

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Little Snake Field Office
455 Emerson Street
Craig, CO 81625-1129**

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

EA NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-N010-2009-0101-EA

CASEFILE/ALLOTMENT NUMBER: Greasewood, Allotment #04521

PROJECT NAME: Mayberry Plateau Treatment

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T10N R94W Sections 19 & 30.

APPLICANT: Bureau of Land Management

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW: The Proposed Action and Alternatives are subject to the following plan:

Name of Plan: Little Snake Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision

Date Approved: April 26, 1989

Results: The proposed project is within Management Units 2 and 7. Management objective for Unit 2 is to provide for the development of the oil and gas resources. The proposed action is consistent with this management objective. Management objectives for Unit 7 are to provide for the development of locatable minerals and leasable minerals other than coal, oil, gas, and geothermal resources; and make areas available to supply demand for sand, gravel, and other salable mineral materials. The proposed action is consistent with these management objectives. Other resource uses/values are allowed within these units consistent with the management objectives.

Other Documents:

Vegetation Treatments on BLM Lands in 17 Western States Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS), June 2007

Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) Vegetation Treatment on BLM Lands in Thirteen Western States, June 5, 1991, and the Colorado Record of Decision (ROD), July 1991.

Environmental Assessment #CO-016-94-056 considered the options of Integrated Pest Management as outlined in the FEIS and adopted the standard operation procedures for vegetation treatment program implementation. This EA was signed March 30, 1994, which resulted in a Finding of No Significant Impact.

Noxious Weed Treatment in the Little Snake Resource Area, EA #CO-016-94-056, as amended, May 4, 1994, expanded the use of herbicide application methods to include broadcast and aerial applications.

NEED FOR PROPOSED ACTION: In August of 2008, approximately 25,000 acres of land in the Great Divide area burned in a lightning caused wildfire. In many places where the wildfire burned particularly “hot”, the soil was left bare and devoid of any vegetation. In many of these places, the invasive plant “cheatgrass” (*Bromus tectorum* L.) established.

With Plateau being a relatively new treatment option for the BLM, this proposed action would provide a valuable tool in monitoring the results of the Plateau treatment and applying the knowledge and lessons learned to other fire rehabilitation, or land treatment projects.

PUBLIC SCOPING PROCESS: The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) log is posted on the Little Snake Field Office web site.

BACKGROUND: Cheatgrass is an annual grass that forms tufts up to 2 ft. (0.6 m) tall. These annual plants will germinate in fall or spring (fall is more common), and senescence usually occurs in summer. Cheatgrass invades rangelands, pastures, prairies, and other open areas. Cheatgrass has the potential to completely alter the ecosystems it invades. It can completely replace native vegetation and change fire regimes. It occurs throughout the United States and Canada, but is most problematic in areas of the western United States with lower precipitation levels. Cheatgrass is native to Europe and parts of Africa and Asia. It was first introduced into the United States accidentally in the mid 1800s.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES:

Proposed Action

The proposed treatment unit is located within the Mayberry Fire area. It is proposed to treat 1000 acres of BLM land in T10N R94W Sections 19 and 30 with the herbicide Plateau or Panoramic (active ingredient: imazapic) in order to remove cheatgrass and aeri ally seed the treatment unit in March of 2010. The application rate to which the herbicide would be applied is 4 oz/acre. The herbicide would be applied aeri ally with a fixed wing aircraft. Application is targeted to occur in October of 2009. The proposed action will comply with LSFO Standard Stipulations (Please see attachment # 1). The seed mix would contain the following species: western wheatgrass (arriba), basin wildrye, and western yarrow and would be applied at a rate of 8 lbs/acre.

As part of the Mayberry Fire rehabilitation effort, the grazing permittees are required to rest allotments from grazing practices for a minimum of two growing seasons. The treatment area described in the proposed action is within the Mayberry Fire rehabilitation area and will not require additional grazing restrictions.

No Action Alternative

The No Action Alternative would be no treatment.

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT/ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES/MITIGATION MEASURES

CRITICAL RESOURCES

AIR QUALITY

Affected Environment: The treatment area and surrounding areas do not lie within any non-attainment or special designation airsheds.

