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

OFFICE: Humboldt River Field Office, LLNVW01000

TRACKING NUMBER: **DOI-BLM-NV-W010-2013-0078-DNA**

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER: Crescent Dunes – HM32

PROPOSED ACTION TITLE/TYPE: Crescent Dunes (HM32) Fire Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Plan

LOCATION/LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

Aerial Seeding

T. 38 N., R. 35 E., sec. 1,3,4,7,8,9,10,12,14,16,22,24,26,28,36
T. 38 N., R. 36 E., sec. 8,30,32,33
T. 37 N., R. 36 E., sec. 6

Invasives Mgmt.

T. 38 N., R. 34 E., sec. 24, 36
T. 38 N., R. 35 E., sec. 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,12,14,16,18,20,22, 24,26,28,30,32,34,36
T. 38 N., R. 36 E., sec. 6,8,18,20,30,32
T. 37 N., R. 35 E., sec. 2, 4,6,10,12,14,24
T. 37 N., R. 36 E., sec. 4,6,8,16,18

APPLICANT (if any): Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON FIRE.

The Crescent Dunes Fire was ignited by lightning on 7/01/2013 and contained on 7/04/2013.

The Crescent Dunes Fire occurred west of Sand Pass and immediately south of the Slumbering Hills. The fire burned a cumulative total of 36,372 acres, with 19,462 acres of BLM managed lands burned and 16,903 acres of private lands burned. 100% of the fire area was classified as pronghorn habitat, with 7,210 acres of pronghorn summer range and 12,259 acres of pronghorn winter range consumed on BLM lands. 7,672 acres of burned BLM lands are classified as mule deer year-round habitat. The fire also consumed 2,612 acres of Sage Grouse winter range within the Slumbering Hills Population Management Unit (PMU). The fire area is comprised primarily of 3 different

ecological sites. Approximately 50% of the burned area occurred in ecological site R024XY058NV, which is typified by sandy-loam soil, receiving 8-10" of annual precipitation. The vegetation community for this ecological site, in reference condition, is typically dominated by Wyoming big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata* ssp. *wyomingensis*), needle-and-thread (*Hesperostipa comata*), and Indian ricegrass (*Achnatherum hymenoides*). Approximately 25% of the fire occurred in ecological site R024XY017NV, which is a sandy-soil site, receiving an average of 8-10" of precipitation annually. Dominate plant species at this site, in reference condition, would typically include Wyoming big sagebrush, needle-and-thread, and Indian ricegrass. Approximately 25% of the fire occurred in R027XY009NV, which is typified by sandy soil, receiving 5-8" of annual precipitation. This site, in reference condition, is typically dominated by fourwing saltbush (*Atriplex canescens*) and Indian ricegrass.

The Crescent Dunes Fire burned area has been impacted by wildfires in the recent past. Approximately 70% of the area was burned in 1985, with the majority of that area burned again by the Slumbering Fire in 1999. Approximately 25% of the Crescent Dunes Fire area was burned in 2006 by the North Blue Fire. Select drainages were aerially seeded in the fall of 1999 as part of the Slumbering Fire ESR activities. The majority of the Crescent Dunes Fire burned within the Sand Dunes Allotment, with minor impacts to the Daveytown and Mormon Dan allotments.

The Crescent Dunes Fire burned over portions of the California National Historic Trail.

A. Description of the Proposed Action with attached map(s) and any applicable mitigation measures.

Aerial Seeding

The BLM proposes to aerial seed 3,300 acres of drainages and riparian areas on public land managed by BLM that burned due to lightning ignited wildfire in July 2013. Seeding would occur in the fall or winter with a preference for application in fall or early winter. Project would seed with fourwing saltbrush and Wyoming big sagebrush. Other site-adapted native plant species would be utilized depending on seed and funding availability.

Objectives for aerial seeding are as follows:
1. Obtain an average of 0.5 sagebrush plants per meter^2 by the end of the third year from fire containment, which occurred on 07/04/2013.
2. Obtain a cumulative total of 1 seeded plant per meter^2 by the end of the third year from fire containment, which occurred on 7/04/2013. (Only if species other than sagebrush are seeded at normal rates)
2. Obtain 50% or greater perennial cover of the low potential perennial plant cover for the appropriate ecological site.
3. The aerial seeding will result in lower abundance (density and cover) of invasive annual plant species and a higher abundance of desirable perennial plant species than the unseeded control areas.

4. Seeded species are well established and are reproductive.

Invasive Plants and Noxious Weeds Management

Manage invasive species within the fire-affected area to limit further infestation through active treatment of previously existing and newly established infestations of noxious weeds. Up to 200 acres of noxious weed infestations would be treated annually during 2014, 2015, and 2016.

Located infestations, if any, would be treated with BLM approved herbicides as appropriate and in compliance with BLM operating procedures and label requirements for BLM approved herbicides. Treatments may include one or more of the following chemicals depending on species present in project location:

Imazapyr
Glyphosate
2,4-D
Picloram
Dicamba
Metsulphuron methyl
Clorsulphuron

All infestations and treatments would be tracked in District GIS layers/shapefiles.

Monitoring

All treatments would be monitored using established protocols summarized below for treatment efficacy and efficiency.

All vegetation treatments would be monitored for effectiveness using point-intercept, gap intercept and frame density techniques modified from Monitoring Manual for Grasses, Shrublands, and Savanna Ecosystems (Herrick, et al., 2005) and outlined in BLM Technical Reference 1734-4 (BLM 1996) to determine perennial cover, and density of seeded and non-seeded plant species during the three years following fire containment on these areas.

B. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance

LUP Name: Paradise-Denio Management Framework Plan (MFP)
Date Approved: 1982

*List applicable LUPs (for example, resource management plans; activity, project, management, or program plans; or applicable amendments thereto)

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

The proposed treatments are in conformance with **the Paradise-Denio Standard Operating Procedures**, .45 Soil-Water-Air which states in part;

1. "Consider rehabilitating areas which have had protective vegetative cover destroyed by wildfire….." "Utilize seed and other watershed stabilization techniques as required."

2. "Increase existing forage by artificial methods wherever appropriate. Land treatment is defined as vegetation manipulation (i.e. plowing, burning, spraying and/or seeding)."

The proposed action is in conformance with the LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decisions (objective, terms, and conditions):

Paradise-Denio MFP (1982)
Although not specifically addressed, stabilization and rehabilitation treatments conform to wildlife and watershed objectives WL-1, which state in part; "Provide for improvement or maintenance of wildlife habitat in the planning area in order to assure that sufficient quantity, quality and diversity of habitat exists to accommodate the needs of all species of wildlife…"

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

- **Vegetation Treatment Using Herbicides on BLM Lands in Seventeen Western States Programmatic Final Environmental Impact Statement, 07/2007,** Record of Decision 9/29/07.
- **Normal Year Fire Rehabilitation Plan Environmental Assessment** EA# NV-020-04-21, 06/2004, Decision Record and Finding of No Significant Impact 8/19/04.
- **Integrated Weed Management Environmental Assessment** NV-020-02-19, 8/07/02, Decision Record and Finding of No Significant Impact 8/27/02.
- **Vegetation Treatment on BLM Lands in Thirteen Western States Environmental Impact Statement, 05/91,** Record of Decision 07/91.

List by name and date other documentation relevant to the proposed action (e.g., biological assessment, biological opinion, watershed assessment, allotment evaluation, and monitoring report).

- **IM NV 2012-043 Greater Sage-Grouse Interim Management Policies and Procedures** (December 2011)
- **IM 2012-044 BLM National Greater Sage-Grouse Land Use Plan Strategy. A Report on National Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Measures.** Produced by: Sage-grouse National Technical Team, 12/21/2011 (pp 27)
- **Biological Opinion for the Normal Year Fire Rehabilitation Plan** (August 2004)

D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

1. Is the new proposed action a feature of, or essentially similar to, an alternative analyzed in the existing NEPA documents(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?

Documentation of answer and explanation:
Yes, the Normal Fire Rehabilitation Plan EA-NV-020-04-21 (DR/FONSI 8/19/04), addresses the proposed treatments including aerial seeding and noxious weed control. Control of noxious weeds is analyzed in the Normal Fire Rehabilitation Plan EA-NV-020-04-21 (DR/FONSI 8/19/04), Integrated Weed Management EA-NV-020-02-19 (DR/FONSI 8/27/02) and the Vegetation Treatments Using Herbicides on Bureau of Land Management Lands in 17 Western States EIS (ROD 9/29/07).

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

Documentation of answer and explanation:
Yes, the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA documents are appropriate with respect to the current proposed action and current environmental concerns, interests, resource values and circumstances.

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?

Documentation of answer and explanation:
Yes, the existing analysis is adequate and there is no new information or circumstances regarding the current proposal known at this time.

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?

Documentation of answer and explanation:
Yes, the analytical approach used in the existing NEPA documents continues to be appropriate for the current proposed action.

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

Documentation of answer and explanation:
Yes, public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA documents are adequate. In addition, there has been coordination with Nevada Department of Wildlife regarding the Crescent Dunes Fire ESR actions in the form of a meeting with the project lead and Winnemucca District Wildlife Biologist on 10/30/2013 at the Winnemucca BLM office to discuss fire-affected resources and restoration priorities. In addition, coordination regarding planned ESR actions has occurred between the Winnemucca District Range Management Specialist and the affected permittee in the form of a phone call on 12/17/2013.

E. Persons/Agencies/BLM Staff Consulted

Name /Title	Resource/Agency Represented	Signature/Date	Comments (Attach if more room is needed)
Wes Barry	Range	/s Wes Barry 10/22/2013	
Rob Burton	Veg/Soils	/s Rob Burton 10/24/2013	
Pat Haynal	Cultural	/s Pat Haynal 10/24/2013	
John McCann	Hydrology/Riparian	/s John McCann 10/24/2013	
Nancy Spencer-Morris	Wildlife	/s Nancy Spencer-Morris 11/6/2013	None
Greg Lynch	Fisheries	/s Greg Lynch 10/24/2013	
Allie Brandt	GIS	/s Allie Brandt 10/22/2013	
Eric Baxter	ESR Lead/Invasive Species/NAC	/s Eric Baxter 11/12/2013	
Lynn Ricci OR Zwaantje Rorex	NEPA	/s Lynn Ricci 11/5/2013	
Samantha Gooch	Wild Horse/Burro	/s Samantha Gooch 10/24/2013	None
Zwaantje Rorex acting for S. Gracia	Lands w/ Wilderness Characteristics	/s Zwaantje Rorex 11/13/2013	Project is within unit 644- no wilderness characteristics present
Mark Williams	Fire/Fuels	/s Mark Williams 10/23/2013	
Mark Turney	Public Affairs	/s Mark Turney 11/4/2013	

Note: Refer to the EA/EIS for a complete list of the team members participating in the preparation of the original environmental analysis or planning documents.

[X] **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' compliance with the requirements of the NEPA.

/s Eric Baxter
Signature of Project Lead

/s Lynn Ricci
Signature of NEPA Coordinator

/s Derek Messmer 12/18/2013

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, per/mit, or other authorization based on this DNA is subject to protest or appeal under 43 CFR Part 4 and the program-specific regulations.