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

A. Background
BLM Office: **Prineville**
NEPA Log #: **DOI-BLM-OR-P060-2012-0001-DNA**
Project/Lease/Serial/Case File #: **LF3100000 JM0000 LFHFMD060000**
Location: **T19S R18E; Sec 11-15. Ant Creek Pasture.** The area is approximately 10 miles north of Brothers, Oregon.

Proposed Action Title/Type: **Rodman Rim Prescribed Burn – Ant Creek Jackpot Burn**

Description of the Proposed Action and any applicable mitigation measures:

Conduct a prescribed burn of approximately 1000 acres of BLM land. Hand ignition will be the only ignition method. The burn will be conducted in the late fall/winter/early spring when soil moistures are high. The burn will be considered a jackpot burn and will target the juniper slash (500 acres) and standing young juniper trees less than six feet tall (500 acres) and have minimal impacts on the grasses and forbs. This year's implementation area is the Ant Creek pasture of the Haughton grazing allotment. Mechanical treatments were implemented in 2007 which created 500 acres of juniper slash. This action will reduce the fuel loadings and return the site to more natural condition. Grazing management activities would continue as described in the Decision Record for the Rodman Rim EA (Rodman Rim Juniper Management Decision Record, 2006, pg5. Sec. III – E Livestock Grazing Management).

The goal of this burn is to break up the fuel continuity of the juniper slash and minimize the impacts on the soils by reducing the fuel loading in the winter as opposed to the summer when the broadcast burns normally occur. The primary focus is to burn the remaining juniper slash to reduce hazardous fuel loadings.

A burn plan has been completed and covers resources objectives, prescribed fire objectives, and follows all the required guidance in the COFMS burn plan template. The proposed action would include all applicable project design features from the Rodman Rim EA (Rodman Rim Juniper Management EA, pg14, Sec. 2.5). These have been included in this document as Appendix A.

Monitoring will be accomplished as described in Paragraph 2.5.7 of the EA (pg. 17). To date 2,400 acres have been treated by mechanical juniper felling. Additionally, the Rodman Rim Implementation Plan (signed July 25, 2011) summarizes past and future activities covered under the Rodman Rim Juniper Management EA, and is available upon request at Prineville BLM.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance
Land Use Plan Name: **Brothers/ La Pine Resource Management Plan, 1989.**

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

"Aggressive Suppression of wildfires will be provided on 506,000 acres (values at risk Classes 4 through 6). This will not preclude the use of prescribed fire (both planned and unplanned ignitions) to reduce fuel loads, manage habitat and forage or control vegetation in rights-of-way, weed infestation areas, etc." (Brothers/La Pine Resource Management Plan, 1989. Pg. 101)

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

Rodman Rim Juniper Management EA, 2006. EA # OR-056-01-047

"Reduce current fuel loading risks, and re-establish conditions within which prescribed fire can be safely and effectively re-introduced." (Rodman Rim Juniper Management, EA, 2001, pg. 3)

Brothers/La Pine Final Environmental Impact Statement, 1988.

Rodman Rim Juniper Management Implementation Plan, 2011.

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 a feature of all action alternatives analyzed in the Rodman Rim Juniper Management EA. (Table 1: Comparison of Management Actions, page 7)
- This project is within the same analysis area and the geographic and resource conditions are sufficiently similar to those analyzed in the Rodman Rim Juniper Management EA - (General Vicinity Map Appendix B – Rodman Rim Juniper Management 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?

Yes, the alternatives analyzed in the Rodman Rim Juniper Management 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?

The Rodman Rim Juniper Management EA Implementation Plan was completed on July 25, 2011. During this process an interdisciplinary review of the Rodman Rim Juniper Management EA was completed and it was determined that this NEPA was valid in light of any new information or circumstances since the completion of the EA. Since the EA, the sage grouse has been found to be warranted for listing under the endangered species act but precluded from listing. One of the objectives of this project is to improve sage grouse habitat and at the time the project/EA was developed sage grouse were a BLM Sensitive Species. This project is consistent with the Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Assessment and Strategy developed by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. The Fish and Wildlife Service's finding would not change the analysis or outcome of the decisions made under this EA.

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 Rodman Rim Juniper Management EA. Sections 4.0 and 5.0 of the EA (page 29-45) cover the direct, indirect and cumulative effects of each alternative. This includes the impacts on; Fish, Upland Vegetation, Wildlife, Fire and Fuels, Visual Quality and Aesthetics, Recreation, Wood Products, Livestock Grazing, Human Infrastructure, Private Lands, Air Quality.

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

Yes, the public involvement and interagency reviews are adequate for the proposed action. In addition, all adjacent landowners and affected grazing permittees will be notified prior to the start of the proposed action, and we have already contacted the grazing permittees to arrange resting the pasture. A copy of this DNA is/will be posted on the Prineville District internet page.

E. Persons/Agencies/BLM Staff consulted

Cultural/Historic-Terry Holtzapple
Wildlife-Monte Kuk
Fire/fuels-David Schultz
Soils – Jenni Moffitt
Assistant Field Manager-Bill Dean
Range-Emily Lent
Special Status Plants-JoAnne Armson
Recreation/Visuals/Wilderness-Berry Phelps
Environmental Coordinator-Teal Purrington

Conclusion

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

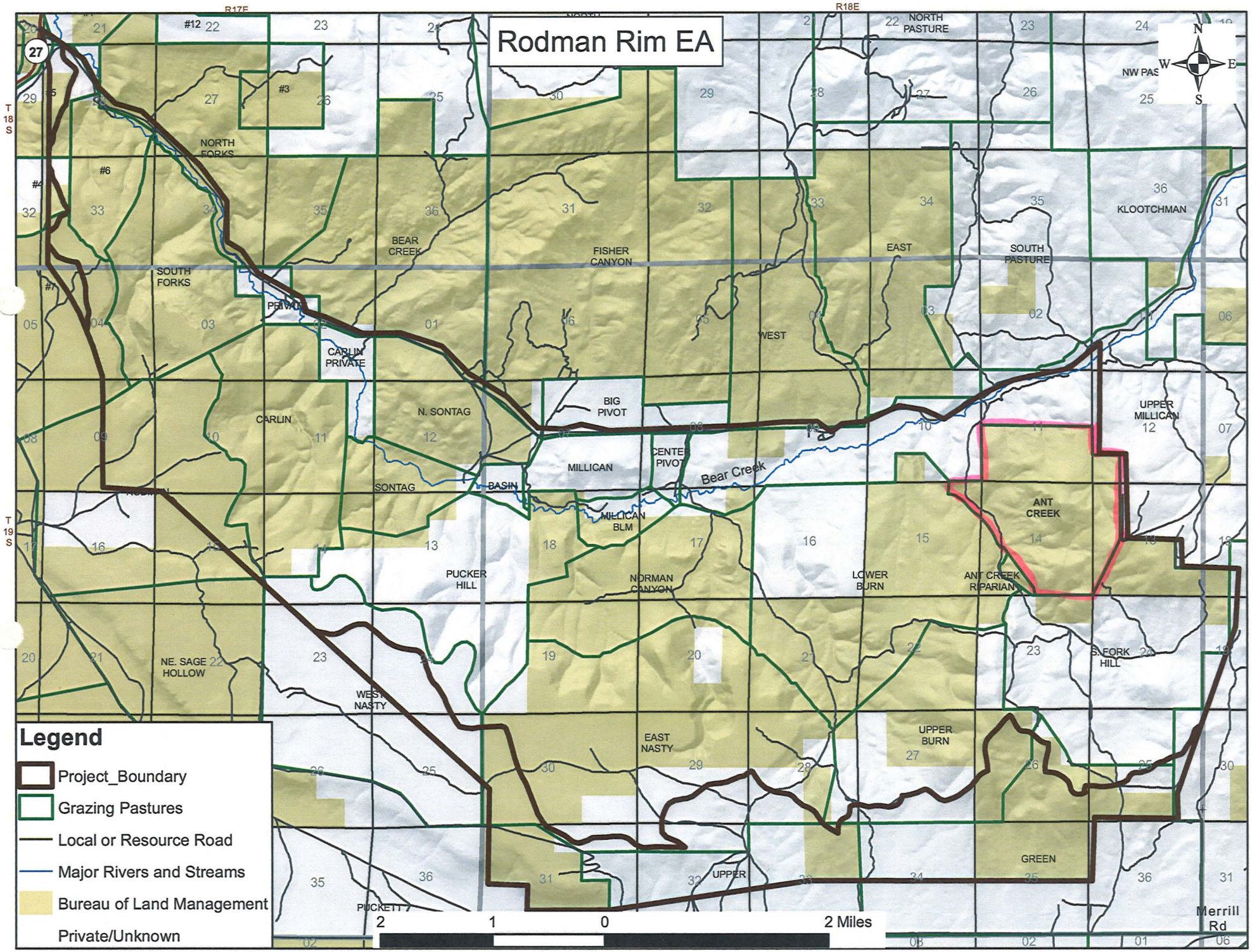
Signature
Responsible official: Molly M Brown 11/8/11

