

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

Twin Falls District  
Burley Field Office  
15 East 200 South  
Burley, ID 83318

**Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)  
for the  
Riparian Shrub Planting Project**

DOI-BLM-ID-T020-2013-0004-DNA

**BLM Office:** Burley Field Office (BFO)

**Proposed Action Title/Type:** Riparian Shrub Planting

**Location of Proposed Action:**

1. Little Cottonwood Creek: T 14 S; R 21 E; Section 11, E ½, SE ¼
  - a. Black cottonwood (*Populus balsamifera*)
  - b. Redoiser dogwood (*Cornus sericea*)
2. Raft River: T16 S; R 26 E; Section 05, NW ¼ & T 15 S; R 26 E; Section 32, SW ¼
  - a. Black cottonwood (*Populus balsamifera*)
3. Trapper Creek: T 14 S; R 21 E; Section 25, W ½ NW ¼ & Section 26, N ½ SE ¼
  - a. Black cottonwood (*Populus balsamifera*)
  - b. Redoiser dogwood (*Cornus sericea*)
4. Parks Creek: T 14 S; R 26 E; Section 07, SE ¼ NW ¼ & T 14 S R25 E Section 13, NE ¼ NE ¼
  - a. Black cottonwood (*Populus balsamifera*)
  - b. Redoiser dogwood (*Cornus sericea*)
5. Goose Creek: T 15S; R22 E; Section 31, E 1/2
  - a. Black cottonwood (*Populus balsamifera*)
  - b. Redoiser dogwood (*Cornus sericea*)
6. Cold Creek: T 15 S; R22 E; Sections 19 & 20
  - a. Redoiser dogwood (*Cornus sericea*)

7. Mountain Meadow: T 12 S; R 20 E, Sections 15, 22
  - a. Yellow willow (*Salix lutea*)
  - b. Narrowleaf willow (*Salix exigua*)
  
8. Mule Creek: T 16 S; R 16 E; Section 20, NW 1/4
  - a. Narrowleaf willow (*Salix exigua*)
  - b. Yellow willow (*Salix lutea*)
  - c. Redoiser dogwood (*Cornus sericea*)
  
9. Warm Creek: T 12 S; R28 E; Section 29, 20, & 19
  - a. Narrowleaf willow (*Salix exigua*)
  - b. Black cottonwood (*Populus balsamifera*)

#### **A. Description of the Proposed Action**

The BFO is proposing to plant the aforementioned riparian shrubs at the aforementioned locations within the field office. The purpose of the project is to restore native woody riparian vegetation and increase native plant diversity. The need is to improve the vegetative health of the subject riparian areas. Improving vegetative health of riparian areas would consequently improve wildlife habitat as well.

#### **B. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance**

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUPs, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the LUP decisions to maintain and improve wildlife habitat and watershed conditions. The Twin Falls Management Framework Plan and the Cassia Resource Management Plan contain the following objectives:

1. Twin Falls Management Framework Plan:
  - a. “Improve and maintain terrestrial, aquatic and wetland-riparian habitats for upland game species throughout the planning unit (p. 222).”
  - b. “Improve and maintain terrestrial, aquatic and wetland-riparian habitats for furbearers, waterfowl, shorebirds, and game fish (p. 243).”
  - c. “Improve and maintain terrestrial, aquatic and wetland-riparian habitat for threatened and endangered, sensitive and high interest mammalian and avian species, amphibians and reptiles, and all other non-game mammalian and avian species (p. 270)”
  
2. Cassia Resource Management Plan:
  - a. “BLM will manage fish and wildlife habitat on the public lands. A variety of methods may be employed, including management actions designed to maintain or improve wildlife habitat... (p. 5).”

- b. “A variety of methods may be employed to maintain, improve, protect and restore watershed conditions. Priority will be given to meeting emergency watershed needs due to flooding, severe drought or fire (p. 9).”

The proposed action is considered to be in conformance with the aforementioned objectives because the proposed action is expected to improve wildlife and enhance watershed conditions.

**C. Identify the applicable National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document(s) and other related documents that cover the proposed action.**

1. Burley Shrub Planting EA (NEPA No. ID-220-2009-EA-3555)
2. Proposed Fire, Fuels, and Related Vegetation Management Direction Plan Amendment and Final Environmental Impact Statement; February 2008
3. Cassia Resource Management Plan
4. Twin Falls Management Framework Plan

**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 proposed action is a feature of the selected alternative from the Burley Shrub Planting EA. The Burley Shrub Planting EA is a programmatic document that analyzed the effects of shrub plantings throughout the Burley Field Office. The EA includes a description of the expected environmental consequences of shrub planting. This shrub planting proposal is within the same analysis area.

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 Burley Shrub Planting EA analyzed the proposed action along with a no action alternative in detail. Based on the current proposed action and current environmental concerns, the existing range of alternatives remains appropriate.

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 analysis remains valid even in light of new information or circumstances. The Burley Shrub Planting EA was completed in 2008. There have been no changes to the BLM sensitive species list since that time, with the exception of the greater sage-grouse. The greater sage-grouse is now a Candidate species for listing under the Endangered Species Act. Even though the greater sage-grouse is now a Candidate species, its management as a BLM sensitive species continues. The proposed shrub planting activities are expected to benefit Greater sage-grouse by enhancing riparian habitat.

