



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
VALE DISTRICT
100 Oregon Street
Vale, Oregon 97918
<http://www.or.blm.gov/Vale/>



Documentation of Land Use Plan Conformance and NEPA Adequacy Danner Loop 2 Fire (G67L) Emergency Stabilization and Burned Area Rehabilitation (ES/BAR) Plan DNA

Office: Jordan Field Office, Vale District BLM

Tracking Number: V060-2012-042

Proposed Action Title/Type: Danner Loop 2 Fire Emergency Stabilization and Burned Area Rehabilitation (ES/BAR) Plan

Location: See maps associated with the Danner Loop 2 fire ES/BAR Plan

A. Describe the Proposed Action

Background

The Danner Loop 2 Fire was ignited on August 28, 2012 and was contained on September 1, 2012 after burning a total of 20,461 acres. The location of the fire is identified on Map 1.

Planned Actions

The area burned by the Danner Loop 2 Fire is in need of treatment to ensure desirable vegetation will stabilize the site and prevent invasion by annual grasses and noxious weeds. This can be met by seeding competitive perennial vegetation on 3,716 acres and planting approximately 1030 acres of sagebrush and antelope bitterbrush seedlings. The treatment area will be closed to livestock grazing. This closure will allow for the rehabilitated area to be rested from grazing for one full year and through a second growing season at a minimum, or until monitoring data or professional judgment indicate that the health and vigor of desired vegetation has recovered to levels adequate to support and protect upland function. The minimum two growing season closure will be in effect until BLM personnel determine that residual perennial plant species have reached adequate levels of recovery to re-authorize livestock grazing use. Construction of ten miles of temporary fencing is needed to protect the burn area, minimize soil movement, and reduce the invasion of undesirable annual plants and noxious weeds. A cattleguard will also need to be installed along the Lower Cow Lakes Road. The site will be inventoried for the establishment of noxious weeds. If found, they would be treated in accordance with national and district guidelines for noxious weed treatment.

The vegetation in the burn area was dominated by perennial bunchgrass species with scattered rabbit brush, low sagebrush and various big sagebrush species. Monitoring of the burn area would consist of livestock use supervision and vegetation recovery monitoring.

The Danner Loop 2 Fire Emergency Stabilization and Burned Area Rehabilitation Plan further details planned actions.

B. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance

Southeastern Oregon Resource Management Plan (SEORMP) Date Approved 2002

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUPs because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decisions:

The applicable land use plan for the Danner Loop 2 fire proposed treatment area is the Southeastern Oregon Resource Management Plan Record of Decision (SEORMP/ROD) September 2002.

The treatments outlined in this plan are also consistent with the treatments analyzed in the Vale District Normal Fire Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Plan (NFESRP) Environmental Assessment (EA# OR-030-2005-05) prepared by the Vale District Office. All treatments identified in this plan have been reviewed and are in conformance with the Southeastern Oregon Resource Management Plan (SEORMP).

Management of the big sagebrush cover in seedings and on native rangeland to meet the life history requirements of sagebrush-dependent wildlife along with restoring the diversity and distribution of desirable vegetation communities including perennial native and desirable introduced plant species is specifically provided for on pages 38 - 40 under rangeland vegetation. Closure to livestock grazing is also provided for on page 40. The proposed herbicide treatments are specifically provided for on page 41. Managing shrub overstory for multiple-use has significant benefits for wildlife habitat values. The character of upland vegetation influences wildlife habitat quality and productivity. Additional guidance related to wildlife and wildlife habitat is provided for on pages 50 – 51. The repair of existing structural rangeland projects is specifically provided for on page 59. Best management practices, Appendix O, and standards for implementation features and procedures, Appendix S, provide guidance regarding the design and purpose of fences. Rangeland projects and improvements are constructed as a portion of adaptive management to reduce resource management conflicts and to achieve multiple use management objectives.

