

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Coeur d'Alene District, Idaho

## **Categorical Exclusion Documentation**

### **Sheep Fire Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Plan**

**Office:** Cottonwood Field Office

**NEPA Register No.** DOI-BLM-ID-C020-2013-0001-CX

**Subject Code/Case File No.:** Rips # 15909

**Location:** BLM lands or road easements in John Day and Salmon River watersheds East of Lucile, Idaho.

Boise Meridian, T. 26 N., R. 2 E, sections 20, 21, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32 and 33

T. 26 N., R 1 E., section 25

T. 25 N., R 1 E., sections 2 and 11

#### **Description of the Proposed Action**

The BLM is proposing to implement treatments prescribed in the Sheep Fire Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation plan to address resource concerns on BLM lands and road easements impacted by the Sheep Fire. Proposed treatments categorically excluded include road maintenance, planting of native species, repair of two fences, survey and stabilization of cultural resources and marking of property boundaries. Road work includes maintenance, drainage improvement and stabilization on approximately 6 miles of existing road either on BLM lands or BLM road easement across private lands. Plantings include up to 650 acres of native conifer species in areas where the fire removed the overstory and native riparian plantings on four different stream segments totaling up to 5 acres. Two fences will be repaired amounting to approximately 500 feet of existing fence.

#### **Land Use Plan Conformance**

The applicable land use plan for the project area is the Cottonwood Resource Management Plan (RMP), as it was approved on December 21, 2009 (BLM 2009). The following proposed treatments in this plan conform to the RMP citations as indicated.

#### **Seeding, Seedling Planting**

##### ***Vegetation – Riparian and Wetlands (VR)***

**Objective VR-1.1** – Strive to improve degraded riparian and wetland vegetation relative to site potential and potential natural vegetation composition and habitat diversity.

**Action VR-1.1.1** – Improvement of riparian condition may be accomplished in a variety of ways, examples include: (1) riparian restoration (e.g., plantings, seedings) . . .

##### ***Vegetation – Forests (VF)***

**Objective VF-1.1**—Manage for forest health and/or habitat diversity in desired future condition blocks.

**Action VF-1.1.2** – Design treatment projects to enhance forest health and/or habitat diversity.

## **Fence Repair, Survey Monument Replacement, Road Maintenance**

### ***Wildland Fire Management (WF)***

**Objective WF-1.4**—Determine appropriate response, rehabilitation actions, and fuels treatment type based on resource values to be protected and values at risk identified in the RMP, through the fire planning process and documented in the fire management plan.

**Action WF-1.4.3**—Use rehabilitation and emergency stabilization to mitigate the adverse effects of fire on the soil, vegetation, and water resources in a cost-effective manner.

### ***Transportation and Travel Management (TM)***

**Objective TM -1.4**—Implement the RMP travel management decisions, including area-wide designations. . . environmental monitoring, and facility maintenance.

**Action TM -1.4.3**—Implement the travel management decisions related to environmental and resource monitoring including an environmental/resource monitoring plan.

**Action TM - 1.4.6**—Implement Road Management Guidelines for road planning, design, and maintenance.

### ***Cultural Resources (CR)***

**Objective CR-1.2**—Identify cultural properties requiring physical or administrative protection measures to protect site integrity and implement necessary measures.

**Action CR-1.2.1**—Monitor and assess a sample of cultural resources and/or traditional cultural properties . . .

**Action CR-1.2.3**—Implement site protection measures to protect at-risk sites.

## **Compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)**

The proposed action is excluded from further documentation under National Environmental Policy Act in accordance with 43 CFR 46.210 (l). This CX is for “post-fire rehabilitation activities” and includes all land treatments proposed in the project description. Application of this CX is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 43 CFR 46.215 exist.

### **Signature**

Authorizing Official: /s/ Will Runnoe  
Will Runnoe, Field Manager

Date: December 17, 2012

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