United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
VALE DISTRICT
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Documentation of Land Use Plan Conformance and NEPA Adequacy Holloway North (G4ZC) Fire Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Plan DNA

Office: Jordan Field Office
Tracking Number: **DOI-BLM-OR-V060-2012-045**
Proposed Action Title/Type: Holloway North Fire Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation
Location: See Initial ESR Plan and Implementation Decision maps

A. Describe the Proposed Action

Background

During the summer of 2012, several lightning caused fires burned within the Jordan Resource Area, Vale District, Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The Holloway fire was one such fire. It ignited on August 5, 2012 and was contained on August 25, 2012. The fire burned approximately 460,800 acres in three BLM Districts (Winnemucca, Burns, and Vale). The Holloway fire burned in the extreme southwest corner of the Vale District on the Trout Creek and Oregon Canyon Mountains. It burned approximately 164,900 acres of land administered by the BLM and approximately 5,490 acres of private land, or a total of 170,390 acres within the Vale District. The burn is located approximately 20 miles west of McDermitt, Nevada. A single Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation (ESR) plan was completed for the entire burn, with input and proposed actions developed by each of the three BLM Districts, for their respective administrative areas. This Documentation of Land Use Plan Conformance and NEPA Adequacy (DNA) applies only to that portion of the Holloway fire within the Vale District BLM, and is referred to as the Holloway North fire.

Areas and resources impacted by the fire are as follows:

- The burned area has approximately 76 miles of streams which are occupied by Lahontan Cutthroat trout, a Federally Listed species (see Implementation map 7).
- The area is currently occupied by Greater Sage-Grouse and contains key habitat for the species. Contained within the burned area perimeter are approximately 164,000 acres of Preliminary Priority Habitat (PPH) and 6,100 acres of Preliminary General Habitat (see Implementation map 7)
- Dry Creek Bench Area of Critical Environmental Concern/ Research Natural Area is a 1,616-acre ACEC/RNA designated through the SEORMP planning process, is located on the northern edge of the Oregon Canyon Mountains, and is wholly within the Holloway North fire perimeter (see Implementation map 3). The relevant and important values of

this ACEC/RNA include vegetation cells (particularly mountain mahogany communities) identified by the Oregon Natural Heritage Program (ONHP).

- Little Whitehorse Exclosure ACEC/RNA (see Implementation Map 3) is an approximately 58-acre exclosure in a narrow canyon of Little Whitehorse Creek located in the northwest corner of the Holloway North fire perimeter. The canyon experienced concentrated burning during the fire. The exclosure was constructed in 1972 and represented over 30 years of natural recovery for the riparian and aquatic systems that have been excluded from grazing and other impacts. The relevant and important values for the ACEC/RNA include riparian vegetation cells identified by the ONHP and the presence of Lahontan cutthroat trout, again, a Federally-listed threatened species.
- Wilderness Study Areas (see Initial ESR Plan Map 4 and Implementation Map 3): Twelve Mile Creek (3-162), Fifteen Mile Creek (3-156), Disaster Peak (3-153), Willow Creek (3-152), and Oregon Canyon (3-157) are located within the fire perimeter. Approximately 124,000 acres of WSA are within the fire perimeter on Vale District administered lands.
- Approximately 31,630 acres of lands within the fire perimeter of the Vale District were determined to have wilderness characteristics (see Implementation Map 3).

Planned Actions

The area burned by the Holloway North fire is in need of treatment to ensure desirable vegetation will stabilize the site and prevent invasion of undesirable vegetation and/or noxious weeds. Additional actions are also necessary to protect resources by replacing signage burned by the fire for public safety and access restrictions to protected areas. Repair or reconstruction of rangeland management projects is also proposed. The proposed treatments for the Holloway North fire are summarized below:

