



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Winnemucca District Office
5100 East Winnemucca Boulevard
Winnemucca, Nevada 89445
Phone: (775) 623-1500 Fax: (775) 623-1503
Email: wfoweb@blm.gov
www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/wfo.html

In Reply Refer To:
1792/9214 (NV024.11)

18 November 2013

Dear Interested Party:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Winnemucca District has recently finalized the Determination for NEPA Adequacy (DNA) for the Montana Mountains Cooperative Fuels Project. The DNA concluded that additional actions associated with implementation of the proposed project would have no additional expected environmental impacts. These impacts were analyzed in detail in the Montana Mountains Cooperative Fuels Treatment Project Environmental Assessment (EA). Authorization of fuelbreaks and restoration projects is subject to the Healthy Forest Restoration Act and associated BLM regulations 43CFR 5003.1(b).

The DNA analyzed hazardous fuels reduction and habitat restoration projects in the Montana Mountains approximately 8 miles west of McDermitt, NV. The comprehensive NEPA analysis of the proposed action provided for public participation through a public scoping period, scoping meetings and a 30 day review of the Preliminary EA. This disclosure occurred with local Tribes, interested publics and stakeholders.

The action and all recommended mitigation measures that have been selected are:

- A. Construction and maintenance of road fuelbreaks (see Table 1, DNA)
- B. Construction and maintenance of sagebrush habitat protection strips (see Table 2, DNA)
- C. Maintenance of the Montana fuelbreak along SR-293

These actions are described in detail in the DNA. In addition to the Standard Operating Procedures and Best Management Practices contained in Appendix A of the Vegetation Treatment Using Herbicide on Bureau of Land Management Lands in Seventeen Western States Programmatic EIS, Record of Decision (2007), the following design features will also apply:

1. Herbicide application rates (range of rates) and application would be subject to label restrictions and standard operating procedures (SOPs, See Appendix I in EA).
2. All treatments identified would be in accordance with the Instruction Memorandums WO-IM-2012-043 Greater Sage-Grouse Interim Management Policies and Procedures and WO-IM-2010-149 Sage-grouse Conservation Related to Wildland Fire and Fuels

Management. Fuels Management Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Sage-Grouse Conservation as described in Appendix IV in EA.

3. For any proposed actions that are not performed outside of the migratory bird breeding season (March 1 – August 31), a migratory bird nesting survey would be conducted in potential habitat areas no more than 10 days and no less than 3 days prior to initiation of disturbance. If active nests are located, a minimum 260 ft. protective buffer would be established or activities delayed until the birds have completed nesting and brood-rearing activities.
4. All NRHP eligible or unevaluated sites would be avoided during the course of this project. An archaeologist would be involved as detailed plans are developed for each phase of the implementation to ensure avoidance is factored into the detailed project designs. An archaeologist would review plans for each phase of the project's implementation to ensure avoidance of NRHP eligible or unevaluated sites.
5. Any unanticipated archeological discovery on BLM lands will be reported to a BLM archeologist and work in the immediate vicinity will stop until SHPO is consulted.
6. Prior to implementation of treatments, pygmy rabbit surveys would be conducted in areas of suitable habitat. A 400 ft. avoidance buffer would be established around any active pygmy rabbit burrows and burrow complexes found. No removal or manipulation of sagebrush would occur within any 400ft. avoidance buffers established.
7. For any proposed actions that are implemented during the burrowing owl breeding season (March 1 – August 31), a burrowing owl survey would be conducted in potential habitat areas no more than 10 days and no less than 3 days prior to initiation of disturbance. If active burrows are located, a minimum 260 ft. protective buffer would be established or activities delayed until the birds have completed nesting and brood-rearing activities.
8. Existing documented populations of lonesome milkvetch that occur near proposed treatment areas would be flagged and avoided.
9. No disturbance activities would be conducted during the sage-grouse lekking and nesting seasons from March 1st through June 30th.
10. Existing vegetation would not be treated within ten feet of perennial drainages with mechanical treatments.
11. All terrestrial equipment (e.g., vehicles, hand tools, tractors, etc.) to be used in treatments would be washed offsite prior to being brought to the project site, to avoid spreading noxious weed seeds.
12. All historic properties (i.e., archaeological sites listed unevaluated or eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places) would be avoided during project

implementation. Avoidance buffers of at least 30 meters from National Register sites would be observed during project implementation.

