

**UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
GRAND JUNCTION FIELD OFFICE
2815 H Road, Grand Junction, CO 81506**

DECISION RECORD

Farmers Canyon/Wagon Park Restoration

DOI-BLM-CO-N060-2016-0001-EA

DECISION:

It is my decision to authorize the Proposed Action as described in the attached EA. The Proposed Action is to mechanically treat approximately 3,700 acres with a hydro-ax or similar type of equipment and hand thinning using chainsaws. The Proposed Action would also include optional follow up treatments for up to ten years following initial treatment. Follow up treatments may utilize chainsaw thinning and or chipping for ecosystem maintenance.

This decision is contingent on meeting all mitigation measures and monitoring requirements listed below.

Scoping, by posting this project on the BLM ePlanning NEPA website, was the primary mechanism used by the BLM to initially identify issues. Private landowners that would be potentially affected were notified of the proposal. No comments were received.

This office completed an Environmental Assessment and reached a Finding of No Significant Impact.

RATIONALE:

I have decided to implement this project because it would meet the purpose and need to reduce fuel loadings and help improve sage grouse along with other wildlife habitat. An EA was prepared for this project and we found that no significant impacts would result.

MITIGATION MEASURES\MONITORING:

1. Locate, flag, and protect any survey monuments (brass cap monuments, bearing trees, private monuments) that may exist in this project area.
2. Areas to be avoided by equipment to protect other resource values would be flagged prior to project implementation.
3. To prevent the spread of noxious weeds, equipment would be cleaned through established procedures as BLM Policy.

4. Fueling and maintenance activities should not be conducted within 100 feet of any drainage or watercourse. All spills of fuel and lubricants should be reported to the BLM and should be cleaned up promptly. Fueling of machinery and storage of fuel would be accomplished through established BLM procedures.
5. Determine boundaries of the treatment areas near private lands prior to fuel reduction to avoid treatment of private lands.
6. Existing roads and trails would be used by agency personnel to eliminate development of new routes and trails. When driving off roads, personnel would avoid repeatedly driving back and forth via the same route.
7. Schedule project work outside of the dates May 15th and July 15th, to protect species identified by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.
8. Coordinate with the Colorado Department of Parks and Wildlife to best determine timing and operation procedures to limit any possible wildlife winter range issues.
9. All road, telephone, and power line rights-of-ways and facilities will be located and flagged prior to commencement of the project to assure that no damage will occur.
10. Heavy equipment use will not occur when soils are saturated to a depth of three inches or more. All drainage courses will be protected from any impacts associated with operation of heavy equipment (e.g. bank shearing, de-stabilization of existing drainage patterns, etc.). In these areas closest to drainages, alternative methods for treating vegetation (e.g. hand crews) will be used.
11. Where possible, project boundaries will be flagged using the naturally occurring lines in the landscape. Implementation along straight lines will be avoided to reduce the level of contrast between the project area and the surrounding landscape.
12. To ensure trees with nesting raptors are not removed, trees in project areas will be checked by a BLM specialist for active raptor nests. If occupied nest are found, the CPW recommended buffer zones and seasonal restrictions around raptor use sites will be employed.

PROTEST/APPEALS:

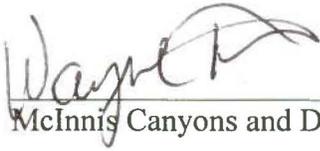
This decision shall take effect immediately upon the date it is signed by the Authorized Officer, and shall remain in effect while any appeal is pending unless the Interior Board of Land Appeals issues a stay. Any appeal of this decision must follow the procedures set forth in 43 CFR Part 4. Within 30 days of the decision, a notice of appeal must be filed in the office of the Authorized Officer at Grand Junction Field Office, 2815 H Road, Grand Junction, Colorado, 81506. If a statement of reasons for the appeal is not included with the notice, it must be filed with the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of Hearings and Appeals, U.S. Department of the Interior, 801 North Quincy St., Suite 300, Arlington, VA 22203 within 30 days after the notice of appeal is filed with the Authorized Officer.

NAME OF PREPARER: Jeff Phillips

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Christina Stark

DATE: 6/24/16

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:



McInnis Canyons and Dominguez-Escalante NCA Manager

DATE SIGNED: 6-24-16

ATTACHMENTS:

- 1) EA including proposed action, project map and design features