- Aerial seeding of approximately 29,750 acres of Mountain big sagebrush (see Implementation Map 5) on areas with high potential to successfully re-establish the species and with a priority placed on sites with known Greater Sage-Grouse leks (mating).
- Planting approximately 16,580 acres of sagebrush seedling plugs (see Implementation Map 5).
- Planting approximately 7,000 acres of antelope bitterbrush and 3000 acres of mountain mahogany seedlings to re-establish areas of these species burned by the fire. These species provide excellent winter forage and cover, as well as hiding/escape cover for big game species. Final acreages will be determined after field inventories and assessments are conducted in 2013.
- Approximately 30 miles of stream bank (see Implementation Map 5) are targeted for potential willow planting, due to the severity of the burn in riparian areas. Field surveys in 2013 will identify priority areas for willow planting using locally available will species from unburned riparian areas.
- Noxious weed and invasive vegetation treatments are targeted for approximately 2,040 acres. Field inventories and surveys will continue into 2013 to determine the precise acreage and locations necessary for treatment.
- Rest parts or all of burned pastures within authorized grazing allotments from livestock grazing during a period necessary for establishment and recovery of health and vigor of

desired vegetation, pursuant to the direction of the governing land use plan. Grazing decisions and agreements are addressed in a separate decision under 43 CFR 4110.3.

- Approximately 10 miles of temporary protective fence (see Implementation Decision Map 6) would be constructed to separate the burn area from unburned portions of affected pastures.
- Approximately 50 miles of Lahontan Cutthroat Trout habitat exclosure boundary. Much of these exclosures boundaries are canyon rim barriers to access.
- Fencelines damaged by the fire would be repaired.
- Treatment effectiveness monitoring and regular monitoring to track potential invasion of unwanted vegetation or noxious weeds.
- Soil stabilization at specific, currently unidentified locations to protect from increased potential for high run-off events
- Assessment and protection of cultural sites and related resources.

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 and Wildlife Habitat Pages 50-51; Special Status Animal Species Pages 51-55; Rangeland/Grazing Use Pages 56-60; Off-Highway Vehicles Pages 65-67; Cultural Resources 106-107; and Adaptive Management Pages 111-113.

Southeastern Oregon Resource Management Plan Best Management Practices, Appendix O: Definition Page O-1, Fire Suppression Page O-6, Noxious Weed Management Page O-7.

Southeastern Oregon Resource Management Plan Best Management Practices and Rangeland projects and Improvements, Appendix S.

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), Final (2001), and Record of Decision (2002) 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)

6330 Manual - Management of Wilderness Study Areas (Public, revised July, 2012)

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)

Greater Sage-Grouse Interim Management Policies and Procedures (BLM WO IM 2012-043, December, 2011)

US Fish and Wildlife Service *12-Month Findings for Petitions to List Greater Sage-Grouse as Threatened or Endangered* (2010 (75 Fed. Reg.13910))

BLM *National Greater Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy* (BLM WO, August 2011)

BLM *Report on National Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Measures* (BLM National Technical Team on Greater Sage-Grouse, December, 2011)

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, 2011. *Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Assessment and Strategy for Oregon: A Plan to Maintain and Enhance Populations and Habitat* (April, 2011)

Knick and Connelly, *Ecology and Conservation of Greater Sage-Grouse: a Landscape Species and its Habitats* (Monograph, 2011)

Southeastern Oregon Resource Management Plan Settlement Agreement (Case 05-35931, June 10, 2010) between Vale District BLM and Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA) resulting from Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals decision (ONDA v. BLM, 625 F.3d 1092 (9th Cir. 2008).

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:

Temporary Fencing
Temporary fences will be constructed to exclude burned areas from access and use. Any grazing closures of burned areas of the Holloway North fire will be conducted through separate grazing decision(s) or agreement(s) in accordance with 43 CFR 4110.3. Resting burned areas from livestock grazing is policy set forth in the ROD (Page 40), which encompasses the area burned by the Holloway North fire.

The proposed action is specifically a feature of the NFESRP EA, both in terms of closing areas to livestock grazing until vegetation has re-established and construction of temporary fencing (Pages 44, 46). The NFESRP states, "Temporary fencing would allow areas within a pasture that are not burned to remain available for livestock grazing, reducing economic impacts to permittees, where fencing is feasible."

Temporary fence location and layout were engineered by Vale BLM resource specialists and conform to Standard Implementation Features and Procedures (ROD, Appendix S)

Again, grazing management in areas affected by the Holloway North fire will be addressed through a separate decision or agreement.

