in the appeal, together with the response, within 10 days after receiving the petition. The person must serve copies of the motion to intervene and response on the appellant, the Office of the Solicitor and any other person named in the decision (43 CFR 4.472(b)).



Timothy J. Wilson
Casper Field Manager

7/1/2016
Date

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Decision Record
DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA
July 2016

Platte County Custodial Allotments Grazing Lease Renewal

Casper Field Office
2987 Prospector Drive
Casper, Wyoming 82604-2968



Selected Alternative

It is my proposed decision to implement the proposed action, renewal of lease with modification as described in the attached Environmental Assessment (DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA) and the attendant Finding of No Significant Impact for authorization of livestock grazing use on the Fancher (10064) allotment with a term of 10 years.

Specifically, the proposed decision is to offer a new 10-year term grazing lease to the lessee for public lands located within the Fancher (10064) allotment. Under this proposed action, the allotment would have the authorization to be grazed by cattle, horses, goats, sheep, and/or indigenous livestock up to the AUM's available in each lease. The standard terms and conditions as per 43 CFR 4100 will be applied to the lease. The following additional conditions will be placed on the lease to address assessment of rangeland health and threatened and endangered species:

- The terms and conditions of your lease may be modified if additional information indicates that revision is necessary to conform with 43 CFR 4180.
- Placement of salt, mineral or forage supplements for livestock is not allowed within ¼ mile of water, wetlands, and riparian areas, unless written analysis shows that watershed, riparian, wetland, wildlife, and vegetation values will not be adversely impacted. Forage supplements are required to be “certified weed free.
- The grazing allotments may contain delineated General Habitat Management Areas for the Greater sage-grouse. In order to effectively manage the annual and long-term influences of grazing and conserve sage-grouse habitats, grazing management will incorporate recommendations as discussed in the publication titled “Grazing Influence, Management, and Objective Development in Wyoming’s Greater Sage Grouse Habitat”, as provided for in IB – WY-2010-022 as recommended by the ARMPA. The primary objective of grazing management would be “to ensure appropriately timed grazing with moderate utilization levels (as described in the Wyoming Rangeland Monitoring Guide) will maintain the preferred Sagebrush/Bunchgrass plant community, and will promote plant vigor and sage-grouse values in less-preferred Sagebrush/Rhizomatous-Bluegrass transitional states.”

Mitigation Measures

- The amount of forage utilized by livestock on the public lands during the grazing year will not exceed the 5 AUM's of forage authorized by the grazing lease.
- Supervision and monitoring of this allotment will follow BLM policy and management guidelines and the Casper Field Office Monitoring Plan.

- The terms and conditions of your lease may be modified if additional information indicates that revision is necessary to conform to 43 CFR 4180
- Placement of salt, mineral or forage supplements for livestock is not allowed within ¼ mile of water, wetlands, and riparian areas, unless written analysis shows that watershed, riparian, wetland, wildlife, and vegetative values will not be adversely impacted. Forage supplements are required to be ‘certified weed-free.
- If any surface disturbing activities are proposed in the allotment they will require cultural and wildlife inventories prior to the work being done.
- If noxious weeds or invasive plant species are discovered on public lands they will be aggressively treated using an integrated pesticide management approach to control their spread.
- The lessees shall immediately notify the BLM Authorized Officer of any paleontological resources discovered as a result of operations under this authorization. The lessees shall suspend all activities in the vicinity of such discovery until notified to proceed by the Authorized Officer and shall protect the discovery from damage or looting. The lessees may not be required to suspend all operations if activities can be adjusted to avoid further impacts to a discovered locality or be continued elsewhere. The Authorized Officer will evaluate, or will have evaluated, such discoveries as soon as possible, but not later than 10 working days after being notified. Appropriate measures to mitigate adverse effects to significant paleontological resources will be determined by the Authorized Officer after consulting with the lessee. Within 10 days, the operator will be allowed to continue grazing, or will be given the choice of either (1) following the Authorized Officer’s instructions for stabilizing the fossil resource in place and avoiding further disturbance to the fossil resource, or (2) following the Authorized Officer’s instructions for mitigating impacts to the fossil resource prior to continuing grazing.
- All persons in the area who are associated with this project are informed that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are uncovered during grazing, the lessee is to immediately stop work that might further disturb such materials, and contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the lessee as to:
 - whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places;
 - the mitigation measures the lessee will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary); and,
 - a timeframe for the AO to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800.11 to confirm, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, that the

findings of the AO are correct and that mitigation is appropriate. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation.

- Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the lessee will then be allowed to resume construction measures.
- To minimize fence collisions by wildlife, hazard fences should be identified, modified and fence markers installed on or with in BLM lands

Authorities

Statutory authorities for this decision are contained in the Taylor Grazing Act of June 28, 1934, as amended (43 U.S.C. 315 through 315r), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976, as amended (Pub. L. 940579); 90 Stat.2743; 43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), and Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Subpart 4100.

Plan Conformance and Consistency

Pursuant to 40 CFR 1508.28 and 1502.21, the EA referenced tiers to and incorporates by reference the information and analysis contained in the PROPOSED Resource Management Plan and FINAL Environmental Impact Statement for the Casper Field Office, the Record of Decision and Approved Casper Resource Management Plan signed in December 2007 as amended by the Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan Amendments for the Rocky Mountain Region, Including the Greater Sage-Grouse Sub-Regions of Lewistown, North Dakota, Northwest Colorado, Wyoming, and the Approved Resource Management Plans for Billings, Buffalo, Cody, HiLine, Miles City, Pompeys Pillar National Monument, South Dakota, Worland: Casper, Kemmerer, Newcastle, Pinedale, Rawlins, and Rock Springs Field Offices Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment for Greater Sage-Grouse. The EA is in conformance and consistent with the referenced Casper RMP and Amendment.

Alternatives Considered

A No Action alternative was considered and analyzed alongside the proposed action to provide a baseline.

No other alternative was considered in the EA.

Public Involvement

No public outreach was needed due to the small amount of BLM administered lands in Platte County.

Rationale for Decision

I have reviewed the Environmental Assessment and the attendant FONSI (DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA) for offering a new 10-year term grazing lease for public lands located in the Fancher (10064) allotment. Conditioned through mitigation measures, I find that this action will not result in significant impacts on the human environment pursuant to Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations 1508.27 (a) and (b) (1) through (10) and that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. I have determined that the proposed action, renewal of lease with modification, is in conformance with the Record of Decision and Approved Casper Resource Management Plan dated December 7, 2007 and amendments and will not cause unnecessary or undue degradation.

Right of Protest and/or Appeal

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other interested public may protest a proposed decision under 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 4160.2 in person or in writing to the Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604 within 15 days after receipt of such decision. The BLM will not consider any protests filed after 15 days of receipt. The protest, if filed, should clearly and concisely state the reason(s) why the proposed decision is in error. All reasons for error not stated in the protest shall be considered waived.

In accordance with 43 CFR 4160.3 (a), in the absence of a protest, the proposed decision will become the final decision of the authorized officer without further notice unless otherwise provided in the proposed decision.

In accordance with 43 CFR 4160.3 (b) upon a timely filing of a protest, after a review of protests received and other information pertinent to the case, the authorized officer shall issue a final decision.

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other person whose interest is adversely affected by the final decision may file an appeal in accordance with 43 CFR 4.470 and 43 CFR 4160.3 and 4160.4. The appeal must be filed within 30 days following receipt of the final decision, or within 30 days after the date the proposed decision becomes final. The appeal may be accompanied by a petition for a stay of the decision pending appeal, in accordance with 43 CFR 4.471. The appeal and petition for a stay must be filed or in writing to the Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604. The appellant must serve a copy of the appeal by certified mail on the Office of the Field Solicitor, Rocky Mountain Region, and 755 Parfet Street Suite 151, Lakewood, Colorado, 80215 and person(s) named [43 CFR 4.421(h)] in the Copies sent to: section of this decision.

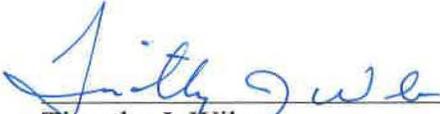
The appeal must clearly and concisely state the reasons why the appellant thinks the final decision is wrong and must otherwise comply with the provisions of 43 CFR 4.470.

Standards for Obtaining a Stay

Should you wish to file a petition for a stay, you must comply with the provisions at 43 CFR 4.471. Among other things, that regulation requires that a petition for a stay show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

- (1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied.
 - (2) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits.
 - (3) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted,
- and
- (4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

Any person named in the decision from which an appeal is taken who wishes to file a response to the petition for a stay may file with the Hearings Division a motion to intervene in the appeal, together with the response, within 10 days after receiving the petition. The person must serve copies of the motion to intervene and response on the appellant, the Office of the Solicitor and any other person named in the decision (43 CFR 4.472(b)).



Timothy J. Wilson
Casper Field Manager

7/1/2014
Date

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Decision Record
DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA
July 2016

Platte County Custodial Allotments Grazing Lease Renewal

Casper Field Office
2987 Prospector Drive
Casper, Wyoming 82604-2968



Selected Alternative

It is my proposed decision to implement the proposed action, renewal of lease with modification as described in the attached Environmental Assessment (DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA) and the attendant Finding of No Significant Impact for authorization of livestock grazing use on the Gatson (00364) allotment with a term of 10 years.

Specifically, the proposed decision is to offer a new 10-year term grazing lease to the lessee for public lands located within the Gatson (00364) allotment. Under this proposed action, the allotment would have the authorization to be grazed by cattle, horses, goats, sheep, and/or indigenous livestock up to the AUM's available in each lease. The standard terms and conditions as per 43 CFR 4100 will be applied to the lease. The following additional conditions will be placed on the lease to address assessment of rangeland health and threatened and endangered species:

- The terms and conditions of your lease may be modified if additional information indicates that revision is necessary to conform with 43 CFR 4180.
- Placement of salt, mineral or forage supplements for livestock is not allowed within ¼ mile of water, wetlands, and riparian areas, unless written analysis shows that watershed, riparian, wetland, wildlife, and vegetation values will not be adversely impacted. Forage supplements are required to be “certified weed free.
- The grazing allotments may contain delineated General Habitat Management Areas for the Greater sage-grouse. In order to effectively manage the annual and long-term influences of grazing and conserve sage-grouse habitats, grazing management will incorporate recommendations as discussed in the publication titled “Grazing Influence, Management, and Objective Development in Wyoming’s Greater Sage Grouse Habitat”, as provided for in IB – WY-2010-022 as recommended by the ARMPA. The primary objective of grazing management would be “to ensure appropriately timed grazing with moderate utilization levels (as described in the Wyoming Rangeland Monitoring Guide) will maintain the preferred Sagebrush/Bunchgrass plant community, and will promote plant vigor and sage-grouse values in less-preferred Sagebrush/Rhizomatous-Bluegrass transitional states.”

Mitigation Measures

- The amount of forage utilized by livestock on the public lands during the grazing year will not exceed the 24 AUM's of forage authorized by the grazing lease.
- Supervision and monitoring of this allotment will follow BLM policy and management guidelines and the Casper Field Office Monitoring Plan.

- The terms and conditions of your lease may be modified if additional information indicates that revision is necessary to conform to 43 CFR 4180
- Placement of salt, mineral or forage supplements for livestock is not allowed within ¼ mile of water, wetlands, and riparian areas, unless written analysis shows that watershed, riparian, wetland, wildlife, and vegetative values will not be adversely impacted. Forage supplements are required to be 'certified weed-free.
- If any surface disturbing activities are proposed in the allotment they will require cultural and wildlife inventories prior to the work being done.
- If noxious weeds or invasive plant species are discovered on public lands they will be aggressively treated using an integrated pesticide management approach to control their spread.
- The lessees shall immediately notify the BLM Authorized Officer of any paleontological resources discovered as a result of operations under this authorization. The lessees shall suspend all activities in the vicinity of such discovery until notified to proceed by the Authorized Officer and shall protect the discovery from damage or looting. The lessees may not be required to suspend all operations if activities can be adjusted to avoid further impacts to a discovered locality or be continued elsewhere. The Authorized Officer will evaluate, or will have evaluated, such discoveries as soon as possible, but not later than 10 working days after being notified. Appropriate measures to mitigate adverse effects to significant paleontological resources will be determined by the Authorized Officer after consulting with the lessee. Within 10 days, the operator will be allowed to continue grazing, or will be given the choice of either (1) following the Authorized Officer's instructions for stabilizing the fossil resource in place and avoiding further disturbance to the fossil resource, or (2) following the Authorized Officer's instructions for mitigating impacts to the fossil resource prior to continuing grazing.
- All persons in the area who are associated with this project are informed that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are uncovered during grazing, the lessee is to immediately stop work that might further disturb such materials, and contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the lessee as to:
 - whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places;
 - the mitigation measures the lessee will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary); and,
 - a timeframe for the AO to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800.11 to confirm, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, that the

findings of the AO are correct and that mitigation is appropriate. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation.

- Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the lessee will then be allowed to resume construction measures.
- To minimize fence collisions by wildlife, hazard fences should be identified, modified and fence markers installed on or with in BLM lands

Authorities

Statutory authorities for this decision are contained in the Taylor Grazing Act of June 28, 1934, as amended (43 U.S.C. 315 through 315r), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976, as amended (Pub. L. 940579); 90 Stat.2743; 43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), and Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Subpart 4100.

Plan Conformance and Consistency

Pursuant to 40 CFR 1508.28 and 1502.21, the EA referenced tiers to and incorporates by reference the information and analysis contained in the PROPOSED Resource Management Plan and FINAL Environmental Impact Statement for the Casper Field Office, the Record of Decision and Approved Casper Resource Management Plan signed in December 2007 as amended by the Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan Amendments for the Rocky Mountain Region, Including the Greater Sage-Grouse Sub-Regions of Lewistown, North Dakota, Northwest Colorado, Wyoming, and the Approved Resource Management Plans for Billings, Buffalo, Cody, HiLine, Miles City, Pompeys Pillar National Monument, South Dakota, Worland: Casper, Kemmerer, Newcastle, Pinedale, Rawlins, and Rock Springs Field Offices Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment for Greater Sage-Grouse. The EA is in conformance and consistent with the referenced Casper RMP and Amendment.

Alternatives Considered

A No Action alternative was considered and analyzed alongside the proposed action to provide a baseline.

No other alternative was considered in the EA.

Public Involvement

No public outreach was needed due to the small amount of BLM administered lands in Platte County.

Rationale for Decision

I have reviewed the Environmental Assessment and the attendant FONSI (DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA) for offering a new 10-year term grazing lease for public lands located in the Gatson (00364) allotment. Conditioned through mitigation measures, I find that this action will not result in significant impacts on the human environment pursuant to Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations 1508.27 (a) and (b) (1) through (10) and that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. I have determined that the proposed action, renewal of lease with modification, is in conformance with the Record of Decision and Approved Casper Resource Management Plan dated December 7, 2007 and amendments and will not cause unnecessary or undue degradation.

Right of Protest and/or Appeal

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other interested public may protest a proposed decision under 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 4160.2 in person or in writing to the Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604 within 15 days after receipt of such decision. The BLM will not consider any protests filed after 15 days of receipt. The protest, if filed, should clearly and concisely state the reason(s) why the proposed decision is in error. All reasons for error not stated in the protest shall be considered waived.

In accordance with 43 CFR 4160.3 (a), in the absence of a protest, the proposed decision will become the final decision of the authorized officer without further notice unless otherwise provided in the proposed decision.

In accordance with 43 CFR 4160.3 (b) upon a timely filing of a protest, after a review of protests received and other information pertinent to the case, the authorized officer shall issue a final decision.

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other person whose interest is adversely affected by the final decision may file an appeal in accordance with 43 CFR 4.470 and 43 CFR 4160.3 and 4160.4. The appeal must be filed within 30 days following receipt of the final decision, or within 30 days after the date the proposed decision becomes final. The appeal may be accompanied by a petition for a stay of the decision pending appeal, in accordance with 43 CFR 4.471. The appeal and petition for a stay must be filed or in writing to the Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604. The appellant must serve a copy of the appeal by certified mail on the Office of the Field Solicitor, Rocky Mountain Region, and 755 Parfet Street Suite 151, Lakewood, Colorado, 80215 and person(s) named [43 CFR 4.421(h)] in the Copies sent to: section of this decision.

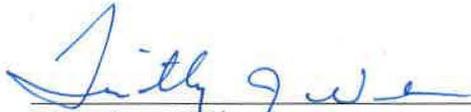
The appeal must clearly and concisely state the reasons why the appellant thinks the final decision is wrong and must otherwise comply with the provisions of 43 CFR 4.470.

Standards for Obtaining a Stay

Should you wish to file a petition for a stay, you must comply with the provisions at 43 CFR 4.471. Among other things, that regulation requires that a petition for a stay show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

- (1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied.
 - (2) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits.
 - (3) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted,
- and
- (4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

Any person named in the decision from which an appeal is taken who wishes to file a response to the petition for a stay may file with the Hearings Division a motion to intervene in the appeal, together with the response, within 10 days after receiving the petition. The person must serve copies of the motion to intervene and response on the appellant, the Office of the Solicitor and any other person named in the decision (43 CFR 4.472(b)).



Timothy J. Wilson
Casper Field Manager

7/1/2016

Date

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Decision Record
DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA
July 2016

Platte County Custodial Allotments Grazing Lease Renewal

Casper Field Office
2987 Prospector Drive
Casper, Wyoming 82604-2968



Selected Alternative

It is my proposed decision to implement the proposed action, renewal of lease with modification as described in the attached Environmental Assessment (DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA) and the attendant Finding of No Significant Impact for authorization of livestock grazing use on the Goertz (00266) allotment with a term of 10 years.

Specifically, the proposed decision is to offer a new 10-year term grazing lease to the lessee for public lands located within the Goertz (00266) allotment. Under this proposed action, the allotment would have the authorization to be grazed by cattle, horses, goats, sheep, and/or indigenous livestock up to the AUM's available in each lease. The standard terms and conditions as per 43 CFR 4100 will be applied to the lease. The following additional conditions will be placed on the lease to address assessment of rangeland health and threatened and endangered species:

- The terms and conditions of your lease may be modified if additional information indicates that revision is necessary to conform with 43 CFR 4180.
- Placement of salt, mineral or forage supplements for livestock is not allowed within ¼ mile of water, wetlands, and riparian areas, unless written analysis shows that watershed, riparian, wetland, wildlife, and vegetation values will not be adversely impacted. Forage supplements are required to be “certified weed free.
- The grazing allotments may contain delineated General Habitat Management Areas for the Greater sage-grouse. In order to effectively manage the annual and long-term influences of grazing and conserve sage-grouse habitats, grazing management will incorporate recommendations as discussed in the publication titled “Grazing Influence, Management, and Objective Development in Wyoming’s Greater Sage Grouse Habitat”, as provided for in IB – WY-2010-022 as recommended by the ARMPA. The primary objective of grazing management would be “to ensure appropriately timed grazing with moderate utilization levels (as described in the Wyoming Rangeland Monitoring Guide) will maintain the preferred Sagebrush/Bunchgrass plant community, and will promote plant vigor and sage-grouse values in less-preferred Sagebrush/Rhizomatous-Bluegrass transitional states.”

Mitigation Measures

- The amount of forage utilized by livestock on the public lands during the grazing year will not exceed the 17 AUM's of forage authorized by the grazing lease.
- Supervision and monitoring of this allotment will follow BLM policy and management guidelines and the Casper Field Office Monitoring Plan.

- The terms and conditions of your lease may be modified if additional information indicates that revision is necessary to conform to 43 CFR 4180
- Placement of salt, mineral or forage supplements for livestock is not allowed within ¼ mile of water, wetlands, and riparian areas, unless written analysis shows that watershed, riparian, wetland, wildlife, and vegetative values will not be adversely impacted. Forage supplements are required to be 'certified weed-free.
- If any surface disturbing activities are proposed in the allotment they will require cultural and wildlife inventories prior to the work being done.
- If noxious weeds or invasive plant species are discovered on public lands they will be aggressively treated using an integrated pesticide management approach to control their spread.
- The lessees shall immediately notify the BLM Authorized Officer of any paleontological resources discovered as a result of operations under this authorization. The lessees shall suspend all activities in the vicinity of such discovery until notified to proceed by the Authorized Officer and shall protect the discovery from damage or looting. The lessees may not be required to suspend all operations if activities can be adjusted to avoid further impacts to a discovered locality or be continued elsewhere. The Authorized Officer will evaluate, or will have evaluated, such discoveries as soon as possible, but not later than 10 working days after being notified. Appropriate measures to mitigate adverse effects to significant paleontological resources will be determined by the Authorized Officer after consulting with the lessee. Within 10 days, the operator will be allowed to continue grazing, or will be given the choice of either (1) following the Authorized Officer's instructions for stabilizing the fossil resource in place and avoiding further disturbance to the fossil resource, or (2) following the Authorized Officer's instructions for mitigating impacts to the fossil resource prior to continuing grazing.
- All persons in the area who are associated with this project are informed that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are uncovered during grazing, the lessee is to immediately stop work that might further disturb such materials, and contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the lessee as to:
 - whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places;
 - the mitigation measures the lessee will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary); and,
 - a timeframe for the AO to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800.11 to confirm, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, that the

findings of the AO are correct and that mitigation is appropriate. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation.

- Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the lessee will then be allowed to resume construction measures.
- To minimize fence collisions by wildlife, hazard fences should be identified, modified and fence markers installed on or with in BLM lands

Authorities

Statutory authorities for this decision are contained in the Taylor Grazing Act of June 28, 1934, as amended (43 U.S.C. 315 through 315r), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976, as amended (Pub. L. 940579); 90 Stat.2743; 43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), and Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Subpart 4100.

Plan Conformance and Consistency

Pursuant to 40 CFR 1508.28 and 1502.21, the EA referenced tiers to and incorporates by reference the information and analysis contained in the PROPOSED Resource Management Plan and FINAL Environmental Impact Statement for the Casper Field Office, the Record of Decision and Approved Casper Resource Management Plan signed in December 2007 as amended by the Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan Amendments for the Rocky Mountain Region, Including the Greater Sage-Grouse Sub-Regions of Lewistown, North Dakota, Northwest Colorado, Wyoming, and the Approved Resource Management Plans for Billings, Buffalo, Cody, HiLine, Miles City, Pompeys Pillar National Monument, South Dakota, Worland: Casper, Kemmerer, Newcastle, Pinedale, Rawlins, and Rock Springs Field Offices Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment for Greater Sage-Grouse. The EA is in conformance and consistent with the referenced Casper RMP and Amendment.

