

# **Decision Record - Memorandum**

**Prepared by**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**  
**Bureau of Land Management**  
**Elko District, Tuscarora Field Office**

This page intentionally  
left blank

# Table of Contents

<b>1. Bootstrap Fire Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Plan .....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1. Description of the Proposed Action .....	1
1.2. Plan Conformance .....	3
1.3. Compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) .....	3
1.4. Persons and Agencies Consulted .....	4
1.5. Decision and Action on Rationale .....	4
1.6. Approval and Implementation Date .....	5
1.7. Administrative Review or Appeal .....	5
<b>Appendix A. Maps .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Appendix B. Appeal Information .....</b>	<b>9</b>

This page intentionally  
left blank

**List of Maps**

Map A.1. Bootstrap Fire Treatment Map ..... 7

This page intentionally  
left blank

# **Chapter 1. Bootstrap Fire Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Plan**

This page intentionally  
left blank

United States Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Tuscarora Field Office  
Elko, Nevada

**Decision Memorandum**  
**Bootstrap Fire ESR Plan**  
**(1742-H9VL; DOI-BLM-NV-E000-2015-0001-DNA)**

---

## 1.1. Description of the Proposed Action

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Elko District is proposing to conduct Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Projects within the Bootstrap Fire. The Bootstrap Fire was a lightning caused fire that burned approximately 1,393 acres across both BLM administered and private lands. The fire burned within intact sagebrush habitat that is important to Greater Sage Grouse (GSG) in providing nesting, summer, and winter seasonal habitats. Of the 497 acres of BLM burned within the Bootstrap Fire, 449 acres occur within Preliminary Priority Habitat for GSG and 48 acres occur within Low Value or Non-Suitable Habitat. There are no known GSG leks within the burned area; however one known active lek occurs within 3 miles of the fire perimeter. The fire also burned within a major mule deer migration corridor. Due to the number of mines and mining activity adjacent to the Bootstrap Fire, mule deer have a very narrow lane in which they are able to migrate from summer range to winter range and vice versa. The Bootstrap Fire burned directly within this lane, impacting the amount of forage and cover the mule deer have during their migration. In addition to threatened GSG and mule deer habitats, other resource concerns within the Bootstrap Fire include the invasion of annual weeds and noxious weeds, soil erosion, and watershed function.

### **The proposed action includes the following:**

#### *Aerial Seeding*

Approximately 463 acres would be aerial seeded with a site appropriate seed mix based on ecological site descriptions as described below:

Aerial Wildlife Mix - Aerial seed approximately 463 acres of low elevation acres with a mix of Wyoming big sagebrush, blue flax, and western yarrow. The areas have been selected based on ecological site descriptions and burned area assessments. Application would be conducted using a full coverage swath pattern.

#### *Noxious Weeds*

Approximately 2 acres within the burned area would be treated for noxious weeds and other invasive species. Scotch thistle and bull thistle are the primary weeds of concern with high potential to increase within the burned area and surrounding rangeland. These weeds were documented during the fire reconnaissance and in field visits prior to the fire. Treatments would consist of an integrated approach using mechanical and chemical means. Treatments would be applied by both in house and contracted crews. Chemical treatments would be done following all label requirements and conform to the BLM Chemical Pest Control Handbook H-9011-1. Herbicides, surfactants, and dyes used would be approved for use on BLM administered lands and applied following standard safety and operating procedures. Herbicide application to range

sites would be by low pressure backpack sprayer or hand gun from an all terrain vehicle (ATV). Herbicide application to road right-of-ways would be by vehicle mounted unit or ATV. No aerial application is planned.

Approximately 497 acres would be inventoried for noxious weeds and invasive species. The methods would be a broad scale ocular observation for qualitative and quantitative data. Infestations found would be documented using the global positioning system (GPS) for mapping and would be included in the plan for treatment at the next appropriate treatment time. The access roads through the fire and the dozerlines would also be surveyed.

#### *Fence Repair/Modification*

Two miles of existing fence between the East Boulder Seeding Field and the Boulder Creek Field would be repaired and modified from 4-wire all barbed to wildlife friendly 3-wire smooth bottom design fences. The boundary fence to the south is a Mine Protection Fence and is the responsibility of Barrick Goldstrike Mines to repair. The repair of the pasture boundary fences is needed to keep livestock from adjacent pastures from grazing on the portions of the burn. The rest would provide long-term benefits for the recovery of native and seeded vegetation that will lead to watershed stability, site productivity, and wildlife habitat.

