

L 33-8-02
United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Ely Field Office
HC 33 Box 33500 (702 No. Industrial Way)
Ely, Nevada 89301-9408
<http://www.nv.blm.gov/Ely>

In Reply Refer To:
4100(NV-042)
MAR 08 2002

Dear Interested Public;

On March 6, 2002, the Decision Record and Finding of No Significant Impact for the El Tejon Cattle Company Term Grazing Permit Issuance (renewal) (EA No. NV-040-02-025) was signed. This letter serves to notify you of this decision.

The proposed action associated with EA No. NV-040-02-025 is to issue a new term permit to El Tejon Cattle Company. This permit renewal is associated with the following allotments: South Spring Valley, Majors, Wilson Creek and Shoshone Unit Trail. The previous term permit was issued for a one year period and expired 02/28/02. The new term permit would be issued for a five year period 03/01/02 - 02/12/07. The new term grazing permit would include a change in season of use. The season of use for South Spring Valley Allotment would be from February through May of each year and will be based on an annual evaluation of the change on the forage resources. The June 1st through June 15th period of use would continue. Therefore, the new season of use will be from February through June 15th.

A temporary grazing permit has been issued in accordance with "The Grazing Rider" portions of Section 114, PL 107-67 which states in part that "A grazing permit or lease that expires (or is transferred) during fiscal year 2002 shall be renewed under section 402 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended (43 U.S.C. 1752)...". This term permit was issued for the period 03/01/02 to 02/28/03.

The new term grazing permit would reflect a five year Agreement for Implementation of Changes in Livestock Grazing Use on the Majors and South Spring Valley Allotments and the annual grazing plan signed on February 11, 2002. The grazing use agreement identifies areas, number and season of use for livestock in addition to those changes indicated in the 2000 grazing plan. Grazing plans will be developed annually over the five year period.

You have the right to appeal this decision if; you believe this decision is adverse to you and you believe it is incorrect. See the enclosed form titled Information on Taking Appeals to the Board of Land Appeals for appeal procedures. A Notice of Appeal must be filed within 30 days of receipt of this letter. If you have any questions regarding the grazing action, please contact Brett Covlin, of my staff, at 1-775-289-1800.

Sincerely,

James M. Perkins
Assistant Field Manager
Renewable Resources

DECISION RECORD/FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Decision: I have reviewed this Environmental Assessment (NV-040-02-025) and it is my decision to implement the action as proposed. That action is to issue a new grazing permit to El Tejon Cattle Company. The terms and conditions included as part of the term grazing permit would mitigate anticipated impacts. No additional mitigating measures are proposed. The annual agreements will be based on monitoring results of previous years grazing use. Adjustments to management practices and terms and conditions will be made annually as needed and included in the annual grazing plan. Additional monitoring data is needed because of the potential for the spread of noxious weeds. This decision will become final after the thirty day public appeal period.

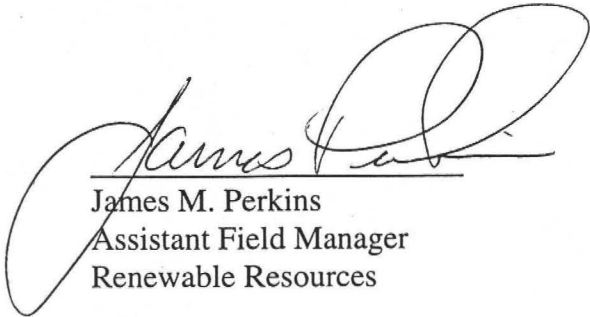
Rationale: The proposed action to issue a new grazing permit for El Tejon Cattle Company is within the array of options identified for the alternatives and proposed action as analyzed in the Schell Grazing Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and the Schell Wilderness EIS. There have been no major changes made associated with the term permit issuance from the rangeland management actions presented in the Schell Grazing EIS and the Schell Wilderness EIS. The proposed action is not substantially different than the action analyzed in the Schell Grazing EIS and the Schell Wilderness EIS. The proposed action complies with the Interim Management Policy for Lands Under Wilderness Review. No new resource information relevant to the proposed action or impacts thereof has been identified which would change our analysis or decisions.

FONSI: I have determined that no additional significant impacts will occur to the quality of the human environment as a result of this decision; therefore, another EIS is not required.

Rationale: My finding of no significant impact is based on the following:

- The action will have no adverse effects on such unique characteristics as cultural resources, wilderness areas, wetlands, or riparian areas.
- The environmental effects of the project are neither controversial nor do they involve unique or unknown risks.
- The action will have no adverse effects on special status species (federally listed, proposed or candidate, threatened or endangered and state sensitive).
- The action does not threaten to violate a Federal, State, or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment.
- The action will have no impact on migratory birds.
- The action will have no adverse effects on the human health or environment of minority or low income populations.

- A weeds assessment of the proposed term Grazing Permit Authorization indicated a moderate potential for spread of noxious weeds.



James M. Perkins
Assistant Field Manager
Renewable Resources

3-6-02
Date