

United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Idaho Falls District
Pocatello Field Office
4350 Cliffs Drive
Pocatello, Idaho 83204-2105

DECISION RECORD
for the
Curlew Shrub Planting 2015-2020 Project
NEPA No. DOI-BLM-ID-I020-2015-0034-DNA

I. PROPOSED ACTION

This decision implements shrub planting treatments within the Curlew Valley Area, Oneida County, Idaho. The proposed action is to hand or tractor plant up to approximately 150,000 seedlings (300 acres) of sagebrush and bitterbrush per year among areas lacking expected shrub components. The objective of the proposed action is to aid in system recovery by re-establishing sagebrush cover in areas burned in 2006/2007. Planting will improve habitat for Greater sage-grouse, a candidate for listing under the Endangered Species Act, mule deer winter range, and other sagebrush supported wildlife.

The planting area is located in the south-west corner of the Pocatello Field Office or the areas surrounding Juniper, ID. The Determination of NEPA Adequacy worksheet for this project contains a full description of the proposed action, associated design features, and project area maps.

Based on a review of the existing Environmental Assessment (EA) and Land Use Plan, a Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA) ([DOI-BLM-ID-I020-2015-0034-DNA](#)) was completed and signed on June 15, 2015.

II. PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW

The proposed action is in conformance with the Pocatello Resource Management Plan and associated Record of Decision, signed April 2012.

III. EXISTING NEPA REVIEW

A review of both the Pocatello Restoration Planting (EA # DOI-BLM-ID-I020-2010-0015-EA) and IM 2012-043, Greater Sage-Grouse Interim Management Policies and Procedures was conducted to determine if the proposed actions were adequately analyzed in conformance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The proposed action is addressed in the 2010 Pocatello Restoration Planting EA (DOI-BLM-ID-I020-2010-0015-EA) and it is consistent with IM 2012-043, Greater Sage-Grouse Interim Management Policies and Procedures. The Pocatello Restoration Planting EA analyzed the effects of hand and mechanical planting of shrub seedlings to mitigate loss of upland and riparian

habitats due to recent and historic fire. Design features to protect planting areas and reduce or eliminate potential impacts to sensitive resources contained in the Pocatello Restoration Planning EA were incorporated into the current proposed action.

The Pocatello Restoration Planning EA has been reviewed against the following criteria to determine if it adequately addresses the proposed action. The Determination of NEPA Adequacy worksheet contains a detailed discussion regarding each of the criteria relative to the proposed action.

IV. DECISION

I have decided to implement the Curlew Shrub Planting 2015-2020 project as described in the Determination of NEPA Adequacy worksheet (DOI-BLM-ID-I020-2015-0034-DNA). The project will include all design features described in the proposed action. I have reviewed this plan conformance and NEPA compliance record and have determined that the proposed project is in conformance with the approved land use plan and that no further environmental analysis is required.

It is my decision to implement the following actions outlined in the Curlew Shrub Planting Project.

This includes:

- 1) Hand planting shrub seedlings using one or more of the following methods: hoedads, planting bars, scalping, or augers.
- 2) Tractor planting shrub seedlings.

Rational for Decision:

Implementation of the proposed project will improve ecosystem recovery and Greater sage-grouse habitat in the project area. The project area encompasses 123,300 acres of BLM-administered public and Bankhead Jones lands. This decision is in conformance with the Pocatello Resource Management Plan (approved April 1012).

A review was conducted of the Pocatello Restoration Planting (EA # DOI-BLM-ID-I020-2010-0015-EA) and the IM 2012-043 Greater Sage-Grouse Interim Management Policies and Procedures. It was determined, the EA adequately analyzed the actions proposed in the Curlew Shrub Planting Project and a DNA was completed.

V. APPEALS

Refer to 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 4 for appeals information. Please see attached Appeal form 1842-1 for further information.

/s/ David A. Pacioretty
 David A. Pacioretty
 Pocatello Field Office Manager

6/16/2015
 Date