

Documentation of Land Use Plan Conformance and NEPA Adequacy (DNA)
U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management
Grand Junction Field Office, Colorado
Glade Park Roadside Mitigation
DOI-BLM-CO-N030-2015-0026-DNA

A. Purpose and Need

Many portions of Glade Park were historically open parks consisting of sagebrush and/or grass parks surrounded by piñón and juniper (PJ) hillsides and canyons. Piñón and juniper over the years have encroached upon these parks due to fire suppression or other management activities. Efforts were made back in the 1950's through 1970's to address this encroachment including chaining, brushbeating, and plowing and seeding. Forty years later, the dominant vegetation is again PJ.

The presence of this tree community has several management implications. First off, the opportunity for high intensity fires is greater with the presence of the tree community. This is especially important in this area of Glade Park where there is a substantial amount of private land, some with structures and inhabitants. Another implication is that this portion of Glade Park has been identified as being historic range of the Gunnison Sage Grouse.

In 2000, the Piñón Mesa Gunnison Sage Grouse Conservation Plan was completed identifying a strategy, objectives and conservation actions needed to improve habitat for the sage grouse. The plan identified the need to treat these PJ dominated plant communities that once were sagebrush parks occupied by sage grouse. Since 2000, the Colorado Department of Parks and Wildlife (CDPW) and BLM have treated areas to optimize the density of sagebrush and increase the grass and forb component to benefit sage grouse.

This proposed project is to continue treating areas in an ongoing effort to improve Gunnison Sage Grouse habitat as described in the plan. Active removal of encroaching PJ will help maintain open and healthy sagebrush shrublands that would be available for wildlife habitat. Treatment of encroaching PJ would also help to reduce fuel loading within these sagebrush ecosystems and reduce the chance of uncharacteristically severe and/or frequent wildfires. Areas of more mature PJ can support extreme fire behavior in the form of crown fire. Treatment of mature PJ in the wildland urban interface can reduce fire behavior thus increasing safety and effectiveness of suppression resources. When these treatments are preformed along roadsides they can increase public safety during a wildfire event when the public is using that road for evacuation.

B. Proposed Action

The proposed action is to mechanically or manually treat vegetation which consists of approximately 365 acres within 3 separate units on Glade Park that is currently experiencing PJ encroachment. These 3 units are Miller Canyon Road (113 acres), Trail Canyon (60 acres), and Middle Briar (192 acres). A fecon or other type of mastication machine would be used to remove PJ from sage parks within all 3 units. Piñón pines above 25 feet in height would be avoided and only areas with sagebrush understory would be treated mechanically (Fecon). Additional hand treatments using chainsaws would be used along the Miller Canyon Road, 16 ½ Road, 15 Road and on BLM lands adjacent to private home sites in the Miller Canyon and Trail Canyon Units. Where feasible 100-300 feet adjacent to these roads would be hand thinned to create 20-40 foot spacing between the outside of the crowns of remaining pinyon and juniper

trees. Some trees may also be limbed up to 4-6 feet off the ground. Slash generated from hand thinning and limbing with chainsaws would be piled and burned, or lopped and scattered. Hand thinning work would occur in all roadside vegetation regardless of the presence of a sage understory. This project would tie into prior work and have an overall landscape benefit. Impacts would be similar to the other mechanical projects in the Glade Park area and are analyzed in the Glade Park Wildland Interface (WUI) Scattered Parcels EA (CO-130-2005-045-EA), Miller Canyon Fuels Reduction (CO-130-2006-058-DNA) Bieser Creek (CO-130-2012-0004-DNA) and Glade Park Maintenance Treatments (CO-130-2014-0016-DNA).

Portions of this treatment may be contracted by the BLM, and mitigation identified, as necessary by the Field Manager, would be carried forward as part of the contract Scope of Work. Other portions of this project may be completed using force account labor with the fire crews. A baseline for monitoring would be established before the project is implemented. Monitoring for measurable objectives would be carried out at one year (minimum one growing season), three year, and 10 year intervals from implementation to ensure that objectives are met and mitigation for invasive weeds is successful. Access to all 3 units is on existing roads and staging of equipment and crews would occur on existing roads thus no new road construction would occur.