C. Identify applicable NEPA documents and other related documents that cover the proposed action.

Vale District Normal Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Plan (NFESRP) Environmental Assessment (2005)

Southeastern Oregon Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision (SEORMP) (2002)

Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and Proposed Southeastern Oregon Resource Management Plan (2001)

Vale District Integrated Weed Control Plan EA (1989)

Northwest Area Noxious Weed Control Program EIS (1987)

Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement and Environmental Report for Vegetation Treatments on Public Lands Administered by the Bureau of Land Management in the Western United States, Including Alaska (2007)

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 current proposed actions are identified in the Vale District NFESRP (Natural recovery, pg 6; Drill Seeding and planting, pg. 7-9; Weed control, pg. 9; Protective fence, pg. 11; Design features, pg.13&14) and are substantially the same actions as analyzed in that document.

2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the current proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values?

Documentation of answer and explanation: The NFESRP and SEORMP analyzed a range of alternatives including no action with respect to current concerns, interests and resource values.

3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances (such as, rangeland health standard assessment, recent endangered species listings, and 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?

There is no significant new information or circumstances that would warrant additional analysis.

4. Do the methodology and analytical approach used in the existing NEPA document(s) continue to be appropriate for the current proposed action?

The methodology and analytical approach used in the NFESRP would continue to be appropriate for the proposed action.

5. 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?

Direct and indirect impacts of the proposed action are substantially the same as those analyzed in the proposed action, pages 37 - 46 of the NFESRP and SEORMP. Cumulative impacts of the proposed action are substantially the same as those analyzed in the NFESRP on page 47 and SEORMP.

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

Documentation of answer and explanation:

The NFESRP and SEORMP were analysis documents reviewed by a diverse representation of publics, including federal, state and local agencies as well as private entities. The notice of availability of the Environmental Analysis and opportunity to comment on the NFESRP was sent to over 400 individuals, organizations, agencies, local governments, state governments and federal governments.

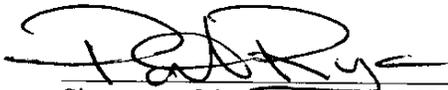
E. Interdisciplinary Analysis:

The following team members conducting or participating in the preparation of this worksheet.

Aimee Huff – Rangeland Management Specialist
Naomi Wilson – Wildlife Biologist
Susan Fritts – Botanist
Todd Allai – Natural Resource Specialist (Soil/Air/Water)
Don Rotell – Archeologist
Josh Travers – Outdoor Recreation Planner
Brian Watts – Fire Planning
Lynne Silva – Weeds Specialist
Richard White – Assistant Field Manager
Thomas “Pat” Ryan – Jordan Field Manager

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 NEPA.



Signature of the Responsible Official

9/24/2012
Date

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.

