

Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA) Worksheet

U.S. Department of Interior
Bureau of Land Management

OFFICE: Humboldt River Field Office, LLNVW01000

TRACKING NUMBER: DOI-BLM-NV-W010-2011-0200-DNA

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER:

PROPOSED ACTION TITLE/TYPE: Paradise Valley Medusa Head Treatment

LOCATION/LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

T. 43 N., R. 39 E., Sec. 22–28, 33–35

T. 42 N., R. 39 E., Sec. 2–4, 9–11, 15–17, 20–22, 27.

T. 41 N., R. 39 E., Sec. 6–8.

APPLICANT (if any): Paradise Valley Weed District & BLM

A. Description of Proposed Action and any application mitigation measures.

The BLM along with the Paradise Valley Weed District are proposing a three year herbicide treatment project near Paradise, NV. The project would treat up to 1,500 acres annually with the BLM approved herbicide, Imazapic. Annual treatments would include treatment of newly discovered infestations of invasive species and retreatment of areas previously treated, as necessary. Imazapic is a pre and post-emergent herbicide that effectively targets annual grasses and broadleaf weeds, with minimal effect to perennial grasses. Key species recommended to be treated with Imazapic include, Medusahead rye, an invasive annual species that has been spreading through the Paradise Valley area along with cheatgrass. Prior to each aerial application of herbicide, treatment areas would be identified in GIS to accurately direct the applicators. Application methods include: truck or ATV with a boom mounted sprayer, by hand using backpack pumps, or by aircraft. Treatments would center on three proposed treatment areas identified on the attached map. Application of Imazapic would be subject to approved Standard Operating Procedures, compliance with BLM guidance and would include buffer zones to protect resources. Project inspection, monitoring, herbicide storage and mixing requirements, and restrictions based on weather are also proposed as described below.

Approved SOPs: Application Methods and Requirements:

Only the BLM approved herbicide, Imazapic, would be used on this project. Imazapic would principally be applied by aircraft on targets within the defined treatment areas. Treatments would be applied in the early fall, well before major precipitation episodes and outside of migratory bird nesting season. Application rates of herbicide would be according to label and manufacturer specifications.

Prior to aerial application of herbicide, GIS shape files would be prepared identifying specific flight routes. Treatment flight strips would not exceed ¼ mile in width.

Herbicide application would be done by a State Licensed Herbicide Applicator using standard-approved application techniques.

Dyes will be added to herbicide when applying herbicide by land application methods in areas adjacent to buffer zones.

Drift cards will be placed to monitor for possible herbicide drift outside of established buffer zones.

Avoid applying herbicide in areas where livestock is present.

Any and all herbicide treatments would follow BLM procedures outlined in BLM Handbook H-9011-1 (Chemical Pest Control), and manuals 1112 (Safety), 9011 (Chemical Pest Control), and 9015 (Integrated Weed Management), and would meet or exceed state label standards. Treatments would comply with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) label.

BLM procedures and methods would be followed as set forth in the Vegetation Treatment on BLM Lands in Thirteen Western States EIS (1991); Vegetation Treatment Using Herbicide on BLM Lands in Seventeen Western States EIS (2007); Winnemucca Field Office Environmental Assessment (EA) Herbicide Application for Control of Noxious Weeds EA No. NV-020-99-10 (January 19, 1999); and Programmatic EA of Integrated Weed Management on BLM Lands EA No. NV-020-08-11 (2008).

Re-applications of any herbicide would not be less than the persistence factor identified for the herbicide.

Buffer Zones:

Current buffer zones are based from consultation and coordination with the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Application of BLM approved herbicides by truck or ATV would be limited to within fifty feet from any existing open water sources (creeks, springs, wet meadows, cattle troughs, lakes, and ponds) and areas of exposed bedrock. Application of herbicide by backpack sprayer would not occur within fifty feet of any existing open water source. No application of herbicide by truck, backpack, or ATV would occur within fifty feet of Lahontan cutthroat trout streams. Additional buffers required when applying herbicide by aircraft would include no application within 150 feet from any existing open water sources (creeks, springs, wet meadows, cattle troughs, lakes, and ponds) and areas of exposed bedrock. No application of herbicide would occur within 300 feet of Lahontan cutthroat trout streams when applied by aircraft. Twenty foot buffer zones would be required on edges of all treated areas when herbicides are applied by aircraft to reduce the potential for drift onto non-treatment areas. All label specific requirements would be adhered to, including the avoidance of areas where groundwater is expected at five feet or less below ground surface.

