



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Bruneau Field Office

3948 Development Avenue

Boise, Idaho 83705



In Reply Refer To:
9200 (ID-120)
August 21, 2007

Dear Interested Citizen:

Enclosed is the EA, Decision Record, and FONSI for the Upper Castle Creek Juniper Cut Project. The document is also available on our web site: <http://www.blm.gov/id/st/en/info/nepa.2.html>.

This project will consist of a multi-year project to cut encroaching juniper from sagebrush steppe/mahogany savannas located 35 miles south of Grandview, Idaho in Owyhee County. This is the first sage-grouse habitat improvement project to develop directly from the July, 2006 *Conservation Plan for the Greater Sage-Grouse in Idaho*. The plan is available on the Idaho Department of Fish and Game http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/cms/hunt/grouse/conserv_plan/.

On December 13, 2006, I sent you a letter soliciting your comments and ideas on this proposal. I received two comment letters. The comments were: 1) incorporated into the *Project Design and Standard Operating Procedures* of the EA; 2) used as *Other Alternatives Considered* within the EA; 3) used as issues to be addressed in the environmental effects analysis section of the EA; or 4) were considered beyond the scope of the proposed action. The various comments and my response to them were incorporated in the May 29, 2007 Pre-decisional EA, and are included in this final EA.

Thank you for your interest in this project. I hope that this effort will contribute to the successful management of sage-grouse in Idaho.

Sincerely,

Mitchell A. Jaurena
Bruneau Field Manager

Enclosures:
Upper Castle Creek Juniper Cut Environmental Assessment
Upper Castle Creek Juniper Cut Finding of No Significant Impact
Upper Castle Creek Juniper Cut Decision Record