Plantings
Objectives set out and analyzed through the SEORMP FEIS for Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat (ROD at Page 51): "Manage upland habitats in forest, woodland and rangeland vegetation types so that the forage, water, cover, structure and security necessary for wildlife are available on public land"

The SEORMP FEIS specifically recognized and analyzed the influence of abundance, structure and spatial arrangement of sagebrush communities (ROD, Appendix F-5). Shrub plantings were identified based on site potential, the location of historic and recently active sagebrush dependent wildlife species, including Greater Sage-Grouse, and to re-establish habitat (hiding, escape, thermal, and seasonal) requirements.

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

Seedings
Allowance for up to 500 acres of ground-based, low-impact vehicle (ATV/UTV) broadcast seedings of native seed has been identified to protect cultural resources determined to be threatened by slope or site instability.

Approximately 30,000 acres would be aerially seeded with Mountain Big sagebrush.

Rangeland Vegetation, Objective 1: "Restore, protect, and enhance the diversity and distribution of desirable vegetation communities, including perennial native and desirable introduced plant

species. Provide for their continued existence and normal function in nutrient, water and energy cycles", (ROD, Page 39).

Management Actions for Rangeland Vegetation: "Seedings will be implemented with appropriate mixes of adapted perennial species. Species mixes will be determined on a site specific basis dependent on the probability of successful establishment, risks associated with seeding failure, and other management considerations. Preference will be toward the use of native species, though nonnative species may be used when better adapted to out-compete established annual species. Use of competitive native species or desirable nonnative species will be emphasized in seedings within sites moderately and highly susceptible to degradation. Treatment configuration will emphasize the maintenance of natural values as consistent with other resource management objectives." (ROD, Page 40)

All proposed ESR seeding and planting actions have been specifically analyzed through the NFESRP (Seeding and Planting, pg. 7-9).

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.

Specific issues related to Lahontan Cutthroat Trout
Lahontan cutthroat trout (LCT) was listed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) as endangered in 1970 (USFWS 1970) and reclassified as threatened in 1975 (USFWS 1975). The Holloway North fire burned riparian areas and lands adjacent to streams with known populations of LCT. The NFESRP identified LCT as present on public lands within the Vale District (NFESRP, p.32) and analyzed post-fire actions which may be necessary to restore riparian area function and hydrologic stabilization. The NFESRP states, "Design features and BMPs (Best Management Practices) for working in riparian areas and aquatic environments would minimize the direct affects to water quality. Direct, short-term impacts to water quality could occur during facilities maintenance (NFESRP, p.38).

Potential noxious weed treatments were specifically analyzed in the NFESRP and would be conducted to protect encroachment of noxious weeds into riparian areas. Noxious weed treatments would be implemented with design features to minimize impacts to riparian vegetation and water quality (NFESRP, p.42)

Proposed actions in the Holloway North ESR will be conducted to expedite the recovery of riparian vegetation and function and have been analyzed for possible impacts to critical LCT habitat. Vale BLM has determined that the proposed ESR projects in Holloway North fire burned area will have no effect on Lahontan cutthroat trout. Contact has been made with USFWS to coordinate on rehabilitation issues.

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. The SEORMP FEIS anticipated the impact of fire on public land resources and resource values, considered a range of alternatives to address post-fire management, and analyzed the alternative consequences different potential management actions to respond to wildland fire impacts. The NFESRP EA analyzed anticipated impacts of fire within the Vale District, including those proposed actions contained within this Holloway North ESR plan.

Pertinent issues arising since the NFESRP was signed (2005), and relevant to proposed Holloway North ESR actions are discussed below. These issues were specifically considered through the interdisciplinary effort in the analysis of the proposed ESR actions:

Greater Sage-Grouse Management

In March, 2010 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issued its finding that Greater Sage-Grouse are "warranted but precluded" for listing under the ESA (Notice, 75 FR 13910 – 14014; 03/23/2010). Thirty-eight scientists from federal, state and nongovernmental organizations collaborated to synthesize the information and findings on Greater Sage-Grouse, and compiled this in *Ecology and Conservation of Greater Sage-Grouse: a Landscape Species and its Habitats* (Monograph, 2011). Following this, in December, 2011, the BLM issued Instruction Memorandum No. 2012-043 which provides interim management policies and procedures for Greater Sage-Grouse. Also released in December, 2011 was the BLM's *A Report on National Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Measures* developed by the BLM's National Technical Team on Greater Sage-Grouse (NTT Report). Separately, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) published the *Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Assessment and Strategy for Oregon: A Plan to Maintain and Enhance Populations and Habitat* (ODFW Strategy, April, 2011). These documents provide the most current information on Sage-Grouse populations and habitat requirements and were reviewed for consistency with proposed actions within the Holloway North fire.

