

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)**

Twin Falls District
Jarbidge Field Office
2536 Kimberly Road
Twin Falls, ID 83301

**Worksheet
Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)**

NEPA No. - DOI-BLM-ID-T010-2012-0008-DNA

BLM Office: Jarbidge Field Office **Lease/Serial/Case File No.:**

Proposed Action Title/Type: Wildlife Tract B-43 Habitat Restoration Project

Location of Proposed Action:

Proposed Wildlife Tract Restoration Project Location			
County	Tract	Legal Description	Acres
Twin Falls	B-43	T9S, R12E, S34 SE4SE4 and S35 W2SW4	120

A. Description of the Proposed Action

The proposed action is to implement a Twin Falls District Wildlife Tracts habitat restoration project on Jarbidge Field Office wildlife tract B-43. Implementation would entail prescribed burning, herbicide treatment with *Glyphosate*, drill seeding (grasses, forbs, and shrubs), broadcast sagebrush seeding, hand-planting sagebrush seedlings, possible protective fence construction, and spot-herbicide treatment for noxious weeds.

Wildlife tract B-43 is a 120 acre tract in two separate blocks: a 40-acre block on the west side of a north-south graveled county road (100 East Road) and an 80-acre block on the east (See Map 1). The entire 120 acres is dominated by non-native annual vegetation, primarily cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) and tumbled mustard (*Sisymbrium altissimum*). There are scattered individuals or small patches of remnant crested wheatgrass (*Agropyron cristatum*) and intermediate wheatgrass (*Thinopyrum intermedium*) seedlings. Rush skeletonweed (*Chondrilla juncea*) occurs as scattered individuals, primarily in the western 40-acre block.

A gravel pit authorized under a free-use permit (IDI-31601) to Twin Falls Highway District is located in the northwest corner of the wildlife tract. This area would be excluded from treatments.

Proposed Vegetation Treatments

A prescribed burn would be utilized as an initial seedbed preparation treatment to reduce annual vegetation cover on the wildlife tract. The prescribed burn treatment could occur in early summer (mid- June to late July) during the red phase of cheatgrass before seed drop, or in late summer

through late fall (August–October). A prescribed burn plan describing burning parameters and addressing safety and smoke management would be developed prior to implementation.

The prescribed burn area would be treated with the herbicide *Glyphosate* to reduce competition from cheatgrass and other non-native annual plants. *Glyphosate* would be ground applied in the **Fall** and **Spring** at a rate of 8-16 ounces/acre of active ingredient. The fall *Glyphosate* treatment would be implemented if germination of cheatgrass occurs as a result of favorable fall growing conditions following the prescribed fire. Only one fall treatment would occur.

The first spring application would coincide with early seed head emergence of cheatgrass. A second application would be done in the spring if a second germination occurs and further control is required. Monitoring of the spray area would determine if a second application is needed.

The prescribed burn and herbicide treated areas would be drill seeded with a standard rangeland drill in the fall following the last seedbed treatment with the seed mix in the following table. Sagebrush and yarrow seed would be broadcast seeded following the drill seeding.

Wildlife Tract B-43 Drill Seed Mix ≈ 120 Acres	
Species and Variety	Seed Rate PLS Lbs/Acre
Grasses	
1. 'Vavilov' Siberian wheatgrass	2.00
2. 'Anatone' Bluebunch wheatgrass*	4.00
3. 'Bannock' thickspike wheatgrass*	1.00
4. 'Trailhead' basin wildrye*	0.50
5. 'Rattlesnake' bottlebrush squirreltail*	0.30
6. 'Reliable' Sandberg bluegrass*	0.20
Forbs	
1. 'Eagle' western yarrow*	0.10
2. 'Appar' blue flax	0.10
3. Munroe globemallow♦	0.10
Shrubs	
1. Wyoming big sagebrush♦	1.00 (bulk)
2. Four-wing saltbush♦	0.30
* Native Cultivar / ♦ Wildland Collected	

Containerized or bare-root Wyoming big sagebrush plants could be hand-planted during the spring or fall up to 3 years subsequent to the fall drill seeding.

Noxious weeds would be spot-treated utilizing BLM-approved herbicides. Noxious weed treatments could occur both prior to or after other vegetation treatments to control existing noxious weeds and reduce potential for spread.

Following seeding, the area would be evaluated to determine the need for fencing to protect vegetation treatments. If needed, a total of 2.5 miles of fence would be constructed to protect vegetation treatments from human or livestock disturbances, but allow visitor access. The west and east blocks would be fenced separately. The fence would be permanent and adhere to BLM wildlife specifications. The fence would be three-strands with the top two strands barbed and the bottom strand smooth. Wire spacing would be 18-6-12 inches from the ground up with one wire stay between posts. Steel posts would be spaced at 16.5 Feet. Corners and stretch panels would be constructed with galvanized pipe. Wiggle gates would be installed to provide public access to the west and east blocks. A 24-ft gate would be located at the northwest corner of the 80-acre block to allow access to the gravel pit by Twin Falls Highway District.

