

Documentation of Land Use Plan Conformance and NEPA Adequacy (DNA)

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Note: This worksheet is to be completed consistent with the policies stated in the Instruction Memorandum entitled “Documentation of Land Use Plan Conformance and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Adequacy” transmitting this worksheet and the “Guidelines for Using the DNA Worksheet” located at the end of the worksheet. (Note: The signed CONCLUSION at the end of this worksheet is part of an interim step in the BLM’s internal analysis process and does not constitute an appealable decision.)

A. BLM Office: Agua Fria National Monument(AFNM) **Lease/Serial/Case File No.** N/A

Proposed Action Title/Type: Juniper Thinning for Agua Fria National Monument

Location of Proposed Action: T. 11 N, R. 3 E., Secs. 21,22,25,26,27,28,33,34 G&SRM.

Description of the Proposed Action: The proposed action is to add additional treatment units to the Agua Fria Grassland Fuels Reduction Project (EA No. AZ-020-2004-005). The treatments would include additional acres for thinning of juniper by mechanical means, piling and burning, or lopping and scattering, the resulting slash in preparation for future management-ignited broadcast burning.

Figure 1 shows the location of the site and the proposed treatment units.

Applicant (if any): _____

B. Conformance with the Land Use Plan (LUP) and Consistency with Related Subordinate Implementation Plans

LUP Name* Agua Fria Record of Decision & Approved Resource Management Plan

Date Approved: April 22, 2010

LUP Name* _____

Date Approved: _____

Other document** _____

Date Approved: _____

*List applicable LUPs (e.g., Resource Management Plans or applicable amendments).

**List applicable activity, project, management, water quality restoration, or program plans.

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

FM-8. Use suitable tools for reducing hazardous fuels, including prescribed burning, wildland fire use, and mechanical methods. Methods can include the following:

- Chainsaws
- Motorized equipment for crushing brush
- Tractor and hand piling,
- Thinning and pruning, and
- Treatments selected on site-specific case that are ecologically suitable and cost effective.

The proposed action is in conformance with the LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decisions (objectives, terms, and conditions) and, if applicable, implementation plans decisions:

C. Identify the applicable NEPA document(s) and other related documents that cover the proposed action.

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

Finding of No Significant Impact and Environmental Assessment for: Agua Fria Grasslands Fuels Reduction Project- April 13, 2005.

List by name and date other documentation relevant to the proposed action (e.g., source drinking water assessments, biological assessment, biological opinion, watershed assessment, allotment evaluation, rangeland health standard's assessment and determinations, and monitoring the report).

D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

1. Is the current proposed action substantially the same action (or is a part of that action) as previously analyzed?

Documentation of answer and explanation:

Yes. The proposed action involves no restricted lands specifically excluded in the Finding of No Significant Impact and Environmental Assessment for: Agua Fria Grasslands Fuels Reduction Project- April 13, 2005.

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, resource values, and circumstances?

Documentation of answer and explanation:

Yes. The proposed action is consistent with actions previously covered and reviewed in the Finding of No Significant Impact and Environmental Assessment for: Agua Fria Grasslands Fuels Reduction Project- April 13, 2005.

3. Is the existing analysis adequate and are the conclusions adequate in light of any new information or circumstances (including, for example, riparian proper functioning condition [PFC] reports; rangeland health standards assessments; Unified Watershed Assessment categorizations; inventory and monitoring data; most recent Fish and Wildlife Service lists of threatened, endangered, proposed, and candidate species; most recent BLM lists of sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that all new information and all new circumstances are insignificant with regard to analysis of the proposed action?

Documentation of answer and explanation:

Yes, because there is no new information or new circumstances that apply to the proposed action.

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:

Yes. The proposal contains the common elements of the proposed action of Finding of No Significant Impact and Environmental Assessment for: Agua Fria Grasslands Fuels Reduction Project- April 13, 2005.

5. Are the direct and indirect impacts of the current proposed action substantially unchanged from those identified in the existing NEPA document(s)? Does the existing NEPA document sufficiently analyze site-specific impacts related to the current proposed action?

Documentation of answer and explanation:

The proposal would result only in impacts that have been addressed in the Finding of No Significant Impact and Environmental Assessment for: Agua Fria Grasslands Fuels Reduction Project- April 13, 2005.

6. Can you conclude without additional analysis or information that the cumulative impacts that would result from implementation of the current proposed action are substantially unchanged from those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)?

Documentation of answer and explanation:

Yes. The cumulative impacts of the proposed action is unchanged because actions will continue to be similar to those previously covered in the Finding of No Significant Impact and Environmental Assessment for: Agua Fria Grasslands Fuels Reduction Project- April 13, 2005.

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

Documentation of answer and explanation:

Yes. The proposed action is the same as that covered in the Finding of No Significant Impact and Environmental Assessment for: Agua Fria Grasslands Fuels Reduction Project- April 13, 2005.

E. Interdisciplinary Analysis: Identify those team members conducting or participating in the preparation of this worksheet.