Environmental Consequences, Proposed Action: Chemical treatments could result in localized spray drift and volatilization of the chemicals associated with herbicide treatments moving offsite. These effects would be small in scale, temporary, and quickly dispersed throughout the vicinity of the treatment area with adherence to the appropriate Standard Operating Procedures (SOP). Provided SOPs are followed, and site-specific plans developed and reviewed before a treatment activity occurs, federal, state, and local air quality regulations would not be violated.

Beneficial impacts to air quality could result from the effective control of downy brome with the approval of the active ingredient imazapic. Total emissions of fugitive dust, ash, CO₂, CO, PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}, and VOCs, resulting from wildfires could be reduced in the long term using this herbicide for future range restoration efforts to reduce rangelands infested with downy brome.

Environmental Consequences, No Action: None.

Mitigative Measures: None.

Name of specialist and date: Mark Lowrey, 08/26/09

AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

Affected Environment: Not present.

Environmental Consequences: Not applicable.

Mitigative Measures: Not applicable.

Name of specialist and date: Kimberly Miller, 8/24/09

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Affected Environment: Cultural resources in this region of Colorado range from late Paleo-Indian to Historic. For a general understanding of the cultural resources in this area, see *An Overview of Prehistoric Cultural Resources, Little Snake Resource Area, Northwestern Colorado*, Bureau of Land Management Colorado, Cultural Resources Series, Number 20, *An Isolated Empire, A History of Northwestern Colorado*, Bureau of Land Management Colorado, Cultural Resource Series, Number 2 and *Colorado Prehistory: A Context for the Northern Colorado River Basin*, Colorado Council of Professional Archaeologists.

The proposed project, Mayberry Plateau Treatment, has not undergone a Class III cultural resource survey. Class III cultural resource survey is not necessary for any of the alternatives involving spraying chemicals on foot or from the air. Truck/ATV chemical applications, mechanical treatments, drill seeding, certain hand treatments and other similar projects have the potential to impact cultural resource sites and must be reviewed on a project-by-project basis prior to initiation.

Mitigative Measures: The following standard stipulations apply for this project:

1. All projects involving seeding, mechanical treatments, or hand treatments must be reviewed by cultural resource staff to ascertain necessary actions under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.
2. The applicator is responsible for informing all persons associated with the operations that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are encountered or uncovered during any project activities, the applicator is to immediately stop activities in the vicinity of the find and contact the authorized officer (AO) at (970) 826-5000. Within five working days, the AO will inform the operator:
 - Whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places;
 - The mitigation measures the operator will likely have to undertake before the identified area can be used for project activities again; and
 - Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g) (Federal Register Notice, Monday, December 4, 1995, Vol. 60, No. 232) the holder of this authorization must notify the AO, by telephone at (970) 826-5000, and with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), you must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the authorized officer.

3. If the applicator wishes, at any time, to relocate activities to avoid the expense of mitigation and/or the delays associated with this process, the AO will assume responsibility for whatever recordation and stabilization of the exposed materials may be required. Otherwise, the applicator will be responsible for mitigation costs. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation. Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the applicator will then be allowed to resume operations.

Name of specialist and date: Robyn Watkins Morris, 8/26/09

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Affected Environment: The proposed action is located in an area of isolated dwellings. Oil & Gas development and ranching are the primary economic activities.

Environmental Consequences, both alternatives: The project area is relatively isolated from population centers, so no populations would be affected by physical or socioeconomic impacts of either alternative. Neither alternative would directly affect the social, cultural or economic well-being and health of Native American, minority or low-income populations.

Mitigative Measures: None.

Name of specialist and date: Louise McMinn, 08/19/09

FLOOD PLAINS

Affected Environment: Not present.

Environmental Consequences: None.

Mitigative Measures: None.

