

Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)

Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management, Spokane District
1103 North Fancher Road
Spokane Valley, WA 99212

A. Background

BLM Office: Border Field Office

Lease/Serial/Case File No.:

NEPA Log Number: #OR135-08-DNA-015

Proposed Action Title: Mormon Cricket Control/Pest Control

Location of Proposed Action: Juniper Dunes area, outside wilderness area; approx. 13 miles northeast of Pasco, Washington (see map).

Description of Proposed Action: The proposal is to inventory cricket hatching beds and conduct treatments when Mormon crickets emerge and begin to mass. (Approximately third instar) These treatments will occur from about April to mid-June, 2008 through 2012. Treatment applications will be localized to hatching beds, and where cricket populations are massing on BLM land that is adjacent to private land containing a crop of economic concern. The Bureau's objective is to protect the valuable resources on adjacent private lands while improving and maintaining range land health on BLM ownership.

This treatment will be done through a cooperative arrangement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture through its Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). APHIS crews will apply Carbaryl bait by using cyclone spreaders attached to balloon-tired 4X4 all terrain vehicles (ATVs). Hand-held cyclone spreaders may also be used to provide initial treatments to larger hatching beds during the initial survey period. Bait will be applied at a rate of 10 pounds (0.50 pounds active ingredient) per acre on active hatching beds. If needed, APHIS crews will return to the larger hatching beds to provide follow-up treatments. APHIS will document all surveys and treatments.

USDA/APHIS will notify the BLM 72 hours in advance prior to implementing surveys, inventories, or treatments within the project area. Also, USDA/APHIS will not treat Mormon cricket populations within the Juniper Dunes Wilderness boundary.

Mitigation Measures: The following measures will be taken to protect special status species (including Ferruginous hawk, Long-billed curlew, Burrowing owl, and Swainson's hawk):

1. Service vehicle traffic will be limited to designated roads and trails during inventory and treatments.
2. Habitat of ground-nesting birds will be avoided when driving vehicles off designated roads or trails.
3. Inventory activities and bait applications will be prohibited within a 50-foot radius of any juniper tree. Juniper trees will not be approached by treatment vehicles any closer than 0.25 miles during mid-June, which is a critical time for active raptor nesting sites. In addition to this

restriction, APHIS bait applicators will take measures to avoid juniper trees when loading bait, servicing equipment, and performing non-application functions.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan Name: Spokane Resource Management Plan

Date Approved/Amended: Approved 1987/Amended 1992

Option 1 (conforms with LUP): The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decision(s):

OR

(Option 2: not explicitly provided for in the LUP) 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(s) (*objectives, terms, and conditions*): Controlling insect infestations on public lands to prevent impacts to adjacent private lands is within the parameters of the Spokane Final RMP (1987, page 12), which recognizes the scattered land ownership and states that as coordinated management approach is essential if management is to be achieved on these intermingled tracts of public lands.

C. Identify applicable National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document(s) or other related document(s) that cover the proposed action

Name and date of NEPA document(s):

Name and date of other relevant document(s):

USDA/APHIS Rangeland Grasshopper and Mormon Cricket Suppression Program, Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) dated 2002.

USDA/APHIS Site-Specific Environmental Assessment (EA. No. WA-03-01)

Juniper Forest Mormon Cricket Control Environmental Assessment Supplement (OR130-04-15, dated June, 1994)(BLM- Spokane District)

Juniper Dunes Fire Rehabilitation Environmental Assessment (#OR-135-06-16) dated September 18, 1996.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between USDA/Aphis and USDI/BLM dated February, 2003

Other documentation relevant to the Proposed Action:

Site assessment files (BLM and APHIS, various dates).

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?

Cooperative measures to control Mormon crickets have been conducted by various agencies and private landowners in the subject area since the 1940s. The previous analysis listed above identifies the same type of treatment (carbaryl bait) and area (Juniper Dunes).

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 range of alternatives is still appropriate, considering that cricket control is done to protect adjacent crops of economic concern.

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?

Yes, the existing analysis is adequate in view of the above new information. The new EIS being prepared by APHIS (see below) is not expected to present new information of significance to the proposed cricket treatment.

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?

Existing analysis of direct and indirect impacts is considered sufficient, considering the localized site-specific treatment in the same general area as in years past. Annual hatching bed treatments have resulted in reductions in cricket populations and therefore reduced areas of treatments in subsequent years (see chart below).

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

The environmental documents referenced above had specific public reviews. Also, in September 2000, the district published a planning update and distributed it by mail to interested publics on a district mailing list; the update included a section addressing annual Mormon cricket control. Each year's treatment is coordinated and implemented with APHIS.

