

Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)
(DOI-BLM- IDI020-2015-0034-DNA)

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Note: This worksheet is to be completed consistent with the policies stated in the Instruction Memorandum entitled “Documentation of Land Use Plan Conformance and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Adequacy” transmitting this worksheet and the “Guidelines for Using the DNA Worksheet” located at the end of the worksheet. (Note: The signed CONCLUSION at the end of this worksheet is part of an interim step in the BLM’s internal analysis process and does not constitute an appealable decision.)

A. **BLM Office:** Pocatello Field Office **Lease/Serial/Case File No.** N/A

Proposed Action Title/Type: Curlew Shrub Plantings

Location of Proposed Action: Curlew, Oneida County, ID
T14S; R31E & R32E
T15S; R29E, R30E, R31E, & R32E
T16S; R29E, R30E, R31E, & R32E

Description of the Proposed Action: Approximately up to 150,000 sagebrush and/or bitterbrush seedlings (300 acres) would be planted in different sites within the Curlew range, each year, over the next 5 years. Hand planting could be used at all sites. Tractor planting would be used at sites with mild terrain. A Cultural Resource Inventory would be completed prior to planting. Planting project area is displayed on Maps 1 and 2.

Seedlings would be hand planted at a density of approximately 500 per acre (9.3 foot by 9.3 foot spacing). If herbaceous vegetation is dense enough to preclude seedling establishment, a 2 foot by 2 foot area would be scalped (down to mineral soil). If possible, 4-inch diameter augers would be used to drill a hole for each seedling. If enough soil cannot be obtained to properly plant the seedling an auxillary hole would be drilled within the scalped area. If an auger could not be used (e.g., too rocky of an area) to plant seedlings, hoedads or planting bars would be used.

For machine planting, tractor drawn chisel plow would be used to create a furrow in the ground that is closed by 2 packing wheels, which compact the soil. Shrub seedlings would be placed in the furrow by hand prior to compaction by the wheels. This application would be used in soils with few large rocks and areas with gentle slopes. The disturbance created from the plow is 12-inches to 14-inches and 8-inches to 12-inches deep. Rows would be planted approximately 10-feet apart; seedlings within rows would be spaced approximately 8-feet apart.

Applicant (if any): Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG)

B. Conformance with the Land Use Plan (LUP) and Consistency with Related Subordinate Implementation Plans

LUP Name*	<u>Pocatello RMP</u>	Date Approved <u>April 2012</u>
LUP Name*	_____	Date Approved _____
Other document**	_____	Date Approved _____
Other document**	_____	Date Approved _____
Other document**	_____	Date Approved _____

*List applicable LUPs (e.g., Resource Management Plans or applicable amendments).
**List applicable activity, project, management, water quality restoration, or program plans.

Goal SS-1. Manage special status species and their habitats to provide for their continued presence and conservation as part of an ecologically healthy system.

Objective SS-1.3. Maintain or improve the quality of sensitive species habitat by managing public land activities to support species recovery and the benefit of those species.

Action SS-1.3.12. During restoration and rehabilitation of migratory bird species habitat, emphasis will be placed on riparian, non-riverine wetlands, sagebrush and Douglas fir habitats and the following management guidelines will be implemented as appropriate based upon site specific characteristics.

- Use native species where appropriate/practical for ES&R and restoration treatments to shorten recovery time and prevent establishment of invasive species/noxious weeds.
- Action SS-1.3.6. To the extent possible and to promote conservation, Greater sage-grouse habitat will be managed consistent with the *Conservation Plan for Greater Sage-grouse in Idaho* or any future revisions/amendments and or current BLM guidance.
- Commensurate with site potential, manage key habitat for a range of sagebrush canopy cover averaging 15 to 25 percent; at least 15 percent grass cover; and 10 percent cover of a diversity of forbs.

Goal FW-1. Manage wildlife habitats so vegetation composition and structure assures the continued presence of fish and wildlife as part of an ecologically healthy system.

Objective FW-1.1. Maintain and improve wildlife habitats to support IDFG management objectives.

C. Identify the applicable NEPA document(s) and other related documents that cover the proposed action.

List by name and date all applicable NEPA documents that cover the proposed action.

Pocatello Restoration Planting (PRP) (EA # DOI-BLM-ID-I020-2010-0015-EA)

List by name and date other documentation relevant to the proposed action (e.g., source drinking water assessments, biological assessment, biological opinion, watershed assessment, allotment evaluation, rangeland health standards assessment and determinations, and monitoring the report).

