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**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Kremmling Field Office
P.O. Box 68
Kremmling, CO 80459**

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

NUMBER: CO-120-2008-38-EA

PROJECT NAME: Junction Butte Wetlands Prescribed Burn and Fence

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T. 1N R. 80W Sec. 15 & 16

APPLICANT: BLM

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES:

Background/Introduction/Issues and Concerns:

Prescribed burn - the project area has not been evaluated for public land health standards and does not contain a BLM grazing allotment.

Fence construction - cattle from adjacent private property to the north trespass onto BLM-administered public lands (Junction Butte Wetlands) every year when the water level of the Colorado River drops. Each year, an electric fence is put up on a section of the river where the cows cross. In addition, there is an adjacent older fence that is in such disrepair that several cows still manage to get through.

Proposed Actions: Approximately 7,440 feet of permanent fence would be constructed along the Colorado River to prevent cows from adjoining private land from trespassing onto BLM-administered public lands (see Map #1 below). This project would be replacing an old fence that existed prior to BLM ownership.

The details of the proposed fence include the following:

- Starting at the west end of the project area, the fence would begin on County Road 33 and continue north 925 feet to the Colorado River. It would continue along the river for 1,040 feet to the private-BLM boundary. For 4,875 feet it would travel east along the boundary and then follow the edge of the Colorado River. The fence would turn south at the KB ditch in Sec. 15, go 600 feet and end at County Road 33.
- The fence would consist of a 3-strand fence with the top wire high-tensile and the bottom two barbed. The wire spacing from the ground up would be 16"-12"-12" for a total height

of 40 inches. The top wire would have a black vinyl coat (for increased visibility of elk during winter), and the top wire would be electrified.

- Three gates would be installed that consist of four barbed wire strands. PVC pipe and wire would be buried under the gates to keep a continuous electrical charge.
- Site preparation of the fence-line would be limited to mechanical (brush mowing) and/or hand clearing, and no ground disturbance preferred due to the presence of weeds.
- Permanent roads would not be constructed.

A prescribed burn would be conducted in early spring or fall of 2008 and would continue as annual or bi-annual maintenance to clear ditches, reduce dead material, promote vegetation vigor and diversity of age class throughout the wetlands, and open up several ponds choked by vegetation to create additional habitat for waterfowl (see Map #2 below).

The details of the prescribed burn include the following:

- The total project area is 125 acres with 1.5 miles of ditches.
- Hand clearing with chainsaws or mechanical work with a backhoe would be necessary to clear a small area around one powerline within the wetland that supplies power to the water pump on BLM.
- Additional fire line construction may be needed within the project area and would be determined upon site.
- If burning is unsuccessful at clearing the ditches, heavy equipment, such as a backhoe, would be used as needed.

Design features of Proposed Action (see Attachment #1 for Standard Operating Procedures):

-All eligible sites within the project area would be protected using hand or wet line construction, while all heavy fuel on eligible sites would be removed by hand. Historic structures, though not eligible, would be avoided by removing biomass material from around the site by hand or mechanical means.

-Any soil disturbance (including fire holding lines) would be rehabilitated to reduce the spread of weeds.

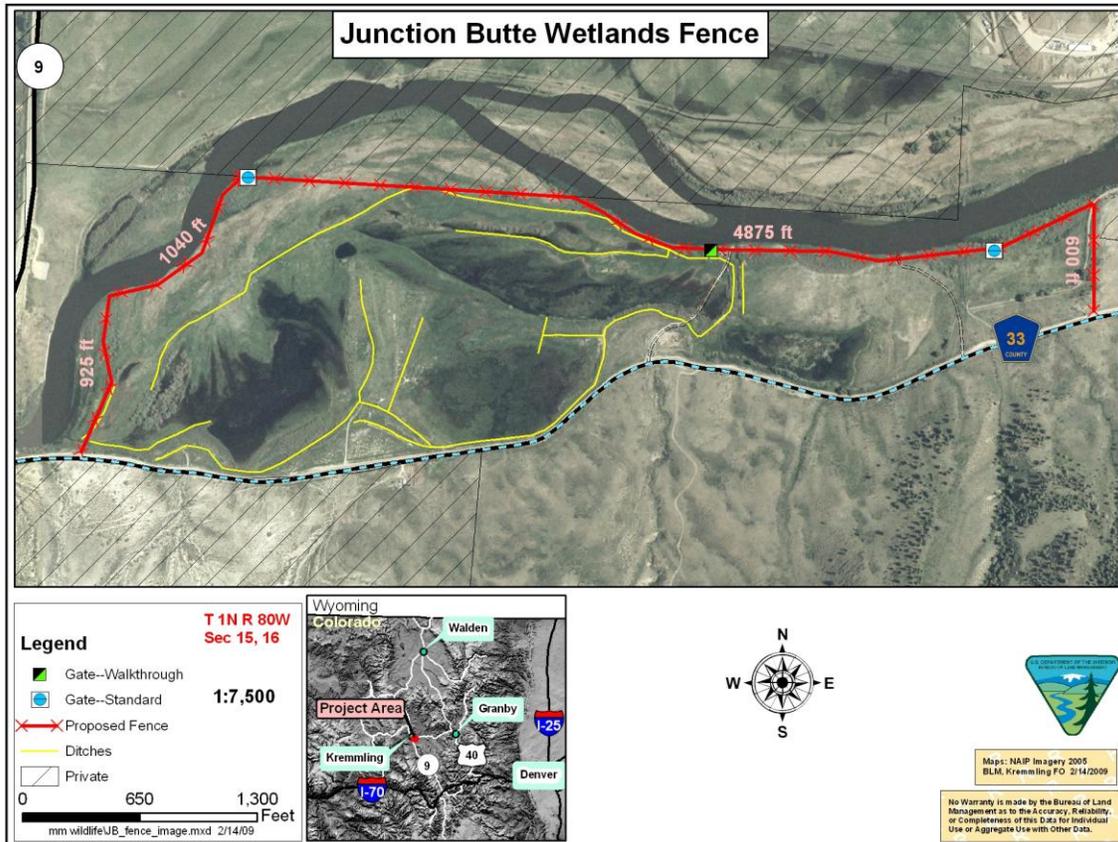
-The BLM would inspect disturbed areas for noxious weeds for two growing seasons after the project is completed. If weeds are found, it would be the responsibility of the BLM to treat the weed infestations.

