



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Winnemucca District Office
5100 East Winnemucca Boulevard
Winnemucca, Nevada 89445
Phone: (775) 623-1500 Fax: (775) 623-1503
Email: wfoweb@blm.gov
www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/wfo.html

In Reply Refer To:
5003.1B (NV024.09)

Dear Interested Party:

Recently, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Winnemucca District issued a Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA), DOI-BLM-NV-W010-2014-0036-DNA and a "Full Force and Effect" Decision Record (DR) for the Denio Basin Fire Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation (ESR) Project.

This decision authorizes the aerial seeding of 1,931 acres, ground seeding of 350 acres, and planting 44,000 sagebrush and/or bitterbrush seedlings across 400 acres of BLM managed public lands that burned in the fire. The decision also authorizes noxious weed inventory across the entirety of the fire and noxious weed treatments on up to 100 acres each year through 2017. The decision to implement the proposed action immediately relies on authority under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and associated BLM regulations under 43 CFR 5003.1 (b). This project meets the determination requirement as an authorized project covered by the Act, as the project stabilizes and rehabilitates lands damaged by wildfire.

The Denio Basin Fire was ignited by lightning on 7/10/2014 and contained on 7/13/2014. There are no records of the area within the Denio Basin Fire area having burned previously. Approximately 1,217 acres burned within the Pueblo Mountain WSA. Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) classify the fire area as year-round occupied habitat for California bighorn sheep, Greater Sage Grouse, year round mule deer and pronghorn low density habitat. The Greater Sage Grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*) is listed as a candidate species. At least one active Sage-Grouse lek site is known to be present approximately 0.75 miles from the Denio Basin Fire. The fire burned low density habitat as defined by ODFW, which is equivalent to Preliminary General Habitat (PGH) in Nevada. The California bighorn (*Ovis canadensis var. californiana*) is a BLM special status species, Nevada and Oregon State protected, and a game species in both Nevada and Oregon. The area is also heavily utilized by assorted small mammals, migratory birds, and is near raptor nesting sites. The loss of shrub cover and nesting and foraging habitat has occurred as a result of the fire. The fire burned up-slope and in close proximity to the Denio Creek which is occupied with Lahontan Cutthroat Trout (LCT). The burned area is a high precipitation zone and a high quality habitat for multiple wildlife species. Three small springs burned within the fire area.

The fire burned on all slope aspects with most of the fire occurring on east facing slopes and around 5,500 to 6,500 feet in elevation. The soils are listed as moderate to highly erosive to both

wind and water events which present a high risk of soil loss and annual plant invasion. These risks include potential for increased sediment delivery into the nearby Denio Creek, loss of California bighorn sheep, mule deer, and Greater Sage Grouse habitat. The area is also heavily utilized by assorted small mammals, migratory birds, and is near raptor nesting sites. The loss of shrub cover and nesting and foraging habitat has occurred as a result of the fire. The fire burned an estimated 3 miles of fencing.

The final Denio Basin Fire ESR Project DNA, location maps, and DR can be viewed online at <http://on.doi.gov/1t9CGiE>. Hardcopies of these documents are available upon request. If you do not agree with and feel that you are adversely affected by this decision you may file a Notice of Appeal (see enclosed Form 1842-1, September 2006). If you have any questions or need more information please contact Eric Baxter, Project Lead at the BLM Winnemucca District Office at 775-623-1586.

Sincerely,

s/ James W. Schroeder

James W. Schroeder,
Field Manager
Humboldt River Field Office

Enclosure:

cc: