U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
Twin Falls District
Burley Field Office
15 East 200 South
Burley ID, 83318

Worksheet
Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)

NEPA No. DOI-BLM-ID-T020-2015-0020-DNA

BLM Office: Burley **Lease/Serial/Case File No.:**

Proposed Action Title/Type: Burley Landscape Sage Grouse Habitat Restoration Project

Location of Proposed Action: Portions of Cassia County

Applicant (if any): N/A

A. Description of the Proposed Action

The Proposed Action is to modify treatment areas in the Burley Landscape Sage Grouse Habitat Restoration Project based on new information about vegetation conditions and resource needs as displayed in Maps 1-2. This project will entail handcutting (using chainsaws) and mastication of Utah juniper as delineated in maps 1-2. Modification would occur in the East Hills and Nibbs Creek project areas. A total increase of 440 acres would result over the original total of 38,012 acres. All design features (for the protection of important resources) included in the original Environmental Assessment (EA) will be followed.

B. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance

Land Use Plan Name: Cassia Date Approved/Amended: 1985, 2008

The proposed project is governed by the Cassia Resource Management Plan (RMP) signed in 1985 as amended by the Fire, Fuels and Related Vegetation Management Direction Plan Amendment (FMDA) signed in 2008. The Cassia RMP includes an objective to maintain sage grouse winter and brood-rearing habitat. The Cassia RMP states that BLM will manage fish and wildlife habitat on the public lands and that a variety of methods may be employed, including management actions designed to maintain or improve wildlife habitat. The FMDA identifies the Proposed Action (cutting junipers with chainsaws) as a selected conservation measure for sage grouse that should be considered in developing vegetation treatments. Furthermore, the treatment level falls within the objectives set by the FMDA for the vegetation types proposed for treatment. Therefore the Proposed Action and alternatives conform to the Cassia RMP.

C. Identify the applicable National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document(s) and other related documents that cover the Proposed Action.

The NEPA documentation has been completed for this project in the Burley Landscape Sage Grouse Habitat Restoration Project EA **(DOI-BLM-ID- T020-2010-0002-EA)**. This document fully describes the magnitude of the direct, indirect and cumulative effects of the actions associated with this project although there will be a slightly different footprint where the effects would occur.

D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

1. Is the new Proposed Action a feature of, or essentially similar to, an alternative analyzed in the existing NEPA document(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 project is within the same analysis area with a slightly modified footprint. These modifications are not substantial because the overall amount of treatment acres would not exceed the original amount by more than 1.5%.

2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the current Proposed Action, given current environmental concerns, interests, resource values, and circumstances?

Yes, the alternatives considered in the EA included the Proposed Action, no action and an alternative that would exclude mastication of inclusions of Phase 2 or 3 juniper within Phase 1 sites. Juniper encroachment is a major threat to greater sage-grouse which is a candidate for listing under the Endangered Species Act and the completion of this project continues to be an important conservation practice to improve conditions for this imperiled bird species.

3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances (such as rangeland health standard assessment, recent endangered species listings, or 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, the existing analysis is valid. No new recently listed endangered species would be affected. The updated BLM sensitive species list has been reviewed and it was determined that all new BLM sensitive species have already been considered in the anlysis due to their previous status as migratory birds of conservation concern. Section 106 consultation has been completed and no historic properties will be affected by this project.

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?

Yes, the direct, indirect and cumulative effects that would result from implementation of the new Proposed Action are both quantitatively and qualitatively similar to those analyzed in the existing EA.

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

Yes, the existing EA was scoped to the public for issues and any important information. Letters provided by the public were utilized to modify the project and to aid the analysis.