-The BLM would monitor the disturbed areas to insure successful re-vegetation by the end of the third growing season.

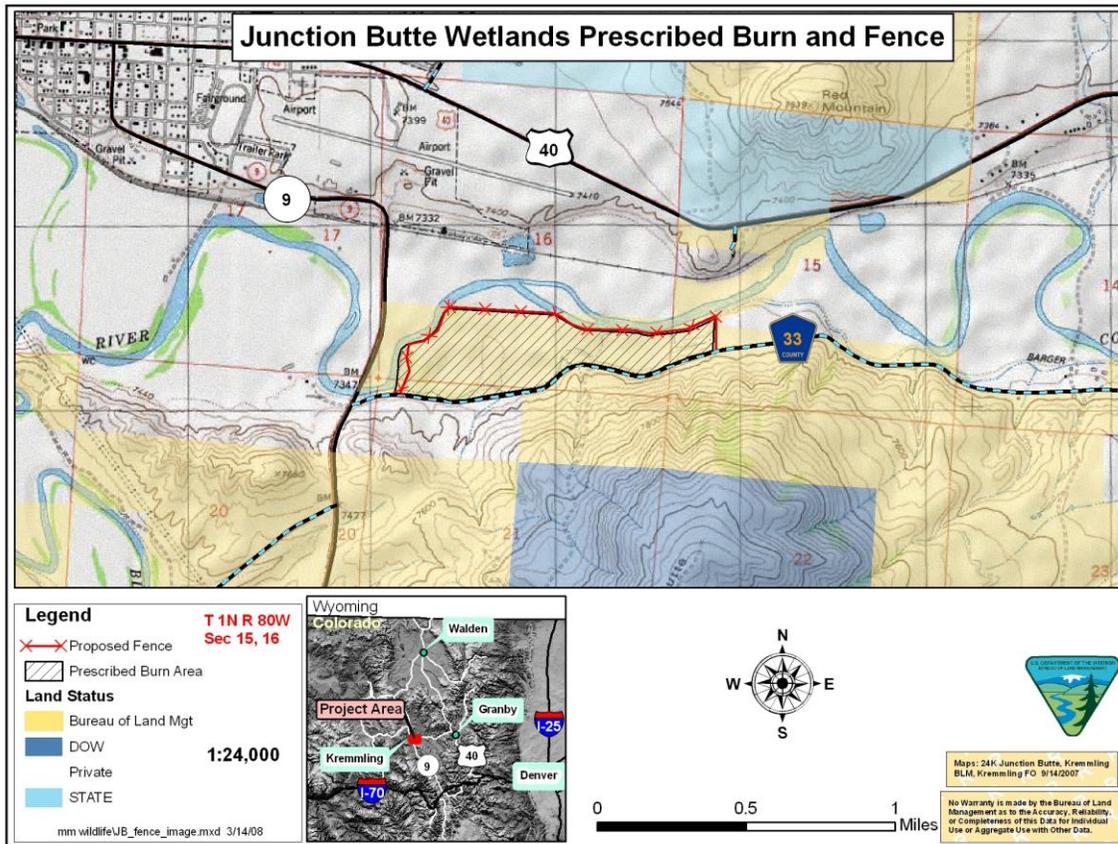
-During construction of the fence, all construction equipment must be clean prior to entering the project area.

-Fence construction would occur during dry soil conditions and any disturbance of soils during vegetative clearing must be minimized.

Map #1: Proposed Fence



Map #2: Proposed Prescribed Burn



No Action Alternative: The Junction Butte fence would not be built and trespass grazing from private land would continue. In addition, there would be no maintenance of the ditches through prescribed burning or mechanical work. As a result, water transport throughout the wetlands would continue to degrade and vegetation vigor and age class diversity would not improve, thus reducing open water habitat for waterfowl.

