

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Carson City District Office

**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION  
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND DECISION**

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**Project Lead: Coreen Francis**

**Field Office:** Sierra Front

**Lead Office:** Sierra Front

**Case File/Project Number:**

**Applicable Categorical Exclusion** (cite section): H-1790-1 – Appendix 4, Section C. – Forestry

3. Seeding or reforestation of timber sales or burn areas where no chaining is done, no pesticides are used, and there is no conversion of timber type or conversion of non-forest to forest land. Specific reforestation activities covered include: seeding and seedling plantings, shading, tubing (browse protection), paper mulching, bud caps, ravel protection, application of non-toxic big game repellent, spot scalping, rodent trapping, fertilization of seed trees, fence construction around out-planting sites, and collection of pollen, scions and cones.

8. Salvaging dead or dying trees not to exceed 250 acres, requiring no more than 0.5 mile of temporary road construction.

Such activities:

a. May include incidental removal of live or dead trees for landings, skid trails, and road clearing.

b. May include temporary roads which are defined as roads authorized by contract, permit, lease, other written authorization, or emergency operation not intended to be part of the BLM transportation system and not necessary for long-term resource management. Temporary roads shall be designed to standards appropriate for the intended uses, considering safety, cost of transportation, and impacts on land and resources; and

c. Shall require the treatment of temporary roads constructed or used so as to permit the reestablishment, by artificial or natural means, of vegetative cover on the roadway and areas where the vegetative cover was disturbed by the construction or use of the road, as necessary to minimize erosion from the disturbed area. Such treatment shall be designed to reestablish vegetative cover as soon as practicable, but at least within 10 years after the termination of the contract.

d. For this CX, a dying tree is defined as a standing tree that has been severely damaged by forces such as fire, wind, ice, insects, or disease, and that in the judgment of an experienced forest professional or someone technically trained for the work, is likely to die within a few years.

Examples include, but are not limited to:

(i) Harvesting a portion of a stand damaged by a wind or ice event.

(ii) Harvesting fire damaged trees

**NEPA Number: DOI-BLM-NV-C020-2012-0015-CX**

**Project Name: Airport Fire Salvage and Rehab**

**Project Description:**

The Airport Fire burned 31 acres of BLM land in Alpine County in July, 2011. The fire was very intense and killed most of the trees within the fire perimeter. There was about 2 acres of mature Jeffrey pine trees killed and the rest was a mixture of smaller pinyon and juniper trees. This project will salvage dead and dying trees from the fire perimeter through a commercial timber sale and/or allow public wood collection of dead trees. The other component to the project is the planting of ~10,000 Jeffrey pine seedlings on BLM lands in the fire perimeter.

**Salvage of dead and dying trees:**

Dead and dying trees greater than 8 inches diameter breast height (dbh) would be marked by BLM and the volume/value of the logs would be appraised using BLM approved timber valuation protocols. Dying trees are those trees within the fire that have less than 20 percent of their crown left after intense scorching during the fire. There are approximately 70 Jeffrey pine trees ( $\pm 10$ ) within the fire area that are >8 inches dbh. The trees would be felled, decked at a landing off the main road, loaded on log trucks, and transported to a local milling facility. Limbs and tops from the trees would be lopped and scattered on site and/or chipped depending upon the amount of the slash generated. Access to the salvage area would be rehabilitated after use by either using large wood pieces or rocks to effectively block off road travel. Signs would be posted as needed. Equipment would not be allowed during the wet winter months to protect soils.

Dead trees that are less than 8" dbh or dead pinyon and juniper trees within the fire perimeter would be made available for public firewood cutting. Specific permits would be issued for the area that would contain a stipulation that prohibits off road travel. The permits would have a limited time period (September 1st – November 15<sup>th</sup>) so that compliance checks can be done by BLM personnel during the activity. There will be follow up slash treatments similar to those described above. Follow up native plant seeding would occur as needed.

**Planting:**

Planting would occur in Spring 2013 and would be done either by BLM employees or contractors. The stock is Jeffrey pine plug seedlings (depth of about 6 inches) that were grown from seed collected from the same seed zone and elevation as the native Jeffrey pines in Alpine County. Approximately 10,000 or 300 seedlings per acre would be evenly planted within the fire perimeter with slight variations on spacing to place seedling in microsite locations that afford better protection from the elements (i.e. north side of logs, stumps, other structures).

