

Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)

U.S. Department of the Interior

Bureau of Land Management

Royal Gorge Field Office

3028 E. Main

Cañon City, CO 81212

OFFICE: BLM – Royal Gorge Field Office

PROJECT NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-200-2012-006 DN

CASEFILE: (if applicable)

PROPOSED ACTION TITLE/TYPE: Trail Gulch Prescribed Fire

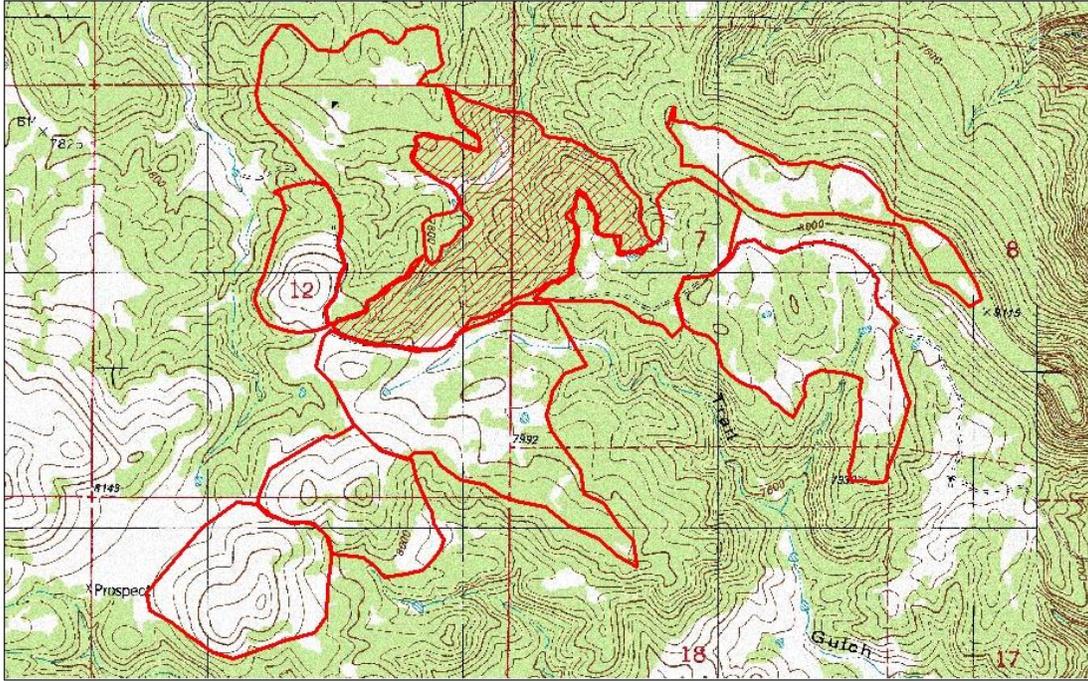
LOCATION/LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Fremont, T. 16 S. R. 70 W. Sec. 6 & 7, T. 16 S., R. 71 W. Secs. 12 & 13.

APPLICANT (if any): BLM

A. Description of the Proposed Action and any applicable mitigation measures

The Bureau of Land Management, Royal Gorge Field Office proposes to treat 780 acres with prescribed fire in the Trail Gulch area. The prescribed fire efforts proposed are part of a program to reduce fuels, improve forage, and promote forest health. The prescribed burning would reduce the accumulated surface fuels and the activity created fuels from thinning treatments done in the area in previous years. The units are comprised of grasses, oak brush, pinion, juniper, and ponderosa pine. The units can be burned at any time if the prescriptions in the burn plan exist. The operational objective is to put a low to moderate intensity prescribed fire onto the landscape.

Previous thinning activities were done to maintain the larger/healthier trees. These older trees would be maintained to the extent possible, to create more natural age class diversity in the stand. The prescribed burning will be accomplished with motorized and/or various hand firing methods with hand crews and or engines to provide holding and containment measures. ATV's with water tanks maybe used to provide water to aid in control of the burn once ignited. The units have been designed to take advantage of existing roads, trails, and natural barriers. Some areas may require the construction of hand lines as control features. These areas will be rehabilitated once the prescribed burn is declared out (see Map 1: Trail Gulch Project Area).