Alternatives Considered But Eliminated From Further Analysis: The BLM considered extending the permanent fence around the entire BLM parcel, which crosses both sides of the Colorado River, to eliminate the trespass issue on BLM-administered public lands. However, this alternative was deemed unreasonable due to the cost of implementing this alternative.

Another alternative that was considered included grazing the project area in the fall before the prescribed burn. After discussion with the fuels specialist, this alternative was eliminated due to concerns that reducing the vegetative material before the burn may not allow the fire to carry across the wetlands, therefore decreasing the chances of a successful prescribed fire. Livestock grazing may still be considered in the future to help maintain the vegetative community within the project area.

PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE ACTION: Junction Butte Wetlands is important habitat for waterfowl and big game. The purpose of the proposed fence is to eliminate livestock trespass that is occurring on BLM-administered public lands. The project is needed to reduce conflict with the private landowner and eliminate the expenditure of resources (BLM staff time, supplies, etc.) on an annual basis.

The purpose of the prescribed burn is to clear ditches, reduce dead material, promote vegetation vigor and diversity of age class throughout the wetlands, and open up several ponds choked by vegetation to create additional habitat for waterfowl. The project is needed to address the overgrowth of vegetation within the wetlands that has reduced habitat functionality for waterfowl and to improve water transport through the wetlands.

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW: The Proposed Action is subject to and has been reviewed for conformance with the following plan (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM 1617.3):

Name of Plan: Kremmling Resource Management Plan (RMP), Record of Decision (ROD)

Date Approved: December 19, 1984; Updated February 1999

Decision Number/Page: Wildlife Habitat Management, Including Threatened and Endangered Species pages 8 and 9.

Decision Language: “Manage public land habitat to support optimum wildlife population levels as determined by the Colorado Division of Wildlife’s Strategic Plan.”

“Emphasis will be placed on intensively managing critical and important wildlife habitats, including...3,000 acres of wetlands...”

Standards for Public Land Health: In January 1997, Colorado Bureau of Land Management (BLM) approved the Standards for Public Land Health. Standards describe conditions needed to sustain public land health and relate to all uses of the public lands. The following are the approved standards:

Standard	Definition/Statement
#1 Upland Soils	Upland soils exhibit infiltration and permeability rates that are appropriate to soil type, climate, land form, and geologic processes. Adequate soil infiltration and permeability allows for the accumulation of soil moisture necessary for optimal plant growth and vigor, and minimizes surface runoff.
#2 Riparian Systems	Riparian systems associated with both running and standing water, function properly and have the ability to recover from major surface disturbances such as fire, severe grazing, or 100-year floods. Riparian vegetation captures sediment, and provides forage, habitat and bio-diversity. Water quality is improved or maintained. Stable soils store and release water slowly.
#3 Plant and Animal Communities	Healthy, productive plant and animal communities of native and other desirable species are maintained at viable population levels commensurate with the species and habitat's potential. Plants and animals at both the community and population level are productive, resilient, diverse, vigorous, and able to reproduce and sustain natural fluctuations, and ecological processes.
#4 Threatened and Endangered Species	Special status, threatened and endangered species (federal and state), and other plants and animals officially designated by the BLM, and their habitats are maintained or enhanced by sustaining healthy, native plant and animal communities.
#5 Water Quality	The water quality of all water bodies, including ground water where applicable, located on or influenced by BLM lands will achieve or exceed the Water Quality Standards established by the State of Colorado. Water Quality Standards for surface and ground waters include the designated beneficial uses, numeric criteria, narrative criteria, and anti-degradation requirements set forth under State law as found in (5 CCR 1002-8), as required by Section 303(c) of the Clean Water Act.

Because a standard exists for these five categories, a finding must be made for each of them in the environmental analysis. These findings are located in specific elements below or in the Interdisciplinary Team Analysis Review Record and Checklist (IDT-RRC) (Appendix 1).

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT / ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES / MITIGATION MEASURES:

CRITICAL ELEMENTS: The following critical elements: Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, Cultural Resources, Invasive/Non-native Species, Environmental Justice, Farmlands-Prime and Unique, Floodplains, Native American Religious Concerns, Wastes, Hazardous or Solid, Wild and Scenic Rivers, and Wilderness were evaluated and determined that they were not present or that there would be no impact to them from the Proposed Action or No Action Alternative. See IDT-RRC in Appendix 1 for further information.

The following critical elements were determined to be potentially impacted and were carried forward for analysis from the IDT-RRC in Appendix 1.

AIR QUALITY

Affected Environment: The Proposed Action is located in an area that is considered to have good air quality. The project is just south of the town of Kremmling, which historically had some localized air quality concerns due to woodburning stoves, a lumber mill then a wafer board processing plant, and winter inversions. In the late 1980s and 1990s, many residents switched to natural gas, reducing the number of wood stoves, and the industrial operations have shut down. Recently, a wood pellet manufacturing plant opened just north of the project area. The plant has yet to be fully operational, so any changes in air quality have not been observed.

