U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Glenwood Springs Field Office
50629 US Highway 6 & 24
Glenwood Springs, CO 81601

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-N040-2009-0068

CASEFILE NUMBER:

PROJECT NAME: Grazing Permit renewal and grazing preference transfer on the Upper Garfield Allotment. Grazing permit renewal on the Alkali Creek Allotment.

LOCATION: T6S R90W Sec 15, 21, 22, 27, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34; T6S R91W Sec 25 & 36; T7S R90W Sec 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9,16 & 17; T7S R91W Sec 12 & 13. – Upper Garfield (08222) and Alkali Creek (08214)Allotments; Refer to attached allotment map.

APPLICANT: Grazing Permittee

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

BACKGROUND: The Upper Garfield allotment contains 4560 public acres. Elevations within the allotment range from 6800 to 8500 feet. Baldy creek, a perennial stream, flows through the western portion of the allotment, and Belodi Creek through the eastern portion. Topography is steep with brushy loam soils. Vegetation is dominated by Gambel Oak and Serviceberry, with scattered patches of Aspen and Douglas Fir in draws and on north slopes.

There are two grazing permits that authorize grazing use on the Upper Garfield Allotment. The allotment has not seen any grazing use since 2005. These permits authorize grazing during most of the growing season.

The first Allotment Management Plan (AMP) for the Upper Garfield Allotment was written in 1969 and was implemented in 1971. Portions of the plan were revised in 1974, 1976 and 1984. Because success of the AMP was tied to a Gambel oak reduction program; none of the plans written produced a workable grazing plan for the allotment. These plans were written for (4) operators with a total of 1397 AUM's on a two pasture deferred rotation grazing system. Currently, the allotment is permitted for 785 AUM's within 5 pastures.

A Land Health Assessment has not been completed for these allotments. It is scheduled to be completed this summer (2009). It is expected that the standards are being met. This permit authorizes grazing during most of the growing season.

As part of the renewal the Alkali Creek allotment that consists of 1136 public acres will be renewed at the same time.

Proposed Action: The Proposed Action is to transfer grazing preference and issue the associated term grazing permit. The number/kind of livestock, period of use, percent public land and Animal Unit Months (AUMS) will remain the same as the previous permit. The permit would be issued for a 10-year period unless the base property lease expires before. The proposed action is in accordance with 43 CFR 4130.2. The tables below summarize the scheduled grazing use and grazing preference for the permits.

Current Grazing Use:

Operator No.	Allotment Name & No.	Livestock No. & Kind	Period of use	Percent Public Land	AUMs
0507619	Upper Garfield (08222)	163 Cattle	06/01 – 10/10	100	710
0507713	Upper Garfield (08222)	17 Cattle	06/01 – 10/10	100	75
0507713	Alkali Creek (08214)	74 Cattle	06/01 – 8/15	100	185

Proposed Grazing Use

Operator No.	Allotment Name & No.	Livestock No. & Kind	Period of use	Percent Public Land	AUMs
0507713	Upper Garfield (08222)	181 Cattle	06/01 – 10/10	100	785
0507713	Alkali Creek(08214)	74 Cattle	06/01 – 08/15	100	185

Grazing Preference AUMS:

Operator No.	Allotment Name & No.	Active	Suspended	Total
0507713	Upper Garfield (08222)	785	0	785
0507713	Alkali Creek (08214)	75	0	185

The following terms and conditions were included on the previous (expiring) permit and will be carried forward on the issued permits:

- Maintenance of range improvements is required and shall be in accordance with all approved cooperative agreements and range improvement permits. Maintenance shall be completed prior to turnout.

- An actual use report shall be submitted annually to the BLM office no later than 15 days after grazing use has ended.

The following allotment term and condition will be included on the issued permits.

- If an assessment of rangeland health results in a determination that changes are necessary in order to comply with the standards for public land health or the guidelines for livestock grazing management in Colorado, this permit will be reissued subject to revised terms and conditions.

- Education/Discovery stipulation: The permittee and all persons specifically associated with grazing operations must be informed that any objects or sites of cultural, paleontological, or scientific value such as historic or prehistoric resources, graves or grave markers, human remains, ruins, cabins, rock art, fossils, or artifacts shall not be damaged, destroyed, removed, moved, or disturbed. If in connection with allotment operations under this authorization any of the above resources are encountered, the proponent shall immediately suspend all activities in the immediate vicinity of the discovery that might further disturb such materials and notify the BLM authorized officer of the findings. The discovery must be protected until notified in writing to proceed by the authorized officer (36CFR800.110 & 112, 43CFR 0.4).

- There are five pastures on the Upper Garfield Allotment, North, South, Baldy, Belodi and Belodi Riparian. The operator agrees to a specific grazing system in which cattle are rotated amongst five different pastures of the allotment during the use period. Periods of use in each grazing area is not to exceed a period of 45 days on the North, South, Baldy and Belodi pastures and not more than 10 days on the Belodi Riparian Pasture.

- Grazing in riparian areas by livestock should leave an average minimum 4-inch stubble height of herbaceous vegetation and should not exceed an average utilization of 40% of the current year's growth for browse species. Within the uplands, average livestock utilization levels should not exceed 50% by weight on key grass species. Once these levels are reached, livestock should be moved to another pasture of the allotment, or removed from the allotment entirely for the remainder of the growing season. Application of this term may be flexible to recognize livestock management that includes sufficient opportunity for regrowth, spring growth prior to grazing, or growing season deferment.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT ELIMINATED:

The No Grazing alternative has been eliminated from further consideration. No unresolved conflicts involving alternative use of available resources have been identified. For this reason, discontinuance of grazing use (No Grazing) will not be considered or assessed.

The No Action alternative has also been eliminated from further consideration. The No Action alternative would involve reissuing the permit/lease with current terms and conditions and no additional stipulations would be added to the permit/lease. Reissuing the permit/lease without the new stipulations would be unrealistic due to current Washington Office and Colorado State Office policies.

PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE ACTION: These permits/leases are subject to renewal or transfer at the discretion of the Secretary of the Interior for a period of up to ten years. The U.S. Bureau of Land Management has the authority to renew the livestock grazing permits/leases

consistent with the provisions of the Taylor Grazing Act, Public Rangelands Improvement Act, Federal Land Policy and Management Act, and Glenwood Springs Field Office's Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement. This Plan/EIS has been amended by Standards for Public Land Health in Colorado.