Name of specialist and date: Mark Lowrey, 08/25/09

INVASIVE, NONNATIVE SPECIES

Affected Environment: Invasive and noxious weeds are present in the allotment. Invasive annuals such as downy brome (cheatgrass), halogeton, blue mustard and yellow alyssum commonly occur within the allotments and are occupying disturbed areas caused by oil and gas development and recently disturbed pipeline corridors. Invasive annual weeds are typically established on disturbed and high traffic areas whereas biennial and perennial noxious weeds are less common in occurrence. Downy brome and halogeton are on the Colorado List C of noxious weeds and efforts to control halogeton are intensifying in this area. Colorado List B noxious weeds that are present within the Greasewood Allotment include Russian knapweed, hoary cress (whiteweed), Canada thistle and bull thistle. Other Colorado List B noxious weeds that are present

in the vicinity and could potentially become established within these allotments include houndstongue, dalmatian toadflax and other biennial thistles. The BLM is in cooperation with the Moffat County Cooperative Weed Management program to employ the principals of Integrated Pest Management to control noxious weeds on public lands.

The most common invasive plant and State recognized noxious weed in the LSFO is downy brome (cheatgrass) which is on Colorado's C List of Noxious Weeds. This plant is found throughout the affected area in all plant community types. It is most pronounced and damaging in the western portion of the field office area where its aggressive nature, annual growth form and early spring growth characteristics have allowed it to spread along disturbed corridors and into rangelands. In areas where this plant has formed dense extensive infestations it threatens, or has increased the frequency of the fire regime of the plant community. Downy brome can also invade after wildfire and persist in the burned area as is the case with this proposed action. Cultural practices, such as seeding and proper grazing management have been implemented to prevent the expansion of downy brome and reduce its abundance in existing infested areas. Chemical treatments are also effective in reducing the abundance in existing affected areas.

Environmental Consequences, Proposed Action: This alternative provides the best available combination of vegetation and chemical treatments for the control of noxious weeds and other invasive and undesirable species. The active ingredient imazapic has proven effective in the control of downy brome and would be useful to include in restoration projects to promote desirable vegetation establishment.

Environmental Consequences, No Action: Under this alternative the BLM would not apply the active ingredient imazapic to control cheatgrass in the specified area. The current noxious weed infestations would continue to expand and provide a seed source for new infestations.

Mitigative Measures: None.

Name of specialist and date: Gail Martinez, 8/26/09

MIGRATORY BIRDS

Affected Environment: BLM Instruction Memorandum No. 2008-050 provides guidance towards meeting BLM's responsibilities under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Executive Order (EO) 13186. The guidance emphasizes management of habitat for species of conservation concern by avoiding or minimizing negative impacts and restoring and enhancing habitat quality. The LSFO provides both foraging and nesting habitat for a variety of migratory bird species. Several species on the USFWS's Birds of Conservation Concern List (2008) occupy these habitats within the LSFO.

Specific to the project area, vegetative communities consist primarily of grasses and forbs. Although the area has a high infestation of cheat grass, native grasses and forbs are also present. Due to the cheatgrass infestation this area has a reduced ability to provide high quality habitat for

any bird listed on USFWS's BCC list. There are no active raptor nests in the vicinity of the proposed action.

Environmental Consequences, Proposed Action: There would be little chance of take from the Proposed Action. Based on available data, imazapic appears to have low toxicity to birds (BLM 2007) and would have little impact to any birds using the target area. Since the treatment would be performed after the nesting season (May 15 – July 15) there would be little chance to disturb breeding or nesting activities. Individual birds would likely be displaced from the area during project implementation due to noise from the plane, but this disturbance would be minimal and short in duration. The treatment of cheatgrass would help to improve upland habitats as this annual weed is replaced with native grasses and forbs. This would help restore habitat for migratory birds.

Environmental Consequences, No Action Alternative: There would be no chance of take from the No Action Alternative. However, the Proposed Action would help improve the condition of migratory bird habitat and is the preferred alternative.

Mitigative Measures: None.

Name of specialist and date: Desa Ausmus, 8/24/09

NATIVE AMERICAN RELIGIOUS CONCERNS

A letter was sent to the Eastern Shoshone, Uinta and Ouray Tribal Council, Southern Ute Tribal Council, Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Council on May 26, 2009. The letter listed the FY2010 projects that the BLM would notify them on and projects that would not require notification. A followup phone call was performed on July 26, 2009. No comments were received (Letter on file at the Little Snake Field Office). This project requires no additional notification.

Name of specialist and date: Robyn Watkins Morris, 8/26/09

PRIME & UNIQUE FARMLANDS

Affected Environment: Not present.

Environmental Consequences: None.