Proposed projects for the Holloway North ESR were considered and designed to conform to the Interim Management and Conservation measures set forth in the NTT Report. A priority for the proposed ESR projects is stabilization and rehabilitation of existing, known Greater Sage-Grouse habitat, particularly Sage-Grouse Habitat identified as Preliminary Priority Habitat (PPH, NTT Report). ODFW's identification of Core Habitat areas was adopted by Oregon BLM as PPH for analytical purposes and are identical geographic areas. Due to the acreage of sage-grouse habitat impacted by the fires (see Implementation Map 7), BLM focused sage brush planting ESR actions on burned areas in PPH and/or near known sage-grouse leks. Proposed projects conform to IM No. 2012-043. BLM has concluded that these projects provide the best methods to expedite rehabilitation of sage brush habitat, and that impacts from those actions are benign and would not substantially change through additional analysis.

The following factors were specifically considered under BLM's *Greater Sage-Grouse Interim management Policies and Procedures* (IM 2012-043), and are reflected in proposed treatments in the ESR Plan:

- Integrated Vegetation Management:
  - Proposed treatments were specifically analyzed in terms of fine (pasture level) and mid-scale (Geographic Management Areas (GMA), see Implementation Map 2) levels of Ecosystem Based Management (FEIS, Pages 141-142) required to "address habitat fragmentation, effective patch size, invasive species presence, and protection of intact sagebrush communities".
  - Design treatments to: promote sagebrush communities; limit the expansion of invasive species; maintain or improve soil site stability, and hydrologic function and biological integrity.
- Wildfire Emergency Stabilization and Burned Area Rehabilitation:
  - Prioritize re-vegetation projects to: maintain and enhance intact sagebrush habitat.
- Fences

  Proposed temporary fence construction locations conform to recommendations identified in IM 2012-043, including:
  - To facilitate restoration of burned vegetation, including sage-grouse habitat, through limiting access and use in burned areas,
  - Siting all temporary fences more than 1.25 miles from known sage-grouse lek locations, and placement was selected in coordination with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife staff,
  - Marking temporary fencelines with high visibility devices/flagging and location/design of fencelines to reduce sage-grouse collisions with fences.

Lands found to have wilderness characteristics

The second issue arising since completion of the NFESRP was the finalization of a Settlement Agreement between the BLM and ONDA in response to a decision of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, *ONDA v.BLM*, 625 F.3d 1092 (9th Cir. 2010), which upheld ONDA's challenge to the Southeastern Oregon Resource Management Plan (SEORMP). In part, the Settlement Agreement identified a need to update the BLM's inventory of wilderness characteristics resources within the SEORMP planning area, but outside of existing WSAs and designated Wilderness. This inventory has been completed.

The Settlement Agreement also required the BLM to analyze the effects of any proposed projects on the identified wilderness characteristics through "NEPA processes." Amendment of the SEORMP began with public scoping in May, 2010, but the Amendment process has been delayed due to BLM's national planning effort in response to US Fish and Wildlife Services *warranted but precluded* listing of Greater Sage-Grouse. Vale BLM will continue working on the SEORMP amendment to address the issues identified by the Ninth Circuit court and the Settlement Agreement, as decisions and public input on sage-grouse planning are developed.