Environmental Consequences/Mitigation: The prevailing winds in the area are from the southwest, which would disperse smoke to the northeast of the project. Smoke sensitive areas or receptors that could be impacted by the Proposed Action include the Town of Kremmling. However, much of the sensitive sites would be slightly west of the project including the schools, hospital, and the assisted living center. The county airport is located north and east of the project, and could be impacted by smoke from the burn. The nearest Class 1 area is the Eagles Nest Wilderness Area, located to the south of the project and out of the expected smoke dispersal. Rocky Mountain National Park, located 28 nautical miles to the northeast, would be the next closest Class 1 area.

Prior to the prescribed burn, a Prescribed Fire Burn Plan would be submitted to the state of Colorado, detailing what best smoke management techniques would be utilized to minimize smoke and emission impacts. The Burn Plan details the expected emissions load, smoke duration, and the conditions that must exist at the time of ignition. The state issues a permit with the appropriate conditions on the prescribed burn. The BLM would verify that “actions comply with all procedural and substantive requirements contained in state and local air pollution regulations” and that “no violation of any ambient air quality standards” would occur (Colorado Air Quality Control Commission, Regulation No. 9). If the dispersal conditions deteriorate during the burn, the BLM must be able to suppress the burn if they are in non-compliance with the permit. Public notification is required at least 24 hours prior to the burn with information regarding planned ignition, expected duration, and projected smoke impacts from the fire.

With the proposed best management techniques and the required dispersal conditions, the Proposed Action would have minimal short-term impacts to air quality and no long term impacts.

Under the No Action Alternative, air quality would not be impacted unless a natural ignition occurred.

MIGRATORY BIRDS

Affected Environment: The proposed project would occur in habitat occupied by a variety of migratory birds including Yellow Warbler, Western Wood-Pewee, Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Dusky Flycatcher, Hermit Thrush, Veery, Violet-green Swallow, and Warbling Vireo. Red-tailed hawks, Great-horned Owls, and Swainson's hawks also use the riparian area adjacent to Junction Butte as hunting habitat.

Environmental Consequences/Mitigation: Direct impacts of the Proposed Action would include temporary displacement of birds and loss of nests from vegetation removal. There would be beneficial long term impacts for migratory birds by improving riparian vegetation and providing additional feeding and nesting habitat. The proposed fence would also provide perching sites for the small birds. No cumulative, irreversible, or irretrievable impacts are expected to occur as a result of the Proposed Action.

If the No Action Alternative is implemented, livestock trespass would continue and overall vegetation diversity and health would not improve. Direct, indirect, and potentially irretrievable impacts include the continued loss of feeding and nesting habitat for migratory birds. No cumulative or irreversible impacts are expected to occur as a result of the No Action Alternative.

WATER QUALITY, SURFACE AND GROUND (includes a finding on Standard 5)

Affected Environment: The proposed action is located along the Colorado River, in the Upper Colorado River basin. The river is designated for coldwater aquatic life, recreation- class 1a, water supply, and agricultural uses. This segment of the river is considered to be supporting its designated uses. The BLM installed a temperature sensor downstream of the project area in 2007 to monitor summertime water temperatures. Upstream trans-mountain diversions appear to be causing warmer water temperatures that could stress trout populations. The maximum weekly average temperature (MWAT) for the segment has been set at 20 C, with the 2007 data indicating the MWAT at the Highway 9 Bridge was 17.4 C. There were a few days in late July where daily maximums were 20 C, but none of the 7 day averages met or exceeded 20 C. The Colorado River has been identified in the past for possible sediment concerns, but the current 303(d) List of Impaired Streams does not include this river segment, nor does the Monitoring and Evaluation List for possibly impaired streams.

The project site is not influenced by groundwater and is not considered a jurisdictional wetland. The Army Corps of Engineers agreed with this determination in 2002 when the BLM discussed the site with the local regulatory office. The site drains fairly rapidly and into the Colorado River.

Environmental Consequences: Due to the upstream controls on the river, including dams and trans-mountain diversions, the project area is located on the historic floodplain. During the 1983 and 1984 runoff, the peak flows did flood portions of the project area, primarily the western most lands. Although most years would not result in over-bank flows, if flooding occurred, regrowth would still be less than 3-4 inches and would not offer much surface resistance. To

help provide a vegetative sediment filter, mitigation is recommended below. There is a potential for small amounts of nitrogen to reach the river, but nitrogen forms would quickly be diluted by downstream movement or absorbed by bottom sediments. Early spring flows and/or fall flows have lower stream temperatures and would not be expected to result in an algal bloom depleting the oxygen content of the river. Under the No Action Alternative, there would be no impact to water quality.

Mitigation:

-To help provide a vegetative sediment filter, it is recommended that the irrigation ditches be used as the approximate fire-line boundary. This would provide a buffer on the western side of about 200-300 feet, reducing the possibility of sediment loading from the burned area reaching the river.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for water quality: The project area is adjacent to a stream that is generally considered to be meeting the Land Health Standard. The fence construction and ditch burning would not impact the water quality. Burning the wetlands may increase the potential for some nitrogen loading, but would be of short duration and would not affect the stream's ability to meet the Standard.