#### *Monitoring*

Monitoring would be conducted on the proposed action each year following treatment (2015-2017) to determine the success of revegetation and/or stabilization efforts. Specific monitoring method(s) used would depend on the establishment objectives developed. For example, if the establishment objective is three seeded plants firmly rooted per square meter, utilize a modified “freqdens” technique or similar BLM established method for seeded areas. A resource specialist from the BLM Tuscarora Field Office would provide program oversight for this specification.

Post-treatment monitoring studies would be conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of the proposed treatments or to determine if additional treatments are needed, and to determine the time frame for re-opening lands for grazing. The monitoring results would be documented in the project file at the BLM, Elko District Office.

## 1.2. Plan Conformance

The proposed action conforms to the 1987 Elko Resource Management Plan (RMP), as it was amended for fire management on September 29, 2004. The decision for fire rehabilitation from the Approved Fire Management Amendment, page 20, is to “Conduct fire rehabilitation activities to emulate historic or pre-fire ecosystem structure, functioning, diversity and/or to restore a healthy stable ecosystem.” The proposed action is consistent with resource objectives of the plan:

### Emergency Fire Rehabilitation

1. Evaluate all wildfires as soon as possible to determine if reseeding is necessary to recover ecological processes and achieve habitat objectives appropriate for the biological needs of sage grouse and prevent the invasion of noxious weeds or other exotic invasive species.
2. Assure that long-term wildfire rehabilitation objectives are consistent with the potential natural vegetation community.
3. Align long-term objectives for seedings with the habitat needs of sage grouse. Seedings should include an appropriate mix of grasses, forbs, and shrubs, including sagebrush, that will recover the ecological processes and habitat features of the potential natural vegetation. Emphasize native plant species when these species are adapted to the site, are available in sufficient quantities, and are economically and biologically feasible.
4. Reseed all burned lands occurring in sage grouse habitat within 1 year unless natural recovery of the native plant community is expected.

The proposed action is further consistent with other Federal, state, local and tribal laws, regulations, policies and plans to the maximum extent possible. The closure of the burned area to livestock grazing is in conformance with 43 CFR subparts 4110.3-2(a), and 4110.3-3(a). Noxious weed treatments were not identified as an issue in the development of the Elko RMP, and were not specifically addressed in the document. However, weed management is clearly consistent with the terms, conditions, and decisions of the RMP as previously documented in the FY2000 Normal Fire Rehabilitation Plan Environmental Assessment. The Elko Field Office Noxious Weed Strategy Plan (September 2004) outlines the priority factors for weed treatments. Only herbicides on the list of approved herbicides for use on BLM lands would be used. All of the above planned treatments would occur outside of biologically sensitive timeframes for sage grouse and would therefore be in compliance with WO IM 2012-043.

## 1.3. Compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

The proposed actions have been covered under the following NEPA documents:

- FY2000 Normal Fire Rehabilitation Plan Environmental Assessment (NFRPEA), (BLM/EK/PL-2000-037), which was completed to update and replace the FY93 Normal Fire Rehabilitation Plan Environmental Assessment (EA-NV-010-92-060)
- Programmatic Environmental Assessment of Integrated Weed Management on Bureau of Land Management Lands (BLM/EK/PL-1998/008)

- Elko and Wells Resources Management Plans (RMP) Fire Management Amendment (BLM/EK/PL-2003/026) Date Approved, September 29, 2004
- Esmeralda Fire Complex Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Plan (BLM/EK/PL-2005/015) Date Approved, August 2005
- Susie Fire Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Plan (BLM/EK/PL-2006/021) Date Approved, August 2006
- Basco Fire Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Plan (BLM/EK/PL-2006/025) Date Approved, August 2006
- Amazon Fire Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Plan (BLM/EK/PL-2007/002) Date Approved, October 2006
- Tuscarora Sagebrush Habitat Restoration Initiative (BLM-NV-E020-2010-01-EA) Date Approved, November 2009
- Elko District Vegetation Maintenance Treatment Project (DOI-BLM-NV-2010-0005-EA) Date Approved, August 2010
- Vegetation Treatment on BLM Lands in 17 Western States Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Report and Vegetation Treatment Using Herbicides Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (INT-FES-07-21)

## **1.4. Persons and Agencies Consulted**

Newmont Mining Corporation

Barrick Goldstrike Mine

Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW): Matt Jeffress and Steve Foree

Permittees: 25 Ranch

## **1.5. Decision and Action on Rationale**

I have decided to implement the proposed action, as described, because:

1. The project will meet the need for restoring lands damaged by wildfire to a management-approved condition, consistent with agency and Departmental policies and procedures.
2. The action conforms to the applicable RMP and is consistent with current BLM and Departmental policies and procedures.
3. The project has been planned to incorporate environmental design features and monitoring requirements. There are no extraordinary circumstances having significant effects that would require an environmental analysis.