Molly M. Brown — Date
Field Manager, Deschutes Resource Area

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: (Dave Schultz - Fuels Specialist, Prineville District Office, 3050 NE 3rd Street, Prineville, OR 97754, telephone 541-416-6898, dschultz@blm.gov)


Rodman Rim EA
R17E
R18E
T 18 S
T 19 S
NORTH PASTURE
NW PAS
KLOOTCHMAN
EAST
SOUTH PASTURE
WEST
NORTH FORKS
SOUTH FORKS
BEAR CREEK
FISHER CANYON
PRIVATE
CARLIN PRIVATE
CARLIN
N. SONTAG
BIG PIVOT
CENTER PIVOT
MILLICAN
SONTAG BASIN
MILLICAN BLM
Bear Creek
UPPER MILLICAN
ANT CREEK
ANT CREEK RIPARIAN
PUCKER HILL
NORMAN CANYON
LOWER BURN
NE. SAGE HOLLOW
WEST NASTY
EAST NASTY
UPPER BURN
S. FORK HILL
GREEN
UPPER
PUCKETT
Merrill Rd
#3
#4
#6
#7
#12
Legend
Project_Boundary
Grazing Pastures
Local or Resource Road
Major Rivers and Streams
Bureau of Land Management
Private/Unknown
2 1 0 2 Miles
N
S
E
W

Appendix A. Rodman Rim Juniper Management EA, Section 2.5

2.5. Common to All Action Alternatives

These would include the application of the guidelines and procedures for juniper and shrub control projects resident in the RMP (pgs. 88-90). Existing roads would provide vehicle access to cutting areas - no new road or trail construction would be authorized in connection with this project.

No treatment activities would occur until required resource clearances were completed.

No new mitigation measures or management requirements would be applied for the No Action Alternative. The following describes measures for the Proposed Action and the Action Alternatives.

2.5.1 Vegetation

1. No old growth, culturally significant, or dead or dead-topped juniper would be cut.
2. Normally, live trees less than 18 inches diameter at breast height (DBH) would be cut. Exceptions to this could include:
   a. Trees less than 18 inches DBH displaying old growth characteristics or other attributes.
   b. Typically within and adjacent to riparian zones are large, fast-growing trees which lack old growth characteristics. Trees of this kind greater than 18 inches DBH could be cut.
3. In the event of catastrophic (i.e., wildfire) alterations of existing juniper cover, planned mechanical thinning and prescribed fire acreages would be adjusted to meet project objectives and mitigation requirements.
4. Ponderosa pine would not be cut. In "Full Cut" units where individual high-quality pine trees (those with 50% or greater live crowns; few mechanical injuries; low evidence of disease) exist, special effort would be made to cut all except old-growth juniper within a 50-foot radius of the tree bole. In "Partial Cut" units, debris would be pulled away to protect the pine when prescribed burning occurs.
5. Contractors or other project entities would be given a noxious weed information pamphlet; be required to ensure their vehicle and equipment were checked for weed matter prior to entering the project area; and be requested to report any weed discoveries in their work areas. Any weed sighting information would be forwarded to the District Noxious Weed Coordinator for follow-up action.

