



# United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Mother Lode Field Office  
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El Dorado Hills, CA 95762  
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## Categorical Exclusion Documentation DOI-BLM-CA-C080-2024-0009-CX

### A. Project Title: Oneto Ranch, Electra, Volunteer Gulch, High Mountain, North Fork Mokelumne, and Table Mountain Grazing Allotment Renewals

**B. Description and Rationale:** The purpose of the action is to re-authorize grazing on the Oneto Ranch (#0404155), Electra (#0404114), Volunteer Gulch (#0404160), High Mountain (#0404135), North Fork Mokelumne (#0404154), and Table Mountain (#0404199) allotments. If authorized, grazing would be in accordance with 43 CFR 4100 and consistent with the provisions of the Taylor Grazing Act, Public Rangelands Improvement Act, and Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA). All allotments were evaluated and met land health standards using “Standards and Guidelines for Grazing Administration” as outlined in the 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Subpart 4180.

**C. Location:** Oneto Ranch: Amador County. Township 7N, Range 11E, Section 15 and 22.  
Electra: Amador County. Township 6N, Range 12E, Section 29 and 32; Township 5N, Range 12E, Section 5 and 6.  
Volunteer Gulch: Calaveras County. Township 5N, Range 11E, Section 1.  
High Mountain: Calaveras County. Township 4N, Range 13E, Section 26, 27, 34, 35.  
North Fork Mokelumne: Amador County. Township 7N, Range 10E, Section 14; Township 7N, Range 13E, Section 23, 26, 27, 33, 34.  
Table Mountain: Tuolumne County. Township 1N, Range 14E, Section 17.

**D. Stipulations/Mitigations:** All leases will be renewed for ten years under the same terms/conditions as the previous ten-year lease.

Name	Type and # of Livestock	Season of Use	AUM(Animal Unit Month)
Oneto Ranch (0404155)	1 cattle	3/01-2/28	12
Electra (0404114)	6 cattle 6 cattle	3/01-5/31 9/01-2/28	18 36
Volunteer Gulch (0404160)	3 cattle	3/01-6/30	12
High Mountain (0404135)	6 cattle 8 cattle	3/01-5/31 2/01-2/28	18 7
North Fork Mokelumne (0404154)	7 cattle	3/01-2/28	84

Name	Type and # of Livestock	Season of Use	AUM(Animal Unit Month)
Table Mountain (0404199)	1 horse	3/01-2/28	12

**E. Plan Conformance:** The Sierra Resource Management Plan (February 2008) has been reviewed to determine that the proposed action conforms to the land use plan terms and conditions as required by 43 CFR 1610.5.

**F. Compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act:** The project is a categorically excluded (CX) action under 516 DM 11.10 B. Rangeland Management where grazing lease re-authorization is a designated CX in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act:

The issuance of a grazing permit or lease by the Secretary concerned may be categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) if—

- (A)the issued permit or lease continues the current grazing management of the allotment; and
- (B)the Secretary concerned—
  - (i)has assessed and evaluated the grazing allotment associated with the lease or permit; and
  - (ii)based on the assessment and evaluation under clause (i), has determined that the allotment—
    - (I)with respect to public land administered by the Secretary of the Interior—
      - (aa) is meeting land health standards; or
      - (bb) is not meeting land health standards due to factors other than existing livestock grazing.

The proposed action has been reviewed to determine if extraordinary circumstances exist that would require further environmental analysis and documentation (516 DM 2, Appendix 2). None have been identified (see attached).

**G. Signature**

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Jeff Horn  
Field Manager  
Mother Lode Field Office

Date

**H. Contact**

For more information, contact Jeff Jones, Wildlife Biologist, (916) 941-3136 or [jwjones@blm.gov](mailto:jwjones@blm.gov).

**NEPA Compliance  
Categorical Exclusion Review  
DOI-BLM-CA-C080-2024-0009-CX**

The Department of the Interior Manual 516 2.3A (3) requires review of the following “extraordinary circumstances” (516 DM 2 Appendix 2) to determine if an otherwise categorically excluded action would require additional environmental analysis/documentation.

1) *Have significant impacts on public health or safety.*

Yes  No

2) *Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.*

Yes  No

3) *Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].*

Yes  No

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

Yes  No

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

Yes  No

6) *Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.*

Yes  No

7) *Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.*

Yes  No

8) *Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat.*

Yes  No

9) *Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.*

Yes  No

10) *Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).*

Yes  No

11) *Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).*

Yes  No

12) *Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).*

Yes  No

**Reviewers:**

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Recreation/VRM

*/s/ Beth Brenneman*                      *2024.04.01*

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Botanist

*/s/ Ann-Sheree Brown*                      *2024.03.27*

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Archaeologist

*/s/ Jeffrey Jones*                              *2024.03.21*

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Wildlife Biologist/NEPA Lead