*Chapter 1 Bootstrap Fire Emergency Stabilization  
and Rehabilitation Plan  
Persons and Agencies Consulted*

## 1.6. Approval and Implementation Date

This project is approved for implementation beginning immediately, subject to the conditions as specified in the attached project description. This decision is placed in full force and effect under the authority of 43 CFR 4190.1(a) based on the vegetation and soil within the burned area being at immediate risk to erosion and other long term damage.

/s/ Richard E. Adams

1/13/2015

Richard E. Adams, Tuscarora Field Manager

Date

## 1.7. Administrative Review or Appeal

This decision is subject to administrative appeal. Within 30 days of receipt of this decision, parties who are adversely affected and believe it is incorrect have the right to appeal to the Department of the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of the Secretary, in accordance with regulations at 43 CFR 4.4. Appellants must follow procedures outlined in the form, "Information on Taking Appeals to the Board of Land Appeals" (See Appendix B). An appeal should be in writing and specify the reasons, clearly and concisely, as to why the decision is in error. Appellants are requested to supply this office with a copy of the Statement of Reasons.

Also within 30 days of receipt of this decision, appellants have a right to file a petition for stay (suspension) of the decision together with an appeal, in accordance with the regulations at 43 CFR 4.21. The petition must be served upon the same parties identified in items 2, 3, and 4 of the attached form. The appellant has the burden of proof to demonstrate that a stay should be granted.

