

**U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Kremmling Field Office  
P.O. Box 68  
Kremmling, CO 80459**

## **ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

NUMBER: CO-120-2008-58-EA

PROJECT NAME: Elliot Creek Sagebrush Treatment (Harrow)

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T. 1 N., R. 80 W., Sec 36  
T. 1 S., R. 80 W., Sec 1, 2, 7, & 12

APPLICANT: BLM

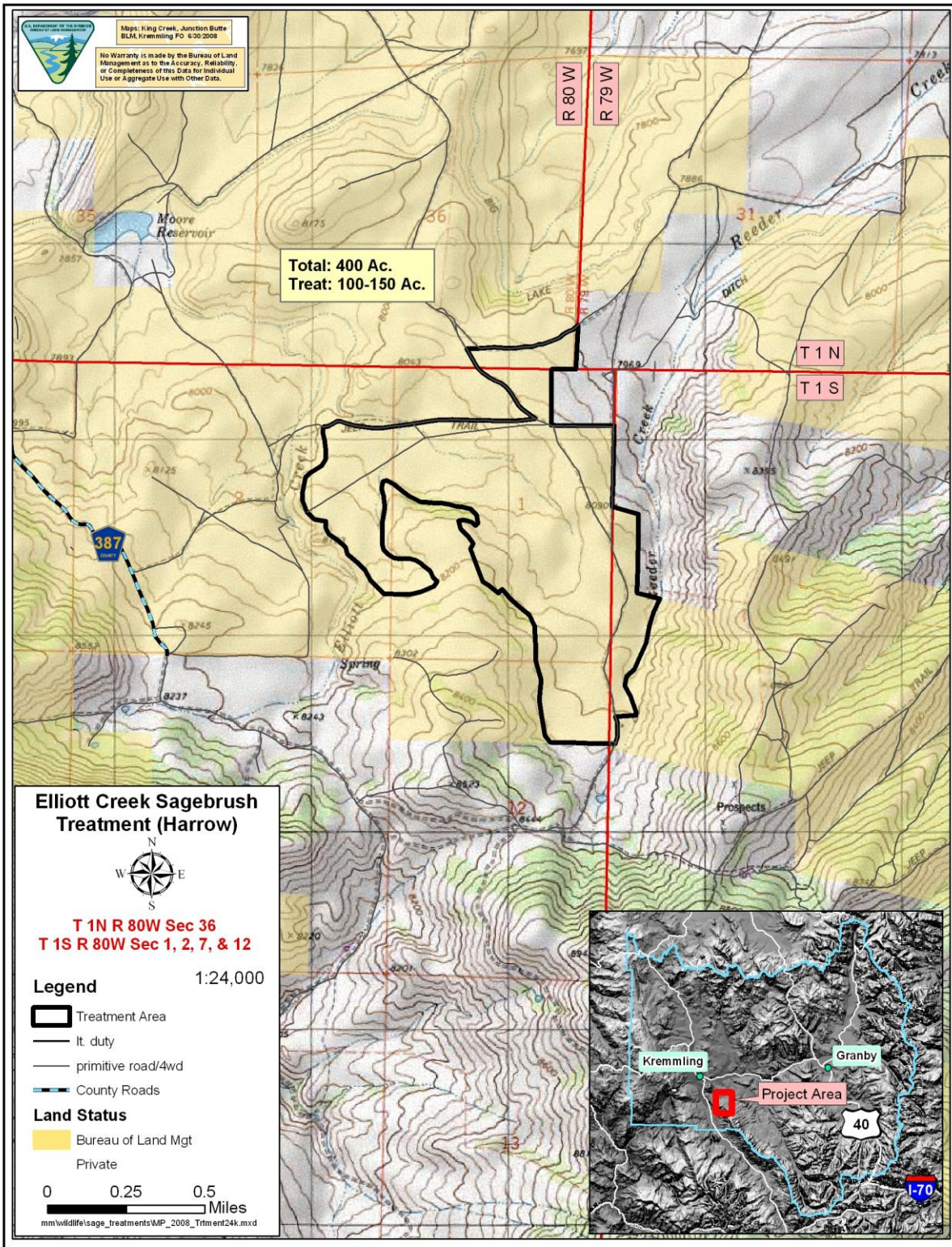
DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES:

