

Worksheet
Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)
(DOI-BLM-ID-I020-2014-0001-DNA)

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Note: This worksheet is to be completed consistent with the policies stated in the Instruction Memorandum entitled “Documentation of Land Use Plan Conformance and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Adequacy” transmitting this worksheet and the “Guidelines for Using the DNA Worksheet” located at the end of the worksheet. (Note: The signed CONCLUSION at the end of this worksheet is part of an interim step in the BLM’s internal analysis process and does not constitute an appealable decision.)

A. **BLM Office:** Pocatello Field Office **Lease/Serial/Case File No.** _____

Proposed Action Title/Type: State Fire ESR

Location of Proposed Action: Approximately 10 miles southwest of Malad City in Oneida County, Idaho (T. 15 S., 35 E., Sec. 26, 27, 28, 29, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36; T. 15 S., R. 36 E., Sec. 31, 32; T. 16 S., 35 E., Sec. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28; T., 16 S., R. 36 E., Sec. 5, 6, 7, 8, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 28, 29, 30).

Description of the Proposed Action: The proposed action is to implement stabilization and rehabilitation treatments following the State Fire. Treatments include: treatment and inventory of noxious weeds, tree seedling planting, aerial sagebrush seedling, maintenance of roads and closure of the burned area to grazing and vehicles/OHV until natural re-vegetation objectives are met. A complete description of the treatments can be found in the STATE FIRE ES&BAR PLAN approved 9/17/2013.

B. Conformance with the Land Use Plan (LUP) and Consistency with Related Subordinate Implementation Plans

LUP Name*	<u>Pocatello RMP</u>	Date Approved <u>April 2012</u>
LUP Name*	_____	Date Approved _____
Other document**	_____	Date Approved _____
Other document**	_____	Date Approved _____
Other document**	_____	Date Approved _____

*List applicable LUPs (e.g., Resource Management Plans or applicable amendments).

**List applicable activity, project, management, water quality restoration, or program plans.

The proposed action is in conformance with the following, Forestry (FO), Fish and Wildlife (FW), Livestock Grazing (LG), Special Status Species (SS), Vegetation (VE) and Wildland Fire Management (WF), management direction in the Pocatello Resource Management Plan (April 2012), approved July 10, 2012, by the Idaho BLM State Director.

Goal FO-1. Use a variety of silvicultural techniques and harvest systems to provide for an ecologically healthy system while offering products and services.

Objective FO-1.1. Maintain a sustainable forest management program.

Action FO-1.1.2. All activities normally associated with reforestation will be used (e.g., bare root or containerized seedlings, hand or mechanical scalping, hand or machine planting, auger or hoedad planting, rodent and/or brush control using appropriate measures such as herbicide, machine or hand removal.)

Goal FW-1. Manage wildlife habitats so vegetation composition and structure assures the continued presence of fish and wildlife as part of an ecologically healthy system.

Objective FW-1.1. Maintain and improve wildlife habitats to support IDFG management objectives.

Action FW-1.1.4. Big game winter ranges will be wildland fire suppression and ES&R priority areas.

Goal LG-1. Provide forage for livestock grazing consistent with other resources/uses as part of an ecologically healthy system consistent with multiple use and sustained yield.

Objective LG-1.2. Consistent with maintaining a thriving ecological balance and multiple use relationships provide annually a total preference (active + suspended) of approximately 87,500 animal unit months (AUM).

Action LG-1.2.4. Beginning the following year after a wildland fire, livestock will be excluded from burned areas until an evaluation is completed to determine if objectives specific to or potentially impacted by livestock grazing in site-specific ES&R plans have been met. Should it be determined that ES&R treatments failed (plan objectives not met), at the discretion of the authorized officer livestock grazing could resume provided that.

a) Livestock grazing be adjusted (e.g., number, season of use, kind) to compensate for the change in rangeland health and forage conditions; and

b) Livestock grazing will not prevent meeting or moving towards meeting Standards of Rangeland Health and or ES&R objectives.

Goal VE-2. Prevent the establishment of invasive species/noxious weed species.

Objective VE-2.1. Treat invasive species/noxious weeds to decrease or control the total number of acres occupied.

Action VE-2.1.4. As appropriate, chemical, biological, mechanical and manual methods will be used in treating invasive species/noxious weeds. The use of biological control agents will be promoted when reasonable as identified through current BLM policy.

Action VE-2.1.10. Following wildland fire and prescribed fire treatments, chemical, mechanical, and revegetation/restoration treatments will utilize appropriate plant materials to provide the best opportunity to stabilize sites and prevent dominance of invasive species/noxious weeds. The use of native plant materials will be emphasized in ES&R and restoration activities.

Goal SS-1. Manage special status species and their habitats to provide for their continued presence and conservation as part of an ecologically healthy system.

Objective SS-1.3. Maintain or improve the quality of sensitive species habitat by managing public land activities to support species recovery and the benefit of those species.

Action SS-1.3.12. During restoration and rehabilitation of migratory bird species habitat, emphasis will be placed on riparian, non-riverine wetlands, sagebrush and Douglas fir habitats and the following management guidelines will be implemented as appropriate based upon site specific characteristics.

Use native species where appropriate/practical for ES&R and restoration treatments to shorten recovery time and prevent establishment of invasive species/noxious weeds.

Goal WF-3. Return fire to a more natural role in the ecosystem to improve FRCC and achieve desired LHC.