The renewal of the grazing permit is needed for the following reasons: (1) to meet the livestock grazing management objective of the Resource Management Plan of providing 56,885 animal unit months of livestock forage commensurate with meeting public land health standards, (2) to continue to allow livestock grazing on the specified allotment, (3) to meet the forage demands of local livestock operations, (4) to provide stability to these operations and help preserve their rural agricultural lands for open space and wildlife habitat, and (5) to allow use of native rangeland resource for conversion into protein suitable for human consumption.

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW: The proposed action is subject to and has been reviewed for conformance with the following plan (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM 1617.3):

Name of Plan: Glenwood Springs Resource Management Plan.

Date Approved: Jan. 1984, revised 1988, amended in November 1991 - Oil and Gas Leasing and Development - Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement; amended Nov. 1996 - Colorado Standards and Guidelines; amended in August 1997 - Castle Peak Travel Management Plan; amended in March 1999 - Oil and Gas Leasing & Development Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement; amended in November 1999 - Red Hill Plan Amendment; and amended in September 2002 – Fire Management Plan for Wildland Fire Management and Prescriptive Vegetation Treatment Guidance.

Decision Number/Page: The action is in conformance with Administrative Actions (pg. 5) and Livestock Grazing Management (pg. 20).

Decision Language: Administrative actions states, "Various types of actions will require special attention beyond the scope of this plan. Administrative actions are the day-to-day transactions required to serve the public and to provide optimal use of the resources. These actions are in conformance with the plan". The livestock grazing management objective as amended states, "To provide 56,885 animal unit months of livestock forage commensurate with meeting public land health standards."

STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC LAND HEALTH:
In January 1997, Colorado Bureau of Land Management (BLM) approved the Standards for Public Land Health. The five standards cover upland soils, riparian systems, plant and animal communities, threatened and endangered species, and water quality. Standards describe conditions needed to sustain public land health and relate to all uses of the public lands.

The Divide Creek Watershed which incorporates the Upper Garfield and Alkali Creek Allotments is scheduled to be assessed in 2009. As such, we are deferring making a determination on conformance with the Standards on this allotment until the formal Land Health Assessment is completed. If the authorized officer determines that existing livestock grazing

management practices or levels of grazing use on public lands are significant factors in failing to achieve the standards and conform to the guidelines, the authorized officer shall take appropriate action as soon as practical (according to 43 CFR 4180.2) to achieve progress toward meeting the standards.

Because a standard exists for the five categories mentioned above, the impact analysis must address whether the proposed action or any alternatives being analyzed would result in impacts that would maintain, improve, or deteriorate land health conditions for that specific parameter. These analyses are located in specific elements listed below:

COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 302 OF FLPMA RELATIVE TO THE COMB WASH DECISION

A review of applicable planning documents and a thoughtful consideration of new issues and new demands for the use of the public lands involved in this allotment have been made. This analysis concludes that the current land and resource uses are appropriate.

Reasons for the conclusion are: No new issues or new demands for the use of public lands involved in this grazing allotment have been identified since approval of the land use plan and amendments.

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

This section provides a description of the human and natural environmental resources that could be affected by the proposed action and no action alternative. In addition, the section presents comparative analyses of the direct and indirect consequences on the affected environment stemming from the implementation of the various actions.

A variety of laws, regulations, and policy directives mandate the evaluation of the effects of a proposed action and alternative(s) on certain critical environmental elements. Not all of the critical elements that require inclusion in this EA are present, or if they are present, may not be affected by the proposed action and alternative (Table 1). Only those mandatory critical elements that are present and affected are described in the following narrative.

In addition to the mandatory critical elements, there are additional resources that would be impacted by the proposed action and alternative. These are presented under **Other Affected Resources.**

Critical Elements

Table 1. Critical Elements of the Human Environment

Critical Element	*Present*		*Affected*		*Critical Element*	*Present*		*Affected*	
	Yes	No	Yes	No		Yes	No	Yes	No
Air Quality		X		X	Prime or Unique Farmlands		X		X
ACECs		X		X	Special Status Species*	X			X

Cultural Resources	X			X	Wastes, Hazardous or Solid		X		X
Environmental Justice	X			X	Water Quality, Surface and Ground*	X		X	
Floodplains		X		X	Wetlands and Riparian Zones*	X		X	
Invasive, Non-native Species	X		X		Wild and Scenic Rivers		X		X
Migratory Birds	X			X	Wilderness/ WSAs		X		X
Native American Religious Concerns		X		X					

* Public Land Health Standard

CULTURAL RESOURCES and NATIVE AMERICAN RELIGIOUS CONCERNS

Affected Environment: Range permit renewals are undertakings under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Additional range improvements (e.g., fences, spring improvements) are subject to compliance requirements under Section 106 and will undergo standard cultural resources inventory and evaluation procedures. During Section 106 review, a cultural resource assessment (GSFO #1009-26) was completed for the Diamond Flats and Driveway Three Mile Allotments on March 30, 2009 following the procedures and guidance outlined in the 1980 National Programmatic Agreement Regarding the Livestock Grazing and Range Improvement Program, IM-WO-99-039, IM-CO-99-007, IM-CO-99-019, CO-2001-026, and CO-2002-029. The results of the assessment are summarized in the table below. A copy of the cultural resource assessment is available at the GSFO office.

Allotment Number	**Acres Inventoried at a Class III level**	**Acres NOT Inventoried at a Class III Level**	**Percent (%) Allotment Inventory data Class III level**	**Number of Cultural Resources known in allotment**	**High Potential of Historic Properties (yes/no)**	**Management Recommendations (Additional inventory required and historic properties to be visited)**
Upper Garfield	684	3878	15	4	No	No additional acres need to be inventoried to meet the 10% sampling threshold. 37% of the allotment has 30%+ slopes.
Alkali Creek	69	1068	6	0	No	No additional acres need to be inventoried to meet the 10% sampling threshold. 43% of the allotment has 30%+ slopes.
Total	753	4946	21	4		

Fourteen Class III cultural resource inventories have been conducted within these allotments. These surveys have resulted in the recording of no historic properties. Historic properties are cultural resources that are considered eligible or potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places that need to be preserved. If they cannot be avoided, the adverse impacts must be mitigated. Based on available data, there is a low to moderate potential for historic properties within these allotments. Undiscovered historic era sites within this allotment could represent a time frame from the late 1800's through the 1950's; Native American sites could represent a time range from 200 to 10,000 years before present.

Subsequent site field visits, inventory, and periodic monitoring may have to be done to identify if additional historic properties are present within the term of the permit and as funds are made available. If the BLM determines that grazing activities will adversely impact the properties, mitigation will be identified and implemented in consultation with the Colorado SHPO.

