DECISION RECORD
FOR THE
NORMAL FIRE REHABILITATION PLAN
BOISE DISTRICT OFFICE AND JARBIDGE FIELD OFFICE
EA# ID-090-2004-050

DECISION

It is my decision to implement the proposed action of the Boise District Office and the Jarbidge Field Office Normal Fire Rehabilitation Plan (NFRP) which was adequately analyzed in the attached Environmental Assessment EA# ID-090-2004-050. The Proposed Action, coupled with the mitigation measures outlined in the EA, will ensure that all practicable means to avoid or minimize environmental harm are adopted.

RATIONAL FOR THE DECISION

The proposed action facilitates the orderly and timely rehabilitation of burned areas by clearly delineating the procedures to be followed and treatments to be implemented after wildfires occur. Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation (ESR) treatments will be implemented in areas that meet one or more of the following criteria:

1. Areas where the soil is susceptible to accelerated erosion, either because of soil characteristics, steep topography, or recurrent high winds.
2. Areas where perennial grasses, shrubs, and forbs have been depleted and cannot reasonably be expected to provide soil and watershed protection within two years after a wildfire.
3. Areas where noxious weeds or exotic annual grasses, may readily invade and become established following a wildfire.
4. Areas that contain crucial habitat for wildlife, and/or Special Status species.
5. Areas where stabilization and rehabilitation is necessary to meet land use plan objectives.

The ESR treatments proposed, in the long term, will stabilize soils, establish perennial vegetation, reduce hazardous fuels by controlling annual exotic vegetation, and reduce the potential for noxious weed invasion. Proposed ESR treatments will contribute toward reversing the trend of large scale, high frequency wildfires by converting annual grasslands back to a more natural fire-adapted and resilient plant community.

I did not choose the no action alternative described analyzed in the EA because ESR policy and guidance has changed and the existing plans no longer meets the needs of the Boise District Office and the Jarbidge Field Office. This is due to the fact that new equipment and treatment methods were not analyzed in the existing NFRPs, and that the existing plans incorporate only 50% of BLM administered lands within the District. This would cause the Boise District Office and the Jarbidge Field Office to initiate new site specific EAs which may cause the delay of project thereby allowing soil erosion, noxious and invasive species to colonize a fire disturbed

site and disrupt normal ecological function. This makes subsequent attempts of restoring these sites much more difficult.

PLAN CONFORMANCE

I have considered the environmental affects described in the EA, and have determined the proposed action is in conformance and consistent with the Boise District Office and the Jarbidge Field Office land use plans listed below.

Owyhee Resource Management Plan, 1999.

Bruneau-Kuna Management Framework Plan, 1983.

Cascade Resource Management Plan, 1988.

Jarbidge Resource Management Plan, 1987 updated in 1993.

The following EIS and EA apply to treatment activities that have or may occur on ESR project areas. The attached NFRP tiers to the EIS and incorporates by reference the EAs below.

Lower Snake River District Noxious Weed Control Program EA, Decision Record, and Finding of No Significant Impact, 1998.

United States Department of Interior (USDI) Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Final Environmental Impact Statement, Vegetation Treatment on BLM Lands in Thirteen Western States, 1991.

APPEALS

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. If an appeal is made, your notice of appeal must be filed in writing as a hard copy via United States Postal Service or other recognized letter carrier. The appeal must be addressed to the Idaho State Office, within 30 days of the date of service of this decision. The appellant has the burden of showing that the decision is adverse to you and is in error.

If you wish to file a petition pursuant to regulation 43 CFR 4.21 (58 FR 4939, January 19, 1993) or 43 CFR 2804.1 or 43 CFR 2884.1 for a stay of the effectiveness of this decision during the time that your appeal is being reviewed by the Board, 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. If you request a stay, you have the burden of proof to demonstrate that a stay should be granted.

Standards for Obtaining a Stay

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; and
(4) whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

NORMAL FIRE REHABILITATION PLAN TEAM MEMBER PREPARERS

Position	Team Member	Initial and Date
Team Leader	Cindy Fritz	/s/ CLF 7/31/04
NEPA Specialist	Sharon Paris	SP 8/04/04
NEPA Compliance & Planning	Jean Fend	JF 8/6/04
Hydrologist	Zig Napkora	/s/ ZMN 08.04.04
Botanist	Sheri Hagwood	SRH 8/5/04
Cultural Resources/Archeologist	Juanita Allen	JLA 8/3/04
Rangeland Mgt. Specialist	Mary Clark	MKC 08/09/04
Wildlife Biologist	Mike Mathis	MJM 08/17/04
GIS Specialist	Alex Webb	AW 08/09/04

SIGNATURES

Review and Concurrence by: Andy Delmas

Andy Delmas, Fire Management Officer (Acting)

Date: 5/2/05

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Review and Concurrence by: John Sullivan

John Sullivan, Birds of Prey National Conservation Area Manager

Date: 4-29-05

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Review and Concurrence by: Rosemary Thomas

Four Rivers Field Office

Rosemary Thomas, Field Office Manager

Date: 4/29/05

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Review and Concurrence by:

Mitch Jaurena, Bruneau Field Office Manager

Date: 2 May 05

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Review and Concurrence by: Ronald Kay

Ron Kay, Owyhee Field Office Manager

Date: 5/04/05

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Review and Concurrence by:

Jeff Steele, Jarbidge Field Office Manager

Date: 05/05/05

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Recommended by:

Jerry Taylor, Boise District Manager (Acting)

Date: 5/6/05

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Recommended by: Howard Hedrick

Howard Hedrick, Twin Falls District Manager

Date: May 6, 2005

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Approved by: K. Lynn Bennett

K. Lynn Bennett, Idaho State Director

Date: May 12, 2005