R45E

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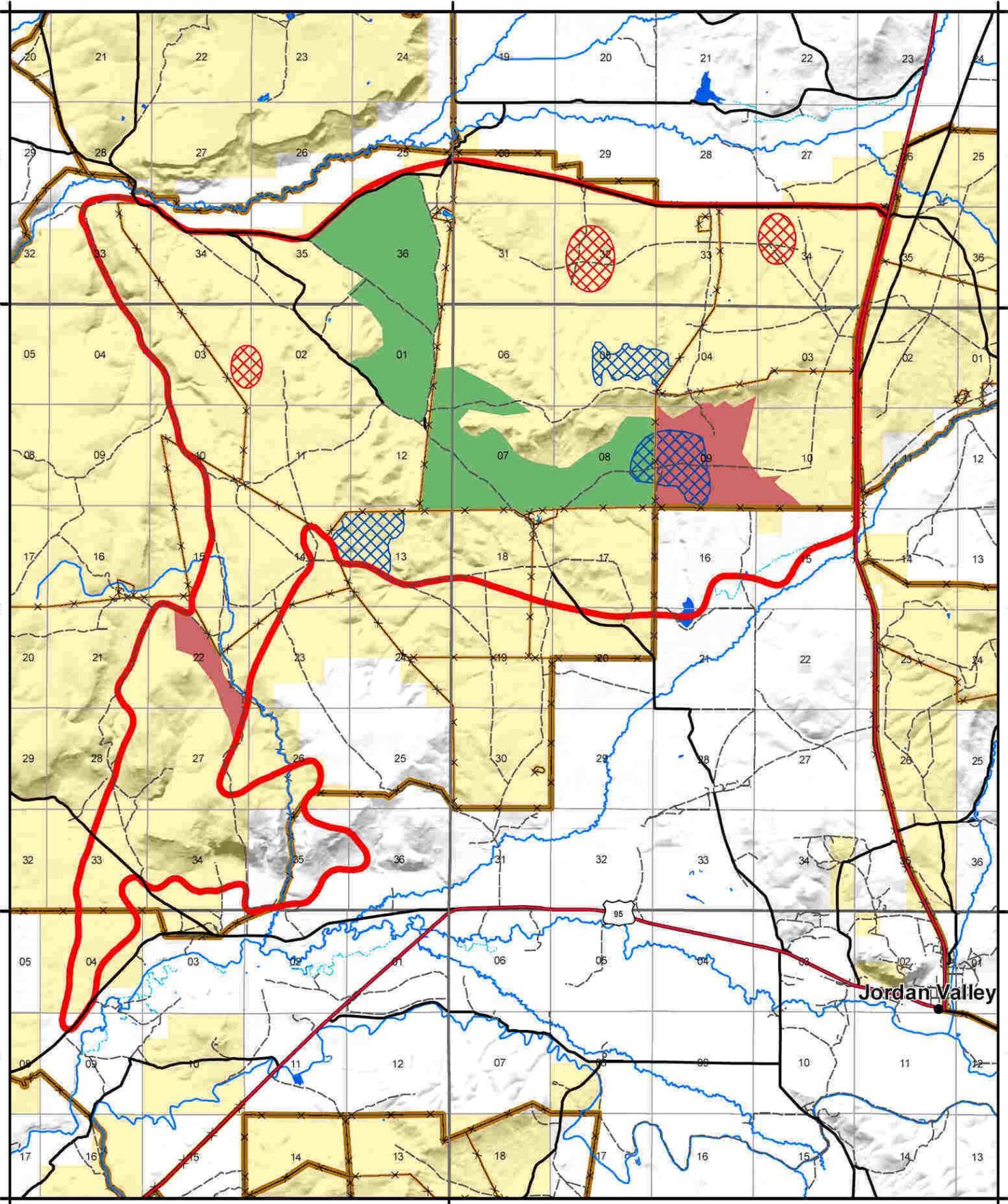
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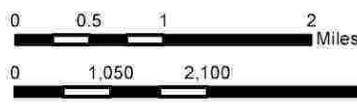
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Legend

- Danner Loop 2 Fire Perimeter
- Highway 95
- County Rd
- Primary Routes
- Allotment
- Pasture

- Proposed Treatments**
- Native Grass Mix
 - Native/Non-Native Grass Mix
 - Sagebrush Seedlings
 - Sistrinch Seedlings
 - Water Bodies
 - Bureau of Land Management Private



