

**Documentation of Plan Conformance and
Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)**

DOI-BLM-OR-M050-2012-0012-DNA

Office: Medford District Office, Butte Falls Resource Area

Tracking Number: DOI-BLM-OR-M050-2012-0012-DNA

Casefile/Project Number:

Butte Falls Hazardous Fuels Reduction Environmental Assessment
EA# DOI-BLM-OR-M050-2009-0035-EA

Proposed Action Title/Type: Sprigg Morr Fuel Hazard Reduction

Location/Legal Description:

Township 34 South, Range 2 West, section 19
Willamette Meridian, Jackson County, Oregon (see map).

A. Description of the Proposed Action and any applicable mitigation measures

The Butte Falls Resource Area, Medford District Bureau of Land Management (BLM) proposes to reduce hazardous fuels on 30 acres of BLM-managed land. Surface and ladder fuels would be reduced by slashing, hand piling, hand pile burning, and underburning as reviewed in the *Butte Falls Hazardous Fuels Reduction Environmental Assessment*. The broadcast/underburn treatment would help maintain the desired condition of the identified areas. The proposed action is consistent with the actions analyzed in the *Butte Falls Hazardous Fuels Reduction Environmental Assessment* (EA).

Prescribed burning would occur on BLM-administered lands in the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) within the project area. The project addresses the need to better protect the lives, property, and natural resources within the neighborhoods of Rogue River and Wimer, Oregon from the risk of high intensity wild fires.

Portions of the planned units were analyzed in the EA; however, about half the unit area was not included in the analysis at the time the EA was developed. The portions of the units now being considered are similar in stand age and function to the portions addressed in the EA; treatment of the entire unit area is desired to obtain the desired fuel reduction across the landscape.

Project Design Features

Applicable project design features identified by the interdisciplinary team for the Butte Falls Fuels Hazard Reduction project will be implemented in this project (EA, p. 8-12)

B. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance

This proposal is in conformance with the objectives, land use allocations, and management direction of the 1995 *Medford District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan* (ROD/RMP) and any plan amendments in effect at the time this document is published. It also conforms with the 1994 *Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl* (Northwest Forest Plan).

C. Identify applicable National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents and other related documents that cover the proposed action.

- Butte Falls Hazardous Fuels Reduction Environmental Assessment (EA# DOI-BLM-OR-M050-2009-0035-EA), September 2009
- Decision Record for Butte Falls Hazardous Fuels Reduction, September 2009

This proposal also complies with the direction given for the management of public lands in the Medford District by the Oregon and California Lands Act of 1937 (O&C Act), Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA), National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, Clean Water Act of 1987 (CWA), Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974 (as amended 1986 and 1996) (SDWA), Clean Air Act of 1990 (CAA), Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (ARPA), and Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA) of 2003.

D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

- 1. Is the new proposed action a feature of, or essentially similar to, an alternative analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? Is the project within the same analysis area, or if the project location is different, are the geographic and resource conditions sufficiently similar to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? If there are differences, can you explain why they are not substantial?**

The proposed action is consistent with the actions identified in the *Butte Falls Hazardous Fuels Reduction EA* (sections: 2.1.2.1, Fuels Reduction Thinning, 2.1.2.2, Hand Piling and Pile Burning, 2.1.2.3, Broadcast Burning, 2.2.2.4, Maintenance Thinning and Underburning, EA, p. 7-8). The proposed action is located within the Project Area boundary for the EA. Resource conditions are similar to those identified in the EA.

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

The new action is the same as the action identified in the existing NEPA document. The resource values, environmental concerns, and interests are also the same.

- 3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances (such as, rangeland health standard assessment, recent endangered species listings, updated lists of BLM-sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that new information and new circumstances would not substantially change the analysis of the new proposed action?**

A BLM interdisciplinary team of resource specialists reviewed the project and determined no significant changes in circumstances or significant new information have occurred since the EA was written. All surveys were completed for plants, wildlife, and cultural resources.