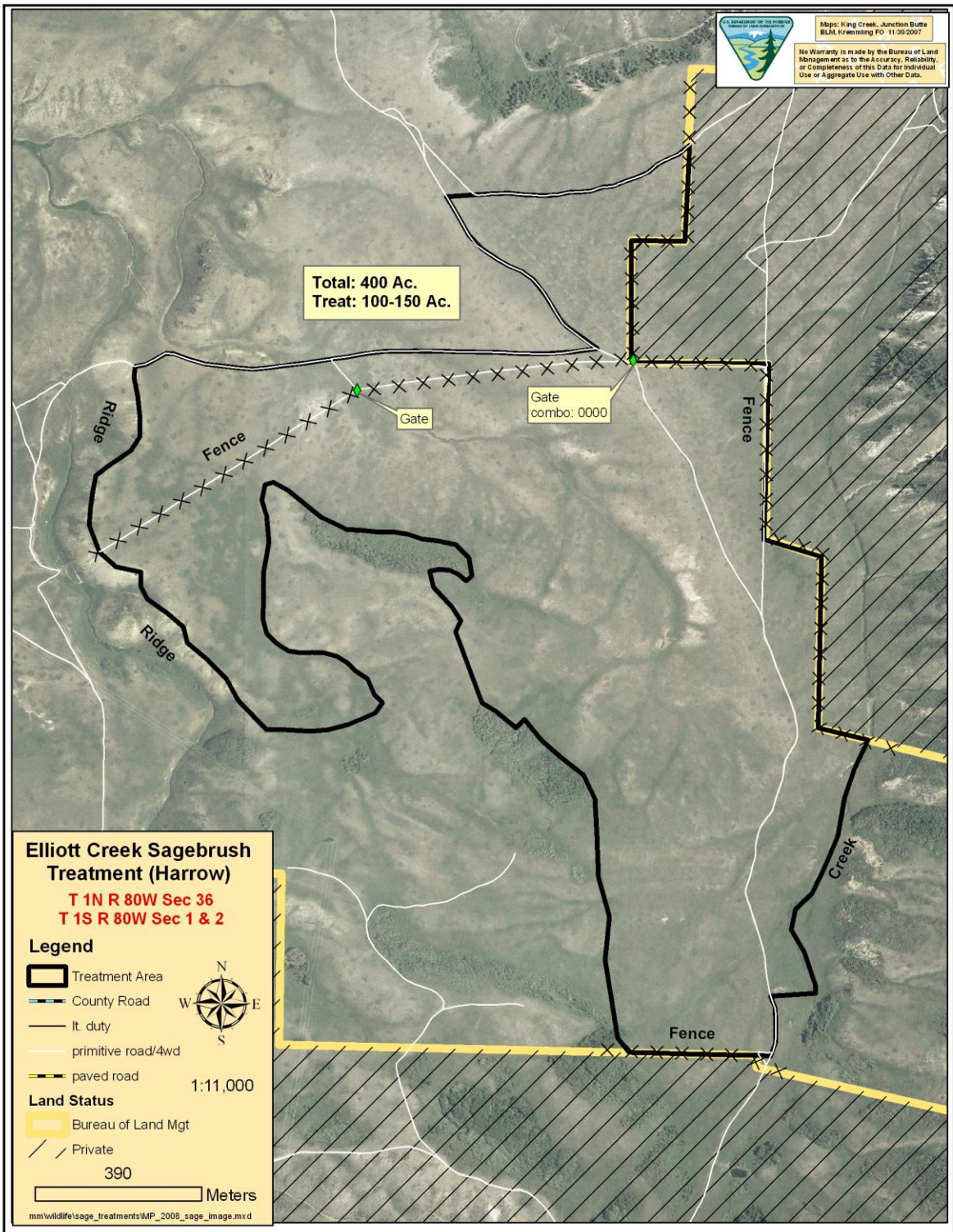
Proposed Action: The proposed project would involve using a Dixie Harrow to treat approximately 100-150 acres of sagebrush (see project maps below). The harrow would be pulled by a heavy rubber tired tractor. This method would remove older more decadent sagebrush plants, increase the productivity of young sagebrush, grasses and forbs, and allow native species to be more competitive with invasive plants. The harrow would be applied in multiple strips ranging from 30-40 foot-wide, with each strip separated by 50-70 feet of vegetation that has not been manipulated. The proposed treatment would occur in the fall of 2008 through a Habitat Partnership Program (HPP) contract, after sagebrush plants have become brittle and dry.