E. Persons/Agencies/BLM Staff Consulted

Name	Title	Resource/Agency Represented
Jeremy Bisson	Wildlife Biologist Specialist	Wildlife/BLM
Suzann Henrikson	Archaeologist Specialist	Archaeology/BLM
Nancy Ady	Rangeland Management Specialist	Range/BLM

CONCLUSION

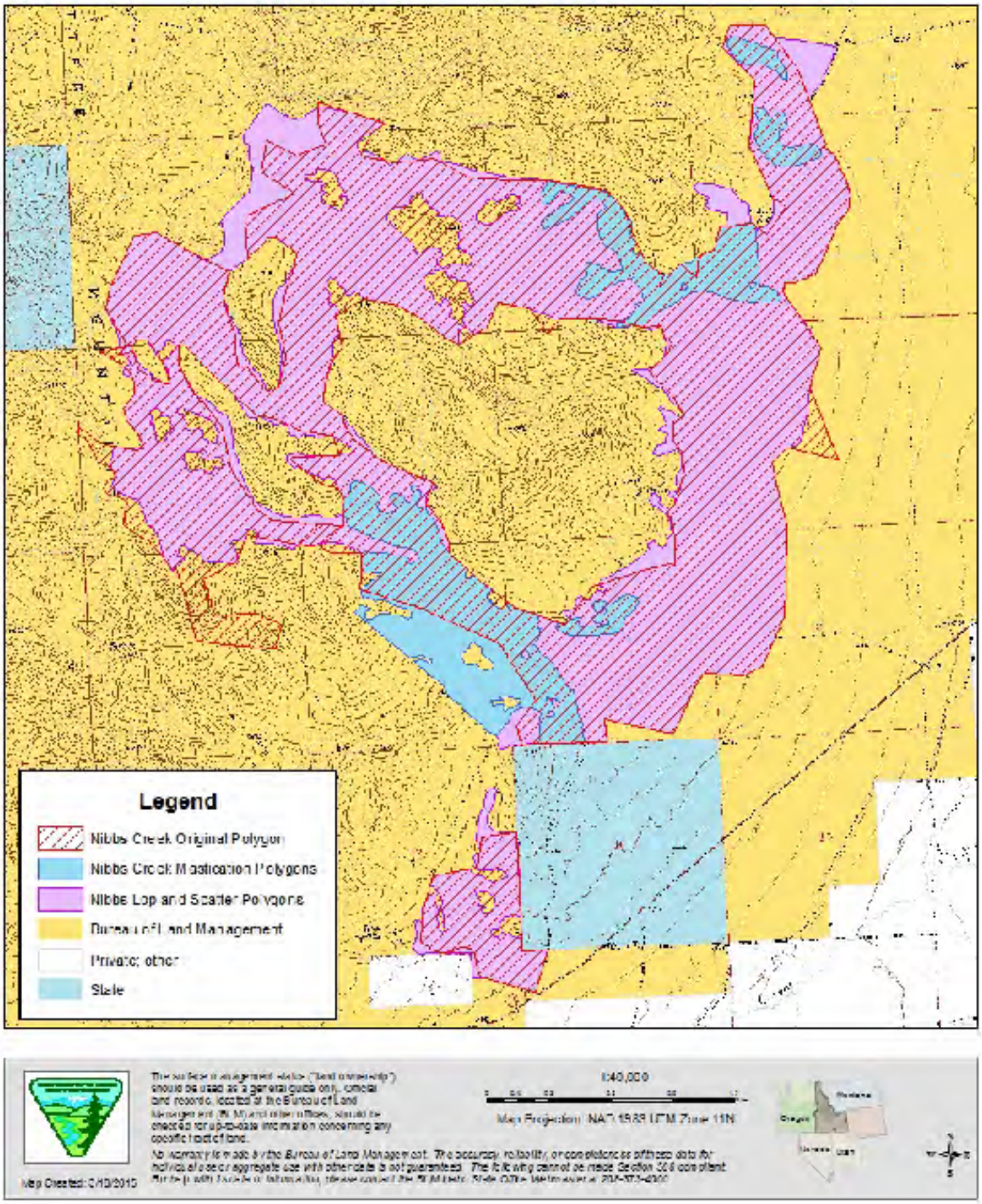
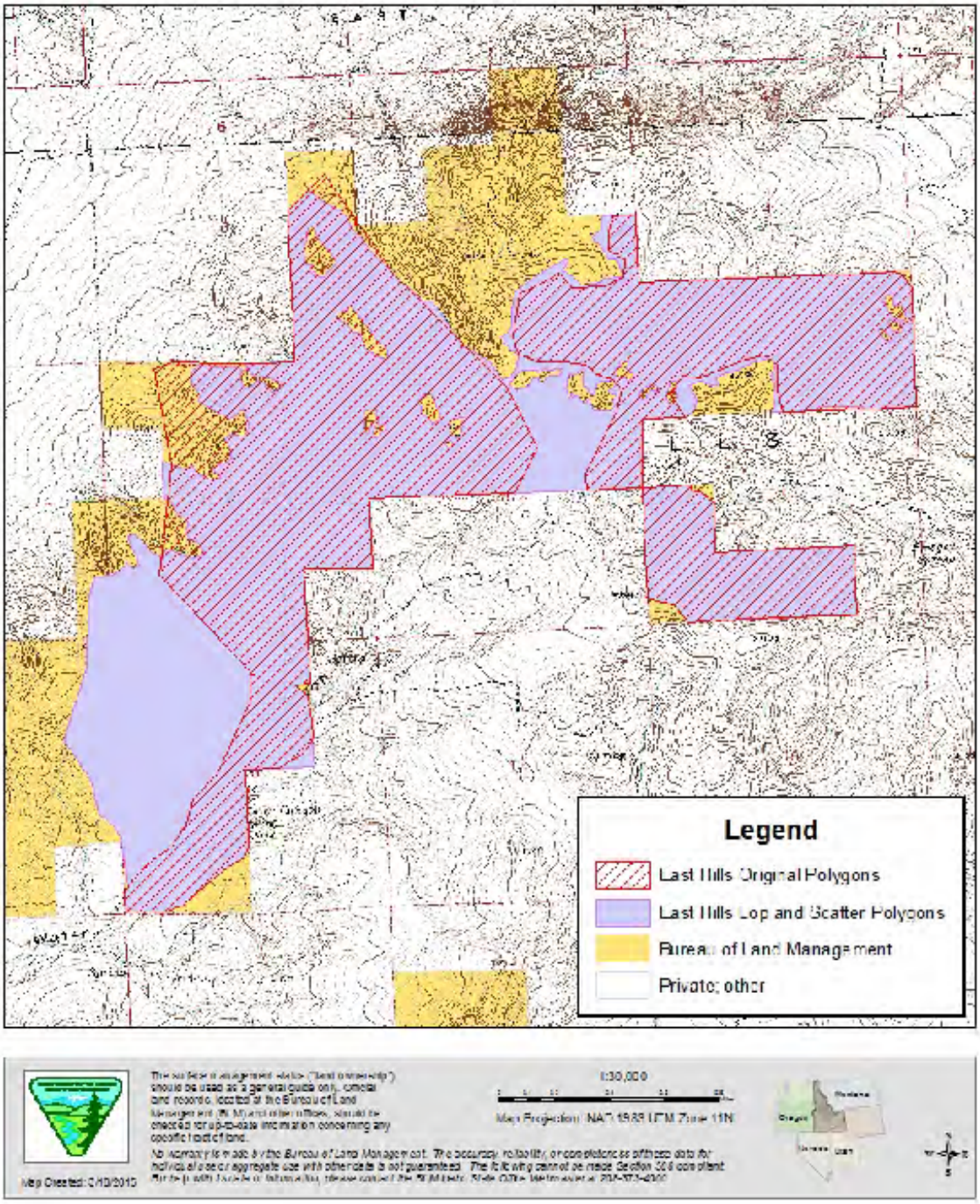
Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the Cassia RMP and that the existing NEPA documentation fully covers the Proposed Action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of NEPA.

/s/Dustin Smith_____ 5/01/2015_____
Dustin Smith, Project Lead Date

/s/Amanda M. Dodson_____5/01/2015_____
Amanda M. Dodson, Field Manager (Acting) 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.

Nibbs Creek Burley Landscape



East Hills Burley Landscape