2.5.2 Soils/Watershed

1. Surface disturbance would be held to a minimum, and as necessary, blended in with surrounding soil surfaces. Emphasis would be placed on avoiding repeated entry of vehicles or equipment on sites where this activity previously occurred.
2. In streams prone to flashy flows, stump heights and felled tree arrangements would be specified on a channel reach-specific basis.
3. Slash would be applied to new vehicle tracks and other vehicle/equipment activity areas created during thinning activities.
4. Cutting activities would be scheduled to minimize compaction and rutting to road surfaces.
5. Prescriptions for felling trees into streams would be developed on a reach-specific basis. The intent would be to provide roughness within the channel bottom from the felled juniper in order to reduce velocities and erosive power of the water. To keep felled trees stable and not block high water or sediment passage, the heavy butt-end of the tree would be placed on the terrace or bank; while the smaller diameter upper portion of the tree would be placed in the channel bottom. Typically, trees felled within channels would be >10 inches (dbh). Felled trees within channel would not exceed an average of 1 stem/50 feet of channel length. Trees felled into channels would be oriented upstream at a 20-30 degree angle.
6. Juniper (located on channel banks) deemed necessary to trap large debris flow material would not be felled.

2.5.3 Wildlife

1. Disturbances from treatment operations would (in no more than 10% of the project area) be conducted between December 15 and April 15 in areas designated as winter range critical for big game.
2. No operations would occur within four miles of active sage-grouse leks from March 1 to June 30 annually.
3. No dead or dying trees would be felled.
4. No trees showing obvious signs of wildlife habitation would be felled.
5. High juniper cover would be retained in key habitats. These areas typically lie against rock outcrops; are key wildlife movement corridors; or have other values critical for wildlife. These specific areas and would be identified when clearances are completed.

6. Key openings where perches are desirable would have juniper trees left to provide for snag recruitment, structural diversity, and/or other purposes.
7. Activities around any golden eagle nests would be avoided during February 1 through August 31.
8. When possible, treatment activities would occur outside of the reproductive period for neotropical migratory birds (April 15 through July 30), especially in areas near springs or other high-quality nesting areas.
9. Should the wildlife situation change (such as new species found to be present or the status of a species changes), then additional operational restrictions might be applied.
10. During burning operations that occur under dry soil moisture conditions, all ponderosa pine trees greater than 20" DBH would have litter raked from around the tree base (minimum distance of 10 feet), with debris being scattered outside of the drip line. All ladder fuels would be removed from the drip line.
11. Smoke dispersal to the north and northeast between January 1 and August 31 would be minimized, to ensure that bald eagle nest stands outside the project area are not inundated with smoke.
12. A BLM Wildlife Biologist would be notified if ferruginous hawks, or goshawk nests or individual birds, are discovered prior to or during treatment activities. The biologist would determine appropriate measures necessary for species; and treatment activities adjusted accordingly.
13. Burning would not occur within ¼ mile of the cliff base where the golden eagle nest exists. Burning during critical reproductive periods within one mile of the existing nest would be avoided. If burning did occur in the project area during this time, smoke entry within a ¼ mile radius around the nest would be prevented. Seasonal operating restrictions would be in place between February 1 and August 31.
14. To maintain bat habitats, mine shafts, old buildings, and large ponderosa pine would be protected.
15. Juniper cutting within 50 feet of springs would be done in a manner to enhance habitat values for migratory birds.
16. Livestock grazing management that would not retard the recovery of riparian habitats would be applied. Associated measures could include temporary fencing, extended grazing rest, re-locating water troughs or other techniques.
17. Restrict burning and cutting activities in stands with less than 25% juniper canopy cover during the sage-grouse nesting period (April 1 to June 30).