Design features of the Proposed Action:

- The area would require monitoring for two years following treatment. If livestock are found in the project area, a means of excluding livestock from the area, such as an electric fence, would be implemented.
- The treatment would only occur during dry soil conditions to prevent rutting/soil compaction due to wet soils.
- Prior to treatment, measurements would be made in existing sagebrush stands in the area to determine canopy cover so that the appropriate treatments can be made.
- The treated area would be monitored during implementation to determine if two passes with the Dixie Harrow are needed to reduce sagebrush to levels which would be more beneficial for sage grouse or if one pass would provide a more desirable sagebrush canopy.

- Machinery accessing the project area should remain on existing roads. The project area should be monitored after implementation, with any new routes being closed utilizing signs and fencing as needed.





No Action Alternative: The treatment would not be implemented. This alternative would result in habitat conditions for deer, elk, sage-grouse, and other sagebrush dependent species remaining as they currently exist and no improvement of vegetative conditions would occur.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT NOT CARRIED FORWARD: No other alternatives were considered.

PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE ACTION: The objective of proposed project is to improve both the quality and quantity of forage for Rocky Mountain elk, mule deer, sage-grouse and other wildlife species that depend on the sagebrush steppe vegetative type.

There is a need to consider the project because greater sage-grouse, a BLM-designated sensitive species, depend on sagebrush dominated public lands for their survival. Recent interest in sage-grouse due to declining habitat and populations through their native range has prompted BLM to manage sagebrush habitat to reverse these declines. The proposed harrow project would follow the BLM's recent mandates to conserve sage-grouse and improve their habitat.

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW: The Proposed Action is subject to and has been reviewed for conformance with the following plan (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM 1617.3):

Name of Plan: Kremmling Resource Management Plan (RMP), Record of Decision (ROD)

Date Approved: December 19, 1984; Updated February 1999

Decision Number/Page: Livestock Grazing, pages 6 through 8, as revised.

Decision Language: Investing in cost-effective range improvements (primarily through public investment) to implement grazing systems and meet the specific objectives of AMP's.

Decision Number/Page: Decision 5.a., page 8

Decision Language: Manage public land habitat to support optimum wildlife population levels as determined by the Colorado Division of Wildlife's Strategic Plan. Emphasis will be placed on intensively managing critical and important wildlife habitats 326,000 acres of upland, 3 miles of riparian, 3,000 acres of wetlands and 53 miles of stream. All threatened and endangered plant and wildlife habitats will be protected as required by law and regulation.

Standards for Public Land Health: In January 1997, Colorado Bureau of Land Management (BLM) approved the Standards for Public Land Health. Standards describe conditions needed to sustain public land health and relate to all uses of the public lands. The following are the approved standards:

<b>Standard</b>	<b>Definition/Statement</b>
#1 Upland Soils	Upland soils exhibit infiltration and permeability rates that are appropriate to soil type, climate, land form, and geologic processes. Adequate soil infiltration and permeability allows for the accumulation of soil moisture necessary for optimal plant growth and vigor, and minimizes

	surface runoff.
#2 Riparian Systems	Riparian systems associated with both running and standing water, function properly and have the ability to recover from major surface disturbances such as fire, severe grazing, or 100-year floods. Riparian vegetation captures sediment, and provides forage, habitat and bio-diversity. Water quality is improved or maintained. Stable soils store and release water slowly.
#3 Plant and Animal Communities	Healthy, productive plant and animal communities of native and other desirable species are maintained at viable population levels commensurate with the species and habitat's potential. Plants and animals at both the community and population level are productive, resilient, diverse, vigorous, and able to reproduce and sustain natural fluctuations, and ecological processes.
#4 Threatened and Endangered Species	Special status, threatened and endangered species (federal and state), and other plants and animals officially designated by the BLM, and their habitats are maintained or enhanced by sustaining healthy, native plant and animal communities.
#5 Water Quality	The water quality of all water bodies, including ground water where applicable, located on or influenced by BLM lands will achieve or exceed the Water Quality Standards established by the State of Colorado. Water Quality Standards for surface and ground waters include the designated beneficial uses, numeric criteria, narrative criteria, and anti-degradation requirements set forth under State law as found in (5 CCR 1002-8), as required by Section 303(c) of the Clean Water Act.

Because a standard exists for these five categories, a finding must be made for each of them in the environmental analysis. These findings are located in specific elements below or in the Interdisciplinary Team Analysis Review Record and Checklist (IDT-RRC) (Appendix 1).

