

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

**DOI-BLM-OR-M050-2011-0010-DNA**

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**Office:** Medford District Office, Butte Falls Resource Area

**Tracking Number:** DOI-BLM-OR-M050-2011-0010-DNA

**Casefile/Project Number:**

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

**Proposed Action Title/Type:** Brushy Battle Fuel Hazard Reduction

**Location/Legal Description:**

Township 34 South, Range 3 West, sections 5, 7, and 17  
Township 34 South, Range 4 West, sections 10, 11, 13, 15, 17, 21, 23, 25, 31, and 33  
Township 35 South, Range 2 West, section 9  
Township 35 South, Range 3 West, sections 1 and 6  
Township 35 South, Range 4 West, sections 1 and 7  
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 1,865 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* (EA). 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.

**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).

The BLM initiated planning and design for this project to conform and be consistent with the Medford District's ROD/RMP. Following the March 31, 2011 decision by the United States District Court for the District of Columbia in *Douglas Timber Operators et al. v. Salazar*, which vacated and remanded the administrative withdrawal of the Medford District's 2008 Record of Decision (ROD) and RMP, we evaluated this project for consistency with the 1995 ROD/RMP and 2008 ROD and RMP. Based on this review, the selected alternative contains some design features not mentioned specifically in the 2008 ROD and RMP. The 2008 ROD and RMP did not preclude use of these design features, and the use of these design features is clearly consistent with the goals and objectives in the 2008 ROD and RMP. Accordingly, this project is consistent with the Medford District's 1995 ROD/RMP and 2008 ROD and RMP.

### **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 current 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 substantially 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 document(s) 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 recipient 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 website or mailed to the public at their request. We received eight letters containing comments on the EA.

Since the current proposed action is located in the same Project Area and is essentially the same action analyzed in the EA, we determined the level of public review for the existing EA was adequate for this project.

**E. Persons/Agencies /BLM Staff Consulted**

The following Butte Falls Resource Area resource specialists have reviewed this proposed action and have determined this action is adequately covered in the *Butte Falls Hazardous Fuels Reduction EA* (DOI-BLM-OR-M050-2009-0035-EA).

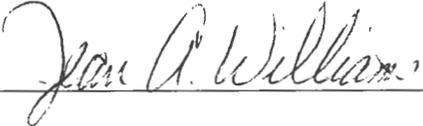
Name	Resource	Initials	Date
Dave Roelofs	Wildlife	DR	10/14/11
Lisa Brennan	Cultural	LB	4/30/2012
Dale Johnson	Fisheries	DJ	10-6-11
Shawn Simpson	Hydrology	SLS	10/12/11
Amy Meredith	Soil	ACM	10-5-2011
Marcia Wineteer	Botany/Noxious Weeds	mw	11/9/2011
Jean Williams	NEPA Compliance	JW	4/30/2012
Al Mason	Fuels	APM	4/30/12
Trish Lindaman	Recreation	TL	10-6-2011
John Osmanski	Forestry	JO	10-19-11
Steve Slavik	Range	SS	10-16-11
Dave Orban	Special Forest Products	DO MATSU B. STARR	10-12-2011
Doug Stewart	Silviculture	DS	10-11-2011

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.

**F. 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.

  
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Al Mason  
Project Lead  
Date 5/2/12

  
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Jean Williams  
NEPA Coordinator  
Date 5-2-2012

  
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Jon K. Raby  
Field Manager  
Butte Falls Resource Area  
Date 5/7/12

**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.