



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Phoenix District
Hassayampa Field Office
21605 North 7th Avenue
Phoenix, Arizona 85027
www.blm.gov/az/

In Reply Refer To:
9214 (AZP000)
DOI-BLM-AZ-P010-2015-0013-DNA

DECISION

Yarnell DNA
DOI-BLM-AZ-P010-2015-0013-DNA

INTRODUCTION

The Bureau of Land Management, Hassayampa Field Office has prepared the Yarnell Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA) (DOI-BLM-AZ-P010-2015-0013-DNA) to evaluate the potential impacts related to hazardous fuels reduction treatments near the community of Yarnell.

The proposed action is to add 287 acres (See Map 1) of hazardous fuels treatments to the Yarnell Unit of the Hassayampa Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Defense System Project (EA No. DOI-BLM-AZ-P010-2014-0030-EA). The treatments could include mechanical, chemical, biological, seeding, and activity fuel disposal (chipping, pile burning) methods.

BACKGROUND

The BLM has been conducting hazardous fuels reduction around the community of Yarnell. The purpose and need of the action is to reduce the intensity and severity of future wildland fires in the WUI by reducing hazardous fuels on the ground and by creating a defensible buffer to provide for a safer suppression environment. Specifically, this would be accomplished by:

- Reducing shrub density from current hazardous levels
- Reducing overall fuel loading (burnable above-ground biomass) in the WUI
- Reducing average height and decreasing horizontal continuity to reduce anticipated fire behavior in WUI
- Reducing shrub fuel loadings in hazard areas in order to reduce fire behavior in the WUI
- Restoring native vegetation in areas where non-native and noxious weeds have taken over in the WUI.

This action would be adding an additional 287 acres of area to be treated for hazardous fuels reduction.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The public was provided the opportunity to participate in the EA in compliance with 43 CFR 1610.2. The proposed action is the same as that covered in the Finding of No Significant Impact and Environmental Assessment for the Hassayampa Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Defense System EA (February, 2015). Public involvement and interagency review on the original project involved an interdisciplinary team approach and a 30 day public comment period was provided. No public comments were received during the initial comment period.

DECISION

After reviewing the analysis presented in Hassayampa Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Defense System DNA, it is my decision to approve the proposed action as described in the DNA.

RATIONALE

This action is intended to reduce hazardous fuels within the project area. By decreasing woody vegetation, the risk of unwanted wildfire will be greatly reduced. The severity and intensity of wildfire will also be minimized providing a safer suppression environment in the event an unwanted wildfire occurs.

AUTHORITY

This Decision is in conformance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (P.L. 91-190) as amended (72 USC 4321 et. seq.) and the General and Title V of the Federal Land Management Policy Act of 1976 (FLPMA).

APPEAL OF THE DECISION

This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA), Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 CFR, Part 4 and the enclosed Form 1842-1. If an appeal is taken, your notice of appeal must be filed in this office at the above address within 30 days from receipt of this decision. The appellant has the burden of showing that the Decision appealed from is in error.

If you wish to file a petition pursuant to regulation at 43 CFR 3256.11 or 43 CFR 3200.5 for a stay of the effectiveness of this decision during the time that your appeal is being reviewed by the Board, the petition for a stay must accompany your notice of appeal. A petition for a stay is required to show sufficient justification based on the standards listed below. Copies of the notice

of appeal and petition for a stay must also be submitted to each party named in this decision and to the IBLA and to the appropriate Office of the Solicitor (see 43 CFR 4.413) at the same time the original documents are filed in this office. If you request a stay, you have the burden of proof to demonstrate that a stay should be granted.

Standards for Obtaining a Stay

Except as otherwise provided by law or other pertinent regulation, a petition for a stay of a decision pending appeal must show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

1. The relative harm to parties if the stay is granted or denied.
2. The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits.
3. The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted.
4. Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.



Rem Hawes
Field Manager
Hassayampa Field Office



Date