This project does not occur in general or preliminary priority habitat for the greater sage-grouse.

**Applicant Name: N/A**

**Project Location (include Township/Range, County): T10N, R20E, Sec 3 & 10**

**BLM Acres for the Project Area: 31**

**Land Use Plan Conformance** (cite reference/page number): FOR-1 Desired Outcomes #3,

**Name of Plan:** NV – Carson City RMP.

**Screening of Extraordinary Circumstances:** The following extraordinary circumstances apply to individual actions within categorical exclusions (43 CFR 46.215). The BLM has considered the following criteria:

<i>If any question is answered 'yes' an EA or EIS must be prepared.</i>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
1. Would the Proposed Action have significant impacts on public health or safety? (project lead/P&EC)		<b>X</b>
2. Would the Proposed Action have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (EO 11990); floodplains (EO 11988); national monuments; migratory birds (EO 13186); and other ecologically significant or critical areas? (wildlife biologist, hydrologist, outdoor recreation planner, archeologist)		<b>X</b>
3. Would the Proposed Action have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA 102(2)(E)]? (project lead/P&EC)		<b>X</b>
4. Would the Proposed Action have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks? (project lead/P&EC)		<b>X</b>
5. Would the Proposed Action establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects? (project lead/P&EC)		<b>X</b>
6. Would the Proposed Action have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects? (project lead/P&EC)		<b>X</b>
7. Would the Proposed Action have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the NRHP as determined by the bureau or office? (archeologist)		<b>X</b>
8. Would the Proposed Action have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the list of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species? (wildlife biologist, botanist)		<b>X</b>
9. Would the Proposed Action violate federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment? (project lead/P&EC)		<b>X</b>
10. Would the Proposed Action have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EA 12898)? (project lead/P&EC)		<b>X</b>
11. Would the Proposed Action limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (EO 13007)? (archeologist)		<b>X</b>
12. Would the Proposed Action contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and EO 13112)? (botanist)		<b>X</b>



## **APPEAL PROCEDURES**

This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of the Secretary, in accordance with 43 CFR Part 4. If you appeal, your appeal **must also** be filed with the Bureau of Land Management at the following address:

Leon Thomas, Sierra Front Field Manager  
BLM, Carson City District Office  
5665 Morgan Mill Road  
Carson City, NV 89701

Your appeal must be filed within thirty (30) days from receipt or issuance of this decision. The appellant has the burden of showing that the decision appealed from is in error.

If you wish to file a petition pursuant to regulation 43 CFR 4.21 (58 FR 4942, January 19, 1993) for a stay (suspension) of the decision during the time that your appeal is being reviewed by the Board, the petition for stay must accompany your notice of appeal. Copies of the notice of appeal and petition for a stay must also be submitted to:

Board of Land Appeals  
Dockets Attorney  
801 N. Quincy Street, Suite 300  
Arlington, VA 22203