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT / ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES / MITIGATION MEASURES:

CRITICAL ELEMENTS: The following critical elements were determined to be potentially impacted and were carried forward for analysis from the IDT-RRC in Appendix 1.

**MIGRATORY BIRDS**

**Affected Environment:** A variety of migratory bird species, primarily birds of prey and songbirds, have been observed in allotments # 07556 and #07553. Surveys conducted in 1994 by the Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas Partnership recorded many species including Swainson's hawks, Red-tailed hawks, Golden Eagles, Green-tailed Towhee, Mountain and Western Bluebirds, Sage Thrasher, Horned Lark, Killdeer, Loggerhead Shrike, American Kestrel, Common Nighthawk, and others. These species inhabit the sagebrush steppe uplands within the allotment.

**Environmental Consequences:** The proposed treatment should improve habitat conditions for migratory birds using the treatment area. The proposed treatment would provide for grass and forb production by reducing sagebrush occurring in the treatment area. The expected increase in grass and forb productivity would provide additional high quality forage, cover, and nesting habitat. Young sagebrush plants would return to the treated areas over time and would also provide high quality cover and nesting habitat, adding diversity to the existing monotypic age class of sagebrush which currently exists in the project area.

The No Action alternative would result in the continued limited productivity of vegetation within the Dixie Harrow project area. Understory grasses and forbs would not be able to flourish due to the continued dominance of sagebrush on these sites. Food, cover, and nesting habitat for migratory birds would be limited in the future due to the low productivity of grasses and forbs in the sagebrush understory and overabundance of mature sagebrush.

**THREATENED, ENDANGERED, AND SENSITIVE SPECIES (includes a finding on Standard 4)**

**Affected Environment:** A list of threatened, endangered, and candidate species which could inhabit the proposed project area was received from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) March 31, 2008. Analysis of this list indicated that no listed species would be impacted by the proposed project.

The proposed treatment areas provide habitat for a variety of the Greater sage-grouse, a BLM-designated sensitive species. Three sage-grouse breeding complexes, known as leks, are located within four miles of the treatment proposed in the Orr and Mayhoffer allotments. Since 80% of sage-grouse nesting occurs within four miles of leks, sage-grouse likely nest in suitable habitat in the proposed treatment areas within the Orr and Mayhoffer allotments. The area is also mapped as brood-rearing habitat, winter habitat, and sage-grouse core area identified by the Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW).

Under-story vegetation, which is important for successful sage-grouse nesting, is lacking in the project area. Over-abundance of sagebrush and past grazing practices has resulted in the reduction of grasses and forbs.

Environmental Consequences: The proposed vegetative treatment project would benefit sage-grouse if sufficient sagebrush canopy remains to provide nesting cover. Prior to treatment, measurements should be made in existing sagebrush stands in the area to determine canopy cover. Once these measurements are made, the selection of either one or two treatments with the Dixie Harrow can be made so that sage-grouse nesting cover requirements would improve by treatment. One pass over the treatment area may be sufficient to improve sage-grouse nesting cover while two passes with the harrow could reduce the sagebrush canopy to a level which would render treated areas unusable for sage-grouse nesting for some years in the future. The treated area would be monitored during treatment to determine if two passes with the Dixie Harrow are needed to reduce sagebrush to levels which would be more beneficial for sage-grouse or if one pass would provide a more desirable sagebrush canopy.

Under the No Action Alternative, the project areas would remain as they currently exist. Understory grasses and forbs would continue to exist at levels below optimum for wildlife, especially sage-grouse. Sagebrush canopy would continue to prohibit grass and forb production to increase in both quality and quantity. Sage-grouse nesting and brood rearing would continue to be limited by the over-abundance of sage and lack of grass and forb understory.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for Threatened & Endangered species: The project consists of two BLM livestock grazing allotments. Allotment # 07556 (Orr) was assessed for compliance with the Standards for Public Land Health in Colorado (Standards) on June 8, 2006 and Allotment # 07553 (Mayhoffer) was assessed on July 9, 2008. Both allotments were found to be in compliance with Standard 4.

NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS: The following non-critical elements were determined to be potentially impacted and were carried forward for analysis from the IDT-RRC in Appendix 1.

## RANGE MANAGEMENT

**Affected Environment:** The proposed project area includes parts of livestock grazing allotments # 07556 (Orr) and # 07553 (Mayhoffer). Allotment # 07556 (Orr) is authorized for 603 Animal Unit Months (AUMs) with a grazing season from 6/1 through 10/31. The area is grazed as part of a guest ranch horse riding operation. Horse rides are used to give a more historic experience by herding the cattle and moving them from one section of the allotment to another.

