

NEPA COMPLIANCE RECORD

Categorical Exclusion (CX)



Bureau of Land Management
Safford Field Office
Safford, AZ

I. PROJECT INFORMATION

NEPA #: DOI-BLM-AZ-G010-2021-0022-CX	Serial/Case File No.: AZ 51800
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Title: Muskhog Allotment (51800) Grazing Preference Transfer

Proposed Action/Type: Approval of transfers of grazing preference.

Proposed Action:

The proposed action is to transfer the grazing preference on the Muskhog Allotment No. 51800, a Section 3 grazing permit from Walter Wein to Klump Ranches LLC. The Muskhog Allotment is currently an active allotment and would be issued a permit for a period of ten years under the authority of Section 402(c)(2) of FLPMA, 1976 as amended. This permit would contain the same terms and conditions as the previous permit (see Terms and Conditions below).

The allotment is located 10 miles East of Willcox, AZ, in Cochise County on the following lands: T 14 S, R 26 E on all or part of sections 2, 3, and 11

The allotment is comprised of 1,105 acres of BLM-administered public land, and 327 acres of private land (see attached map).

Table 1: Mandatory Terms and Conditions

Allotment #	Allotment Name	Livestock	Livestock Kind	Begin	End	% PL	AUMS
51800	Muskhog	7	Cattle	3/1	2/28	100	84

Other Terms and Conditions:

See back of permit.

In order to improve livestock distribution on the public lands, all salt blocks and/or mineral supplements will not be placed within a 1/4 mile of any riparian area, wet meadow, or watering facility (either permanent or temporary) unless stipulated through a written agreement or decision in accordance with 43 CFR 4130.3-2(c).

If in connection with allotment operations under this authorization, any human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects or objects of cultural patrimony as defined in the native American graves protection and repatriation act (p.l.101-601;104 stat. 3048; u.s.c.3001) are discovered, the permittee/lessee shall stop operations in the immediately area of the discovery, protect the remains and objects, and immediately notify the authorized officer of the discovery. The permittee/lessee shall continue to protect the immediate area of discovery until notified by the authorized officer that operations may resume.

As a term and condition of this permit you are required to submit a report of actual grazing use made on this allotment for the previous grazing period March 1 to Feb. 28. Failure to submit this report by March 1, of this year, may result in suspension or cancellation of grazing permit.

Map Attached

Applicant (if any): Klump Ranches LLC

Applicable CX: 516 DM 11, 11.9, D (1): 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)].

/s/ Ryan Peterson
Project Lead

3/16/2021
Date



III. RESOURCE PROGRAM CONSULTATION & COORDINATION

III (A). CX Applicability/ Exception Review

Date Internal Scoping Initiated: 3/16/2021		Date Internal Scoping Closed: 3/23/2021	
Applies? Yes No	EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCE (EXCEPTION)	SIGNATURE*	Date
<i>*Signature indicates that I have reviewed the project to determine the applicability of an extraordinary circumstance.</i>			
In accordance with 43 CFR 46.215 , if any of the following extraordinary circumstances below are applicable to the action being considered, either an EA or EIS must be prepared for the action.			
<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	§46.215(a) Have significant impacts on public health or safety.	<u>/s/ Rebecca Dees -Acting</u> Assistant Field Manager	3/23/2021
<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	§46.215(b) Have significant effects on such unique geographic characteristics as prime farmlands; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; wetlands (EO 11990); or floodplains (EO 11988).	<u>/s/ Joneen Cockman</u> Lead Natural Resource Specialist	3/18/2021
<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	§46.215(b) 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 other ecologically significant or critical areas.	<u>/s/ Anthony Johnson</u> Outdoor Recreation Specialist	3/18/2021
<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	§46.215(b) Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places, or on such unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources. §46.215(i) Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment. §46.215(k) 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 (EO 13007).	<u>/s/ Amy Sobiech</u> Archaeologist	3/22/2021
<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	§46.215(h) 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. §46.215(b) Have significant impacts on migratory birds, or other ecologically significant or critical areas.	<u>/s/ Casey Bruner</u> Wildlife Biologist	3/18/2021
<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	§46.215(l) 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 EO 13112).	<u>/s/ Emily G Burke</u> Natural Resource Specialist	3/16/2021
<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	§46.215(c) Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [42 USC 4332(2)(E)].	<u>/s/ Rebecca Dees - Acting</u> Assistant Field Manager	3/23/2021
<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	§46.215(d) Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.	<u>/s/ Ryan Peterson</u> Project Lead	3/16/2021
<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	§46.215(e) Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.	<u>/s/ Rebecca Dees – Acting</u> Assistant Field Manager	3/23/2021
<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	§46.215(f) Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.	<u>/s/ Ryan Peterson</u> Project Lead	3/16/2021
<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	§46.215(j) Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EO 12898).	<u>/s/ Sarah Sherman</u> Planning & Environmental Specialist	3/16/2021



III (B). Critical Resources Review

Critical Resource	Affected		Less than significant		Comments		Signature	Date
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No		
1. NRHP/Cultural	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>/s/ Amy Sobiech</u> A. Sobiech - Archaeologist	3/22/2021
2. T&E Species	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>/s/ Casey Bruner</u> C. Bruner – Wildlife Biologist	3/18/2021
3. Floodplains/Wetlands	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>/s/ Joneen Cockman</u> J. Cockman - Natural Resource Specialist	3/18/2021
4. Invasive Species	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>/s/ Emily G Burke</u> E. Burke - Natural Resource Specialist	03/16/2021

Comments/Attachments:

Official species lists generated through IPaC and Arizona Game and Fish Environmental Review Tool on January 22nd, 2021.

IV. FINAL REVIEW

This proposed action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under the National Environmental Policy Act in accordance with 516 DM 11, 11.9, D (1): Approval of transfers of grazing preference.

And

In accordance with 43 CFR 46.215, this categorical exclusion is appropriate for the proposed action because no extraordinary circumstances apply:

The action would not have significant adverse effects on public health and safety nor would 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 would not establish a precedent for future action nor 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 would not adversely affect properties listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The action would not 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: /s/ Sarah Sherman Date: 3/22/2021

Assistant Field Manager: /s/ Rebecca Dees Date: 03/23/2021



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:

X SCOTT
COOKE

Digitally signed by
SCOTT COOKE
Date: 2021.03.25
15:39:56 -07'00'

Scott Cooke
Field Manager

