UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Border Field Office
1103 North Fancher Road
Spokane Valley, Washington 99212

SCOPING/INFORMATION PACKAGE

Twin Lakes Field Restoration

Introduction

This information package summarizes a Bureau of Land Management (BLM) proposal to conduct restoration treatments on 66 acres of previously farmed lands adjacent to the Twin Lakes Allotment in central Lincoln County, Washington.

Federal actions must be analyzed in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other relevant Federal laws and regulations to determine potential environmental consequences.

The purpose of this information package is to inform interested and affected parties of the proposal and to solicit comments to assist with the environmental review of the proposal. The analysis of the proposal is underway and will be documented in an Environmental Assessment (EA). Public comments received in response to this solicitation will be used to identify potential environmental issues related to the proposed action and to identify alternatives to the proposed action that also fulfill the purpose and need for the project.

Project Area Description

The project area lies approximately 10 miles west of Davenport, Washington and within the approximately 15,300-acre Twin Lakes allotment, managed by the Border Field Office. This area is within occupied recovery areas for both sage and sharp-tailed grouse. The legal description of the project area is:

Portions of **Section 18, T24N-R34E** (see map).

Background

This field restoration project consists of 66 acres of previously farmed lands adjacent to the Twin Lakes Allotment. This particular area was acquired by BLM between 1992 and 1995 to contribute to more efficient Federal land management, protect and preserve larger areas of contiguous native shrub-steppe habitat for sensitive plant and animal species, and provide the public with greater access and recreation opportunities in the region.

Preliminary Purpose and Need

This project will improve habitat suitability for sage and sharp-tailed grouse by increasing the species diversity and habitat structure on 66 acres of previously farmed lands. At this time the proposed treatment areas are dominated by *Agropyron cristatum* (crested wheatgrass), which are not native to the area and do not provide suitable habitat conditions for the sage and sharp-tailed grouse.

This action is needed to meet the general management objective identified in the Spokane District Resource Management Plan to manage upland habitat to meet wildlife population targets. This action also implements RMP direction to conduct habitat improvement projects where necessary to improve unsatisfactory wildlife habitat condition.

Preliminary Proposed Action

The BLM proposes to restore 66 acres of previously farmed lands. Treatment methods would include preparation using herbicide and mechanical methods, planting with a seed mix of native and non-native plants beneficial to grouse, and follow-up weed control using herbicides and mechanical means.

Public Input Needed

Please submit comments on the proposed action and other issues you believe should be considered to the address noted below by **July 9, 2014**. Comments will be most useful if they identify issues or concerns, or propose alternative actions to accomplish the purpose and need or to resolve issues.

Public comments may be submitted electronically or by U.S. Mail to the address noted below.

Please send electronic comments to:
BLM_OR_SP_MAIL@BLM.GOV with **"Twin Lakes Field Restoration"** in the subject line.

Please send U.S. Mail comments to:
BLM – Border Field Office
Attn: **Twin Lakes Field Restoration**
1103 North Fancher Road
Spokane Valley, WA 99212

For all comments submitted, please identify whether you are submitting comments as an individual or as the designated spokesperson on behalf of an organization.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in

your comment to withhold from public review your personal identifying information, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

If you have any questions, please contact Jason Lowe, Wildlife Biologist, at (509) 536-1200.

Enclosures:
Project Area Map

2014 Twin Lakes Field Restoration Project: DOI-BLM-0R-135-2014-0010

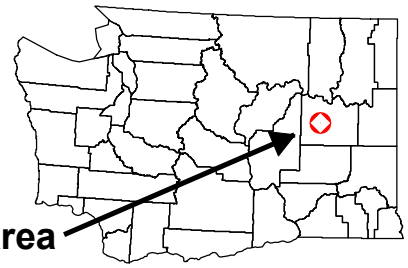
T25N-R33E
T25N-R34E
T24N-R33E
T24N-R34E
T23N-R33E
T23N-R34E

Seven Springs Dairy Rd
Hatley Lake Rd
Wall Lake Rd
West Main
West Loop
Hookup
Twin Lakes Rd
9843012l
9843024l

Project Area
66 ac

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

Fields
Major road
Minor road
Trail
Bureau of Land Management
WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
WA Dept. of Natural Resources



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