

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
COEUR D'ALENE DISTRICT, IDAHO**

DECISION RECORD

Project Name: Programmatic Pile Burning

Office: Coeur d'Alene Field Office, Idaho

NEPA Register No.: DOI-BLM-ID-C010-2012-0009-EA

Project Location: Public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management, Coeur d'Alene Field Office (CdAFO) in Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Kootenai, and Shoshone counties.

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Proposed Action and the Purpose and Need

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Coeur d'Alene Field Office, proposes to programmatically address reduction and elimination of piled vegetation throughout the Coeur d'Alene Field Office utilizing prescribed burning.

The proposed action is needed because forest health projects, recreation, road building and other projects have, and will continue to create slashed and piled fuels (activity fuels) that could contribute to unwanted or unmanageable fires.

The purpose of the proposed action is to reduce or eliminate piled vegetation thereby reducing the potential hazard resulting from these activity fuels.

Compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act

In accordance with regulations to implement the procedural requirements of the NEPA found at 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508 and 43 CFR Part 46, the BLM has prepared the Programmatic Pile Burn Environmental Assessment (EA) to analyze the direct, indirect and cumulative impacts that may result from the proposed action. Based upon my review of the EA, I determined that the Proposed Action alternative, as described and analyzed, would not result in any significant impact to the human environment (see Finding of No Significant Impacts - FONSI).

Public Involvement

Scoping for preparation of this EA included publishing information on the Idaho BLM NEPA website https://www.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/nepa/nepa_register.do on September 4, 2012. The scoping notice described the proposed action, location, and purpose and need. Although the BLM received no comments during the scoping period, the agency's issues were addressed through consideration in the analysis.

Decision

It is my decision to implement the Programmatic Pile Burn, as it is described as the Proposed Action alternative in the referenced EA, to include environmental design and monitoring features. This decision is further conditioned upon any stipulations or mitigation measures required as the BLM proceeds with completing the proposed prescribed burning activities.

Rationale

After reviewing the EA, I have determined that the selected alternative (Proposed Action) will have no significant impacts on the human environment. The project will enable the BLM to comply with requirements of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), and will enhance forest ecosystem health in conformance with the Coeur d'Alene Resource Management Plan. Implementation of the project will eliminate or reduce piled vegetation thereby reducing the potential hazard resulting from these activity fuels on lands managed by the BLM, Coeur d'Alene Field Office, trending towards a landscape more resilient to undesired disturbance, be it fire, forest insects, or disease.

Approval

/s/

February 15, 2013

Kurt Pavlat, Field Manager

Date

Administrative Review Procedures

The decision to implement this forest management project may be protested under 43 CFR 5003 - Administrative Remedies. As outlined in 43 CFR 5003 (a) and (b), protests of a forest management decision may be made within 15 days of the publication date of the decision notice and shall contain a written statement of reasons for protesting the decision. Publication of this decision record on the BLM internet ePlanning site, on February 22, 2013, will initiate this protest period. Therefore, a protest must be filed in person or by mail before close of business (4:15 p.m.) March 11, 2013, at

Bureau of Land Management
Coeur d'Alene Field Office
ATTN: Programmatic Pile Burn Decision
3815 Schreiber Way
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815

Regulations do not authorize acceptance of protests in any form other than a signed, paper document that is delivered to the physical address of the BLM office within the 15-day period. Therefore, the BLM will not accept protests delivered by e-mail, verbal, or facsimile means.