

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
White River Field Office
220 E Market St
Meeker, CO 81641**

DETERMINATION OF NEPA ADEQUACY (DNA)

NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-110-2013-0011-DNA

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER: G2T5 (Powell), G4QC (Divide), G30F (Willow), G8HS (Three Springs)

PROJECT NAME: 2012 Wildfire Rehab

LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

Fire Name	Township	Range	Section(s)
Three Springs	4N	100W	36
	3N	100W	1,2,11
Divide	3N	98W	5,6,7
	3N	99W	12
Willow	3S	97W	27,28,33,34
Powell	2N	95W	28,29,32,33
	1N	95W	4,5

APPLICANT: Bureau of Land Management, White River Field Office

ISSUES AND CONCERNS:

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION:

The Three Springs fire (see Map 1) was a complex of three fires which burned along Highway 40. The total burned area of the Three Springs fire was 107 acres; approximately 97 acres of BLM managed land were burned. Under this proposal, up to 97 acres would be seeded through a combination of ATV mounted broadcast seeder and hand broadcasting. Seeding within the Three Springs Fire is planned for the fall of 2012 or as early as practicable thereafter.

The White River Field Office (WRFO) proposes to contract aerial seeding on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) portions within burned areas of the Powell, Divide, and Willow fires to aid in the establishment of perennial grass species, preserve topsoil by reducing erosion potential, and preempt the establishment of invasive species including cheatgrass (see Maps 2-3). The Powell fire burned approximately 920 acres including 790 acres of public land; under this proposal 200 acres would be aerially seeded. The Divide fire burned approximately 428 acres including 293 acres of public land; under this proposal 220 acres would be aerially seeded. The Willow fire burned approximately 58 acres of public land; under this proposal 30 acres would be

aerially seeded. Aerial seeding dates have not been determined, but would occur no sooner than spring 2013.

Tables 1-4 below show the proposed native seed mix by fire including a list of species and rates to be seeded.

Table 1

Powell			
Common Name	Variety	Scientific Name	Application Rate (lbs PLS/Ac)
Western wheatgrass	Rosanna	<i>Pascopyrum smithii</i>	3
Bluebunch wheatgrass	Whitmar	<i>Pseudoroegneria spicata ssp. Inermis</i>	3
Indian ricegrass	Rimrock	<i>Achnatherum hymenoides</i>	3
Needle and thread		<i>Hesperostipa comata spp. Comata</i>	0.25
Scarlet globemallow		<i>Sphaeralcea coccinea</i>	0.25

Table 2

Willow			
Common Name	Variety	Scientific Name	Application Rate (lbs PLS/Ac)
Western wheatgrass	Rosanna	<i>Pascopyrum smithii</i>	3
Bluebunch wheatgrass	Whitmar	<i>Pseudoroegneria spicata ssp. Inermis</i>	2
Indian ricegrass	Rimrock	<i>Achnatherum hymenoides</i>	3
Needle and thread		<i>Hesperostipa comata spp. Comata</i>	0.25
Scarlet globemallow		<i>Sphaeralcea coccinea</i>	0.25

Table 3

Divide			
Common Name	Variety	Scientific Name	Application Rate (lbs PLS/Ac)
Galleta Grass		<i>Pleuraphis jamesii</i>	3
Indian ricegrass	Rimrock	<i>Achnatherum hymenoides</i>	3
Bottlebrush Squirreltail	Toe Jam Creek	<i>Elymus elymoides</i>	2.5
Western wheatgrass	Rosanna	<i>Pascopyrum smithii</i>	4
Scarlet globemallow		<i>Sphaeralcea coccinea</i>	0.25
Shadscale		<i>Atriplex confertifolia</i>	2

Table 4

Three Springs			
Common Name	Variety	Scientific Name	Application Rate (lbs PLS/Ac)
Galleta Grass	Viva Florets	<i>Pleuraphis jamesii</i>	3
Indian ricegrass	Rimrock	<i>Achnatherum hymenoides</i>	3
Bottlebrush Squirreltail	Toe Jam Creek	<i>Elymus elymoides</i>	2.5
Western wheatgrass	Rosanna	<i>Pascopyrum smithii</i>	4
Scarlet globemallow		<i>Sphaeralcea coccinea</i>	0.25

