

**U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management**

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**Determination of NEPA Adequacy and FONSI**

**DOI-BLM-NV-L030-2013-0017-DNA**

**April 23, 2013**

**Lien Draw Portion of the Uvada Sagebrush Improvement Project**

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**Worksheet  
Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management**

**OFFICE:** NVL00440 and NVL03000

**TRACKING NUMBER:** DOI-BLM-NV-L030-2013-0017-DNA

**PROPOSED ACTION TITLE/TYPE:** Lien Draw Portion of the Uvada Sagebrush Improvement Project

**LOCATION/LEGAL DESCRIPTION:**

T2S, R70E, Sec 35 and  
T3S, R70E, Sec. 1, 2, 11, & 12 and  
T3S, R71E, Sec. 6 & 7

**A. Description of the Proposed Action and any applicable mitigation measures:**

The proposal is to conduct pinyon and juniper tree removal/thinning on an additional 840 acres within the Lien Draw portion of the Uvada Sagebrush Improvement Project (Map 1). This would bring the total area for pinyon and juniper tree removal/thinning to approximately 1,361 acre within the Lien Draw portion of the Uvada Sagebrush Improvement Project. Currently, 521 acres of the area is analyzed in the Uvada Sagebrush Improvement and Fuels Reduction Project Environmental Assessment NV-045-08-22, July 30, 2009 (Map 1). In addition, approximately 69 percent or 945 acres of the area was previously treated (chained and seeded) during the 1960's (Map 1).

Tree removal/thinning would utilize manual (chainsaw) methods. Slash would be left in place and/or scattered around the project area. Biomass removal in the form of firewood could take place.

Project implementation of approximately 500 acres would occur during Fiscal Year 2013 with implementation on the remaining acres occurring as funding became available.

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

<u>LUP Name</u>	<u>Date Approved</u>
Ely District Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan	August 2008

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decisions:

The proposed action is in conformance with the following Vegetation Decisions:

**VEG-1:** Emphasize treatment areas that have the best potential to maintain desired conditions or respond and return to the desired range of conditions and mosaic upon the landscape, using all available current or future tools and techniques.

**VEG-4:** Design management strategies to achieve plant composition within the desired range of conditions for vegetation communities, and emphasize plant and animal community health at the mid scale (watershed level).

**VEG-5:** Focus restoration of undesirable conditions initially on those sites that have not crossed vegetation transitional thresholds.

**VEG-6:** Emphasize the conservation and maintenance of healthy, resilient, and functional vegetation communities before restoration of other sites.

**VEG-16:** Implement actions to attain the desired vegetation states shown in **Table 1**.

**Table 1**  
**Desired Range of Conditions of Sagebrush (Distribution of Phases and States)**

State/Phase Name	Total Herbaceous State (Early, Mid, and Late Phases) <sup>1</sup>	Total Shrub State	Total Tree State	Altered State Annual/Perennial Invasive	Altered State Nonnative Perennial Seeded
<b>LANDFIRE Classes</b>	A, B, and C	D	E	Uncharacteristic	Uncharacteristic
<b>Approved RMP<sup>2</sup></b>	85% (4,776,500 acres)	5% (281,000 acres)	5% (281,000 acres)	0% (0 acres)	5% (281,000 acres)

<sup>1</sup> Sagebrush in the mid-late phase of the herbaceous state is desired for wildlife habitat

<sup>2</sup> The Approved RMP approximates and incorporates the LANDFIRE Biophysical Setting Models for Great Basin xeric mixed sagebrush and Inter-Mountain Basin big sagebrush. Altered states (annual/perennial invasive and nonnative perennial seeded) are an uncharacteristic condition not recognized by LANDFIRE Biophysical Setting Models but are part of current conditions.

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

The proposed action is covered in the following NEPA documents:

Uvada Sagebrush Improvement and Fuels Reduction Project Environmental Assessment  
NV-045-08-22, July 30, 2009

Ely Proposed Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement (2007)

The proposal is also consistent with other Federal, State and local plans including, but not limited to, the following:

Final Programmatic Environmental Report (PER) – Vegetation Treatments on BLM Lands in 17 Western States (June 2007) Chapter 2 – Vegetation Treatment Programs, Policies and Methods, Pages 2-1 through 2-49.