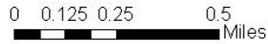
Legend

- | | |
|---|--|
|  Unit 1 - 110 Acres |  Unit 6 - 130 Acres |
|  Unit 2 - 135 Acres |  Unit 7 - 30 Acres |
|  Unit 3 - 65 Acres |  Unit 8 - 60 Acres |
|  Unit 4 - 75 Acres |  Unit 9 - 140 Acres |
|  Unit 5 - 35 Acres | |

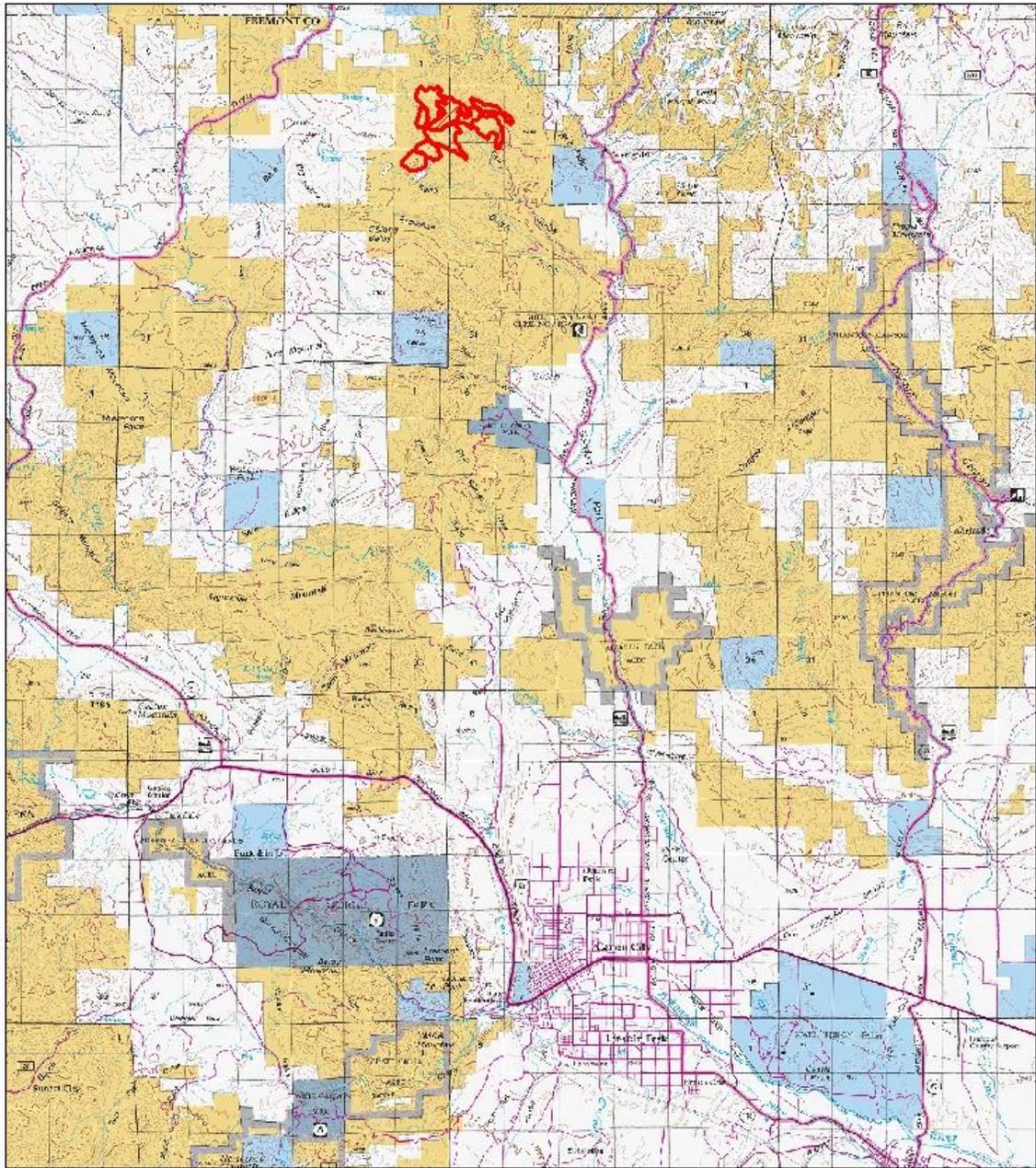
Trail Gulch Prescribed Fire

DOI-BLM-CO-200-2012-0006 DN

**6th PM, T16S R70W Sec. 6&7
T16S R71W Sec. 12 & 13**

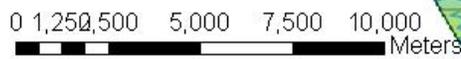
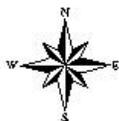


NOTE TO MAP USERS
No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of the data layers shown on this map. The official land records of the data providers should be checked or current status on any specific tract of land.



OVERVIEW MAP TITLE OF PROJECT

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B. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance

LUP Name: Royal Gorge Resource Management Plan	Date Approved: 05/13/96
Other Document	Date Approved
Other Document	Date Approved

C. Identify applicable National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents and other related documents that cover the proposed action.

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

Goldbelt Fuels Planning EA CO-200-2006-0089EA

2009 Trail Gulch Fuels Reduction DNA CO-200-2009-0066

List by name and date other documentation relevant to the proposed action (e.g., biological assessment, biological opinion, watershed assessment, allotment evaluation, and monitoring report).

D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

1. Is the new proposed action a feature of, or essentially similar to, an alternative analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? Is the project within the same analysis area, or if the project location is different, are the geographic and resource conditions sufficiently similar to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? If there are differences, can you explain why they are not substantial?

Yes. The EA covered the impacts of fuel reduction using the above methods and locations. A site specific onsite review was completed for the proposal and the proposal is within the parameters of those analyzed in the approved EA.

2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the new proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values?

Yes. Two alternatives were considered in the EA and that continues to be appropriate for current conditions. **Proposed Action:** Overall treatment objectives are to reduce fuels to protect communities from wildfire and to create/maintain a mosaic of successional stages of vegetation throughout the landscape. These treatments would be accomplished with mechanical methods and hand tools including, but not limited to, chain saws, skidders, brush hogs, hydro-axes, feller-bunchers, tree spades, and dozers. Prescribed fire including pile and broadcast burning would also be used to reduce natural fuel loadings and activity slash. **No Action Alternative:** Under the No Action Alternative, no fuels reduction projects would be conducted. Vegetation and fuels growth would remain as they are today and continue to accumulate.