The primary objectives of the project are as follows:

- 1) Decrease the fuel load of the area which is adjacent to inhabited private lands. Conversion of the area from a PJ vegetation type to a sagebrush/grass community would reduce the intensity of wildfires if they occur thus reducing the threat to private dwellings in the area.
- 2) Creating roadside fuels breaks along portions of Miller Canyon Road, 15 Road and 16.5 Road would reduce intensity of future wildfires in these areas. These roadside fuels breaks would increase public safety along evacuation routes during wildfires. This would also improve firefighter safety and increase potential of success of fire suppression operations.
- 3) Improve habitat for the Gunnison Sage Grouse. Eliminating piñon and juniper trees from the treatment area would encourage a sagebrush/grass vegetative community which is desired habitat for the Gunnison Sage Grouse. Removing these tree species within sagebrush parks eliminates roosts for raptors which prey upon the sage grouse. The Middle Briar unit has the most benefit for Gunnison Sage Grouse.
- 4) Improve the overall vegetative diversity of the area. The treatment areas were once a sagebrush/grass plant community but due to fire suppression and other management activities have converted to PJ communities as is the case with many areas on Glade Park.

The following mitigation measures are also part of the Proposed Action:

1. Locate, flag, and protect any survey monuments (brass cap monuments, bearing trees, private monuments) that may exist in this project area.
2. Areas to be avoided by equipment to protect other resource values would be flagged prior to project implementation.
3. To prevent the spread of noxious weeds equipment would be cleaned through established

procedures as BLM Policy.

4. Fueling and maintenance activities should not be conducted within 100 feet of any drainage or watercourse. All spills of fuel and lubricants should be reported to the BLM and should be cleaned up promptly. Fueling of machinery and storage of fuel would be accomplished through established BLM procedures.
5. Determine boundaries of the treatment areas near private lands prior to fuel reduction to avoid treatment of private lands.
6. Existing roads and trails would be used by agency personnel to eliminate development of new routes and trails. When driving off roads, personnel would avoid repeatedly driving back and forth via the same route.
7. Schedule project work outside of the dates May 15th and July 15th, to protect species identified by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.
8. Coordinate with the Colorado Department of Parks and Wildlife to best determine timing and operation procedures to limit any possible wildlife winter range issues.
9. All road, telephone, and power line rights-of-way's and facilities would be located and flagged prior to commencement of the project to assure that no damage will occur.
10. Heavy equipment use would not occur when soils are saturated to a depth of three inches or more. All drainage courses would be protected from any impacts associated with operation of heavy equipment (e.g. bank shearing, de-stabilization of existing drainage patterns, etc...). In these areas closest to drainages, alternative methods for treating vegetation (e.g. hand crews) would be used.

C. Location

The Project Area for the Proposed Action is located in 3 different areas on Glade Park.

