

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
BURNS DISTRICT OFFICE

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND APPROVAL

CX Number: DOI-BLM-OR-BO50-2011-0026-CX Date: 4/14/11
File Code (RIPS #): 715473
Preparer: Rob Sharp Applicant: N/A
Title of Proposed Action: Double O Allotment Tumbleweed Burning

Description of Proposed Action and Project Design Elements (if applicable):

The Proposed Action is to burn tumbleweeds along approximately 1.5 miles of the pasture boundary fence between West and East Pastures of Double O Allotment (see attached map). Over the past several years, weeds have accumulated along this north-south running fenceline (Double O Fence) and need to be cleared as part of routine fence maintenance. Burning will occur during April, 2011 and will be performed by BIFZ crew members using drip torches mounted to ATVs/UTVs. Overland travel of ATVs/UTVs will only occur along the fenceline to facilitate efficient burning. Potential impacts of fire to desired vegetation as a result of this action is extremely low as the crested wheatgrass seeding was grazed last year which removed herbaceous biomass and current year production is green. If fire creep exceeds 6ft. on either side of the fence, all burning operations will be ceased.

Legal Description (See Attached Map): T. 29 S., R. 29 E., Sections 10 & 15

B. Conformance with Land Use Plan: Three Rivers Resource Management Plan (ROD/RPS)
Date Approved: September, 1992

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decision: Appendix 12. Standard Procedures and Design Elements for Range Improvements

"It is assumed that normal maintenance such as replacement of pipeline sections, fence posts and retreatment of vegetation manipulations would occur."

DOI Categorical Exclusion Reference (516 DM 2, Appendix 1): "Routine and continuing government business, including such things as supervision, administration, operations, maintenance, renovations, and replacement activities having limited context and intensity."

Screening for Exceptions: The following extraordinary circumstances (516 DM 2, Appendix 2) may apply to individual actions within the categorical exceptions. The indicated specialist recommends the proposed action does not:

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES DOCUMENTATION	
2.1	Have significant impacts on public health or safety.
Specialist (Print Name and Title):	John Petty
Signature and Date:	<i>[Signature]</i> 4/25/11
Rationale: Notify local rancher before the burning operation takes place, control access to the site to where the fire crews know the location of the rancher, and provide follow-up to the rancher.	
2.2	Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); flood plains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.
<u>Migratory Birds</u>	
Specialist (Print Name and Title):	Jason Brewer
Signature and Date:	<i>[Signature]</i> 4-20-2011
Rationale: The affected area would involve minimal habitat compared to that available in the surrounding area. Migratory birds that may be sheltering in or near the accumulated brush along the fence are all adults at this time of year and would easily move into adjacent habitat. Ground nesting species attempting to nest immediately adjacent to the fence would likely move to adjacent habitat and re-nest. The prescribed burning would not affect populations.	
<u>Historic and Cultural Resources</u>	
Specialist (Print Name and Title):	Scott Thomas
Signature and Date:	<i>[Signature]</i> 4/25/11
Rationale: No cultural resources would be affected by the proposed project.	

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern/Research Natural Areas

Specialist (Print Name and Title): Caryn Meinicke

Signature and Date: *[Signature]* (for Caryn) 4/20/11

Rationale: There are no ACEC/RNAs within the proposed project area.

Water Resources/Flood Plains

Specialist (Print Name and Title): Lisa Grant

Signature and Date: *[Signature]* 4/20/11

Rationale:

There are no water resources/flood plains within the proposed project area.

Soils, Biological Soil Crust, Prime Farmlands

Specialist (Print Name and Title): Caryn Meinicke

Signature and Date: *[Signature]* (for Caryn) 4/20/11

Rationale: The fire will burn above ground level and of an extremely low intensity and short duration resulting in negligible impacts to soils and BSCs. There are no prime farmlands.

Recreation/ Visual Resources

Specialist (Print Name and Title): Mike Kelly

Signature and Date: *[Signature]* 4-20-11

Rationale: Recreation: Due to the short term nature of this project recreation impacts will be minimal or non-existent.

Visual Resources: Due to the management and timing of this burn and the low intensity of the fire the Visual Resource will not be affected. Vegetation will return as the season progresses.