- 4. Are the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects that would result from implementation of the new proposed action similar (both quantitatively and qualitatively) to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document?**

The proposed action is not significantly different from the action analyzed in the EA. This

project would include the applicable project design features identified in the EA. The impacts from this action are expected to be short-term and are within those anticipated from the proposed action in the EA. Adverse impacts would occur during implementation of the action and would not differ from the cumulative impacts analyzed in the EA.

5. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA documents adequate for the current proposed action?

The BLM initiated public scoping for the *Butte Falls Hazardous Fuels Reduction EA* on July 27, 2009 by mailing a letter to 421 adjacent landowners, businesses, organizations, tribes, government agencies, and other interested parties. The letter asked the recipients to identify any issues or concerns they may have with the proposed fuel reduction project. In response, the BLM received seven letters containing scoping comments. The scoping comments the BLM received from the public letters identified concerns with air quality as it relates to smoke from prescribed burning and pile burning (and burning the plastic used to cover the piles), long-term maintenance of the thinned areas, and access to proposed thinning areas.

The BLM held a public comment period for the EA from September 12 to September 28, 2009. The BLM notified the public through a newspaper notice in the *Medford Mail Tribune* and a letter mailed to 73 individuals, organizations, and government entities. The EA was posted on the BLM Web site or mailed to the public at their request. We received eight letters containing comments on the EA.

The BLM issued three Decision Records from the EA dated October 1, 2009; September 14, 2010; and September 13, 2011. Legal notices were published in the *Medford Mail Tribune* announcing the issuance of the decisions. The Decision Records were also published to the Medford BLM Web site.

E. Persons/Agencies /BLM Staff Consulted

The following Butte Falls Resource Area resource specialists have reviewed this proposed action and have determined this action was adequately analyzed in the *Butte Falls Hazardous Fuels Reduction EA* (DOI-BLM-OR-M050-2009-0035-EA) and is in conformance with the 1995 ROD/RMP.

Name	Resource	Initials	Date
Dave Roelofs	Wildlife	D.R.	7-30-12
Cheryl Foster-Curley	Cultural	CF	8/28/12
Dale Johnson	Fisheries	DJ	7/26/12
Shawn Simpson	Hydrology	SS	7/26/12
Amy Meredith	Soil	AM	8/13/12
Marcia Wineteer	Botany/Noxious Weeds	MW	8/6/12
Jean Williams	NEPA Compliance	RW	8/28/12
Al Mason	Fuels	AM	7/30/12
Trish Lindaman	Recreation	TL	7/26/12
Dave Orban	Special Forest Products	DO	7/30/12
Doug Stewart	Silviculture	DS	8-13-12

Note: Refer to the Butte Falls Hazardous Fuels Reduction EA for a complete list of the team members participating in the preparation of the original environmental analysis.

Robyn Wicks

Conclusion

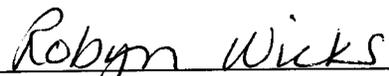
Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of the NEPA.