At present, there are no known areas of Native American concern within this allotment. On November 7, 2008 the Glenwood Springs Field Office mailed an informational letter and maps to the Ute Tribe (Northern Ute Tribe), Southern Ute Tribe, and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, identifying the proposed 2009 grazing permit renewals. No response has been received. If new data is disclosed, new terms and conditions may have to be added to the permit to accommodate their concerns. The BLM will take no action that would adversely affect these areas or location without consultation with the appropriate Native Americans.

Environmental Consequences: The direct impacts that occur where livestock concentrate include trampling, chiseling, and churning of site soils, cultural features, and cultural artifacts, artifact breakage, and impacts from standing, leaning, and rubbing against historic structures, above-ground cultural features, and rock art. Indirect impacts include soil erosion, gullying, and increased potential for unlawful collection and vandalism. Continued grazing may cause substantial ground disturbance and cause cumulative, long term, irreversible adverse effects to historic properties.

No historic properties were identified during the inventories for these allotments. A determination of "**No Adverse Affect"** has been made for this renewal. The cultural resource specialist should be involved in discussions for improvements, maintenance, supplemental feeding areas, etc to ensure that possible historic properties and/or areas of concern are avoided.

Mitigation: New improvements or maintenance of existing range improvements may require cultural resource inventories, monitoring, and/or data recovery. This allotment may also contain undiscovered historic properties and/or resources protected under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), American Indian Religious Freedom Act, Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, E.O. 13007, or other statutes and executive orders. The BLM may require modification to development proposals to protect such properties, or disapprove any activity that is likely to result in damage to historic properties or areas of Native American concern.

Education/Discovery stipulation: The permitee and all persons specifically associated with grazing operations must be informed that any objects or sites of cultural, paleontological, or scientific value such as historic or prehistoric resources, graves or grave markers, human remains, ruins, cabins, rock art, fossils, or artifacts shall not be damaged, destroyed, removed, moved, or disturbed. If in connection with allotment operations under this authorization any of the above resources are encountered, the proponent shall immediately suspend all activities in the immediate vicinity of the discovery that might further disturb such materials and notify the BLM authorized officer of the findings. The discovery must be protected until notified in writing to proceed by the authorized officer (36CFR800.110 & 112, 43CFR 0.4).

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Review of 2004 data from US Census Bureau indicates the median annual income of Garfield County averages $50,119 and is neither an impoverished or wealthy county. U.S. Census Bureau data from 2006 shows the minority population of Garfield County comprises less than 0.7 % of the total population of Colorado[1].

Garfield County
Median Household Income (2004)
Estimate
$50,119

Environmental Consequences/Mitigation: The proposed action and alternatives are not expected to create a disproportionately high and adverse human health impact or environmental effect on minority or low-income populations within the area.

INVASIVE, NON-NATIVE SPECIES

Affected Environment: Noxious weed reports identify Canada thistle, whitetop, and houndstongue occur on the Upper Garfield Com Allotment. No noxious weeds have been identified on the Alkali Cr Allotment.

Environmental Consequences/Mitigation: As livestock come in contact with noxious and invasive weed species they will continue to transport seed via coat and feces to other areas of the allotments. Most infestations will be isolated to watering facilities, salting areas, and other livestock high concentration locations. Under the proposed grazing schedule, the allotment would be grazed for approximately 3.5 months during the late spring, summer, and early fall. Rotational grazing use is would be practiced on the allotment and the period of use would be no more than 45 days in any given pasture. An exception would be the Belodi Riparian Pasture where grazing use would be limited to

[1] Source U.S. Census Bureau: State and County QuickFacts. Data derived from Population Estimates, Census of Population and Housing, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, State and County Housing Unit Estimates, County Business Patterns, Nonemployer Statistics, Economic Census, Survey of Business Owners, Building Permits, Consolidated Federal Funds Report
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no more than 10 days. The duration and period of use would allow for ample grazing rest and recovery time for native plant species. Since the proposed action was designed to sustain and/or improve land health, no significant impacts to non-native, invasive species are expected.

MIGRATORY BIRDS

Affected Environment:

The 1988 amendment to the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act mandates the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to "identify species, subspecies, and populations of all migratory nongame birds that, without additional conservation actions, are likely to become candidates for listing under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973." *Birds of Conservation Concern 2008* (*http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/reports/BCC2008/BCC2008m.pdf*) is the most recent effort to carry out this mandate. The conservation concerns may be the result of population declines, naturally or human-caused small ranges or population sizes, threats to habitat, or other factors. The primary statutory authority for *Birds of Conservation Concern 2008* (*BCC 2008*) is the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act of 1980 (FWCA), as amended. Although there are general patterns that can be inferred, there is no single reason why any species was is on the list. The Glenwood Springs Field Office is within the Southern Rockies/Colorado Plateau Bird Conservation Region (BCR). The 2008 list include the following birds: Gunnison Sage Grouse, American Bittern, Bald Eagle, Ferruginous Hawk, Golden Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Prairie Falcon, Snowy Plover, Mountain Plover, Long-billed Curlew, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Burrowing Owl, Lewis's Woodpecker, Willow Flycatcher, Gray Vireo, Pinyon Jay, Juniper Titmouse, Veery, Bendire's Thrasher, Grace's Warbler, Brewer's Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Chestnut-collared Longspur, Black Rosy-Finch, Brown-capped Rosy-Finch, and Cassin's Finch.

Habitat loss due to alteration or destruction continues to be the major reason for the declines of many species (*http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/reports/BCC2008/BCC2008m.pdf*). When considering potential impacts to migratory birds the impact on habitat, including: 1) the degree of fragmentation/connectivity expected from the proposed project relative to before the proposed project; and 2) the fragmentation/connectivity within and between habitat types (e.g., within nesting habitat or between nesting and feeding habitats. Continued private land development, surface disturbing actions in key habitats (e.g. riparian areas) and the proliferation of roads, pipelines, powerlines and trails are local factors that reduce habitat quality and quantity.

The GSFO planning area provides both foraging and nesting habitat for a variety of migratory birds that summer, winter, or migrate through the area. The habitat diversity provided by the broad expanses of sagebrush, mixed mountain shrub, aspen, pinyon-juniper woodlands, other types of coniferous forests and riparian and wetland areas support many bird species. The pinyon jay is characteristically found in pinyon/juniper woodlands and the Brewer's sparrow *(Spizella breweri*) is found within sagebrush

habitats. Other Birds of Conservation Concern 2008 may also occur locally. Many species of raptors (red-tailed hawks, golden eagles, northern goshawks, Cooper's hawks, kestrels and owls) not on the Fish & Wildlife Service's Birds of Conservation Concern list also could occur in the area.

Bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*). Bald eagles are known to winter along portions of the Colorado, Eagle and Roaring Fork Rivers and its major tributaries. Wintering bald eagles are generally present from mid-November to mid-April. Large mature cottonwood trees along the the rivers and their major tributaries are used as roosting and perching sites, and these waterways provide the main food sources of fish and waterfowl. Upland habitats adjacent to these waterways are used as scavenging areas primarily for winter killed mule deer and elk. Major threats include habitat loss, human disturbance and illegal shooting. Bald eagles are increasing in numbers throughout their range and were removed from the federal threatened and endangered species list in 2007 however bald eagles are still protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

Environmental Consequences/Mitigation:
Limited bird count or species data exists for the area; however the greater concern is the continued fragmentation of habitat and losses of large blocks of contiguous habitat required by many bird species. No intentional take of native bird species is anticipated under the proposed action. Grazing by cattle could result in the accidental destruction of ground nests through trampling. This impact is expected to be minimal and isolated and would not influence populations of migratory birds on a landscape level. Given current overall existing habitat condition, livestock grazing, as proposed, will not negatively affect the degree of fragmentation/connectivity expected relative to the existing condition of the allotments and the fragmentation/connectivity within and between habitat types (e.g., within nesting habitat or between nesting and feeding habitats would also likely not change. Overall it is unlikely that, livestock grazing in both numbers and duration, as proposed would not reduce the extent or quality of habitat available for migratory bird breeding functions.

THREATENED, ENDANGERED, AND SENSITIVE SPECIES (includes a finding on Standard 4)

Affected Environment:

Federally Listed, Proposed or Candidate Species
According to the latest species list from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (http://mountain-prairie.fws.gov/endspp/CountyLists/COLORADO.htm), the following Federally listed, proposed, or candidate plant and animal species may occur within or be impacted by actions occurring in Garfield County: Colorado hookless cactus (*Sclerocactus glaucus*), Ute Ladies' Tresses orchid (*Spiranthes diluvialis*), Parachute beardtongue (*Penstemon debilis*), DeBeque phacelia (*Phacelia submutica*), Canada lynx (*Lynx canadensis*), Mexican spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis*), yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*), Greenback cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarkii stomias*), razorback sucker (*Xyrauchen texanus*), Colorado pikeminnow (*Ptychocheilus lucius*),

bonytail chub (*Gila elegans*), and humpback chub (*Gila cypha*). The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced the delisting of the bald eagle in June, 2007 with an effective date of August 8, 2007. The BLM now considers the bald eagle a sensitive species.

No suitable or occupied habitat for any federally listed, proposed, or candidate species (wildlife or plant) is found in or near the proposed action area. The proposed action would have "**No Effect**" to any listed species or their habitat.

Endangered Colorado River Fishes:
These fish are found in the mainstem Colorado River. Designated Critical Habitat for the Colorado pikeminnow and razorback sucker is located downstream approximately 25 miles downstream starting at the Highway 13 Colorado River Bridge Crossing.

BLM Sensitive Species

Plants:
BLM sensitive plant species with habitat and/or occurrence records in Garfield County include adobe thistle (*Cirsium perplexans),* DeBeque milkvetch (*Astragalus debequaeus),* Naturita milkvetch (*Astragalus naturitensis),* Roan Cliffs blazing star (*Mentzelia rhizomata*), Piceance bladderpod (*Lesquerella parviflora*), and Harrington's penstemon (*Penstemon harringtonii*). Complete surveys have not been conducted for BLM sensitive plant species in the Alkali Creek or Upper Garfield allotments, however, the allotments are not known to contain any suitable habitat for any of the sensitive plant species.

Colorado River cutthroat trout:
A conservation population of Colorado River cutthroat trout reside in those portions of Baldy Creek located to the south and southwest of the Upper Garfield Allotment. The portion of Baldy Creek within the Upper Garfield Allotment is not known to contain this species.

Wildlife:
Due to the absence of any known occupied or suitable habitat for BLM sensitive wildlife species, the proposed action would have No Impact on these species.

Environmental Consequences/Mitigation:

Listed, Proposed, Candidate Species:
Due to the absence of any occupied or suitable habitat within or immediately adjacent to the Alkali Creek or Upper Garfield allotments, the proposed action would have **"No Effect"** to any of the listed, proposed or candidate species.

BLM Sensitive Species:

Plants:

Due to the absence of any known occupied or suitable habitat for BLM sensitive plant species, the proposed action would have No Impact on these species.

Wildlife:
Terrestrial wildlife species could be present at times on the allotment however, due to the absence of any occupied or suitable habitat within or adjacent to the allotments, the proposed action would have no impact on these species.

Analysis on the Public Land Health Standard for Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Species: A formal Land Health Assessment has not been completed in this area. Based on the limited number of livestock and the timeframe of grazing use, impacts to special status species should be minimal and it is likely the allotment is meeting Standard 4 for threatened, endangered and other special status species. The continuation of livestock grazing should have minimal effect on the ability of the allotment to meet this Standard.

WATER QUALITY, SURFACE AND GROUND (includes an analysis on Standard 5)

Affected Environment: The Alkali Creek and Upper Garfield Allotments are located south of the Town of New Castle, the Colorado River, and Interstate 70. The Alkali Creek Allotment is east of the perennial Alkali Creek and is within the 9,692 acre Alkali Creek 6th field watershed. The Upper Garfield Allotment is southwest of the perennial Alkali Creek and east of the perennial Baldy Creek. The northern portion of the allotment is within the 12,866 acre Upper Garfield Creek 6th field watershed and the southern portion of the allotment is within the 10,505 acre Baldy Creek allotment.

The drainages mentioned above are not currently listed on the State of Colorado's *Stream Classifications and Water Quality Standards* (CDPHE, Water Quality Control Commission, Regulation No. 33) list, *303(d) List of Water Quality Limited Segments Requiring TMDLS* (CDPHE, Water Quality Control Commission, Regulation No. 93), or the *Monitoring and Evaluation List* (CDPHE, Water Quality Control Commission, Regulation No. 94). At this time there are no current water quality data available for the drainages mentioned above.

Environmental Consequences/Mitigation: Grazing activities would result in soil compaction and displacement that increase the likelihood of erosional processes, especially on steep slopes and areas devoid of vegetation. Soil detachment and sediment transport are likely to occur during runoff events associated with spring snowmelt and short-duration high intensity thunderstorms. In addition, the number of livestock in the area would increase the amount of feces present in close proximity to nearby drainages. The introduction of livestock feces to water bodies often leads to water quality degradation by increasing fecal coliform bacteria levels. Due to the distance of the proposed activities to significant ephemeral and perennial drainages, there is little potential that additional sediment associated with grazing practices as well as fecal coliform bacteria from livestock feces would reach area drainages.