The Lincoln County Elk Management Plan (July 1999, revised 2006) was developed by a Technical Review Team (TRT) that consisted of representatives from the United States Forest Service (USFS), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the National Park Service (NPS), the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Nevada Division of Wildlife (NDOW), sportsmen, ranchers, general public, conservationists, hunting guides, Lincoln County Public Lands Committee, Farm Bureau and the Goshute Indian Tribe. The plan identified vegetation conversion projects by NDOW management units that would improve wildlife habitat by creating a more diverse mixture of grasses, forbs and shrubs. The project areas lie within NDOW Management Unit 24, which was identified as a maintenance area for project development for habitat improvement projects to improve habitat and promote growth of the elk herd.

#### **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  No  Documentation of answer and explanation:

The new action is essentially similar to the proposed action analyzed in the previous NEPA document (Uvada Sagebrush Improvement and Fuels Reduction Project Environmental Assessment) for this project area. The action is within and adjacent to the same analysis area with similar resource conditions.

**2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the new proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values?**

Yes  No  Documentation of answer and explanation:

Range of alternatives analyzed in the previous NEPA document included a no action alternative. The current environmental concerns, interests and resource values have not changed at the site since the time the existing NEPA documents were prepared.

**3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances (such as, rangeland health standard assessment, recent endangered species listings, 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  No  Documentation of answer and explanation:

The existing analysis is still valid since no new threatened, endangered, or BLM Sensitive species have been listed within the project area. The rangeland health standard assessment has not been completed for this area yet. It can reasonably be concluded that new information and new circumstances would not substantially change the analysis of the new proposed action because this new proposed action is the same as the proposed action analyzed in the original EA. The existing analysis is valid.

**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  No  Documentation of answer and explanation:

The direct, indirect, and cumulative effects would be the same as analyzed in the original EA since the new proposed action and environmental conditions are the same as analyzed in the original EA.

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

Yes  No  Documentation of answer and explanation:

Public involvement and interagency review on the original project involved public meetings, meetings with other agencies and general public inquires. In addition public involvement and interagency review is adequate for the current proposed action because the original action was based on the project implementation utilizing mechanical methods and the new action will take place in the original project area using the less disturbing manual treatment method. The Nevada Department of Wildlife is also in support of the project.

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

Name	Title	Resource/Agency Represented
Cameron Boyce	Rangeland Management Specialist	Range, Vegetative, Invasive, Non-Native Species
Alicia Styles	Wildlife Biologist	Riparian/Wetlands, Wildlife, Migratory Birds, Special Status Animals & Plants. ,
Kurt Braun	Archeologist	Archeology/Historic & Palcontological
Elvis Wall	Native American Coordinator	Native American Religious Concerns, Tribal Coordination,
Cody Coombs	Supervisory Natural Resource Specialist (Fuels)	Fuels
Ben Noyes	Wild Horse Specialist	Wild Horses
Lisa Domina	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Recreation
Clint Wertz	Supervisory Resource Specialist	Soil, Water, Air Environmental Justice, NEPA
Kyle Teel	Fire Ecologist	Fire/Project Lead

**Conclusion** (If you found that one or more of these criteria is not met, you will not be able to check this box.)

- Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the
- applicable land use plan and that the NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of the NEPA.