Project Inspection

A BLM approved Project Inspector (PI) would be on site within the project area at all times while the herbicide is being applied and would be responsible for ensuring that the treatment is applied as directed. Chemical label directions would be followed.

Storage and Mixing of Herbicide

No hazardous materials would be stored or disposed of on-site. Fuel, oil, and grease needed for equipment maintenance during the working period would be stored on site where no leakage or spillage could contaminate the ground. Any spilled materials would be immediately cleaned up and disposed of and the BLM PI would be notified of the spill. No equipment maintenance, rinsing, or mixing of chemicals would be performed within, or near, any stream channel or waters where chemicals, petroleum products or other pollutants from equipment would enter these waters. Herbicides would not be stored on the project site. Product label directions and Material Safety Data Sheets would be available on site for reference in case of spill or exposure. All unused herbicides or empty containers would be disposed of by the licensed herbicide applicator in accordance with the USEPA label at an approved disposal site.

Weather Restrictions

Wind velocities for herbicide applications would be 6 mph or less for aerial application and 10 mph or less for ATV or truck application in all instances to reduce drift potential. Herbicide application would not occur during precipitation events. It may occur before or after precipitation events according to label directions.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

LUP Name*

Date Approved:

NV - Paradise---Denio MFP

1982

**List Applicable LUPs (for example, resource management plans; activity, project, management, or program plans; or applicable amendments thereto*

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decisions:

Paradise-Denio MFP (1982)

Standard Operating Procedure — .46 (4) Soil-Water-Air – When carrying out large-scale crested wheatgrass seedings or herbicidal spray projects, wildlife areas to be given special consideration include..... Mitigating measure; “making no disturbed area wider than ¼ mile.”

The proposed action is in conformance with the LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decisions (objective, terms, and conditions):

Paradise-Denio MFP (1982)

Range Management MFPIII Decision RM 2.1 P.D.:All vegetation manipulations in sage grouse habitat will be done in accordance with the guidance supplied by the Nevada Department of Wildlife.

Wildlife MFPIII Decision WL-1.21 P.D — Maintain and improve habitat for sensitive, protected, threatened and endangered species listed on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Endangered and Threatened List, BLM-Nevada Department of Wildlife Sensitive Species List and those existing Federal and state laws and regulations.

Wildlife MFPIII Decision WL-1.28 and Standard Operating Procedure — .46 (1) Protect sage-grouse strutting grounds and give proper consideration to other sage grouse-habitat by accepting as guidance Nevada Department of Wildlife's Guidelines for Vegetal Control Programs in Sage-Grouse Habitat in Nevada.

C. Identify applicable National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents and other related documents that cover the proposed action.

Vegetation Treatment on BLM Lands in Thirteen Western States EIS (1991)

Winnemucca Field Office Environmental Assessment (EA) Herbicide Application for Control of Noxious Weeds EA No. NV-020-99-10 (January 19, 1999)

Winnemucca Field Office Integrated Weed Management EA No. NV-020-04-21 (August 2004)

Vegetation Treatments Using Herbicides on BLM Lands in Seventeen Western States Programmatic EIS. (September 2007)

Programmatic EA of Integrated Weed Management on BLM Lands EA No. NV-020-08-11 (2008).

Santa Rosa Fuelbreak Project EA No.: DOI-BLM-NV-WO10-2010-0003-EA

First Decision (February 2010) Second Decision (May 2010)

Santa Rosa Mountains Fuelbreak BONO.: 2009-FA-0107

Paradise Fuelbreak Maintenance EA No.: DOI-BLM-NV-WO10-2010-0009-EA (July 2010)

Informal Consultation on the Paradise Greenstrip Maintenance Project No.: 84320-2010-I-0358

Santa Rosa and Paradise Fuelbreak Herbicide Treatment Method DNA, DOI-BLM-NV-WO10-2011-0002-DNA (November 2010)

D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

1. Is the new proposed action a feature of, or essentially similar to, an alternative analyzed in the existing NEPA documents(s)? Is the project within the same analysis area, or if the project location is different, are the geographic and resource conditions sufficiently similar to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? If there are differences, can you explain why they are not substantial?

Documentation of answer and explanation:

The range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA documents is appropriate with respect to the proposed action. The decisions based on the previous EAs and DNA were completed in February, May, July and November of 2010, so the information is recent and up to date.

2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the new proposed action, give current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values?