Mitigative Measures: None.

Name of specialist and date: Mark Lowrey, 08/25/09

T&E SPECIES – ANIMALS

Affected Environment: Prior to the fire, the action area provided productive nesting habitat for

greater sage grouse, a BLM sensitive species. The closest active lek is located one quarter mile to the east of the treatment area. There are several more active leks located within a two mile radius of the area. After the fire, enough sagebrush was removed that most of the burn no longer meets the characteristics of quality nesting habitat. Shrub vegetation at the site is too sparse and sagebrush patch size is too small to provide suitable nesting habitat. The project area does provide limited habitat for grouse during non-critical times of the year or when moving to and from winter or nesting habitat. Although sage grouse probably still use the area, habitat quality has been reduced by the cheatgrass infestation.

Environmental Consequences, Proposed Action: The Proposed Action would improve greater sage grouse habitat by reducing cheatgrass and increasing the likelihood for native grasses and forbs to re-establish. The treatment would occur in the fall and therefore would not interfere with breeding or nesting activities. Based on available data, imazapic appears to have low toxicity to birds (BLM 2007) and would have little impact to any sage grouse using the area during the time of treatment. Overall, the project should benefit greater sage grouse by restoring habitat that was burned during the Mayberry fire.

Environmental Consequences, No Action Alternative: Without implementation of the Proposed Action, there will be an eventual reduction in habitat quality for the greater sage grouse.

Mitigative Measures: None.

Name of specialist and date: Desa Ausmus, 8/24/09

T&E AND SENSITIVE PLANTS

Affected Environment: There are no federally listed threatened or endangered or BLM sensitive plant species present within or in the vicinity of the proposed action.

Environmental Consequences, both alternatives: None.

Mitigative Measures: None.

Name of specialist and date: Hunter Seim, 8/24/09

WASTES, HAZARDOUS OR SOLID

Affected Environment: There are no known hazardous materials within the project area. The proposed project would use the herbicide Plateau to treat cheatgrass. Plateau is a hazardous material. No Plateau would be stored within the project area or loaded onto the aircraft within the project area. Herbicide storage and loading areas would occur at the airport in Craig, Colorado, or on a gravel road near Sugarloaf Butte in T11N R101W.

Environmental Consequences, Proposed Action: The herbicide Plateau can be harmful to humans

who are exposed. Known effects of exposure to Plateau include the following: skin and eye irritation. The handling and treatment procedures will minimize these effects.

Environmental Consequences, No Action: The project would not be approved and no hazardous materials would be used.

Mitigative Measures: None.

Name of specialist and date: Gail Martinez, 8/26/09

WATER QUALITY - GROUND

Affected Environment: According to the Groundwater Atlas of the United States (USGS), the aquifer found in the treatment unit is the Mesaverde aquifer. This aquifer is non-tributary to any surface waters. The depth of groundwater from the surface is located at approximately 100-200 feet.

Environmental Consequences, Proposed Action: Imazapic has limited horizontal mobility in soil, and generally moves just 6 to 12 inches, although it can leach to depths of 18 inches in sandy soils. Since the depth of groundwater from the surface is between 100 – 200 feet, there is no impact to ground water quality from the Proposed Action.

Environmental Consequences, No Action: None.

Mitigative Measures: None.

Name of specialist and date: Gail Martinez, 8/26/09

WATER QUALITY - SURFACE

Affected Environment: There is one spring fed reservoir in the vicinity of the treatment area (Kelly Spring).

Environmental Consequences, Proposed Action: There would be no adverse affect. Contamination may result from application drift. Plateau is soluble, but not degraded, in water. Plateau is however, rapidly photodegraded by sunlight in aqueous solution with a half life of one to two days. Field studies do not indicate any potential for Plateau herbicide to move from soils with surface water.

Environmental Consequences, No Action: None.

Reference: Weed Control Methods Handbook, The Nature Conservancy, Tu *et al.* Date Authored: April 2001, Updated: January 2004

Mitigative Measures: None.

Name of specialist and date: Mark Lowrey, 08/26/09

WETLANDS/RIPARIAN ZONES

Affected Environment: Not present in treatment area (see Water Quality –Surface).

Environmental Consequences: None.

Mitigative Measures: None.