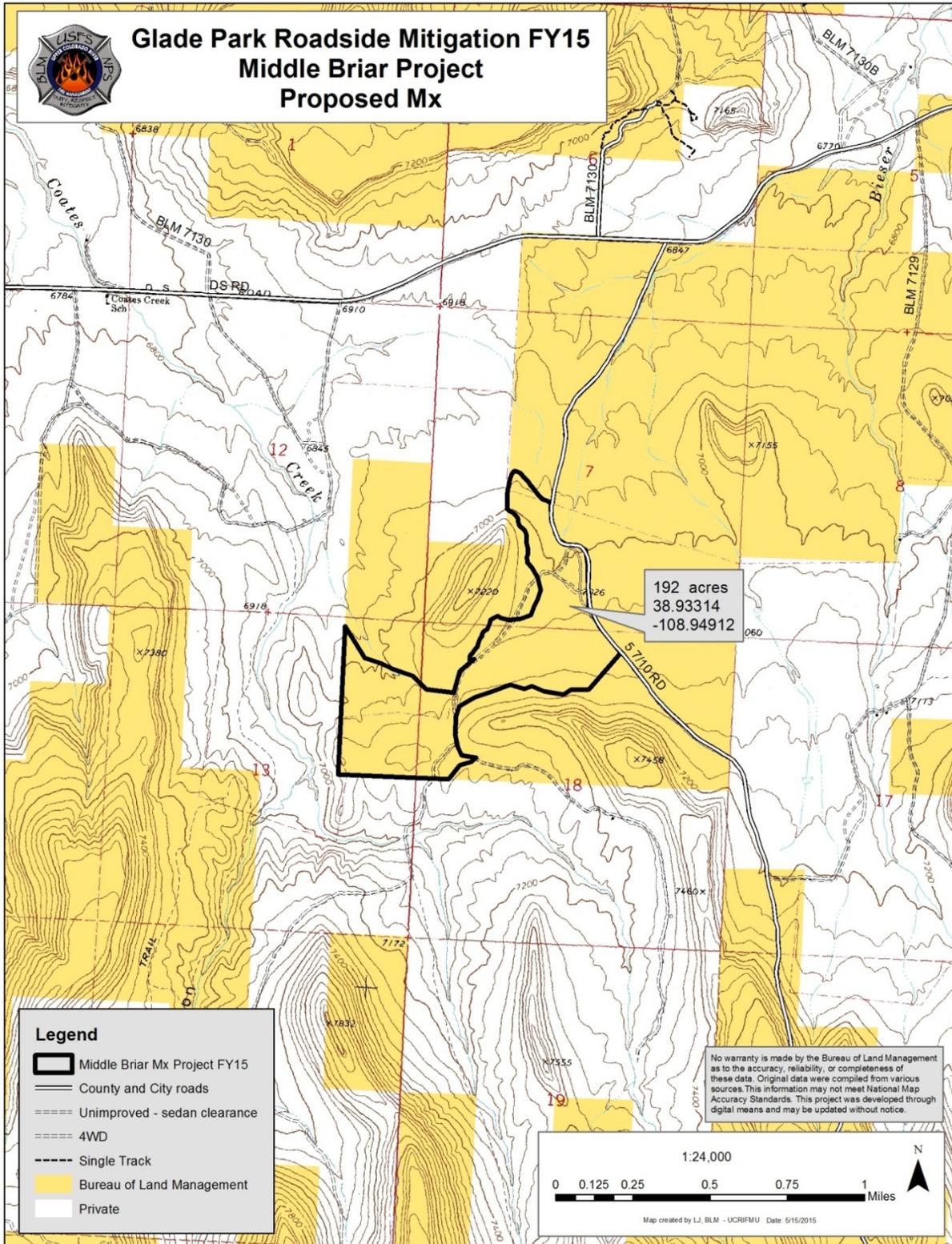
- The Middle Briar Unit is the farthest west is located adjacent to 5 7/10 Road about 1 mile south of DS road. The legal location for Middle Briar is Township T. 13 S., Range R. 103 W., sections 7 and 18, and T. 13 S., R. 104 W., sec 13.

- The Trail Canyon area is located directly adjacent to DS road about 2 miles east of the Glade Park store. The legal description for Trail Canyon is T. 12 S., R. 102 W., sec. 22 and sec. 27.

- Miller Canyon the farthest east of these areas is adjacent to 16 1/2 Road and Miller Canyon Road. The legal location for Miller Canyon is T. 13 S., R. 102 W., sec. 1 and 12, and T. 13 S., R. 101 W., sec. 6.



Glade Park Roadside Mitigation FY15 Middle Briar Project Proposed Mx



Legend

- Middle Briar Mx Project FY15
- County and City roads
- Unimproved - sedan clearance
- 4WD
- Single Track
- Bureau of Land Management
- Private

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data. Original data were compiled from various sources. This information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This project was developed through digital means and may be updated without notice.