Several indicators of the effect of ESR treatments on wilderness characteristic values were considered through interdisciplinary team analysis:

- The original wilderness inventory on all public lands in Oregon was completed between 1977 and 1989 (BLM *Oregon Wilderness Environmental Impact Statement, December, 1989).* The result of this inventory was the designation of approximately 1.3 million acres of Wilderness Study Areas within the SEORMP planning area. Those lands are managed under the IMP (6330 Manual, Management of Wilderness Study Areas, revised July, 2012).
- Many lands found to not possess wilderness characteristics in the original wilderness characteristics inventory were found as such due to extensive mechanical treatments and range project developments that were implemented in the decade preceding the original inventory in the 1960s and 1970s. In particular, the Vale Project provided Congressional-level funding to complete extensive landscape-level rangeland drill mechanical vegetation treatments. A component of wilderness characteristics inventory is how "natural" an area is to the casual observer; at the time of the original inventory, the then-recent Vale Project drill seedings were dominant in much of the landscape and led to findings that extensive areas were non-natural.
- Between 2007 and 2012, as required by the Settlement Agreement, Vale BLM completed wilderness characteristics inventories of all public lands (outside of WSAs) within the District, including those affected by the Holloway North fire. BLM conducted extensive field and interdisciplinary reviews of these lands and have published final findings.
- Many areas in the previous inventory, including those with landscape treatments either through the Vale Project or other rangeland restoration efforts, have now been found by BLM to possess wilderness characteristics.
- Interim management of Wilderness Study Areas provides clear direction that permits limited rehabilitation efforts, so long as no action negatively impacts wilderness values. While WSAs and lands found to possess wilderness characteristics are managed under separate authorities, the resources inventoried are identical. The seeding and planting techniques proposed on lands with wilderness characteristics affected by the Holloway North fire are consistent with the emergency stabilization seeding techniques analyzed in the NFESRP EA and used by the Vale District on WSAs.

Vale BLM management of public lands since the Wilderness Inventory and release of the *Wilderness Study Report* has led to conditions that have resulted in findings that certain additional areas now possess wilderness characteristics. Within the burned area, approximately 20,775 acres have been determined to possess wilderness characteristics (see Map 3, ESR Implementation Plan). While this does not suggest that these lands warrant wilderness designation (suitability processes and recommendations for Wilderness designation of Wilderness Study Areas are provided in *BLM Wilderness Study Report, October, 1991)*, under the stipulations of the Settlement Agreement, any proposed actions will not be implemented which would cause either the Vale BLM wilderness characteristic units to not meet the minimum wilderness character criteria or for any such unit to decrease in size.

Treatments proposed in the Holloway North ESR plan which are in lands determined by BLM to have wilderness character were selected to rehabilitate sites impacted by the fire and to maintain, protect, and/or enhance values identified by BLM through the wilderness characteristics inventory. Proposed actions in lands found by BLM to have wilderness characteristics are consistent with actions addressed in the NFESRP that occur in WSAs. All

proposed actions are designed to have only short term, if any, impact to wilderness characteristics. Proposed treatments were also designed to: minimize the risk of invasion of cheatgrass or noxious weeds; incorporate seed mixes, including native species, to enhance the natural character of the area; and utilize methodologies that minimize the short term visual and aesthetic impacts to the area. The proposed actions will not have a permanent impact to either the size of the inventoried wilderness characteristics unit or the individual wilderness characteristics.

Many actions proposed in the Holloway North ESR Plan are dependent on: seed or seedling availability, site stability after spring run-off , and/or field inventories of known cultural resources and the presence of threats to sites due to soil loss or other site instability indicators with potential to negatively impact the cultural resource. Proposed treatments in lands determined to have wilderness characteristics are limited to manual plantings of Wyoming Big sagebrush or Antelope bitterbrush seedlings, aerial seeding of Mountain big sagebrush and/or ground-based, low-impact vehicle (small UTV or ATV) broadcast seedings of native grass species should post-fire monitoring of cultural sites determine a need to protect sites through effecting establishment of vegetation.

Temporary fencing is not proposed within lands found to have wilderness characteristics.