Name of specialist and date: Mark Lowrey, 08/26/09

WILD & SCENIC RIVERS

Affected Environment: Not present.

Environmental Consequences: None.

Mitigative Measures: None.

Name of specialist and date: Kimberly Miller, 8/24/09

WSAs, WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

Affected Environment: Not present.

Environmental Consequences, both alternatives: Not applicable.

Mitigative Measures: Not applicable.

Name of specialist and date: Kimberly Miller, 8/24/09

NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS

SOILS

Affected Environment: The two soils mapping units in the treatment area are 130—Maysprings coarse sandy loam and 131—Maysprings-Gretdivid complex. The Maysprings coarse sandy loam soils are Alluvium and residuum derived from sandstone, well drained and characterizes a Rolling Loam ecological site. The Maysprings-Gretdivid complex soils are Residuum derived from sandstone, well drained and characterize a Sandyland ecological site.

Environmental Consequences, Proposed Action: There would be no adverse affects. Imazapic is moderately persistent in soil with an average half life of 120 days, but has only limited mobility. It is soluble, but not degraded, in water. Imazapic is however, rapidly photodegraded by sunlight in aqueous solution. "Leakage" of imazapic from plant roots is unlikely.

Based on field dissipation studies, imazapic is moderately persistent in soils with a DT50 (time required for concentration in soil to reach 50% of initial measured concentration) of 7 to 150 days depending upon soil type and climatic conditions. Imazapic has limited horizontal mobility in soil, and generally moves just 6 to 12 inches, although it can leach to depths of 18 inches in sandy soils. Soil binding is a complex function of soil pH, texture, and organic matter content. Imazapic adsorption to soil may increase with time. Imazapic does not volatilize from the soil surface and photolytic breakdown on soils is negligible. The major route of imazapic loss from soil is through microbial degradation.

Environmental Consequences, No Action: No affect.

Reference: Weed Control Methods Handbook, The Nature Conservancy, Tu *et al.* Date Authored: April 2001, Updated: January 2004

Mitigative Measures: None.

Name of specialist and date: Mark Lowrey 08/25/09

VEGETATION

Affected Environment: After the first growing season following the Mayberry fire the plant community most prevalent across the Greasewood Allotment Plateau treatment area consists of western wheatgrass (*Agropyron smithii*), Indian ricegrass (*Oryzopsis hymenoides*), needle-and-thread (*Stipa comata*), squirreltail (*Sitanion hystrix*), prairie junegrass (*Koeleria pyramidata*), and Sandberg bluegrass (*Poa sandbergii*) but is heavily invaded by cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum* L.). Although density and frequency of native grasses and forbs are encouraging, considering the intensity of the fire, cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) is abundant due to the level of disturbance, a nearby seed source, and an above normal fall moisture event. This cheatgrass presence threatens the reestablishment, vigor, and persistence of native vegetation.

Environmental Consequences, Proposed Action: If successful, the proposed action would result in beneficial impacts to native vegetation by reducing the early germination and competition of cheatgrass. Thus, allowing native vegetation to utilize the full complement of soil and water resources available, insuring abundance, diversity, reproduction, and perseverance of desired native species.

There is a minor risk of inhibiting the germination of some native species in the treatment area. This risk is increased being the first growing season post fire and some of the plants that survived the fire and emerged may have produced a smaller than expected seed crop while expending

energy recovering biomass and nutrient levels.

Environmental Consequences, No Action: Cheatgrass would continue to persist in the treatment area, limiting the abundance, diversity, reproduction, and perseverance of desired native species.

Mitigative Measures: None.

Name of specialist and date: Mark Lowrey, 08/24/09

WILDLIFE, AQUATIC

Affected Environment: The treatment area does not provide habitat for aquatic wildlife. There are three springs/ponds adjacent to the treatment area that potentially provide habitat for amphibians and aquatic insects.

Environmental Consequences, Proposed Action: There is a slight potential that imazapic could come into contact with water if drift occurs during application. This chemical poses no risk to fish or aquatic wildlife if not applied directly to water. If some drift does occur near the three springs/ponds there would be no impact to any aquatic wildlife utilizing those habitats.

Environmental Consequences, No Action Alternative: None.

