

**U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Roswell Field Office**

**Documentation of Land Use Plan Compliance and NEPA Adequacy (DNA)**

**DNA-NM-510-2008-0069**

**Prepared by: Allan Wyngaert**

A. Roswell Field Office

Proposed Action Title/Type: FY 2008 CBW-RX – Saltcedar and Sacaton prescribed fire  
[Brian Cooper, Benny Wooton, Sea Ranch and Larry Benedict  
Allotments]

Locations and Description of Proposed Action: Five Locations all in Chaves County, NM (see attached map).

Wooton Project Area –

The Wooton Allotments, Pecos Pump Flats (64039) Located 38 miles northeast of Roswell and Bosque Grande (65020) are located about 29 miles northeast of Roswell via Highway 380. Allotment (64039) includes 40 acres of public land, 400 acres of private, and 9 acres of state land. Allotment (65020) includes 374 acres of public land, and 520 acres of private land. It includes previous saltcedar control efforts conducted on public land by mechanical extraction in 2004 on the east side of the Pecos River.

(New Mexico, Salt Creek 1:100,000 topographic map, BLM Edition Surface Management Status. 2002)

All or portions of:

(64039)

Township 5 South, Range 25 East

Sections, 1, 12

Township 5 South, Range 26 East

Sections, 7, 18

(65020)

Township 6 South, Range 25 East

Sections, 16, 20, 21, 22, 28, 29

Cooper Project Area -

The Cooper, Henry Tanks Allotment (64059), is located about 31 miles northeast of Roswell via US Highway 380. The project area is situated within the floodplain of the Pecos River. It includes previous saltcedar control efforts conducted on public land by mechanical extraction in 2004 on the east side of

DNA-NM-510-2008-0069

the Pecos River. Allotment (64059) includes 407 acres of public lands, 1163 acres of state land, and 72 acres of state land.

(New Mexico, Salt Creek 1:100,000 topographic map, BLM Edition Surface Management Status. 2002)

All or portions of:  
(64059)  
Township 5 South, Range 25 East  
Sections, 25, 26, 35, 36  
Township 6 South Range 25 East

#### Sea Ranch-

The Sea Ranch allotment (65001) is located northeast of Roswell via Hwy 380. The project area is situated within the floodplain of the Pecos River. Allotment (65001) includes less than 1 acre of public land, 35 acres of state land.

Portions of:  
Township 5 South, Range 26 East  
Sections, 7, 18

(New Mexico, Salt Creek 1:100,000 topographic map, BLM Edition Surface Management Status. 2002)

#### Larry Benedict Project Area –

The Benedict Allotment, Red Spring Draw (64040) is located about 33 miles northeast of Roswell along the Pecos River via U.S. Highway 380. Saltcedar extraction was conducted on the east and west side of the river in early 2007 as part of the HFR Salt cedar reduction project. This was continuation of saltcedar control along the Pecos River conducted by the BLM using mechanical methods. The allotment currently has a Cooperative Management Plan (CMP) in place which identifies phreatophyte control as one of the activities to improve floodplain health and function. The Benedict CMP was prepared and approved in August 2000 subsequent to the preparation of a grazing authorization environmental assessment and decision record which selected the preferred alternative of developing a CMP as a term and condition for the permit authorization. Allotment (64040) includes about 423 acres of public land, 860 acres of private land, and 84 acres of state land.

(New Mexico, Salt Creek 1:100,000 topographic map, BLM Edition Surface Management Status. 2002)

All or portions of:  
(64040)  
Township 5 South, Range 25 East  
Sections, 13, 14, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 35

For all five project areas totaling about 4,500 acres of treatment, the proposed action would consist of burning saltcedar and sacaton in specific areas along the east side of the Pecos River corridor for the

purpose of reducing old decadent growth and rejuvenating alkali and giant sacaton, reducing fire hazard potential, improving riparian habitat, and potentially increasing available ground and surface water. Treatment would include private and state land adjacent to federal. Follow-up chemical treatment and possible mechanical treatment would be used in the future to control re-sprouts from saltcedar. Treatment areas conducted in previous years by mechanical extraction are located within the burn area, located in allotments (64040), (65007), and (65020). A DRASTIC would be prepared prior to chemical treatment for areas not covered under current DRASTICS. In addition, seeding with native vegetation may be considered on feasible sites to restore the grassland aspect of the areas.

The project areas along the Pecos River floodplain are comprised of various densities of salt cedar and sacaton on east side of the river. Saltcedar is found in various densities but mostly as narrow bands along the Pecos River and tributaries. Generally, the boundary of the 100-year floodplain delineates the extent of the burn area except where it follows tributaries into the uplands.