E. Persons/Agencies/Consulted (BLM Staff Consulted are listed on the coversheet attached to this document, or available at the BLM office identified in Section A, above).

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Resource/Agency Represented</u>
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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.

/S/

4/28/08

(Signature of Responsible Official)

(Date)

Name: Scott Pavey

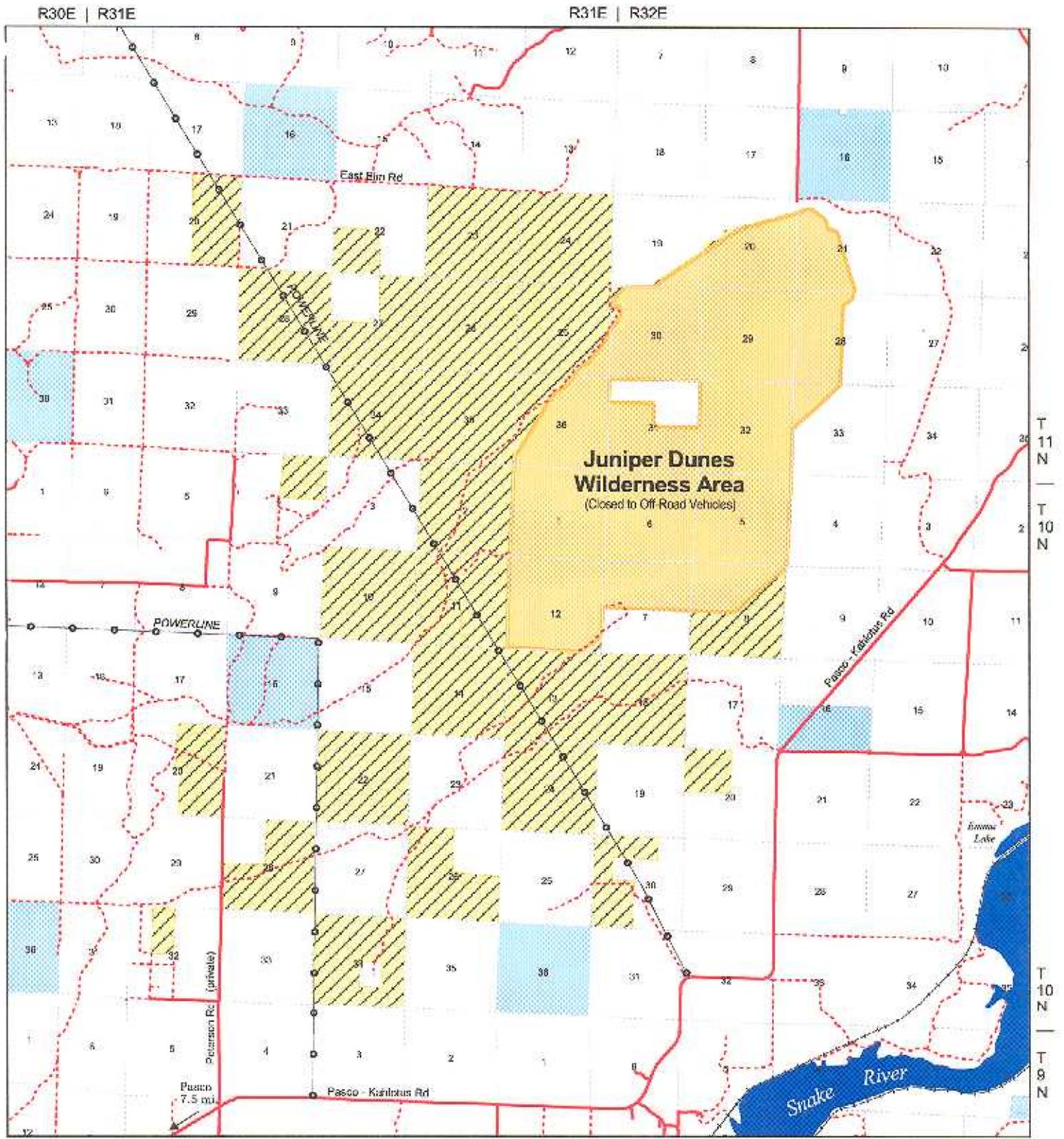
Title: Acting Border Resource Area Manager

G. Contact Person

For additional information concerning this DNA, contact Robert Troiano

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.

Mormon Cricket Survey & Treatment Project Area



0 1 2 Miles



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- BLM Survey & Treatment Project Area
- State Land
- Private
- BLM Wilderness Area

- Railroad
- Improved Road
- Other Road or Foot Trail
- River