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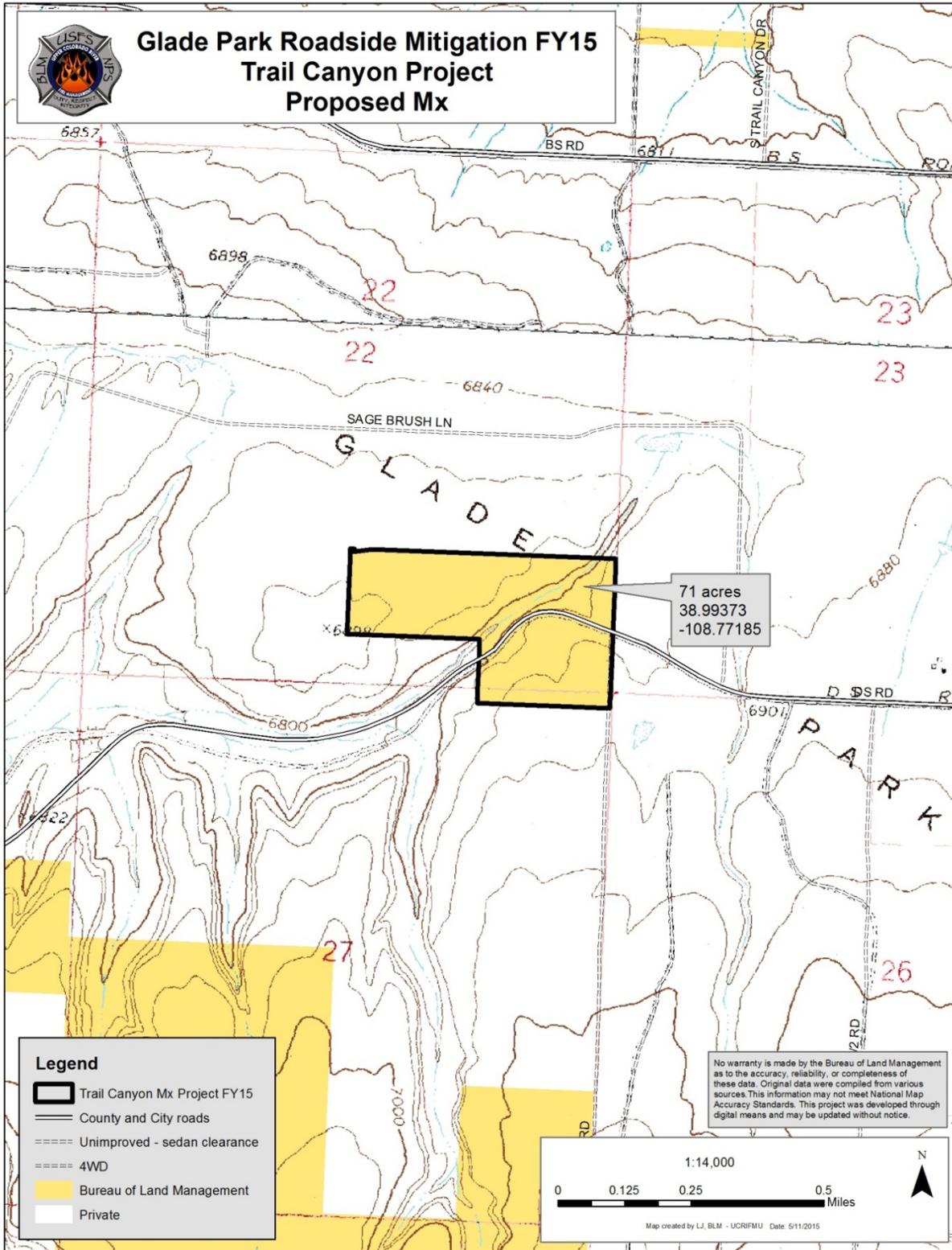
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Map created by LJ, BLM - UCRF MU Date: 5/15/2015

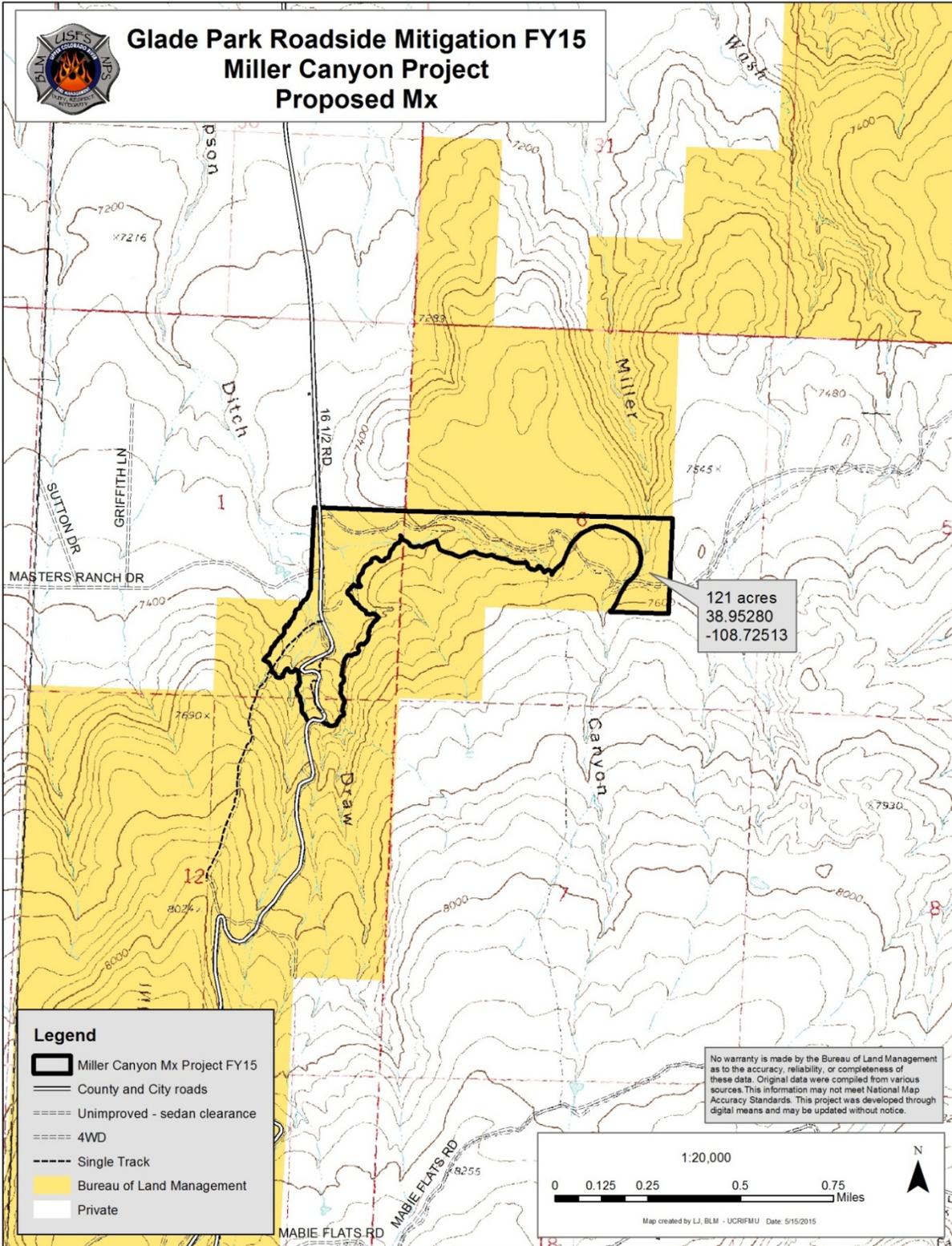
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Glade Park Roadside Mitigation FY15 Trail Canyon Project Proposed Mx