*Kyle Teel*      *4/23/13*

Signature of Project Lead

*Clint Wertz*      *4-23-13*

Signature of NEPA Coordinator

*[Signature]*      *4/23/13*

Signature of the Responsible Official:

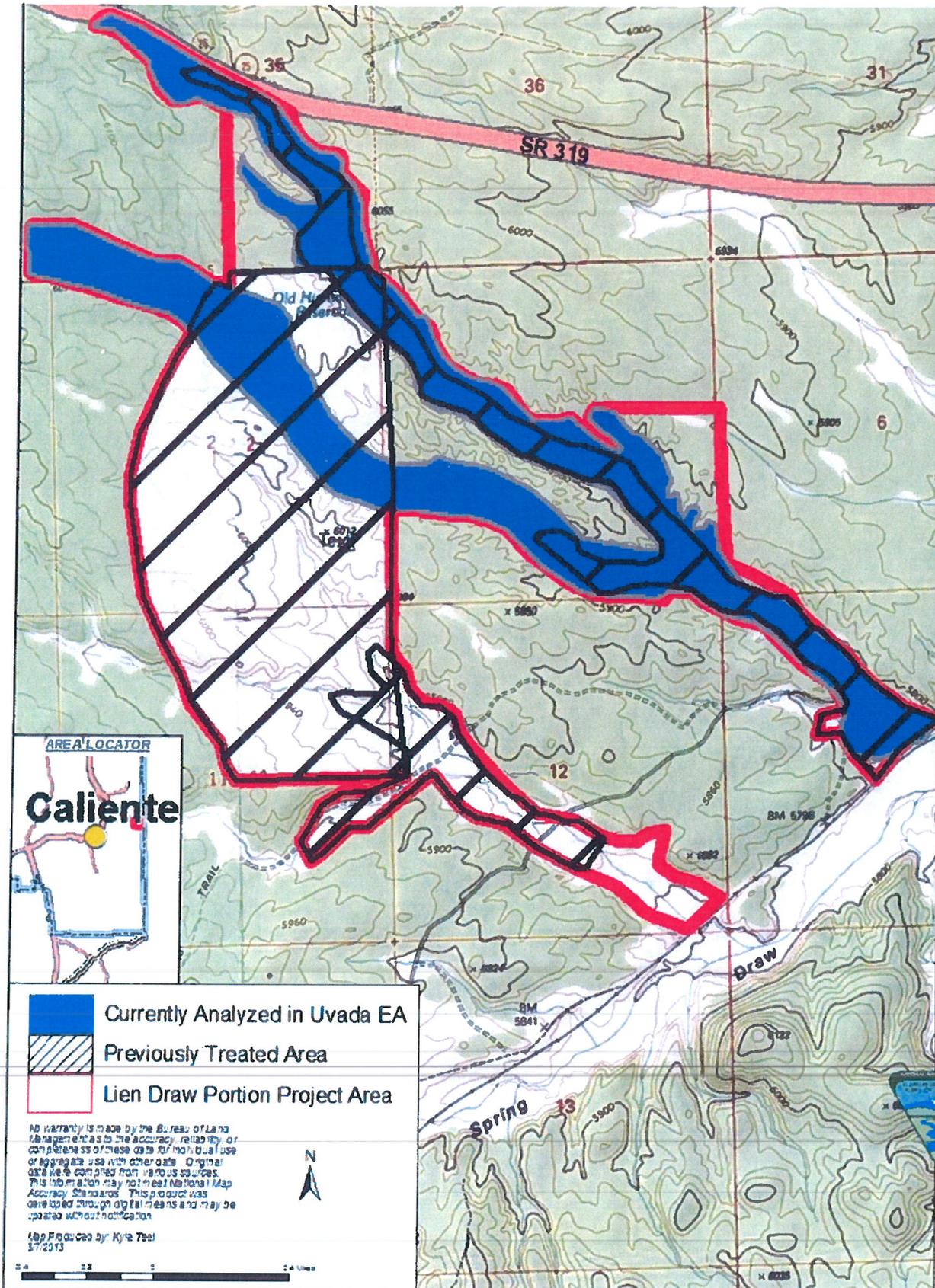
Date

**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.

**Map 1: Lien Draw Portion of the Uvada Sagebrush Restoration Project.**

**BLM**

**Ely District Office**



**AREA LOCATOR**

**Caliente**

- Currently Analyzed in Uvada EA
- Previously Treated Area
- Lien Draw Portion Project Area

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Map Produced by: Kyle Teel  
3/7/2013