IM 2012-043 (12/27/2011), Greater Sage-Grouse Interim Management Policies and Procedures

D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

1. Is the current proposed action substantially the same action (or is a part of that action) as previously analyzed?

Documentation of answer and explanation:

Yes. The Pocatello Restoration Planting EA further describes and analyzes the process of shrub planting that will be used in upland habitat. The EA also assessed preparing the planting site and accessing the planting site with four-wheel drive vehicles and all-terrain vehicles to deliver crews/equipment to the planting sites

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?

Documentation of answer and explanation:

Yes. There are no new concerns, interests, resource values or circumstances dealing with the proposed treatments since the PRP EA which was completed in 2010.

The proposed treatments are in compliance with IM 2012-043, Greater Sage-Grouse Interim Management Policies and Procedures.

3. Is the existing analysis adequate and are the conclusions adequate in light of any new information or circumstances (including, for example, riparian proper functioning condition [PFC] reports; rangeland health standards assessments; Unified Watershed Assessment categorizations; inventory and monitoring data; most recent Fish and Wildlife Service lists of threatened, endangered, proposed, and candidate species; most recent BLM lists of sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that all new information and all new circumstances are insignificant with regard to analysis of the proposed action?

Documentation of answer and explanation:

The existing analysis is adequate. An interdisciplinary (ID) team assessed the fires impacts and developed the treatments to stabilize the resources at risk. The ID team did not identify any special resource concerns or issues that were not addressed within the PRP. There are no threatened or endangered species known to inhabit the project area. The Greater sage-grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*) is a candidate species, but the project would benefit sage-grouse by planting sagebrush in a previously burned areas.

“Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(b), if any unidentified cultural resources are discovered during proposed activities, operations in the immediate area of the discovery would be halted. The discovery would be reported to the BLM, and the BLM or its authorized representatives would be allowed to document and evaluate the discovery, and if appropriate, would be allowed time for the determination and implementation of actions necessary to prevent or mitigate the loss of important cultural values in consultation with the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).”

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

Documentation of answer and explanation:

Yes. The PRP are recent documents that analyzed existing restoration, stabilization and planting techniques. The proposed treatments will utilize the materials and equipment analyzed in this EA.

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 sufficiently analyze site-specific impacts related to the current proposed action?

Documentation of answer and explanation:

Yes. The treatments proposed are specifically identified in the existing EA and analyzed. The EA's analysis of impacts is sufficient because it was based on performing treatments in sites similar to the burned area.

6. Can you conclude without additional analysis or information that the cumulative impacts that would result from implementation of the current proposed action are substantially unchanged from those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)?

Documentation of answer and explanation:

Yes. The cumulative impacts would be the same as those analyzed in the EA's, because the treatments are the same and the area affected is typical for the lands analyzed in the EA's. The FONSI determined that there are no significant impacts to the environment from this type of project.

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

Documentation of answer and explanation:

Yes. The PRP deals directly with shrub planting projects and involved the known interested public. Local affected parties and Idaho Fish and Game were involved in the development of the project.

E. Interdisciplinary Analysis: Identify those team members conducting or participating in the preparation of this worksheet.

Name	Title	Resource Represented
Michael Kuyper	Supervisory Nat Res Specialist	Renewable Resources
James Kumm	Wildlife Specialist	Wildlife
Amy Lapp	Archeologist	Cultural Resources
Shelli Mavor	Fire Ecologist	Fuels/Weeds
Brad Lowe	Habitat Biologist, IDFG	Wildlife

F. Mitigation Measures: List any applicable mitigation measures that were identified, analyzed, and approved in relevant LUPs and existing NEPA document(s). List the specific mitigation measures or identify an attachment that includes those specific mitigation measures. Document that these applicable mitigation measures must be incorporated and implemented.

Cross-country vehicular travel will be allowed through a travel variance.

To avoid the spread of noxious weeds, cross-country vehicular travel would be limited in areas with known noxious weed infestations. Furthermore, any noxious weeds discovered during treatment or during post-treatment monitoring would be treated consistent with the Upper Snake-Pocatello Integrated Weed Control Program Programmatic Environmental Assessment (ID-310-2008-EA-43).