Alternatives Considered

A No Action alternative was considered and analyzed alongside the proposed action to provide a baseline.

No other alternative was considered in the EA.

Public Involvement

No public outreach was needed due to the small amount of BLM administered lands in Platte County.

Rationale for Decision

I have reviewed the Environmental Assessment and the attendant FONSI (DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA) for offering a new 10-year term grazing lease for public lands located in the Goertz (00266) allotment. Conditioned through mitigation measures, I find that this action will not result in significant impacts on the human environment pursuant to Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations 1508.27 (a) and (b) (1) through (10) and that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. I have determined that the proposed action, renewal of lease with modification, is in conformance with the Record of Decision and Approved Casper Resource Management Plan dated December 7, 2007 and amendments and will not cause unnecessary or undue degradation.

Right of Protest and/or Appeal

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other interested publics may protest a proposed decision under 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 4160.2 in person or in writing to the Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604 within 15 days after receipt of such decision. The BLM will not consider any protests filed after 15 days of receipt. The protest, if filed, should clearly and concisely state the reason(s) why the proposed decision is in error. All reasons for error not stated in the protest shall be considered waived.

In accordance with 43 CFR 4160.3 (a), in the absence of a protest, the proposed decision will become the final decision of the authorized officer without further notice unless otherwise provided in the proposed decision.

In accordance with 43 CFR 4160.3 (b) upon a timely filing of a protest, after a review of protests received and other information pertinent to the case, the authorized officer shall issue a final decision.

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other person whose interest is adversely affected by the final decision may file an appeal in accordance with 43 CFR 4.470 and 43 CFR 4160.3 and 4160.4. The appeal must be filed within 30 days following receipt of the final decision, or within 30 days after the date the proposed decision becomes final. The appeal may be accompanied by a petition for a stay of the decision pending appeal, in accordance with 43 CFR 4.471. The appeal and petition for a stay must be filed or in writing to the Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604. The appellant must serve a copy of the appeal by certified mail on the Office of the Field Solicitor, Rocky Mountain Region, and 755 Parfet Street Suite 151, Lakewood, Colorado, 80215 and person(s) named [43 CFR 4.421(h)] in the Copies sent to: section of this decision.

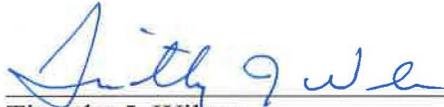
The appeal must clearly and concisely state the reasons why the appellant thinks the final decision is wrong and must otherwise comply with the provisions of 43 CFR 4.470.

Standards for Obtaining a Stay

Should you wish to file a petition for a stay, you must comply with the provisions at 43 CFR 4.471. Among other things, that regulation requires that a petition for a stay show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

- (1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied.
 - (2) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits.
 - (3) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted,
- and
- (4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

Any person named in the decision from which an appeal is taken who wishes to file a response to the petition for a stay may file with the Hearings Division a motion to intervene in the appeal, together with the response, within 10 days after receiving the petition. The person must serve copies of the motion to intervene and response on the appellant, the Office of the Solicitor and any other person named in the decision (43 CFR 4.472(b)).



Timothy J. Wilson
Casper Field Manager

7/1/2014
Date

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Decision Record
DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA
July 2016

Platte County Custodial Allotments Grazing Lease Renewal

Casper Field Office
2987 Prospector Drive
Casper, Wyoming 82604-2968



Selected Alternative

It is my proposed decision to implement the proposed action, renewal of lease with modification as described in the attached Environmental Assessment (DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA) and the attendant Finding of No Significant Impact for authorization of livestock grazing use on the Horseshoe (20529) allotment with a term of 10 years.

Specifically, the proposed decision is to offer a new 10-year term grazing lease to the lessee for public lands located within the Horseshoe (20529) allotment. Under this proposed action, the allotment would have the authorization to be grazed by cattle, horses, goats, sheep, and/or indigenous livestock up to the AUM's available in each lease. The standard terms and conditions as per 43 CFR 4100 will be applied to the lease. The following additional conditions will be placed on the lease to address assessment of rangeland health and threatened and endangered species:

- The terms and conditions of your lease may be modified if additional information indicates that revision is necessary to conform with 43 CFR 4180.
- Placement of salt, mineral or forage supplements for livestock is not allowed within ¼ mile of water, wetlands, and riparian areas, unless written analysis shows that watershed, riparian, wetland, wildlife, and vegetation values will not be adversely impacted. Forage supplements are required to be “certified weed free.
- The grazing allotments may contain delineated General Habitat Management Areas for the Greater sage-grouse. In order to effectively manage the annual and long-term influences of grazing and conserve sage-grouse habitats, grazing management will incorporate recommendations as discussed in the publication titled “Grazing Influence, Management, and Objective Development in Wyoming’s Greater Sage Grouse Habitat”, as provided for in IB – WY-2010-022 as recommended by the ARMPA. The primary objective of grazing management would be “to ensure appropriately timed grazing with moderate utilization levels (as described in the Wyoming Rangeland Monitoring Guide) will maintain the preferred Sagebrush/Bunchgrass plant community, and will promote plant vigor and sage-grouse values in less-preferred Sagebrush/Rhizomatous-Bluegrass transitional states.”

Mitigation Measures

- The amount of forage utilized by livestock on the public lands during the grazing year will not exceed the 18 AUM's of forage authorized by the grazing lease.
- Supervision and monitoring of this allotment will follow BLM policy and management guidelines and the Casper Field Office Monitoring Plan.

- The terms and conditions of your lease may be modified if additional information indicates that revision is necessary to conform to 43 CFR 4180
- Placement of salt, mineral or forage supplements for livestock is not allowed within ¼ mile of water, wetlands, and riparian areas, unless written analysis shows that watershed, riparian, wetland, wildlife, and vegetative values will not be adversely impacted. Forage supplements are required to be ‘certified weed-free.
- If any surface disturbing activities are proposed in the allotment they will require cultural and wildlife inventories prior to the work being done.
- If noxious weeds or invasive plant species are discovered on public lands they will be aggressively treated using an integrated pesticide management approach to control their spread.
- The lessees shall immediately notify the BLM Authorized Officer of any paleontological resources discovered as a result of operations under this authorization. The lessees shall suspend all activities in the vicinity of such discovery until notified to proceed by the Authorized Officer and shall protect the discovery from damage or looting. The lessees may not be required to suspend all operations if activities can be adjusted to avoid further impacts to a discovered locality or be continued elsewhere. The Authorized Officer will evaluate, or will have evaluated, such discoveries as soon as possible, but not later than 10 working days after being notified. Appropriate measures to mitigate adverse effects to significant paleontological resources will be determined by the Authorized Officer after consulting with the lessee. Within 10 days, the operator will be allowed to continue grazing, or will be given the choice of either (1) following the Authorized Officer’s instructions for stabilizing the fossil resource in place and avoiding further disturbance to the fossil resource, or (2) following the Authorized Officer’s instructions for mitigating impacts to the fossil resource prior to continuing grazing.
- All persons in the area who are associated with this project are informed that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are uncovered during grazing, the lessee is to immediately stop work that might further disturb such materials, and contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the lessee as to:
 - whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places;
 - the mitigation measures the lessee will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary); and,
 - a timeframe for the AO to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800.11 to confirm, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, that the

findings of the AO are correct and that mitigation is appropriate. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation.

- Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the lessee will then be allowed to resume construction measures.
- To minimize fence collisions by wildlife, hazard fences should be identified, modified and fence markers installed on or with in BLM lands

Authorities

Statutory authorities for this decision are contained in the Taylor Grazing Act of June 28, 1934, as amended (43 U.S.C. 315 through 315r), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976, as amended (Pub. L. 940579); 90 Stat.2743; 43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), and Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Subpart 4100.

Plan Conformance and Consistency

Pursuant to 40 CFR 1508.28 and 1502.21, the EA referenced tiers to and incorporates by reference the information and analysis contained in the PROPOSED Resource Management Plan and FINAL Environmental Impact Statement for the Casper Field Office, the Record of Decision and Approved Casper Resource Management Plan signed in December 2007 as amended by the Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan Amendments for the Rocky Mountain Region, Including the Greater Sage-Grouse Sub-Regions of Lewistown, North Dakota, Northwest Colorado, Wyoming, and the Approved Resource Management Plans for Billings, Buffalo, Cody, HiLine, Miles City, Pompeys Pillar National Monument, South Dakota, Worland: Casper, Kemmerer, Newcastle, Pinedale, Rawlins, and Rock Springs Field Offices Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment for Greater Sage-Grouse. The EA is in conformance and consistent with the referenced Casper RMP and Amendment.

Alternatives Considered

A No Action alternative was considered and analyzed alongside the proposed action to provide a baseline.

No other alternative was considered in the EA.

Public Involvement

No public outreach was needed due to the small amount of BLM administered lands in Platte County.

Rationale for Decision

I have reviewed the Environmental Assessment and the attendant FONSI (DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA) for offering a new 10-year term grazing lease for public lands located in the Horseshoe (20529) allotment. Conditioned through mitigation measures, I find that this action will not result in significant impacts on the human environment pursuant to Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations 1508.27 (a) and (b) (1) through (10) and that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. I have determined that the proposed action, renewal of lease with modification, is in conformance with the Record of Decision and Approved Casper Resource Management Plan dated December 7, 2007 and amendments and will not cause unnecessary or undue degradation.

Right of Protest and/or Appeal

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other interested publics may protest a proposed decision under 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 4160.2 in person or in writing to the Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604 within 15 days after receipt of such decision. The BLM will not consider any protests filed after 15 days of receipt. The protest, if filed, should clearly and concisely state the reason(s) why the proposed decision is in error. All reasons for error not stated in the protest shall be considered waived.

In accordance with 43 CFR 4160.3 (a), in the absence of a protest, the proposed decision will become the final decision of the authorized officer without further notice unless otherwise provided in the proposed decision.

In accordance with 43 CFR 4160.3 (b) upon a timely filing of a protest, after a review of protests received and other information pertinent to the case, the authorized officer shall issue a final decision.

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other person whose interest is adversely affected by the final decision may file an appeal in accordance with 43 CFR 4.470 and 43 CFR 4160.3 and 4160.4. The appeal must be filed within 30 days following receipt of the final decision, or within 30 days after the date the proposed decision becomes final. The appeal may be accompanied by a petition for a stay of the decision pending appeal, in accordance with 43 CFR 4.471. The appeal and petition for a stay must be filed or in writing to the Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604. The appellant must serve a copy of the appeal by certified mail on the Office of the Field Solicitor, Rocky Mountain Region, and 755 Parfet Street Suite 151, Lakewood, Colorado, 80215 and person(s) named [43 CFR 4.421(h)] in the Copies sent to: section of this decision.

The appeal must clearly and concisely state the reasons why the appellant thinks the final decision is wrong and must otherwise comply with the provisions of 43 CFR 4.470.

Standards for Obtaining a Stay

Should you wish to file a petition for a stay, you must comply with the provisions at 43 CFR 4.471. Among other things, that regulation requires that a petition for a stay show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

- (1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied.
 - (2) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits.
 - (3) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted,
- and
- (4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

Any person named in the decision from which an appeal is taken who wishes to file a response to the petition for a stay may file with the Hearings Division a motion to intervene in the appeal, together with the response, within 10 days after receiving the petition. The person must serve copies of the motion to intervene and response on the appellant, the Office of the Solicitor and any other person named in the decision (43 CFR 4.472(b)).



Timothy J. Wilson
Casper Field Manager

7/1/2016
Date

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Decision Record
DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA
July 2016

Platte County Custodial Allotments Grazing Lease Renewal

Casper Field Office
2987 Prospector Drive
Casper, Wyoming 82604-2968



Selected Alternative

It is my proposed decision to implement the proposed action, renewal of lease with modification as described in the attached Environmental Assessment (DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA) and the attendant Finding of No Significant Impact for authorization of livestock grazing use on the Gray Rocks 2 (10411) allotment with a term of 10 years.

Specifically, the proposed decision is to offer a new 10-year term grazing lease to the lessee for public lands located within the Gray Rocks 2 (10411) allotment. Under this proposed action, the allotment would have the authorization to be grazed by cattle, horses, goats, sheep, and/or indigenous livestock up to the AUM's available in each lease. The standard terms and conditions as per 43 CFR 4100 will be applied to the lease. The following additional conditions will be placed on the lease to address assessment of rangeland health and threatened and endangered species:

- The terms and conditions of your lease may be modified if additional information indicates that revision is necessary to conform with 43 CFR 4180.
- Placement of salt, mineral or forage supplements for livestock is not allowed within ¼ mile of water, wetlands, and riparian areas, unless written analysis shows that watershed, riparian, wetland, wildlife, and vegetation values will not be adversely impacted. Forage supplements are required to be “certified weed free.
- The grazing allotments may contain delineated General Habitat Management Areas for the Greater sage-grouse. In order to effectively manage the annual and long-term influences of grazing and conserve sage-grouse habitats, grazing management will incorporate recommendations as discussed in the publication titled “Grazing Influence, Management, and Objective Development in Wyoming’s Greater Sage Grouse Habitat”, as provided for in IB – WY-2010-022 as recommended by the ARMPA. The primary objective of grazing management would be “to ensure appropriately timed grazing with moderate utilization levels (as described in the Wyoming Rangeland Monitoring Guide) will maintain the preferred Sagebrush/Bunchgrass plant community, and will promote plant vigor and sage-grouse values in less-preferred Sagebrush/Rhizomatous-Bluegrass transitional states.”

Mitigation Measures

- The amount of forage utilized by livestock on the public lands during the grazing year will not exceed the 74 AUM's of forage authorized by the grazing lease.
- Supervision and monitoring of this allotment will follow BLM policy and management guidelines and the Casper Field Office Monitoring Plan.

- The terms and conditions of your lease may be modified if additional information indicates that revision is necessary to conform to 43 CFR 4180
- Placement of salt, mineral or forage supplements for livestock is not allowed within ¼ mile of water, wetlands, and riparian areas, unless written analysis shows that watershed, riparian, wetland, wildlife, and vegetative values will not be adversely impacted. Forage supplements are required to be 'certified weed-free.
- If any surface disturbing activities are proposed in the allotment they will require cultural and wildlife inventories prior to the work being done.
- If noxious weeds or invasive plant species are discovered on public lands they will be aggressively treated using an integrated pesticide management approach to control their spread.
- The lessees shall immediately notify the BLM Authorized Officer of any paleontological resources discovered as a result of operations under this authorization. The lessees shall suspend all activities in the vicinity of such discovery until notified to proceed by the Authorized Officer and shall protect the discovery from damage or looting. The lessees may not be required to suspend all operations if activities can be adjusted to avoid further impacts to a discovered locality or be continued elsewhere. The Authorized Officer will evaluate, or will have evaluated, such discoveries as soon as possible, but not later than 10 working days after being notified. Appropriate measures to mitigate adverse effects to significant paleontological resources will be determined by the Authorized Officer after consulting with the lessee. Within 10 days, the operator will be allowed to continue grazing, or will be given the choice of either (1) following the Authorized Officer's instructions for stabilizing the fossil resource in place and avoiding further disturbance to the fossil resource, or (2) following the Authorized Officer's instructions for mitigating impacts to the fossil resource prior to continuing grazing.
- All persons in the area who are associated with this project are informed that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are uncovered during grazing, the lessee is to immediately stop work that might further disturb such materials, and contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the lessee as to:
 - whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places;
 - the mitigation measures the lessee will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary); and,
 - a timeframe for the AO to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800.11 to confirm, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, that the

findings of the AO are correct and that mitigation is appropriate. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation.

- Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the lessee will then be allowed to resume construction measures.
- To minimize fence collisions by wildlife, hazard fences should be identified, modified and fence markers installed on or with in BLM lands

Authorities

Statutory authorities for this decision are contained in the Taylor Grazing Act of June 28, 1934, as amended (43 U.S.C. 315 through 315r), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976, as amended (Pub. L. 940579); 90 Stat.2743; 43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), and Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Subpart 4100.

Plan Conformance and Consistency

Pursuant to 40 CFR 1508.28 and 1502.21, the EA referenced tiers to and incorporates by reference the information and analysis contained in the PROPOSED Resource Management Plan and FINAL Environmental Impact Statement for the Casper Field Office, the Record of Decision and Approved Casper Resource Management Plan signed in December 2007 as amended by the Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan Amendments for the Rocky Mountain Region, Including the Greater Sage-Grouse Sub-Regions of Lewistown, North Dakota, Northwest Colorado, Wyoming, and the Approved Resource Management Plans for Billings, Buffalo, Cody, HiLine, Miles City, Pompeys Pillar National Monument, South Dakota, Worland: Casper, Kemmerer, Newcastle, Pinedale, Rawlins, and Rock Springs Field Offices Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment for Greater Sage-Grouse. The EA is in conformance and consistent with the referenced Casper RMP and Amendment.

Alternatives Considered

A No Action alternative was considered and analyzed alongside the proposed action to provide a baseline.

No other alternative was considered in the EA.

Public Involvement

No public outreach was needed due to the small amount of BLM administered lands in Platte County.

Rationale for Decision

I have reviewed the Environmental Assessment and the attendant FONSI (DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA) for offering a new 10-year term grazing lease for public lands located in the Gray Rocks 2 (10411) allotment. Conditioned through mitigation measures, I find that this action will not result in significant impacts on the human environment pursuant to Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations 1508.27 (a) and (b) (1) through (10) and that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. I have determined that the proposed action, renewal of lease with modification, is in conformance with the Record of Decision and Approved Casper Resource Management Plan dated December 7, 2007 and amendments and will not cause unnecessary or undue degradation.

Right of Protest and/or Appeal

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other interested publics may protest a proposed decision under 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 4160.2 in person or in writing to the Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604 within 15 days after receipt of such decision. The BLM will not consider any protests filed after 15 days of receipt. The protest, if filed, should clearly and concisely state the reason(s) why the proposed decision is in error. All reasons for error not stated in the protest shall be considered waived.

In accordance with 43 CFR 4160.3 (a), in the absence of a protest, the proposed decision will become the final decision of the authorized officer without further notice unless otherwise provided in the proposed decision.

In accordance with 43 CFR 4160.3 (b) upon a timely filing of a protest, after a review of protests received and other information pertinent to the case, the authorized officer shall issue a final decision.

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other person whose interest is adversely affected by the final decision may file an appeal in accordance with 43 CFR 4.470 and 43 CFR 4160.3 and 4160.4. The appeal must be filed within 30 days following receipt of the final decision, or within 30 days after the date the proposed decision becomes final. The appeal may be accompanied by a petition for a stay of the decision pending appeal, in accordance with 43 CFR 4.471. The appeal and petition for a stay must be filed or in writing to the Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604. The appellant must serve a copy of the appeal by certified mail on the Office of the Field Solicitor, Rocky Mountain Region, and 755 Parfet Street Suite 151, Lakewood, Colorado, 80215 and person(s) named [43 CFR 4.421(h)] in the Copies sent to: section of this decision.

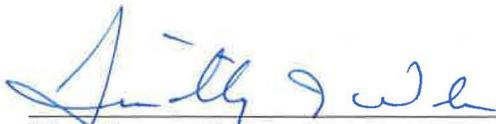
The appeal must clearly and concisely state the reasons why the appellant thinks the final decision is wrong and must otherwise comply with the provisions of 43 CFR 4.470.

Standards for Obtaining a Stay

Should you wish to file a petition for a stay, you must comply with the provisions at 43 CFR 4.471. Among other things, that regulation requires that a petition for a stay show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

- (1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied.
 - (2) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits.
 - (3) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted,
- and
- (4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

Any person named in the decision from which an appeal is taken who wishes to file a response to the petition for a stay may file with the Hearings Division a motion to intervene in the appeal, together with the response, within 10 days after receiving the petition. The person must serve copies of the motion to intervene and response on the appellant, the Office of the Solicitor and any other person named in the decision (43 CFR 4.472(b)).



Timothy J. Wilson
Casper Field Manager

7/1/2016
Date

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Decision Record
DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA
July 2016

Platte County Custodial Allotments Grazing Lease Renewal

Casper Field Office
2987 Prospector Drive
Casper, Wyoming 82604-2968



Selected Alternative

It is my proposed decision to implement the proposed action, renewal of lease with modification as described in the attached Environmental Assessment (DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA) and the attendant Finding of No Significant Impact for authorization of livestock grazing use on the King (00458) allotment with a term of 10 years.

Specifically, the proposed decision is to offer a new 10-year term grazing lease to the lessee for public lands located within the King (00458) allotment. Under this proposed action, the allotment would have the authorization to be grazed by cattle, horses, goats, sheep, and/or indigenous livestock up to the AUM's available in each lease. The standard terms and conditions as per 43 CFR 4100 will be applied to the lease. The following additional conditions will be placed on the lease to address assessment of rangeland health and threatened and endangered species:

- The terms and conditions of your lease may be modified if additional information indicates that revision is necessary to conform with 43 CFR 4180.
- Placement of salt, mineral or forage supplements for livestock is not allowed within ¼ mile of water, wetlands, and riparian areas, unless written analysis shows that watershed, riparian, wetland, wildlife, and vegetation values will not be adversely impacted. Forage supplements are required to be “certified weed free.
- The grazing allotments may contain delineated General Habitat Management Areas for the Greater sage-grouse. In order to effectively manage the annual and long-term influences of grazing and conserve sage-grouse habitats, grazing management will incorporate recommendations as discussed in the publication titled “Grazing Influence, Management, and Objective Development in Wyoming’s Greater Sage Grouse Habitat”, as provided for in IB – WY-2010-022 as recommended by the ARMPA. The primary objective of grazing management would be “to ensure appropriately timed grazing with moderate utilization levels (as described in the Wyoming Rangeland Monitoring Guide) will maintain the preferred Sagebrush/Bunchgrass plant community, and will promote plant vigor and sage-grouse values in less-preferred Sagebrush/Rhizomatous-Bluegrass transitional states.”

