

**Decision Record**  
**Carpenter Road Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation**  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management, Spokane District  
Border Field Office  
1103 North Fancher Road  
Spokane Valley, WA 99212

## Background

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Border Field Office prepared the Carpenter Road Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Environmental Assessment (EA-DOI-BLM-ORWA-W030-2015-0014-EA) to consider whether to conduct stabilization and rehabilitation treatments following the Carpenter Road wildfire. The Carpenter Road Fire started on August 14, 2015, and burned approximately 65,012 acres including 7,649 acres of BLM managed land. The Carpenter Road fire was located in the Huckleberry Mountain range in Stevens County, approximately 7 miles east of Fruitland, WA.

The purpose of this project is to mitigate the damage caused by the Carpenter Road fire. The wildfire damaged both infrastructure (fences and roads) and natural resources.

## Decision

I have decided to implement Alternative 1 (Proposed Action) as described on pages 3-5 of the EA; hereinafter referred to as the selected alternative. My decision is based on site-specific analysis in the EA, the supporting project record, as well as the management direction contained in the 1987 Spokane District Resource Management Plan (RMP) as amended. The Carpenter Road Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) indicates that the selected action has been analyzed and would not result in any significant environmental effects. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement is not required and will not be prepared.

My decision includes stabilization cultural resource sites, repairing approximately 4 miles of fence, repairing and maintaining approximately 20 miles of road, removing hazard trees along existing roads, and controlling noxious weeds and invasive plants.

## Rationale for the Decision

I have reviewed the information provided in the EA and project record. The selected alternative is consistent with the Spokane Resource Management Plan Record of Decision (RMP/ROD) (1987) as amended. The RMP/ROD (p. 42) states “All unplanned ignitions (wildfires) will have a timely post burn review and evaluation in order to define appropriate rehabilitation and/or monitoring needs”. Even though post-



fire stabilization and rehabilitation actions are not specifically addressed in the RMP, conducting a post-fire review and proposing treatments to repair damage caused by wildfires is clearly consistent with the general management objectives (p. 12) of protecting or enhancing water quality, maintaining and/or improving range productivity, and managing upland habitat for wildlife species.

The selected alternative would best fulfill the purpose and need of the project. The selected alternative would help to repair damage caused by wildfire in the project area.

### **Public Involvement**

The BLM solicited public comments on this EA. A scoping notice was also posted on the internet on October 2, 2015. No comments were received.

### **Administrative Appeal**

My decision is issued under the authority of 43 CFR 5003. Because this is a wildland fire management decision pursuant to 43 CFR 5003, my decision is effective immediately and implementation can occur immediately.

This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 CFR, Part 4. Any party that feels they are adversely affected by this decision has 30 days from the date this decision is made available to file an appeal. Any notice of appeal must be sent to:

Border Field Manager  
Bureau of Land Management  
1103 N. Fancher Rd.  
Spokane, WA 99212

Filing a notice of appeal under 43 CFR part 4 does not automatically suspend the effect of this decision. If you wish to file a petition for a stay of the effectiveness of this decision (see 43 CFR 4.21) during the time that your appeal is being reviewed by the Board, the petition for a stay must accompany your notice of appeal. Except as otherwise provided by law or other pertinent regulation, a petition for a stay of a decision pending appeal shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

1. The relative harm to the 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 or not the public interest favors granting the stay.

A copy of your notice of appeal and any petition for stay must also be sent to:

Regional Solicitor Pacific Northwest Region  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
805 SW Broadway, Suite 600  
Portland, OR 97205

You may include a statement of reasons when you file the notice of appeal with the Border Field Manager and Regional Solicitor, or you may file the statement of reasons within 30 days after you file the appeal. If you file the statement of reasons separately, you must also send it to:

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Office of Hearings and Appeal, Interior Board of Land Appeals  
801 N. Quincy Street, MS 300-QC  
Arlington, VA 22203

/s/ Lindsey Babcock

11-6-2015

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Lindsey Babcock  
Field Manager

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Date