Doug Stewart
Project Lead

8-28-12

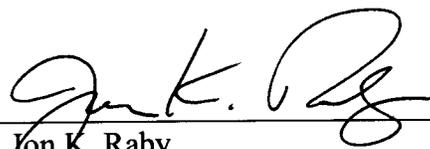
Date



for Jean Williams
NEPA Coordinator

8/28/2012

Date



Jon K. Raby
Field Manager
Butte Falls Resource Area

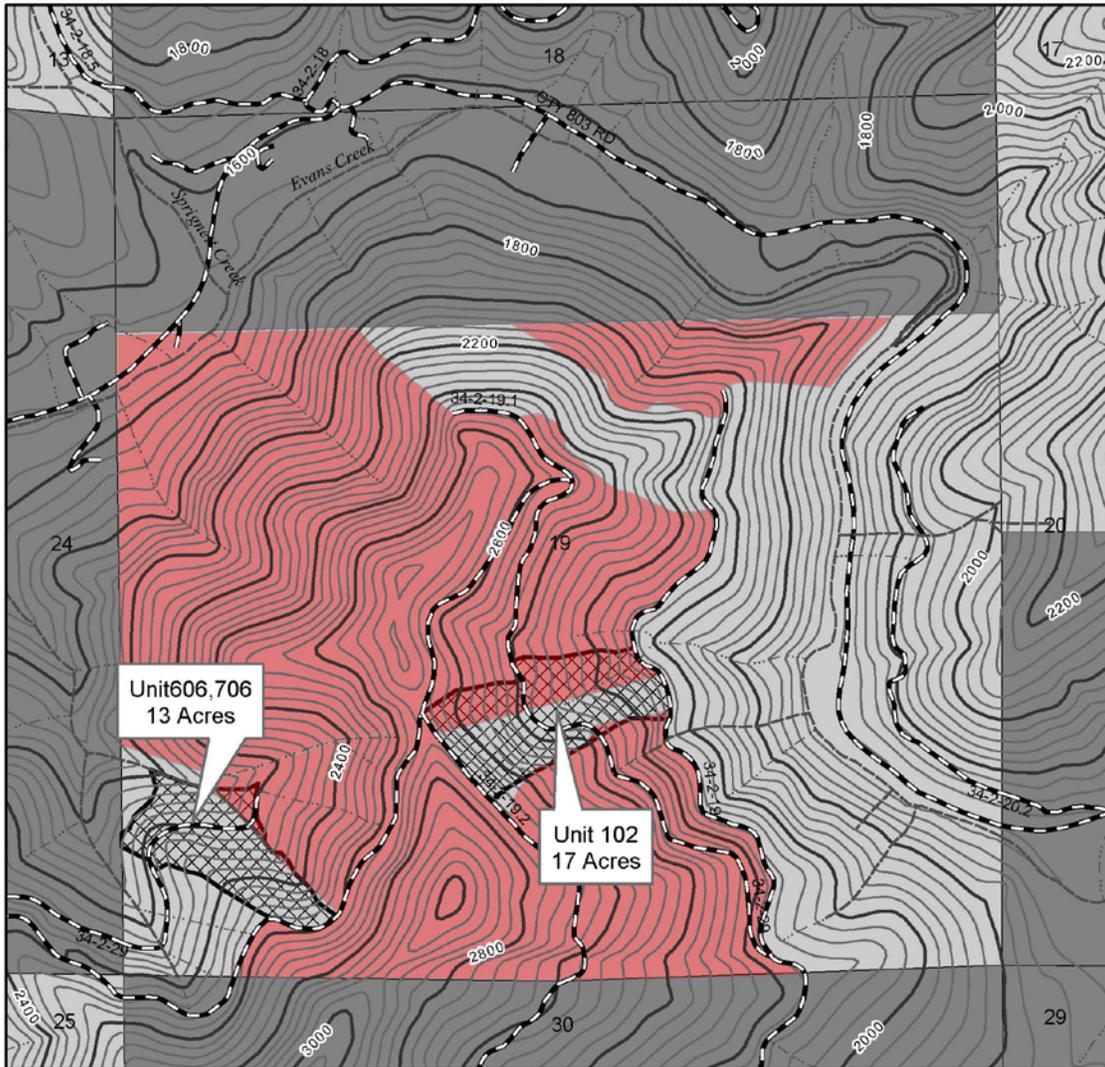
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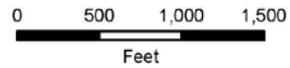
Note: The signed *Conclusion* on this Worksheet is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal decision process and does not constitute an appealable decision. However, the lease, permit, or other authorization based on this DNA is subject to protest or appeal under 43 CFR Part 4 and the program-specific regulations.

Sprigg Morr

T34S R2W Sec 19



- Treatment Area
- Perennial Stream
- Intermediate 40-ft contour
- BLM Administered
- Road
- Intermittent Stream
- Index 200-ft contour
- Non-BLM Land
- Fuels_EA_Final



FOI Key	Bid Item	Unit #	Acres	Treatment
161869	1-B, 2-C	102	17	PCT (18x), Handpile III
161872	1-B, 2-C	606,706	13	PCT (18x), Handpile III
161871				
		Total	30	

1:12,000



MEDFORD DISTRICT
Butte Falls RA
May 2012