WETLANDS & RIPARIAN ZONES (includes a finding on Standard 2)

Affected Environment: The project area primarily includes a mixture of native and introduced wetland species that are supported by irrigation. The water table is no longer within the root zone throughout the growing season and wetland vegetation relies on irrigation water. The irrigation system has been improved to insure water is better spread across the property and streambank stabilization has been done to protect the northern ditch from channel erosion. Several low lying areas create shallow ponds when irrigated.

Environmental Consequences/Mitigation: The proposed fence-line is located outside of the wetland area and would provide additional protection of the wetland vegetation. The burning of the irrigation ditches would result in short term impacts to small linear areas of vegetation. It would also release nitrogen into the soil and remove the older vegetation that creates a mat, choking out new growth. The amount of vegetation removed would be dependant on the specific plant moisture and weather on the day of the burn. However, the prescribed burn would improve the overall condition of the wetlands by improving water transport. See the Soil section for additional discussion on soil health.

Under the No Action Alternative, wetland production would continue to be hindered by old growth accumulation and poor water distribution.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for riparian systems: The project area supports irrigated wetlands that mimic the habitat and resource values of a natural wetland, and are considered to be meeting the Land Health Standard. The Proposed Action would help the area continue to meet the Standard.

NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS: The following non-critical elements were determined to be potentially impacted and were carried forward for analysis from the IDT-RRC in Appendix 1.

SOILS (includes a finding on Standard 1)

Affected Environment: The Proposed Action is located in an old hay meadow that was regularly dragged, irrigated, mowed, and grazed during the fall and/or winter months. The soils were formed by the historic flooding and sediment deposition of the Colorado River, and may consist of layers of various textures. The Grand County Soil Survey (SCS, 1983) maps the project area as a Cumulic Cryaquoll, which historically has a water table within 10-24 inches of the surface during the growing season, and has at least 20-inches of organic soil as the top layer. Field visits and discussions with the previous landowner indicates that at least one fairly gravelly layer underlies the project area, resulting in fairly high permeability.

Burning of irrigation ditches is a common agricultural practice to improve water transport efficiency. The ditch soils are disturbed from the original ditch construction and maintenance, but represent a very narrow band in the landscape. Regular ditch maintenance is essential to avoid ditch failures and breaches, which can result in much more extensive soil disturbance.

Environmental Consequences: Burning the ditches would result in much less soil disturbance than mechanical methods of clearing. However, the wetland areas should not be burned on a frequent interval. Although nitrogen is released to the soil following a burn, soil microorganisms and mycorrhizae populations tend to be depressed after a burn, and may not return to pre-burn levels for a few years. The severity of potential soil impacts is based on fire intensity, soil moisture, and soil texture. Moist soils with high fire intensity can produce steam that sterilizes the soil, especially in finer textured soils like clays.

The proposed fence also represents a very small soil disturbance, and by restricting livestock access, could help reduce soil impacts from grazing.

Under the No Action Alternative, soil impacts would be limited to trespass livestock grazing and occasional hand maintenance of ditches.

Mitigation:

-The actual fence-line location should be set back from the river bank to accommodate channel movement and associated bank loss, prolonging the fence-line's effectiveness.

-If wetlands are to be burned more frequently than every five years, then it would be prudent to monitor soil mycorrhizae populations, to insure that long-term soil health is protected. The Soil Survey recommends protecting this soil from burning as a best management practice.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for upland soils: The Project Area is not located in an upland area, but is located in a historic wetland area. Irrigation practices help maintain the wetland characteristics of the area, which is no longer within 2 feet of the river's water elevation during the growing season.

VEGETATION (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: Riparian and wetland vegetation has been supported in the past by irrigating the area for hay production. Currently, there is a mixture of native and introduced grass and grass-like species with some willows and forbs constituting most of the vegetation in the project area. The wetland species have recovered from a period of several years when the area was not irrigated and the wetland vegetation was stressed and in decline. Since irrigation was resumed several years ago, the sedges and rushes have returned to high quality. Desired riparian and wetland species now comprise a significant portion of the existing vegetation.

Environmental Consequences/Mitigation: The Proposed Action would benefit the existing vegetation and improve the site for wildlife. Burning is a proven method of improving the quality and vigor of decadent vegetation. Since livestock no longer graze the area, the vegetation has a tendency to become very dense and decadent if not grazed or treated. Periodic livestock grazing may be introduced in the future if there is a way to contain them to the project area.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Wildlife, Aquatic and Wildlife, Terrestrial): The project area is not part of a livestock grazing allotment. Therefore, the area has not been assessed for compliance with the Standards for Public Land Health in Colorado.

WILDLIFE, AQUATIC (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: The proposed fence and burn are located in an area used by a variety of aquatic wildlife including chorus frogs and several species of waterfowl. These species use the riparian vegetation and open water habitat for foraging and breeding/nesting.

