

**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-110-2013-0078-DNA

PROJECT NAME: White River Electric Association PUPs

LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

Township	Range	Section	Substation Name
3 North	94 West	35	Wilson Creek Sub
1 North	97 West	1	White River City Sub
1 South	97 West	19	Yankee Gulch Sub
2 South	97 West	29	Black Sulphur Sub
3 South	96 West	6	Piceance Ck Sub
2 South	96 West	18	Greasewood Sub
2 South	96 West	20	Magnolia Sub
1 South	97 West	19	McBride Sub

APPLICANT: White River Electric Association

ISSUES AND CONCERNS: Special Status Plants and Sage Grouse

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION: White River Electric Association has hired Noxious Weed Management, applicator number 07776, to conduct noxious weed and bareground treatments around electrical substations. Bareground treatments will broadcast sprayed to target all vegetation within the substation fences.

Noxious weed treatments are spot-spray treatments that target state listed noxious weeds and undesirable annual invasive species. Treatments will be completed using backpack sprayers or ATV/Truck mounted sprayers with hand-guns. All vehicle travel will be limited to existing roads and ground disturbance. Water will be the carrier, and a non-ionic surfactant will be used to improve uptake into the plants. Hi-lite dye will be used to mark spray distribution and prevent double treatment. It is estimated 35 acres will be treated annually. Herbicides proposed for use are outlined in Table 1.

Table 1: Herbicides Names and Rates Proposed

Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Treatment Type	Rate
Telar XP	Chlorsulfuron	Noxious	0.5-1.5 oz/ac
Sahara DG	Imazapyr+Diuron	Bareground	10 lbs/acre
Roundup Pro	Glyphosate	Bareground & Noxious	4-5 qts/acre
Low Vol 6 Ester Weed Killer	2,4-D	Noxious Weeds	1.4 pints/ac
Banvel	Dicamba	Noxious	2 qt/ac
Tordon 22K	Picloram	Noxious	1 qt/acre

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW:

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

Date Approved: July 1, 1997

Name of Document: White River Field Office Integrated Weed Management Plan (DOI-BLM-CO-110-2010-0005-EA).

Date Approved: 03/19/2010

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: June 1996

Name of Document: White River Field Office Integrated Weed Management Plan (DOI-BLM-CO-110-2010-0005-EA).

Date Approved: 03/19/2010

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 proposed chemical treatments in the Proposed Action were a feature of the analysis in the White River Field Office Integrated Weed Management Plan (DOI-BLM-CO-110-2010-0005-EA), which analyzed alternatives for doing noxious weed treatments within the field office boundary using these herbicides. The integrated weed control strategy is improving vegetation conditions.

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: Four alternatives, the Proposed Action, the No Action Alternative, No Aerial Application of Herbicides Alternative, and the No Herbicide Use Alternative were analyzed in DOI-BLM-CO-110-2010-0005-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. There is no known 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, DOI-BLM-CO-110-2010-0005-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, consultation occurred between the BLM and the US Fish and Wildlife Service for environmental assessment, DOI-BLM-CO-110-2010-0005-EA. In addition, 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 04/09/2013. 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
Kristin Bowen	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources, Native American Religious Concerns	04/16/2013
Lisa Belmonte	Wildlife Biologist	Special Status Wildlife Species	04/15/2013
Baili Foster	Ecologist Intern	Special Status Plant Species	04/12/2013

REMARKS:

Cultural Resources: All treatments are proposed for areas that should have been previously inventoried prior to the various developments. The normal half-life of herbicides is not expected to cause any impacts to cultural resources. Indirect impacts of herbicide application are human impacts such as unlawful collection of artifacts, inadvertent damage, and intentional vandalism. The applicant must drive only on existing roads and be aware of cultural resource protection laws.

Native American Religious Concerns: No Native American religious concerns are known for pesticide use in the WRFO. Should future consultations with Ute tribal authorities reveal concerns, and the desire to be consulted with on weed spraying actions, additional measures may be taken.

Threatened and Endangered Wildlife Species: There are no threatened or endangered animal species that are known to inhabit or derive important use from the project area. There are no aquatic systems potentially influenced by the Proposed Action. All terrestrial and aquatic-related wildlife issues were adequately addressed in original EA (DOI-BLM-CO-110-2010-0005-EA). The applicator should be aware of all SOPs (Appendix C), mitigation measures (Appendix D) and conservation measures (Appendix E) regarding terrestrial wildlife/migratory birds required in DOI-BLM-CO-110-2010-0005-EA, specifically those listed below in mitigation.

