

# PROJECT INITIATION FORM

## Categorical Exclusion



Bureau of Land Management  
Safford Field Office  
Safford, AZ

<b>Document Title:</b> Aravaipa and Aravaipa South Grazing Preference Transfer	
<b>Document Number:</b> DOI-BLM-AZ-G010-2018-0003-CX	<b>Case File Number:</b> #45220 / #45210
<b>Preparer Name and Title:</b> R.J. Estes, Rangeland Management Specialist	
<b>Applicant:</b> Dry Camp Ranch LLC	
<b>Applicable CX (BLM NEPA Handbook H-1790-1 Appendices 3 or 4):</b> Appendix 4: Part D (1) Rangeland Management - Approval of transfers of grazing preference.	
<b>Proposed:</b> Dry Camp Ranch LLC (applicant) have applied for preference and transfer of the grazing permit on Aravaipa and Aravaipa South Grazing Allotments (#45220 and #45210) within the Safford Field Office. The Aravaipa and Aravaipa South Allotments are located in Graham County, approximately 30 miles west of Safford, Arizona.	
<b>Comment(s):</b> Preference will transfer from Olympic Communications to Dry Camp Ranch LLC.	
<b>Staff Assignments</b>	
<b>Biologist:</b> <u>Mark McCabe</u>	<b>NEPA Coordinator:</b> <u>Amy Corathers</u>
<b>RMS:</b> <u>R.J. Estes</u>	<b>Realty:</b> _____
<b>Map is:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Not required <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Required	
<b>Scoping resource conflict analysis report is:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Not required <input type="checkbox"/> Required	
<b>A CX compliance record is required. However, the Proposed Action does not require scoping at a NEPA meeting because the following CX authority applies pursuant to 516 DM 11.9 (check one):</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rangeland Management D (1): Approval of transfers of grazing preference.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Realty E (9): Renewals and assignments of leases, permits, or rights-of-way where no additional rights are conveyed beyond those granted by the original authorizations.	

Roberta Lopez (acting)  
Thomas J. Schnell,  
Assistant Field Manager, Non-Renewable Resources

Amelia J. Taylor  
Amelia J. Taylor  
Assistant Field Manager, Renewable Resources

Scott C. Cooke 11/14/17  
Scott C. Cooke  
Field Manager

# NEPA COMPLIANCE RECORD

## Categorical Exclusion (CX)



Bureau of Land Management  
Safford Field Office  
Safford, AZ

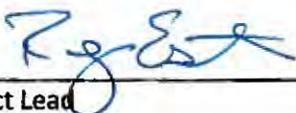
### I. PROJECT INFORMATION

NEPA #: DOI-BLM-AZ-G010-2018-0003-CX	Serial/Case File No.: #45220 / #45210
Title: Aravaipa and Aravaipa South Grazing Preference Transfer	
Proposed Action/Type: Grazing Preference Transfer	
Proposed: Dry Camp Ranch LLC (applicant) have applied for preference and transfer of the grazing permit on Aravaipa and Aravaipa South Grazing Allotments (#45220 and #45210) within the Safford Field Office. The Aravaipa and Aravaipa South Allotments are located in Graham County, approximately 30 miles west of Safford, Arizona.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Map Attached	
Applicant (if any): Dry Camp Ranch LLC	
Applicable CX: (BLM NEPA Handbook H-1790-1 Appendices 3 or 4): Appendix 4: Part D (1) Rangeland Management - Approval of transfers of grazing preference.	

### II. PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW

This proposed action is subject to the following land use plan: Safford District Resource Management Plan (RMP) and partial Records of Decision approved September 1992 and July 1994.

The proposed action has been reviewed and determined to be in conformance with this plan [43 CFR 1610.5, BLM MS 1601.04(C)(2)].

