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

Twin Falls District
Shoshone Field Office
400 West F St.
Shoshone, Idaho 83352

Worksheet
Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)

NEPA No.-DOI-BLM-ID-T030-2012-0018-DNA

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

Proposed Action Title/Type: Wildlife Tract G-3 Vegetation Treatment Project

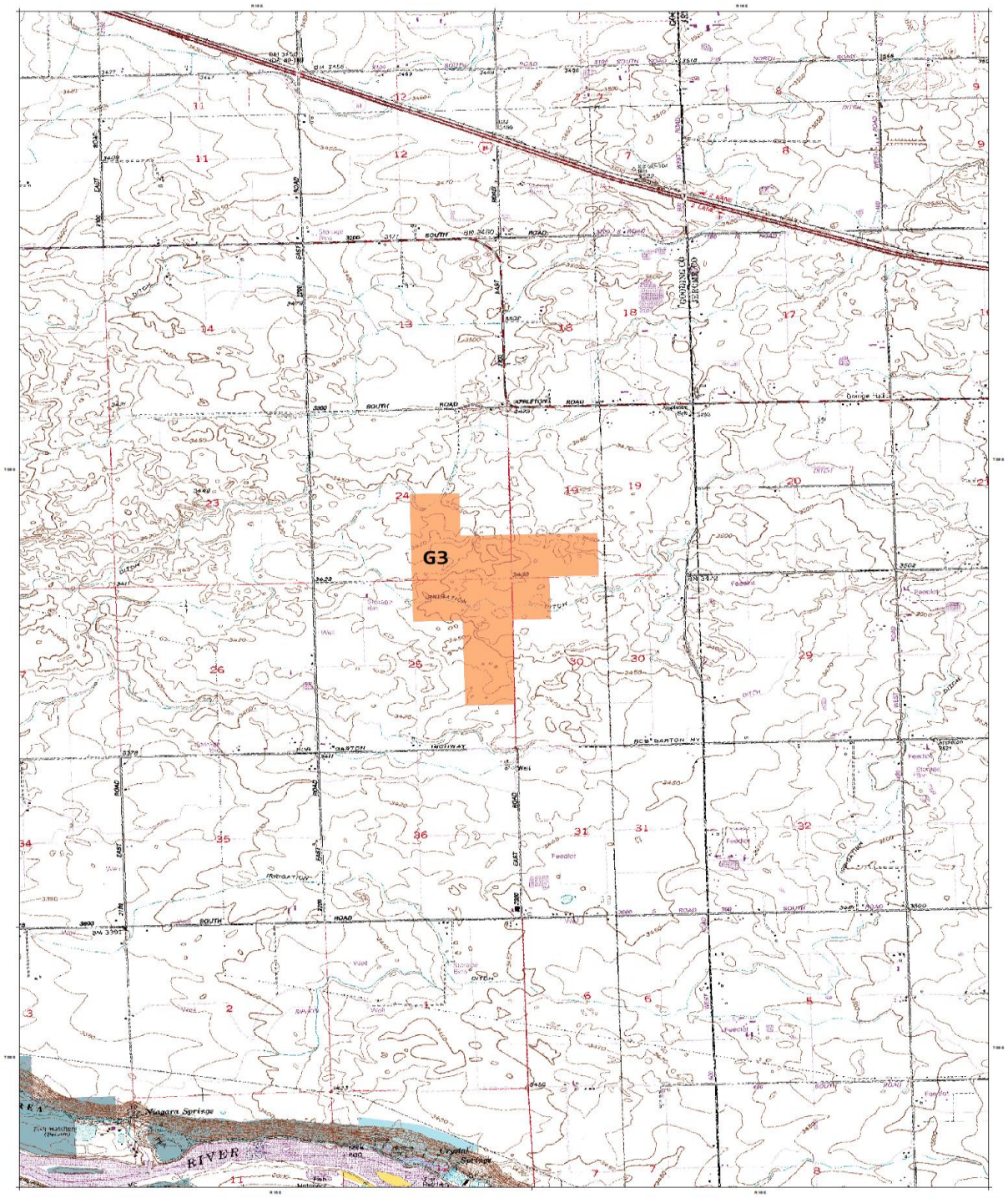
Location of Proposed Action:

Wildlife Tract G-3 Vegetation Treatment Project Location

County	Tract	Legal Description	Acres
Gooding	G-3	T8S, R15E, Sec24	120
Gooding	G-3	T8S, R15E, Sec25	160
Gooding	G-3	T8S, R16E, Sec19	71
Gooding	G-3	T8S, R16E, Sec30	31

Total Acres = 382

Wildlife Tract G-3



Legend

- G3 Wildlife Tract
- Bureau of Land Management
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Forest Service
- Private
- State Lands
- State Fish and Game

Shoshone Field Office
Wildlife Tract G3
Treatment Area
382 Total Acres

1:15,000

N W E S

G. Description of the Proposed Action

The proposed action is to implement the Twin Falls District Wildlife Tracts Enhancement project on Shoshone Field Office wildlife tract G-3. Implementation will entail prescribed burning, herbicide treatment with *Glyphosate*, drill seeding (grasses, forbs, and shrubs), broadcast sagebrush seeding and hand-planting sagebrush and mesic shrub seedlings, and spot-herbicide treatment for noxious weeds.

