

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Little Snake Field Office
455 Emerson St
Craig, CO 81625

DECISION RECORD

Horse Gulch Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Improvement DOI-BLM-CO-N010-2014-0025-DNA

Decision

It is my decision to implement the Proposed Action as described in DOI-BLM-CO-N010-2014-0025-DNA, authorizing the removal of encroaching pinyon and juniper trees on 71 acres of BLM managed lands in T6N., R93W., Sections 19,20 and 30.

Design Features/Mitigation Measures

All design features described in DOI-BLM-CO-N010-2014-0039-EA would be applied as applicable to this project.

Compliance with Laws & Conformance with the Land Use Plan

This decision is in compliance with the Endangered Species Act and the National Historic Preservation Act. It is also in conformance with the 2011 Little Snake Record of Decision/Approved Resource Management Plan.

Environmental Analysis and Finding of No Significant Impact

The Proposed Action was analyzed in DOI-BLM-N010-2014-0039-EA and it was found to have no significant impacts, thus an EIS is not required.

Public Involvement

This project was posted on the LSFO's on-line National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) register on 04/15/14. One inquiry from Conservation Colorado was received on 05/28/14. The lead specialist conveyed information regarding the project to Conservation Colorado and no subsequent inquiry was received.

Rationale

Analysis of the Proposed Action has concluded that there are no significant negative impacts and that it meets Colorado Standards for Public Land Health.

Approval of this project will enhance habitat conditions for greater sage-grouse (GRSG). GRSG are believed to avoid areas where conifer trees are encroaching into otherwise suitable sagebrush habitats due to the unsuitable structural habitat characteristics and increased vulnerability to predation by raptors utilizing young conifer as hunting perches.

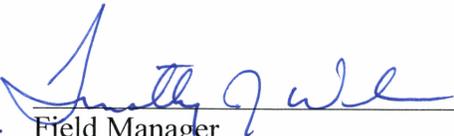
Monitoring and Compliance

Monitoring to determine the effectiveness of the project will be conducted by the BLM Little Snake Field Office staff along with staff from the Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

Administrative Remedies

Any appeal of this decision must follow the procedures set forth in 43 CFR Part 4. Within 30 days of the decision, a Notice of Appeal must be filed in the office of the Authorized Officer at the Little Snake Field Office, 455 Emerson St., Craig, CO 81625 with copies sent to the Regional Solicitor, Rocky Mountain Region, 755 Parfet St., Suite 151, Lakewood, CO 80215, and to the Department of the Interior, Board of Land Appeals, 801 North Quincy St., MS300-QC, Arlington, VA, 22203. If a statement of reasons for the appeal is not included with the notice, it must be filed with the Interior Board of Land Appeals at the above address within 30 days after the Notice of Appeal is filed with the Authorized Officer.

Signature of Authorized Official

Assa  _____
Field Manager

12/3/14
Date