Analysis on the Public Land Health Standard for Water Quality: At this time a Land Health Assessment has not been completed for these allotments but is scheduled to be completed summer 2009. Based on the distance of proposed activities from significant drainages, it is anticipated that the proposed activities would have little effect on water quality.

WETLANDS & RIPARIAN ZONES (includes a finding on Standard 2)

Affected Environment: The Alkali Creek Allotment does not contain any known wetland or riparian resources. The table below lists known riparian areas and their Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) assessment for the Upper Garfield Allotment:

Riparian Area Name	Miles	Year Assessed	Condition Rating
Baldy Creek	1.7	1994	Proper Functioning Condition
Belodi Creek	0.5	1994	Functioning at Risk – Upward Trend

In addition to the riparian areas listed above, numerous springs exist on the allotment. These have not been inventoried or accessed. There is no other inventory or monitoring data other tan the Proper Functioning Condition assessments above.

Environmental Consequences/Mitigation: Under the proposed grazing schedule, the allotment would be grazed for approximately 3.5 months during the late spring, summer, and early fall. Rotational grazing use is would be practiced on the allotment and the period of use would be no more than 45 days in any given pasture. An exception would be the Belodi Riparian Pasture where grazing use would be limited to no more than 10 days. The duration and period of use would allow for ample grazing rest and recovery time for riparian plant species. In consideration of this and the condition of riparian zones described in the Affected Environment, renewal of the grazing permit is not expected to cause adverse impacts to riparian zones. The condition of riparian areas would be maintained or improved. There would be no cumulative impacts.

Analysis on the Public Land Health Standard for riparian systems: The proposed action would not result in failure to achieve this standard and should maintain and/or improve land health conditions for riparian systems.

NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS

The following elements **must** be addressed due to the involvement of Standards for Public Land Health:

SOILS (includes an analysis on Standard 1)

Affected Environment: According to the *Soil Survey of Rifle Area, Colorado: Parts of Garfield and Mesa Counties* (USDA 1985), the Alkali Creek Allotment contains two different soil map units (*24, 39*) and the Upper Garfield Allotment contains five different

soil map units (*12, 19, 39, 42, 45*). These soil map units can be identified by the numerical code assigned by the soil survey (*e.g. Bucklon-Inchau loams=12*). These soil map units are scattered throughout the allotments and have been identified as having slight to severe erosion hazards. In addition, some areas within the allotments are mapped as CSU 4 (Controlled Surface Use) for erosive soils on slopes greater than 30% and NSO 15 (No Surface Occupancy) for slopes greater than 50%. Following is a brief description of the soil map units found within the two allotments.

- Bucklon-Inchau loams (12) – These soils occur on ridges and mountainsides at elevations ranging from 7,000 to 9,500 feet and on slopes of 25 to 50 percent. About 55 percent of this soil map unit is Bucklon soil and 35 percent Inchau soil. The remaining 10 percent of the soil map unit are made up of varying amounts of Cochetopa, Cimarron, and Jerry soils. The Bucklon soil is found on steep, convex areas while the Inchau soil is found on more concave areas. The Bucklon soil is shallow, well drained and has medium surface runoff with severe erosion hazard. The Inchau soil is moderately deep, well drained and has medium surface runoff with severe erosion hazard. Primary uses for these soils include wildlife habitat and limited grazing.
- Cochetopa-Jerry complex (19) – These moderately steep soils are found on mountainsides at elevations ranging from 7,000 to 9,500 feet and on slopes of 25 to 50 percent. They are derived from sandstone, shale, and basalt. Approximately 50 percent of this complex is Cochetopa soil and approximately 40 percent Jerry soil. Both of these soils are deep, well drained and have slow surface runoff with moderate erosion hazard. Primary uses for this complex include grazing and wildlife habitat.
- Dollard-Rock outcrop, shale, complex (24) – This complex consists of shale outcrops and shale derived soils that are found on hills and mountainsides at elevations ranging from 6,000 to 7,500 feet and on slopes of 25 to 65 percent. Approximately 60 percent of the complex is the Dollard soil and 20 percent is shale outcrop. The Dollard soil is moderately deep, well drained and has rapid surface runoff with severe erosion hazard. Surface runoff for the Rock outcrop is rapid and the erosion hazard is very severe. This complex is primarily used for limited grazing and wildlife habitat.
- Jerry loam (39) – This deep, well drained soil is found on mountainsides at elevations ranging from 7,000 to 9,500 feet and on slopes of 12 to 50 percent. Parent material for this soil is sandstone, shale, and basalt. Surface runoff for this soil is slow and the erosion hazard is moderate. Primary uses for this soil include wildlife habitat and grazing.
- Lamphier loam (42) – This deep, well drained soil is found on fans and mountainsides at elevations ranging from 7,500 to 10,000 feet and on slopes of 15 to 50 percent. This soil is derived from sandstone and shale rocks. Surface runoff for this soil is slow and the erosion hazard is classified as slight. Primary uses for this soil include grazing, wildlife habitat, and recreation.
- Morval-Tridell complex (45) – This soil map unit is found on alluvial fans and the sides of mesas at elevations ranging from 6,500 to 8,000 feet and on slopes of 6 to 25 percent. The Morval soil makes up about 55 percent of the unit and is found on lower slopes while the Tridell soil makes up about 30 percent of the unit and is found on the sides of mesas. Both soils are deep, well drained and have medium surface runoff

and moderate erosion hazard. The primary uses for this soil map unit include grazing and wildlife habitat.

Environmental Consequences/Mitigation: Grazing activities would result in soil compaction and displacement that increase the likelihood of erosional processes, especially on steep slopes and areas devoid of vegetation. Soil detachment and sediment transport are likely to occur during runoff events associated with spring snowmelt and short-duration high intensity thunderstorms. Due to the distance of the proposed activities from significant ephemeral and perennial drainages, there is little potential that additional sediment associated with grazing practices could reach area drainages.

Analysis on the Public Land Health Standard 1 for Upland Soils: At this time a Land Health Assessment has not been completed for these allotments but is scheduled to be completed summer 2009. Based on the above soil types and existing conditions, it is anticipated that the proposed activities would have little effect on soil resources.

VEGETATION (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment:

Alkali Creek Allotment

The Alkali Creek allotment lies at the headwaters of Alkali Creek, southeast of New Castle, Colorado. Elevations on the allotment range from 7,100 feet to 8,200 feet. The allotment consists of the moderately steep-to-steep, west-facing slopes of a long north-south ridgeline. The northern tip of the allotment includes Porter Reservoir, a large, irrigation reservoir. The Sykes and Alford Ditch diverts water from Garfield Creek and flows north through the allotment into this reservoir.