3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances (such as, rangeland health standard assessment, recent endangered species listings, updated lists of BLM-sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that new information and new circumstances would not substantially change the analysis of the new proposed action?

Yes. The information remains valid and germane to the Proposed Action. There is no new information or condition changes that would preclude the fuels reduction project from moving forward.

4. Are the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects that would result from implementation of the new proposed action similar (both quantitatively and qualitatively) to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document?

Yes. The proposal is within the parameters of the impacts identified in the EA.

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

Yes. The public involvement and review remains adequate for this action and will continue. Prescribed fire managers have been and will continue working with local subdivisions, Teller and Fremont Counties, fire officials, and local fire departments on the implementation of the burn.

E. Persons/Agencies /BLM Staff Consulted

INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM REVIEW			
NAME	TITLE	AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY	Initials/date
Matt Rustand	Wildlife Biologist	Terrestrial Wildlife, T&E, Migratory Birds	MR, 1/27/2012
Jeff Williams	Range Management Spec.	Range, Vegetation, Farmland	-----
Chris Cloninger	Range Management Spec.	Range, Vegetation, Farmland	CC, 1/13/12
John Lamman	Range Management Spec.	Weeds	JL, 01/24/2012
Dave Gilbert	Fisheries Biologist	Aquatic Wildlife, Riparian/Wetlands	DG, 1/17/12
Stephanie Carter	Geologist	Minerals, Paleontology, Waste Hazardous or Solid	SSC, 1/18/12
Melissa Smeins	Geologist	Minerals, Paleontology	-----
John Smeins	Hydrologist	Hydrology, Water Quality/Rights, Soils	JS, 1/17/12
Ty Webb	Prescribed Fire Specialist	Air Quality	TW, 1/13/12
Jeff Covington	Cadastral Surveyor	Cadastral Survey	JC, 1/30/13
Kalem Lenard	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Recreation, Wilderness, LWCs, Visual, ACEC, W&S Rivers	KL, 1/20/2012
John Nahomenuk	River Manager	Recreation, Wilderness, LWCs, Visual, ACEC, W&S Rivers	-----
Ken Reed	Forester	Forestry	KR, 1/17/2012
Martin Weimer	NEPA Coordinator	Environmental Justice, Noise, SocioEconomics	mw, 1/22/13