Possible mitigation for cultural sites could include avoiding planting within National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligible cultural sites or only hand planting within NRHP eligible cultural sites. Mitigation measures would be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Access to planting sites would use existing roads in most cases. ATV's would be used to transport planting materials in some cases. No new roads would be established.

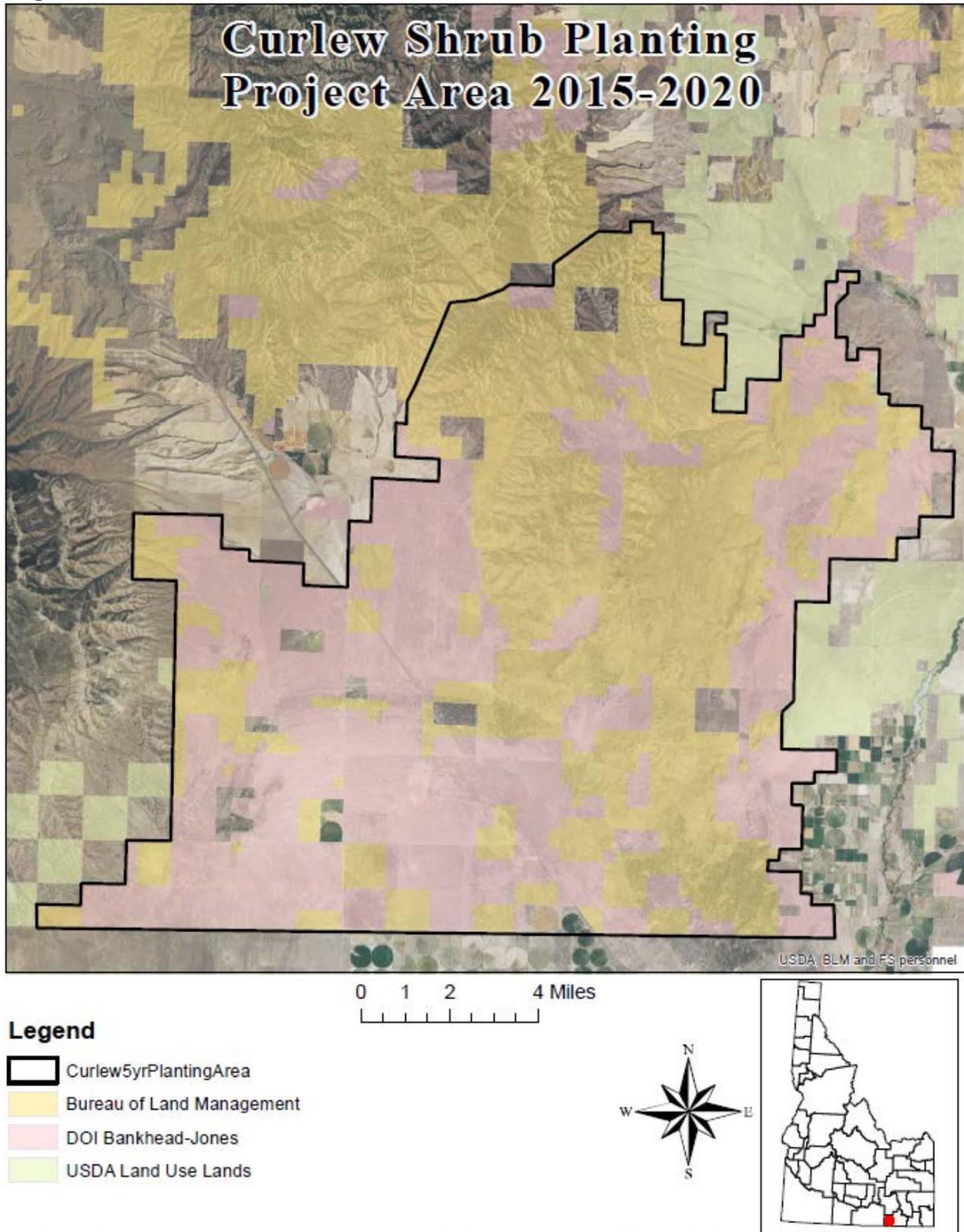
CONCLUSION

Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the 2012 Pocatello Resource Management Plan and that the existing NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of NEPA.