13. If any significant paleontological resources are found during operations, impacts would be mitigated through avoidance and/or data recovery. Any unanticipated vertebrate fossil discovery on BLM lands will be reported immediately to the Project Archaeologist.
14. Drill seeding operations would be completed following the contour of the land as much as possible to reduce potential water erosion and impacts to visual resources.
15. Two weeks before herbicides are applied, the tribal council of the Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Reservation would be notified of when, where and how herbicides would be applied.

The Full Force and Effect Final Decision which implements actions analyzed in the Determination of NEPA Adequacy can be downloaded at:

http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/wfo/blm_information/nepa0.html

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Mark Williams, project lead, at 775-623-1748.

Sincerely,

/s/ Derek Messmer

Derek Messmer
Field Manager
Humboldt River Field Office
Winnemucca District BLM

CC:

BLM Vale District
100 Oregon St.
Vale, OR. 97918

NRCS Winnemucca Office
1200 E. Winnemucca Blvd
Winnemucca, NV. 89445

NRCS Nevada State Office
Attn: Bruce Petersen
1365 Corporate Blvd.
Reno, NV. 89502

USFWS Reno Office
Attn: Chad Mellison
1340 Financial Blvd
Reno, NV. 89502

USFS Sparks
1200 Franklin Way
Reno, NV. 89431

USFS Santa Rosa
1200 E. Winnemucca Blvd
Winnemucca, NV. 89445

Nevada Division of Wildlife
100 Valley Road
Reno, NV. 89512

NDOW Winnemucca Office
815 E. Fourth Street
Winnemucca, NV. 89445

NDOW Fallon Regional Office
380 West B Street
Fallon, NV. 89406

Humboldt County
Attn: Bill Diest
Courthouse room 205
50 West 5th Street
Winnemucca, NV. 89445

Nevada Association of Counties
Attn: Jeff Fontaine
201 South Roop St.
Suite 101
Carson City, NV. 89701

Kings Valley Uranium Exploration Project
Western Energy Development Corp.
Attn: Dennis Bryan
3685 Lakeside Drive
Reno, NV 89509

Orovada Volunteer Fire Dept.
P.O. Box 150
Orovada, NV. 89425

Pueblo Fire District
P.O. Box 188
Denio, NV. 89404

Cooperative Extension Service
1085 Fairgrounds Road
Winnemucca, NV. 89445

Nevada Division of Forestry
Attn: Pete Anderson
2487 Fairview Ave.
Carson City, NV. 89701

Nevada Department of Conservation and
Natural Resources
901 South Stewart Street
Suite 5001
Carson City, NV. 89701

N2 Grazing Board
P.O. Box 806
Winnemucca, NV. 89446

Jan Schade
P.O. Box 206
Orovada, NV. 89425

John Falen
P.O. Box 132
Orovada, NV. 89425

Ponch McErquiaga
P.O. Box 300
Orovada, NV. 89425

Bartell Ranches LLC
P.O. Box 130
Orovada, NV 89425

Lyman Youngberg
105 Kings River Road
Orovada, NV 89425

Center For Biological Diversity
P.O. Box 710
Tuscon, AZ 85702

Western Lithium Corp.
Attn: Catherine Clark
3685 Lakeside Drive
Reno, NV 89509

Department of Administration
209 E. Musser St. Room 200
Carson City, NV 89701

Nevada Woolgrowers
Attn: Pete Paris
HC30 Box 320
Spring Creek, NV 89515

RCI
340 Minnesota St.
Carson City, NV 89703

Sustainable Grazing Coalition
P.O. Box 145
Caliente, NV 89008

Western Watersheds Project
P.O. Box 2863
Boise, ID 83701

Nevada Cattlemen's Association
P.O. Box 310
Elko, NV 89801

Happy Creek Inc.
5716 S. Bemis St.
Littleton, CO 80120

Friends of Nevada Wilderness
P.O. Box 9754
Reno, NV 89507

American Colloid Company
Attn: Mr. Lyndon Bucher
P.O. Box 2010
Belle Fourche, SD 57717

Zimmerman Family Limited Partnership
c/o Evan and Tilly Zimmerman
P.O. Box 528
McDermitt, NV 89421

Western Energy Development Corp.
Attn: Doug Bowden
3685 Lakeside Drive
Reno, NV 89509

Native American
Tribal Government

Fort McDermitt Paiute & Shoshone Tribe
PO Box 457
McDermitt, NV 89421

Summit Lake Paiute Tribe
1708 H Street
Sparks, NV 89431