Design Features

1. The project lead is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing archaeological sites or for collecting artifacts.
2. If any archaeological materials are discovered as a result of operations under this authorization, activity in the vicinity of the discovery will cease, and the BLM WRFO Archaeologist will be notified immediately. Work may not resume at that location until approved by the AO. The applicant will make every effort to protect the site from further impacts including looting, erosion, or other human or natural damage until BLM determines a treatment approach, and the treatment is completed. Unless previously determined in treatment plans or agreements, BLM will evaluate the cultural resources and, in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), select the appropriate mitigation option within 48 hours of the discovery. The project lead, under guidance of the BLM, will implement the mitigation in a timely manner. The process will be fully documented in reports, site forms, maps, drawings, and photographs. The BLM will forward documentation to the SHPO for review and concurrence.
3. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g), the project lead must notify the AO, by telephone and 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), the applicant must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the AO.
4. Post rehabilitation monitoring for a minimum of three to five years followed by eradication if noxious weeds are detected.

Decision to be Made: The BLM will decide whether or not to approve the proposed wildland fire rehab treatments, and if so, with what terms and conditions.

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW:

Name of Plan: White River Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (ROD/RMP).

Date Approved: July 1, 1997

Decision Number/Page: 2-10

Decision Language: "Maintain healthy, diverse and sustainable rangeland and woodland plant communities"

REVIEW OF EXISTING NEPA DOCUMENTS:

List by name and date all existing NEPA documents that cover the Proposed Action.

Name of Document: White River Resource Area Proposed Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement (PRMP/FEIS).

Date Approved: July 1, 1997

Name of Document: White River Fire Management Plan CO-017-WR-99-99-EA

Date Approved: June 1999

Name of Document: WRFO Normal Year Fire Rehabilitation Plan/ Environmental Assessment, CO-110-2005-038-EA

Date Approved: August 2005

NEPA ADEQUACY CRITERIA:

1. Is the new Proposed Action a feature of, or essentially similar to, an alternative analyzed in the existing NEPA document? 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? If there are differences, can you explain why they are not substantial?

Documentation of answer and explanation: Yes, the revegetation treatments in the Proposed Action were a feature of the analysis in the WRFO Normal Year Fire Rehabilitation Plan (CO-110-2005-038-EA), which analyzed alternatives for completing emergency fire restoration/rehabilitation treatments within the field office boundary including the proposed treatments.

2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document appropriate with respect to the new Proposed Action, given current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values?

Documentation of answer and explanation: Two alternatives, the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative were analyzed in CO-110-2005-038-EA. No reasons were identified to analyze additional alternatives and these alternatives are considered to be adequate and valid for the Proposed Action.

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?

Documentation of answer and explanation: Yes, the analysis in the EA listed above is still valid. The recommended seed mixes analyzed in the Proposed Action of CO-110-2005-038-EA have been updated however, the updated seed mixes are considered to be better suited for successful revegetation of the various ecological sites within WRFO. There is no known other new information or circumstances that would substantially change the analysis of the new Proposed Action.

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?

Documentation of answer and explanation: Yes, the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects that would result from implementation of the new Proposed Action is similar (both quantitatively and qualitatively) to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document, CO-110-2005-038-EA.

5. Is the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA documents adequate for the current Proposed Action?

Documentation of answer and explanation: Yes, additionally, lists of the current NEPA documents (projects) are available for review on the WRFO webpage.

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

The Proposed Action was presented to, and reviewed by, the White River Field Office interdisciplinary team on 10/30/2012. A complete list of resource specialists who participated in this review is available upon request from the White River Field Office. The table below lists resource specialists who provided additional remarks concerning cultural resources and special status species.