Only approximately 40-acres of Allotment # 07553 (Mayhoffer) is included in the project area. The entire allotment is authorized for 200 AUMS with a grazing season from 6/20 – 8/12. The part of the allotment within the project area is in the upper section of the allotment and only receives very light, if any, livestock grazing use each year.

**Environmental Consequences:** Since allotment # 07556 (Orr) is used as a historic horse riding experience and the cattle are herded and moved daily by the riders, the area would not require exclusion. The permittee has agreed to use his guests to keep the cattle from the project area. The part of Allotment # 07553 (Mayhoffer) within the project area includes approximately 40 acres in the upper reaches of the allotment that are seldom grazed by livestock. No exclusion area would need to be created, as the chance of livestock grazing the area is small. The area would require monitoring for two years following treatment and if livestock are found in the project area, a means of excluding livestock from the area, such as an electric fence, would be implemented.

Under the No Action Alternative, grazing would continue to occur in the allotments.

## SOILS

**Affected Environment:** Soil information is from the Grand County Soil Survey and has not been field verified for the project. Although there is several small soil mapping units within the project area, much of the area is mapped as a Leavitt loam, 6-15% slopes. The soil formed in local alluvium from sedimentary rock and is in a mountain loam range site. The surface loam texture is underlain by clay loams and has high plant available moisture. The soil is not considered highly erodible by wind or water and is in the 'B' hydrologic soil group. The Leavitt loam is rated as having "fair" potential for grasses, legumes, wild herbaceous plants, and rangeland wildlife habitat.

The W ½ SE ¼ of Section 1 is mapped as a Tamp gravelly sandy loam, 15-60% slopes, which is in a stony loam range site. The Tamp soils formed in weathered metamorphic and granitic rocks and have rock content throughout the horizon that varies from 15-35%. The soil has moderate plant available water and moderate permeability. The soil is not considered highly erodible by water or wind.

The remaining major soil mapping unit occurs in the NE ¼ of Section 12. The Anvik loam, 6-15% slopes, formed in colluviums or glacial drift. The loamy surface textures (0-20") are

underlain by clay loams to very cobbly clay loams. The soil is in the subalpine loam range site and has high plant available water. The soil is not considered highly erodible by wind or water.

**Environmental Consequences:** The harrow would break up the soil surface, increasing the roughness of the soil. This roughness is necessary for a good seed bed and can help hold moisture onsite. The harrow also leaves the vegetative litter of sagebrush and grasses onsite after treatment. This litter can provide soil protection from wind and water erosion by creating a rough surface that slows water runoff and holds additional moisture. The amount of soil erosion would vary depending on the density of the existing vegetation cover and the weather following treatment.

The proposed area's slopes are fairly gentle and less than 35%. By treating the site in the fall, there could be exposed or erodible soil during snowmelt, but new vegetation would have the greatest chance of establishing prior to the high intensity summer thunderstorms. By treating the area in strips, a buffer of undisturbed vegetation exists to further reduce potential wind or water erosion until the treatment is re-vegetated. The site appears to have good potential to responding to the treatment and should be well vegetated within a two year period. The establishment of an increased vegetative understory would benefit soil resources in the long-term. A decadent overstory does not offer much soil protection from runoff. Removing some of the overstory would increase overall ground cover and could increase litter incorporation into the soil.

Under the No Action Alternative, present conditions would be expected to continue. Current grazing utilization is light, but the dense sagebrush canopy does not allow for increased ground cover and herbaceous production. Opportunities to improve the soil resources by reducing the overstory and increasing the understory production would be foregone.

**Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for upland soils:** Lack of historic grazing management on these soils tends to result in sagebrush dominance of the site. Without brush treatment, this dominance would continue, which does not fully benefit soil health. The Proposed Action would help maintain or improve long term soil health.

