

Documentation Format for Actions Other Than Hazardous Fuels and Fire Rehabilitation Actions

Ponderosa Pine Genetics Study in Hualapai Mountains

NEPA Number: DOI-BLM-AZ-C010-2010-0028-CX

A. Background

BLM Office: Kingman Field Office Lease/Serial/Case File No.: N.A.

Proposed Action Title/Type: Ponderosa Pine genetics study in Hualapai Mountains

Location of Proposed Action: Within or near Wild Cow Campground in the Hualapai Mountains, southeast of Kingman, Mohave County, Arizona

Description of Proposed Action:

Samples from ponderosa pine trees will be collected (steps 14- below) and sent to the National Forest Genetics lab.

- 1 – Collect one branch tip per tree, and place each branch tip in its own well-labeled zip-lock bag.
- 2 – 30 samples per stand should be collected. Ideally this will be from 30 mature trees.
- 3 – Only mature (no seedling or sapling) trees should be sampled, unless it is an isolated stand where saplings/immature trees may be used to complete the 30 tree sample.
- 4 – Each branch tip should be approximately 3 to 5 inches long, with a dormant terminal bud and healthy needles attached to the stem.

In addition, measurements on each tree will be taken as follows: Diameter at breast height (dbh), height, and age.

Sampling will not result in any tree mortality. Total time in the field location would be 8 hours with 2 separate visits. It is anticipated the 10 to 12 people will be involved in the sampling project. Sampling will occur in or near a designated campground where disturbances similar to the proposed action occur on a regular basis. Any migratory bird species that utilized this area are likely accustomed to this level of disturbance and so the proposed project should not result in mortality or nest abandonment. Project area is within unoccupied Mexican spotted owl habitat and the sampling techniques will not alter the suitability of the habitat for spotted owls. Project is also within Hualapai Mexican Vole habitat. Sampling teams will be instructed to avoid trampling grass in the area and any vole runways that are observed will be avoided to prevent damage. Any disturbance is expected to last only as long as sampling is occurring.

Group will follow Leave No Trace Principles during the project. Sampling teams will avoid disturbing other campers utilizing the campground.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan Name: *Kingman Resource Management Plan/EIS*

Date Approved/Amended: March 1995

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decision(s): Flowers, leaves and fruit (which include cones, nuts, berries, and seeds), limited to 20 pounds per person per year (RMP page 71).

C: Compliance with NEPA:

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9, C. Forestry 5. Disposal of small amounts of miscellaneous vegetation products outside established harvest area, such as Christmas trees, wildings, floral products (ferns, bought, etc.), cones, seeds, and personal use firewood.

This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed (See Attachment 1), and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM2 apply.

I considered the nondestructive sampling proposed and the lack of effects to any resources and determined that no further analysis is necessary.

D: Signature

Authorizing Official: /s/ Don McClure Date: 04/16/2010
(Signature)

Name: Don McClure
Title: Assistant Field Manager

Contact Person

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact Ammon Wilhelm, Wildlife Biologist, Kingman Field Office, 2755 Mission Boulevard, Kingman, Arizona 86409 928-718-3758.

Attachment 1: Extraordinary Circumstances Review

Exceptions	Comment (Yes or No with supporting Rationale)
1. Have significant effects on public health or safety.	No, no hazardous material involved in project. Safety precautions will be taken when sampling trees.
2. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands(Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988) national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.	No, none in the project area
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].	No
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.	No
5. Establishes a precedent for future action or represents a decision in principle about future actions with significant environmental effects.	No
6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.	No.
7. Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.	No, none in the project area.
8. Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.	No
9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.	No
10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).	No low income or minority populations in the project area.

<p>11. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>12. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).</p>	<p>No</p>