Documentation of answer and explanation:

The range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA documents is appropriate with respect to the proposed action. The decisions based on the previous EAs and DNA were completed in February, May, July and November of 2010, so the information is recent and up to date.

3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances (such as, rangeland health standard assessments, recent endangered species listings, updated lists of BLM sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that new information and new circumstances would not substantially change the analysis of the new proposed action?

Documentation of answer and explanation

The existing analysis is adequate and there is no new information or circumstances known at this time.

4. Are the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects that would result from implementation of the new proposed action similar (both quantitatively and qualitatively) to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document?

Documentation of answer and explanation

The direct, indirect and cumulative effects from the proposed action are similar and remain unchanged from those identified in the existing NEPA documents. The new proposed actions have been analyzed by the existing NEPA documents, including effects from application of herbicides.

5. Are there public involvement and interagency reviews associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current proposed action?

Documentation of answer and explanation

Yes, public involvement and interagency review with the existing NEPA documents was adequate.

Scoping letters for both the Santa Rosa and Paradise EA's were sent out on May 14th, 2009, and March 24th, 2010, respectively. Letters requesting public input for both Preliminary EA's were sent out for Santa Rosa on January 10th, 2010 and Paradise on May 28th, 2010, respectively. The scoping letter for this DNA was sent out on August 23, 2011.

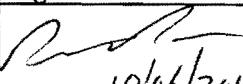
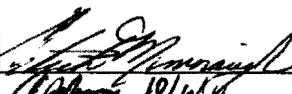
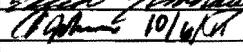
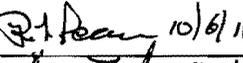
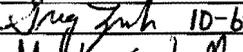
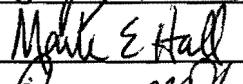
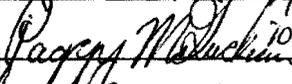
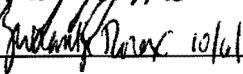
E. Persons/Agencies/BLM Staff Consulted

Native American Consultation:

Consultation has previously occurred with the Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribe on the Santa Rosa and Paradise EAs. For this proposed action, letters requesting consultation were sent to the Battle Mountain Band, Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribe, and the Winnemucca Indian Colony.

Note

Refer to the EA/EIS for a complete list of the team members participating in the preparation of the original environmental analysis or planning documents.

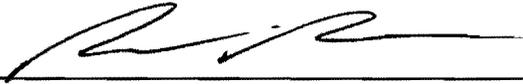
Name	Title	Resource/Agency Represented	Signature/Date	Comments (Attach if more room is needed)
Robert Burton	Project Lead	Noxious Weeds, Invasive, Non-Native Species, Vegetation/ BLM	 10/6/2011	None.
Celeste Mimnaugh	Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife, Special Status species, T&E, Species / BLM	 10/6/11	NONE
Jeff Johnson	Supervisor	Fire Resources / BLM	 10/6/11	
Miranda McCutchen	Rangeland Management Specialist	Range / BLM	 10/6/11	None
Greg Lynch	Fisheries Biologist	Fisheries / BLM	 10-6-11	None
Mark Hall	Archeologist	Native American Consultation / BLM	 10/6/2011	below
Peggy McGuckian	Archeologist	Cultural Resources, Paleontology / BLM	 10-6-11	None
Zwaantje Rorex	PE&C	NEPA Compliance / BLM	 10/6/11	None

NAC: Before spraying (by hand, air, etc.) a two-week notice needs to be sent to Ft. McDermitt of the areas being sprayed. MSH 10/6/2011

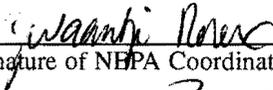
Fire: PWD to notify the community by posting dates of aerial application. They should also post on community web page.

Conclusion(If you found that one or more of these criteria are not met, you will not be able to make the following conclusion)

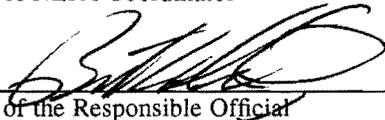
Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirement of NEPA.



Signature of Project Lead



Signature of NEPA Coordinator



Signature of the Responsible Official

Acting FMO

10-7-11

Date

Note:

The signed Conclusion on this Worksheet is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal decision process and does not constitute an appealable decision process and does not constitute an appealable decision. However, the lease, permit, or other authorization based on this DNA is subject to protest or appeal under 43 CFR Part 4 and the program-specific regulations.