Mitigation Measures

- The amount of forage utilized by livestock on the public lands during the grazing year will not exceed the 32 AUM's of forage authorized by the grazing lease.
- Supervision and monitoring of this allotment will follow BLM policy and management guidelines and the Casper Field Office Monitoring Plan.

- The terms and conditions of your lease may be modified if additional information indicates that revision is necessary to conform to 43 CFR 4180
- Placement of salt, mineral or forage supplements for livestock is not allowed within ¼ mile of water, wetlands, and riparian areas, unless written analysis shows that watershed, riparian, wetland, wildlife, and vegetative values will not be adversely impacted. Forage supplements are required to be 'certified weed-free.
- If any surface disturbing activities are proposed in the allotment they will require cultural and wildlife inventories prior to the work being done.
- If noxious weeds or invasive plant species are discovered on public lands they will be aggressively treated using an integrated pesticide management approach to control their spread.
- The lessees shall immediately notify the BLM Authorized Officer of any paleontological resources discovered as a result of operations under this authorization. The lessees shall suspend all activities in the vicinity of such discovery until notified to proceed by the Authorized Officer and shall protect the discovery from damage or looting. The lessees may not be required to suspend all operations if activities can be adjusted to avoid further impacts to a discovered locality or be continued elsewhere. The Authorized Officer will evaluate, or will have evaluated, such discoveries as soon as possible, but not later than 10 working days after being notified. Appropriate measures to mitigate adverse effects to significant paleontological resources will be determined by the Authorized Officer after consulting with the lessee. Within 10 days, the operator will be allowed to continue grazing, or will be given the choice of either (1) following the Authorized Officer's instructions for stabilizing the fossil resource in place and avoiding further disturbance to the fossil resource, or (2) following the Authorized Officer's instructions for mitigating impacts to the fossil resource prior to continuing grazing.
- All persons in the area who are associated with this project are informed that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are uncovered during grazing, the lessee is to immediately stop work that might further disturb such materials, and contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the lessee as to:
 - whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places;
 - the mitigation measures the lessee will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary); and,
 - a timeframe for the AO to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800.11 to confirm, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, that the

findings of the AO are correct and that mitigation is appropriate. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation.

- Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the lessee will then be allowed to resume construction measures.
- To minimize fence collisions by wildlife, hazard fences should be identified, modified and fence markers installed on or with in BLM lands

Authorities

Statutory authorities for this decision are contained in the Taylor Grazing Act of June 28, 1934, as amended (43 U.S.C. 315 through 315r), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976, as amended (Pub. L. 940579); 90 Stat.2743; 43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), and Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Subpart 4100.

Plan Conformance and Consistency

Pursuant to 40 CFR 1508.28 and 1502.21, the EA referenced tiers to and incorporates by reference the information and analysis contained in the PROPOSED Resource Management Plan and FINAL Environmental Impact Statement for the Casper Field Office, the Record of Decision and Approved Casper Resource Management Plan signed in December 2007 as amended by the Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan Amendments for the Rocky Mountain Region, Including the Greater Sage-Grouse Sub-Regions of Lewistown, North Dakota, Northwest Colorado, Wyoming, and the Approved Resource Management Plans for Billings, Buffalo, Cody, HiLine, Miles City, Pompeys Pillar National Monument, South Dakota, Worland: Casper, Kemmerer, Newcastle, Pinedale, Rawlins, and Rock Springs Field Offices Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment for Greater Sage-Grouse. The EA is in conformance and consistent with the referenced Casper RMP and Amendment.

Alternatives Considered

A No Action alternative was considered and analyzed alongside the proposed action to provide a baseline.

No other alternative was considered in the EA.

Public Involvement

No public outreach was needed due to the small amount of BLM administered lands in Platte County.

Rationale for Decision

I have reviewed the Environmental Assessment and the attendant FONSI (DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA) for offering a new 10-year term grazing lease for public lands located in the King (00458) allotment. Conditioned through mitigation measures, I find that this action will not result in significant impacts on the human environment pursuant to Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations 1508.27 (a) and (b) (1) through (10) and that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. I have determined that the proposed action, renewal of lease with modification, is in conformance with the Record of Decision and Approved Casper Resource Management Plan dated December 7, 2007 and amendments and will not cause unnecessary or undue degradation.

Right of Protest and/or Appeal

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other interested public may protest a proposed decision under 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 4160.2 in person or in writing to the Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604 within 15 days after receipt of such decision. The BLM will not consider any protests filed after 15 days of receipt. The protest, if filed, should clearly and concisely state the reason(s) why the proposed decision is in error. All reasons for error not stated in the protest shall be considered waived.

In accordance with 43 CFR 4160.3 (a), in the absence of a protest, the proposed decision will become the final decision of the authorized officer without further notice unless otherwise provided in the proposed decision.

In accordance with 43 CFR 4160.3 (b) upon a timely filing of a protest, after a review of protests received and other information pertinent to the case, the authorized officer shall issue a final decision.

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other person whose interest is adversely affected by the final decision may file an appeal in accordance with 43 CFR 4.470 and 43 CFR 4160.3 and 4160.4. The appeal must be filed within 30 days following receipt of the final decision, or within 30 days after the date the proposed decision becomes final. The appeal may be accompanied by a petition for a stay of the decision pending appeal, in accordance with 43 CFR 4.471. The appeal and petition for a stay must be filed or in writing to the Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604. The appellant must serve a copy of the appeal by certified mail on the Office of the Field Solicitor, Rocky Mountain Region, and 755 Parfet Street Suite 151, Lakewood, Colorado, 80215 and person(s) named [43 CFR 4.421(h)] in the Copies sent to: section of this decision.

The appeal must clearly and concisely state the reasons why the appellant thinks the final decision is wrong and must otherwise comply with the provisions of 43 CFR 4.470.

Standards for Obtaining a Stay

Should you wish to file a petition for a stay, you must comply with the provisions at 43 CFR 4.471. Among other things, that regulation requires that a petition for a stay show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

- (1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied.
 - (2) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits.
 - (3) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted,
- and
- (4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

Any person named in the decision from which an appeal is taken who wishes to file a response to the petition for a stay may file with the Hearings Division a motion to intervene in the appeal, together with the response, within 10 days after receiving the petition. The person must serve copies of the motion to intervene and response on the appellant, the Office of the Solicitor and any other person named in the decision (43 CFR 4.472(b)).



Timothy J. Wilson
Casper Field Manager

7/1/2014
Date

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Decision Record
DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA
July 2016

Platte County Custodial Allotments Grazing Lease Renewal

Casper Field Office
2987 Prospector Drive
Casper, Wyoming 82604-2968



Selected Alternative

It is my proposed decision to implement the proposed action, renewal of lease with modification as described in the attached Environmental Assessment (DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA) and the attendant Finding of No Significant Impact for authorization of livestock grazing use on the Lower Palmer Canyon (00352) allotment with a term of 10 years.

Specifically, the proposed decision is to offer a new 10-year term grazing lease to the lessee for public lands located within the Lower Palmer Canyon (00352) allotment. Under this proposed action, the allotment would have the authorization to be grazed by cattle, horses, goats, sheep, and/or indigenous livestock up to the AUM's available in each lease. The standard terms and conditions as per 43 CFR 4100 will be applied to the lease. The following additional conditions will be placed on the lease to address assessment of rangeland health and threatened and endangered species:

- The terms and conditions of your lease may be modified if additional information indicates that revision is necessary to conform with 43 CFR 4180.
- Placement of salt, mineral or forage supplements for livestock is not allowed within ¼ mile of water, wetlands, and riparian areas, unless written analysis shows that watershed, riparian, wetland, wildlife, and vegetation values will not be adversely impacted. Forage supplements are required to be “certified weed free.
- The grazing allotments may contain delineated General Habitat Management Areas for the Greater sage-grouse. In order to effectively manage the annual and long-term influences of grazing and conserve sage-grouse habitats, grazing management will incorporate recommendations as discussed in the publication titled “Grazing Influence, Management, and Objective Development in Wyoming’s Greater Sage Grouse Habitat”, as provided for in IB – WY-2010-022 as recommended by the ARMPA. The primary objective of grazing management would be “to ensure appropriately timed grazing with moderate utilization levels (as described in the Wyoming Rangeland Monitoring Guide) will maintain the preferred Sagebrush/Bunchgrass plant community, and will promote plant vigor and sage-grouse values in less-preferred Sagebrush/Rhizomatous-Bluegrass transitional states.”

Mitigation Measures

- The amount of forage utilized by livestock on the public lands during the grazing year will not exceed the 6 AUM's of forage authorized by the grazing lease.
- Supervision and monitoring of this allotment will follow BLM policy and

management guidelines and the Casper Field Office Monitoring Plan.

- The terms and conditions of your lease may be modified if additional information indicates that revision is necessary to conform to 43 CFR 4180
- Placement of salt, mineral or forage supplements for livestock is not allowed within ¼ mile of water, wetlands, and riparian areas, unless written analysis shows that watershed, riparian, wetland, wildlife, and vegetative values will not be adversely impacted. Forage supplements are required to be 'certified weed-free.
- If any surface disturbing activities are proposed in the allotment they will require cultural and wildlife inventories prior to the work being done.
- If noxious weeds or invasive plant species are discovered on public lands they will be aggressively treated using an integrated pesticide management approach to control their spread.
- The lessees shall immediately notify the BLM Authorized Officer of any paleontological resources discovered as a result of operations under this authorization. The lessees shall suspend all activities in the vicinity of such discovery until notified to proceed by the Authorized Officer and shall protect the discovery from damage or looting. The lessees may not be required to suspend all operations if activities can be adjusted to avoid further impacts to a discovered locality or be continued elsewhere. The Authorized Officer will evaluate, or will have evaluated, such discoveries as soon as possible, but not later than 10 working days after being notified. Appropriate measures to mitigate adverse effects to significant paleontological resources will be determined by the Authorized Officer after consulting with the lessee. Within 10 days, the operator will be allowed to continue grazing, or will be given the choice of either (1) following the Authorized Officer's instructions for stabilizing the fossil resource in place and avoiding further disturbance to the fossil resource, or (2) following the Authorized Officer's instructions for mitigating impacts to the fossil resource prior to continuing grazing.
- All persons in the area who are associated with this project are informed that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are uncovered during grazing, the lessee is to immediately stop work that might further disturb such materials, and contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the lessee as to:
 - whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places;
 - the mitigation measures the lessee will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary); and,

- a timeframe for the AO to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800.11 to confirm, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, that the findings of the AO are correct and that mitigation is appropriate. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation.
- Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the lessee will then be allowed to resume construction measures.
- To minimize fence collisions by wildlife, hazard fences should be identified, modified and fence markers installed on or with in BLM lands

Authorities

Statutory authorities for this decision are contained in the Taylor Grazing Act of June 28, 1934, as amended (43 U.S.C. 315 through 315r), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976, as amended (Pub. L. 940579); 90 Stat.2743; 43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), and Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Subpart 4100.

Plan Conformance and Consistency

Pursuant to 40 CFR 1508.28 and 1502.21, the EA referenced tiers to and incorporates by reference the information and analysis contained in the PROPOSED Resource Management Plan and FINAL Environmental Impact Statement for the Casper Field Office, the Record of Decision and Approved Casper Resource Management Plan signed in December 2007 as amended by the Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan Amendments for the Rocky Mountain Region, Including the Greater Sage-Grouse Sub-Regions of Lewistown, North Dakota, Northwest Colorado, Wyoming, and the Approved Resource Management Plans for Billings, Buffalo, Cody, HiLine, Miles City, Pompeys Pillar National Monument, South Dakota, Worland: Casper, Kemmerer, Newcastle, Pinedale, Rawlins, and Rock Springs Field Offices Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment for Greater Sage-Grouse. The EA is in conformance and consistent with the referenced Casper RMP and Amendment.

Alternatives Considered

A No Action alternative was considered and analyzed alongside the proposed action to provide a baseline.

No other alternative was considered in the EA.

Public Involvement

No public outreach was needed due to the small amount of BLM administered lands in Platte County.

Rationale for Decision

I have reviewed the Environmental Assessment and the attendant FONSI (DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA) for offering a new 10-year term grazing lease for public lands located in the Lower Palmer Canyon (00352) allotment. Conditioned through mitigation measures, I find that this action will not result in significant impacts on the human environment pursuant to Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations 1508.27 (a) and (b) (1) through (10) and that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. I have determined that the proposed action, renewal of lease with modification, is in conformance with the Record of Decision and Approved Casper Resource Management Plan dated December 7, 2007 and amendments and will not cause unnecessary or undue degradation.

Right of Protest and/or Appeal

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other interested public may protest a proposed decision under 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 4160.2 in person or in writing to the Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604 within 15 days after receipt of such decision. The BLM will not consider any protests filed after 15 days of receipt. The protest, if filed, should clearly and concisely state the reason(s) why the proposed decision is in error. All reasons for error not stated in the protest shall be considered waived.

In accordance with 43 CFR 4160.3 (a), in the absence of a protest, the proposed decision will become the final decision of the authorized officer without further notice unless otherwise provided in the proposed decision.

In accordance with 43 CFR 4160.3 (b) upon a timely filing of a protest, after a review of protests received and other information pertinent to the case, the authorized officer shall issue a final decision.

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other person whose interest is adversely affected by the final decision may file an appeal in accordance with 43 CFR 4.470 and 43 CFR 4160.3 and 4160.4. The appeal must be filed within 30 days following receipt of the final decision, or within 30 days after the date the proposed decision becomes final. The appeal may be accompanied by a petition for a stay of the decision pending appeal, in accordance with 43 CFR 4.471. The appeal and petition for a stay must be filed or in writing to the Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604. The appellant must serve a copy of the appeal by certified mail on the Office of the Field Solicitor, Rocky Mountain Region, and 755 Parfet Street Suite 151, Lakewood, Colorado, 80215 and person(s) named [43 CFR 4.421(h)] in the Copies sent to: section of this decision.

The appeal must clearly and concisely state the reasons why the appellant thinks the final decision is wrong and must otherwise comply with the provisions of 43 CFR 4.470.

Standards for Obtaining a Stay

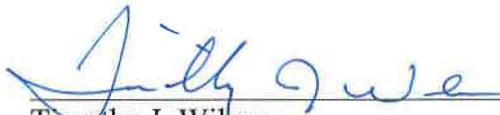
Should you wish to file a petition for a stay, you must comply with the provisions at 43 CFR 4.471. Among other things, that regulation requires that a petition for a stay show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

- (1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied.
- (2) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits.
- (3) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted,

and

- (4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

Any person named in the decision from which an appeal is taken who wishes to file a response to the petition for a stay may file with the Hearings Division a motion to intervene in the appeal, together with the response, within 10 days after receiving the petition. The person must serve copies of the motion to intervene and response on the appellant, the Office of the Solicitor and any other person named in the decision (43 CFR 4.472(b)).



Timothy J. Wilson
Casper Field Manager

7/1/2014
Date

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Decision Record
DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA
July 2016

Platte County Custodial Allotments Grazing Lease Renewal

Casper Field Office
2987 Prospector Drive
Casper, Wyoming 82604-2968



Selected Alternative

It is my proposed decision to implement the proposed action, renewal of lease with modification as described in the attached Environmental Assessment (DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA) and the attendant Finding of No Significant Impact for authorization of livestock grazing use on the Devils Washtub (00374) allotment with a term of 10 years.

Specifically, the proposed decision is to offer a new 10-year term grazing lease to the lessee for public lands located within the Devils Washtub (00374) allotment. Under this proposed action, the allotment would have the authorization to be grazed by cattle, horses, goats, sheep, and/or indigenous livestock up to the AUM's available in each lease. The standard terms and conditions as per 43 CFR 4100 will be applied to the lease. The following additional conditions will be placed on the lease to address assessment of rangeland health and threatened and endangered species:

- The terms and conditions of your lease may be modified if additional information indicates that revision is necessary to conform with 43 CFR 4180.
- Placement of salt, mineral or forage supplements for livestock is not allowed within ¼ mile of water, wetlands, and riparian areas, unless written analysis shows that watershed, riparian, wetland, wildlife, and vegetation values will not be adversely impacted. Forage supplements are required to be “certified weed free.
- The grazing allotments may contain delineated General Habitat Management Areas for the Greater sage-grouse. In order to effectively manage the annual and long-term influences of grazing and conserve sage-grouse habitats, grazing management will incorporate recommendations as discussed in the publication titled “Grazing Influence, Management, and Objective Development in Wyoming’s Greater Sage Grouse Habitat”, as provided for in IB – WY-2010-022 as recommended by the ARMPA. The primary objective of grazing management would be “to ensure appropriately timed grazing with moderate utilization levels (as described in the Wyoming Rangeland Monitoring Guide) will maintain the preferred Sagebrush/Bunchgrass plant community, and will promote plant vigor and sage-grouse values in less-preferred Sagebrush/Rhizomatous-Bluegrass transitional states.”

Mitigation Measures

- The amount of forage utilized by livestock on the public lands during the grazing year will not exceed the 53 AUM's of forage authorized by the grazing lease.
- Supervision and monitoring of this allotment will follow BLM policy and

management guidelines and the Casper Field Office Monitoring Plan.

- The terms and conditions of your lease may be modified if additional information indicates that revision is necessary to conform to 43 CFR 4180
- Placement of salt, mineral or forage supplements for livestock is not allowed within ¼ mile of water, wetlands, and riparian areas, unless written analysis shows that watershed, riparian, wetland, wildlife, and vegetative values will not be adversely impacted. Forage supplements are required to be 'certified weed-free.
- If any surface disturbing activities are proposed in the allotment they will require cultural and wildlife inventories prior to the work being done.
- If noxious weeds or invasive plant species are discovered on public lands they will be aggressively treated using an integrated pesticide management approach to control their spread.
- The lessees shall immediately notify the BLM Authorized Officer of any paleontological resources discovered as a result of operations under this authorization. The lessees shall suspend all activities in the vicinity of such discovery until notified to proceed by the Authorized Officer and shall protect the discovery from damage or looting. The lessees may not be required to suspend all operations if activities can be adjusted to avoid further impacts to a discovered locality or be continued elsewhere. The Authorized Officer will evaluate, or will have evaluated, such discoveries as soon as possible, but not later than 10 working days after being notified. Appropriate measures to mitigate adverse effects to significant paleontological resources will be determined by the Authorized Officer after consulting with the lessee. Within 10 days, the operator will be allowed to continue grazing, or will be given the choice of either (1) following the Authorized Officer's instructions for stabilizing the fossil resource in place and avoiding further disturbance to the fossil resource, or (2) following the Authorized Officer's instructions for mitigating impacts to the fossil resource prior to continuing grazing.
- All persons in the area who are associated with this project are informed that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are uncovered during grazing, the lessee is to immediately stop work that might further disturb such materials, and contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the lessee as to:
 - whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places;
 - the mitigation measures the lessee will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary); and,

- a timeframe for the AO to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800.11 to confirm, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, that the findings of the AO are correct and that mitigation is appropriate. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation.
- Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the lessee will then be allowed to resume construction measures.
- To minimize fence collisions by wildlife, hazard fences should be identified, modified and fence markers installed on or with in BLM lands

Authorities

Statutory authorities for this decision are contained in the Taylor Grazing Act of June 28, 1934, as amended (43 U.S.C. 315 through 315r), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976, as amended (Pub. L. 940579); 90 Stat.2743; 43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), and Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Subpart 4100.

Plan Conformance and Consistency

Pursuant to 40 CFR 1508.28 and 1502.21, the EA referenced tiers to and incorporates by reference the information and analysis contained in the PROPOSED Resource Management Plan and FINAL Environmental Impact Statement for the Casper Field Office, the Record of Decision and Approved Casper Resource Management Plan signed in December 2007 as amended by the Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan Amendments for the Rocky Mountain Region, Including the Greater Sage-Grouse Sub-Regions of Lewistown, North Dakota, Northwest Colorado, Wyoming, and the Approved Resource Management Plans for Billings, Buffalo, Cody, HiLine, Miles City, Pompeys Pillar National Monument, South Dakota, Worland: Casper, Kemmerer, Newcastle, Pinedale, Rawlins, and Rock Springs Field Offices Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment for Greater Sage-Grouse. The EA is in conformance and consistent with the referenced Casper RMP and Amendment.

Alternatives Considered

A No Action alternative was considered and analyzed alongside the proposed action to provide a baseline.

No other alternative was considered in the EA.

Public Involvement

No public outreach was needed due to the small amount of BLM administered lands in Platte County.

Rationale for Decision

I have reviewed the Environmental Assessment and the attendant FONSI (DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA) for offering a new 10-year term grazing lease for public lands located in the Devils Washtub (00374) allotment. Conditioned through mitigation measures, I find that this action will not result in significant impacts on the human environment pursuant to Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations 1508.27 (a) and (b) (1) through (10) and that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. I have determined that the proposed action, renewal of lease with modification, is in conformance with the Record of Decision and Approved Casper Resource Management Plan dated December 7, 2007 and amendments and will not cause unnecessary or undue degradation.

Right of Protest and/or Appeal

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other interested publics may protest a proposed decision under 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 4160.2 in person or in writing to the Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604 within 15 days after receipt of such decision. The BLM will not consider any protests filed after 15 days of receipt. The protest, if filed, should clearly and concisely state the reason(s) why the proposed decision is in error. All reasons for error not stated in the protest shall be considered waived.

In accordance with 43 CFR 4160.3 (a), in the absence of a protest, the proposed decision will become the final decision of the authorized officer without further notice unless otherwise provided in the proposed decision.

In accordance with 43 CFR 4160.3 (b) upon a timely filing of a protest, after a review of protests received and other information pertinent to the case, the authorized officer shall issue a final decision.

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other person whose interest is adversely affected by the final decision may file an appeal in accordance with 43 CFR 4.470 and 43 CFR 4160.3 and 4160.4. The appeal must be filed within 30 days following receipt of the final decision, or within 30 days after the date the proposed decision becomes final. The appeal may be accompanied by a petition for a stay of the decision pending appeal, in accordance with 43 CFR 4.471. The appeal and petition for a stay must be filed or in writing to the Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604. The appellant must serve a copy of the appeal by certified mail on the Office of the Field Solicitor, Rocky Mountain Region, and 755 Parfet Street Suite 151, Lakewood, Colorado, 80215 and person(s) named [43 CFR 4.421(h)] in the Copies sent to: section of this decision.

