

Attachment: Denio Basin Fire ES&R Environmental Protection Measures

The applicable design measures for this proposal are listed below.

All treatments identified will be in accordance with Instruction Memorandum IM-NV-2014-022 Revised Direction for Proposed Activities within Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat (July 2014), and WO-IM-2014-114 Sage Grouse Habitat and Wildland Fire Management (July 2014).

Aerial Seeding

Applicable measures from the Holloway Fire Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Plans Environmental Assessment DOI-BLM-OR-B060-2013-0003-EA (DR/FONSI 3/1/2013):

Treatments would occur at a time of year when most birds have migrated out of the area, and birds that remain are highly mobile and able to leave the immediate area. Disturbance effects from aerial seeding would not be measurable on migratory bird populations due to the brief (few hours) amount of time required to spread the seed or apply the herbicide. Most migratory birds would return to the area or resume activity once seeding is complete.

Monitoring

All treatments would be monitored for efficacy and efficiency using established protocols and design features that are outlined in the Normal Year Fire Rehabilitation Plan Environmental Assessment No.NV-020-04-21 (DR/FONSI 8/19/2004). 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) techniques 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.

Ground Seeding

Monitoring

All treatments would be monitored for efficacy and efficiency using established protocols and design features that are outlined in the Normal Year Fire Rehabilitation Plan Environmental Assessment No.NV-020-04-21 (DR/FONSI 8/19/2004). 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) techniques 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.

Seedling Planting

Wildlife and Migratory Birds

Applicable measure from the Holloway Fire ESR DNA DOI-BLM-NV-WO10-2013-0015-DNA (DR 12/27/2012):

No hand planting activities will be conducted within 0.6 miles of Sage Grouse lek sites during the sage-grouse lekking and nesting seasons from March 1st through June 30th. Greater Sage-Grouse nest and brood surveys in areas proposed for hand planting 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.

Invasive Plant species and Noxious Weeds Management

Wildlife and Migratory Birds

Applicable measures from the Winnemucca Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Fuels Treatment Project Environmental Assessment No. NV-WO10-2010-0011-EA (DR/FONSI 9/20/2010):

Application of herbicide would not occur within ¼ mile of any known sage grouse lek sites.

Applicable measure from the Holloway Fire ESR DNA DOI-BLM-NV-WO10-2013-0015-DNA (DR 12/27/2012):

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.

Herbicide applications

The use of herbicides listed would adhere to the environmental protection measures listed below from the Integrated Weed Management Environmental Assessment NV-020-02-19 (DR/FONSI 8/27/2002).

1. Standard safety procedures and standard operating procedures would be strictly followed.
2. Re-applications of the herbicide would not be less than the persistence factor identified for any product selected for use.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. All herbicide spray solutions would be applied with a blue dye so that application sites are visible.