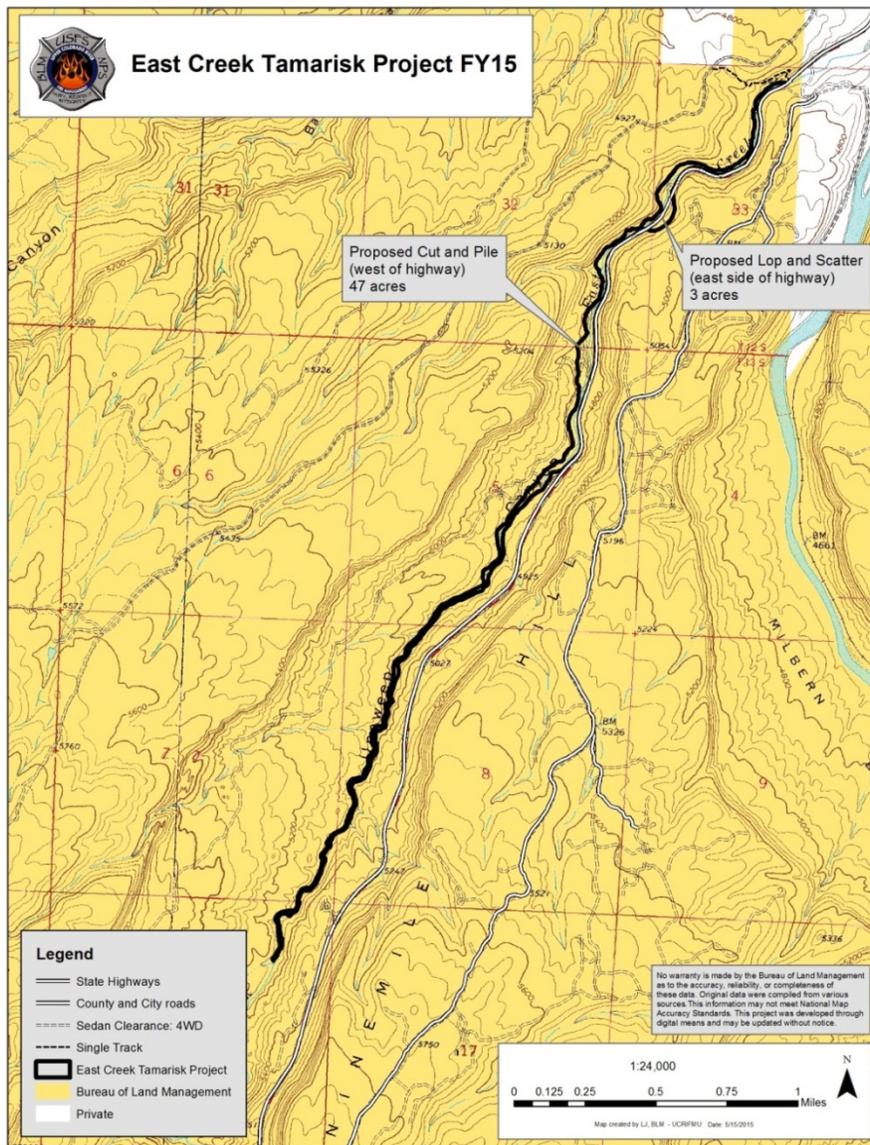


Documentation of Land Use Plan Conformance and NEPA Adequacy (DNA)
U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management
Grand Junction Field Office, Colorado
East Creek Tamarisk
DOI-BLM-CO-N030-2015-0029-DNA

A. Introduction:

The goal of this project is the removal of invasive tamarisk and Russian-Olive from the eastern portion of East Creek along scenic Highway 141, just west of Whitewater, Colorado. Unlike monotypic stands of tamarisk along the river systems, the tamarisk and Russian-Olive in East Creek do not dominate the site. A minimum of understory weeds makes this project attractive for cleaning up a perennial stream system of invasive woody species. Ancillary benefits are the removal of flammable vegetation from an established cottonwood gallery which is susceptible to undesirable damage by fire; improved ecological function of East Creek riparian species; and an improvement to the visual resource in this scenic canyon.



B. Proposed Action:

The proposed action is to manually (chainsaw) treat tamarisk and Russian-Olive along 3½ miles (47 acres) of Highway 141 and East Creek, beginning at the BLM/private boundary approximately 2 miles west of Highway 50. Cutting is planned for the winter months (January-March), but could occur any time of the year and still be effective on the two target species. Crews will apply a cut-stump herbicide (triclopyr + crop oil) to kill the root system on both species. Stumps will be cut as low to the ground as possible.