#### VEGETATION (includes a finding on Standard 3)

**Affected Environment:** The project area is almost entirely comprised of sagebrush steppe vegetation community. A few scattered aspen are included in the project area but they would not be disturbed by the Proposed Action. The big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*) is dense and fairly short, 1'-2', in most places. In other areas, the density is about the same but the sagebrush is taller, 2'-3'. Most of the understory vegetation is native grasses and forbs. The southern portion has been seeded in the past with smooth brome (*Bromus inermis*), and crested wheatgrass (*Agropyron cristatum*). Forbs and native grass species are sparse in the seeded area due to the ability of the non-natives to prohibit the growth of other species. The majority of the project consists of native species. Shrubs include broom snakeweed (*Gutierrezia sarothrae*), and snowberry (*Symphoricarpos* spp), and rabbitbrush (*Chrysothamnus* spp), and an occasional serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*). Grasses include Sandburg bluegrass (*Poa secunda*), muttongrass (*Poa fendleriana*), western wheatgrass (*Pascopyrum smithii*), bottlebrush squirreltail (*Elymus elymoides*), pine needlegrass (*Achnatherum pinetorum*), June grass (*Koeleria macrantha*), and sedge (*Carex* spp). Forbs are relatively abundant and are composed of wild buckwheat (*Eriogonum* spp), bastard-toadflax (*Comandra umbellata*), phlox (*Phlox* spp),

pussytoes (*Antennaria* spp), penstemon (*Penstemon* spp), lupine (*Lupinus* spp), daisy (*Erigeron* spp), rush astragalus, aster (*Machaeranthera tanacetifolia*), mat pentstemon (*Penstemon caespitosus*), stonecrop (*Sedum* spp).

Environmental Consequences: The Proposed Action would create a beneficial disturbance to the vegetation in the project area. The purpose of the Dixie Harrow is to kill some of the sagebrush, open the dense sagebrush stands, and allow for the expansion and improved vigor of the understory species. The Proposed Action would also create different age classes of sagebrush. Since the current understory consists of a good stand of desirable species, there should be no need to seed the area following treatment.

Under the No Action Alternative, present vegetative conditions would remain. Sagebrush would remain dense and continue to mature.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Wildlife, Aquatic and Wildlife, Terrestrial): The project consists of two BLM livestock grazing allotments. Allotment # 07556 (Orr) was assessed for compliance with the Standards for Public Land Health in Colorado (Standards) on June 8, 2006 and Allotment # 07553 (Mayhoffer) was assessed on July 9, 2008. Both allotments were found to be in compliance with the Standards.

WILDLIFE, TERRESTRIAL (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: The areas proposed for treatment are inhabited by a variety of wildlife species including mule deer, Rocky Mountain elk, pronghorn, coyotes, badgers, ground squirrels and a variety of songbirds which depend on the sagebrush ecosystem. The treatment area is especially important for deer and elk during winter as these areas have been designated as critical habitat for these species. Pronghorn use the area during all seasons except winter when they migrate to lower elevation sagebrush habitats where less snow accumulates. Coyotes, badgers, and other small mammals are yearlong residents. Existing habitat conditions include an over-abundance of mature sagebrush with little understory vegetation. Grasses and forbs are lacking due to past grazing management practices and long-term proliferation of sagebrush. Habitat conditions for the species listed above are not as high quality as they should be because of the dominance of sagebrush on the site proposed for treatment.

Environmental Consequences: The proposed treatment should improve habitat conditions for terrestrial wildlife using the treatment area. The proposed treatment would provide for grass and forb production by reducing sagebrush occurring in the treatment area. The expected increase in grass and forb productivity would provide additional high quality forage for deer, elk, and pronghorn during the seasons they inhabit the area, especially winter, and would provide more cover for small mammals. Young sagebrush plants would return to the treated areas over time and would also provide high quality food and cover, adding diversity to the existing monotypic age class of sagebrush which currently exists on the area proposed for treatment.

The No Action alternative would result in the continued limited productivity of vegetation in the project area. Understory grasses and forbs would not be able to flourish due to the continued dominance of sagebrush. Wildlife food and cover would be limited in the future due to the low

productivity of grasses and forbs in the sagebrush understory. Winter forage for deer and elk would continue to be less than optimum on the area proposed for treatment.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Vegetation and Wildlife, Aquatic): The project consists of two BLM livestock grazing allotments. Allotment # 07556 (Orr) was assessed for compliance with the Standards for Public Land Health in Colorado (Standards) on June 8, 2006 and Allotment # 07553 (Mayhoffer) was assessed on July 9, 2008. Both allotments were found to be in compliance with Standard 3.

## RECREATION

Affected Environment: The proposed project is within the Extensive Recreation Management Area. Recreation activities include hunting, horse riding, hiking, wildlife & bird watching, and Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) use. Under the 1988 Off Road Vehicle Implementation Plan, the project is within an area designated as “Limited to Existing Roads and Trails”. During the proposed time of implementation, the area may have recreational hunting occurring.

