APPENDIX C Example Environmental Analysis

The following environmental analysis was performed by BLM to meet the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for a prescribed grazing project designed to control invasive weeds in El Dorado County. The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) has slightly different requirements than NEPA. This document is provided here to show how another public agency, the BLM, has addressed the environmental impacts of prescribed herbivory. These same impacts would be likely be identified and addressed under a mitigated negative declaration or environmental impact report under CEQA.



EA Number: CA-180-15-27

Proposed Action: Prescribed grazing of sheep to control yellow starthistle and medusahead at Cronan Ranch and Magnolia Ranch.

Location: BLM-administered land within portions of T 11 N, R 9 E, Sections 8-11, 16, 17, 21, El Dorado County.

1.0 Purpose and Need for the Action

1.1 Background

Invasive plants are defined as "non-native plants whose introduction does or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health," based on the definition provided in Executive Order 131121¹. Invasive plants are compromising the ability to manage BLM lands for a healthy native ecosystem. Invasive plants can create a host of environmental and other effects, most of which are harmful to native ecosystem processes, including: displacement of native plants; reduction in functionality of habitat and forage for wildlife and livestock; increased potential for soil erosion and reduced water quality; alteration of physical and biological properties of soil; loss of long-term riparian area function; loss of habitat for culturally significant plants; high economic cost of controlling invasive plants; and increased cost of keeping systems and recreational sites free of invasive species.

¹ EXECUTIVE ORDER 1311 INVASIVE SPECIES (1999) - directs federal agencies to prevent the introduction of invasive species and provide for their control, and to minimize the economic, ecological, and human health impacts that invasive species cause.