Cultural and Historic Resources Mitigation

Standard BLM procedures and the National Historic Preservation Act require a site-specific, cultural resource inventory and State Historic Preservation Office consultation prior to surface-disturbing activities. The proposed project area was inventoried and it was determined that no cultural resources were present in the proposed project area.

B. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance

Land Use Plan Name: Jarbidge Resource Management Plan (RMP)

Date Approved/Amended: 1987

Wildlife Tract B-43 occurs in Multiple Use Area MUA-7 (Saylor Creek East). The proposed action is in conformance with the following Jarbidge RMP goals and objectives:

- Improve lands in poor ecological condition (p. II-31)
- Vegetative manipulation projects will be designed to minimize impacts and improve wildlife habitat by including a variety of palatable shrubs, forbs and grass (p. II-82).
- Manage all ecological sites on mule deer, pronghorn, elk, bighorn sheep, and sage-grouse habitat currently in fair or poor ecological condition, for good ecological condition (p. II-83)
- All new fences will be built to allow for wildlife passage (p. II-83).
- Manage all wildlife habitat within the resource area to provide a diversity of vegetation and habitats (p. II-83).

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

The proposed action is addressed in the following NEPA documents:

- Twin Falls District Wildlife Tracts Habitat Enhancement Environmental Assessment (ID-210-2008-EA-248) and Decision Record signed June 10, 2010.
- Vegetation Treatments Using Herbicides on BLM lands in the 17 Western States Programmatic EIS and Record of Decision signed September 29, 2007.
- Boise District and Jarbidge Field Office Noxious and Invasive Weed Treatment Environmental Assessment (ID-100-2005-EA-265) and Decision Record signed February 6, 2007.

The Twin Falls District Wildlife Tracts Habitat Enhancement EA is a programmatic document that analyzed actions proposed to enhance wildlife habitat on the Twin Falls District wildlife tracts, establish perennial vegetation, create more natural and resilient vegetation complexes, restore shrub cover important for wildlife cover and forage, protect wildlife habitat from further disturbances, and reduce hazardous fuel conditions. This EA specifically identified isolated tract B-43 for treatment and the treatment methods included in this proposed action.

D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

1. Is the new proposed action a feature of, or essentially similar to, an alternative analyzed in the existing NEPA document(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?

Yes, the prescribed fire, herbicide, seeding, seedling planting, and fencing treatments proposed for wildlife tract B-43 were documented and analyzed in the Twin Falls District Wildlife Habitat Enhancement EA. The specific tract and acres proposed for treatment were identified in the EA.

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

Yes, the alternatives in the EA adequately cover a reasonable range of alternatives. The EA included a proposed and no-action alternative. No other alternatives were proposed and considered by the interdisciplinary team as a result of the public involvement process.

3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances (such as rangeland health standard assessment, recent endangered species listings, or 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?

Yes, the existing EA continues to be valid because no new information or circumstances have been brought forward or discovered that would cause the BLM to consider a new or revised proposed action. During the interdisciplinary review, team members consulted the most recent list of Threatened and Endangered species (August 2011) and BLM sensitive species for the Jarbidge Field Office.

The proposed project area was identified as having potential habitat for slickspot peppergrass, a plant listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act December 7, 2009. Slickspot peppergrass potential habitat was mapped broadly using soil series, potential plant community, and elevation data in 2003 (BLM GIS data). On-site inventory by the Jarbidge Field Office Botanist in early June 2011 determined that dominance by cheatgrass resulted in very poor potential habitat and that there were no slickspot peppergrass concerns.

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?

Yes. Direct and indirect impacts of proposed treatments would be the same as those analyzed in the EA. No new circumstances are known to exist beyond what was analyzed in the EA, which could add to cumulative effects.

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

Yes, the current proposed action is the same as the original proposed action identified in the EA. The public was involved in the original decision and no protest or appeals were associated with the Twin Falls District Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Decision Record.

E. Persons/Agencies/BLM Staff Consulted

Name	Title, Agency Represented	Resource
Julie Hilty	Fire Ecologist, BLM	Vegetation, Noxious Weeds
Mike Aoi	Fire Planner, BLM	Fire Management
Bruce Palmer	Wildlife Biologist, Idaho Department of Fish and Game	Wildlife
Jim Klott	Wildlife Biologist, BLM	Wildlife
Jeff Ross	Archeologist, BLM	Cultural
Kate Forster	Fish Biologist, BLM	Fisheries
Thomas Stewart	Botanist, BLM	Special Status Plants
Tony Owens	Weed Management Specialist, BLM	Noxious Weed Treatment
Lisa Claxton	Realty Specialist, BLM	Realty
Barbara Bassler	Planning and Environmental Coordinator, BLM	NEPA Review

CONCLUSION

Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the Jarbidge RMP and that the existing NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of NEPA.