Environmental Consequences: While a short-term displacement of big game may occur during implementation of the Proposed Action, public recreational hunting opportunities for browsing species and small game would be improved as vegetation diversity and health within the project area would be enhanced. Under the No Action Alternative, recreational hunting opportunities would not be improved.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS SUMMARY: All resource values have been evaluated for cumulative impacts. It has been determined that there would be no cumulative impacts.

PERSONS / AGENCIES CONSULTED: The project was listed on the Kremmling Field Office public room NEPA board and internet NEPA register.

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW: See IDT-RRC in Appendix 1.

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## CO-120-2008-58-EA

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the attached environmental assessment, and considering the significance criteria in 40 CFR 1508.27, I have determined that the Proposed Action will not have a significant effect on the human environment. An environmental impact statement is therefore not required.

### DECISION RECORD

DECISION: It is my decision to authorize the Proposed Action as described in the attached EA.

RATIONALE: The Proposed Action will improve both the quality and quantity of forage in the project area and improve habitat for Greater sage-grouse, migratory birds, and a variety of other wildlife species.

COMPLIANCE/MONITORING: The project area would require periodic monitoring following implementation of the proposed action to ensure livestock do not graze in the project area. If livestock are found grazing in the project area, means to exclude the livestock, such as an electric fence, would be implemented. The project will also benefit vegetation within the project area by opening the dense sagebrush stands allowing for the expansion and improved vigor of the understory species.

NAME OF PREPARER: Megan McGuire

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Joe Stout

DATE: 9/29/08

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL: /s/ Paula Belcher (acting)

DATE SIGNED: 10/8/08

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1 – Interdisciplinary Team Analysis Review Record and Checklist

Appendix 1

**INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM ANALYSIS REVIEW RECORD AND CHECKLIST:**

**Project Title: Elliot Creek Sagebrush Treatment (Harrow)**

**Project Leader: M. McGuire**

**Consultation/Permit Requirements:**

Consultation	Date Initiated	Date Completed	Responsible Specialist/ Contractor	Comments
Cultural/Archeological Clearance/SHPO	7/8/08	9/11/08	BBW	The project is a no effect, there are no historic properties that would be affected.
Native American	7/2/08	8/3/08	B.Wyatt	To date no Native American Tribe has identified any areas of traditional concern.
T&E Species/FWS	N/A	N/A	M.McGuire	
Permits Needed (i.e. Air or Water)	N/A	N/A	P. Belcher	

**(NP) = Not Present**

**(NI) = Resource/Use Present but Not Impacted**

**(PI) = Potentially Impacted and Brought Forward for Analysis.**

NP NI PI	Discipline/Name	Date Review Comp.	Initials	Review Comments (required for Critical Element NIs, and for elements that require a finding but are not carried forward for analysis.)
<b>CRITICAL ELEMENTS</b>				
NI	Air Quality <b>Belcher</b>	9/12/08	PB	Air quality in the area is good. During the actual treatment, limited short term dust would be created. This would not affect air quality.
NP	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern <b>J. Stout</b>	9/29/08	JS	There are no Areas of Critical Environmental Concern in the proximity of the proposed project area.
NI	Cultural Resources <b>Wyatt</b>	9/11/08	BBW	A cultural resource inventory Report #CR-08-51 was completed on approximately 400 acres of area for sagebrush treatment using a Dixie Harrow. The survey located two new prehistoric cultural resource sites 5GA3852 and 5GA3853. Site 5GA3852 is a small prehistoric open camp of unknown age and no diagnostic artifacts. Testing at site 5GA3852 produced no buried material or evidence of a buried cultural component. Site 5GA3853 is a dispersed littic scatter that has no features or diagnostic artifacts, or intensive tool-making activities. Both sites 5GA3852 and 5GA3853 are considered to be not eligible to the National Register of Historic Places. Thus, there would be no impacts to historic properties.
NP	Environmental Justice <b>J. Stout</b>	9/29/08	JS	According to the most recent Census Bureau statistics (2000), there are no minority or low income communities within the Kremmling Planning Area.