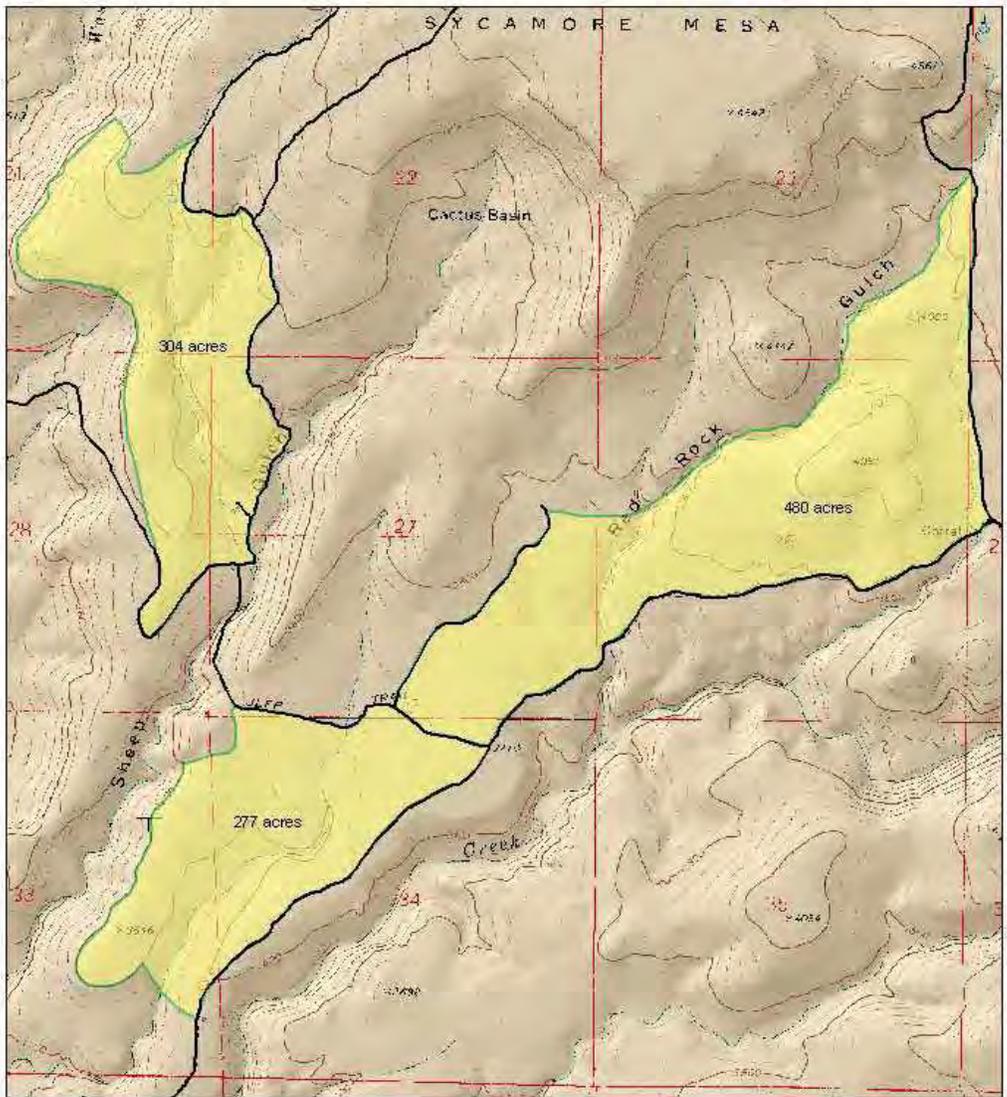
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<u>Amanda James</u>	<u>Natural Resource Specialist</u>	<u>Range</u>

F. Mitigation Measures:

- Prescribed and or managed fires, and pile burning, will be conducted in accordance with prescriptions in order to protect human health and safety, achieve resource objectives, and minimize adverse impacts to sensitive resources.
- These prescriptions will include the following guidelines to avoid impacts to cultural resources, endangered species, and otherwise sensitive wildlife habitats:
 - a. No more than one-half of the water shed of any stream occupied by endangered fish will be treated in a single year.
 - b. Treatments applications will avoid canyon slopes riparian areas to allow vegetative filtering of ash and sediments.
 - c. If significant rainfall events occur immediately following treatments, endangered fish populations will be monitored for mortality.
 - d. Broadcast fire will be used only after June 1 to avoid adverse impacts to pronghorn fawning.
 - e. The BLM will continue to conduct cultural resource inventories to identify possible ancient agave fields and other sites that should be avoided by fire initiation or surface disturbing activities.
 - f. Cultural resource specialist will participate in planning and monitoring prescribed burns.
 - g. Minimum impact suppression techniques will be used to control prescribed burns as well as wildfires.
 - h. The BLM will evaluate and implement site-specific protection measures to mitigate adverse impacts. Such protection measures could include using foam or retardant to protect historic structures; removing fuels around vulnerable sites; creating fire breaks that would protect sites; or covering vulnerable rock art in fire retardant fabric.
 - i. The effects of prescribed burns on prehistoric agave fields would be mitigated through the avoidance of ignition or surface disturbances; the exclusion of such zones from burn area; or the use of fire breaks.
 - j. Burn pile size and distribution will be limited to ensure generated heat does not sterilize soils.
 - k. Burn pile locations will be inspected by cultural resource specialist to ensure avoidance of

Figure 1. – Map of proposed treatment units.

Proposed Treatment Areas



0.5 0.25 0 0.5 Miles

1:24,000

Legend

- PFO_Routes
- Proposed Treatment Areas



Map Created By: Brian Achziger
Map Created on: April 11, 2010