Vegetation on the Alkali Creek allotment is predominantly Gambel oak with serviceberry, snowberry and other mixed mountain shrubs. Some aspen woodlands are present in the upper elevations and pinyon-juniper woodlands are found on the few south-facing slopes.

Upper Garfield Allotment

Elevations within the Upper Garfield allotment range from 6800 to 8500 feet. Baldy creek, a perennial stream, flows through the western portion of the allotment, and Belodi Creek through the eastern portion. Topography is steep with erosive soils. Vegetation is dominated by Gambel oak and serviceberry, with scattered patches of aspen and Douglas-fir in draws and on north slopes. The understory is predominantly Kentucky bluegrass, western wheatgrass, Mountain brome and needlegrasses.

The 1984 Allotment Management Plan and some of the use supervision data in the allotment file indicates that distribution of livestock grazing use is poor due to thick brush covering a large portion of the allotment, steep topography, and lack of water sources. Livestock tend to concentrate in bottoms and openings causing low productivity and poor vegetative composition.

Environmental Consequences/Mitigation:

Alkali Creek Allotment
There is no utilization or trend monitoring data in the Alkali Creek allotment file with which to evaluate livestock grazing impacts. The allotment file includes documentation of repeated grazing trespasses throughout the 1970's that ultimately resulted in cancelling the grazing permit of one of the permittees. The grazing schedule for the Alkali Creek allotment extends from 6/1 to 8/15. In favorable climatic years, this grazing schedule should allow opportunity for grasses to set seed prior to or following the grazing period.

Upper Garfield Allotment
The Upper Garfield allotment would be grazed for approximately 3.5 months during the late spring, summer, and early fall. Under the proposed terms of the permit, the cattle would be rotated amongst five different pastures during the use period. Periods of use in each pasture would not exceed 45 days on the North, South, Baldy and Belodi pastures and not more than 10 days on the Belodi Riparian pasture. The pasture rotation system should provide adequate growing season rest for plant recovery and for seed dissemination and seedling establishment. However, adverse impacts to vegetative health could occur if livestock concentrate in the small grassy meadows or the riparian areas for the entire use period. Other grazing permits are authorized on the Upper Garfield allotment and these are contributing to the cumulative use and distribution on the allotment.

Mitigation:

- Grazing in riparian areas by livestock should leave an average minimum 4-inch stubble height of herbaceous vegetation and should not exceed an average utilization of 40% of the current year's growth for browse species. Within the uplands, average livestock utilization levels should not exceed 50% by weight on key grass species. Once these levels are reached, livestock should be moved to another pasture of the allotment, or removed from the allotment entirely for the remainder of the growing season. Application of this term may be flexible to recognize livestock management that includes sufficient opportunity for regrowth, spring growth prior to grazing, or growing season deferment.

If grazing use levels adhere to the mitigation proposed, renewal of the grazing permit is not expected to degrade cause adverse impacts to plant communities. The ecological condition of plant communities would be maintained or improved.

Analysis on the Public Land Health Standard 3 for Plant and Animal Communities (partial; see also Wildlife, Aquatic and Terrestrial): Grazing use, with proposed mitigation, is not likely to cause a failure to meet Standard 3 for Plant Communities. The Glenwood Springs Field Office is scheduled to complete the Divide Creek Land Health Assessment in summer 2009 that would include the Alkali Creek and Upper Garfield allotments. If the formal land health assessment determines that current livestock grazing is a significant factor in failing to meet or make progress towards meeting Standard 3 for plant communities, the grazing permit may be modified to achieve this objective.

WILDLIFE, AQUATIC (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment:
The Alkali Creek allotment contains two perennial waters, Alkali Creek and Porter Reservoir. Alkali Creek may contain some brook trout and aquatic insects. Porter Reservoir is not known to contain fish and is used primarily for irrigation storage.

The Upper Garfield Common allotment contains two perennial streams, Baldy Creek and Beldoi Creek. Baldy Creek contains Colorado River cutthroat trout in the upper reaches of the stream above and outside of the allotment. Belodi Creek is not known to contain any fish due to small size and limited flow but does have aquatic insects. Garfield Creek is located within 0.2 miles of the allotments northeast border. This stream contains creek chubs, rainbow trout, and speckled dace.

Environmental Consequences/Mitigation:
Continued grazing as proposed would likely result in some soil compaction and displacement and increase the likelihood of erosional processes, especially on steep slopes, areas devoid of vegetation, and at livestock concentration areas such as mineral sites, water sources, and drainage bottoms. Soil detachment and sediment transport are likely to occur during runoff events associated with spring snowmelt and short-duration high intensity thunderstorms.

Trout that reside in Alkali Creek and Garfield Creek would most be impacted by an increases in sediment. Increased sediment can impact reproduction by silting in gravel spawning substrates and possibly smothering eggs. Increased sediments can also silt in limited pool habitats making them shallower and less useable by trout. Pools are important for overwinter and oversummer refugia habitats. Aquatic invertebrates use the small spaces between stream substrates to live and can be smothered by excessive sediments which limits stream productivity and reduces food sources for resident fish nad terrestrial bird and bat species.

The Upper Garfield Common allotment is divided into 5 pastures which limits use in any one area for too long. This should minimize sediment concerns and reduce potential impacts to resident fish and aquatic insects. The Alkali Creek allotment is grazed most of the growing season, but should allow for seed establishment on the front end prior to livestock turnout. This should help to minimize impacts from proposed grazing on uplands and reduce sediment concerns in Alkali Creek.

Analysis on the Public Land Health Standard 3 for Plant and Animal Communities (
A formal Land Health Assessment has not been completed for this area but is scheduled for the summer of 2009. Continued livestock grazing as proposed should have limited bearing on the watersheds ability to meet Standard 3 for aquatic wildlife.

WILDLIFE, TERRESTRIAL (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment:
This allotment provides important habitat for a variety of obligate species of birds, and are particularly important as food and cover for wintering big game. Pinyon-juniper woodlands provide important foraging and nesting habitat for some raptor species and many migratory song birds, and provide security, foraging, and thermal cover for a variety of small game, big game, and nongame wildlife. Mixed mountain shrub and oak habitats are important to turkey, black bear, and lion among others.

Terrestrial habitats have been altered by roads (both authorized and unauthorized), powerlines, pipelines, fences, public recreation use, residential and commercial development, vegetative treatments and livestock and wild ungulate grazing. These human uses cumulatively contribute to the degradation of habitat quality, fragmentation of habitat for several species and the expansion of areas supporting noxious and exotic vegetative species.