Monica Weimer	Archaeologist	Cultural, Native American	-----
Erin Watkins	Archaeologist	Cultural, Native American	EW, 1/8/2013
Vera Matthews	Realty Specialist	Realty	VM, 3/21/2012
Bob Hurley	Fire Management Officer	Fire Management	BH, 1/13/2012
Steve Cunningham	Law Enforcement Ranger	Law Enforcement	NA

Other Agency Represented:

REMARKS:

Air Quality: Prescribed burning will be conducted only within an approved Prescribed Fire Smoke Permit from the Colorado Department of Health and Environment-Air Pollution Control Division.

Cadastral: The monuments in the project area need to be located and protected. The GCDB reliability for the monuments in T. 16 S., R. 71 W., is +/- 20 feet and the GCDB reliability for the monuments in T. 16 S., R. 71 W., is +/- 300 feet.

Range: The proposed project is within the Trail Canyon Allotment #05251. This allotment is currently unallotted.

Cultural Resources: No historic properties were found in the area of potential effect [see report CR-RG-12-94 (N)]. Therefore, the proposed undertaking will have no effect on any historic properties (those eligible for the NRHP).

Native American Religious Concerns: No possible traditional cultural properties were located during the cultural resources inventory (see above). There is no other known evidence that suggests the project area holds special significance for Native Americans.

Threatened and Endangered Species: There are no records of any federally listed or BLM sensitive species within or near the project area. The Proposed Action will not result in impacts to TES species.

Migratory Birds: To be in compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Memorandum of Understanding between BLM and USFWS required by Executive Order 13186, BLM must avoid actions, where possible, that result in a “take” of migratory birds. Generally this is a seasonal restriction that requires vegetation disturbance be avoided from May 15 thru July 15. This is the breeding and brood rearing season for most Colorado migratory birds. Any action that may result in a “take” of individual migratory birds or nests that are protected by MBTA will not be allowed.

Wildlife: There is a heavily used turkey roost tree near the prescribed burn area (UTM: 13S 0476787 4280193). These trees should be protected during fire activities. Prior to ignition, a BLM biologist will mark the tree to be protected with flagging. The fire crew will be required to take measures to minimize the probability the tree will die or be destroyed as a result of the prescribed fire (e.g. hand line around the tree).

Minerals: As of a January 2013 database review, no active mining claims appear to be located in the proposed project area.

MITIGATION:

Prior to ignition, a BLM biologist will mark the known turkey roost tree to be protected with flagging. The fire crew will be required to take measures to minimize the probability the tree will die or be destroyed as a result of the prescribed fire (e.g. hand line around the tree).

Vegetation disturbance will be avoided from May 15 thru July 15 for the protection of migratory birds.

Prior to implementation, survey monuments and bearing trees will be identified and marked for protection.

CONCLUSION

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Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of the NEPA.

SIGNATURE OF PROJECT LEAD: Ty Webb – Prescribed Fire Specialist

SIGNATURE OF NEPA COORDINATOR: /s/ Martin Weimer

SIGNATURE OF NEPA SUPERVISOR: /s/ Robert Hurley, Fire Management Officer

SIGNATURE OF THE RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL: /s/ Melissa Garcia for
Keith E. Berger, Field Manager

DATE: 4/10/13

Note: The signed Conclusion on this Worksheet is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal decision process and does not constitute an appealable decision. However, the lease, permit, or other authorization based on this DNA is subject to protest or appeal under 43 CFR Part 4 and the program-specific regulations.