  
Project Lead

  
Date

### III. RESOURCE PROGRAM CONSULTATION & COORDINATION



III (A). CX Applicability/ Exception Review

Date Internal Scoping Initiated:		Date Internal Scoping Closed:		
Applies? Yes No	NAME	EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCE (EXCEPTION)	SIGNATURE*	DATE
<i>*Signature indicates that I have reviewed the project to determine the applicability of an extraordinary circumstance.</i>				
If any of the following extraordinary circumstances are applicable to the action being considered, either an EA or EIS must be prepared for the action. Brackets [#] refers to corresponding BLM NEPA Handbook H-1790-1 Appendix 5 Categorical Exclusions: Extraordinary Circumstances (per 516 DM 2, Appendix 2.)				
<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	RJ Estes	(1) Have significant impacts on public health or safety. [2.1]	<i>Res</i>	11/13/17
<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Amelia Taylor	(2) Have significant effects on such unique geographic characteristics as prime farmlands; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); or floodplains (Executive Order 11988). [2.2]	<i>AiTz</i>	11/14/17
<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dodge Divall	(3) Have significant effects on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as park, recreation or refuge lands; national natural landmarks; national monuments; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; or ecologically significant or critical areas. [2.2]	<i>D.D.</i>	11-14-17
<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dan McGrew	(4) Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places [2.7], or on such unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources. [2.2] Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment. [2.9] 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). [2.11]	<i>Dan McGrew</i>	11/14/17
<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mark McCabe	(5) Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant effects on designated Critical Habitat for these species. [2.8] Have significant impacts on migratory birds. [2.2]	<i>M. McCabe</i>	11/24/17
<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jason Martin	(6) 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). [2.12]	<i>Jason Martin</i>	11/15/17
<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Amelia Taylor	(7) Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [42 USC 4332(2)(E)]. [2.3]	<i>AiTz</i>	11/14/17
<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rebecca Dees	(8) Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks. [2.4]	<i>RDees</i>	11/14/17
<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Amelia Taylor	(9) Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects. [2.5]	<i>AiTz</i>	11/14/17
<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rebecca Dees	(10) Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects. [2.6]	<i>RDees</i>	11/14/17
<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Amelia Taylor	(11) Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898). [2.10]	<i>AiTz</i>	11/14/17

III (B). Critical Resources Review



Critical Resource	Specialist	Affected, but less than Significant		Comments		Signature	Date
		Yes	No	Yes	No		
1. NRHP/Cultural	D. McGrew		✓		✓	<i>D. McGrew</i>	11/14/17
2. TES Species	M. McCabe		✓		✓	<i>M. McCabe</i>	11/28/17
3. Floodplains/Wetlands	L. Opall		✓		✓	<i>L. Opall</i>	11/15/17
4. Invasive Species	J. Martin		✓		✓	<i>J. Martin</i>	11/15/17

Comments/Attachments: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**IV. FINAL REVIEW**

This proposed action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under the National Environmental Policy Act in accordance with 516 DM 11.9 D(1): Rangeland Management-Approval of transfers of grazing preference.

This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. It has been reviewed to determine if any of the exceptions described in BLM 516 DM 2, Appendix 2, apply.

The action does not have significant adverse effects on public health and safety nor does the action adversely affect such unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources, parks, recreation, or refuge lands, wilderness areas, wild or scenic rivers, sole or principal drinking water aquifers, prime farmlands, wetlands, floodplains, or ecologically significant or critical areas, including those listed on the Department's National Register of Natural Landmarks. The action does not have highly controversial environmental effects nor have highly uncertain environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risk nor does it adversely affect a species listed or proposed to be listed on the list of endangered or threatened species. It does not establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about a future consideration with significant environmental effects or related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects. The proposed action does not adversely affect properties listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or threaten to violate a Federal, State, local or tribal law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment or which require compliance with Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management), Executive Order 11990 (Protection of Wetlands) or the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act.