Name	Title	Resource	Date
Michael Selle	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources, Native American Religious Concerns	10/31/2012
Laura Dixon	Wildlife Biologist	Special Status Wildlife Species	11/06/2012
Zoe Miller	Ecologist	Special Status Plant Species	11/13/2012

REMARKS:

Cultural Resources: Aerial seeding of the Divide, Powell and Willow fire areas: Aerial seeding has no direct impacts on the ground surface and will not impact any known or potential cultural resources. Aerial seeding would be potentially beneficial should any resources be present as it will reduce the potential for site impacts by reducing the impacts of erosion on cultural resources. Erosion displaces smaller, lighter artifacts and destroys contexts containing the artifacts and features. Preventing or reducing erosion would be beneficial, in the long term, for cultural resources.

Three Springs seeding areas: The proposal to reseed with broadcast seeding by hand or using an ATV would likely have minimal impacts to any cultural resources in the area. Limited inventory data that passes through the proposed seeding areas (Lennon and Wheeler 1987, Zier et al 1997) indicates that resources are non-architectural in nature and primarily consist of isolated flakes (lithics) and lithic scatters. Surface impacts to lithic scatters from ATVs are fairly minimal due to the relatively low ground weight of the equipment, particularly if traveling at low speeds. Seeding would potentially be beneficial by reducing erosion on any sites that might be within the burned areas that are seeded. Erosion damages cultural resources by displacing smaller, lighter artifacts and by eroding features and archaeological contexts. Reducing the potential for erosional impacts to cultural resources by seeding to improve soil stability would be beneficial for cultural resources that might be present.

Native American Religious Concerns: No Native American Religious Concerns are known in the area, and none have been noted by Northern Ute tribal authorities. Should recommended inventories or future consultations with Tribal authorities reveal the existence of such sensitive properties, appropriate mitigation and/or protection measures may be undertaken.

Threatened and Endangered Wildlife Species: The Three Springs Fire and Divide fire are both located on the boundary of white-tail prairie dog towns which are a BLM sensitive species. White tailed prairie dogs and their towns also provided habitat and food for the federally endangered black-footed ferret. However, as a result of plague that moved through the area in 2008, no ferrets have been found since 2009 and the area is unlikely to be currently supporting viable populations of ferrets. The Three Springs fire and the Divide fire also border proposed general habitat for greater sage-grouse, a BLM sensitive species and candidate for listing under the Endangered Species Act. The Powell fire lies along the edge of big game critical winter range.

Rehabbing burned areas via aerial seeding or use of ATV mounted and hand broadcasting methods would have no negative effects on federal candidate, threatened or endangered wildlife species and/or BLM sensitive species. Proposed seed mixes in the Proposed Action include both perennial grasses and forbs which provide beneficial habitat and forage for wildlife and help maintain appropriate successional processes in associated communities. Rehabbing these areas also help reduce the proliferation of invasive annual grasses and forbs in the herbaceous community that substantially degrade the utility of forage and cover resources for nearly all associated wildlife functions, particularly sage-grouse nesting, reproductive and overwinter use by sagebrush-obligate non-game animals, including white-tailed prairie dogs as potential habitat for black-footed ferrets.

Threatened and Endangered Plant Species: There are no special status plant species issues or concerns associated with the Proposed Action.

REFERENCES CITED:

Lennon, Thomas, J., and Charles W. Weaver

The Craig-Bonanza 345 kV Transmission Line Project A Class III Cultural Resource Inventory Along A proposed Transmission Line in Moffat and Rio Blanco Counties, Colorado and Uintah County, Colorado. (87-19-03: SHPO # MC.E.R13)

Zier, Christian J., Scott A. Slessman, Jason Marmor, Peter M. Neidhardt and Mary W. Painter
1997 A Class III Archaeological Inventory of the Proposed Chevron Antelope Crude Oil Pipeline. Centennial Archaeology, Inc., Fort Collins, Colorado. (97-66-01: SHPO # MC.LM.R134)

MITIGATION:

Mitigation has been incorporated into the design of the Proposed Action.

