



**United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

Bishop Field Office
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Bishop, California 93514
www.blm.gov/ca/bishop



March 31, 2015

9200 (CA-170.30) P

Dear Reader:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Bishop Field Office has completed our programmatic environmental review of the proposed Bodie Hills Upland Vegetation Restoration Project in Mono County, California. Upon review, and in compliance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) as amended and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) as amended, I have decided to implement the Proposed Action (Alternative 2), modified to include the treatment acreages for the Montane Sagebrush Steppe and Low Sagebrush ecological systems from the Increased Acreage Alternative (Alternative 3), as described and analyzed in the Environmental Assessment prepared for the project. This letter transmits my Decision Record and other supporting documents for the approved project.

My decision allows for implementation of a 10 year program of upland vegetation restoration treatments on public lands in the Bodie Hills. The primary purpose of the project is to maintain and improve the long-term ecological condition and resiliency of the upland vegetation systems that comprise, and characterize, the Bodie Hills landscape. I specifically crafted my decision to maximize benefits, and minimize potential risks, to the natural and cultural resources and associated values that make the Bodie Hills a place worthy of such an effort. I strongly believe that implementation of this project is needed to ensure the long-term conservation and protection of the natural and cultural values of that make the Bodie Hills special to both the public and the Bureau alike.

The Decision Record, Finding of No Significant Impact, and Environmental Assessment for the Bodie Hills Upland Vegetation Restoration Project are available under "Planning News" on the Bishop Field Office webpage at <http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/bishop.html>. If you prefer hard copies, please contact my office and we will send them to you upon receipt of your request.

Administrative remedies may be available to those who believe they will be adversely affected by this decision. Details on the requirements and procedures for filing an appeal are included in the Decision Record. The effective date of this decision and the date initiating the appeal period will be the date this decision is published on the Bureau's public website at the address above.

I truly appreciate all of the public interest, passion, and comments that not only helped to improve our environmental review, but also helped to enlighten my decision on this important project. I look forward to continued public engagement as we begin the site-specific implementation phase.

For more information about this decision and site-specific project implementation, please contact Dale Johnson, Supervisory Natural Resource Specialist, via phone at 760-872-5055 or email at dfjohnso@blm.gov; or myself, Steven Nelson, Bishop Field Manager, via phone at 760-872-5011 or email at snelson@blm.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/ Steven Nelson

Steven Nelson
Bishop Field Manager