Environmental Consequences/Mitigation: Implementation of the Proposed Action would be beneficial to aquatic wildlife since it would prevent livestock from trespass grazing on BLM-administered public lands and improve the vegetation diversity and health. It would also increase forage for aquatic wildlife and improve nesting/breeding habitat for both amphibians and waterfowl. Adverse impacts to aquatic wildlife would include temporary displacement during the prescribed burn. If the No Action Alternative is implemented, livestock trespass would continue and overall vegetation diversity and health would not improve. Direct, indirect, and potentially irretrievable impacts include the continued loss and degradation of habitat for aquatic wildlife. No cumulative or irreversible impacts are expected to occur as a result of the No Action Alternative.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Vegetation and Wildlife, Terrestrial): The project area is not part of a livestock grazing allotment. Therefore, the area has not been assessed for compliance with the Standards for Public Land Health in Colorado.

WILDLIFE, TERRESTRIAL (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: The proposed fence would be constructed in an area used by a variety of terrestrial wildlife including mule deer, Rocky Mountain elk, porcupine and a variety

of other small mammals. The proposed fence and burn would be located in sagebrush steppe and riparian vegetation which is used as foraging habitat for those species listed above.

Environmental Consequences/Mitigation: Implementation of the Proposed Action would be beneficial to wildlife since it would prevent livestock from trespass grazing on BLM-administered public land and improve the vegetation diversity and health. It would also increase forage for wildlife that use the area. Adverse impacts to big game would include injury or death if they become tangled in the fence and temporary displacement during the prescribed burn. However, the proposed fence would be constructed to minimize impacts to big game. The spacing of the wires and the smooth bottom wire would allow wild animals to safely cross.

If the No Action Alternative is implemented, livestock trespass would continue and overall vegetation diversity and health would not improve. Direct, indirect, and potentially irretrievable impacts include the continued loss and degradation of forage for terrestrial wildlife. No cumulative or irreversible impacts are expected to occur as a result of the No Action Alternative.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Vegetation and Wildlife, Aquatic): No analysis has been conducted in the proposed project area. However, the proposed project would not prevent the area from meeting this standard.

RECREATION

Affected Environment: The proposed project is within the Upper Colorado River Special Recreation Management Area. Recreation activities include hunting, hiking, wildlife & bird watching, and fishing. There are no known conflicts with recreation management sections of the RMP and or the Upper Colorado River Management Plan.

Environmental Consequences/Mitigation: Implementation of the Proposed Action would improve public recreational hunting opportunities for waterfowl by improving the vegetation diversity and health within the wetlands. Under the No Action Alternative, recreational hunting opportunities for waterfowl would not be improved.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS SUMMARY: All resource values have been evaluated for cumulative impacts. It has been determined that there would be no cumulative impacts.

PERSONS / AGENCIES CONSULTED: Adjacent landowners and Division of Wildlife.

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW: See IDT-RRC in Appendix 1.

FONSI

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Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the attached environmental assessment, and considering the significance criteria in 40 CFR 1508.27, I have determined that the Proposed Action will not have a significant effect on the human environment. An environmental impact statement is therefore not required.

DECISION RECORD

DECISION: It is my decision to authorize the Proposed Action as described in the attached EA. This decision is contingent on meeting all mitigation measures and monitoring requirements listed below.

RATIONALE: The fence construction decision was made to eliminate livestock trespass that is occurring on BLM-administered public lands and to reduce conflict with the private landowner.

The prescribed burn decision was made to clear ditches, reduce dead material, promote vegetation vigor and diversity of age class throughout the wetlands, and open up several ponds choked by vegetation to create additional habitat for waterfowl.

In making the decision, the BLM considered the condition of vegetation within the wetlands that has reduced habitat functionality for waterfowl and water transport through the wetlands.

MITIGATION MEASURES:

Water Quality, Surface and Ground:

-To help provide a vegetative sediment filter, the irrigation ditches will be used as the approximate fire-line boundary. This will provide a buffer on the western side of about 200-300 feet, reducing the possibility of sediment loading from the burned area reaching the river.

Soils:

-The actual fence-line location must be set back from the river bank to accommodate channel movement and associated bank loss, prolonging the fence-line's effectiveness.

-If wetlands are to be burned more frequently than every five years, then the BLM will monitor soil mycorrhizae populations, to insure that long-term soil health is protected.

Lands and Realty:

-Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) will need to be contacted before proceeding with the burn portion of the Proposed Action.

NAME OF PREPARER: Megan McGuire

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Joe Stout

DATE: 3/18/2008

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL: /s/ Peter McFadden (acting)

DATE SIGNED: 4/22/08

ATTACHMENTS:

1). Standard Operating Procedures

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1 – Interdisciplinary Team Analysis Review Record and Checklist

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

1) Surface Conditions - Equipment shall not be operated when the ground is muddy or the soil moisture is high enough for equipment to leave ruts over 1.5 inches in height.

