

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
EAGLE LAKE FIELD OFFICE

DECISION RECORD

**Twin Tables Water Source & Riparian Enhancement Projects
DOI-BLM-CA-N050-2018-003-DNA**

Project Location

The project is located across the Eagle Lake Field Office (ELFO) resource area in Lassen County, California, and Washoe County, Nevada.

Description of Proposed Action

The proposed action is to repair, enhance, and develop five water sources within the Tablelands and Twin Peaks grazing allotments. The projects are a combination of new water source improvements, repairs, reconstruction, and modifications of existing water developments. Improving these sites will increase water source availability across the landscape with the goal of improving riparian and rangeland conditions. The following equipment will be used to complete the maintenance activities: backhoe, dozer, dump truck, bobcat, service/utility trucks, and all-terrain vehicles. No new roads and/or trails would be created.

Project Design Features: The BLM would include the following best management practices as part of the proposed action:

- Surveys (archaeological, botanical, and wildlife) would be completed as needed prior to project implementation.
- All locations not previously inventoried for cultural resources will be inventoried prior to all project activities.

Land Use Plan Conformance

The proposed action is in conformance with the LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decisions (objectives, terms, and conditions) and, if applicable, implementation plan decisions, under Livestock Grazing, 2.8:

- “Rangeland improvements would be implemented through a variety of methods used in combination on a site-specific basis. These would include prescribed fire, mechanical treatments, biological treatments, chemical agents, seeding with native perennials, maintaining seeded areas, modifying or changing grazing practices, developing and/or maintaining watering facilities (e.g., wells, spring developments, catchments, and new technology for pumping water [solar and wind power]), and new and reconditioned fencing (built to BLM wildlife specifications). Between 60 and 80 miles of new or rebuilt fencing would be built over a 20-year period, if deemed necessary to facilitate other improvements. Old fences that are not compatible with current fence standards would be modified to meet BLM wildlife specifications after BLM determines that they need to be rebuilt.”
- “When water sources are developed for livestock grazing, the needs of wildlife and wild horses would also be considered. Water would be retained or provided at ground level on all naturally-occurring sources developed for livestock use-including springs, seeps, and perennial or ephemeral streams. Natural riparian habitat and cover around a substantial portion of these sources would be protected for wildlife use. This would be accomplished by piping livestock water a sufficient distance to minimize livestock impacts or by enclosure fencing. As funding

and technology allow, existing water sources developed from wells or pipelines would be retrofitted (on a priority basis) to provide water at ground level.”

The Proposed Action is also in compliance with the Nevada and Northeastern California Greater Sage-grouse Land Use Plan Amendment and Final EIS, 2015.

National Environmental Policy Act Compliance

The Proposed Action is in accordance with the 2016 Eagle Lake Field Office (ELFO) Water Sources and Riparian Enhancement Programmatic Environmental Assessment and Decision Record #DOI-BLM-CA-N050-2016-04-EA:

- **Section 2.1.1 Water Source Enhancement Projects**

“Modification to existing structures includes the removal, replacement, and/or modification of existing structures at water sources and conducting rehabilitation of soils and vegetation necessary to achieve or make progress toward meeting Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) and achieve land health standards and other objectives.”

“Installations of new water developments include the construction, operation and maintenance of new water facilities at sites where no current developments exists. New water developments are often necessary to protecting water sources and associated riparian habitats. The objective of installing new water developments outside of riparian areas is to provide reliable water sources for wildlife and improve distribution of livestock and WH&B, particularly where new water sources would decrease hot season grazing on riparian areas.”

- **Section 2.1.2 Riparian Enhancement Projects**

“Riparian vegetation projects would include planting native vegetation within or immediately adjacent to riparian plant communities.”

“Stream enhancement projects would be implemented for riparian sites identified as non-functioning or functioning at risk and site-specific analysis indicates high probability of success. Restoration would be prioritized in areas that have not crossed an ecological threshold. Site-specific designs intended to trap sediment and stabilize or rebuild floodplains would be implemented.”

“Riparian fence projects include construction and maintenance of fences designed to prevent livestock or WH&B grazing in riparian zones.”

Decision

After review of the above possible exemptions it is my finding that the proposed action as described in DNA #DOI-BLM-CA-N050-2018-003-DNA is in the same area as the proposed action analyzed within the 2016 Eagle Lake Field Office (ELFO) Water Sources and Riparian Enhancement Programmatic Environmental Assessment and Decision Record #DOI-BLM-CA-N050-2016-04 and is substantially the same action.. It is my decision to implement the proposed action as described.

Administrative Remedies

This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations contained in Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 4 and BLM Form 1842-1. If an appeal is taken, a notice of appeal must be filed in the Eagle Lake Field Office, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Department of the Interior, 2550 Riverside Drive, Susanville, California 96130, 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 for a stay of the effectiveness of this decision during the time that your appeal is being reviewed by the board, pursuant to Title 43 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 4, Subpart E, 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 the Interior Board of Land Appeals and to the appropriate Office of the Solicitor (see 43 CFR 4.413) at the same time the original documents are filed with this office. If you request a stay, you have the burden of proof to demonstrate that a stay should be granted.

Standards to Obtaining a Stay:

Except as otherwise provided by law or other pertinent regulations, 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; and
- (4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

Approved By: 
Brian Novosak
Eagle Lake Field Manager

Date 6/13/18



.

.



.

.

.

.