The BLM concludes that the proposed ESR actions will not have substantial or long term impacts on the wilderness characteristics and would not affect either the existing finding that a unit contains wilderness characteristics, diminish the size of the unit, or affect the eventual management direction made at the conclusion of the upcoming SEORMP Amendment process to address lands with wilderness characteristics, and thus would not benefit from additional NEPA analysis since such analysis is contained in the NFESRP EA for WSAs. The BLM recognizes the provisions agreed to in the Settlement Agreement with regards to the projects proposed for Holloway North fire lands found to have wilderness characteristics (Paragraph 19, Settlement Agreement). The proposed actions are consistent with avoiding negative, long-term impacts that may affect the BLM's eventual decision on management of the wilderness characteristics unit(s), while taking action to protect and restore the resources after the Holloway North fire. BLM has analyzed through NEPA the types of actions proposed in the Holloway North fire ESR plan on similar resources containing wilderness values (specifically, WSAs). Vegetation treatments in lands found to have wilderness characteristics are designed to minimize impacting wilderness characteristics through low impact ground-based and aerial seeding/planting methods, which will have short-term or no visible impacts to the resources. BLM believes that this complies with the Settlement Agreement.

Extent of the burned area

The Holloway North fire burned approximately 170,000 acres within the Vale District. Actions analyzed in the NFESRP were the normal emergency stabilization and rehabilitation actions Vale BLM would consider following any wildland fire, given typical post fire conditions. Protecting life and property, safety considerations, ground and aerial seedings, plantings, temporary fencing, resting burned areas from livestock grazing, facility reconstruction, among other actions are a part of the set of actions Vale BLM considers, regardless of the location or size of a given fire. The size of the Holloway North fire does require BLM to evaluate options for ESR projects across a broader landscape, but this is consistent with the analysis in the NFESRP EA. Funding

and implementation limitations (e.g., seed availability, staffing, machinery and equipment) may cause some proposed actions to be reduced from what was proposed in the ESR Plan. Additional funding and other resources which become available will be implemented, if possible, within the actions considered in the ESR Plan. If additional resources become available beyond what is identified in the ESR Plan, additional NEPA review may become necessary. However, the types of emergency stabilization treatments, the post fire conditions, and time frame for completing said actions are typical and were assessed in the NFESRP and the number of acres burned and number of acres to be treated would not substantially change the analysis in the NFESRP on the new proposed action.

The new information and new circumstances would not substantially change the analysis in the NFESRP on the new proposed action.

Summary
All proposed actions in this plan are beneficial to the recovery of the burned area and are determined to be necessary to restore the burned area as efficiently as possible to meet resource objectives. None of the new information requires the preparation of supplemental NEPA and would not change the analysis in the existing NEPA.

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.

Brent Grasty	NEPA Compliance and Planning
Linus Meyers	NRS – Soil/Air/Water
Don Rotell	Supervisory NRS/Archeologist
Brian Watts	Fire and Fuels Management
Lynne Silva	Weeds Specialist
Josh Travers	Recreation Management Specialist
Garth Ross	Wildlife Biologist
Bill Lutjens	Rangeland Management Specialist
Susan Fritts	Botanist/Areas of Environmental Concern
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

2/12/2013

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.

Vale District
Holloway Fire
State of Oregon

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U.S. Department of Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Vale District
December 6, 2012

Map 1
Location
Holloway North Fire (G4ZC)
Emergency Stabilization & Rehabilitation Implementation Plan

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data of individual or aggregate use with other data. Original data were compiled from various sources. This information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This product was developed through digital means and may be updated without notification.

Map 2

Ownership and Geographic Management Areas

Holloway North Fire (G4ZC)

Emergency Stabilization & Rehabilitation Implementation Plan

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Map 3
Special Management Areas
Holloway North Fire (G4ZC)
Emergency Stabilization & Rehabilitation Implementation Plan

Map 4
Repair of Minor Facilities
Holloway North Fire (G4ZC)
Emergency Stabilization & Rehabilitation Implementation Plan