COMPLIANCE PLAN: On-going compliance inspections and monitoring will be conducted by the BLM White River Field Office staff during and after implementation of the proposed treatments. Post rehabilitation monitoring for a minimum of three to five years followed by eradication if noxious weeds are detected.

NAME OF PREPARER: Tyrell Turner

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Heather Sauls

CONCLUSION

Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to 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 AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL: 
Field Manager

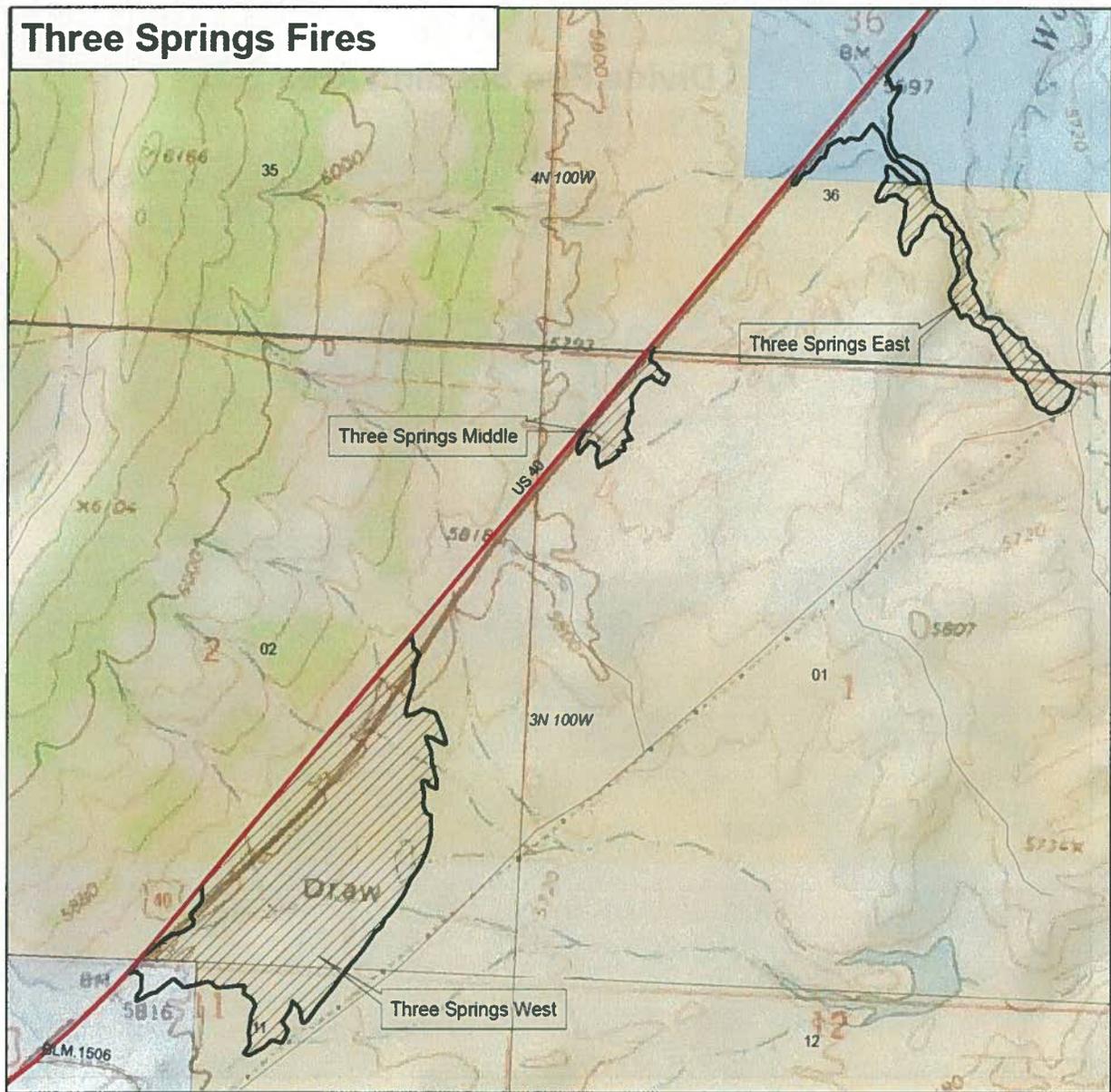
DATE SIGNED: 11/19/12

ATTACHMENTS: Maps 1-4 Wildfire Burn Areas and Proposed Treatment Areas

Note: The signed Conclusion in this DNA Worksheet is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal decision process and does not constitute an appealable decision. However, the lease,