Objective WF-3.1. Manage the Low-Elevation Shrub and Perennial Grass vegetation types in order to move towards FRCC 1 (LHC-A) so wildland fire occurs less frequently and at a smaller scale on the landscape.

Action WF-3.1.3. Following wildland fire and prescribed fire treatments, chemical, mechanical, and revegetation treatments will utilize appropriate plant materials to provide the best opportunity to stabilize sites and prevent dominance of invasive annual vegetation and noxious weeds. The use of native plant materials will be emphasized.

Action WF-3.1.6. Seeding of sagebrush on appropriate ecological sites to facilitate the maintenance or improvement of the sagebrush steppe following wildland fire (ES&R) or restoration activities will be considered.

C. Identify the applicable NEPA document(s) and other related documents that cover the proposed action.

List by name and date all applicable NEPA documents that cover the proposed action.

Normal Fire Rehabilitation Plan (NFRP) (EA # ID-320-2005-003)

Pocatello Restoration Planting (PRP) (EA # DOI-BLM-ID-I020-2010-0015-EA)

Upper Snake-Pocatello Integrated Weed Control Program Programmatic Environmental Assessment (ID-310-2008-EA-43)

List by name and date other documentation relevant to the proposed action (e.g., source drinking water assessments, biological assessment, biological opinion, watershed assessment, allotment evaluation, rangeland health standards assessment and determinations, and monitoring the report).

IM 2012-043, Greater Sage-Grouse Interim Management Policies and Procedures

D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

1. Is the current proposed action substantially the same action (or is a part of that action) as previously analyzed?

Documentation of answer and explanation:

Yes. The NFRP discusses and identifies all of the proposed treatments on pages 8-18 under its proposed action. The treatment and control of noxious weed species is discussed within the Upper Snake-Pocatello Integrated Weed Control Program Programmatic Environmental Assessment.

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

Documentation of answer and explanation:

Yes. The NFRP was specifically written to address stabilization and rehabilitation needs following a wildfire. There are no new concerns, interests, resource values or circumstances dealing with the proposed treatments since the NFRP EA which was completed in 2005. The proposed treatments are in compliance with IM 2012-043, Greater Sage-Grouse Interim Management Policies and Procedures, under the Wildfire Emergency Stabilization and Burned Area Rehabilitation section

3. Is the existing analysis adequate and are the conclusions adequate in light of any new information or circumstances (including, for example, riparian proper functioning condition [PFC] reports; rangeland health standards assessments; Unified Watershed Assessment categorizations; inventory and monitoring data; most recent Fish and Wildlife Service lists of threatened, endangered, proposed, and candidate species; most recent BLM lists of sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that all new information and all new circumstances are insignificant with regard to analysis of the proposed action?

Documentation of answer and explanation:

The existing analysis is adequate. The fire occurred within typical upland vegetation. An interdisciplinary (ID) team assessed the fires impacts and developed the treatments to stabilize the resources at risk. The ID team did not identify any special resource concerns or issues that were not addressed within the NFRP. The proposed treatments are in compliance with IM 2012-043, Greater Sage-Grouse Interim Management Policies and Procedures, under the Wildfire Emergency Stabilization and Burned Area Rehabilitation section.

4. Do the methodology and analytical approach used in the existing NEPA document(s) continue to be appropriate for the current proposed action?

Documentation of answer and explanation:

Yes. The NFRP and PRP are recent documents that analyzed existing restoration, stabilization and planting techniques. The proposed treatments will utilize the materials and equipment analyzed in these EAs. The treatment and control of noxious weed species is discussed within the Upper Snake-Pocatello Integrated Weed Control Program Programmatic Environmental Assessment.

5. Are the direct and indirect impacts of the current proposed action substantially unchanged from those identified in the existing NEPA document(s)? Does the existing NEPA document sufficiently analyze site-specific impacts related to the current proposed action?

Documentation of answer and explanation:

Yes. The treatment types proposed are specifically identified in the existing EA's and analyzed. The EA's analysis of impacts is sufficient because it was based on performing treatments in sites similar to the burned area.

6. Can you conclude without additional analysis or information that the cumulative impacts that would result from implementation of the current proposed action are substantially unchanged from those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)?

Documentation of answer and explanation:

Yes. The cumulative impacts would be the same as those analyzed in the EA's, because the treatments are the same and the area affected is typical for the lands analyzed in the EA's.

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

Documentation of answer and explanation:

Yes. The NFRP deals directly with post fire treatments and involved the known interested public. Local affected parties and Idaho Fish and Game were involved in the development of the treatments.

E. Interdisciplinary Analysis: Identify those team members conducting or participating in the preparation of this worksheet.

Michael Kuyper, Natural Resource Specialist: Range/ESR

James Kumm, Wildlife Specialist: Wildlife

Amy Lapp, Archeologist: Cultural Resources

Chuck Patterson, Recreation Planner: Recreation

Neil Norman, Range Technician: Weeds

Channing Swan, Forester: Forestry

Karen Kraus, Range Technician: Vegetation

F. Mitigation Measures: List any applicable mitigation measures that were identified, analyzed, and approved in relevant LUPs and existing NEPA document(s). List the specific mitigation measures or identify an attachment that includes those specific mitigation measures. Document that these applicable mitigation measures must be incorporated and implemented.

N/A

CONCLUSION

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

Karen Kraus, Preparer

Date: 2/9/2013

/s/ David A. Pacioretty
Pocatello Field Manager

Date: 12/12/2013