G-3 is a 382-acre tract located in Gooding County. Annual exotic vegetation dominates the entire tract and prescribed burning, herbicide treatment, drill seeding, shrub seeding and hand planting of shrubs is proposed to improve habitat conditions and reduce hazardous fuels. A few patches of sagebrush remain on the tract. The remaining shrub patches would be protected from the prescribed burn treatment. A burn control line would be disked to create a fuel break along the private land boundaries to contain the prescribed burn within the tract and to protect the few remaining shrub patches.

Wildlife Tract G-3 Vegetation

Proposed Vegetation Treatments

A prescribed burn treatment would be utilized as an initial seedbed treatment to reduce annual vegetation cover on the proposed tracts. The prescribed burn treatment would be implemented in early summer (mid- June to late July) during the red phase of cheatgrass before seed drop, but could occur in late summer through late fall (August–October). A prescribed burn plan will be developed to describe burning parameters, address safety and smoke management.

To further reduce competition from cheatgrass and other exotic annuals, the prescribed burn area would be treated with the herbicide *Glyphosate* if a fall germination of cheatgrass occurs because of favorable fall growing conditions. *Glyphosate* would be applied in the fall at a rate of 8-16 ounces/acre of active ingredient. Only one fall treatment would occur.

The prescribed burn and herbicide treated area would be drill seeded with a standard rangeland drill in the fall following the prescribed burn treatment with the seed mix in the following table. In addition, sagebrush seed will be broadcast seeded following the drill seeding.

Wildlife Tract G-3 Drill Seed Mix

Seed Type	Variety and Species	Seed Rate Lbs/Acre
Grasses	'Vavilov II' Siberian Wheatgrass	3.50
	'Discovery' Snake River Wheatgrass*	2.00
	'Rimrock' Indian Ricegrass*	1.00
	'Alkar' Tall Wheatgrass	1.00
	'Sherman' Big Bluegrass*	0.30
Forbs	'Eski' Sainfoin	2.00
	'Appar' Blue Flax	0.10
	Dark Blue Penstemon♦	0.50
Shrubs	Bitterbrush♦	0.30
	'Basin' Big Sagebrush (Broadcast)♦	1.00 (Bulk)

*** Native Cultivar / ♦ Wildland Collected**

Containerized or bare-root sagebrush and/or bitterbrush plants would be hand planted in the fall up to 3 years subsequent to the fall drill seeding. Mesic shrubs, such as, Siberian peashrub (*Caragana arborescens*), Skunkbush sumac (*Rhus trilobata*), Wild plum (*Prunus americana*), Chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*), Utah serviceberry (*Amelanchier utahensis*), Golden currant (*Ribes aureum*), Nootka rose (*Rosa nutkana*), and Rocky Mountain juniper (*Juniperus scopulorum*) would be hand planted in areas that receive additional moisture from adjacent irrigation runoff.

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 has been inventoried for the presence of cultural resources. Inventoried sites potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places would be flagged and protected from ground disturbing activities.

B. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance

Land Use Plan Name: Monument Resource Management Plan (RMP)
Date Approved/Amended: 1985

The proposed action is in conformance with the following Monument RMP goals and objectives. The Monument RMP goals and objectives state:

- Maintain or improve wildlife habitat for crucial mule deer winter range.
- Improve poor or fair condition rangeland.
- Maintain, improve, protect, and restore watershed conditions.
- Control the spread of noxious weeds on public lands and eradicate them where possible and economically feasible.
- Plowing, disking, and seeding may be used to eliminate brush and cheatgrass competition, and the use of chemicals to control unwanted vegetation may be used where it is environmentally acceptable and cost effective.

Fire, Fuels, and Related Vegetation Management Direction Plan Amendment, 2008 (FMDA)

The FMDA amended the Monument RMP. The FMDA specifically provides for using chemical, mechanical, and seeding treatments with appropriate plant materials to attempt to stabilize sites and prevent dominance of invasive, annual vegetation, and noxious weeds (BLM 2008, pp. 17 and 18).

The proposed action is in conformance with the following landscape-level objective and management action set forth in the FMDA (BLM 2008, pp. 17):

- **Objective** - Make Progress toward Desired Future Condition (DFC) in Low-elevation Shrub, Perennial Grass, Invasive Annual Grass, Mid-elevation Shrub, and Juniper vegetation types.

  Management Action

  Use chemical, mechanical, seeding, and prescribed fire treatments as appropriate to achieve DFC.

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 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. September 29, 2007.
- Shoshone Noxious Weed Control EA (ID-050-EA-92-031), March 25, 1992.

The Twin Falls District Wildlife Tracts Enhancement EA is a programmatic document/analysis intended 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 G-3 for treatment and the treatment methods proposed in the proposed action and decision record.

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 disking, prescribed fire, herbicide and seed treatments 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 EAs 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 or 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 17, 2012) and BLM sensitive species for the Shoshone Field Office.

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 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	Resource/Agency Represented
Joe Russell	Fire Ecologist	Fuels/BLM
Gary Wright	Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife/BLM
Bruce Palmer	Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife/IDFG
Danelle Nance	Natural Resource Specialist	Botany/BLM
Joanna Tjaden	Range Management Specialist	Range/BLM
Erik Valdez	Range Technician-Fuels	Fuels/BLM
Lisa Cresswell	Archaeologist	Cultural/BLM
Scott Uhrig	Fire Rehabilitation Specialist	Operations/BLM

CONCLUSION

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

/s/ Joseph E Russell _____ 4/30/13
Joseph E. Russell, Project Lead Date

/s/ Lisa Cresswell _____ 4/30/13
Lisa Cresswell, NEPA Coordinator Date

/s/ Brandon Brown _____ 4/30/13
Brandon Brown, Acting Field Office Manager 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.