FIRE EXTINGUISHER AND TOOLS ON EQUIPMENT

While in use, each internal combustion engine including tractors, trucks, dozers, welders, generators, stationary engines, or comparable powered equipment shall be provided with at least the following:

- a) One fire extinguisher, at least 5#ABC with an Underwriters Laboratory (UL) rating of 3A- 40BC, or greater. Extinguisher shall be mounted so as to be readily available for use (not locked in a tool box or chained to a seat, for example).
- b) One shovel, sharp, size A or larger, round-pointed with an overall length of at least 48 inches.
- c) One axe, sharp, double bit 32#, or one sharp pulaski.

FUELING

Fueling equipment and operations will be inspected and approved prior to contract startup by the owner/operator. Joint inspections will include checking for evidence of oil/fuel leaks at all piping, oil/fuel lines, hydraulic lines and seals, fuel tanks and other sources of leaks. All evidence of leaks will be investigated and immediately repaired prior to equipment operation on the job.

All non-manual fueling equipment will have an automatic shut-off switch installed to avoid fuel releases.

Fuel tanks greater than 201 gallons may only be used within a spill containment pit. The spill containment pit shall be constructed at a site designated by the COR, with an impermeable liner capable of containing a released volume of one and one-half times the tank volume. Pits shall be rehabilitated after completion of operations.

Any on site fuel or oil release of two gallons or more is the contractor's responsibility. Containment, immediate reporting, documentation and cleanup is required and shall be at the direction of the COR in accordance with State and Federal law and policy. The contractor may be subject to all or part of the cost for cleanup.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

1. Use of Hazardous Materials and/or petroleum products requires that all appropriate State and Federal Regulations be complied with including, but not limited to, Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) on hand and use of necessary Personal Protective Clothing (PPE).

2. On-site disposal of Hazardous Materials or Waste including hydrocarbons is not authorized. On-site disposal will subject the contractor to at least the cost of reclamation and the appropriate disposal of contaminated soil.

3. Incidental (de minimus) leaks from fittings, gaskets or ruptured hoses will not subject the contractor to remedial requirements. They will be considered to be normal and unavoidable losses. Continual leaks will be noted on inspection reports and correction through maintenance required.

4. Maintenance and repair operations that require the draining of engines or hydraulic systems may be conducted on site only if the fluids are captured, containerized, and removed from public lands for proper disposal.

OFF ROAD TRAVEL - ACCESS

Use existing routes only.

SPARK ARRESTERS

It is prohibited to operate or use any internal or external combustion engine, on any timber, brush, or grass covered land, including trails traversing such land, without a spark arrester maintained in effective working order and meeting guidelines set forth in National Wildfire Coordinating Group Publication NFES 1363 and 2363.

WEED CONTROL

Prior to moving onto public lands, including the contract area, the contractor is required to remove all dirt and debris that could contain weed seeds by scraping off visible dirt and debris then thoroughly washing all earth moving equipment with a suitable power washer. Earth moving equipment shall include, but not be limited to tractors, backhoes, and other equipment designed for moving earth. Earth moving equipment shall not include personal transportation (pickups) or tractors towing equipment trailers.

1. Prior to moving onto the site, cleaning and washing shall not occur on any BLM public lands. We suggest a public car wash.

2. If earth moving equipment is moved from the contract area it shall be cleaned gain prior to reentering the contract area.

3. To avoid having to return equipment back to some off site location to be cleaned, the contractor may choose to have the equipment inspected for compliance with this section at an off site location by the COR provided that location is within a reasonable (one hour - one way) travel time of Kremmling, CO.

Appendix #1

INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM ANALYSIS REVIEW RECORD AND CHECKLIST:

Project Title: Junction Butte Wetlands Prescribed Burn and Fence

Project Leader: Megan McGuire

Consultation/Permit Requirements:

Consultation	Date Initiated	Date Completed	Responsible Specialist/ Contractor	Comments
Cultural/Archeological Clearance/SHPO	4/15/08		Wyatt	The Class I would be conducted to identify sites 5GA2844 and 5GA2845 for avoidance using wet line construction.
Native American	3/12/08	4/12/08	Wyatt	No TCP concerns were received.
T&E Species/FWS	N/A	N/A	M.McGuire	
Permits Needed (i.e. Air or Water)	Air: Water: N/A	Air: Water: N/A	Air: J. Kincaid Water: P. Belcher	

(NP) = Not Present

(NI) = Resource/Use Present but Not Impacted

(PI) = Potentially Impacted and Brought Forward for Analysis.