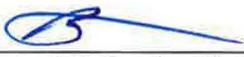
Julie Hilty, Project Lead

4.2.2012
Date



Barbara Bassler, NEPA Coordinator

4/2/2012
Date

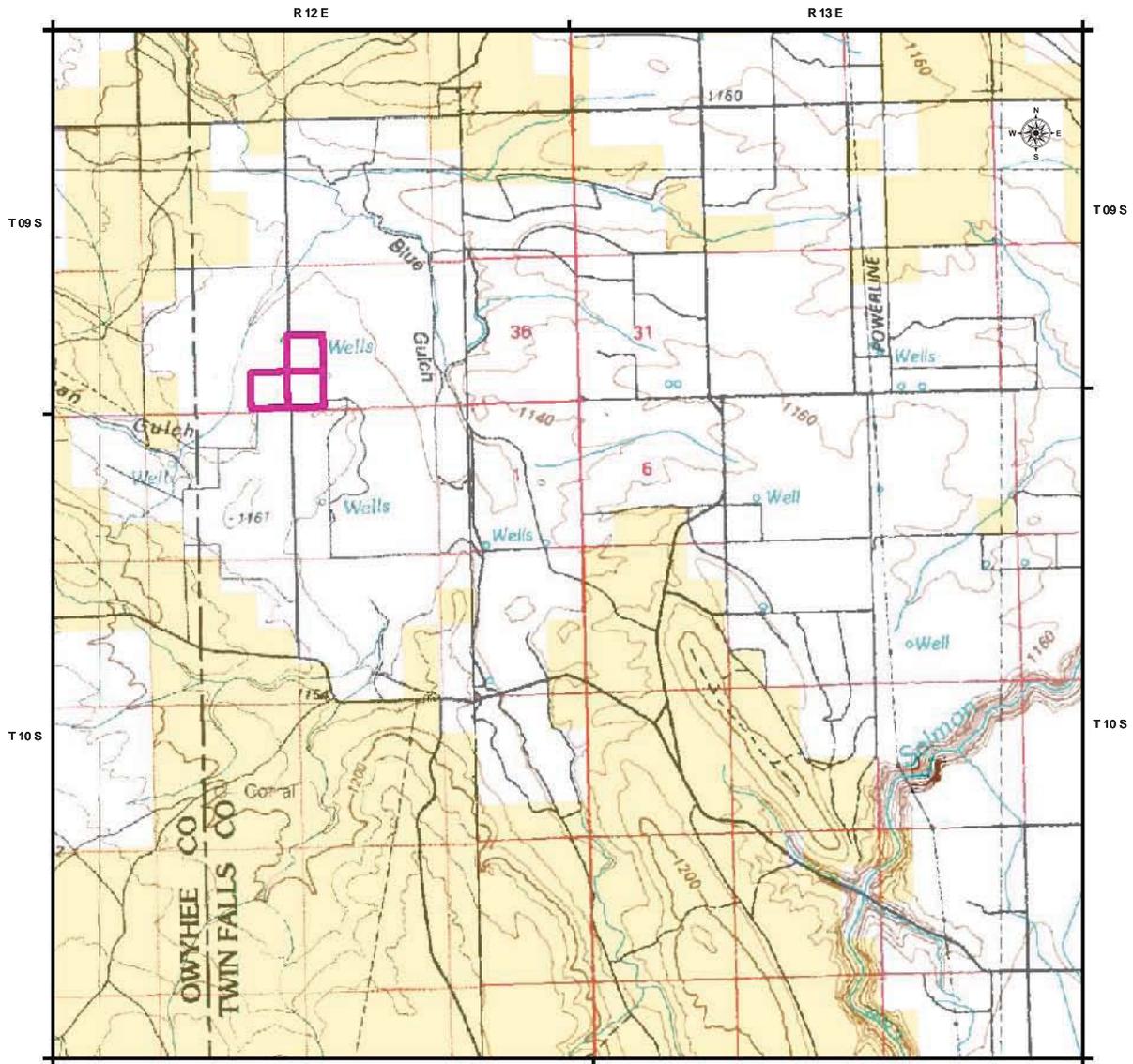


Brian W. Davis, Field Office Manager

4/2/12
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. 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.

Map 1. Wildlife Tract B-43 Habitat Restoration Project



US Dept. of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Twin Falls District, Idaho



	Wildlife Tract B-43
	Bureau of Land Management
	Private; other

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Map Created on: April 2, 2012
Data Displayed in NAD_1983_UTM_Zone_11N Projection
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