/s/ Shelli Mavor 6/12/2015
 Shelli Mavor, Project Lead Date

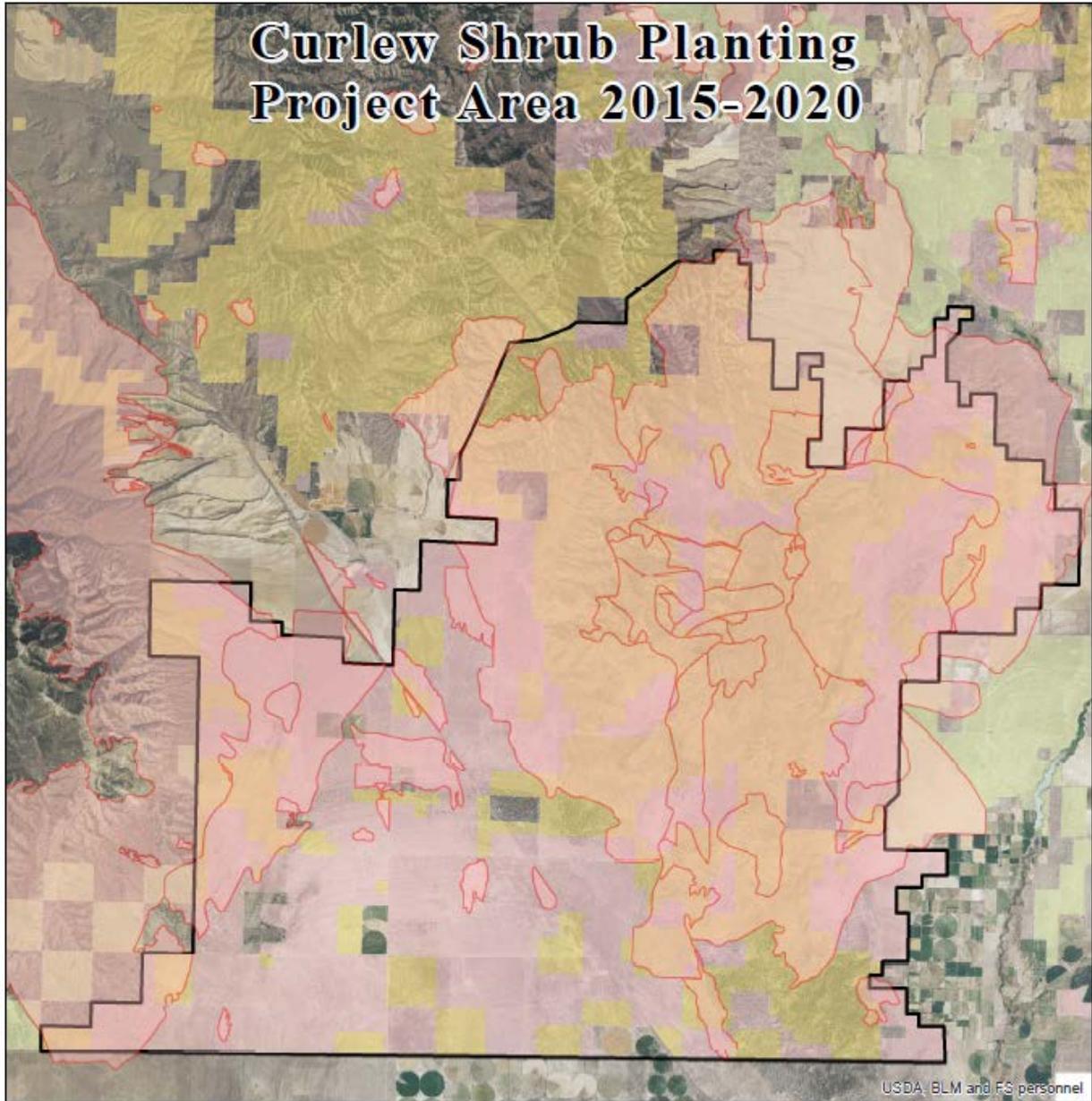
/s/ David Pacioretty 6/15/2015
 David Pacioretty, Field Office Manager Date

Map 1



Map 2

Curlew Shrub Planting Project Area 2015-2020



Legend

-  Curlew5yrPlantingArea
-  Wildfires_History_ID_BLM
-  Bureau of Land Management
-  DOI Bankhead-Jones
-  USDA Land Use Lands

0 1 2 4 Miles



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