NP NI PI	Discipline/Name	Date Review Comp.	Initials	Review Comments (required for Critical Element NIs, and for elements that require a finding but are not carried forward for analysis.)
CRITICAL ELEMENTS				
PI	Air Quality Belcher	4/8/08	PB	See analysis in EA.
NP	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern J. Stout	4/18/08	JS	There are no Areas of Critical Environmental Concern in the proximity of the proposed project area.
PI	Cultural Resources Wyatt	4/15/08	BW	Sites 5GA2844 and 5GA2845 are needs data sites and would be avoided during prescribed burning using wet line around the sites.
NP	Environmental Justice J. Stout	4/18/08	JS	According to the most recent Census Bureau statistics (2000), there are no minority or low income communities within the Kremmling Planning Area.
NP	Farmlands, Prime and Unique Belcher	4/13/08	PB	There are no farmlands, prime or unique, in the proximity of the proposed project area. The project area could be considered 'farmlands of state or local importance'. The BLM's management for waterfowl habitat, however, does not preclude the area's return to agricultural production, and the Proposed Action involves only recognized agricultural practices.
NP	Floodplains Belcher	4/13/08	PB	The Proposed Action is located along the historic floodplain of the Colorado River. Due to the upstream hydrology, most of the floodplain is no longer active. The Proposed

				Action would not affect the functionality of the floodplain, nor would it increase the flood hazard
NI	Invasive, Non-native Species Johnson	4/11/08	RJ	The project area has a minor infestation of Canada thistle (<i>Cirsium arvense</i>). Areas that have been disturbed, such as ditches and fence construction areas are particularly prone to thistle infestation. Small infestations of other invasive, non-native species, especially those associated with wetter sites can be found within the project area. If the design features of the Proposed Action are implemented, there would be little potential for additional infestations.
PI	Migratory Birds McGuire	4/10/08	MM	See analysis in EA.
NP	Native American Religious Concerns Wyatt	4/15/08	BW	No TCP concerns have been received.
NI	T/E, and Sensitive Species (Finding on Standard 4) McGuire	4/10/08	MM	No T/E species present. Sensitive species such as sage-grouse would not be impacted by the Proposed Action. Finding: No analysis has been conducted; however, the proposed project would not prevent the area from meeting Standard 4.
NP	Wastes, Hazardous and Solid Hodgson	4/1/08	KH	There are no quantities of wastes, hazardous or solid, located on BLM-administered lands in the proposed project area, and there would be no wastes generated as a result of the Proposed Action or No Action alternative.
PI	Water Quality, Surface and Ground (Finding on Standard 5) Belcher	4/13/08	PB	See analysis in EA.
PI	Wetlands & Riparian Zones (Finding on Standard 2) Belcher	4/13/08	PB	See analysis in EA.
NI	Wild and Scenic Rivers Sterin	4/15/08	BS	The project is along an eligible segment of the Upper Colorado River. This segment of the river's tentative classification is recreational and therefore, the fence would not impact the classification.
NP	Wilderness Sterin	4/15/08	BS	There is no designated Wilderness or Wilderness Study Areas in the proximity of the proposed project area.
NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS (A finding must be made for these elements)				
PI	Soils (Finding on Standard 1) Belcher	4/13/08	PB	See analysis in EA.
PI	Vegetation (Finding on Standard 3) Johnson Torma	4/11/08	RJ	See analysis in EA.
PI	Wildlife, Aquatic (Finding on Standard 3) McGuire	4/11/08	MM	See analysis in EA.
PI	Wildlife, Terrestrial (Finding on Standard 3) McGuire	4/11/08	MM	See analysis in EA.
OTHER NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS				
NI	Access/Transportation Monkouski	4/15/08	BS	No impact.
NI	Fire Wyatt	4/15/08	BW	
NP	Forest Management K. Belcher	4/15/08	KB	No forest resources present.
NI	Geology and Minerals Hodgson	4/1/08	KH	No impact.
NI	Hydrology/Water Rights Belcher	4/11/08	PB	The Proposed Action would improve the BLM's ability to use their water rights in the irrigation ditches. There is no impact to other water rights. Hydrology discussion is included

					in the Water Quality Section of this document.
NI	Paleontology	Rupp	4/4/2008	FGR	Quaternary Deposits- No known sites. Class 2 Condition, PFYC Class 3. No further assessment recommended.
NI	Noise	Monkouski	4/15/08	BS	No impact.
NP	Range Management	Johnson	4/8/08	RJ	The project area is not in a livestock grazing allotment. Therefore, yearly, scheduled livestock grazing does not occur in the project area.
NI	Lands/ Realty Authorizations	Cassel	4/4/08	SC	There are no leases or permits in the location of the proposed action. There is a ROW granted to WAPA COC-69311, for the Colorado River irrigation system. WAPA will need to be contacted before proceeding with the proposed action.
PI	Recreation	Sterin	4/15/08	BS	See analysis in EA.
NI	Socio-Economics	J. Stout	4/18/08	JS	There would be minimal socio-economic impacts. Adjacent landowners were contacted and notified of the Proposed Action. The Thompson's have old farming equipment still located within the project area on BLM-administered public lands. They have known for years that they need to remove the equipment. There is a potential the equipment would be burned as a result of the Proposed Action.
NI	Visual Resources	Hodgson	4/15/08	KH	Class III VRM. Proposed Action would replace existing fence, impact from burning would be temporary; therefore there would be no change to VRM Classification based on the Proposed Action or No Action Alternative.
NI	Cumulative Impact Summary	J. Stout	4/18/08	JS	There would be no cumulative impacts.
FINAL REVIEW					
	P&E Coordinator	J. Stout	4/18/08	JS	
	Field Manager	D. Stout			