Mitigative Measures: None.

Name of specialist and date: Desa Ausmus, 8/24/09

WILDLIFE, TERRESTRIAL

Affected Environment: Vegetative communities in the project area are comprised of native and non-native grasses and forbs. Previous to being burned, the area provided habitat for a variety of big games species, small mammals, reptiles and birds. Although wildlife species still utilize the area, habitat quality has been degraded due to the cheat grass infestation.

Environmental Consequences, Proposed Action: Generally areas that have been impacted by invasive plants support fewer native wildlife species in areas with intact native plant communities. The Proposed Action would likely benefit wildlife by reducing cheatgrass and promoting the establishment of native plant species that provide more suitable wildlife habitat and forage. Imazapic is generally not toxic to terrestrial wildlife species and would not harm individual animals or wildlife populations.

Environmental Consequences, No Action Alternative: The No Action Alternative would allow for the persistence of cheatgrass and further degradation of habitat for terrestrial species.

Mitigative Measures: None.

Name of specialist and date: Desa Ausmus, 8/24/09

OTHER NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS: For the following elements, those brought forward for analysis will be formatted as shown above.

Non-Critical Element	NA or Not Present	Applicable or Present, No Impact	Applicable & Present & Brought Forward for Analysis
Fluid Minerals		JAM 8/31/09	
Forest Management	GEM 9/8/09		
Hydrology/Ground			See Water Quality, Ground
Hydrology/Surface			See Water Quality, Surface
Paleontology		JAM 8/31/09	
Range Management		GEM 8/26/09	
Realty Authorizations		LM 8/19/09	
Recreation/Travel Mgmt		KM, 8/24/09	
Socio-Economics		LM 8/19/09	
Solid Minerals		JAM 8/31/09	
Visual Resources		KM, 8/24/09	
Wild Horse & Burro Mgmt	GEM 9/8/09		

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS SUMMARY: The lands within the Great Divide area are used for many purposes including, and not limited to, livestock grazing, hunting, recreation, and oil and gas development. The Proposed Action to apply Plateau and seed is compatible with other uses, both historic and present, and would not add any new or detrimental impacts to those that are already present.

STANDARDS

PLANT AND ANIMAL COMMUNITY (animal) STANDARD: The treatment area provides habitat for a variety of wildlife species. The Proposed Action would meet this standard by restoring native plant communities and improving wildlife habitat. Cheatgrass would likely remain dominant under the No Action Alternative and continue to degrade wildlife habitat.

Name of specialist and date: Desa Ausmus, 8/24/09

SPECIAL STATUS, THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES (animal) STANDARD: The treatment area provides habitat for greater sage grouse, a BLM sensitive species. The Proposed Action would meet this standard by restoring native plant communities and improving grouse habitat. Cheatgrass would likely remain dominant under the No Action Alternative and continue to degrade grouse habitat.

Name of specialist and date: Desa Ausmus, 8/24/09

PLANT AND ANIMAL COMMUNITY (plant) STANDARD: The plant community within the LSFO would be improved by the Proposed Action. This alternative would assist in the maintenance of productive and diverse native plant communities, prevent the expansion of noxious plants, and provide for integrated approaches in all aspects of weed management. This alternative provides the best approach for meeting this standard.

The No Action Alternative would result in a cheatgrass dominated plant community and would not meet this standard in the project area.

Name of specialist and date: Gail Martinez, 9/8/09

SPECIAL STATUS, THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES (plant) STANDARD: There are no federally listed threatened or endangered or BLM sensitive plant species within or in the vicinity of the proposed action. This standard does not apply.

Name of specialist and date: Hunter Seim, 8/24/09

RIPARIAN SYSTEMS STANDARD: There are no wetlands or riparian zones present within the project area. This standard does not apply.

Name of specialist and date: Gail Martinez, 9/8/09

WATER QUALITY STANDARD: The Proposed Action would meet the water quality standard. Stream segments within the planning area are, with few exceptions, supporting the classified uses. The sources of iron that are causing the water quality impairment have not been identified, but it is not likely that elevated iron concentrations would be attributed to integrated weed management.

No Action Alternative: The No Action Alternative would meet the water quality standard at the present time and in the short term. By excluding chemical treatments in the long term, the potential exists to not meet standards.