2.5.4 Cultural Resources

1. Cultural resource inventory methods would, in accordance with OR BLM/SHPO Protocol, be focused on identifying archaeological sites deemed most at risk from project activities.
2. All significant cultural resources determined to be at risk from project activities would be protected from damage or disturbance.
3. Trees with particular historical significance (survey trees, blaze trees, juniper structures, etc.) would be retained.

2.5.5 Recreation/Visuals/Aesthetics

1. BLM contracts/cooperator agreements would include a provision for stump heights no greater than 10 inches, except as required in stream channels (to catch debris), wood harvest areas, or particular wildlife habitats.
2. Stumps in areas readily visible from the Bear Creek county road would normally be 2-5 inches in height.
3. All vegetation manipulation actions would be consistent with the BLM's Visual Resource Management criteria.
4. Treatments would be designed to achieve a "mottled" appearance through the following actions:
   - Feathering treatment area edges by leaving scattered dispersed trees of varying heights and densities.
   - In Class III viewsheds, implementing activities in a way that form, line, color and texture contrasts/changes could be evident, but remain subordinate to the existing landscape.
   - In Class IV viewsheds, implementing activities that could attract attention, but they would repeat the form, line, color and texture of the landscape.
   - Using irregular thinning unit boundaries, dispersing trees and slash, and retaining a variety of tree ages in order to promote a mottled appearance.
   - Blending new juniper thinning units into older treatment units and private land boundaries.
   - Retaining sufficient trees on all topographic crests (such as ridge tops of basalt rim lips), and other areas (such as road cuts or old mining escarpments) necessary to maintain visual values and scenic quality.
5. Access to existing camping and related recreation sites would be retained.

2.5.6 Structures/Facilities/Private Lands/Livestock Grazing/Other Uses

1. Trees with paint, signs, blazes, or fences attached to them would not be cut
2. Trees near any facility (such as fences and roads) would be directionally felled to avoid damaging or interfering with the function of these facilities.

3. Wood removal would be authorized via permit, and would be subject to access, slash disposal, seasonal restrictions and other requirements. Wood products permit brochures, maps and/or permits would advise permittees of the location of private lands, and to avoid trespassing on them.
4. To minimize private land owner gate, access and other impacts, the BLM would minimize the number of contractors requiring private land access to prosecute their work.
5. The Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management (p. 15 of the S & G's) would continue to govern livestock grazing management.
6. Unless otherwise approved by the Field Manager, wood products within a given treatment area would be made available for public collection for a maximum of one year following the treatment.
7. Whenever feasible, juniper treatments would be conducted on a pasture-by-pasture sequence, to minimize operational impacts on the grazing permittees.
8. Achievement of the livestock grazing rest periods described above would be accomplished through a variety of techniques, and be documented in annual grazing schedules; and, if applicable, any accompanying agreements. Such treatment area rest would be accomplished through a variety of techniques, including (but not limited to) livestock exclusion from the entire pasture; fencing of specific areas; water trough re-locations; water, salt and supplemental feeding patterning and management; and alteration of the class of livestock.

2.5.7 Monitoring

Implementation and validation monitoring would be accomplished through compliance checks, annual treatment field reviews, and accomplishment reports.

Effectiveness monitoring would be done in order to determine if objectives were met, and to gain new insights into component's health and functioning. This would be accomplished by re-photographing and data collection at 22 existing rangeland monitoring sites located within the project area.

New monitoring points would be staked and globally positioned along Bear Creek at four new locations where it intersects with eight major intermittent stream channels. At each of these sites, information collected would include: Vegetation (by species), cryptogam and litter cover; bare soil inter-space; and estimated percentage of the monitoring site area having sheet, rill, or gully erosion and/or mass wasting.

Landscape-level (such as satellite) imagery would be obtained to track (over time) changes in key vegetation parameters (such as the percentage of the project area juniper versus sagebrush-graminoid dominated).

Local landowners often report damage to and loss of viability on private and public lands when flashy flow events from upstream public lands occur. They would be requested to continue to report these events as well as any changes in the frequency and amount of such damage over time. This information would be included as part of the monitoring file.