

Attachment A: Environmental Protection Measures

Invasive Plants Management

- 1) Standard safety procedures and standard operating procedures would be strictly followed.ⁱ
- 2) During the raptor breeding season, January 1 through August 31, control of noxious weeds would be implemented or delayed in accordance with spatial and temporal recommendations defined in the Utah Field Office Guidelines for Raptor Protection from Human and Land Use Disturbances (USFWS 2002).

Control of noxious weeds would not be conducted within 0.6 miles of active Sage Grouse leks during lekking and nesting season from March 1st through June 30th. Greater Sage-Grouse nest and brood surveys in areas proposed for noxious weeds control efforts will be conducted no more than 10 days and no less than 3 days prior to initiation of disturbance. If active nests and/or broods are located, rehabilitation activities will be delayed until the grouse have voluntarily left the area.

- 4) All landowners within the treatment areas are welcome to attend training of proper identification and growth stages of noxious weeds before treatment. Periodic compliance checks of the weed control activities would be done during the treatment period with the BLM and the affected landowners. A monitoring and evaluation program would be cooperatively developed between all the affected landowners within the treated sites to assess annual progress of the Integrated Weed Management Program.ⁱ

- 5) The Nevada Division of Water Resources (NDWR) would be given the opportunity to review and comment on any proposed monitoring program.ⁱ

- 6) Prior to any control efforts, Native American concerns would be solicited in accordance with the Native American consultation regulation and policy.ⁱ

- 7) The Ft. McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone tribe will be given 2 weeks notification before any spray operations are conducted.ⁱ

- 8) Herbicides would be calculated and purchased only in quantities needed to complete each BLM spot treatment and contractor applied treatment. Label directions would be strictly followed.ⁱ

- 9) Prior to any chemical treatment, areas would be evaluated for the presence of riparian areas, special status plants and animals, or if they are cultural sites. No chemical application would occur within 50 yards of any Threatened, Endangered, Sensitive, or Special Status species.ⁱ

- 10) Re-applications of the herbicide would not be less than the persistence factor identified for any product selected for use.ⁱ
- 11) Ground applications of herbicides (including backpack and power sprayer) would be limited to spraying the target weeds and the surrounding ground for 10 feet. Backpack applications of liquids would occur only at low nozzle pressure and at ground level. Granular formulations would be applied by broadcast spreaders or by hand within 3.5' of the ground.ⁱ
- 12) Ground application of granular formulations would be done in wind speeds not exceeding 10 miles per hour (mph). Ground applications of liquids would not occur when wind speeds exceed 8 mph.ⁱ
- 13) The BLM would notify the livestock grazing permittee(s) when herbicides are used on grazing allotments. Phenology of target species and multiple use objectives would also be considered.ⁱ
- 14) The use of herbicides near water would be based on the buffer requirements established in the BLM Chemical Pest Control Manual, Handbook H-9011-1; distance from water (in horizontal feet) would be as follows: 10 feet backpack, 25 feet for vehicle mounted spreader of granular formulations, and 50 feet for vehicle mounted sprayer of liquids.ⁱ
- 15) No herbicide application would be conducted when rain (greater than 50% chance) is predicted within 24 hours of treatment. The BLM would use the Interagency Fire Dispatch Center for weather reports for rain predictions.ⁱ
- 16) Treatments will follow restriction based on avoidance buffers and season of use restriction within sage grouse habitat. All treatments identified would be in accordance with 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.
- 17) Herbicides would be applied only by a state and federally certified pesticide applicator. All applications would be in accordance with the instructions and standard operating procedures identified on the product label(s).
- 18) All herbicide spray solutions would be applied with a blue dye so that application sites are visible.

Hand Planting

- 1) Treatments will follow restriction based on avoidance buffers and season of use restriction within sage grouse habitat. All treatments identified will be in accordance with Instruction Memorandums WO-IM-2012-043, Greater Sage-

Grouse Interim Management Policies and Procedures and WO-IM-2010-149, Sage-Grouse Conversation Related to Wildland Fire and Fuels Management.

- 2) For any proposed actions that are not performed outside of the migratory bird breeding season (March 1- August 31), a migratory bird nesting survey will be conducted by BLM wildlife specialists, or personnel approved by BLM wildlife specialists, in potential habitat areas no more than 10 days and no less than 3 days prior to initiation of disturbance. Presence/absence of potential habitat would be determined by the Winnemucca District BLM wildlife specialist. If active nests are located, a minimum 260 ft. protective buffer would be established or rehabilitation activities delayed until the birds have completed nesting and brood-rearing activities.
- 3) All National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligible or unevaluated sites will be avoided during the course of this project. A BLM archaeologist will be involved as detailed plans are developed for each phase of the implementation of this project to ensure avoidance is factored into the detailed project designs. An archaeologist will review plans for each phase of the project's implementation to ensure avoidance of NRHP eligible or unevaluated sites.
- 4) Any unanticipated archaeological discovery on BLM lands would be reported to a BLM archaeologist and work in the immediate vicinity will stop until SHPO and tribes are consulted by the line officer.
- 5) 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. Suitable habitat for pygmy rabbit would be determined by the Winnemucca District BLM wildlife specialist.
- 6) Prior to implementation of treatments, a burrowing owl survey would be conducted by BLM wildlife specialists or personnel approved by BLM wildlife specialists, 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 rehabilitation activities delayed until the birds have completed nesting and brood-rearing activities. Potential habitat for burrowing owls would be determined by the Winnemucca District BLM wildlife specialist.
- 7) Existing, documented populations of lonesome milk vetch or other special-status plants that occur near proposed treatment areas would be flagged and avoided.

8) No hand planting activities would be conducted within 0.6 miles of sage grouse lek sites during the sage grouse lekking and nesting seasons from March 1 through June 30. Greater Sage Grouse nest and brood surveys within potential habitat in areas proposed for hand planting would be conducted by BLM wildlife specialists or personnel approved by BLM wildlife specialists no more than 10 days and no less than 3 days prior to initiation of disturbance. If active nests and/or broods are located, rehabilitation activities would be delayed until the grouse have voluntarily left the area. Potential habitat for sage grouse would be determined by the Winnemucca District BLM wildlife specialist.

ⁱ **Integrated Weed Management Environmental Assessment** NV-020-02-19, Decision Record and Finding of No Significant Impact 8/27/02.