Name of specialist and date: Gail Martinez, 9/8/09

UPLAND SOILS STANDARD: The Proposed Action would meet the upland soils standard. Several sites have been identified through our land health assessments that are not meeting the vegetation standard because of a heavy infestation of downy brome. These upland soils exhibit good surface soil stability, but are not supporting diverse herbaceous plant understory. This can lead to a decrease in soil stability and reduce biological crusts. Downy brome infested rangelands are also threatened by more frequent fire occurrence which would further compound

upland soil health.

No Action Alternative: This alternative would meet the upland soil standard for healthy rangelands at the present time and in the short term. The No Action Alternative would not meet the upland soil standard in the long term.

Name of specialist and date: Gail Martinez, 9/8/09

PERSONS/AGENCIES CONSULTED: Uintah and Ouray Tribal Council, Colorado Native American Commission, Colorado State Historic Preservation Office.

SIGNATURE OF PREPARER:

DATE SIGNED:

SIGNATURE OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEWER:

DATE SIGNED:

Attachment #1

DOI-BLM-CO-N010-2009-0101 EA

BLM LSFO PUP Stipulations

General Stipulations:

- All herbicide treatments on BLM administered lands will comply with applicable federal and state statutory and regulatory requirements.
 - Manufacturers label directions and guidelines, including but not limited to, application rates, uses, handling instructions, storage and disposal requirements, will be followed
 - All BLM procedures (BLM Handbook H-9011-1 Chemical Pest Control) and Manuals 1112 Safety, 9011 Chemical Pest Control, and 9015 Integrated Weed Management, and any other BLM requirements will be followed. Where more restrictive, BLMs requirements for rates, uses, and handling instructions will apply.
 - Only certified applicators, or those directly supervised by a certified applicator, may apply herbicide on BLM administered public lands.
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To ensure that risks to human health and the environment from herbicide treatments are kept to a minimum, and that all practicable means to avoid or minimize environmental harm have been adopted, the following will apply:

- All herbicide treatments will be consistent with the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) presented in the ROD of the 2007 Final *Vegetation Treatments Using Herbicides on BLM Lands in 17 Western States Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS)*.
 - Measures to mitigate potential adverse environmental effects as a result of herbicide treatments as found in the ROD of the PEIS.
 - All conservation measures, designed to protect plants and animals listed or proposed for listing as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act, as found in the Biological Assessment of the PEIS.
-

Cultural Resources Discovery

The applicator is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the operations that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites or for collecting artifacts.

If historic or archaeological materials are encountered or uncovered during any project activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities in the immediate vicinity of the find and immediately contact the authorized officer (AO) at (970) 826-5000. Within five working days, the AO will inform the operator as to:

- Whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places;
- The mitigation measures the operator will likely have to undertake before the identified area can be used for project activities again; and
- Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g) (Federal Register Notice, Monday, December 4, 1995, Vol. 60, No. 232) the holder of this authorization must notify the AO, by telephone at (970) 826-5000, and with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), you must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the authorized officer.

SOURCE:

DOI-BLM-CO-N010-2009-0025-EA (Draft)

Finding of No Significant Impact

The environmental assessment, analyzing the environmental effects of the proposed action, has been reviewed. With the implementation of the attached mitigation measures there is a finding of no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not necessary to further analyze the environmental effects of the proposed action.