Species of High Public Interest. . Mule deer and elk usually occupy the area yearround however the sagebrush-dominant ridges and south-facing slopes are important elk winter habitat. BLM lands within these allotments provide a small portion of the less-developed winter range available to elk. The allotments to a much larger extent overlap with CDOW mapped deer and elk summer range. Severe winter range is considered that part of the overall range where 90% of the individuals are located when the annual snowpack is at its maximum and/or temperatures are at a minimum in the two worst winters out of ten. Summer range is that part of the overall range where 90% of the individuals are located between spring green-up and the first heavy snowfall. Summer range is not necessarily exclusive of winter range; in some areas winter range and summer range may overlap.

Public surveys, land management agency input, and HPP committee participation all indicate a general agreement that the elk herd is at or near desirable and sustainable levels. The current population size of approximately 11,500 animals is just above the objective of 10,500 animals for DAU E-14 (game management units 41, 42, 52, 411, 421, 521) (http://wildlife.state.co.us/NR/rdonlyres/3B3FB96B-A5DA-4835-BD8D-C71723E66379/0/E14DAUPlanFinal.pdf). Public surveys, land management agency input, and HPP committee participation all indicate a general agreement that the deer herd is at or near desirable and sustainable levels. The current population size of approximately 30,500 animals is just above the DAU D-12 objective (GMUs: 41, 42, 421). of 29,500 animals that was set through the DAU planning process (http://wildlife.state.co.us/NR/rdonlyres/057CB0C3-C4E9-46E2-8570-996BF0D5FCE7/0/D12DAUPlanFinal.pdf).

Environmental Consequences/Mitigation:
The proposed action would not be expected to degrade wildlife habitat and would still provide for the forage and cover needs of wildlife if the proposed vegetation mitigation is followed. Otherwise the grazing schedule may create a deficit of wildlife forage if regrowth

is not achieved or too much forage (*above mitigation standard – 1) average minimum 4-inch stubble height of herbaceous vegetation and should not exceed an average utilization of 40% of the current year's growth for browse species; 2) within the uplands, average livestock utilization levels should not exceed 50% by weight on key grass species.)* is removed by livestock.

Species of High Public Interest. Qualitatively viewing the big game population trends and objectives in relationship to the consistent level of livestock AUMs, is can be assumed that the current stocking rates will continue to be compatible with CDOW big game objectives.

Analysis on the Public Land Health Standard 3 for Terrestrial Wildlife Communities (partial, see also Vegetation and Wildlife, Aquatic): The Glenwood Springs Field Office (GSFO) has not yet completed a Land Health Assessment for this area and is therefore deferring a determination on conformance with the Standards on this allotment until the Land Health Assessment. The GSFO is scheduled to complete the Divide Creek Land Health Assessment in summer 2009 that would include the Alkali Creek and Upper Garfield allotments. Generally when grass is plentiful, cattle will feed largely on grass and deer will feed on forbs and browse so forage competition is low. However, summer forage competition could be a factor if the area is found to be lacking grasses and cattle are forced to compete with deer for forbs and browse. A determination on whether these allotments are currently meeting the standard will be made following the field assessment in summer 2009.

OTHER NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS: For the following elements, those brought forward for analysis will be formatted as shown above.

Table 2. Other Resources Considered in the Analysis.

Resource	*NA or Not Present*	*Present and Not Affected*	*Present and Affected*
Access and Transportation		X	
Cadastral Survey	X		
Fire/Fuels Management	X		
Forest Management	X		
Geology and Minerals		X	
Law Enforcement	X		
Paleontology		X	
Noise	X		
Range Management		X	
Realty Authorizations	X		
Recreation		X	
Socio-Economics	X		
Visual Resources		X	

SUMMARY OF CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

No cumulative impacts have been identified.

PERSONS AND AGENCIES CONSULTED:

Southern Ute Tribe
Northern Ute Tribe
Ute Mtn. Ute Tribe

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

Name	***Title***	***Responsibility***
Dereck Wilson	Rangeland Management Specialist	NEPA Lead, Noxious and Invasive Species, Range Management
Michael Kinser	Rangeland Management Specialist	Wetlands and Riparian Zones
Jeff O'Connell	Hydrologist/Geologist	Soil, Air, Water, Geology
Kay Hopkins	Outdoor Recreation Planner	WSR, Wilderness, VRM, Recreation, Transportation
Cheryl Harrison	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources and Native American Concerns
	Wildlife Biologist	Migratory Birds, T/E/S Wildlife, Terrestrial Wildlife
Carla DeYoung	Ecologist	ACEC, T/E/S Plants, Vegetation, Land Health Assessments
Tom Fresques	Fisheries Biologist	T/E/S Aquatic Species, Aquatic Wildlife
Jeff Cook	Wildlife Biologist	Terrestrial Wildlife

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
GLENWOOD SPRINGS FIELD OFFICE

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Grazing Permit Renewal on the Upper Garfield Com and Alkali Cr Allotments

DOI-BLM-CO140-2009-0068-EA

Finding of No Significant Impact
I have reviewed the direct, indirect and cumulative effects of the proposed action documented in the EA for the grazing permit renewal on the Upper Garfield Com and Alkali Cr Allotments. The effects of the proposed action are disclosed in the Alternatives and Environmental Impacts sections of the EA. Implementing regulations for NEPA (40 CFR 1508.27) provide criteria for determining the significance of the effects. Significant, as used in NEPA, requires consideration of both *context* and *intensity* as follows:

(a) Context. This requirement means that the significance of an action must be analyzed in several contexts such as society as a whole (human, national), the affected region, the affected interests, and the locality. Significance varies with the setting of the proposed action. For instance, in the case of a site-specific action, significance would usually depend upon the effects in the locale rather than in the world as a whole. Both short and long-term effects are relevant (40 CFR 1508.27):

The disclosure of effects in the EA found the actions limited in context. The planning area is limited in size and activities limited in potential. Effects are local in nature and are not likely to significantly affect regional or national resources.

(b) Intensity. This requirement refers to the severity of the impact. Responsible officials must bear in mind that more than one agency may make decisions about partial aspects of a major action. The following are considered in evaluating intensity (40 CFR 1508.27).

1. Impacts that may be both beneficial and/or adverse.

Impacts associated with the livestock grazing permit renewal are identified and discussed in the Environmental Impacts section of the EA. The proposed action will not have any significant beneficial or adverse impacts on the resources identified and described in the EA.

2. *The degree to which the proposed action affects health or safety.*

The proposed activities will not significantly affect public health or safety. The purpose of the proposed action is to allow for multiple uses while maintaining or improving resource conditions to meet standards for rangeland health in the allotment. Similar actions have not significantly affected public health or safety.