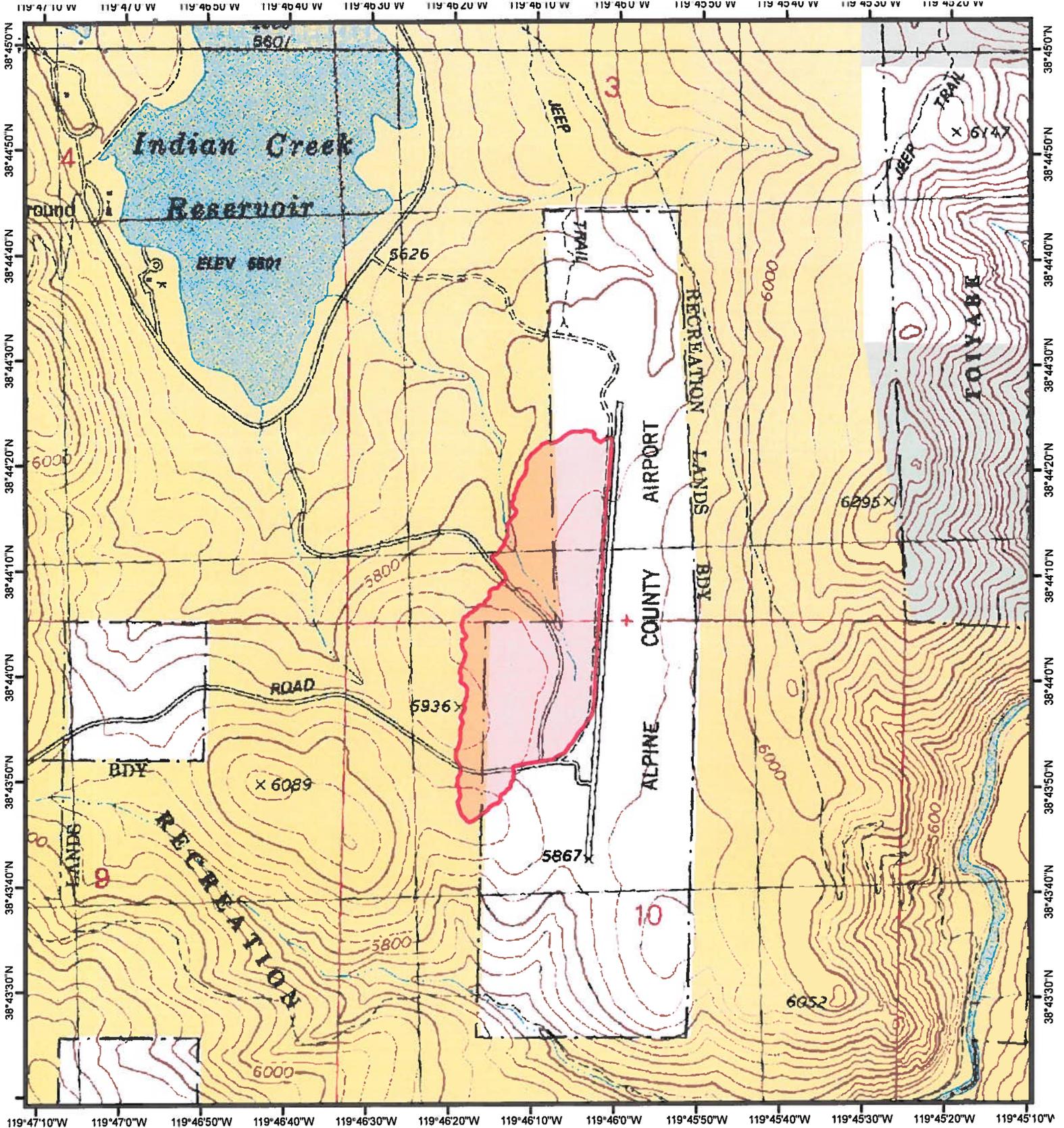
A copy must also be sent to the appropriate office of the Solicitor at the same time the original documents are filed with the above office.

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Office of the Regional Solicitor  
Pacific Southwest Region  
2800 Cottage Way, Room E-1712  
Sacramento, CA 95825

If you request a stay, you have the burden of proof to demonstrate that a stay should be granted. 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 appellants success on the merits.
3. The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted.
4. Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

The Office of Hearings and Appeals regulations do not provide for electronic filing of appeals, electronically filed appeals will therefore not be accepted.



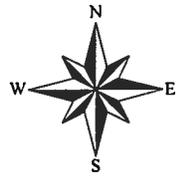
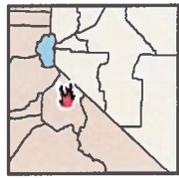
**Legend**

Fire Perimeter

**Land Status**

- Private
- Bureau of Land Management
- US Forest Service

Total Acres - 81  
 Acres By Ownership  
 PVT - 51  
 BLM - 30



**Bureau of Land Management  
 Carson City District  
 Fire & Aviation Management  
 2011**

United States Department of the Interior  
 Bureau of Land Management (BLM)  
 Carson City District  
 5665 Morgan Mill Road  
 Carson City, NV 89701



No warranty is made by the BLM as to the accuracy, reliability or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use with other data.