Slash will be lopped and scattered for the majority of the project. Adjacent to parking areas, crews will stack firewood-sized boles for public pick up. Small diameter tops near parking areas will be scattered in adjacent brush or piled for chipping. Chips will be scattered around the parking areas.

Schedule: Beginning January 2016.

C. Location

The project is located at the east end of the Unaweep-Tabeguache Scenic and Historic Byway along Colorado Highway 141.

D. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance

LUP Name: Grand Junction Field Office Approved RMP Date Approved: August 2015

Decision Number/Page: 25, 26, 27

Decision Language:

VEG-RPN-MA-06:

Where conditions are appropriate, allow removal of tamarisk (*Tamarix* spp.), nonnative elms (*Ulmus* spp.), and Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*) material for biomass or personal use.

VEG-WDS-OBJ-01:

Apply integrated control methods (physical, cultural, biological, chemical, fire) to noxious and invasive pest populations.

VEG-WDS-MA-01:

Prioritize treatment areas for priority noxious and invasive species based on the following criteria:

- Current state, county, and BLM priority weed lists;
- Appropriate time of year for the most effective treatment; and
- River restoration projects.

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

This proposal was analyzed in DOI-BLM-CO-130-2010-0031-EA; The Integrated Weed Management Plan and Programmatic Environmental Assessment (EA), which includes treatment of woody invasive species in riparian areas. Application of weed treatments were also analyzed in the 2015 Grand Junction Field Office Proposed Resource Management Final Environmental

Impact Statement and included in the Grand Junction Field Office Approved Resource Management Plan (DOI/BLM/CO/PL-15/016).

F. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

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

Yes. The programmatic Integrated Weed Management EA addressed the removal of invasive woody species from riparian areas in the manual (e.g. chainsaw) removal section.

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?

Yes. The Proposed Action falls within the range of alternatives and potential treatment methods described in the EA.

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

Yes. The effectiveness and technique of manual treatments using power saws on woody riparian species is unchanged since the EA analyzed this technique.

The project is not inside an area inventoried to have wilderness characteristics. The Wilderness Society provided the BLM information that the area where the project is proposed does have wilderness characteristics. The size, apparent naturalness, and outstanding opportunities of the area proposed by the Wilderness Society would not change as a result of the proposed action. No new roads are proposed, so there would be no boundary changes. The lopping and scatter or chipping techniques would ensure the cut material would lay close to the ground and below the surrounding shrubs. As such, there would be no long-term impacts to the apparent naturalness of the area. The new information provided by the Wilderness Society did not provide any specific information regarding outstanding opportunities along East Creek. As such, there would be no impacts from the proposed action.

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

Yes, the manual treatment of woody invasive species using chainsaws is unchanged.

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. Short and long term impacts of this technique are unchanged from the 2010 EA.

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. The cumulative effects of riparian woody invasive projects benefit the overall health of riparian systems.

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

Yes. Broad support still exists for invasive species removal, especially treatments in riparian areas.

G. Interdisciplinary Analysis:

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

Name	Title
Kevin Hyatt	Hydrologist
Amanda Ewing	Ecologist
Scott Gerwe	Geologist
Alissa Leavitt-Reynolds	Archaeologist
Andy Windsor	Wilderness/VRM
Jim Dollerschell	Range
Alan Kraus	Haz Mat
Robin Lacy	Land Tenure/ROW
Jeff Philips	Fuels

Table 1– Potentially Impacted Resources

Resources	Not Present On Location	No Impact	Potentially Impacted	Effects sufficiently analyzed/mitigated in previous NEPA document?	BLM Evaluator Initial & Date	Comments
PHYSICAL RESOURCES						
Air and Climate	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	KEH 9/16/15	Air Impacts are mitigated through the use of CDPHE permitting requirements
Water (surface & subsurface, floodplains)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	KEH 9/16/15	
Soils	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	KEH 9/16/15	
Geological/Mineral Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	DSG 8/11/15	
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES						
Special Status Plants	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	Ale 9/17/15	Buffer around plants. No OHV use
Special Status Wildlife	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	Ale 9/17/15	
Migratory Birds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ale 9/17/15	May 15- July 15 avoidance
Other Important Wildlife Habitat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	Ale 9/17/15	