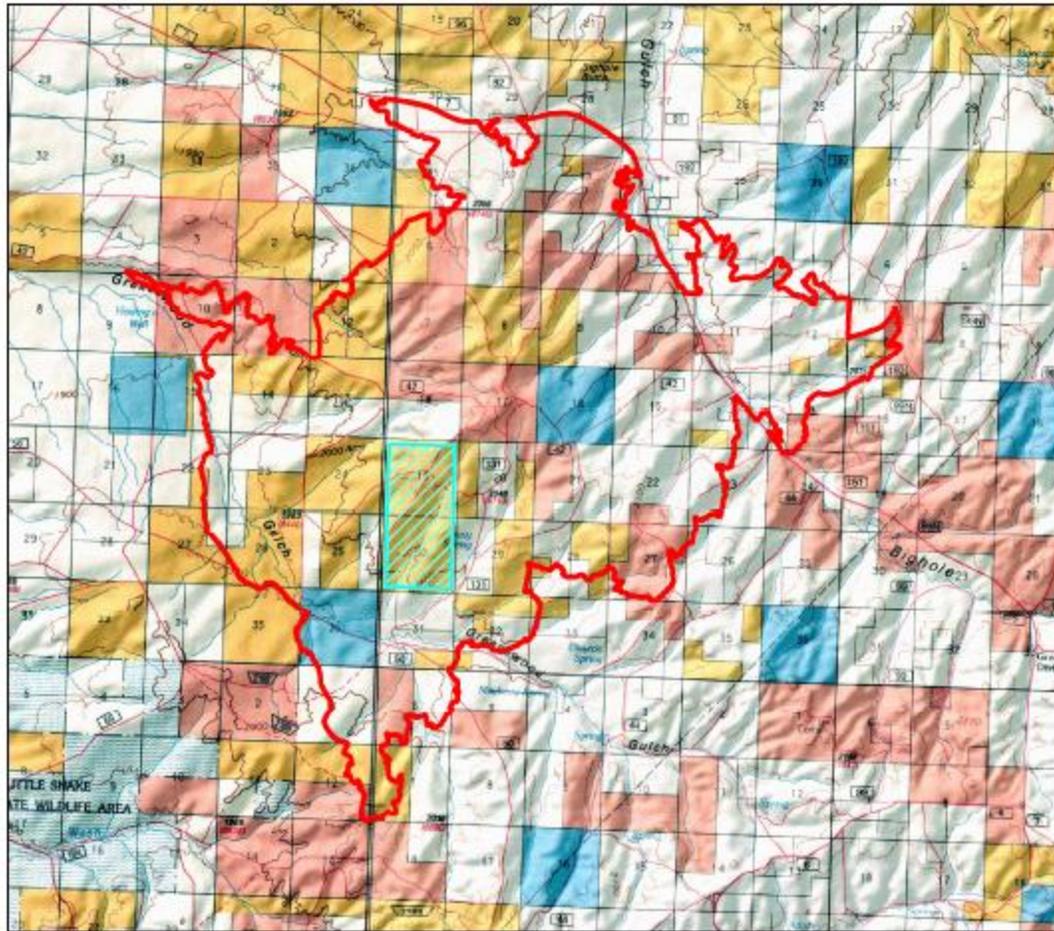
1. Beneficial, adverse, direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts have been disclosed in the EA. Analysis indicated no significant impacts on society as a whole, the affected region, the affected interests or the locality. The physical and biological effects are limited to the Little Snake Resource Area and adjacent land.
2. Public health and safety would not be adversely impacted. There are no known or anticipated concerns with project waste or hazardous materials.
3. There would be no adverse impacts to regional or local air quality, prime or unique farmlands, known paleontological resources on public land within the area, wetlands, floodplain, areas with unique characteristics, ecologically critical areas or designated Areas of Critical Environmental Concern.
4. There are no highly controversial effects on the environment.
5. There are no effects that are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risk. Sufficient information on risk is available based on information in the EA and other past actions of a similar nature.
6. This alternative does not set a precedent for other actions that may be implemented in the future to meet the goals and objectives of adopted Federal, State or local natural resource related plans, policies or programs.
7. No cumulative impacts related to other actions that would have a significant adverse impact were identified or are anticipated.
8. Based on previous and ongoing cultural surveys, and through mitigation by avoidance, no adverse impacts to cultural resources were identified or anticipated. There are no known American Indian religious concerns or persons or groups who might be disproportionately and adversely affected as anticipated by the Environmental Justice Policy.
9. No adverse impacts to any threatened or endangered species or their habitat that was determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act were identified. If, at a future time, there could be the potential for adverse impacts, treatments would be modified or mitigated not to have an adverse effect or new analysis would be conducted.
10. This alternative is in compliance with relevant Federal, State, and local laws, regulations, and requirements for the protection of the environment.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:

DATE SIGNED:

Plateau / Panoramic Aerial Application

Little Snake Field Office
Craig, CO



Legend

-  Plateau
-  Mayberry Fire Perimeter

1000 acres

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