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D. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance

LUP Name: Grand Junction Resource Area RMP Date Approved: January 1987

Decision Number/Page: Chapter 2, Page 42, Paragraph 1; WM-5-2-14, and FM-4-2-32

Decision Language: Under all alternatives, habitat of the major wildlife species would be actively managed using standard management practices; Wildlife Management: Actively manage the areas shown on Map 10 and listed in Table 11 placing management emphasis on the key species shown, and Fire Management: Assign levels to areas based upon protection of resource values present, and manage or suppress fires as prescribed by the assigned levels.

E. Identify applicable NEPA documents and other related documents that cover the proposed action.

Grand Junction Resource Area RMP Environmental Impact Statement, January 1987

Name of Document: Glade Park Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Scattered Parcels, CO-130-2005-045-EA. Miller Canyon Fuels Reduction CO-130-2006-058-DNA. Bieser Creek (CO-130-2012-0004-DNA). Glade Park Maintenance Treatments (CO-130-2014-0016-DNA).

Date Approved: August 23, 2005, November 6, 2006, December 8, 2011 and March 12 2014.

F. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

1. Is the current proposed action largely the same action (or a part of the same action) that was previously analyzed? Is the current proposed action located at a site specifically analyzed in an existing document?

The current proposed action will use the same type of mechanical treatments that were analyzed in the Glade Park Wildland Urban Interface Scattered Parcels EA. The proposed action falls within the boundary of the area analyzed in that EA.

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, and resource values?

The proposed action area within Glade Park Roadside Mitigation has the same environmental concerns, interests, and resource values as the area analyzed in the existing NEPA document. The proposed action falls within the range of alternatives provided in the original NEPA document.

3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances?

Yes. No circumstances or information has changed that would result in impacts that were not analyzed in the existing 2005 EA. Gunnison sage grouse are listed as federally threatened and critical habitat has been designated in and near the project area, but BLM has consulted with the USFWS and received concurrence that these types of actions are not likely to adversely affect the Gunnison sage grouse or its critical habitat.

4. Does the methodology and analytical approach used in the existing NEPA document(s) continue to be appropriate for the current proposed action?

Yes. The area is within the analysis area for the referenced EA and the methodology and analytical approach used in the existing 2005 EA would be the same if a new EA was written.

5. Are the direct and indirect impacts of the current proposed action substantially unchanged from those identified in the existing NEPA document(s)? Does the existing NEPA document analyze site-specific impacts related to the current proposed action?

