



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Carson City District – Stillwater Field Office
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Carson City, Nevada 89701-1448

http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/carson_city_field.html

In Reply Refer To:

5000 (NVC0100)

JUL 17 2012

Dear Reader:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Stillwater Field Office (SFO) has issued the Decision Record (DR) for the Habitat Restoration Phase of the Final Environmental Assessment (EA) *Desatoya Mountains Resiliency, Health, and Restoration Project DOI-BLM-NV-C010-2011-0513-EA*. The decision is for the BLM to implement the Proposed Action alternative of the Habitat Restoration Phase (EA pages 12-17 and 20-22). These proposed activities encompass 32,705 acres of ground disturbing treatments over a ten year period including pinyon/juniper (PJ) removal and thinning, meadow and spring rehabilitation, rabbitbrush control, herbicide treatment, and a site-specific fuels treatment utilizing prescribed fire, and reseeding. Additionally, the University of Nevada Reno (UNR) has developed a long term experimental watershed on private land within Porter Canyon to measure the hydrologic changes associated with PJ removal. Portions of the UNR experiment would be expanded to BLM lands within Porter and Dalton Canyons.

The EA was made available for public review and comment on March 5, 2012. Additionally, an invitation was sent out on May 12, 2012 for a site visit that was conducted to the project area on May 31, 2012. The site visit invitation was extended to over 3,900 individuals who had submitted comments by email during the public comment period. Three members of the public participated. A summary of the consolidated public comments and BLM responses are noted in Appendix H of the Final EA. Several minor changes were made to the content of the Final EA clarifying language and/or enhancing the effects analysis and removing the sagebrush treatment component of the Proposed Action.

A determination was made that implementation of the Habitat Restoration Phase (EA pages 14-19 and 22-24) would not result in significant environmental impacts to the natural and human environment, therefore a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) has been prepared separately to document that determination, and a Decision Record has been issued providing rationale for approving the Proposed Action. The Final EA, FONSI, and DR are available at:

http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/carson_city_field/blm_information/nepa/nepa_archives.html.

If you have any questions on this matter, please contact John Wilson at 775-885-6191.

Sincerely,

Teresa J. Knutson
Field Manager
Stillwater Field Office