



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 Iron Fire (G1MR) Stabilization and Rehabilitation Plan DNA

Office: Malheur Field Office

Tracking Number: V060-2012-035

Proposed Action Title/Type: Iron Fire Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation

Location: See attached map

A. Describe the Proposed Action

Background

The Iron fire was started on 7/09/2012 by lightning and was contained on 7/16/2012 after burning a total of 9,868 acres. The location of the fire is identified on Map 1.

Planned Actions

The area burned by Iron Fire is in need of treatment to ensure desirable vegetation will stabilize the site and prevent invasion of undesirable and or noxious weeds. This can be met by protecting the area from grazing during a period necessary for establishment and recovery of health and vigor of desired vegetation. Construction of 20 miles of temporary fencing is needed to protect the burn area and minimize soil movement, preserve on-site productivity, reduce the invasion of undesirable flammable annual plants, and reduce the potential for noxious weeds. The site will be monitored 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 on the area burned by the fire was dominated by Wyoming big sagebrush, bunchgrass, and annual grasses. Monitoring of the burn area would consist of livestock use supervision and vegetation recovery monitoring.

The Iron Fire Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Plan further details planned actions.

B. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance

LUP Name Southeastern Oregon Resource Management Plan (SEORMP) Date Approved 2002

* List applicable LUPs (e.g., Resource Management Plans and activity, project, management, or program plans, or applicable amendments thereto)

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

Southeastern Oregon Resource Management Plan

Rangeland Vegetation,
pages 38-41
Wildlife Habitat
Pages 50-51

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

List by name and date all applicable NEPA documents that cover the proposed action.

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

Draft (1998) and Final (2001) Environmental Impact Statement prepared for the Southeastern Oregon Resource Management Plan

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)

The Final EIS for Vegetation Treatments Using Herbicides on BLM Lands in Oregon (2010)

List by name and date other documentation relevant to the proposed action (e.g., biological assessment, biological opinion, watershed assessment, allotment evaluation, and monitoring report).

None

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?

Documentation of answer and explanation: The current proposed actions are identified in the Vale District NFESRP (Natural recovery, pg 6; 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?

Documentation of answer and explanation: 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?

Documentation of answer and explanation: 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?

Documentation of answer and explanation: 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.

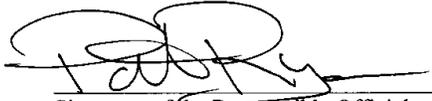
E. Interdisciplinary Analysis:

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

Randy Eyre	Fire Planner
Todd Allai	Soil Ecologist
Don Rotell	Supervisory NRS/Archeologist
Brian Watts	Fire Ecologist
Lynne Silva	Weeds Specialist
Susan Fritts	Botanist
Garth Ross	Wildlife Biologist
Amy Huff	Rangeland Management Specialist
Becky Evans	Rangeland Management Specialist
Bill Lutjens	Rangeland Management Specialist
Thomas "Pat" Ryan	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.

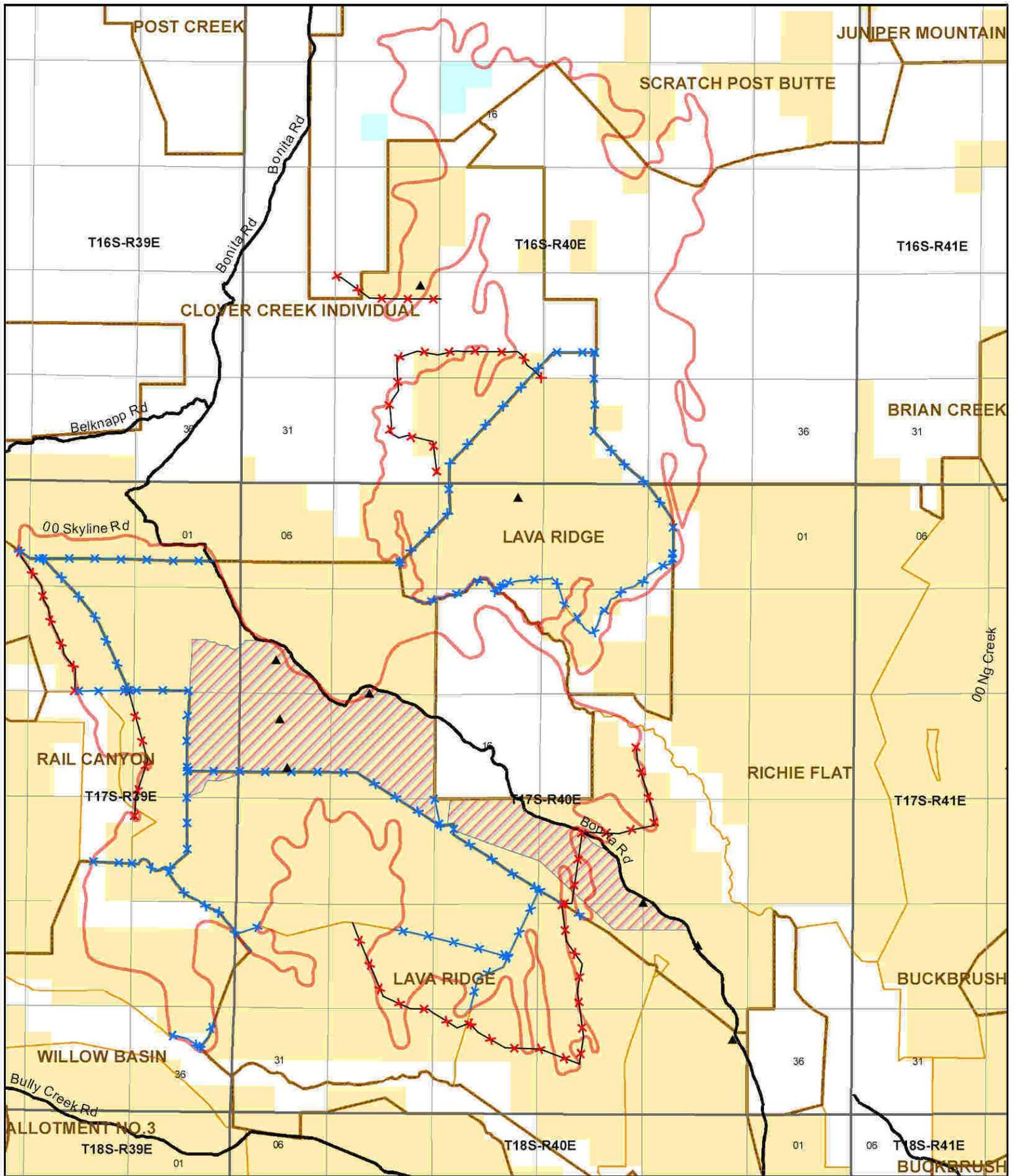


Signature of the Responsible Official

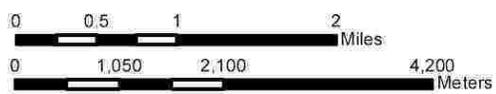
12/7/12

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.



- Legend**
- x Temporary Fence
 - x Allotment Fence Repair
 - ▲ Sage-Grouse Leaks
 - Areas of Critical Environmental Concern
 - Fire Perimeter
 - Bureau of Land Management
 - Private
 - State Lands
 - County route



U.S. Department of Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Vale District
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Bonita & Iron Fire - Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Protective Temporary Fences/Related Facilities Repair

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