



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Albuquerque Field Office
435 Montañito Road NE
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87107-4935

IN REPLY REFER TO:
4160 (010)

JAN 10 2000

CERTIFIED--RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED
P-626 551 139

DECISION

Robert Wessely
303 Camino de San Francisco
Placitas, NM 87043

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:
:

Decision Record
Grazing Lease Renewal
for Wessely Lease, No. 924

I have reviewed the Environmental Assessment, EA-NM-010-99-083, prepared to evaluate the Proposed Action and alternative(s) on this allotment. It is my decision to implement the Proposed Action and renew the grazing lease for a period of 10 years. The preference of the lease will be as follows.

<u>Allotment Name/No.</u>	<u>Livestock Number/Kind</u>	<u>Grazing Period</u>	<u>% Public Land</u>	<u>Active AUMs</u>
Wessely Lease, No. 924	2/Horses	9/1 to 1/31	100	10

If you wish to protest this proposed decision in accordance with Title 43 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Section 4160.2, you are allowed 15 days from receipt of this notice to file a protest in person or in writing with me at the above address. The protest, if filed, should specify the reasons, clearly and concisely, as to why you think the proposed decision may be in error. Any protest received will be carefully considered and then a final decision will be issued.

Without any protest, the proposed decision will become final without further notice. If you feel this final decision is in error, you have the right to appeal for a hearing by an Administrative Law Judge. You may file an appeal for such a hearing with the Field Office Manager, Ed Singleton, at the above address within 30 calendar days after the decision becomes final. Your appeal must clearly and concisely state the reason why you believe this decision is in error, and must comply with the provisions of 43 CFR 4.470, which is available for your use in our office.

Sincerely,

Thomas E. Gow
Assistant Field Office Manager

3.5 SOILS

The characteristic soil mapping unit of the Shallow Limey Savanna site is the Idefonso-Harvey association. This soil association is comprised of 50 percent Idefonso very gravelly sandy loam, 30 percent Harvey loam, and small areas of Placitas and La Fonda soils and Riverwash (SCS 1987).

The Idefonso soil is deep, with an effective rooting depth of 60 inches or more, and well drained. Permeability is moderately rapid, available water capacity is low, and runoff is slow. The hazard of water erosion is moderate, and the hazard of soil blowing is slight (SCS 1987).

The Harvey soil is deep and well drained. Permeability is moderate, available water capacity is high, and runoff is medium. The hazards of water erosion and soil blowing are moderate (SCS 1987).

3.6 WATER RESOURCES

Water resources on the public lands within this allotment are predominantly stock watering facilities and normally dry arroyos that carry water in response to rainfall events and/or snowmelt. There is also a riparian area on the Shallow Limey Savanna site that includes cottonwoods and other trees present with a diameter at breast height (DBH) of more than 12 inches.

3.7 VEGETATION

The vegetation of the Shallow Limey Savanna site is dominated by three-awn species (*Aristida* spp.), blue grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*), black grama (*B. eriopoda*), sideoats grama (*B. curtipendula*), hairy grama (*B. hirsuta*), range ratany (*Krameria parvifolia*), and needle and thread grass (*Stipa comata*). Invasive native species present include piñon (*Pinus edulis*), one-seed juniper (*Juniperus monosperma*), and broom snakeweed (*Gutierrezia sarothrae*).

At the time of the rangeland health assessment, some invasive species were present. The presence of three-awns and piñon-juniper was higher than expected. Gullies are working upslope from Arroyo de San Francisco, but these are not caused by current land use.

3.8 WILDLIFE

This allotment provides habitat for a variety of wildlife species. Species, or sign thereof, observed on the Shallow Limey Savanna site include coyotes and rabbits. Other species including pronghorn antelope, mule deer, bobcat, and badger probably use the site on occasion. Raptors that could potentially utilize the allotment for foraging include red-tailed hawk, ferruginous hawk, American kestrel, and prairie falcon.

3.9 THREATENED, ENDANGERED, AND OTHER SPECIAL STATUS PLANT AND ANIMAL SPECIES

Listed species potentially occurring within the Sandoval County include black-footed ferret (*Mustela nigripes*), bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), American peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus anatum*), arctic peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus tundrius*), Mexican spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis lucida*), southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax trailii extimus*), whooping crane (*Grus americana*), and Rio Grande silvery minnow (*Hybognathus amarus*) (FWS 1998). See Appendix B for threatened and endangered species biological evaluation.

3.10 SOCIOECONOMIC CONDITIONS

Allottees currently have authorization to utilize public land for livestock grazing on the Wesseley Allotment at a rate of 10 AUMs per year.

3.11 OTHER RESOURCES

The following critical elements and resources have been considered and found to be unaffected by the proposed and alternative actions:

- geology and minerals
- visual resources
- cultural resources
- wilderness
- recreation
- areas of critical environmental concern
- prime and unique farmlands
- hazardous wastes
- floodplains
- wild and scenic rivers
- American Indian religious concerns
- riparian