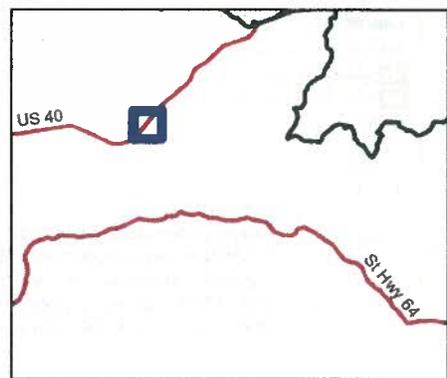
permit, or other authorization based on this DNA is subject to protest or appeal under 43 CFR Part 4 and the program-specific regulations.

Map 1



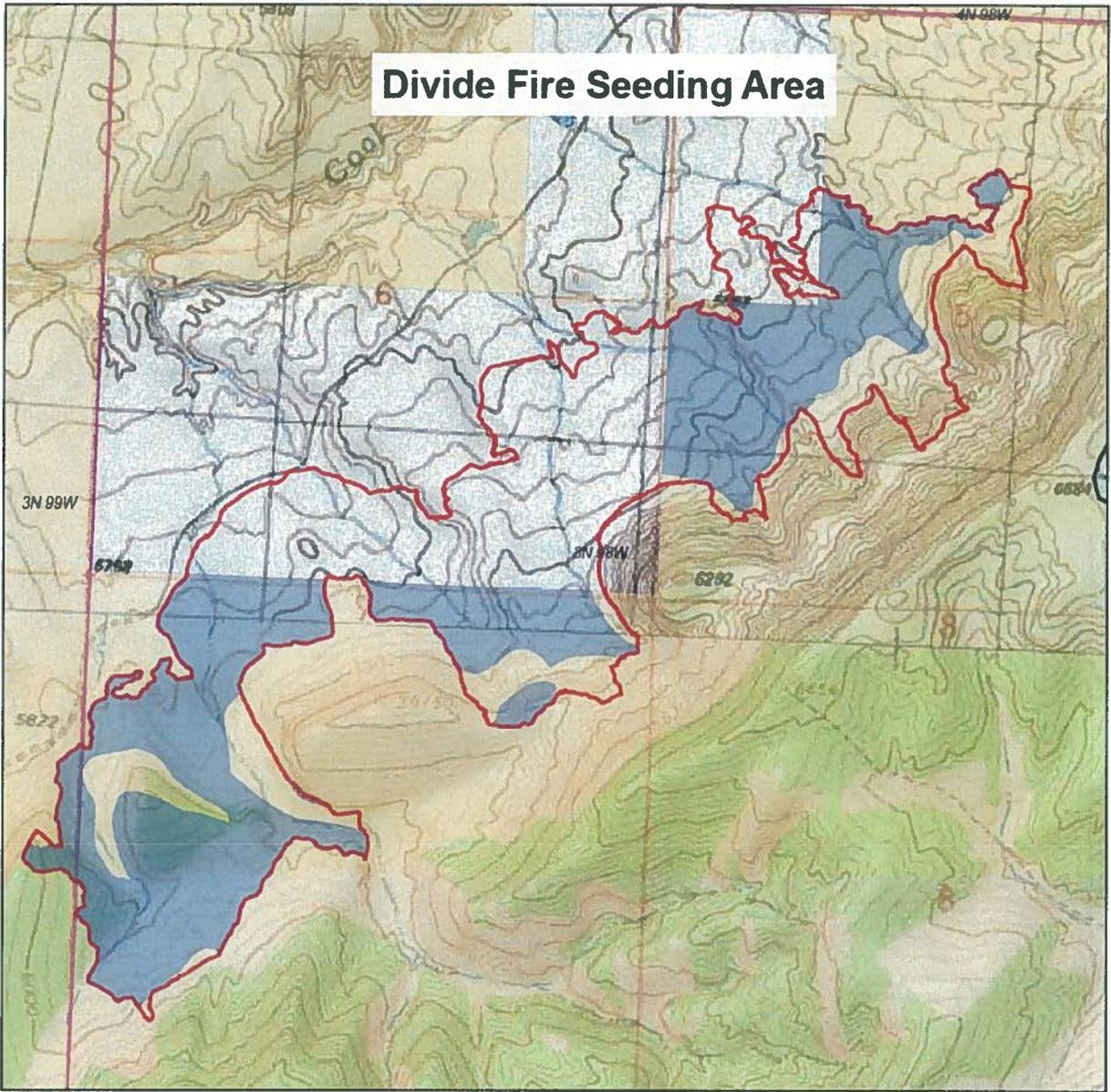
- Legend**
- Fire Perimeter
 - Seeding Area
 - BLM
 - CDW
 - County
 - FOR
 - NPS
 - PRI
 - STA
 - FieldOffice_Boundary_WRFO