Vegetation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	JRD 10/19/15	
Forestry	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	MT 12/17/15	
Invasive, Non-native Species	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	MT 12/17/15	
Riparian Zones/ Wetlands	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	Ale 9/18/15	
HERITAGE RESOURCES AND HUMAN ENVIRONMENT						
Cultural or Historical	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	ALR 12/11/15	Project redesigned to protect cultural resources
Paleontological	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	DSG 8/11/15	
Tribal& American Indian Religious Concerns	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	MH/ALR 10/5/15	Project redesigned to protect cultural resources
Visual Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	AW 9/16/15	
Social/Economic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	CS 9/8/15	
Transportation and Access	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	AW 9/16/15	Impacts associated with access restrictions are covered in the recreation section.
Wastes, Hazardous or Solid	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	AK 9/22/15	Use proper fuel management and herbicide use
LAND RESOURCES						
Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	AW 9/16/15	
Special Designations (ACEC, SMAs, WSR)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	AW 9/16/15	
Wilderness & Wilderness Characteristics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	AW 9/16/15	Project is outside area BLM found to wilderness characteristics, but inside Wilderness Society area
Range Management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	JRD 10/19/15	
Wild Horse and Burros	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	JRD 10/19/15	

Land Tenure, ROW, Other Uses	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	RBL 9/28/15	
Fire/Fuels	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	JP 9/21/15	

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Christina Stark

DATE: 12/17/15

**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**

**East Creek Tamarisk Removal
DOI-BLM-CO-N030-2015-0029-DNA**

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: 12-17-2015

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.

SITE SPECIFIC DESIGN FEATURES

General Design Features:

1. If vegetation removal occurs during the migratory bird nesting season of May 15 to July 15, an authorized biologist will survey vegetation for nesting birds prior to removal of large woody vegetation. Vegetation supporting or near occupied nests will not be removed.
2. A conservation buffer will be applied around all Colorado hookless cactus locations and crew leaders will be familiar with the species.
3. No cross country use of OHVs will be permitted in suitable or occupied Colorado hookless cactus habitat.

Cultural/Tribal Resource:

1. All persons in the area who are associated with this project shall be informed that any person who, without a permit, injures, destroys, excavates, appropriates or removes any historic or prehistoric ruin, artifact, object of antiquity, Native American remains, Native American cultural item, or archaeological resources on public lands is subject to arrest and penalty of law (16 USC 433, 16 USC 470, 18 USC 641, 18 USC 1170, and 18 USC 1361). Strict adherence to the confidentiality of information concerning the nature and location of archeological resources would be required of the proponent and all of their subcontractors (Archaeological Resource Protection Act, 16 U.S.C. 470hh)
2. Inadvertent Discovery: The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) [16 USC 470s., 36 CFR 800.13], as amended, requires that if newly discovered historic or archaeological materials or other cultural resources are identified during the Proposed Action implementation, work in that area must stop and the BLM Authorized Officer (AO) must be notified immediately. Within five working days the AO will determine the actions that will likely have to be completed before the site can be used (assuming in place preservation is not necessary).
3. The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) [25 USC 3001 et seq., 43 CFR 10.4] requires that if inadvertent discovery of Native American Human Remains or Objects of Cultural Patrimony occurs, any activity must cease in the area of discovery, a reasonable effort made to protect the item(s) discovered, and immediate notice be made to the BLM Authorized Officer, as well as the appropriate Native American group(s) (IV.C.2). Notice may be followed by a 30-day delay (NAGPRA Section 3(d)).
4. The BLM may relocate activities to avoid the expense of mitigation and delays associated with this process, as long as the new area has been appropriately inventoried and has no resource concerns, and the exposed materials are recorded and stabilized. Otherwise, the operator shall be responsible for mitigation costs. The BLM authorized officer will provide technical and procedural guidelines for relocation and/or to conduct mitigation. Upon verification from the BLM authorized officer that the required mitigation has been completed, the operator will be allowed to resume construction.
5. Antiquities, historic ruins, prehistoric ruins, and other cultural or paleontological objects of

scientific interest that are outside the authorization boundaries but potentially affected, either directly or indirectly, by the proposed action shall also be included in this evaluation or mitigation. Impacts that occur to such resources as a result of the authorized activities shall be mitigated at the operator's cost, including the cost of consultation with Native American groups