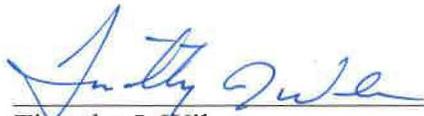
The appeal must clearly and concisely state the reasons why the appellant thinks the final decision is wrong and must otherwise comply with the provisions of 43 CFR 4.470.

Standards for Obtaining a Stay

Should you wish to file a petition for a stay, you must comply with the provisions at 43 CFR 4.471. Among other things, that regulation requires that a petition for a stay show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

- (1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied.
 - (2) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits.
 - (3) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted,
- and
- (4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

Any person named in the decision from which an appeal is taken who wishes to file a response to the petition for a stay may file with the Hearings Division a motion to intervene in the appeal, together with the response, within 10 days after receiving the petition. The person must serve copies of the motion to intervene and response on the appellant, the Office of the Solicitor and any other person named in the decision (43 CFR 4.472(b)).



Timothy J. Wilson
Casper Field Manager

7/1/2016

Date

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Decision Record
DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA
July 2016

Platte County Custodial Allotments Grazing Lease Renewal

Casper Field Office
2987 Prospector Drive
Casper, Wyoming 82604-2968



Selected Alternative

It is my proposed decision to implement the proposed action, renewal of lease with modification as described in the attached Environmental Assessment (DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA) and the attendant Finding of No Significant Impact for authorization of livestock grazing use on the Camp Guernsey (00271) allotment with a term of 10 years.

Specifically, the proposed decision is to offer a new 10-year term grazing lease to the lessee for public lands located within the Camp Guernsey (00271) allotment. Under this proposed action, the allotment would have the authorization to be grazed by cattle, horses, goats, sheep, and/or indigenous livestock up to the AUM's available in each lease. The standard terms and conditions as per 43 CFR 4100 will be applied to the lease. The following additional conditions will be placed on the lease to address assessment of rangeland health and threatened and endangered species:

- The terms and conditions of your lease may be modified if additional information indicates that revision is necessary to conform with 43 CFR 4180.
- Placement of salt, mineral or forage supplements for livestock is not allowed within ¼ mile of water, wetlands, and riparian areas, unless written analysis shows that watershed, riparian, wetland, wildlife, and vegetation values will not be adversely impacted. Forage supplements are required to be “certified weed free.
- The grazing allotments may contain delineated General Habitat Management Areas for the Greater sage-grouse. In order to effectively manage the annual and long-term influences of grazing and conserve sage-grouse habitats, grazing management will incorporate recommendations as discussed in the publication titled “Grazing Influence, Management, and Objective Development in Wyoming’s Greater Sage Grouse Habitat”, as provided for in IB – WY-2010-022 as recommended by the ARMPA. The primary objective of grazing management would be “to ensure appropriately timed grazing with moderate utilization levels (as described in the Wyoming Rangeland Monitoring Guide) will maintain the preferred Sagebrush/Bunchgrass plant community, and will promote plant vigor and sage-grouse values in less-preferred Sagebrush/Rhizomatous-Bluegrass transitional states.”

Mitigation Measures

- The amount of forage utilized by livestock on the public lands during the grazing year will not exceed the 13 AUM's of forage authorized by the grazing lease.
- Supervision and monitoring of this allotment will follow BLM policy and

management guidelines and the Casper Field Office Monitoring Plan.

- The terms and conditions of your lease may be modified if additional information indicates that revision is necessary to conform to 43 CFR 4180
- Placement of salt, mineral or forage supplements for livestock is not allowed within ¼ mile of water, wetlands, and riparian areas, unless written analysis shows that watershed, riparian, wetland, wildlife, and vegetative values will not be adversely impacted. Forage supplements are required to be 'certified weed-free.
- If any surface disturbing activities are proposed in the allotment they will require cultural and wildlife inventories prior to the work being done.
- If noxious weeds or invasive plant species are discovered on public lands they will be aggressively treated using an integrated pesticide management approach to control their spread.
- The lessees shall immediately notify the BLM Authorized Officer of any paleontological resources discovered as a result of operations under this authorization. The lessees shall suspend all activities in the vicinity of such discovery until notified to proceed by the Authorized Officer and shall protect the discovery from damage or looting. The lessees may not be required to suspend all operations if activities can be adjusted to avoid further impacts to a discovered locality or be continued elsewhere. The Authorized Officer will evaluate, or will have evaluated, such discoveries as soon as possible, but not later than 10 working days after being notified. Appropriate measures to mitigate adverse effects to significant paleontological resources will be determined by the Authorized Officer after consulting with the lessee. Within 10 days, the operator will be allowed to continue grazing, or will be given the choice of either (1) following the Authorized Officer's instructions for stabilizing the fossil resource in place and avoiding further disturbance to the fossil resource, or (2) following the Authorized Officer's instructions for mitigating impacts to the fossil resource prior to continuing grazing.
- All persons in the area who are associated with this project are informed that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are uncovered during grazing, the lessee is to immediately stop work that might further disturb such materials, and contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the lessee as to:
 - whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places;
 - the mitigation measures the lessee will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary); and,

- a timeframe for the AO to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800.11 to confirm, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, that the findings of the AO are correct and that mitigation is appropriate. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation.
- Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the lessee will then be allowed to resume construction measures.
- To minimize fence collisions by wildlife, hazard fences should be identified, modified and fence markers installed on or with in BLM lands

Authorities

Statutory authorities for this decision are contained in the Taylor Grazing Act of June 28, 1934, as amended (43 U.S.C. 315 through 315r), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976, as amended (Pub. L. 940579); 90 Stat.2743; 43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), and Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Subpart 4100.

Plan Conformance and Consistency

Pursuant to 40 CFR 1508.28 and 1502.21, the EA referenced tiers to and incorporates by reference the information and analysis contained in the PROPOSED Resource Management Plan and FINAL Environmental Impact Statement for the Casper Field Office, the Record of Decision and Approved Casper Resource Management Plan signed in December 2007 as amended by the Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan Amendments for the Rocky Mountain Region, Including the Greater Sage-Grouse Sub-Regions of Lewistown, North Dakota, Northwest Colorado, Wyoming, and the Approved Resource Management Plans for Billings, Buffalo, Cody, HiLine, Miles City, Pompeys Pillar National Monument, South Dakota, Worland: Casper, Kemmerer, Newcastle, Pinedale, Rawlins, and Rock Springs Field Offices Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment for Greater Sage-Grouse. The EA is in conformance and consistent with the referenced Casper RMP and Amendment.

Alternatives Considered

A No Action alternative was considered and analyzed alongside the proposed action to provide a baseline.

No other alternative was considered in the EA.

Public Involvement

No public outreach was needed due to the small amount of BLM administered lands in Platte County.

Rationale for Decision

I have reviewed the Environmental Assessment and the attendant FONSI (DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA) for offering a new 10-year term grazing lease for public lands located in the Camp Guernsey (00271) allotment. Conditioned through mitigation measures, I find that this action will not result in significant impacts on the human environment pursuant to Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations 1508.27 (a) and (b) (1) through (10) and that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. I have determined that the proposed action, renewal of lease with modification, is in conformance with the Record of Decision and Approved Casper Resource Management Plan dated December 7, 2007 and amendments and will not cause unnecessary or undue degradation.

Right of Protest and/or Appeal

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other interested public may protest a proposed decision under 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 4160.2 in person or in writing to the Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604 within 15 days after receipt of such decision. The BLM will not consider any protests filed after 15 days of receipt. The protest, if filed, should clearly and concisely state the reason(s) why the proposed decision is in error. All reasons for error not stated in the protest shall be considered waived.

In accordance with 43 CFR 4160.3 (a), in the absence of a protest, the proposed decision will become the final decision of the authorized officer without further notice unless otherwise provided in the proposed decision.

In accordance with 43 CFR 4160.3 (b) upon a timely filing of a protest, after a review of protests received and other information pertinent to the case, the authorized officer shall issue a final decision.

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other person whose interest is adversely affected by the final decision may file an appeal in accordance with 43 CFR 4.470 and 43 CFR 4160.3 and 4160.4. The appeal must be filed within 30 days following receipt of the final decision, or within 30 days after the date the proposed decision becomes final. The appeal may be accompanied by a petition for a stay of the decision pending appeal, in accordance with 43 CFR 4.471. The appeal and petition for a stay must be filed or in writing to the Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604. The appellant must serve a copy of the appeal by certified mail on the Office of the Field Solicitor, Rocky Mountain Region, and 755 Parfet Street Suite 151, Lakewood, Colorado, 80215 and person(s) named [43 CFR 4.421(h)] in the Copies sent to: section of this decision.

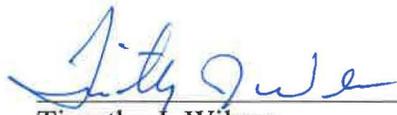
The appeal must clearly and concisely state the reasons why the appellant thinks the final decision is wrong and must otherwise comply with the provisions of 43 CFR 4.470.

Standards for Obtaining a Stay

Should you wish to file a petition for a stay, you must comply with the provisions at 43 CFR 4.471. Among other things, that regulation requires that a petition for a stay show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

- (1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied.
 - (2) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits.
 - (3) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted,
- and
- (4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

Any person named in the decision from which an appeal is taken who wishes to file a response to the petition for a stay may file with the Hearings Division a motion to intervene in the appeal, together with the response, within 10 days after receiving the petition. The person must serve copies of the motion to intervene and response on the appellant, the Office of the Solicitor and any other person named in the decision (43 CFR 4.472(b)).



Timothy J. Wilson
Casper Field Manager

7/1/2016
Date

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Decision Record
DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA
July 2016

Platte County Custodial Allotments Grazing Lease Renewal

Casper Field Office
2987 Prospector Drive
Casper, Wyoming 82604-2968



Selected Alternative

It is my proposed decision to implement the proposed action, renewal of lease with modification as described in the attached Environmental Assessment (DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA) and the attendant Finding of No Significant Impact for authorization of livestock grazing use on the Chugwater Creek (00250) allotment with a term of 10 years.

Specifically, the proposed decision is to offer a new 10-year term grazing lease to the lessee for public lands located within the Chugwater Creek (00250) allotment. Under this proposed action, the allotment would have the authorization to be grazed by cattle, horses, goats, sheep, and/or indigenous livestock up to the AUM's available in each lease. The standard terms and conditions as per 43 CFR 4100 will be applied to the lease. The following additional conditions will be placed on the lease to address assessment of rangeland health and threatened and endangered species:

- The terms and conditions of your lease may be modified if additional information indicates that revision is necessary to conform with 43 CFR 4180.
- Placement of salt, mineral or forage supplements for livestock is not allowed within ¼ mile of water, wetlands, and riparian areas, unless written analysis shows that watershed, riparian, wetland, wildlife, and vegetation values will not be adversely impacted. Forage supplements are required to be “certified weed free.
- The grazing allotments may contain delineated General Habitat Management Areas for the Greater sage-grouse. In order to effectively manage the annual and long-term influences of grazing and conserve sage-grouse habitats, grazing management will incorporate recommendations as discussed in the publication titled “Grazing Influence, Management, and Objective Development in Wyoming’s Greater Sage Grouse Habitat”, as provided for in IB – WY-2010-022 as recommended by the ARMPA. The primary objective of grazing management would be “to ensure appropriately timed grazing with moderate utilization levels (as described in the Wyoming Rangeland Monitoring Guide) will maintain the preferred Sagebrush/Bunchgrass plant community, and will promote plant vigor and sage-grouse values in less-preferred Sagebrush/Rhizomatous-Bluegrass transitional states.”

Mitigation Measures

- The amount of forage utilized by livestock on the public lands during the grazing year will not exceed the 27 AUM's of forage authorized by the grazing lease.
- Supervision and monitoring of this allotment will follow BLM policy and

management guidelines and the Casper Field Office Monitoring Plan.

- The terms and conditions of your lease may be modified if additional information indicates that revision is necessary to conform to 43 CFR 4180
- Placement of salt, mineral or forage supplements for livestock is not allowed within ¼ mile of water, wetlands, and riparian areas, unless written analysis shows that watershed, riparian, wetland, wildlife, and vegetative values will not be adversely impacted. Forage supplements are required to be 'certified weed-free.
- If any surface disturbing activities are proposed in the allotment they will require cultural and wildlife inventories prior to the work being done.
- If noxious weeds or invasive plant species are discovered on public lands they will be aggressively treated using an integrated pesticide management approach to control their spread.
- The lessees shall immediately notify the BLM Authorized Officer of any paleontological resources discovered as a result of operations under this authorization. The lessees shall suspend all activities in the vicinity of such discovery until notified to proceed by the Authorized Officer and shall protect the discovery from damage or looting. The lessees may not be required to suspend all operations if activities can be adjusted to avoid further impacts to a discovered locality or be continued elsewhere. The Authorized Officer will evaluate, or will have evaluated, such discoveries as soon as possible, but not later than 10 working days after being notified. Appropriate measures to mitigate adverse effects to significant paleontological resources will be determined by the Authorized Officer after consulting with the lessee. Within 10 days, the operator will be allowed to continue grazing, or will be given the choice of either (1) following the Authorized Officer's instructions for stabilizing the fossil resource in place and avoiding further disturbance to the fossil resource, or (2) following the Authorized Officer's instructions for mitigating impacts to the fossil resource prior to continuing grazing.
- All persons in the area who are associated with this project are informed that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are uncovered during grazing, the lessee is to immediately stop work that might further disturb such materials, and contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the lessee as to:
 - whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places;
 - the mitigation measures the lessee will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary); and,

- a timeframe for the AO to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800.11 to confirm, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, that the findings of the AO are correct and that mitigation is appropriate. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation.
- Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the lessee will then be allowed to resume construction measures.
- To minimize fence collisions by wildlife, hazard fences should be identified, modified and fence markers installed on or with in BLM lands

Authorities

Statutory authorities for this decision are contained in the Taylor Grazing Act of June 28, 1934, as amended (43 U.S.C. 315 through 315r), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976, as amended (Pub. L. 940579); 90 Stat.2743; 43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), and Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Subpart 4100.

Plan Conformance and Consistency

Pursuant to 40 CFR 1508.28 and 1502.21, the EA referenced tiers to and incorporates by reference the information and analysis contained in the PROPOSED Resource Management Plan and FINAL Environmental Impact Statement for the Casper Field Office, the Record of Decision and Approved Casper Resource Management Plan signed in December 2007 as amended by the Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan Amendments for the Rocky Mountain Region, Including the Greater Sage-Grouse Sub-Regions of Lewistown, North Dakota, Northwest Colorado, Wyoming, and the Approved Resource Management Plans for Billings, Buffalo, Cody, HiLine, Miles City, Pompeys Pillar National Monument, South Dakota, Worland: Casper, Kemmerer, Newcastle, Pinedale, Rawlins, and Rock Springs Field Offices Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment for Greater Sage-Grouse. The EA is in conformance and consistent with the referenced Casper RMP and Amendment.

Alternatives Considered

A No Action alternative was considered and analyzed alongside the proposed action to provide a baseline.

No other alternative was considered in the EA.

Public Involvement

No public outreach was needed due to the small amount of BLM administered lands in Platte County.

Rationale for Decision

I have reviewed the Environmental Assessment and the attendant FONSI (DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA) for offering a new 10-year term grazing lease for public lands located in the Chugwater Creek (00250) allotment. Conditioned through mitigation measures, I find that this action will not result in significant impacts on the human environment pursuant to Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations 1508.27 (a) and (b) (1) through (10) and that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. I have determined that the proposed action, renewal of lease with modification, is in conformance with the Record of Decision and Approved Casper Resource Management Plan dated December 7, 2007 and amendments and will not cause unnecessary or undue degradation.

Right of Protest and/or Appeal

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other interested publics may protest a proposed decision under 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 4160.2 in person or in writing to the Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604 within 15 days after receipt of such decision. The BLM will not consider any protests filed after 15 days of receipt. The protest, if filed, should clearly and concisely state the reason(s) why the proposed decision is in error. All reasons for error not stated in the protest shall be considered waived.

In accordance with 43 CFR 4160.3 (a), in the absence of a protest, the proposed decision will become the final decision of the authorized officer without further notice unless otherwise provided in the proposed decision.

In accordance with 43 CFR 4160.3 (b) upon a timely filing of a protest, after a review of protests received and other information pertinent to the case, the authorized officer shall issue a final decision.

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other person whose interest is adversely affected by the final decision may file an appeal in accordance with 43 CFR 4.470 and 43 CFR 4160.3 and 4160.4. The appeal must be filed within 30 days following receipt of the final decision, or within 30 days after the date the proposed decision becomes final. The appeal may be accompanied by a petition for a stay of the decision pending appeal, in accordance with 43 CFR 4.471. The appeal and petition for a stay must be filed or in writing to the Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604. The appellant must serve a copy of the appeal by certified mail on the Office of the Field Solicitor, Rocky Mountain Region, and 755 Parfet Street Suite 151, Lakewood, Colorado, 80215 and person(s) named [43 CFR 4.421(h)] in the Copies sent to: section of this decision.

The appeal must clearly and concisely state the reasons why the appellant thinks the final decision is wrong and must otherwise comply with the provisions of 43 CFR 4.470.

Standards for Obtaining a Stay

Should you wish to file a petition for a stay, you must comply with the provisions at 43 CFR 4.471. Among other things, that regulation requires that a petition for a stay show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

- (1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied.
 - (2) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits.
 - (3) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted,
- and
- (4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

Any person named in the decision from which an appeal is taken who wishes to file a response to the petition for a stay may file with the Hearings Division a motion to intervene in the appeal, together with the response, within 10 days after receiving the petition. The person must serve copies of the motion to intervene and response on the appellant, the Office of the Solicitor and any other person named in the decision (43 CFR 4.472(b)).



Timothy J. Wilson
Casper Field Manager



Date

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Decision Record
DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA
July 2016

Platte County Custodial Allotments Grazing Lease Renewal

Casper Field Office
2987 Prospector Drive
Casper, Wyoming 82604-2968



Selected Alternative

It is my proposed decision to implement the proposed action, renewal of lease with modification as described in the attached Environmental Assessment (DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA) and the attendant Finding of No Significant Impact for authorization of livestock grazing use on the Chugwater Creek 2 (10446) allotment with a term of 10 years.

Specifically, the proposed decision is to offer a new 10-year term grazing lease to the lessee for public lands located within the Chugwater Creek 2 (10446) allotment. Under this proposed action, the allotment would have the authorization to be grazed by cattle, horses, goats, sheep, and/or indigenous livestock up to the AUM's available in each lease. The standard terms and conditions as per 43 CFR 4100 will be applied to the lease. The following additional conditions will be placed on the lease to address assessment of rangeland health and threatened and endangered species:

- The terms and conditions of your lease may be modified if additional information indicates that revision is necessary to conform with 43 CFR 4180.
- Placement of salt, mineral or forage supplements for livestock is not allowed within ¼ mile of water, wetlands, and riparian areas, unless written analysis shows that watershed, riparian, wetland, wildlife, and vegetation values will not be adversely impacted. Forage supplements are required to be “certified weed free.
- The grazing allotments may contain delineated General Habitat Management Areas for the Greater sage-grouse. In order to effectively manage the annual and long-term influences of grazing and conserve sage-grouse habitats, grazing management will incorporate recommendations as discussed in the publication titled “Grazing Influence, Management, and Objective Development in Wyoming’s Greater Sage Grouse Habitat”, as provided for in IB – WY-2010-022 as recommended by the ARMPA. The primary objective of grazing management would be “to ensure appropriately timed grazing with moderate utilization levels (as described in the Wyoming Rangeland Monitoring Guide) will maintain the preferred Sagebrush/Bunchgrass plant community, and will promote plant vigor and sage-grouse values in less-preferred Sagebrush/Rhizomatous-Bluegrass transitional states.”

Mitigation Measures

- The amount of forage utilized by livestock on the public lands during the grazing year will not exceed the 4 AUM's of forage authorized by the grazing lease.
- Supervision and monitoring of this allotment will follow BLM policy and

management guidelines and the Casper Field Office Monitoring Plan.

- The terms and conditions of your lease may be modified if additional information indicates that revision is necessary to conform to 43 CFR 4180
- Placement of salt, mineral or forage supplements for livestock is not allowed within ¼ mile of water, wetlands, and riparian areas, unless written analysis shows that watershed, riparian, wetland, wildlife, and vegetative values will not be adversely impacted. Forage supplements are required to be 'certified weed-free.
- If any surface disturbing activities are proposed in the allotment they will require cultural and wildlife inventories prior to the work being done.
- If noxious weeds or invasive plant species are discovered on public lands they will be aggressively treated using an integrated pesticide management approach to control their spread.
- The lessees shall immediately notify the BLM Authorized Officer of any paleontological resources discovered as a result of operations under this authorization. The lessees shall suspend all activities in the vicinity of such discovery until notified to proceed by the Authorized Officer and shall protect the discovery from damage or looting. The lessees may not be required to suspend all operations if activities can be adjusted to avoid further impacts to a discovered locality or be continued elsewhere. The Authorized Officer will evaluate, or will have evaluated, such discoveries as soon as possible, but not later than 10 working days after being notified. Appropriate measures to mitigate adverse effects to significant paleontological resources will be determined by the Authorized Officer after consulting with the lessee. Within 10 days, the operator will be allowed to continue grazing, or will be given the choice of either (1) following the Authorized Officer's instructions for stabilizing the fossil resource in place and avoiding further disturbance to the fossil resource, or (2) following the Authorized Officer's instructions for mitigating impacts to the fossil resource prior to continuing grazing.
- All persons in the area who are associated with this project are informed that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are uncovered during grazing, the lessee is to immediately stop work that might further disturb such materials, and contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the lessee as to:
 - whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places;
 - the mitigation measures the lessee will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary); and,

- a timeframe for the AO to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800.11 to confirm, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, that the findings of the AO are correct and that mitigation is appropriate. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation.
- Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the lessee will then be allowed to resume construction measures.
- To minimize fence collisions by wildlife, hazard fences should be identified, modified and fence markers installed on or with in BLM lands

Authorities

Statutory authorities for this decision are contained in the Taylor Grazing Act of June 28, 1934, as amended (43 U.S.C. 315 through 315r), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976, as amended (Pub. L. 940579); 90 Stat.2743; 43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), and Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Subpart 4100.