Mitigation Measures/Stipulations: None

NEPA Coordinator: *[Signature]* Date: 11/28/17



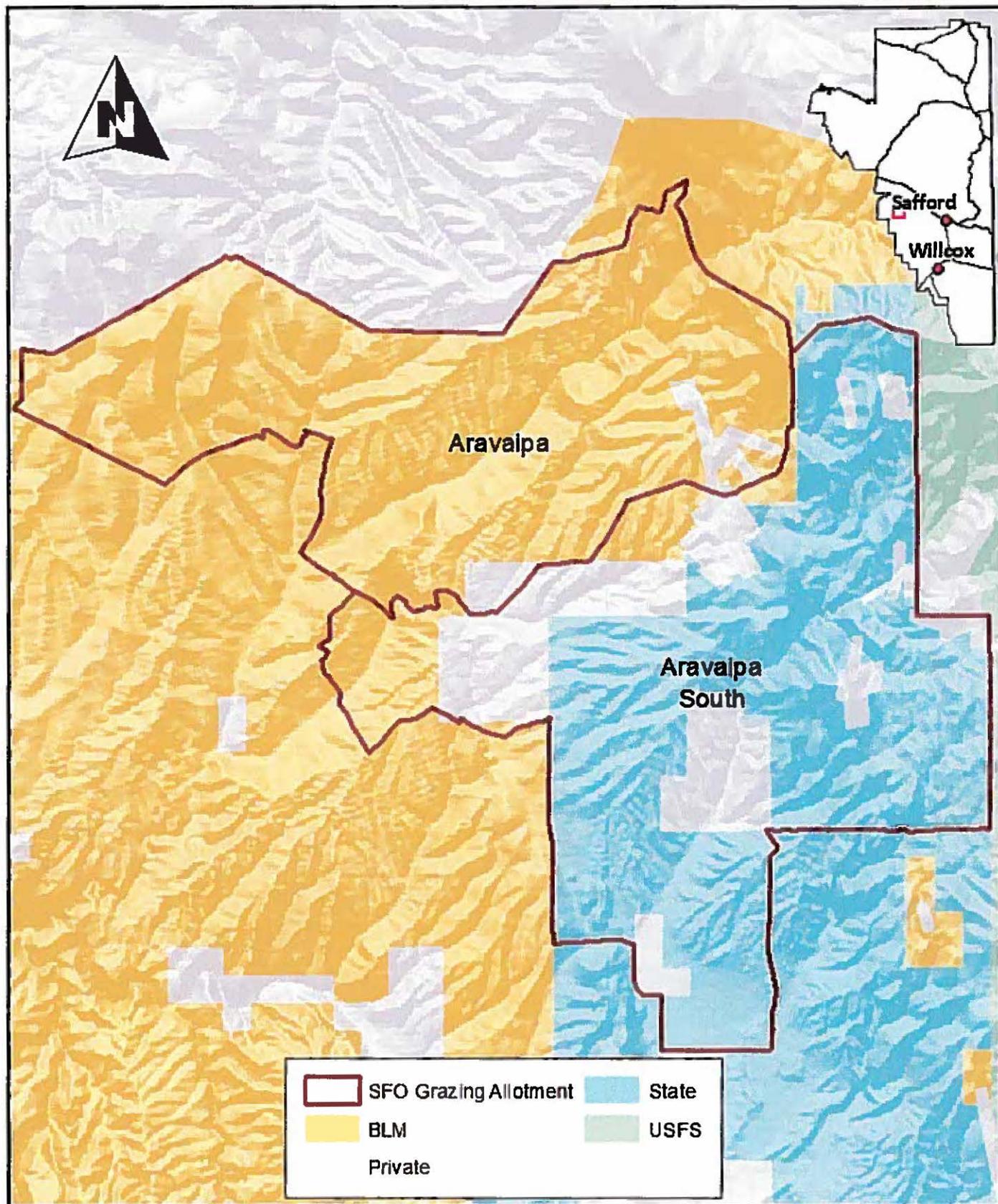
Assistant Field Manager: [Signature] Date: 11/28/17  
Recommended

**V. DECISION**

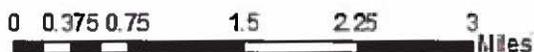
I have reviewed this plan conformance and NEPA compliance record and have determined that the proposed action does not conflict with major land use plans and will not have any significant impacts on environmental resources. Therefore, it does not represent an exception, and is categorically excluded from further environmental review. It is my decision to implement the project, as described, with the incorporation of the mitigation measures specified in Section IV above.

Authorized Official: [Signature] Date: 12/4/17  
Scott C. Cooke  
Field Manager

# Aravaipa #45220 and Aravaipa South #45210 Vicinity



1:76,000



While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this information, the BLM makes no warranty, expressed or implied, as to its accuracy and expressly disclaims liability for the accuracy thereof.