#### B. Conformance with the Land Use Plan (LUP) and Consistency with Related Subordinate Implementation Plans

LUP Name: Roswell RMP

Date Approved: October 1997

#### Other Documents:

Benedict Ranch (Benedict Estate) Cooperative Management Plan Allotment 64040 approved August 16, 2000, Environmental Assessment for Section 3 Grazing Authorization on Allotment 64040 (EA No. NM-060-99-015) & Record of Decision dated January 4, 1999.

Bureau of Land Management Habitat Protection Zone Environmental Assessment (EA No. NM-060-00-030) & Record of Decision dated October 22, 2002.

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUPs, 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, implementations plan decisions.

#### C. Identify the applicable NEPA document(s) and other related documents that cover the proposed action.

Roswell Field Office Saltcedar (*Tamarix* spp.) and Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*.) Control/Eradication Environmental Assessment (EA No. NM-060-2004-159 & Record of Decision dated February 17, 2005.

Roswell Field Office Sacaton (*Sporobolus wrightii/airoides*) Prescribed Fire (EA No. NM-512-06-023 & Record of Decision dated 01/10/2006)

The proposal to implement a vegetation treatment on salt cedar is consistent with the New Mexico Record of Decision dated July 1991, for the Vegetation Treatment on BLM Lands in Thirteen Western States, Final Environmental Impact Statement of May 1991.

#### D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

1. Is the current proposed action substantially the same action (or is a part of that action) as previously analyzed?

Yes. It is essentially a continuation of the above methods referenced in the above EA's and conforms with other methods of saltcedar control projects.

2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the current proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, resource values and circumstances?

Yes. Current environmental concerns, interests, resource values and circumstances remain the same as when the above-referenced EAs were prepared.

3. Is the existing analysis adequate, and are the conclusions adequate in light of any new information or circumstances? Can you reasonably conclude that all new information and all new circumstances are insignificant with regard to the analysis on the proposed action?

No new information or circumstances have arisen with respect to this method of saltcedar control at the locations of the proposed project within the five affected allotments.

4. Do the methodology and analytical approach used in the existing NEPA document(s) continue to be appropriate for the current proposed action?

Yes. The proposed action is essentially identical with the above referenced EAs, other than location and amount of saltcedar control and sacaton enhancement to be conducted on public, private and state land. The total area of proposed treatment is about 4,500 acres. The methodology and analytical approach is appropriate for the current proposed action.

5. Are the direct and indirect impacts of the current proposed action substantially unchanged for those identified in the existing NEPA document(s)? Does the existing NEPA document sufficiently analyze site-specific impacts related to the current proposed action?

Yes. The above referenced EAs address saltcedar control and sacaton enhancement along the Pecos River. The proposed action is essentially the same. Impacts to resources resulting from the proposed action are unchanged.

6. Can you conclude without additional analysis or information that the cumulative impacts that would result from the implementation of the current proposed action are substantially unchanged from those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)?

Yes. Saltcedar control is an ongoing activity conducted on many land parcels along the Pecos River by the Bureau of Reclamation through vegetative treatment withdrawals. In addition, large-scale (9,200 acres) chemical treatment of saltcedar on private and state land along the

Yes. Saltcedar control is an ongoing activity conducted on many land parcels along the Pecos River by the Bureau of Reclamation through vegetative treatment withdrawals. In addition, large-scale (9,200 acres) chemical treatment of saltcedar on private and state land along the Pecos River from Ft. Sumner downstream to the Carlsbad area occurred in 2002. Within the context of these activities occurring on lands other than federal ownership, the impact of the BLM's endeavor to control saltcedar along the Pecos River would not add substantially to cumulative impacts resulting from the implementation of the proposed action, and is unchanged from the analysis conducted in the referenced EA.

7. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current proposed action?

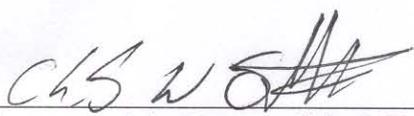
Yes. BLM's endeavor to improve wetland-riparian habitat along the Pecos River is known to the various publics and agencies through public meetings held to discuss wetland-riparian area management, among other resources, during the development of the Roswell RMP, Overflow Wetlands Area of Critical Environmental Concern Implementation Plan, and Cooperative Management Plans. In addition, the BLM was represented during several public meetings conducted by the State of New Mexico concerning large scale saltcedar control in both the Pecos and Rio Grande drainages where the BLM-preferred method of control was presented.

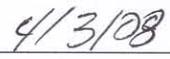
8. Interdisciplinary Analysis: See attached EA Checklist.

9. Mitigation Measures: Standard Operation Procedures for surface disturbing activities, chemical treatments and prescribed fire. Refer to the above-referenced EAs.

### Conclusion

Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the existing NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action. This constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirement of NEPA.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Responsible Official  
*acting AFM - Resources*

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date