R46E

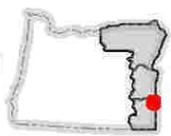


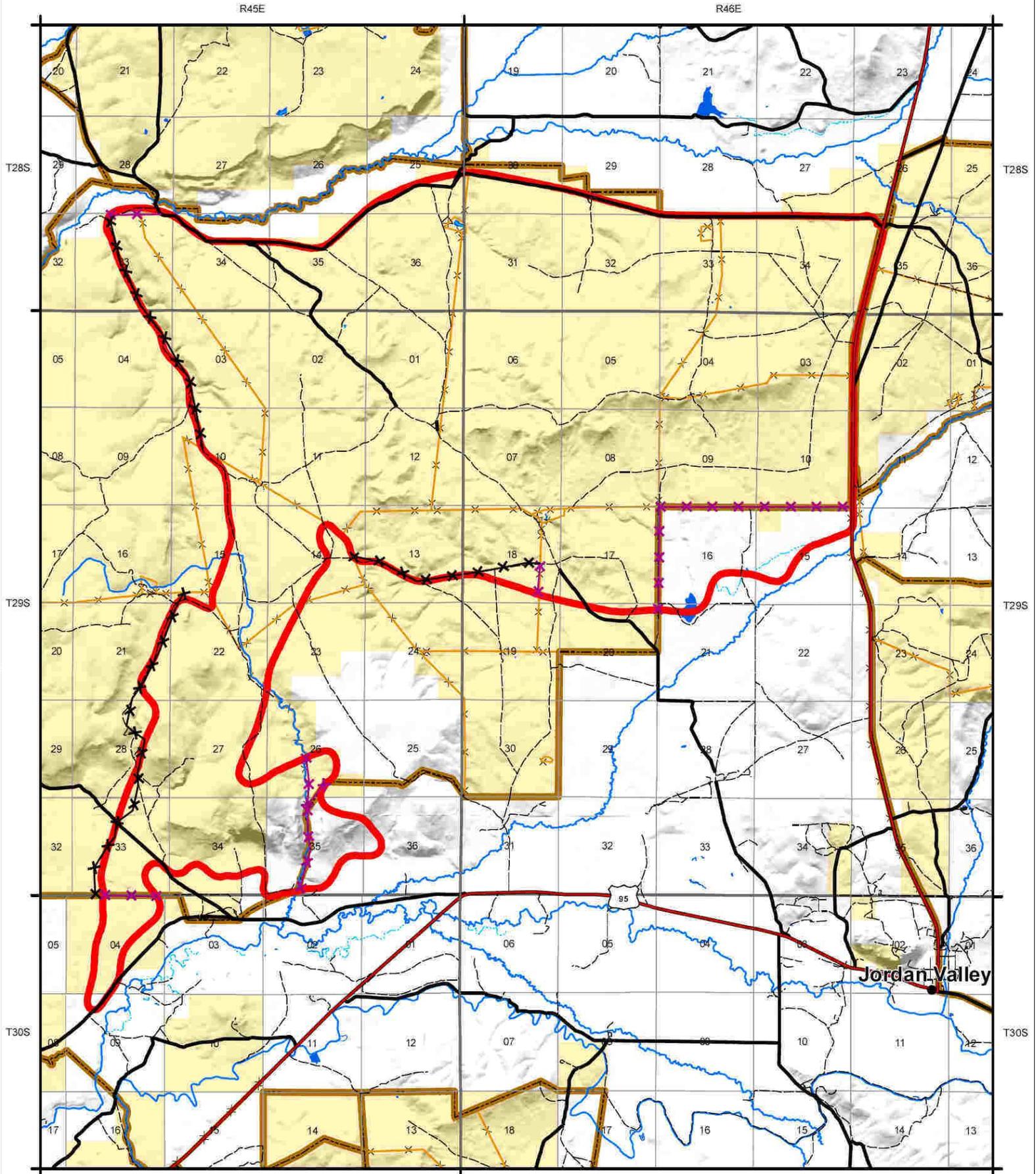
Vale District

November 24, 2012

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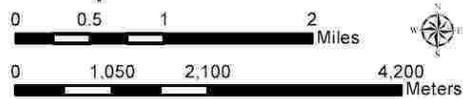
Danner Loop 2 Fire ES/BAR Plan Planned Seeding and Seedling Treatments Map 1