Yes. The direct and indirect impacts of the proposed action are the same as those identified in the existing NEPA document, because the proposed action is the same as the action in the preferred alternative of the referenced EA and the resources and resource concerns are the same.

6. Are the cumulative impacts that would result from implementation of the current proposed action substantially unchanged from those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)

Yes. This action combined with the actions analyzed in the existing EA would contribute to landscape-scale improvements to Gunnison sage-grouse habitat. Cumulative impacts in the area are limited and would remain the same as those analyzed in the referenced EA.

7. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current proposed action? This proposed action is consistent with the actions of the existing 2005 EA, in which scoping and a public meeting was held. Annual meetings continue to be held with interested parties in the Glade Park area to discuss progress and the results of vegetative treatments.

G. Interdisciplinary Analysis: Team members conducting or participating in the documentation of NEPA adequacy and preparation of this worksheet.

Name	Title
Anna Lincoln	Ecologist
Heidi Plank	Wildlife Biologist
Alissa Leavitt-Reynolds	Archaeologist
Natalie Clark	Archaeologist
Julia Christiansen	Natural Resource Specialist
Kevin Hyatt	Hydrologist
Anna Lincoln	Ecologist
Heidi Plank	Wildlife Biologist
Christina Stark	Assistant Field Manager (Resources and Planning)

DO NOT ADD REMARKS TO THIS DOCUMENT. IF YOU HAVE REMARKS FOR YOUR RESOURCE ADD THEM ABOVE UNDER THE APPROPRIATE QUESTION, OR TO THE NEPA NOTIFICATION.

Table 1– Potentially Impacted Resources

Resources	Not Present On Location	No Impact*	Potentially Impacted	Effects sufficiently analyzed/ mitigated in previous NEPA document or proposed action?	BLM Evaluator Initial & Date	Comments
PHYSICAL RESOURCES						
Air and Climate	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	KEH 7/16/15	
Water (surface & subsurface, floodplains)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	KEH 7/16/15	
Soils	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	KEH 7/16/15	
Geological/Mineral Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	DSG 5/20/15	
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES						
Special Status Plants	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	ALE 6/4/15	
Special Status Wildlife	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	ALE 7/28/15	USFWS concurrence NLAA
Migratory Birds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	ALE 6/4/15	
Other Important Wildlife Habitat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	ALE 6/4/15	
Vegetation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	JAM 5/27/15	Will work with fuels for language
Forestry	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	JAM 5/27/15	
Invasive, Non-native Species	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	MT 6/25/15	
Riparian Zones/ Wetlands	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	ARL 7/1/15	
HERITAGE RESOURCES AND HUMAN ENV.						
Cultural or Historical	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	ALR 7/17/15	Standard stips will be needed.
Paleontological	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	DSG 5/20/15	
Tribal& American Indian Religious Concerns	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	ALR 7/17/15	Consultation has been completed
Visual Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	AW 6/4/15	
Social/Economic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	CS 7/24/15	
Transportation and Access	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	AW 6/4/15	
Wastes, Hazardous or Solid	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	AK 6/25/15	Standard fuel mgt. stips
LAND RESOURCES						
Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	AW 6/4/15	
Special Designations (ACEC, SMAs, WSR)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	AW 6/4/15	
Wilderness & Wilderness Characteristics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	AW 6/4/15	
Range Management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	JAM 5/27/15	
Wild Horse and Burros	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	JP 8/14/15	
Land Tenure, ROW, Other Uses	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	RBL 7/27/15	
Fire/Fuels	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	JP 5/15/15	

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Christina Stark

DATE:

8/20/15

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GLADE PARK ROADSIDE MITIGATION
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CONCLUSION

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's compliance with the requirements of NEPA.

Based on the review documented above, I conclude that either the proposal does not conform with the land use plan, or that additional NEPA analysis is needed.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:


Grand Junction Field Manager

DATE SIGNED:

8/20/15

The signed Conclusion on this document 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.

Stipulations

SITE SPECIFIC STIPULATIONS:

1. Locate, flag, and protect any survey monuments (brass cap monuments, bearing trees, private monuments) that may exist in this project area.
2. Areas to be avoided by equipment to protect other resource values would be flagged prior to project implementation.
3. To prevent the spread of noxious weeds equipment would be cleaned through established procedures as BLM Policy.
4. Fueling and maintenance activities should not be conducted within 100 feet of any drainage or watercourse. All spills of fuel and lubricants should be reported to the BLM and should be cleaned up promptly. Fueling of machinery and storage of fuel would be accomplished through established BLM procedures.
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