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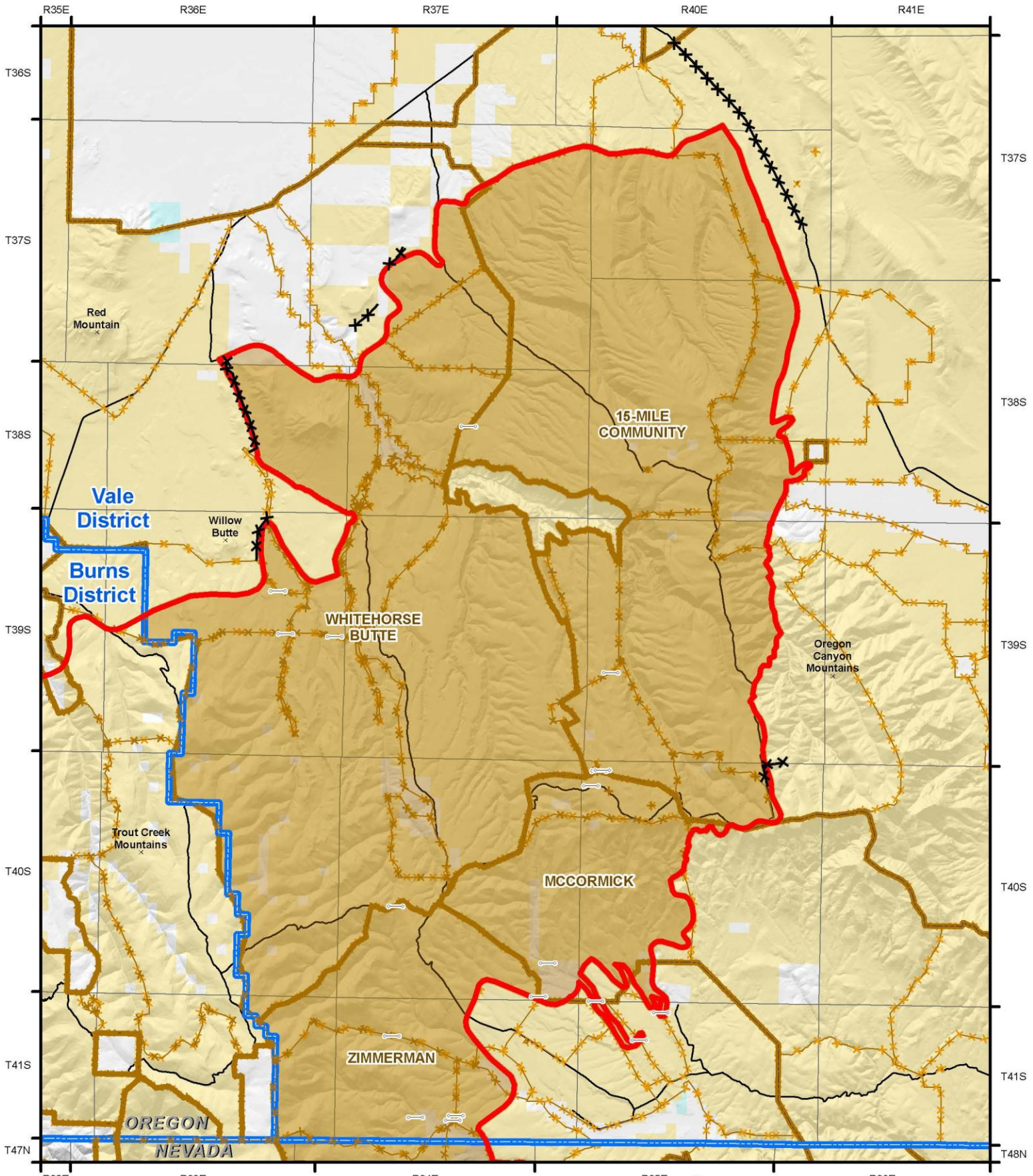
Map 5
Ground-based and Aerial Vegetation Treatments
Holloway North Fire (G4ZC)
Emergency Stabilization & Rehabilitation Implementation Plan



Map 6
Protective Fences/Related Facilities Repair
Holloway North Fire (G4ZC)
Emergency Stabilization & Rehabilitation Implementation Plan

MXD: P:\val\Fire\Fire2012\2012_Holloway\ESR\ESR_Final_Working_Directory\Maps\MXD\Final\Map_06_Holloway_ProtectiveFencesRelatedFacilityRepair_20130206.mxd

Map 7
Greater Sage Grouse & Lahontan Cutthroat Trout
Holloway North Fire (G4ZC)
Emergency Stabilization & Rehabilitation Implementation Plan

Note: Streams shown above with Lahontan Cutthroat Trout are displayed for reference purposes only and include entire perennial stream segments found to contain LCT. Specific reaches may not have LCT populations prior to the fire.