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

OFFICE Black Rock

TRACKING NUMBER: DOI-BLM-NV-W030-2015-0003-DNA

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER: F5DV

PROPOSED ACTION TITLE/TYPE Soldier Meadows ACEC Habitat Restoration

LOCATION/LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

T.40 N., R. 24 E., sec. 24, NE ¼ (sign)
T.40 N., R. 24 E., sec. 25, NE & SE ¼, T.40 N., R. 24 E., sec. 36, NE ¼, T.40 N., R. 25 E., sec. 19, SW ¼, T.40 N., R. 25 E., sec. 31, NW ¼ (ACEC fence)

APPLICANT (if any): BLM/ USFWS Reno

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

Background
The proposed actions are located within the Soldier Meadows Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). The ACEC was originally designated in 1982 to protect desert dace habitat on public lands. The 2004 RMP for the National Conservation Area increased the ACEC to its present size. The ACEC currently encompasses a complex of hot springs at Soldier Meadows that contains rare taxa of a number of species including the federally threatened desert dace. The project area within the ACEC is not within Greater sage-grouse habitat, nor is it within PPH or PGH. A decision was made in 2004 to completely fence the ACEC, and to date has been partially completed.

Proposed Action
The proposed action's objective is to protect the desert dace and other sensitive species by excluding livestock and wild horse and burro grazing from the species habitats. The project would include the completion of the ACEC fence line along the south east side of the ACEC, along with removing all the interior fencing inside the ACEC. Once the south east fence line has been completed, the entire ACEC would be completely fenced as it ties into several existing fences. This would serve to exclude livestock and wild horse and burro grazing from the ACEC. The south east fence line to be completed has been previously staked and will be the same fence line as discussed in the Desert Dace Protective Fence EA. This fence line has had a cultural inventory completed, and the fence line was found to avoid all areas that have cultural resource values. The project

also includes putting up a sign at the Northeast entrance to the ACEC, to educate the public about the importance of the ACEC. The project is supported by multiple agencies (USFWS, NDOW and BLM) that are working for the recovery of the desert dace.

There were six mitigation measures that were associated with the Desert Dace Protective Fence EA (NV-020-03-24) decision. The mitigation measures are:

1. Fence posts will be entirely green.
2. Gates will be placed near fence corners to facilitate the removal of wild horses and burros or livestock if they inadvertently get into the fenced area.
3. Reflectors will be placed on the fence in areas where major livestock/wild horse and burro trails currently intersect the fence line.
4. The development of alternative water sources on private lands and improvements to existing water sources on public lands will be explored.
5. Construction within wilderness will be done via horseback or on foot.
6. The fence would consist of four strands of wire, steel posts, steel pipe panels and would be built to antelope specifications (16", 22", 28", and 40", top three wires barded, bottom wire smooth). The design should allow for reasonable passage through the fence by antelope and mule deer.

The mitigation measures that apply for this portion of the action are 1, 2, 3, and 6. Measures 4 & 5 do not apply because number 4 applies to the north side of the ACEC fence and number 5 because this part of the fence to be built is not in the wilderness.

B. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance

LUP Name* _Resource Management Plan for Black Rock Desert – High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area and Associated Wilderness, and other Contiguous Lands in Nevada (Black Rock RMP)__ Date Approved July 2004.

Black Rock RMP at SSS-2: Actions and stipulations necessary to protect special status species and their habitats will be made in authorizations and actions that occur during RMP implementation.

Black Rock RMP 2.2.7 Special Designations: Objective - To employ special management actions to retain the important values associated with specially designated areas such as ACEC's (Areas of Critical Environmental Concern) containing important natural or cultural resources, systems or processes.

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

List by name, number and date (DR/FONSI or ROD) all applicable NEPA documents that cover the proposed action.

The Desert Dace Protective Fence EA (NV-020-03-24) January 2004; DR and FONSI March, 26 2004

The Soldier Meadows Recreation Management Plan EA (NV-020-04-26) May 2004; DR and FONSI February 8, 2005

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).

Recovery Plan for Rare Species of Solider Meadows (May 1997). USFWS Reno

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?

Yes. The remaining fence to be built was a feature of the fence that was analyzed in the Desert Dace Protective Fence EA (January 2004), DR/FONSI (March 26, 2004). This action would allow the completion of this fence that was approved in 2004. The Soldier Meadows Recreation Management Plan approved regulation and interpretive signage. This action would allow for the completion of one of the signs at one of the locations to designate the ACEC boundary. After the construction is completed with the ACEC fence, the interior fences would be removed.

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?

Yes. The concerns, interests and resource values have not changed. The objective to protect the listed and sensitive species remains the same as the proposed action in the previous EAs.

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?

Yes. Although the Black Rock RMP came into effect after the 2004 (Desert Dace Protective Fence) decision, this action still conforms to the decisions and objectives under the new RMP. There is no new information or circumstances regarding resources conditions that would change the existing analysis. As described in the description of the proposed action, the project area within the ACEC is not within Greater sage-grouse habitat, nor is it within PPH or PGH.

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?

The direct, indirect and cumulative impacts for the new design are substantially the same if not the same as analyzed to those analyzed in the existing NEPA documents.

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

Yes. This proposal was developed by the Desert Dace working group partners:

- BLM, Winnemucca
- USFWS, Reno
- USGS Biological Resources Division, Reno
- NV Department of Wildlife, Reno and Winnemucca

E. Persons/Agencies/BLM Staff Consulted

Partners listed above.
The Summit Lake Paiute Tribe was consulted over the past six months, and they were concerned about the protection of the desert dace.

F. Persons/Agencies/BLM Staff Consulted

Name /Title	Resource/Agency Represented	Signature/Date	Comments (Attach if more room is needed)
Mark Hall/AFM	Cultural	/s/ Mark Hall 11/4/2014	No comment
Greg Lynch/Fisheries Biologist	Fisheries/T&E Species	/s/ Greg Lynch 11/4/2014	

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/ Greg Lynch_____
Signature of Project Lead

_/s/ Lynn Ricci_____
Signature of NEPA Coordinator

_/s/ William Mack_____ _11/6/2014__
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, permit, or other authorization based on this DNA is subject to protest or appeal under 43 CFR Part 4 and the program-specific regulations.