Plan Conformance and Consistency

Pursuant to 40 CFR 1508.28 and 1502.21, the EA referenced tiers to and incorporates by reference the information and analysis contained in the PROPOSED Resource Management Plan and FINAL Environmental Impact Statement for the Casper Field Office, the Record of Decision and Approved Casper Resource Management Plan signed in December 2007 as amended by the Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan Amendments for the Rocky Mountain Region, Including the Greater Sage-Grouse Sub-Regions of Lewistown, North Dakota, Northwest Colorado, Wyoming, and the Approved Resource Management Plans for Billings, Buffalo, Cody, HiLine, Miles City, Pompeys Pillar National Monument, South Dakota, Worland: Casper, Kemmerer, Newcastle, Pinedale, Rawlins, and Rock Springs Field Offices Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment for Greater Sage-Grouse. The EA is in conformance and consistent with the referenced Casper RMP and Amendment.

Alternatives Considered

A No Action alternative was considered and analyzed alongside the proposed action to provide a baseline.

No other alternative was considered in the EA.

Public Involvement

No public outreach was needed due to the small amount of BLM administered lands in Platte County.

Rationale for Decision

I have reviewed the Environmental Assessment and the attendant FONSI (DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA) for offering a new 10-year term grazing lease for public lands located in the Chugwater Creek 2 (10446) allotment. Conditioned through mitigation measures, I find that this action will not result in significant impacts on the human environment pursuant to Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations 1508.27 (a) and (b) (1) through (10) and that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. I have determined that the proposed action, renewal of lease with modification, is in conformance with the Record of Decision and Approved Casper Resource Management Plan dated December 7, 2007 and amendments and will not cause unnecessary or undue degradation.

Right of Protest and/or Appeal

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other interested publics may protest a proposed decision under 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 4160.2 in person or in writing to the Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604 within 15 days after receipt of such decision. The BLM will not consider any protests filed after 15 days of receipt. The protest, if filed, should clearly and concisely state the reason(s) why the proposed decision is in error. All reasons for error not stated in the protest shall be considered waived.

In accordance with 43 CFR 4160.3 (a), in the absence of a protest, the proposed decision will become the final decision of the authorized officer without further notice unless otherwise provided in the proposed decision.

In accordance with 43 CFR 4160.3 (b) upon a timely filing of a protest, after a review of protests received and other information pertinent to the case, the authorized officer shall issue a final decision.

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other person whose interest is adversely affected by the final decision may file an appeal in accordance with 43 CFR 4.470 and 43 CFR 4160.3 and 4160.4. The appeal must be filed within 30 days following receipt of the final decision, or within 30 days after the date the proposed decision becomes final. The appeal may be accompanied by a petition for a stay of the decision pending appeal, in accordance with 43 CFR 4.471. The appeal and petition for a stay must be filed or in writing to the Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604. The appellant must serve a copy of the appeal by certified mail on the Office of the Field Solicitor, Rocky Mountain Region, and 755 Parfet Street Suite 151, Lakewood, Colorado, 80215 and person(s) named [43 CFR 4.421(h)] in the Copies sent to: section of this decision.

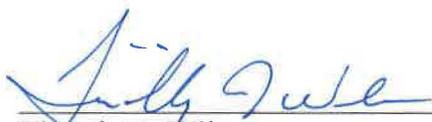
The appeal must clearly and concisely state the reasons why the appellant thinks the final decision is wrong and must otherwise comply with the provisions of 43 CFR 4.470.

Standards for Obtaining a Stay

Should you wish to file a petition for a stay, you must comply with the provisions at 43 CFR 4.471. Among other things, that regulation requires that a petition for a stay show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

- (1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied.
 - (2) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits.
 - (3) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted,
- and
- (4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

Any person named in the decision from which an appeal is taken who wishes to file a response to the petition for a stay may file with the Hearings Division a motion to intervene in the appeal, together with the response, within 10 days after receiving the petition. The person must serve copies of the motion to intervene and response on the appellant, the Office of the Solicitor and any other person named in the decision (43 CFR 4.472(b)).



Timothy J. Wilson
Casper Field Manager



Date

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Decision Record
DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA
July 2016

Platte County Custodial Allotments Grazing Lease Renewal

Casper Field Office
2987 Prospector Drive
Casper, Wyoming 82604-2968



Selected Alternative

It is my proposed decision to implement the proposed action, renewal of lease with modification as described in the attached Environmental Assessment (DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA) and the attendant Finding of No Significant Impact for authorization of livestock grazing use on the Dry Creek (00270) allotment with a term of 10 years.

Specifically, the proposed decision is to offer a new 10-year term grazing lease to the lessee for public lands located within the Dry Creek (00270) allotment. Under this proposed action, the allotment would have the authorization to be grazed by cattle, horses, goats, sheep, and/or indigenous livestock up to the AUM's available in each lease. The standard terms and conditions as per 43 CFR 4100 will be applied to the lease. The following additional conditions will be placed on the lease to address assessment of rangeland health and threatened and endangered species:

- The terms and conditions of your lease may be modified if additional information indicates that revision is necessary to conform with 43 CFR 4180.
- Placement of salt, mineral or forage supplements for livestock is not allowed within ¼ mile of water, wetlands, and riparian areas, unless written analysis shows that watershed, riparian, wetland, wildlife, and vegetation values will not be adversely impacted. Forage supplements are required to be “certified weed free.
- The grazing allotments may contain delineated General Habitat Management Areas for the Greater sage-grouse. In order to effectively manage the annual and long-term influences of grazing and conserve sage-grouse habitats, grazing management will incorporate recommendations as discussed in the publication titled “Grazing Influence, Management, and Objective Development in Wyoming’s Greater Sage Grouse Habitat”, as provided for in IB – WY-2010-022 as recommended by the ARMPA. The primary objective of grazing management would be “to ensure appropriately timed grazing with moderate utilization levels (as described in the Wyoming Rangeland Monitoring Guide) will maintain the preferred Sagebrush/Bunchgrass plant community, and will promote plant vigor and sage-grouse values in less-preferred Sagebrush/Rhizomatous-Bluegrass transitional states.”

Mitigation Measures

- The amount of forage utilized by livestock on the public lands during the grazing year will not exceed the 14 AUM's of forage authorized by the grazing lease.
- Supervision and monitoring of this allotment will follow BLM policy and management guidelines and the Casper Field Office Monitoring Plan.

- The terms and conditions of your lease may be modified if additional information indicates that revision is necessary to conform to 43 CFR 4180
- Placement of salt, mineral or forage supplements for livestock is not allowed within ¼ mile of water, wetlands, and riparian areas, unless written analysis shows that watershed, riparian, wetland, wildlife, and vegetative values will not be adversely impacted. Forage supplements are required to be 'certified weed-free.
- If any surface disturbing activities are proposed in the allotment they will require cultural and wildlife inventories prior to the work being done.
- If noxious weeds or invasive plant species are discovered on public lands they will be aggressively treated using an integrated pesticide management approach to control their spread.
- The lessees shall immediately notify the BLM Authorized Officer of any paleontological resources discovered as a result of operations under this authorization. The lessees shall suspend all activities in the vicinity of such discovery until notified to proceed by the Authorized Officer and shall protect the discovery from damage or looting. The lessees may not be required to suspend all operations if activities can be adjusted to avoid further impacts to a discovered locality or be continued elsewhere. The Authorized Officer will evaluate, or will have evaluated, such discoveries as soon as possible, but not later than 10 working days after being notified. Appropriate measures to mitigate adverse effects to significant paleontological resources will be determined by the Authorized Officer after consulting with the lessee. Within 10 days, the operator will be allowed to continue grazing, or will be given the choice of either (1) following the Authorized Officer's instructions for stabilizing the fossil resource in place and avoiding further disturbance to the fossil resource, or (2) following the Authorized Officer's instructions for mitigating impacts to the fossil resource prior to continuing grazing.
- All persons in the area who are associated with this project are informed that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are uncovered during grazing, the lessee is to immediately stop work that might further disturb such materials, and contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the lessee as to:
 - whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places;
 - the mitigation measures the lessee will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary); and,
 - a timeframe for the AO to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800.11 to confirm, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, that the

findings of the AO are correct and that mitigation is appropriate. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation.

- Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the lessee will then be allowed to resume construction measures.
- To minimize fence collisions by wildlife, hazard fences should be identified, modified and fence markers installed on or with in BLM lands

Authorities

Statutory authorities for this decision are contained in the Taylor Grazing Act of June 28, 1934, as amended (43 U.S.C. 315 through 315r), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976, as amended (Pub. L. 940579); 90 Stat.2743; 43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), and Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Subpart 4100.

Plan Conformance and Consistency

Pursuant to 40 CFR 1508.28 and 1502.21, the EA referenced tiers to and incorporates by reference the information and analysis contained in the PROPOSED Resource Management Plan and FINAL Environmental Impact Statement for the Casper Field Office, the Record of Decision and Approved Casper Resource Management Plan signed in December 2007 as amended by the Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan Amendments for the Rocky Mountain Region, Including the Greater Sage-Grouse Sub-Regions of Lewistown, North Dakota, Northwest Colorado, Wyoming, and the Approved Resource Management Plans for Billings, Buffalo, Cody, HiLine, Miles City, Pompeys Pillar National Monument, South Dakota, Worland: Casper, Kemmerer, Newcastle, Pinedale, Rawlins, and Rock Springs Field Offices Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment for Greater Sage-Grouse. The EA is in conformance and consistent with the referenced Casper RMP and Amendment.

Alternatives Considered

A No Action alternative was considered and analyzed alongside the proposed action to provide a baseline.

No other alternative was considered in the EA.

Public Involvement

No public outreach was needed due to the small amount of BLM administered lands in Platte County.

Rationale for Decision

I have reviewed the Environmental Assessment and the attendant FONSI (DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA) for offering a new 10-year term grazing lease for public lands located in the Dry Creek (00270) allotment. Conditioned through mitigation measures, I find that this action will not result in significant impacts on the human environment pursuant to Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations 1508.27 (a) and (b) (1) through (10) and that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. I have determined that the proposed action, renewal of lease with modification, is in conformance with the Record of Decision and Approved Casper Resource Management Plan dated December 7, 2007 and amendments and will not cause unnecessary or undue degradation.

Right of Protest and/or Appeal

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other interested publics may protest a proposed decision under 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 4160.2 in person or in writing to the Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604 within 15 days after receipt of such decision. The BLM will not consider any protests filed after 15 days of receipt. The protest, if filed, should clearly and concisely state the reason(s) why the proposed decision is in error. All reasons for error not stated in the protest shall be considered waived.

In accordance with 43 CFR 4160.3 (a), in the absence of a protest, the proposed decision will become the final decision of the authorized officer without further notice unless otherwise provided in the proposed decision.

In accordance with 43 CFR 4160.3 (b) upon a timely filing of a protest, after a review of protests received and other information pertinent to the case, the authorized officer shall issue a final decision.

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other person whose interest is adversely affected by the final decision may file an appeal in accordance with 43 CFR 4.470 and 43 CFR 4160.3 and 4160.4. The appeal must be filed within 30 days following receipt of the final decision, or within 30 days after the date the proposed decision becomes final. The appeal may be accompanied by a petition for a stay of the decision pending appeal, in accordance with 43 CFR 4.471. The appeal and petition for a stay must be filed or in writing to the Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604. The appellant must serve a copy of the appeal by certified mail on the Office of the Field Solicitor, Rocky Mountain Region, and 755 Parfet Street Suite 151, Lakewood, Colorado, 80215 and person(s) named [43 CFR 4.421(h)] in the Copies sent to: section of this decision.

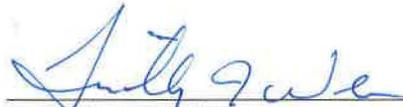
The appeal must clearly and concisely state the reasons why the appellant thinks the final decision is wrong and must otherwise comply with the provisions of 43 CFR 4.470.

Standards for Obtaining a Stay

Should you wish to file a petition for a stay, you must comply with the provisions at 43 CFR 4.471. Among other things, that regulation requires that a petition for a stay show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

- (1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied.
 - (2) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits.
 - (3) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted,
- and
- (4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

Any person named in the decision from which an appeal is taken who wishes to file a response to the petition for a stay may file with the Hearings Division a motion to intervene in the appeal, together with the response, within 10 days after receiving the petition. The person must serve copies of the motion to intervene and response on the appellant, the Office of the Solicitor and any other person named in the decision (43 CFR 4.472(b)).



Timothy J. Wilson
Casper Field Manager

7/1/2016
Date

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Decision Record
DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA
July 2016

Platte County Custodial Allotments Grazing Lease Renewal

Casper Field Office
2987 Prospector Drive
Casper, Wyoming 82604-2968



Selected Alternative

It is my proposed decision to implement the proposed action, renewal of lease with modification as described in the attached Environmental Assessment (DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA) and the attendant Finding of No Significant Impact for authorization of livestock grazing use on the Dry Laramie River (21008) allotment with a term of 10 years.

Specifically, the proposed decision is to offer a new 10-year term grazing lease to the lessee for public lands located within the Dry Laramie River (21008) allotment. Under this proposed action, the allotment would have the authorization to be grazed by cattle, horses, goats, sheep, and/or indigenous livestock up to the AUM's available in each lease. The standard terms and conditions as per 43 CFR 4100 will be applied to the lease. The following additional conditions will be placed on the lease to address assessment of rangeland health and threatened and endangered species:

- The terms and conditions of your lease may be modified if additional information indicates that revision is necessary to conform with 43 CFR 4180.
- Placement of salt, mineral or forage supplements for livestock is not allowed within ¼ mile of water, wetlands, and riparian areas, unless written analysis shows that watershed, riparian, wetland, wildlife, and vegetation values will not be adversely impacted. Forage supplements are required to be “certified weed free.
- The grazing allotments may contain delineated General Habitat Management Areas for the Greater sage-grouse. In order to effectively manage the annual and long-term influences of grazing and conserve sage-grouse habitats, grazing management will incorporate recommendations as discussed in the publication titled “Grazing Influence, Management, and Objective Development in Wyoming’s Greater Sage Grouse Habitat”, as provided for in IB – WY-2010-022 as recommended by the ARMPA. The primary objective of grazing management would be “to ensure appropriately timed grazing with moderate utilization levels (as described in the Wyoming Rangeland Monitoring Guide) will maintain the preferred Sagebrush/Bunchgrass plant community, and will promote plant vigor and sage-grouse values in less-preferred Sagebrush/Rhizomatous-Bluegrass transitional states.”

Mitigation Measures

- The amount of forage utilized by livestock on the public lands during the grazing year will not exceed the 19 AUM's of forage authorized by the grazing lease.
- Supervision and monitoring of this allotment will follow BLM policy and

management guidelines and the Casper Field Office Monitoring Plan.

- The terms and conditions of your lease may be modified if additional information indicates that revision is necessary to conform to 43 CFR 4180
- Placement of salt, mineral or forage supplements for livestock is not allowed within ¼ mile of water, wetlands, and riparian areas, unless written analysis shows that watershed, riparian, wetland, wildlife, and vegetative values will not be adversely impacted. Forage supplements are required to be ‘certified weed-free.
- If any surface disturbing activities are proposed in the allotment they will require cultural and wildlife inventories prior to the work being done.
- If noxious weeds or invasive plant species are discovered on public lands they will be aggressively treated using an integrated pesticide management approach to control their spread.
- The lessees shall immediately notify the BLM Authorized Officer of any paleontological resources discovered as a result of operations under this authorization. The lessees shall suspend all activities in the vicinity of such discovery until notified to proceed by the Authorized Officer and shall protect the discovery from damage or looting. The lessees may not be required to suspend all operations if activities can be adjusted to avoid further impacts to a discovered locality or be continued elsewhere. The Authorized Officer will evaluate, or will have evaluated, such discoveries as soon as possible, but not later than 10 working days after being notified. Appropriate measures to mitigate adverse effects to significant paleontological resources will be determined by the Authorized Officer after consulting with the lessee. Within 10 days, the operator will be allowed to continue grazing, or will be given the choice of either (1) following the Authorized Officer’s instructions for stabilizing the fossil resource in place and avoiding further disturbance to the fossil resource, or (2) following the Authorized Officer’s instructions for mitigating impacts to the fossil resource prior to continuing grazing.
- All persons in the area who are associated with this project are informed that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are uncovered during grazing, the lessee is to immediately stop work that might further disturb such materials, and contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the lessee as to:
 - whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places;
 - the mitigation measures the lessee will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary); and,

- a timeframe for the AO to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800.11 to confirm, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, that the findings of the AO are correct and that mitigation is appropriate. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation.
- Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the lessee will then be allowed to resume construction measures.
- To minimize fence collisions by wildlife, hazard fences should be identified, modified and fence markers installed on or with in BLM lands

Authorities

Statutory authorities for this decision are contained in the Taylor Grazing Act of June 28, 1934, as amended (43 U.S.C. 315 through 315r), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976, as amended (Pub. L. 940579); 90 Stat.2743; 43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), and Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Subpart 4100.

Plan Conformance and Consistency

Pursuant to 40 CFR 1508.28 and 1502.21, the EA referenced tiers to and incorporates by reference the information and analysis contained in the PROPOSED Resource Management Plan and FINAL Environmental Impact Statement for the Casper Field Office, the Record of Decision and Approved Casper Resource Management Plan signed in December 2007 as amended by the Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan Amendments for the Rocky Mountain Region, Including the Greater Sage-Grouse Sub-Regions of Lewistown, North Dakota, Northwest Colorado, Wyoming, and the Approved Resource Management Plans for Billings, Buffalo, Cody, HiLine, Miles City, Pompeys Pillar National Monument, South Dakota, Worland: Casper, Kemmerer, Newcastle, Pinedale, Rawlins, and Rock Springs Field Offices Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment for Greater Sage-Grouse. The EA is in conformance and consistent with the referenced Casper RMP and Amendment.

Alternatives Considered

A No Action alternative was considered and analyzed alongside the proposed action to provide a baseline.

No other alternative was considered in the EA.

Public Involvement

No public outreach was needed due to the small amount of BLM administered lands in Platte County.

Rationale for Decision

I have reviewed the Environmental Assessment and the attendant FONSI (DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA) for offering a new 10-year term grazing lease for public lands located in the Dry Laramie River (21008) allotment. Conditioned through mitigation measures, I find that this action will not result in significant impacts on the human environment pursuant to Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations 1508.27 (a) and (b) (1) through (10) and that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. I have determined that the proposed action, renewal of lease with modification, is in conformance with the Record of Decision and Approved Casper Resource Management Plan dated December 7, 2007 and amendments and will not cause unnecessary or undue degradation.

Right of Protest and/or Appeal

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other interested publics may protest a proposed decision under 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 4160.2 in person or in writing to the Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604 within 15 days after receipt of such decision. The BLM will not consider any protests filed after 15 days of receipt. The protest, if filed, should clearly and concisely state the reason(s) why the proposed decision is in error. All reasons for error not stated in the protest shall be considered waived.

In accordance with 43 CFR 4160.3 (a), in the absence of a protest, the proposed decision will become the final decision of the authorized officer without further notice unless otherwise provided in the proposed decision.

In accordance with 43 CFR 4160.3 (b) upon a timely filing of a protest, after a review of protests received and other information pertinent to the case, the authorized officer shall issue a final decision.

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other person whose interest is adversely affected by the final decision may file an appeal in accordance with 43 CFR 4.470 and 43 CFR 4160.3 and 4160.4. The appeal must be filed within 30 days following receipt of the final decision, or within 30 days after the date the proposed decision becomes final. The appeal may be accompanied by a petition for a stay of the decision pending appeal, in accordance with 43 CFR 4.471. The appeal and petition for a stay must be filed or in writing to the Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604. The appellant must serve a copy of the appeal by certified mail on the Office of the Field Solicitor, Rocky Mountain Region, and 755 Parfet Street Suite 151, Lakewood, Colorado, 80215 and person(s) named [43 CFR 4.421(h)] in the Copies sent to: section of this decision.

The appeal must clearly and concisely state the reasons why the appellant thinks the final decision is wrong and must otherwise comply with the provisions of 43 CFR 4.470.

Standards for Obtaining a Stay

Should you wish to file a petition for a stay, you must comply with the provisions at 43 CFR 4.471. Among other things, that regulation requires that a petition for a stay show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

- (1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied.
 - (2) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits.
 - (3) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted,
- and
- (4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

Any person named in the decision from which an appeal is taken who wishes to file a response to the petition for a stay may file with the Hearings Division a motion to intervene in the appeal, together with the response, within 10 days after receiving the petition. The person must serve copies of the motion to intervene and response on the appellant, the Office of the Solicitor and any other person named in the decision (43 CFR 4.472(b)).



Timothy J. Wilson
Casper Field Manager



Date

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Decision Record
DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA
July 2016

Platte County Custodial Allotments Grazing Lease Renewal

Casper Field Office
2987 Prospector Drive
Casper, Wyoming 82604-2968



Selected Alternative

It is my proposed decision to implement the proposed action, renewal of lease with modification as described in the attached Environmental Assessment (DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA) and the attendant Finding of No Significant Impact for authorization of livestock grazing use on the Nineteen-ninety (10121) allotment with a term of 10 years.