3. *Unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas.*

A determination of "May Adversely Affect" has been made for historic properties that occur in the allotments; however, this determination is based on impacts from the construction and/or maintenance of range improvements which is not the proposed action (i.e., renewal of the livestock grazing permit). Although there is generic discussion of adverse impacts that could occur to cultural resources from livestock grazing, no specific impacts from livestock grazing have been identified to the historic properties that occur within these allotments. No other unique characteristics are known to occur in the allotments.

4. The degree to which the effects are likely to be highly controversial.

The analysis did not identify any effects that are highly controversial.

5. The degree to which the effects are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks.

The possible effects on the human environment are not highly uncertain nor do they involve unique or uncertain risks. The technical analyses conducted for the determination of the impacts to the resources are supportable with use of accepted techniques, reliable data, and professional judgment. Therefore, I conclude that there are no highly uncertain, unique, or unknown risks.

6. The degree to which the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represent a decision in principle about a future consideration.

This EA is specific to the Upper Garfield Com and Alkali Cr Allotments. It is not expected to set precedent for future actions with significant effects or represent a decision in principle about a future management consideration in or outside of this allotment.

7. Whether the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts.

The analysis in the EA did not identify any related actions with cumulative significant effects.

8. The degree to which the action may adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or may cause loss or destruction of significant, cultural, or historical resources.

The proposed action is not considered to adversely affect districts, sites, highways or structures. Refer to the discussion for No. 3 for impacts to cultural/historic resources.

9. The degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

There is no designated critical habitat for any listed Threatened or Endangered species within the project area. Due to the absence of any occupied or suitable habitat within or adjacent to these allotments, the proposed action would have **"No Effect"** to any of the four listed, proposed or candidate plant species. Given the grazing management in place on both allotments, reauthorization of livestock grazing should have **"No Effect"** to either of these endangered fishes or their habitats.

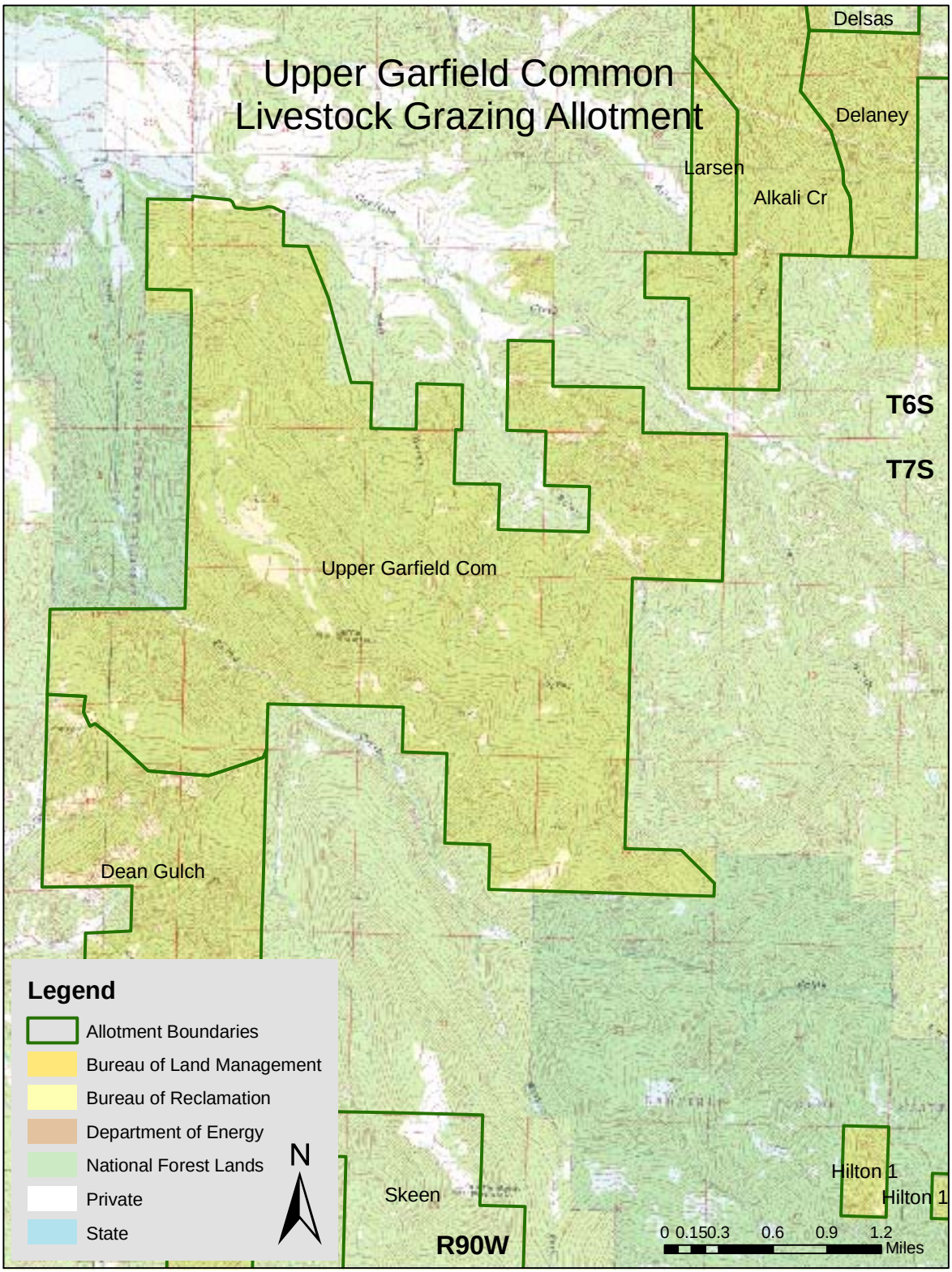
10. *Whether the action threatens a violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment.*

The proposed action does not violate or threaten to violate any Federal, State or local laws or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment.

Based upon the review of the test for significance and the environmental analyses conducted, I have determined that the actions analyzed in the EA will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, I have determined that the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not necessary for this proposal.

Authorized Official
Glenwood Springs Field Office

Date 4/27/2009


Upper Garfield Common
Livestock Grazing Allotment
Delsas
Delaney
Larsen
Alkali Cr
T6S
T7S
Upper Garfield Com
Dean Gulch
Skeen
R90W
Hilton 1
Hilton 1
Legend
Allotment Boundaries
Bureau of Land Management
Bureau of Reclamation
Department of Energy
National Forest Lands
Private
State
N
0 0.150.3 0.6 0.9 1.2
Miles