

**Finding of No Significant Impact**  
**Lost Fire Rehabilitation and Restoration Projects**  
**DOI-BLM-CA-N070-2014-0001-FONSI**

Prepared by  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**  
**Bureau of Land Management**  
**Surprise Field Office**  
**Cedarville, CA**

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# **Chapter 1. Finding of No Significant Impact**

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## 1.1. Introduction

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has conducted an environmental analysis (DOI-BLM-CA-N070-2014-0001-EA) analyzing the impacts of implementing rehabilitation and restoration projects within the Lost Fire. The Lost Fire was ignited by lightning on August 5, 2012, and burned 61,537 acres of primarily sagebrush-steppe vegetation within the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Surprise Field Office (SFO) area.

The EA analyzes two (2) alternatives from which I have selected Alternative 1 (Proposed Action).

Alternative 1, the selected alternative, is described in the EA and consists of:

1. **Clover Creek Erosion Stabilization:** In the Main Fork, repair existing in-stream stabilization structures, reconstruct a lower floodplain, hand-plant grass plugs and shrubs, and clean out culverts on approximately 10 acres; drill seed native grasses and forbs on approximately 14 acres. In the North Fork, repair existing loose-rock structures and extend the downstream aprons, construct additional structures, and drill seed native grasses and forbs on approximately 16 acres. In the South Fork, drill seed native grasses and forbs on approximately 30 acres.
2. **Aerial Seeding of Native Shrubs:** Aerial seed mountain big sagebrush and Wyoming big sagebrush on up to 5,000 acres.
3. **Targeted Hand Planting and Seeding of Native Shrubs:** Hand-plant up to 200 acres with seedling plugs of antelope bitterbrush, big sagebrush, and curl-leaf mountain mahogany to provide cover and forage for wildlife. Use a low-impact rangeland drill to seed native shrubs at or near the hand-planting sites.

## 1.2. Plan Conformance and Consistency

This proposed action is subject to the following use plan(s): Surprise Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Record of Decision (ROD), approved on April 17, 2008. The proposed action has been determined to be in conformance with this plan as required by regulation (43 CFR 1610.5-3(a)).

## 1.3. Finding of No Significant Impact Determination

I have reviewed Environmental Assessment (EA) DOI-BLM-CA-N070-2014-0001, dated November 2013. On the basis of the information contained in the EA, and all other information available to me, it is my determination that: (1) the implementation of the Proposed Action will not have significant environmental impacts beyond those already addressed in Surprise RMP; (2) the Proposed Action is in conformance with the Resource Management Plan; and (3) the Proposed Action does not constitute a major federal action having a significant effect on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement or a supplement to the existing environmental impact statement is not necessary and will not be prepared.

This finding is based on my consideration of the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) criteria for significance (40 CFR '1508.27), both with regard to the context and to the intensity of the impacts described in the EA or as articulated in the letters of comment.

## 1.4. Context

The Proposed Action would implement rehabilitation and restoration projects within the Lost Fire. Projects would occur exclusively within the Surprise Field Office area, and none would take place within wilderness or lands with other special designations.

Rehabilitation and restoration projects would include: aerial seeding of sagebrush on up to 5,000 acres; hand planting of native shrub seedlings and drill seeding shrubs on up to 200 acres; floodplain reconstruction on up to 0.5 miles of the Clover Creek drainage; and drill seeding and hand planting native grasses and forbs on up to 70 acres within the Clover Creek watershed.

Seeding and planting would take place between November and April of each year, concurrent with cool-season moisture. Treatments in the Proposed Action may take place through 2015.

## 1.5. Intensity

I have considered the potential intensity/severity of the impacts anticipated from Lost Fire rehabilitation and restoration projects relative to each of the ten areas suggested for consideration by the CEQ:

1. ***Impacts that may be both beneficial and adverse.***

The implementation of these permits would be beneficial to most resources outlined in the EA. I have determined that none of the direct, indirect or cumulative impacts associated with the selected alternative are significant, individually or combined.

2. ***The degree to which the proposed action affects public health or safety.***

The proposed action is located within a rural setting. There are no actions that are proposed that would affect public health or safety.

3. ***Unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas.***

A discussion of cultural resources is located in chapters 3 and 4 of the EA. Adequate measures have been taken to identify any potential resources and implement protective measures prior to treatments. Based on the EA and above rationale I have determined that the selected alternative will not have a significant impact on the unique characteristics within the project area.

4. ***The degree to which the effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be controversial.***

Scoping for the proposed action and background information was sent to known affected and interested publics. After review of the comments and issues identified from the scoping process and those analyzed in the EA, I have determined that the effects described in the EA are not highly controversial.

5. ***The degree to which the possible effects on the human environment are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks.***

Post-fire restoration projects are common actions authorized by the BLM, and similar actions have been implemented in similar areas. The analysis provided in the attached EA does not indicate that this action would involve any unique or unknown risks.

6. ***The degree to which the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration.***

The Proposed Action would not establish a precedent for future actions on Surprise Field Office managed lands. This analysis will be used for the implementation of rehabilitation and restoration projects within the Lost Fire only.

7. ***Whether the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts.***

The actions considered in the selected alternative were considered by the interdisciplinary team within the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions. Significant cumulative effects on the identified issues are not anticipated. An analysis of the cumulative effects of the selected alternative and all other alternatives is described in chapter 4 of the EA.

8. ***The degree to which the action may adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in or eligible for listing in the NRHP or may cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources.***

The proposed action does not have adverse effects on any cultural sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places or sites known to be eligible.

9. ***The degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the ESA of 1973.***

No Threatened or Endangered Species are known to occur with the Action Area and projects are not expected to adversely impact any critical habitat for any Threatened or Endangered Species.

10. ***Whether the action threatens a violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment.***

The project does not violate any known federal, state, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment. Local tribes were consulted and are listed in the EA. In addition, the project is consistent with applicable land management plans, policies, and programs.

## 1.6. Signed:

/s/ Timothy J. Burke

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Timothy J. Burke  
Field Manager

November 8, 2013