Specifically, the proposed decision is to offer a new 10-year term grazing lease to the lessee for public lands located within the Nineteen-ninety (10121) allotment. Under this proposed action, the allotment would have the authorization to be grazed by cattle, horses, goats, sheep, and/or indigenous livestock up to the AUM's available in each lease. The standard terms and conditions as per 43 CFR 4100 will be applied to the lease. The following additional conditions will be placed on the lease to address assessment of rangeland health and threatened and endangered species:

- The terms and conditions of your lease may be modified if additional information indicates that revision is necessary to conform with 43 CFR 4180.
- Placement of salt, mineral or forage supplements for livestock is not allowed within ¼ mile of water, wetlands, and riparian areas, unless written analysis shows that watershed, riparian, wetland, wildlife, and vegetation values will not be adversely impacted. Forage supplements are required to be “certified weed free.
- The grazing allotments may contain delineated General Habitat Management Areas for the Greater sage-grouse. In order to effectively manage the annual and long-term influences of grazing and conserve sage-grouse habitats, grazing management will incorporate recommendations as discussed in the publication titled “Grazing Influence, Management, and Objective Development in Wyoming’s Greater Sage Grouse Habitat”, as provided for in IB – WY-2010-022 as recommended by the ARMPA. The primary objective of grazing management would be “to ensure appropriately timed grazing with moderate utilization levels (as described in the Wyoming Rangeland Monitoring Guide) will maintain the preferred Sagebrush/Bunchgrass plant community, and will promote plant vigor and sage-grouse values in less-preferred Sagebrush/Rhizomatous-Bluegrass transitional states.”

Mitigation Measures

- The amount of forage utilized by livestock on the public lands during the grazing year will not exceed the 14 AUM's of forage authorized by the grazing lease.
- Supervision and monitoring of this allotment will follow BLM policy and management guidelines and the Casper Field Office Monitoring Plan.

- The terms and conditions of your lease may be modified if additional information indicates that revision is necessary to conform to 43 CFR 4180
- Placement of salt, mineral or forage supplements for livestock is not allowed within ¼ mile of water, wetlands, and riparian areas, unless written analysis shows that watershed, riparian, wetland, wildlife, and vegetative values will not be adversely impacted. Forage supplements are required to be 'certified weed-free.
- If any surface disturbing activities are proposed in the allotment they will require cultural and wildlife inventories prior to the work being done.
- If noxious weeds or invasive plant species are discovered on public lands they will be aggressively treated using an integrated pesticide management approach to control their spread.
- The lessees shall immediately notify the BLM Authorized Officer of any paleontological resources discovered as a result of operations under this authorization. The lessees shall suspend all activities in the vicinity of such discovery until notified to proceed by the Authorized Officer and shall protect the discovery from damage or looting. The lessees may not be required to suspend all operations if activities can be adjusted to avoid further impacts to a discovered locality or be continued elsewhere. The Authorized Officer will evaluate, or will have evaluated, such discoveries as soon as possible, but not later than 10 working days after being notified. Appropriate measures to mitigate adverse effects to significant paleontological resources will be determined by the Authorized Officer after consulting with the lessee. Within 10 days, the operator will be allowed to continue grazing, or will be given the choice of either (1) following the Authorized Officer's instructions for stabilizing the fossil resource in place and avoiding further disturbance to the fossil resource, or (2) following the Authorized Officer's instructions for mitigating impacts to the fossil resource prior to continuing grazing.
- All persons in the area who are associated with this project are informed that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are uncovered during grazing, the lessee is to immediately stop work that might further disturb such materials, and contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the lessee as to:
 - whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places;
 - the mitigation measures the lessee will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary); and,
 - a timeframe for the AO to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800.11 to confirm, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, that the

findings of the AO are correct and that mitigation is appropriate. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation.

- Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the lessee will then be allowed to resume construction measures.
- To minimize fence collisions by wildlife, hazard fences should be identified, modified and fence markers installed on or with in BLM lands

Authorities

Statutory authorities for this decision are contained in the Taylor Grazing Act of June 28, 1934, as amended (43 U.S.C. 315 through 315r), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976, as amended (Pub. L. 940579); 90 Stat.2743; 43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), and Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Subpart 4100.

Plan Conformance and Consistency

Pursuant to 40 CFR 1508.28 and 1502.21, the EA referenced tiers to and incorporates by reference the information and analysis contained in the PROPOSED Resource Management Plan and FINAL Environmental Impact Statement for the Casper Field Office, the Record of Decision and Approved Casper Resource Management Plan signed in December 2007 as amended by the Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan Amendments for the Rocky Mountain Region, Including the Greater Sage-Grouse Sub-Regions of Lewistown, North Dakota, Northwest Colorado, Wyoming, and the Approved Resource Management Plans for Billings, Buffalo, Cody, HiLine, Miles City, Pompeys Pillar National Monument, South Dakota, Worland: Casper, Kemmerer, Newcastle, Pinedale, Rawlins, and Rock Springs Field Offices Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment for Greater Sage-Grouse. The EA is in conformance and consistent with the referenced Casper RMP and Amendment.

Alternatives Considered

A No Action alternative was considered and analyzed alongside the proposed action to provide a baseline.

No other alternative was considered in the EA.

Public Involvement

No public outreach was needed due to the small amount of BLM administered lands in Platte County.

Rationale for Decision

I have reviewed the Environmental Assessment and the attendant FONSI (DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA) for offering a new 10-year term grazing lease for public lands located in the Nineteen-ninety (10121) allotment. Conditioned through mitigation measures, I find that this action will not result in significant impacts on the human environment pursuant to Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations 1508.27 (a) and (b) (1) through (10) and that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. I have determined that the proposed action, renewal of lease with modification, is in conformance with the Record of Decision and Approved Casper Resource Management Plan dated December 7, 2007 and amendments and will not cause unnecessary or undue degradation.

Right of Protest and/or Appeal

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other interested public may protest a proposed decision under 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 4160.2 in person or in writing to the Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604 within 15 days after receipt of such decision. The BLM will not consider any protests filed after 15 days of receipt. The protest, if filed, should clearly and concisely state the reason(s) why the proposed decision is in error. All reasons for error not stated in the protest shall be considered waived.

In accordance with 43 CFR 4160.3 (a), in the absence of a protest, the proposed decision will become the final decision of the authorized officer without further notice unless otherwise provided in the proposed decision.

In accordance with 43 CFR 4160.3 (b) upon a timely filing of a protest, after a review of protests received and other information pertinent to the case, the authorized officer shall issue a final decision.

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other person whose interest is adversely affected by the final decision may file an appeal in accordance with 43 CFR 4.470 and 43 CFR 4160.3 and 4160.4. The appeal must be filed within 30 days following receipt of the final decision, or within 30 days after the date the proposed decision becomes final. The appeal may be accompanied by a petition for a stay of the decision pending appeal, in accordance with 43 CFR 4.471. The appeal and petition for a stay must be filed or in writing to the Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604. The appellant must serve a copy of the appeal by certified mail on the Office of the Field Solicitor, Rocky Mountain Region, and 755 Parfet Street Suite 151, Lakewood, Colorado, 80215 and person(s) named [43 CFR 4.421(h)] in the Copies sent to: section of this decision.

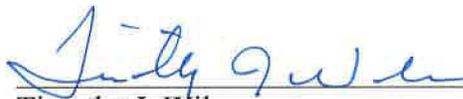
The appeal must clearly and concisely state the reasons why the appellant thinks the final decision is wrong and must otherwise comply with the provisions of 43 CFR 4.470.

Standards for Obtaining a Stay

Should you wish to file a petition for a stay, you must comply with the provisions at 43 CFR 4.471. Among other things, that regulation requires that a petition for a stay show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

- (1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied.
 - (2) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits.
 - (3) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted,
- and
- (4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

Any person named in the decision from which an appeal is taken who wishes to file a response to the petition for a stay may file with the Hearings Division a motion to intervene in the appeal, together with the response, within 10 days after receiving the petition. The person must serve copies of the motion to intervene and response on the appellant, the Office of the Solicitor and any other person named in the decision (43 CFR 4.472(b)).



Timothy J. Wilson
Casper Field Manager

7/1/2016
Date

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Decision Record
DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA
July 2016

Platte County Custodial Allotments Grazing Lease Renewal

Casper Field Office
2987 Prospector Drive
Casper, Wyoming 82604-2968



Selected Alternative

It is my proposed decision to implement the proposed action, renewal of lease with modification as described in the attached Environmental Assessment (DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA) and the attendant Finding of No Significant Impact for authorization of livestock grazing use on the Old Holt Place (00362) allotment with a term of 10 years.

Specifically, the proposed decision is to offer a new 10-year term grazing lease to the lessee for public lands located within the Old Holt Place (00362) allotment. Under this proposed action, the allotment would have the authorization to be grazed by cattle, horses, goats, sheep, and/or indigenous livestock up to the AUM's available in each lease. The standard terms and conditions as per 43 CFR 4100 will be applied to the lease. The following additional conditions will be placed on the lease to address assessment of rangeland health and threatened and endangered species:

- The terms and conditions of your lease may be modified if additional information indicates that revision is necessary to conform with 43 CFR 4180.
- Placement of salt, mineral or forage supplements for livestock is not allowed within ¼ mile of water, wetlands, and riparian areas, unless written analysis shows that watershed, riparian, wetland, wildlife, and vegetation values will not be adversely impacted. Forage supplements are required to be “certified weed free.
- The grazing allotments may contain delineated General Habitat Management Areas for the Greater sage-grouse. In order to effectively manage the annual and long-term influences of grazing and conserve sage-grouse habitats, grazing management will incorporate recommendations as discussed in the publication titled “Grazing Influence, Management, and Objective Development in Wyoming’s Greater Sage Grouse Habitat”, as provided for in IB – WY-2010-022 as recommended by the ARMPA. The primary objective of grazing management would be “to ensure appropriately timed grazing with moderate utilization levels (as described in the Wyoming Rangeland Monitoring Guide) will maintain the preferred Sagebrush/Bunchgrass plant community, and will promote plant vigor and sage-grouse values in less-preferred Sagebrush/Rhizomatous-Bluegrass transitional states.”

Mitigation Measures

- The amount of forage utilized by livestock on the public lands during the grazing year will not exceed the 16 AUM's of forage authorized by the grazing lease.
- Supervision and monitoring of this allotment will follow BLM policy and management guidelines and the Casper Field Office Monitoring Plan.

- The terms and conditions of your lease may be modified if additional information indicates that revision is necessary to conform to 43 CFR 4180
- Placement of salt, mineral or forage supplements for livestock is not allowed within ¼ mile of water, wetlands, and riparian areas, unless written analysis shows that watershed, riparian, wetland, wildlife, and vegetative values will not be adversely impacted. Forage supplements are required to be ‘certified weed-free.
- If any surface disturbing activities are proposed in the allotment they will require cultural and wildlife inventories prior to the work being done.
- If noxious weeds or invasive plant species are discovered on public lands they will be aggressively treated using an integrated pesticide management approach to control their spread.
- The lessees shall immediately notify the BLM Authorized Officer of any paleontological resources discovered as a result of operations under this authorization. The lessees shall suspend all activities in the vicinity of such discovery until notified to proceed by the Authorized Officer and shall protect the discovery from damage or looting. The lessees may not be required to suspend all operations if activities can be adjusted to avoid further impacts to a discovered locality or be continued elsewhere. The Authorized Officer will evaluate, or will have evaluated, such discoveries as soon as possible, but not later than 10 working days after being notified. Appropriate measures to mitigate adverse effects to significant paleontological resources will be determined by the Authorized Officer after consulting with the lessee. Within 10 days, the operator will be allowed to continue grazing, or will be given the choice of either (1) following the Authorized Officer’s instructions for stabilizing the fossil resource in place and avoiding further disturbance to the fossil resource, or (2) following the Authorized Officer’s instructions for mitigating impacts to the fossil resource prior to continuing grazing.
- All persons in the area who are associated with this project are informed that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are uncovered during grazing, the lessee is to immediately stop work that might further disturb such materials, and contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the lessee as to:
 - whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places;
 - the mitigation measures the lessee will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary); and,
 - a timeframe for the AO to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800.11 to confirm, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, that the

findings of the AO are correct and that mitigation is appropriate. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation.

- Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the lessee will then be allowed to resume construction measures.
- To minimize fence collisions by wildlife, hazard fences should be identified, modified and fence markers installed on or with in BLM lands

Authorities

Statutory authorities for this decision are contained in the Taylor Grazing Act of June 28, 1934, as amended (43 U.S.C. 315 through 315r), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976, as amended (Pub. L. 940579); 90 Stat.2743; 43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), and Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Subpart 4100.

Plan Conformance and Consistency

Pursuant to 40 CFR 1508.28 and 1502.21, the EA referenced tiers to and incorporates by reference the information and analysis contained in the PROPOSED Resource Management Plan and FINAL Environmental Impact Statement for the Casper Field Office, the Record of Decision and Approved Casper Resource Management Plan signed in December 2007 as amended by the Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan Amendments for the Rocky Mountain Region, Including the Greater Sage-Grouse Sub-Regions of Lewistown, North Dakota, Northwest Colorado, Wyoming, and the Approved Resource Management Plans for Billings, Buffalo, Cody, HiLine, Miles City, Pompeys Pillar National Monument, South Dakota, Worland: Casper, Kemmerer, Newcastle, Pinedale, Rawlins, and Rock Springs Field Offices Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment for Greater Sage-Grouse. The EA is in conformance and consistent with the referenced Casper RMP and Amendment.

Alternatives Considered

A No Action alternative was considered and analyzed alongside the proposed action to provide a baseline.

No other alternative was considered in the EA.

Public Involvement

No public outreach was needed due to the small amount of BLM administered lands in Platte County.

Rationale for Decision

I have reviewed the Environmental Assessment and the attendant FONSI (DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA) for offering a new 10-year term grazing lease for public lands located in the Old Holt Place (00362) allotment. Conditioned through mitigation measures, I find that this action will not result in significant impacts on the human environment pursuant to Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations 1508.27 (a) and (b) (1) through (10) and that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. I have determined that the proposed action, renewal of lease with modification, is in conformance with the Record of Decision and Approved Casper Resource Management Plan dated December 7, 2007 and amendments and will not cause unnecessary or undue degradation.

Right of Protest and/or Appeal

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other interested public may protest a proposed decision under 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 4160.2 in person or in writing to the Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604 within 15 days after receipt of such decision. The BLM will not consider any protests filed after 15 days of receipt. The protest, if filed, should clearly and concisely state the reason(s) why the proposed decision is in error. All reasons for error not stated in the protest shall be considered waived.

In accordance with 43 CFR 4160.3 (a), in the absence of a protest, the proposed decision will become the final decision of the authorized officer without further notice unless otherwise provided in the proposed decision.

In accordance with 43 CFR 4160.3 (b) upon a timely filing of a protest, after a review of protests received and other information pertinent to the case, the authorized officer shall issue a final decision.

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other person whose interest is adversely affected by the final decision may file an appeal in accordance with 43 CFR 4.470 and 43 CFR 4160.3 and 4160.4. The appeal must be filed within 30 days following receipt of the final decision, or within 30 days after the date the proposed decision becomes final. The appeal may be accompanied by a petition for a stay of the decision pending appeal, in accordance with 43 CFR 4.471. The appeal and petition for a stay must be filed or in writing to the Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604. The appellant must serve a copy of the appeal by certified mail on the Office of the Field Solicitor, Rocky Mountain Region, and 755 Parfet Street Suite 151, Lakewood, Colorado, 80215 and person(s) named [43 CFR 4.421(h)] in the Copies sent to: section of this decision.

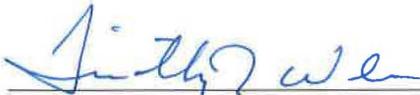
The appeal must clearly and concisely state the reasons why the appellant thinks the final decision is wrong and must otherwise comply with the provisions of 43 CFR 4.470.

Standards for Obtaining a Stay

Should you wish to file a petition for a stay, you must comply with the provisions at 43 CFR 4.471. Among other things, that regulation requires that a petition for a stay show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

- (1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied.
 - (2) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits.
 - (3) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted,
- and
- (4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

Any person named in the decision from which an appeal is taken who wishes to file a response to the petition for a stay may file with the Hearings Division a motion to intervene in the appeal, together with the response, within 10 days after receiving the petition. The person must serve copies of the motion to intervene and response on the appellant, the Office of the Solicitor and any other person named in the decision (43 CFR 4.472(b)).



Timothy J. Wilson
Casper Field Manager

7/1/2016
Date

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Decision Record
DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA
July 2016

Platte County Custodial Allotments Grazing Lease Renewal

Casper Field Office
2987 Prospector Drive
Casper, Wyoming 82604-2968



Selected Alternative

It is my proposed decision to implement the proposed action, renewal of lease with modification as described in the attached Environmental Assessment (DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA) and the attendant Finding of No Significant Impact for authorization of livestock grazing use on the Slate Creek (10193) allotment with a term of 10 years.

Specifically, the proposed decision is to offer a new 10-year term grazing lease to the lessee for public lands located within the Slate Creek (10193) allotment. Under this proposed action, the allotment would have the authorization to be grazed by cattle, horses, goats, sheep, and/or indigenous livestock up to the AUM's available in each lease. The standard terms and conditions as per 43 CFR 4100 will be applied to the lease. The following additional conditions will be placed on the lease to address assessment of rangeland health and threatened and endangered species:

- The terms and conditions of your lease may be modified if additional information indicates that revision is necessary to conform with 43 CFR 4180.
- Placement of salt, mineral or forage supplements for livestock is not allowed within ¼ mile of water, wetlands, and riparian areas, unless written analysis shows that watershed, riparian, wetland, wildlife, and vegetation values will not be adversely impacted. Forage supplements are required to be “certified weed free.
- The grazing allotments may contain delineated General Habitat Management Areas for the Greater sage-grouse. In order to effectively manage the annual and long-term influences of grazing and conserve sage-grouse habitats, grazing management will incorporate recommendations as discussed in the publication titled “Grazing Influence, Management, and Objective Development in Wyoming’s Greater Sage Grouse Habitat”, as provided for in IB – WY-2010-022 as recommended by the ARMPA. The primary objective of grazing management would be “to ensure appropriately timed grazing with moderate utilization levels (as described in the Wyoming Rangeland Monitoring Guide) will maintain the preferred Sagebrush/Bunchgrass plant community, and will promote plant vigor and sage-grouse values in less-preferred Sagebrush/Rhizomatous-Bluegrass transitional states.”

Mitigation Measures

- The amount of forage utilized by livestock on the public lands during the grazing year will not exceed the 45 AUM's of forage authorized by the grazing lease.
- Supervision and monitoring of this allotment will follow BLM policy and management guidelines and the Casper Field Office Monitoring Plan.

- The terms and conditions of your lease may be modified if additional information indicates that revision is necessary to conform to 43 CFR 4180
- Placement of salt, mineral or forage supplements for livestock is not allowed within ¼ mile of water, wetlands, and riparian areas, unless written analysis shows that watershed, riparian, wetland, wildlife, and vegetative values will not be adversely impacted. Forage supplements are required to be ‘certified weed-free.
- If any surface disturbing activities are proposed in the allotment they will require cultural and wildlife inventories prior to the work being done.
- If noxious weeds or invasive plant species are discovered on public lands they will be aggressively treated using an integrated pesticide management approach to control their spread.
- The lessees shall immediately notify the BLM Authorized Officer of any paleontological resources discovered as a result of operations under this authorization. The lessees shall suspend all activities in the vicinity of such discovery until notified to proceed by the Authorized Officer and shall protect the discovery from damage or looting. The lessees may not be required to suspend all operations if activities can be adjusted to avoid further impacts to a discovered locality or be continued elsewhere. The Authorized Officer will evaluate, or will have evaluated, such discoveries as soon as possible, but not later than 10 working days after being notified. Appropriate measures to mitigate adverse effects to significant paleontological resources will be determined by the Authorized Officer after consulting with the lessee. Within 10 days, the operator will be allowed to continue grazing, or will be given the choice of either (1) following the Authorized Officer’s instructions for stabilizing the fossil resource in place and avoiding further disturbance to the fossil resource, or (2) following the Authorized Officer’s instructions for mitigating impacts to the fossil resource prior to continuing grazing.
- All persons in the area who are associated with this project are informed that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are uncovered during grazing, the lessee is to immediately stop work that might further disturb such materials, and contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the lessee as to:
 - whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places;
 - the mitigation measures the lessee will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary); and,
 - a timeframe for the AO to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800.11 to confirm, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, that the

findings of the AO are correct and that mitigation is appropriate. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation.

- Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the lessee will then be allowed to resume construction measures.
- To minimize fence collisions by wildlife, hazard fences should be identified, modified and fence markers installed on or with in BLM lands

Authorities

Statutory authorities for this decision are contained in the Taylor Grazing Act of June 28, 1934, as amended (43 U.S.C. 315 through 315r), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976, as amended (Pub. L. 940579); 90 Stat.2743; 43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), and Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Subpart 4100.

Plan Conformance and Consistency

Pursuant to 40 CFR 1508.28 and 1502.21, the EA referenced tiers to and incorporates by reference the information and analysis contained in the PROPOSED Resource Management Plan and FINAL Environmental Impact Statement for the Casper Field Office, the Record of Decision and Approved Casper Resource Management Plan signed in December 2007 as amended by the Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan Amendments for the Rocky Mountain Region, Including the Greater Sage-Grouse Sub-Regions of Lewistown, North Dakota, Northwest Colorado, Wyoming, and the Approved Resource Management Plans for Billings, Buffalo, Cody, HiLine, Miles City, Pompeys Pillar National Monument, South Dakota, Worland: Casper, Kemmerer, Newcastle, Pinedale, Rawlins, and Rock Springs Field Offices Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment for Greater Sage-Grouse. The EA is in conformance and consistent with the referenced Casper RMP and Amendment.

Alternatives Considered

A No Action alternative was considered and analyzed alongside the proposed action to provide a baseline.

No other alternative was considered in the EA.

Public Involvement

No public outreach was needed due to the small amount of BLM administered lands in Platte County.

Rationale for Decision

I have reviewed the Environmental Assessment and the attendant FONSI (DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA) for offering a new 10-year term grazing lease for public lands located in the Slate Creek (10193) allotment. Conditioned through mitigation measures, I find that this action will not result in significant impacts on the human environment pursuant to Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations 1508.27 (a) and (b) (1) through (10) and that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. I have determined that the proposed action, renewal of lease with modification, is in conformance with the Record of Decision and Approved Casper Resource Management Plan dated December 7, 2007 and amendments and will not cause unnecessary or undue degradation.

Right of Protest and/or Appeal

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other interested publics may protest a proposed decision under 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 4160.2 in person or in writing to the Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604 within 15 days after receipt of such decision. The BLM will not consider any protests filed after 15 days of receipt. The protest, if filed, should clearly and concisely state the reason(s) why the proposed decision is in error. All reasons for error not stated in the protest shall be considered waived.

