

Worksheet
Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)
U.S Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management

A. Background

BLM Office: Prineville BLM **NEPA Log #:** DOI-BLM-OR-P040-2010-0012-DNA

Project/Lease/Serial/Case File #:

Applicant: Guy Chamness

Location: Agricultural fields north of Clarno along the John Day River and along Bridge Creek between Mitchell and Burnt Ranch. Four area maps of the fields are attached with acres for each field. Bridge Creek's legal description is T11S R21E Sec. 5, 6, 26-28, 35; T10S R21E Sec. 31; T10S R20E Sec. 1-3, 11, 13, 14, 23, 24; T9S R20E Sec. 36. Clarno's legal description is T7S R19E Sec. 19, 20, 29, 32

Proposed Action Title/Type: Clarno and Bridge Creek Agricultural Fields Prescribed Fire

Description of the Proposed Action and any applicable mitigation measures:

Prescribe burn 44 BLM agricultural fields along the John Day River and Bridge Creek between Mitchell and Burnt Ranch, and 8 fields along the John Day River north of Clarno. Between November 1st and April 15th, approximately 50-250 acres of these fields will be burned annually over the next 10 years. Bridge Creek agricultural fields total 428 acres and Clarno fields total 128 acres for a total acreage of 556 acres. Ignition will be by hand. Existing barriers, such as roads and waterways, will be used for contingency lines. The prescribed fires will be conducted in the fall, winter, and early spring seasons when fire behavior will be more favorable and the risk of fire spread outside of the fields will be minimal to non-existent. Mitigation measures that must be followed from the John Day Prescribed Fire Project EA # OR-054-99-012 include:

- Burning (timing/pattern/location) will also be designed to avoid long-term negative impacts to special status species.
- All areas where fireline is to be constructed will be surveyed for cultural/paleontological /archaeological/historical resources. Any site with anticipated/known special resources will be surveyed. Fire temperatures should be maintained below critical thresholds.
- Existing roads or natural fuel breaks will be used whenever possible.
- All prescribed burn activities should conform to "light-hand-on-the-land" techniques whenever possible.
- Should smoke drift toward major communities (e.g. Mitchell, Clarno) prescribed burning activities will be halted until such time that conditions become more favorable.
- Fire vehicles/equipment will be cleared of vegetation prior to entering burn units to avoid spreading noxious weeds.

Mitigation measures related to WSA lands include:

- WSA – The statewide BLM Wilderness Inventory of public lands in 1978-79 identified several tracts of public land having wilderness qualities. These public lands were later designated by BLM as Wilderness Study Areas. If a prescribed fire escapes into a WSA, fire suppression activities would be consistent with the BLM Interim Management Policy for activities in WSA's and the "minimum tool" necessary will be used when fire suppression is determined to be necessary.

Purpose of and Need for Action: Restore and maintain ecosystems consistent with land management uses and historical uses through prescribed fire to benefit wildlife. The prescribed fires will enhance forage and cover/habitat for wildlife, reduce weed production and prepare the fields for future seeding or planting.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan Name: Two Rivers Resource Management Plan

Date approved (ROD): 6/6/1986

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable plan because it is specifically provided for in the following land use plan decisions

"Provide forage to meet management objective numbers of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife for deer and elk. Manage upland vegetation to achieve maximum wildlife habitat diversity" (page 10)

"Prescribed fire may be used to reach multiple use objectives." (Page 30)

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

The following NEPA documents (EA, DEIS, FEIS) cover the proposed action:

John Day Basin Prescribed Fire Project EA# OR-054-99-012

Two Rivers RMP, FEIS, 1985

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)?

Yes, the proposed action is a feature of Alternative 1- Proposed Action of the John Day Basin Prescribed Fire Project EA.

"This alternative would result in prescribed burning multiple units (to be identified, and surveyed before treatment) within the John Day Basin. Fire would be reintroduced for several reasons including weed reduction and to improve forbs and grass cover." – (page 4 John Day Basin Prescribed Fire Project EA)

- Winter or spring burning may be done if needed to achieve objectives
- Strive for contiguous burn areas that are less than 250 acres in size in order to maintain or improve wildlife habitat.
- Fire would be introduced to improve forbs, grass and litter cover. (page 4 John Day Basin Prescribed Burn EA)
- Manage upland vegetation to achieve maximum wildlife habitat diversity. (page 16 Two Rivers RMP, FEIS)
- When prescribed fire is considered under various programs it will be coordinated with the Oregon Department of Forestry and adjacent landowners and carried out in accordance with approved fire management plans and appropriate smoke management goals and objectives. (page 27, Two Rivers RMP, FEIS).

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)? This project is within the same analysis area and the geographic and resource conditions are sufficiently similar to those analyzed in the John Day Basin Prescribed Fire Project EA - (Map 1 John Day Basin Prescribed Fire Project EA), and the Two Rivers RMP, FEIS.

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? Yes, the alternatives analyzed in the John Day Basin Prescribed Fire Project EA considered a range of alternatives adequate for the type and scale of treatment proposed at this time.

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 all new information and new circumstances would not substantially change the analysis of the new proposed action? Yes, there have not been substantial changes to vegetative conditions in the area due to human activities or natural causes that would necessitate a need to review the objectives and cumulative effects of this project.

Some new requirements that have been reviewed include:

Wilderness Characteristics – Public lands outside of WSAs but within the project area have been determined to lack wilderness characteristics. These public lands have been altered by farming activities and are less than 5,000 acres of contiguous public land. These public lands do not contain any outstanding opportunities for solitude, or outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation. No supplemental values are known to exist on these public lands.

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(s)? Yes, the direct, indirect and cumulative effects of the proposed action are similar to those analyzed in the John Day Basin Prescribed Fire Project EA.

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.

Contact Person

For additional information concerning this review, contact: Guy Chamness, Fire Management Specialist, Prineville Field Office, 3050 NE 3rd Street, Prineville, OR 97754, telephone 541-416-6699 gchamnes@blm.gov or Don Zalunardo, Rangeland Management Specialist, telephone 541-416-6714.