

**DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
TWIN FALLS DISTRICT  
JARBIDGE FIELD OFFICE  
2536 Kimberly Road  
Twin Falls, ID 83301**

**Decision Record  
For the  
Fall 2012 Coonskin Sagebrush Planting Project  
NEPA No. DOI-BLM-ID-T010-2012-0013-DNA**

**I. PROPOSED ACTION**

The proposed action is to hand plant approximately 50,000 Wyoming big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata* ssp. *wyomingensis*) seedlings over an area about 4,500 acres in size in early November, 2012. The proposed project area is located in the Coonskin Butte pasture of the Cedar Butte Devil Creek allotment and the Old Pipeline and Black Butte pastures of the Grassy Hills AMP allotment. The objective of the proposed action is to re-establish sagebrush cover in areas east and south of Coonskin Butte burned by the 2007 Murphy Complex Fire. The attached worksheet for Determination of NEPA Adequacy worksheet contains a full description of the proposed action.

**II. PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW**

The proposed action is in conformance with the Jarbidge Resource Management Plan and associated Record of Decision, signed March 23, 1987.

**III. EXISTING NEPA REVIEW**

The proposed action is addressed in the 2012 Jarbidge Field Office (JFO) Programmatic Shrub Planting EA (ID-210-2008-EA-359) and Decision Record signed February 2, 2012. The JFO Programmatic Shrub Planting EA analyzed the effects of hand and mechanically planting shrub seedlings to mitigate loss of upland and riparian habitats due to recent and historic fire. Design features to protect planting areas and reduce or eliminate potential impacts to sensitive resources contained in the Programmatic EA were incorporated into the current proposed action.

The JFO Programmatic Shrub Planting EA has been reviewed against the following criteria to determine if it adequately addresses the proposed action. The Determination of NEPA Adequacy worksheet contains a detailed discussion regarding each of the criteria relative to the proposed action.

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?

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

#### **IV. DECISION**

I have decided to implement the Fall 2012 Coonskin Sagebrush Planting Project as described in the Determination of NEPA Adequacy worksheet (DOI-BLM-ID-T010-2012-0013-DNA). The project will include all design features described in the proposed action. I have reviewed this plan conformance and NEPA compliance record and have determined that the proposed project is in conformance with the approved land use plan and that no further environmental analysis is required.

#### **V. APPEALS**

This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA), Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 CFR Part 4. Any appeal must be filed within 30 days of this decision. Any notice of appeal must be filed with the Jarbidge Field Office Manager, 2536 Kimberly Road, Twin Falls, Idaho 83301. The appellant shall serve a copy of the notice of appeal and any statement of reasons, written arguments, or briefs on each adverse party named in the decision, not later than 15 days after filing such document (see 43 CFR 4.413(a)). Failure to serve within the time required will subject the appeal to summary dismissal (see 43 CFR 4.413(b)). If a statement of reasons for the appeal is not included with the notice, it must be filed with the IBLA, Office of Hearings and Appeals, U. S. Department of the Interior, 801 North Quincy St., Suite 300, Arlington, VA 22203 within 30 days after the notice of appeal is filed with the Jarbidge Field Office Manager.

Notwithstanding the provisions of 43 CFR 4.21(a)(1), filing a notice of appeal under 43 CFR Part 4 does not automatically suspend the effect of the decision. If you wish to file a petition for a stay of the effectiveness of this decision during the time that your appeal is being reviewed by the Board, the petition for a stay must accompany your notice of appeal.

A petition for a stay is required to show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

- (1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied;
- (2) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits;
- (3) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted; and
- (4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

In the event a request for stay or an appeal is filed, the person/party requesting the stay or filing the appeal must serve a copy of the appeal on the Office of the Field Solicitor, 960 Broadway Ave., Suite 400, Boise, ID 83706.

/s/ Codie Martin, Acting  
Brian Davis  
Jarbidge Field Office Manager

6/1/2012  
Date

cc:

Salmon Falls Land and Livestock, 95-A Bell Rapids Road, Hagerman, ID 83332  
Camas Creek Cattle Association, LLC, Route 1, Box 2070, Corral, ID 83322  
Jerome Hansen, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, 324 South 417 East, Jerome, ID 83338  
Tim Duffner, Idaho Department of Lands, 324 South 417 East, Jerome, ID 83338  
Katie Fite, Western Watersheds Project, P.O. Box 2863, Boise, ID 83701  
Jon Marvel, Western Watersheds Project, P.O. Box 1770, Hailey, ID 83333  
Stan T. Boyd, Boise District Grazing Board, P.O. Box 2596, Boise, ID 83701  
Owyhee Cattlemen's Association, P.O. Box 400, Marsing, ID 83639  
Michael E. Stanford, 3581 Cliffs Road, Jordan Valley, OR 97910  
Ted Hoffman, High Desert Coalition Inc., 220 Elmcrest St., Mountain Home, ID 83647-2467  
Harold Brown, 1642-A SH46, Gooding, ID 83330  
Jon Robison, Idaho Conservation League, P.O. Box 844, Boise, ID 83701  
Brett Stevenson, Idaho Conservation League, P.O. Box 2671, Ketchum, ID 83340  
Sean Woodhead, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, 1363 Fillmore Street, Twin Falls, ID 83301  
Steve Jakubowics, Committee for the High Desert, P.O. Box 2863, Boise, ID 83701  
Jim Desmond, Owyhee County Board of Commissioners, P.O. Box 128, Murphy, ID 83650  
Ron Kay, Idaho Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 790, Boise, ID 83701  
Jeff Cook, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, P.O. Box 83720, Boise, ID 83720-0065  
Nevada Cattlemen's Association, P.O. Box 310, Elko, NV 89803-0310  
Chet Brackett, Friends of the Jarbidge, Box 111, Rogerson, ID 83302  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1387 S. Vinnell Way, Suite 368, Boise, ID 83709  
Jarbidge Sage-grouse Working Group, c/o Brad Lowe, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, 324 S 417 E, Suite 1, Jerome, ID 83338