0 0.1 0.2 0.4 Miles

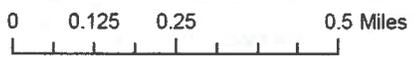


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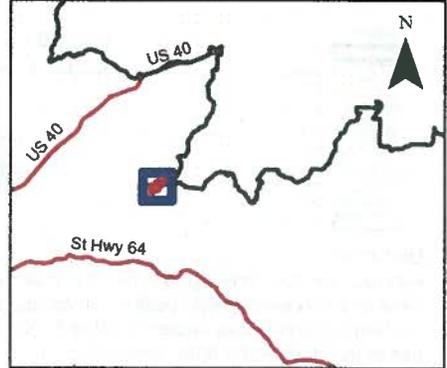
Map 2



- Legend**
- Divide Fire Seeding Area
 - Divide Fire Perimeter
 - FieldOffice_Boundary_WRF0
 - BLM
 - CDW
 - County
 - FOR
 - NPS
 - PRI
 - STA

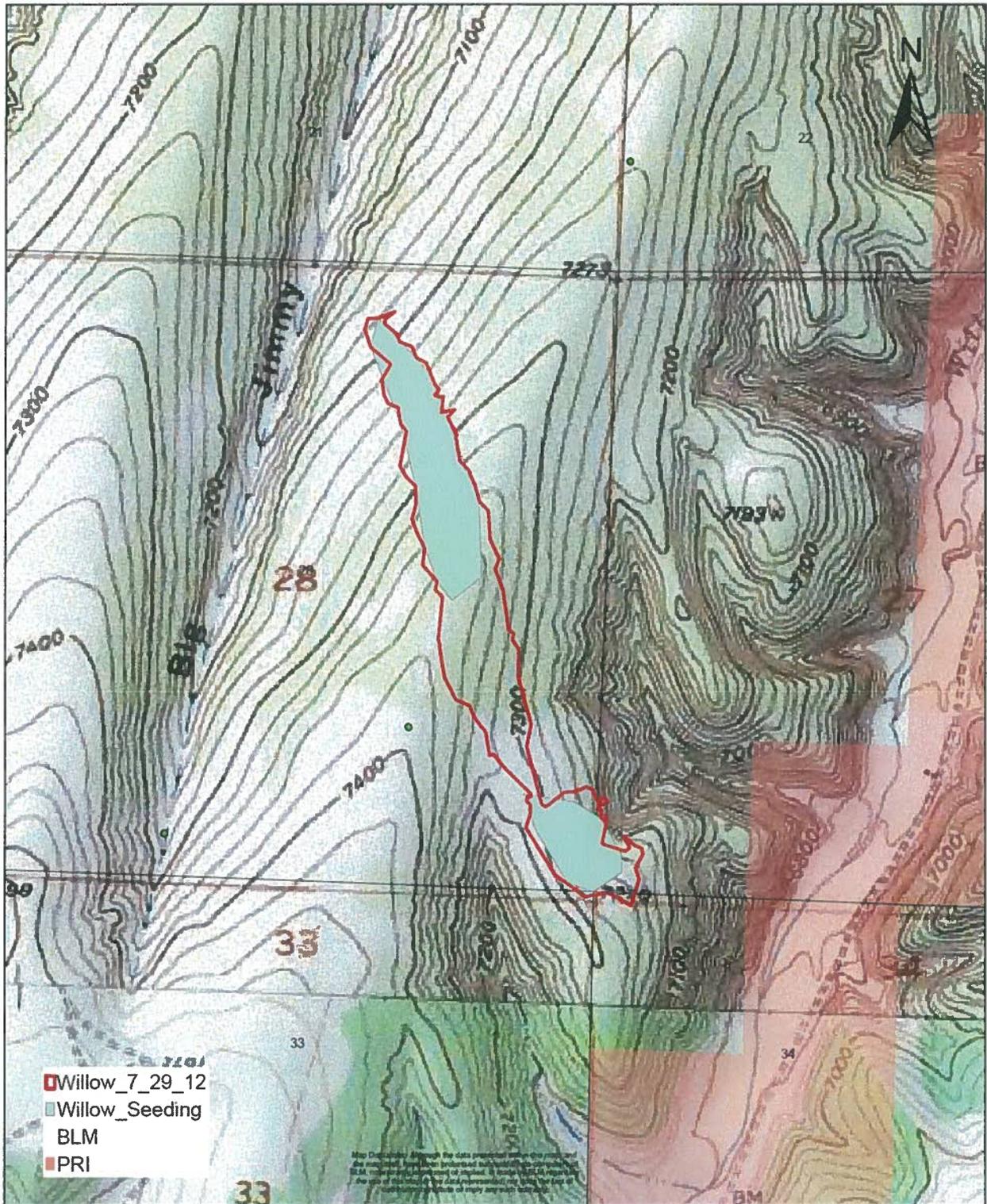


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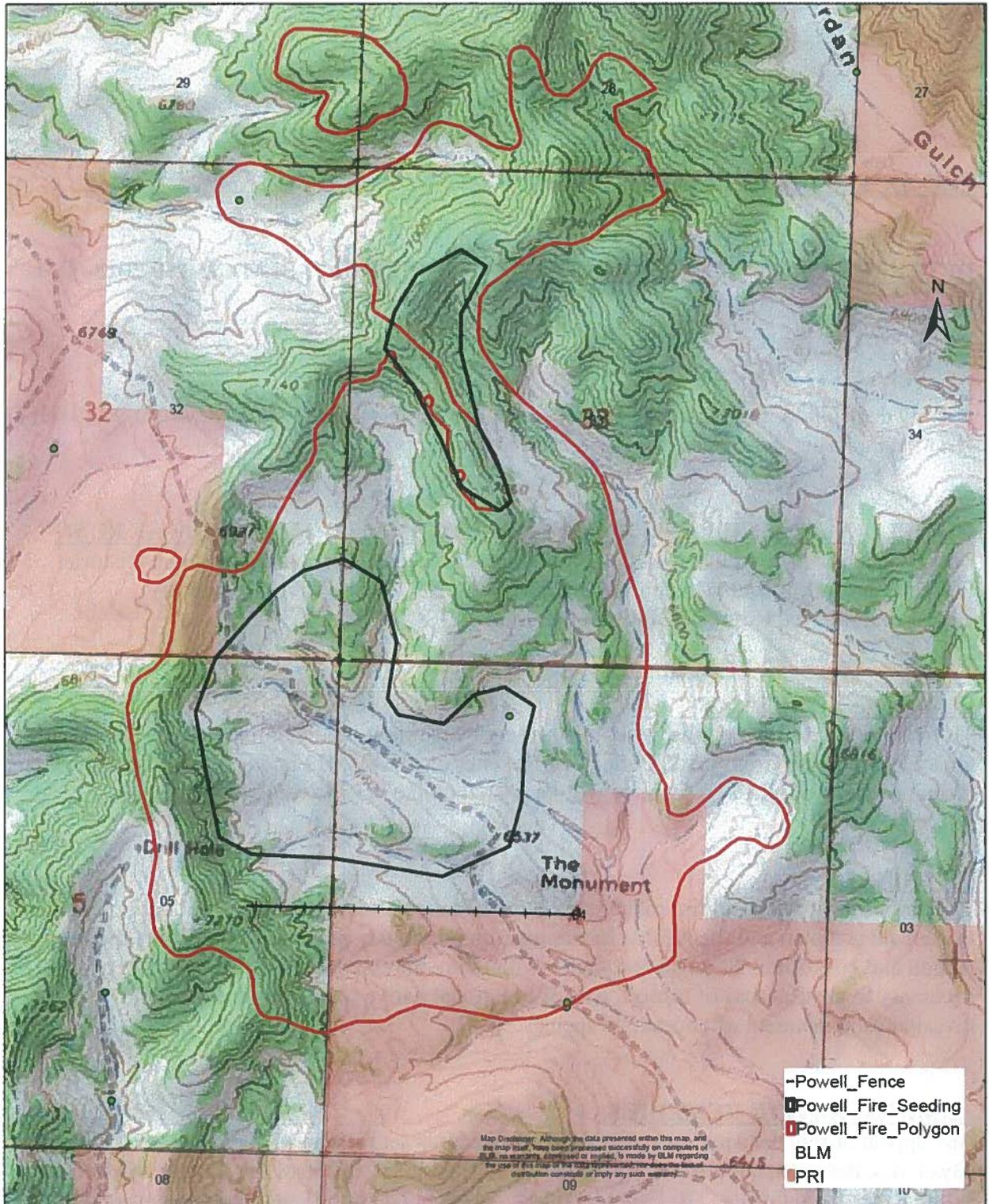
Map 3

Willow Fire G30F



Map 4

Powell Fire G2T5



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220 E Market St
Meeker, CO 81641**

DECISION RECORD

PROJECT NAME: 2012 Wildfire Rehab

DETERMINATION OF NEPA ADEQUACY NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-110-2013-0011-DNA

DECISION

It is my decision to implement the Proposed Action, as mitigated in DOI-BLM-CO-2013-0011-DNA, authorizing the proposed wildfire rehab treatments.

COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS & CONFORMANCE WITH THE LAND USE PLAN

This decision is in compliance with the Endangered Species Act and the National Historic Preservation Act. It is also in conformance with the 1997 White River Record of Decision/Approved Resource Management Plan.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The BLM informed the public about this project by listing it on the online White River Field Office National Environmental Policy Act Register on 10/30/2012 and a copy of the completed Documentation of NEPA Adequacy will be posted on the WRFO website.

RATIONALE

The proposal for wildland fire rehab treatments in concert with the applied mitigation conforms to the land use plan and the NEPA documentation previously prepared fully covers the Proposed Action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of NEPA. Wildfire rehab is necessary to prevent loss of topsoil, loss of functional native plant communities, and invasion/establishment of non-native species.

ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES

Any appeal of this decision must follow the procedures set forth in 43 CFR Part 4. Within 30 days of the decision, a Notice of Appeal must be filed in the office of the Authorized Officer at White River Field Office, 220 East Market St., Meeker, CO 81641 with copies sent to the Regional Solicitor, Rocky Mountain Region, 755 Parfet St., Suite 151, Lakewood, CO 80215, and to the Department of the Interior, Board of Land Appeals, 801 North Quincy St., MS300-

QC, Arlington, VA, 22203. If a statement of reasons for the appeal is not included with the notice, it must be filed with the Interior Board of Land Appeals at the above address within 30 days after the Notice of Appeal is filed with the Authorized Officer.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL: 
Field Manager

DATE SIGNED: 11/19/12