In accordance with 43 CFR 4160.3 (a), in the absence of a protest, the proposed decision will become the final decision of the authorized officer without further notice unless otherwise provided in the proposed decision.

In accordance with 43 CFR 4160.3 (b) upon a timely filing of a protest, after a review of protests received and other information pertinent to the case, the authorized officer shall issue a final decision.

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other person whose interest is adversely affected by the final decision may file an appeal in accordance with 43 CFR 4.470 and 43 CFR 4160.3 and 4160.4. The appeal must be filed within 30 days following receipt of the final decision, or within 30 days after the date the proposed decision becomes final. The appeal may be accompanied by a petition for a stay of the decision pending appeal, in accordance with 43 CFR 4.471. The appeal and petition for a stay must be filed or in writing to the Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604. The appellant must serve a copy of the appeal by certified mail on the Office of the Field Solicitor, Rocky Mountain Region, and 755 Parfet Street Suite 151, Lakewood, Colorado, 80215 and person(s) named [43 CFR 4.421(h)] in the Copies sent to: section of this decision.

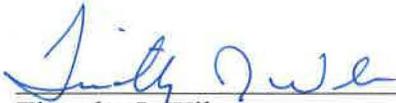
The appeal must clearly and concisely state the reasons why the appellant thinks the final decision is wrong and must otherwise comply with the provisions of 43 CFR 4.470.

Standards for Obtaining a Stay

Should you wish to file a petition for a stay, you must comply with the provisions at 43 CFR 4.471. Among other things, that regulation requires that a petition for a stay show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

- (1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied.
 - (2) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits.
 - (3) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted,
- and
- (4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

Any person named in the decision from which an appeal is taken who wishes to file a response to the petition for a stay may file with the Hearings Division a motion to intervene in the appeal, together with the response, within 10 days after receiving the petition. The person must serve copies of the motion to intervene and response on the appellant, the Office of the Solicitor and any other person named in the decision (43 CFR 4.472(b)).



Timothy J. Wilson
Casper Field Manager

7/1/2016
Date

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Decision Record
DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA
July 2016

Platte County Custodial Allotments Grazing Lease Renewal

Casper Field Office
2987 Prospector Drive
Casper, Wyoming 82604-2968



Selected Alternative

It is my proposed decision to implement the proposed action, renewal of lease with modification as described in the attached Environmental Assessment (DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA) and the attendant Finding of No Significant Impact for authorization of livestock grazing use on the Patten Creek 2 (10307) allotment with a term of 10 years.

Specifically, the proposed decision is to offer a new 10-year term grazing lease to the lessee for public lands located within the Patten Creek 2 (10307) allotment. Under this proposed action, the allotment would have the authorization to be grazed by cattle, horses, goats, sheep, and/or indigenous livestock up to the AUM's available in each lease. The standard terms and conditions as per 43 CFR 4100 will be applied to the lease. The following additional conditions will be placed on the lease to address assessment of rangeland health and threatened and endangered species:

- The terms and conditions of your lease may be modified if additional information indicates that revision is necessary to conform with 43 CFR 4180.
- Placement of salt, mineral or forage supplements for livestock is not allowed within ¼ mile of water, wetlands, and riparian areas, unless written analysis shows that watershed, riparian, wetland, wildlife, and vegetation values will not be adversely impacted. Forage supplements are required to be “certified weed free.
- The grazing allotments may contain delineated General Habitat Management Areas for the Greater sage-grouse. In order to effectively manage the annual and long-term influences of grazing and conserve sage-grouse habitats, grazing management will incorporate recommendations as discussed in the publication titled “Grazing Influence, Management, and Objective Development in Wyoming’s Greater Sage Grouse Habitat”, as provided for in IB – WY-2010-022 as recommended by the ARMPA. The primary objective of grazing management would be “to ensure appropriately timed grazing with moderate utilization levels (as described in the Wyoming Rangeland Monitoring Guide) will maintain the preferred Sagebrush/Bunchgrass plant community, and will promote plant vigor and sage-grouse values in less-preferred Sagebrush/Rhizomatous-Bluegrass transitional states.”

Mitigation Measures

- The amount of forage utilized by livestock on the public lands during the grazing year will not exceed the 29 AUM's of forage authorized by the grazing lease.
- Supervision and monitoring of this allotment will follow BLM policy and management guidelines and the Casper Field Office Monitoring Plan.

- The terms and conditions of your lease may be modified if additional information indicates that revision is necessary to conform to 43 CFR 4180
- Placement of salt, mineral or forage supplements for livestock is not allowed within ¼ mile of water, wetlands, and riparian areas, unless written analysis shows that watershed, riparian, wetland, wildlife, and vegetative values will not be adversely impacted. Forage supplements are required to be 'certified weed-free.
- If any surface disturbing activities are proposed in the allotment they will require cultural and wildlife inventories prior to the work being done.
- If noxious weeds or invasive plant species are discovered on public lands they will be aggressively treated using an integrated pesticide management approach to control their spread.
- The lessees shall immediately notify the BLM Authorized Officer of any paleontological resources discovered as a result of operations under this authorization. The lessees shall suspend all activities in the vicinity of such discovery until notified to proceed by the Authorized Officer and shall protect the discovery from damage or looting. The lessees may not be required to suspend all operations if activities can be adjusted to avoid further impacts to a discovered locality or be continued elsewhere. The Authorized Officer will evaluate, or will have evaluated, such discoveries as soon as possible, but not later than 10 working days after being notified. Appropriate measures to mitigate adverse effects to significant paleontological resources will be determined by the Authorized Officer after consulting with the lessee. Within 10 days, the operator will be allowed to continue grazing, or will be given the choice of either (1) following the Authorized Officer's instructions for stabilizing the fossil resource in place and avoiding further disturbance to the fossil resource, or (2) following the Authorized Officer's instructions for mitigating impacts to the fossil resource prior to continuing grazing.
- All persons in the area who are associated with this project are informed that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are uncovered during grazing, the lessee is to immediately stop work that might further disturb such materials, and contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the lessee as to:
 - whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places;
 - the mitigation measures the lessee will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary); and,
 - a timeframe for the AO to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800.11 to confirm, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, that the

findings of the AO are correct and that mitigation is appropriate. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation.

- Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the lessee will then be allowed to resume construction measures.
- To minimize fence collisions by wildlife, hazard fences should be identified, modified and fence markers installed on or with in BLM lands

Authorities

Statutory authorities for this decision are contained in the Taylor Grazing Act of June 28, 1934, as amended (43 U.S.C. 315 through 315r), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976, as amended (Pub. L. 940579); 90 Stat.2743; 43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), and Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Subpart 4100.

Plan Conformance and Consistency

Pursuant to 40 CFR 1508.28 and 1502.21, the EA referenced tiers to and incorporates by reference the information and analysis contained in the PROPOSED Resource Management Plan and FINAL Environmental Impact Statement for the Casper Field Office, the Record of Decision and Approved Casper Resource Management Plan signed in December 2007 as amended by the Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan Amendments for the Rocky Mountain Region, Including the Greater Sage-Grouse Sub-Regions of Lewistown, North Dakota, Northwest Colorado, Wyoming, and the Approved Resource Management Plans for Billings, Buffalo, Cody, HiLine, Miles City, Pompeys Pillar National Monument, South Dakota, Worland: Casper, Kemmerer, Newcastle, Pinedale, Rawlins, and Rock Springs Field Offices Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment for Greater Sage-Grouse. The EA is in conformance and consistent with the referenced Casper RMP and Amendment.

Alternatives Considered

A No Action alternative was considered and analyzed alongside the proposed action to provide a baseline.

No other alternative was considered in the EA.

Public Involvement

No public outreach was needed due to the small amount of BLM administered lands in Platte County.

Rationale for Decision

I have reviewed the Environmental Assessment and the attendant FONSI (DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA) for offering a new 10-year term grazing lease for public lands located in the Patten Creek 2 (10307) allotment. Conditioned through mitigation measures, I find that this action will not result in significant impacts on the human environment pursuant to Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations 1508.27 (a) and (b) (1) through (10) and that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. I have determined that the proposed action, renewal of lease with modification, is in conformance with the Record of Decision and Approved Casper Resource Management Plan dated December 7, 2007 and amendments and will not cause unnecessary or undue degradation.

Right of Protest and/or Appeal

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other interested publics may protest a proposed decision under 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 4160.2 in person or in writing to the Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604 within 15 days after receipt of such decision. The BLM will not consider any protests filed after 15 days of receipt. The protest, if filed, should clearly and concisely state the reason(s) why the proposed decision is in error. All reasons for error not stated in the protest shall be considered waived.

In accordance with 43 CFR 4160.3 (a), in the absence of a protest, the proposed decision will become the final decision of the authorized officer without further notice unless otherwise provided in the proposed decision.

In accordance with 43 CFR 4160.3 (b) upon a timely filing of a protest, after a review of protests received and other information pertinent to the case, the authorized officer shall issue a final decision.

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other person whose interest is adversely affected by the final decision may file an appeal in accordance with 43 CFR 4.470 and 43 CFR 4160.3 and 4160.4. The appeal must be filed within 30 days following receipt of the final decision, or within 30 days after the date the proposed decision becomes final. The appeal may be accompanied by a petition for a stay of the decision pending appeal, in accordance with 43 CFR 4.471. The appeal and petition for a stay must be filed or in writing to the Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604. The appellant must serve a copy of the appeal by certified mail on the Office of the Field Solicitor, Rocky Mountain Region, and 755 Parfet Street Suite 151, Lakewood, Colorado, 80215 and person(s) named [43 CFR 4.421(h)] in the Copies sent to: section of this decision.

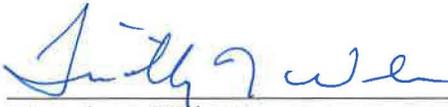
The appeal must clearly and concisely state the reasons why the appellant thinks the final decision is wrong and must otherwise comply with the provisions of 43 CFR 4.470.

Standards for Obtaining a Stay

Should you wish to file a petition for a stay, you must comply with the provisions at 43 CFR 4.471. Among other things, that regulation requires that a petition for a stay show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

- (1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied.
 - (2) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits.
 - (3) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted,
- and
- (4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

Any person named in the decision from which an appeal is taken who wishes to file a response to the petition for a stay may file with the Hearings Division a motion to intervene in the appeal, together with the response, within 10 days after receiving the petition. The person must serve copies of the motion to intervene and response on the appellant, the Office of the Solicitor and any other person named in the decision (43 CFR 4.472(b)).



Timothy J. Wilson
Casper Field Manager

7/1/2014

Date

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Decision Record
DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA
July 2016

Platte County Custodial Allotments Grazing Lease Renewal

Casper Field Office
2987 Prospector Drive
Casper, Wyoming 82604-2968



Selected Alternative

It is my proposed decision to implement the proposed action, renewal of lease with modification as described in the attached Environmental Assessment (DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA) and the attendant Finding of No Significant Impact for authorization of livestock grazing use on the Platte 3 (00356) allotment with a term of 10 years.

Specifically, the proposed decision is to offer a new 10-year term grazing lease to the lessee for public lands located within the Platte 3 (00356) allotment. Under this proposed action, the allotment would have the authorization to be grazed by cattle, horses, goats, sheep, and/or indigenous livestock up to the AUM's available in each lease. The standard terms and conditions as per 43 CFR 4100 will be applied to the lease. The following additional conditions will be placed on the lease to address assessment of rangeland health and threatened and endangered species:

- The terms and conditions of your lease may be modified if additional information indicates that revision is necessary to conform with 43 CFR 4180.
- Placement of salt, mineral or forage supplements for livestock is not allowed within ¼ mile of water, wetlands, and riparian areas, unless written analysis shows that watershed, riparian, wetland, wildlife, and vegetation values will not be adversely impacted. Forage supplements are required to be “certified weed free.
- The grazing allotments may contain delineated General Habitat Management Areas for the Greater sage-grouse. In order to effectively manage the annual and long-term influences of grazing and conserve sage-grouse habitats, grazing management will incorporate recommendations as discussed in the publication titled “Grazing Influence, Management, and Objective Development in Wyoming’s Greater Sage Grouse Habitat”, as provided for in IB – WY-2010-022 as recommended by the ARMPA. The primary objective of grazing management would be “to ensure appropriately timed grazing with moderate utilization levels (as described in the Wyoming Rangeland Monitoring Guide) will maintain the preferred Sagebrush/Bunchgrass plant community, and will promote plant vigor and sage-grouse values in less-preferred Sagebrush/Rhizomatous-Bluegrass transitional states.”

Mitigation Measures

- The amount of forage utilized by livestock on the public lands during the grazing year will not exceed the 29 AUM's of forage authorized by the grazing lease.
- Supervision and monitoring of this allotment will follow BLM policy and management guidelines and the Casper Field Office Monitoring Plan.

- The terms and conditions of your lease may be modified if additional information indicates that revision is necessary to conform to 43 CFR 4180
- Placement of salt, mineral or forage supplements for livestock is not allowed within ¼ mile of water, wetlands, and riparian areas, unless written analysis shows that watershed, riparian, wetland, wildlife, and vegetative values will not be adversely impacted. Forage supplements are required to be ‘certified weed-free.
- If any surface disturbing activities are proposed in the allotment they will require cultural and wildlife inventories prior to the work being done.
- If noxious weeds or invasive plant species are discovered on public lands they will be aggressively treated using an integrated pesticide management approach to control their spread.
- The lessees shall immediately notify the BLM Authorized Officer of any paleontological resources discovered as a result of operations under this authorization. The lessees shall suspend all activities in the vicinity of such discovery until notified to proceed by the Authorized Officer and shall protect the discovery from damage or looting. The lessees may not be required to suspend all operations if activities can be adjusted to avoid further impacts to a discovered locality or be continued elsewhere. The Authorized Officer will evaluate, or will have evaluated, such discoveries as soon as possible, but not later than 10 working days after being notified. Appropriate measures to mitigate adverse effects to significant paleontological resources will be determined by the Authorized Officer after consulting with the lessee. Within 10 days, the operator will be allowed to continue grazing, or will be given the choice of either (1) following the Authorized Officer’s instructions for stabilizing the fossil resource in place and avoiding further disturbance to the fossil resource, or (2) following the Authorized Officer’s instructions for mitigating impacts to the fossil resource prior to continuing grazing.
- All persons in the area who are associated with this project are informed that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are uncovered during grazing, the lessee is to immediately stop work that might further disturb such materials, and contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the lessee as to:
 - whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places;
 - the mitigation measures the lessee will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary); and,
 - a timeframe for the AO to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800.11 to confirm, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, that the

findings of the AO are correct and that mitigation is appropriate. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation.

- Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the lessee will then be allowed to resume construction measures.
- To minimize fence collisions by wildlife, hazard fences should be identified, modified and fence markers installed on or with in BLM lands

Authorities

Statutory authorities for this decision are contained in the Taylor Grazing Act of June 28, 1934, as amended (43 U.S.C. 315 through 315r), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976, as amended (Pub. L. 940579); 90 Stat.2743; 43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), and Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Subpart 4100.

Plan Conformance and Consistency

Pursuant to 40 CFR 1508.28 and 1502.21, the EA referenced tiers to and incorporates by reference the information and analysis contained in the PROPOSED Resource Management Plan and FINAL Environmental Impact Statement for the Casper Field Office, the Record of Decision and Approved Casper Resource Management Plan signed in December 2007 as amended by the Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan Amendments for the Rocky Mountain Region, Including the Greater Sage-Grouse Sub-Regions of Lewistown, North Dakota, Northwest Colorado, Wyoming, and the Approved Resource Management Plans for Billings, Buffalo, Cody, HiLine, Miles City, Pompeys Pillar National Monument, South Dakota, Worland: Casper, Kemmerer, Newcastle, Pinedale, Rawlins, and Rock Springs Field Offices Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment for Greater Sage-Grouse. The EA is in conformance and consistent with the referenced Casper RMP and Amendment.

Alternatives Considered

A No Action alternative was considered and analyzed alongside the proposed action to provide a baseline.

No other alternative was considered in the EA.

Public Involvement

No public outreach was needed due to the small amount of BLM administered lands in Platte County.

Rationale for Decision

I have reviewed the Environmental Assessment and the attendant FONSI (DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA) for offering a new 10-year term grazing lease for public lands located in the Platte 3 (00356) allotment. Conditioned through mitigation measures, I find that this action will not result in significant impacts on the human environment pursuant to Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations 1508.27 (a) and (b) (1) through (10) and that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. I have determined that the proposed action, renewal of lease with modification, is in conformance with the Record of Decision and Approved Casper Resource Management Plan dated December 7, 2007 and amendments and will not cause unnecessary or undue degradation.

Right of Protest and/or Appeal

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other interested public may protest a proposed decision under 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 4160.2 in person or in writing to the Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604 within 15 days after receipt of such decision. The BLM will not consider any protests filed after 15 days of receipt. The protest, if filed, should clearly and concisely state the reason(s) why the proposed decision is in error. All reasons for error not stated in the protest shall be considered waived.

In accordance with 43 CFR 4160.3 (a), in the absence of a protest, the proposed decision will become the final decision of the authorized officer without further notice unless otherwise provided in the proposed decision.

In accordance with 43 CFR 4160.3 (b) upon a timely filing of a protest, after a review of protests received and other information pertinent to the case, the authorized officer shall issue a final decision.

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other person whose interest is adversely affected by the final decision may file an appeal in accordance with 43 CFR 4.470 and 43 CFR 4160.3 and 4160.4. The appeal must be filed within 30 days following receipt of the final decision, or within 30 days after the date the proposed decision becomes final. The appeal may be accompanied by a petition for a stay of the decision pending appeal, in accordance with 43 CFR 4.471. The appeal and petition for a stay must be filed or in writing to the Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604. The appellant must serve a copy of the appeal by certified mail on the Office of the Field Solicitor, Rocky Mountain Region, and 755 Parfet Street Suite 151, Lakewood, Colorado, 80215 and person(s) named [43 CFR 4.421(h)] in the Copies sent to: section of this decision.

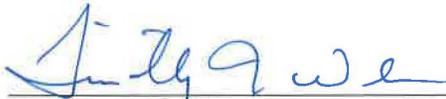
The appeal must clearly and concisely state the reasons why the appellant thinks the final decision is wrong and must otherwise comply with the provisions of 43 CFR 4.470.

Standards for Obtaining a Stay

Should you wish to file a petition for a stay, you must comply with the provisions at 43 CFR 4.471. Among other things, that regulation requires that a petition for a stay show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

- (1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied.
 - (2) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits.
 - (3) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted,
- and
- (4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

Any person named in the decision from which an appeal is taken who wishes to file a response to the petition for a stay may file with the Hearings Division a motion to intervene in the appeal, together with the response, within 10 days after receiving the petition. The person must serve copies of the motion to intervene and response on the appellant, the Office of the Solicitor and any other person named in the decision (43 CFR 4.472(b)).



Timothy J. Wilson
Casper Field Manager

7/1/2014

Date

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Decision Record
DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA
July 2016

Platte County Custodial Allotments Grazing Lease Renewal

Casper Field Office
2987 Prospector Drive
Casper, Wyoming 82604-2968



Selected Alternative

It is my proposed decision to implement the proposed action, renewal of lease with modification as described in the attached Environmental Assessment (DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA) and the attendant Finding of No Significant Impact for authorization of livestock grazing use on the Powers Place (00291) allotment with a term of 10 years.

Specifically, the proposed decision is to offer a new 10-year term grazing lease to the lessee for public lands located within the Powers Place (00291) allotment. Under this proposed action, the allotment would have the authorization to be grazed by cattle, horses, goats, sheep, and/or indigenous livestock up to the AUM's available in each lease. The standard terms and conditions as per 43 CFR 4100 will be applied to the lease. The following additional conditions will be placed on the lease to address assessment of rangeland health and threatened and endangered species:

- The terms and conditions of your lease may be modified if additional information indicates that revision is necessary to conform with 43 CFR 4180.
- Placement of salt, mineral or forage supplements for livestock is not allowed within ¼ mile of water, wetlands, and riparian areas, unless written analysis shows that watershed, riparian, wetland, wildlife, and vegetation values will not be adversely impacted. Forage supplements are required to be “certified weed free.”
- The grazing allotments may contain delineated General Habitat Management Areas for the Greater sage-grouse. In order to effectively manage the annual and long-term influences of grazing and conserve sage-grouse habitats, grazing management will incorporate recommendations as discussed in the publication titled “Grazing Influence, Management, and Objective Development in Wyoming’s Greater Sage Grouse Habitat”, as provided for in IB – WY-2010-022 as recommended by the ARMPA. The primary objective of grazing management would be “to ensure appropriately timed grazing with moderate utilization levels (as described in the Wyoming Rangeland Monitoring Guide) will maintain the preferred Sagebrush/Bunchgrass plant community, and will promote plant vigor and sage-grouse values in less-preferred Sagebrush/Rhizomatous-Bluegrass transitional states.”

Mitigation Measures

- The amount of forage utilized by livestock on the public lands during the grazing year will not exceed the 10 AUM's of forage authorized by the grazing lease.
- Supervision and monitoring of this allotment will follow BLM policy and management guidelines and the Casper Field Office Monitoring Plan.

- The terms and conditions of your lease may be modified if additional information indicates that revision is necessary to conform to 43 CFR 4180
- Placement of salt, mineral or forage supplements for livestock is not allowed within ¼ mile of water, wetlands, and riparian areas, unless written analysis shows that watershed, riparian, wetland, wildlife, and vegetative values will not be adversely impacted. Forage supplements are required to be ‘certified weed-free.
- If any surface disturbing activities are proposed in the allotment they will require cultural and wildlife inventories prior to the work being done.
- If noxious weeds or invasive plant species are discovered on public lands they will be aggressively treated using an integrated pesticide management approach to control their spread.
- The lessees shall immediately notify the BLM Authorized Officer of any paleontological resources discovered as a result of operations under this authorization. The lessees shall suspend all activities in the vicinity of such discovery until notified to proceed by the Authorized Officer and shall protect the discovery from damage or looting. The lessees may not be required to suspend all operations if activities can be adjusted to avoid further impacts to a discovered locality or be continued elsewhere. The Authorized Officer will evaluate, or will have evaluated, such discoveries as soon as possible, but not later than 10 working days after being notified. Appropriate measures to mitigate adverse effects to significant paleontological resources will be determined by the Authorized Officer after consulting with the lessee. Within 10 days, the operator will be allowed to continue grazing, or will be given the choice of either (1) following the Authorized Officer’s instructions for stabilizing the fossil resource in place and avoiding further disturbance to the fossil resource, or (2) following the Authorized Officer’s instructions for mitigating impacts to the fossil resource prior to continuing grazing.
- All persons in the area who are associated with this project are informed that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are uncovered during grazing, the lessee is to immediately stop work that might further disturb such materials, and contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the lessee as to:
 - whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places;
 - the mitigation measures the lessee will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary); and,
 - a timeframe for the AO to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800.11 to confirm, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, that the

findings of the AO are correct and that mitigation is appropriate. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation.

- Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the lessee will then be allowed to resume construction measures.
- To minimize fence collisions by wildlife, hazard fences should be identified, modified and fence markers installed on or with in BLM lands

Authorities

Statutory authorities for this decision are contained in the Taylor Grazing Act of June 28, 1934, as amended (43 U.S.C. 315 through 315r), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976, as amended (Pub. L. 940579); 90 Stat.2743; 43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), and Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Subpart 4100.

Plan Conformance and Consistency

Pursuant to 40 CFR 1508.28 and 1502.21, the EA referenced tiers to and incorporates by reference the information and analysis contained in the PROPOSED Resource Management Plan and FINAL Environmental Impact Statement for the Casper Field Office, the Record of Decision and Approved Casper Resource Management Plan signed in December 2007 as amended by the Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan Amendments for the Rocky Mountain Region, Including the Greater Sage-Grouse Sub-Regions of Lewistown, North Dakota, Northwest Colorado, Wyoming, and the Approved Resource Management Plans for Billings, Buffalo, Cody, HiLine, Miles City, Pompeys Pillar National Monument, South Dakota, Worland: Casper, Kemmerer, Newcastle, Pinedale, Rawlins, and Rock Springs Field Offices Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment for Greater Sage-Grouse. The EA is in conformance and consistent with the referenced Casper RMP and Amendment.

Alternatives Considered

A No Action alternative was considered and analyzed alongside the proposed action to provide a baseline.

No other alternative was considered in the EA.

Public Involvement

No public outreach was needed due to the small amount of BLM administered lands in Platte County.

Rationale for Decision

I have reviewed the Environmental Assessment and the attendant FONSI (DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA) for offering a new 10-year term grazing lease for public lands located in the Powers Place (00291) allotment. Conditioned through mitigation measures, I find that this action will not result in significant impacts on the human environment pursuant to Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations 1508.27 (a) and (b) (1) through (10) and that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. I have determined that the proposed action, renewal of lease with modification, is in conformance with the Record of Decision and Approved Casper Resource Management Plan dated December 7, 2007 and amendments and will not cause unnecessary or undue degradation.

Right of Protest and/or Appeal

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other interested public may protest a proposed decision under 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 4160.2 in person or in writing to the Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604 within 15 days after receipt of such decision. The BLM will not consider any protests filed after 15 days of receipt. The protest, if filed, should clearly and concisely state the reason(s) why the proposed decision is in error. All reasons for error not stated in the protest shall be considered waived.

In accordance with 43 CFR 4160.3 (a), in the absence of a protest, the proposed decision will become the final decision of the authorized officer without further notice unless otherwise provided in the proposed decision.

In accordance with 43 CFR 4160.3 (b) upon a timely filing of a protest, after a review of protests received and other information pertinent to the case, the authorized officer shall issue a final decision.

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other person whose interest is adversely affected by the final decision may file an appeal in accordance with 43 CFR 4.470 and 43 CFR 4160.3 and 4160.4. The appeal must be filed within 30 days following receipt of the final decision, or within 30 days after the date the proposed decision becomes final. The appeal may be accompanied by a petition for a stay of the decision pending appeal, in accordance with 43 CFR 4.471. The appeal and petition for a stay must be filed or in writing to the Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604. The appellant must serve a copy of the appeal by certified mail on the Office of the Field Solicitor, Rocky Mountain Region, and 755 Parfet Street Suite 151, Lakewood, Colorado, 80215 and person(s) named [43 CFR 4.421(h)] in the Copies sent to: section of this decision.

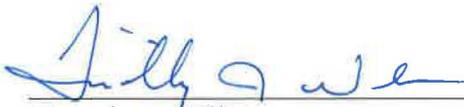
The appeal must clearly and concisely state the reasons why the appellant thinks the final decision is wrong and must otherwise comply with the provisions of 43 CFR 4.470.

Standards for Obtaining a Stay

Should you wish to file a petition for a stay, you must comply with the provisions at 43 CFR 4.471. Among other things, that regulation requires that a petition for a stay show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

- (1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied.
 - (2) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits.
 - (3) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted,
- and
- (4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

Any person named in the decision from which an appeal is taken who wishes to file a response to the petition for a stay may file with the Hearings Division a motion to intervene in the appeal, together with the response, within 10 days after receiving the petition. The person must serve copies of the motion to intervene and response on the appellant, the Office of the Solicitor and any other person named in the decision (43 CFR 4.472(b)).



Timothy J. Wilson
Casper Field Manager

7/1/2016
Date

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Decision Record
DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA
July 2016

Platte County Custodial Allotments Grazing Lease Renewal

Casper Field Office
2987 Prospector Drive
Casper, Wyoming 82604-2968



Selected Alternative

It is my proposed decision to implement the proposed action, renewal of lease with modification as described in the attached Environmental Assessment (DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA) and the attendant Finding of No Significant Impact for authorization of livestock grazing use on the Quarries (00465) allotment with a term of 10 years.

Specifically, the proposed decision is to offer a new 10-year term grazing lease to the lessee for public lands located within the Quarries (00465) allotment. Under this proposed action, the allotment would have the authorization to be grazed by cattle, horses, goats, sheep, and/or indigenous livestock up to the AUM's available in each lease. The standard terms and conditions as per 43 CFR 4100 will be applied to the lease. The following additional conditions will be placed on the lease to address assessment of rangeland health and threatened and endangered species:

- The terms and conditions of your lease may be modified if additional information indicates that revision is necessary to conform with 43 CFR 4180.
- Placement of salt, mineral or forage supplements for livestock is not allowed within ¼ mile of water, wetlands, and riparian areas, unless written analysis shows that watershed, riparian, wetland, wildlife, and vegetation values will not be adversely impacted. Forage supplements are required to be “certified weed free.
- The grazing allotments may contain delineated General Habitat Management Areas for the Greater sage-grouse. In order to effectively manage the annual and long-term influences of grazing and conserve sage-grouse habitats, grazing management will incorporate recommendations as discussed in the publication titled “Grazing Influence, Management, and Objective Development in Wyoming’s Greater Sage Grouse Habitat”, as provided for in IB – WY-2010-022 as recommended by the ARMPA. The primary objective of grazing management would be “to ensure appropriately timed grazing with moderate utilization levels (as described in the Wyoming Rangeland Monitoring Guide) will maintain the preferred Sagebrush/Bunchgrass plant community, and will promote plant vigor and sage-grouse values in less-preferred Sagebrush/Rhizomatous-Bluegrass transitional states.”

Mitigation Measures

- The amount of forage utilized by livestock on the public lands during the grazing year will not exceed the 19 AUM's of forage authorized by the grazing lease.
- Supervision and monitoring of this allotment will follow BLM policy and management guidelines and the Casper Field Office Monitoring Plan.

- The terms and conditions of your lease may be modified if additional information indicates that revision is necessary to conform to 43 CFR 4180
- Placement of salt, mineral or forage supplements for livestock is not allowed within ¼ mile of water, wetlands, and riparian areas, unless written analysis shows that watershed, riparian, wetland, wildlife, and vegetative values will not be adversely impacted. Forage supplements are required to be ‘certified weed-free.
- If any surface disturbing activities are proposed in the allotment they will require cultural and wildlife inventories prior to the work being done.
- If noxious weeds or invasive plant species are discovered on public lands they will be aggressively treated using an integrated pesticide management approach to control their spread.
- The lessees shall immediately notify the BLM Authorized Officer of any paleontological resources discovered as a result of operations under this authorization. The lessees shall suspend all activities in the vicinity of such discovery until notified to proceed by the Authorized Officer and shall protect the discovery from damage or looting. The lessees may not be required to suspend all operations if activities can be adjusted to avoid further impacts to a discovered locality or be continued elsewhere. The Authorized Officer will evaluate, or will have evaluated, such discoveries as soon as possible, but not later than 10 working days after being notified. Appropriate measures to mitigate adverse effects to significant paleontological resources will be determined by the Authorized Officer after consulting with the lessee. Within 10 days, the operator will be allowed to continue grazing, or will be given the choice of either (1) following the Authorized Officer’s instructions for stabilizing the fossil resource in place and avoiding further disturbance to the fossil resource, or (2) following the Authorized Officer’s instructions for mitigating impacts to the fossil resource prior to continuing grazing.
- All persons in the area who are associated with this project are informed that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are uncovered during grazing, the lessee is to immediately stop work that might further disturb such materials, and contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the lessee as to:
 - whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places;
 - the mitigation measures the lessee will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary); and,
 - a timeframe for the AO to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800.11 to confirm, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, that the

findings of the AO are correct and that mitigation is appropriate. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation.

- Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the lessee will then be allowed to resume construction measures.
- To minimize fence collisions by wildlife, hazard fences should be identified, modified and fence markers installed on or with in BLM lands

Authorities

Statutory authorities for this decision are contained in the Taylor Grazing Act of June 28, 1934, as amended (43 U.S.C. 315 through 315r), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976, as amended (Pub. L. 940579); 90 Stat.2743; 43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), and Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Subpart 4100.

Plan Conformance and Consistency

Pursuant to 40 CFR 1508.28 and 1502.21, the EA referenced tiers to and incorporates by reference the information and analysis contained in the PROPOSED Resource Management Plan and FINAL Environmental Impact Statement for the Casper Field Office, the Record of Decision and Approved Casper Resource Management Plan signed in December 2007 as amended by the Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan Amendments for the Rocky Mountain Region, Including the Greater Sage-Grouse Sub-Regions of Lewistown, North Dakota, Northwest Colorado, Wyoming, and the Approved Resource Management Plans for Billings, Buffalo, Cody, HiLine, Miles City, Pompeys Pillar National Monument, South Dakota, Worland: Casper, Kemmerer, Newcastle, Pinedale, Rawlins, and Rock Springs Field Offices Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment for Greater Sage-Grouse. The EA is in conformance and consistent with the referenced Casper RMP and Amendment.

Alternatives Considered

A No Action alternative was considered and analyzed alongside the proposed action to provide a baseline.

No other alternative was considered in the EA.

Public Involvement

No public outreach was needed due to the small amount of BLM administered lands in Platte County.

Rationale for Decision

I have reviewed the Environmental Assessment and the attendant FONSI (DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA) for offering a new 10-year term grazing lease for public lands located in the Quarries (00465) allotment. Conditioned through mitigation measures, I find that this action will not result in significant impacts on the human environment pursuant to Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations 1508.27 (a) and (b) (1) through (10) and that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. I have determined that the proposed action, renewal of lease with modification, is in conformance with the Record of Decision and Approved Casper Resource Management Plan dated December 7, 2007 and amendments and will not cause unnecessary or undue degradation.

Right of Protest and/or Appeal

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other interested publics may protest a proposed decision under 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 4160.2 in person or in writing to the Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604 within 15 days after receipt of such decision. The BLM will not consider any protests filed after 15 days of receipt. The protest, if filed, should clearly and concisely state the reason(s) why the proposed decision is in error. All reasons for error not stated in the protest shall be considered waived.

In accordance with 43 CFR 4160.3 (a), in the absence of a protest, the proposed decision will become the final decision of the authorized officer without further notice unless otherwise provided in the proposed decision.

In accordance with 43 CFR 4160.3 (b) upon a timely filing of a protest, after a review of protests received and other information pertinent to the case, the authorized officer shall issue a final decision.

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other person whose interest is adversely affected by the final decision may file an appeal in accordance with 43 CFR 4.470 and 43 CFR 4160.3 and 4160.4. The appeal must be filed within 30 days following receipt of the final decision, or within 30 days after the date the proposed decision becomes final. The appeal may be accompanied by a petition for a stay of the decision pending appeal, in accordance with 43 CFR 4.471. The appeal and petition for a stay must be filed or in writing to the Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604. The appellant must serve a copy of the appeal by certified mail on the Office of the Field Solicitor, Rocky Mountain Region, and 755 Parfet Street Suite 151, Lakewood, Colorado, 80215 and person(s) named [43 CFR 4.421(h)] in the Copies sent to: section of this decision.

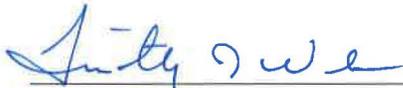
The appeal must clearly and concisely state the reasons why the appellant thinks the final decision is wrong and must otherwise comply with the provisions of 43 CFR 4.470.

Standards for Obtaining a Stay

Should you wish to file a petition for a stay, you must comply with the provisions at 43 CFR 4.471. Among other things, that regulation requires that a petition for a stay show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

- (1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied.
 - (2) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits.
 - (3) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted,
- and
- (4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

Any person named in the decision from which an appeal is taken who wishes to file a response to the petition for a stay may file with the Hearings Division a motion to intervene in the appeal, together with the response, within 10 days after receiving the petition. The person must serve copies of the motion to intervene and response on the appellant, the Office of the Solicitor and any other person named in the decision (43 CFR 4.472(b)).



Timothy J. Wilson
Casper Field Manager

7/1/2016
Date

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Decision Record
DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA
July 2016

Platte County Custodial Allotments Grazing Lease Renewal

Casper Field Office
2987 Prospector Drive
Casper, Wyoming 82604-2968



Selected Alternative

It is my proposed decision to implement the proposed action, renewal of lease with modification as described in the attached Environmental Assessment (DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA) and the attendant Finding of No Significant Impact for authorization of livestock grazing use on the Sand Draw 3 (10340) allotment with a term of 10 years.

Specifically, the proposed decision is to offer a new 10-year term grazing lease to the lessee for public lands located within the Sand Draw 3 (10340) allotment. Under this proposed action, the allotment would have the authorization to be grazed by cattle, horses, goats, sheep, and/or indigenous livestock up to the AUM's available in each lease. The standard terms and conditions as per 43 CFR 4100 will be applied to the lease. The following additional conditions will be placed on the lease to address assessment of rangeland health and threatened and endangered species:

- The terms and conditions of your lease may be modified if additional information indicates that revision is necessary to conform with 43 CFR 4180.
- Placement of salt, mineral or forage supplements for livestock is not allowed within ¼ mile of water, wetlands, and riparian areas, unless written analysis shows that watershed, riparian, wetland, wildlife, and vegetation values will not be adversely impacted. Forage supplements are required to be “certified weed free.
- The grazing allotments may contain delineated General Habitat Management Areas for the Greater sage-grouse. In order to effectively manage the annual and long-term influences of grazing and conserve sage-grouse habitats, grazing management will incorporate recommendations as discussed in the publication titled “Grazing Influence, Management, and Objective Development in Wyoming’s Greater Sage Grouse Habitat”, as provided for in IB – WY-2010-022 as recommended by the ARMPA. The primary objective of grazing management would be “to ensure appropriately timed grazing with moderate utilization levels (as described in the Wyoming Rangeland Monitoring Guide) will maintain the preferred Sagebrush/Bunchgrass plant community, and will promote plant vigor and sage-grouse values in less-preferred Sagebrush/Rhizomatous-Bluegrass transitional states.”

Mitigation Measures

- The amount of forage utilized by livestock on the public lands during the grazing year will not exceed the 32 AUM's of forage authorized by the grazing lease.
- Supervision and monitoring of this allotment will follow BLM policy and management guidelines and the Casper Field Office Monitoring Plan.

- The terms and conditions of your lease may be modified if additional information indicates that revision is necessary to conform to 43 CFR 4180
- Placement of salt, mineral or forage supplements for livestock is not allowed within ¼ mile of water, wetlands, and riparian areas, unless written analysis shows that watershed, riparian, wetland, wildlife, and vegetative values will not be adversely impacted. Forage supplements are required to be ‘certified weed-free.
- If any surface disturbing activities are proposed in the allotment they will require cultural and wildlife inventories prior to the work being done.
- If noxious weeds or invasive plant species are discovered on public lands they will be aggressively treated using an integrated pesticide management approach to control their spread.
- The lessees shall immediately notify the BLM Authorized Officer of any paleontological resources discovered as a result of operations under this authorization. The lessees shall suspend all activities in the vicinity of such discovery until notified to proceed by the Authorized Officer and shall protect the discovery from damage or looting. The lessees may not be required to suspend all operations if activities can be adjusted to avoid further impacts to a discovered locality or be continued elsewhere. The Authorized Officer will evaluate, or will have evaluated, such discoveries as soon as possible, but not later than 10 working days after being notified. Appropriate measures to mitigate adverse effects to significant paleontological resources will be determined by the Authorized Officer after consulting with the lessee. Within 10 days, the operator will be allowed to continue grazing, or will be given the choice of either (1) following the Authorized Officer’s instructions for stabilizing the fossil resource in place and avoiding further disturbance to the fossil resource, or (2) following the Authorized Officer’s instructions for mitigating impacts to the fossil resource prior to continuing grazing.
- All persons in the area who are associated with this project are informed that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are uncovered during grazing, the lessee is to immediately stop work that might further disturb such materials, and contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the lessee as to:
 - whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places;
 - the mitigation measures the lessee will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary); and,
 - a timeframe for the AO to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800.11 to confirm, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, that the

findings of the AO are correct and that mitigation is appropriate. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation.

- Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the lessee will then be allowed to resume construction measures.
- To minimize fence collisions by wildlife, hazard fences should be identified, modified and fence markers installed on or with in BLM lands

Authorities

Statutory authorities for this decision are contained in the Taylor Grazing Act of June 28, 1934, as amended (43 U.S.C. 315 through 315r), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976, as amended (Pub. L. 940579); 90 Stat.2743; 43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), and Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Subpart 4100.

Plan Conformance and Consistency

Pursuant to 40 CFR 1508.28 and 1502.21, the EA referenced tiers to and incorporates by reference the information and analysis contained in the PROPOSED Resource Management Plan and FINAL Environmental Impact Statement for the Casper Field Office, the Record of Decision and Approved Casper Resource Management Plan signed in December 2007 as amended by the Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan Amendments for the Rocky Mountain Region, Including the Greater Sage-Grouse Sub-Regions of Lewistown, North Dakota, Northwest Colorado, Wyoming, and the Approved Resource Management Plans for Billings, Buffalo, Cody, HiLine, Miles City, Pompeys Pillar National Monument, South Dakota, Worland: Casper, Kemmerer, Newcastle, Pinedale, Rawlins, and Rock Springs Field Offices Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment for Greater Sage-Grouse. The EA is in conformance and consistent with the referenced Casper RMP and Amendment.

Alternatives Considered

A No Action alternative was considered and analyzed alongside the proposed action to provide a baseline.

No other alternative was considered in the EA.

Public Involvement

No public outreach was needed due to the small amount of BLM administered lands in Platte County.

Rationale for Decision

I have reviewed the Environmental Assessment and the attendant FONSI (DOI-BLM-WY-P060-2016-050-EA) for offering a new 10-year term grazing lease for public lands located in the Sand Draw 3 (10340) allotment. Conditioned through mitigation measures, I find that this action will not result in significant impacts on the human environment pursuant to Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations 1508.27 (a) and (b) (1) through (10) and that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. I have determined that the proposed action, renewal of lease with modification, is in conformance with the Record of Decision and Approved Casper Resource Management Plan dated December 7, 2007 and amendments and will not cause unnecessary or undue degradation.

Right of Protest and/or Appeal

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other interested publics may protest a proposed decision under 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 4160.2 in person or in writing to the Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604 within 15 days after receipt of such decision. The BLM will not consider any protests filed after 15 days of receipt. The protest, if filed, should clearly and concisely state the reason(s) why the proposed decision is in error. All reasons for error not stated in the protest shall be considered waived.

In accordance with 43 CFR 4160.3 (a), in the absence of a protest, the proposed decision will become the final decision of the authorized officer without further notice unless otherwise provided in the proposed decision.

In accordance with 43 CFR 4160.3 (b) upon a timely filing of a protest, after a review of protests received and other information pertinent to the case, the authorized officer shall issue a final decision.

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other person whose interest is adversely affected by the final decision may file an appeal in accordance with 43 CFR 4.470 and 43 CFR 4160.3 and 4160.4. The appeal must be filed within 30 days following receipt of the final decision, or within 30 days after the date the proposed decision becomes final. The appeal may be accompanied by a petition for a stay of the decision pending appeal, in accordance with 43 CFR 4.471. The appeal and petition for a stay must be filed or in writing to the Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604. The appellant must serve a copy of the appeal by certified mail on the Office of the Field Solicitor, Rocky Mountain Region, and 755 Parfet Street Suite 151, Lakewood, Colorado, 80215 and person(s) named [43 CFR 4.421(h)] in the Copies sent to: section of this decision.

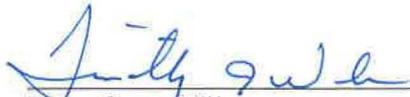
The appeal must clearly and concisely state the reasons why the appellant thinks the final decision is wrong and must otherwise comply with the provisions of 43 CFR 4.470.

Standards for Obtaining a Stay

Should you wish to file a petition for a stay, you must comply with the provisions at 43 CFR 4.471. Among other things, that regulation requires that a petition for a stay show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

- (1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied.
 - (2) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits.
 - (3) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted,
- and
- (4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

Any person named in the decision from which an appeal is taken who wishes to file a response to the petition for a stay may file with the Hearings Division a motion to intervene in the appeal, together with the response, within 10 days after receiving the petition. The person must serve copies of the motion to intervene and response on the appellant, the Office of the Solicitor and any other person named in the decision (43 CFR 4.472(b)).



Timothy J. Wilson
Casper Field Manager



Date