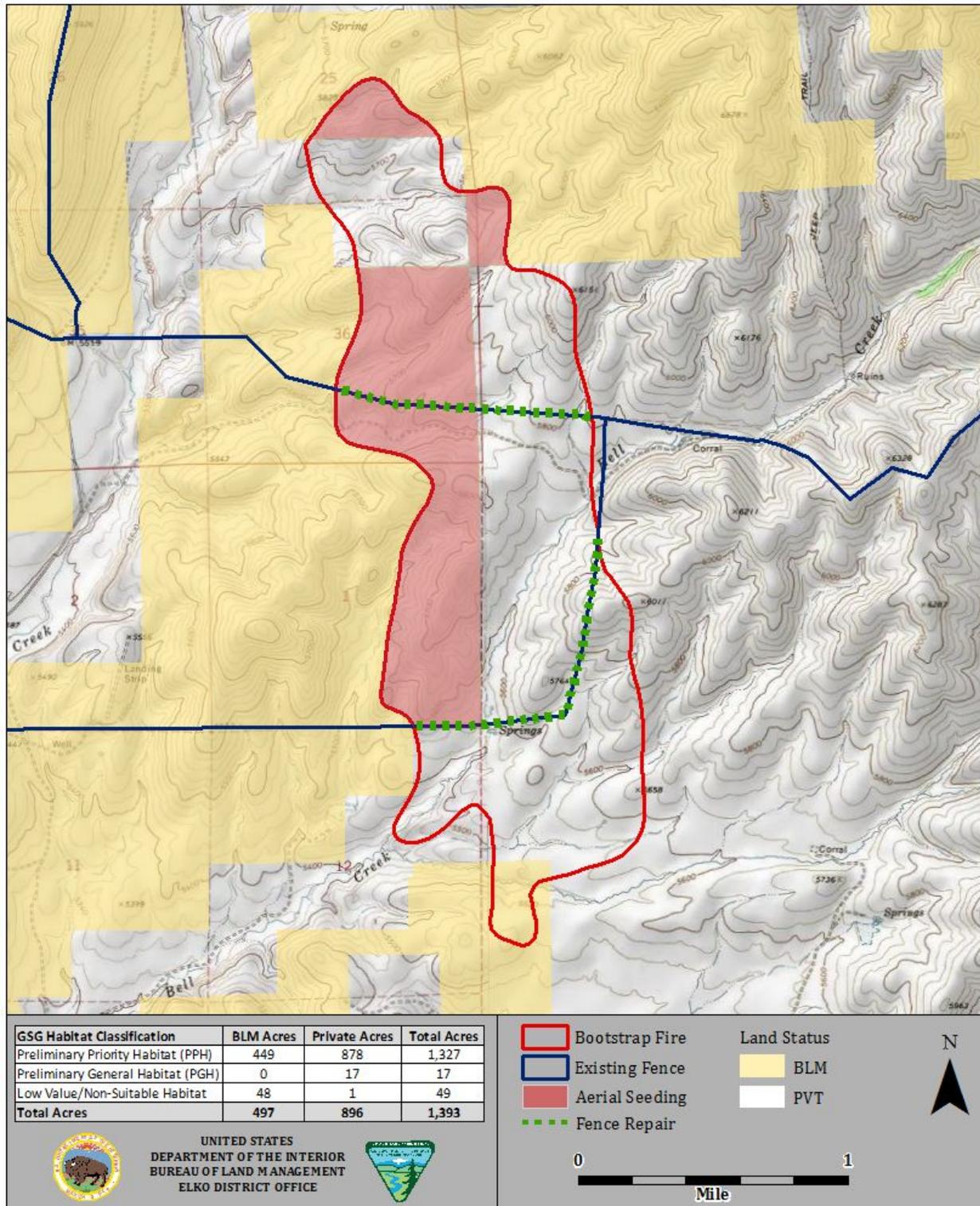
### Note

For additional information, contact Tom W. Warren, Assistant District Manager, Operations at the BLM Elko District Office, 3900 E. Idaho St., Elko NV 89801; telephone 775-753-0355.

This page intentionally  
left blank

# Appendix A. Maps

## Decision Record Memorandum: Bootstrap Fire



"NO WARRANTY IS MADE BY THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT AS TO THE ACCURACY, RELIABILITY, OR COMPLETENESS OF THESE DATA FOR INDIVIDUAL USE OR AGGREGATE USE WITH OTHER DATA."

Map A.1. Bootstrap Fire Treatment Map

This page intentionally  
left blank

# Appendix B. Appeal Information



United States Department of the Interior  
 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
 Elko District Office  
 3900 East Idaho Street  
 Elko, Nevada 89801-4611  
<http://www.nv.blm.gov>



## INFORMATION ON TAKING APPEALS TO THE BOARD OF LAND APPEALS

### DO NOT APPEAL UNLESS

1.) This decision is adverse to you **AND** 2.) You believe it is incorrect.

IF YOU APPEAL, THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURES **MUST** BE FOLLOWED:

### 1. NOTICE OF APPEAL:

Within 30 days of receipt of the decision, file a "NOTICE OF APPEAL" in the office which issued this decision (see CFR secs. 4.411 and 4.413). You may state your reasons for appealing, if you desire.

### 2. WHERE TO FILE NOTICE OF APPEAL:

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
 ELKO DISTRICT OFFICE  
 3900 IDAHO STREET  
 ELKO, NV 89801

and a copy to

OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL SOLICITOR  
 PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGION  
 2800 COTTAGE WAY ROOM E-2753  
 SACRAMENTO, CA 95825-1890

### 3. STATEMENT OF REASONS:

Within 30 days after filing the "NOTICE OF APPEAL", file a **complete** statement of the reasons why you are appealing. This must be filed with the:

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
 OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY, BOARD OF LAND APPEALS  
 801 NORTH QUINCY STREET, SUITE 300  
 ARLINGTON, VA 22203

(See 43 CFR secs. 4.412 and 4.413). If you fully stated your reasons for appealing when filing the "NOTICE OF APPEAL", no additional statement is necessary.

### 4. ADVERSE PARTIES:

Within 15 days after each document is filed, each adverse party named in the decision and the Regional Solicitor must be served with a copy of:

- A. THE NOTICE OF APPEAL
- B. THE STATEMENT OF REASONS, AND
- C. ANY OTHER DOCUMENT FILED (See 43 CFR sec. 4.413).

### 5. PROOF OF SERVICE:

Within 15 days after any document is served on an adverse party, file proof of that service with the BOARD OF LAND APPEALS, at the above address. This may consist of a certified or registered mail "return receipt card" signed by the adverse party (see 43 CFR sec. 4.401(c) (2)).

UNLESS THESE PROCEDURES ARE FOLLOWED, YOUR APPEAL WILL BE SUBJECT TO DISMISSAL (see 43 CFR sec. 4.402). Be certain that all communications are identified by serial number, or other identification, of the case being appealed.

**NOTE:** A document is not filed until it is actually received in the proper office (see CFR sec. 4.401(a)).