**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. The direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of the proposed action are synonymous with the effects analysis of the Burley Shrub Planting EA. The effects of the proposed action are well understood.

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

Yes. Public involvement efforts related to the Burley Shrub Planting EA remain adequate considering the current proposed action. The public has expressed little interest in shrub planting activities.

**E. Persons/Agencies/BLM Staff Consulted**

Name	Title
Jesse Rawson	Project Lead
Jeremy Bisson	Wildlife Biologist
Suzann Henrikson	Archaeologist
Jason Theodozio	Rangeland Management Specialist

**CONCLUSION**

Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the Cassia Resource Management Plan and Twin Falls Management Framework Plan and that the existing NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitutes BLM’s compliance with the requirements of NEPA.

/S/ Jesse Rawson  
Jesse Rawson, Project Lead

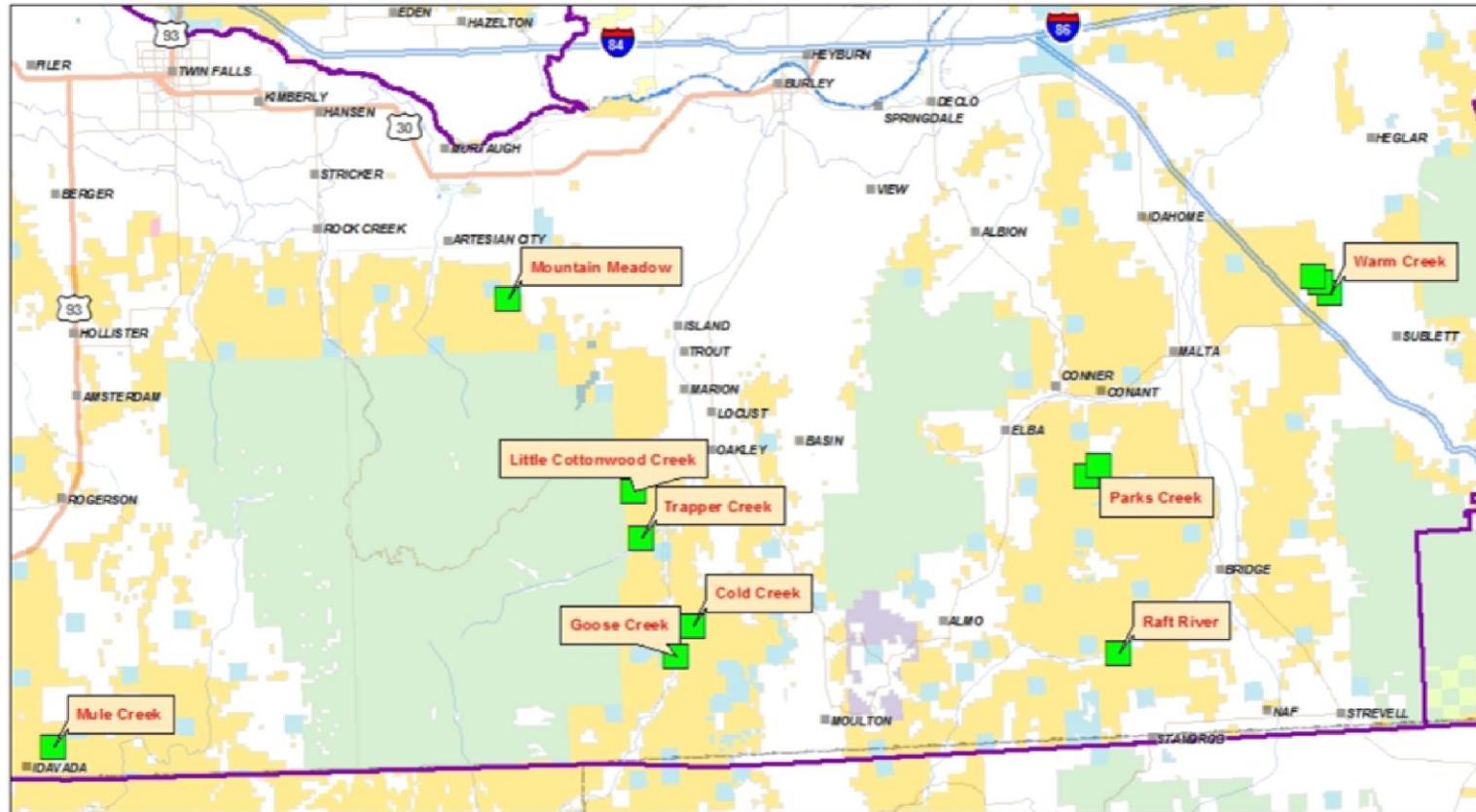
January 18, 2013  
Date

/S/ Mike Courtney  
Mike Courtney, Field Office Manager

January 18, 2013  
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.

## Burley Field Office Shrub Planting Project Areas



**Legend**

Burley Field Office	National Grasslands
Project area	Forest Service
Towns/Communities	Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Land Management	National Park Service
Bureau of Reclamation	Native American Reservation
Military, Department of Defense	Private, other
Bankhead-Jones Land Use	State
Department of Energy	State Fish and Game
	Historical Open Water



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