Wilderness/Wild and Scenic River Resources

Specialist (Print Name and Title): Eric Haakenson

Signature and Date: *[Signature]* 4-20-11

Rationale: The proposed action would not affect any wilderness, WSR, WSA or Lands with Wilderness Characteristics.

2.3 Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2) (E)].

Specialist (Print Name and Title): Rhonda Karges

Signature and Date: *[Signature]* 4/20/11

Rationale: There are no known highly controversial environmental effects or unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.

2.4 Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.

Specialist (Print Name and Title): Rhonda Karges

Signature and Date: *[Signature]* 4/20/11

Rationale: There are no known highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or unique or unknown environmental risks.

2.5 Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.

Specialist (Print Name and Title): Rhonda Karges

Signature and Date: *[Signature]* 4/20/11

Rationale: No precedent for future actions or decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects would occur. The fence exists and burning of dead vegetation, which has accumulated along and within the fence line, is considered routine maintenance.

2.6 Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.

Specialist (Print Name and Title): Rhonda Karges

Signature and Date: *[Signature]* 4/20/11

Rationale: There are no known direct relationships to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects. The fence exists and burning of dead vegetation, which has accumulated along and within the fence line, is site specific.

2.7 Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.

Specialist (Print Name and Title): Scott Thomas

Signature and Date: *[Signature]* 4/25/11

Rationale: *No Eligible or National Register listed properties would be affected by the project.*

2.8 Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.

Endangered or Threatened Species-Fauna

Specialist (Print Name and Title): Jason Brewer
 Signature and Date: *Jason Brewer* 4-20-2011
 Rationale: There are no federally listed Endangered or Threatened species or designated Critical Habitat in the project area or affected area adjacent to the project.

Endangered or Threatened Species-Aquatic
 Specialist (Print Name and Title): Lisa Grant
 Signature and Date: *Lisa Grant* 4/21/11
 Rationale: *There are no T & E species in the proposed project area.*

Endangered or Threatened Species-Flora
 Specialist (Print Name and Title): Caryn Meinicke
 Signature and Date: *Darcy E. (for Caryn)* 4/20/11
 Rationale: There are no T & E species - flora or SSS - flora or habitat within the project area.

2.9 Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.
 Specialist (Print Name and Title): Rhonda Karges
 Signature and Date:
 Rationale: No known law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment would be violated.

2.10 Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).
 Specialist (Print Name and Title): Rhonda Karges
 Signature and Date: *Rhonda Karges* 4/20/11
 Rationale: Implementation would not result in a disproportionately adverse effect on minority or economically disadvantaged populations as such populations do not occur in or near the project area.

2.11 Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).
 Specialist (Print Name and Title):
 Signature and Date: *Steve Sharp* 4/25/11
 Rationale: *No sacred sites or access to sacred sites would be affected by the project.*

2.12 Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or nonnative invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).
 Specialist (Print Name and Title): Rob Sharp
 Signature and Date: *Hesley Richman* 4/22/11
 Rationale: *Noxious weeds are known to be present in close proximity to this area. Treatments are on-going. The weeds are not present in sufficient quantity to be considered a significant impact at this time.*

Additional review (As determined by the Authorized Officer):

RMP conformance and CX review confirmation:

Specialist (Print Name and Title): Rhonda Karges
 Signature: *Rhonda Karges* Date: *4/20/11*

Management Determination: Based upon review of this proposal, I have determined the Proposed Action is in conformance with the LUP, qualifies as a categorical exclusion and does not require further NEPA analysis.

Authorized Officer (Print Name and Title): Richard Roy (Three Rivers Resource Area Field Manager)
 Signature: *Richard Roy* Date: *4/25/11*

Double O Allotment Tumbleweed Burning

Proposed Projects Highlighted In Yellow

-  DIKE
-  DITCH
-  DRIFT FENCE
-  FENCE
-  PIPELINE
-  STOCK TRAIL
-  Pasture Boundary
-  Allotment Boundary
-  Bureau of Land Management
-  U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
-  Private/Unknown



Note: No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use with other data. Original data was compiled from various sources and may be updated without notification.

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Bureau of Land Management
Burns District, Oregon



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