NP	Farmlands, Prime and Unique	<b>Belcher</b>	9/12/08	PB	There are no farmlands, prime or unique, in the proximity of the proposed project area.
NP	Floodplains	<b>Belcher</b>	9/12/08	PB	The proposed action is in the uplands and would not impact the floodplain.
NP	Invasive, Non-native Species	<b>Johnson</b>	9/9/08	RJ	There are no invasive, non-native species within the project area.
PI	Migratory Birds	<b>McGuire</b>	9/9/08	MM	See analysis in EA.
NP	Native American Religious Concerns	<b>Wyatt</b>	9/11/08	BBW	To date, no Native American Tribe has identified any areas of traditional concern.
PI	T/E, and Sensitive Species (Finding on Standard 4)	<b>McGuire</b>	9/9/08	MM	See analysis in EA.
NP	Wastes, Hazardous and Solid	<b>Hodgson</b>	9/12/08	KH	There are no quantities of wastes, hazardous or solid, located on BLM-administered lands in the proposed project area, and there would be no wastes generated as a result of the Proposed Action or No Action alternative.
NI	Water Quality, Surface and Ground (Finding on Standard 5)	<b>Belcher</b>	9/12/08	PB	Finding: The Proposed Action is in an upland area, away from defined drainages. Due to the alternating treatment strips, no measurable change in runoff or water quality would be expected. Ground water quality would not be affected.
NP	Wetlands & Riparian Zones (Finding on Standard 2)	<b>Belcher</b>	9/12/08	PB	Finding: The treatment is planned in the uplands and would not affect any wetland or riparian area.
NP	Wild and Scenic Rivers	<b>Windsor</b>	9/12/08	AW	There are no eligible Wild and Scenic River segments in the proposed project area.
NP	Wilderness	<b>Windsor</b>	9/12/08	AW	There is no designated Wilderness or Wilderness Study Areas in the proximity of the proposed project area.
<b>NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS</b> (A finding must be made for these elements)					
PI	Soils (Finding on Standard 1)	<b>Belcher</b>	9/12/08	PB	See analysis in EA.
PI	Vegetation (Finding on Standard 3)	<b>Johnson</b> <b>Torma</b>	9/9/08	RJ	See analysis in EA.
NP	Wildlife, Aquatic (Finding on Standard 3)	<b>McGuire</b>	9/9/08	MM	No aquatic wildlife present
PI	Wildlife, Terrestrial (Finding on Standard 3)	<b>McGuire</b>	9/9/08	MM	See analysis.
<b>OTHER NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS</b>					
PI	Access/Transportation	<b>Monkouski</b>	9/16/08	JJM	See Recreation section.
NI	Fire	<b>Wyatt</b>	7/18/08	BBW	Sagebrush beating would decrease the amount of heavier fuels and increase the lighter flashier fuels until the sagebrush returns to its current condition.
NP	Forest Management	<b>Belcher</b>	9/04/08	KWB	No forest resources present.
NI	Geology and Minerals	<b>Hodgson</b>	9/12/08	KH	No impact.
NI	Hydrology/Water Rights	<b>Belcher</b>	9/12/08	PB	No hydrologic concerns. The Proposed Action would not affect any water rights.
NI	Paleontology	<b>Rupp</b>	9/5/08	FGR	APE is geologically mapped as residium on Troublesome formation. Bedrock exposures inventoried on 8/21 and 9/4, 2008.
NI	Noise	<b>Monkouski</b>	9/16/08	JJM	Minimal short term impacts during project.
PI	Range Management	<b>Johnson</b>	9/9/08	RJ	See write up in EA.
NI	Lands/ Realty Authorizations	<b>Cassel</b>	7/29/08	SC	There are no leases or permits at the location of the proposed action. There is a ROW for a

					transmission line issued to WAPA (COC-40634) that would not be impacted by the proposed action.
PI	Recreation	<b>Monkouski</b>	9/16/08	JJM	See analysis in EA.
NI	Socio-Economics	<b>J. Stout</b>	9/29/08	JS	There would be no impacts.
NI	Visual Resources	<b>Windsor</b>	9/12/08	AW	The proposed action is in VRM Class II and Class IV. Less than 80 (50 in Class II and 30 in Class IV) acres of the project would be visible from a high sensitivity area, US Hwy 40. The project would be in the background of a landscape that is dominated by the foreground (agrarian/ranching operations along the Colorado River). The project would not attract attention in the overall landscape. No visual impacts would be anticipated.
NI	Cumulative Impact Summary	<b>J. Stout</b>	9/29/08	JS	There would be no cumulative impacts.
<b>FINAL REVIEW</b>					
	P&E Coordinator	<b>J. Stout</b>	9/29/08	JS	
	Field Manager	<b>D. Stout</b>			