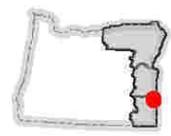


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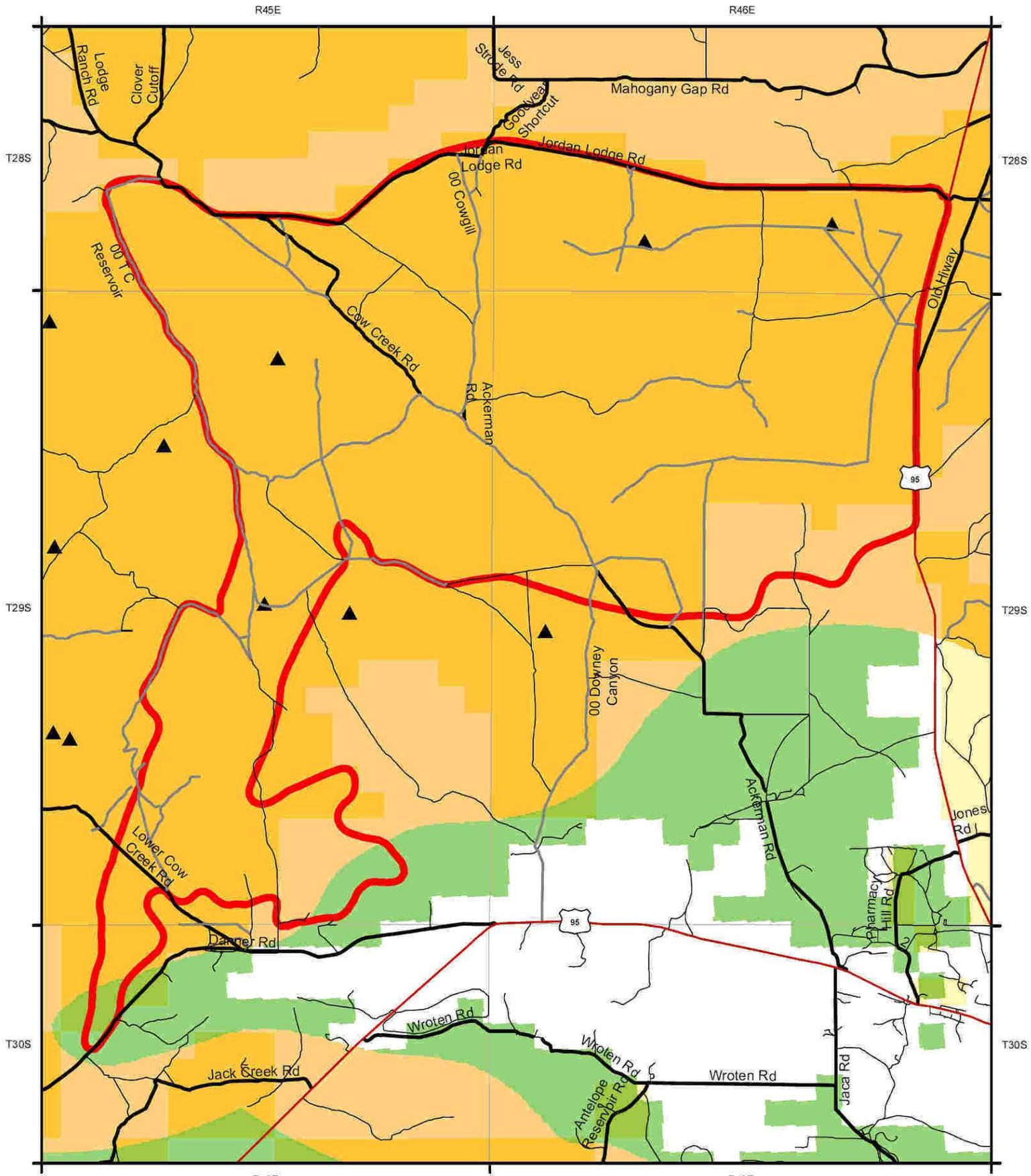
- Danner Loop 2 Fire Perimeter
- Proposed Temp. Fence
- Protective Fence Repair
- Highway 95
- County Rd.
- Primary Routes
- Creeks
- Canal/Ditch
- Water Bodies
- Bureau of Land Management
- Private



**Danner Loop 2 Fire ES/BAR Plan
Repair/Temporary Protective Fence
Map 2**



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November 24, 2012
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-  Danner Loop 2 Perimeter
-  Sage Grouse Leaks
-  Preliminary General Habitat
-  Preliminary Priority Habitat



Danner Loop 2 Fire ES/BAR Plan
Greater Sage Grouse
Map 3

U. S. Department of Interior
 Bureau of Land Management

 Vale District
 December 6, 2012

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