Threatened and Endangered Plant Species: The effects of the Proposed Action on special status plant species (SSPS) within the White River Field Office (WRFO) resource area were comprehensively analyzed in DOI-BLM-CO-110-2010-0005-EA. Design features found in DOI-BLM-CO-110-2010-0005-EA should be followed carefully. Operators should abide by the SSPS buffers detailed in Table 3 and additional consultation with the Fish and Wildlife Service should occur when treatment is needed within these buffers. All herbicide application is limited to spot treatments within 0.5 miles of special status plant species populations. Within these areas, targeted weed spraying should occur, and spraying should be avoided on any windy days. The largest herbicide buffer requires that any spraying occur at 0.5 miles from special status plant species habitats. This buffer refers to 2,4-D, Picloram and Imazapyr (at the maximum application

rate); any herbicide that contains any of these ingredients respectively cannot be sprayed within one half mile of any special status plant species habitat. This restriction applies to the following substations:

Table 2: Substations within 0.5 Miles of Special Status Plants

Township	Range	Section	Substation Name
1 North	97 West	1	White River City Sub
1 South	97 West	19	Yankee Gulch Sub
2 South	96 West	20	Magnolia Sub

Table 3. Herbicide Buffer Distances from Terrestrial Special Status Plant Species ¹

Active Ingredient	Buffer Width	Method(s) to Which Applied
2,4-D	0.5 mile	All
Chlorsulfuron	1,200 feet	Ground
Dicamba	1,050 feet	Ground
Diuron	1,100 feet	All
Glyphosate	50 feet	Ground, typical rate
	300 feet	Ground, maximum rate; aerial
Imazapyr	900 feet	Ground or aerial, typical rate
	0.5 mile	Ground or aerial, maximum rate
Picloram	0.5 mile	All

¹ Source: BLM 2007a

MITIGATION:

The following applicable mitigation from DOI-BLM-CO-110-2010-0005-EA has been carried forward:

1. The applicator should be aware of all SOPs (Appendix C), mitigation measures (Appendix D) and conservation measures (Appendix E) regarding terrestrial wildlife/migratory birds required in DOI-BLM-CO-110-2010-0005-EA, specifically those listed below:
2. Since 2,4-D poses a high risk to a variety of migratory birds and special status species, it is recommended that its use be restricted within suitable habitats for these species. Other herbicides that are not as toxic to these species could be used to treat most of the weeds (except for leafy spurge and toadflax) that can be treated using 2,4-D.

3. To minimize risks to terrestrial wildlife, do not exceed the typical application rate for applications of dicamba, diuron, and glyphosate where feasible.
4. Minimize the size of application areas, where practical, when applying 2,4-D and diuron to limit impacts to wildlife, particularly through contamination of food items.
5. Where practical, limit glyphosate to spot applications in rangeland and wildlife habitat areas to avoid contamination of wildlife food items
6. Do not apply diuron in rangelands and use appropriate buffer zones to limit contamination of offsite vegetation, which may serve as forage for wildlife.
7. The applicant 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. If archaeological materials are discovered as a result of operations under this authorization, the applicant must immediately contact the appropriate BLM representative.
8. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g), the applicant 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.

COMPLIANCE PLAN: On-going compliance inspections and monitoring will be conducted by the BLM White River Field Office staff during and after herbicide application. Specific mitigation developed in this document will be followed. The operator will be notified of compliance related issues in writing, and depending on the nature of the issue(s), will be provided 30 days to resolve such issues.

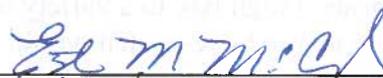
NAME OF PREPARER: Matthew Dupire

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:


Acting Field Manager

DATE SIGNED: 4/30/13

ATTACHMENTS: None.

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.

**U.S. Department of the Interior
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Meeker, CO 81641**

DECISION RECORD

PROJECT NAME: White River Electric Association PUPs

DETERMINATION OF NEPA ADEQUACY NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-110-2013-0078-DNA

DECISION

It is my decision to implement the Proposed Action, as mitigated in DOI-BLM-CO-110-2013-0078-DNA, authorizing the Pesticide Use Proposal (PUP).

Mitigation Measures

1. The applicator should be aware of all SOPs (Appendix C), mitigation measures (Appendix D) and conservation measures (Appendix E) regarding terrestrial wildlife/migratory birds required in DOI-BLM-CO-110-2010-0005-EA, specifically those listed below:
2. Since 2,4-D poses a high risk to a variety of migratory birds and special status species, it is recommended that its use be restricted within suitable habitats for these species. Other herbicides that are not as toxic to these species could be used to treat most of the weeds (except for leafy spurge and toadflax) that can be treated using 2,4-D.
3. To minimize risks to terrestrial wildlife, do not exceed the typical application rate for applications of dicamba, diuron, and glyphosate where feasible.
4. Minimize the size of application areas, where practical, when applying 2,4-D and diuron to limit impacts to wildlife, particularly through contamination of food items.
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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 04/18/2013 and a copy of the completed Documentation of NEPA Adequacy will be posted on the WRFO website.

RATIONALE

The proposal for a PUP 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. A PUP is needed to control noxious weeds in the White River Field Office.

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:



Acting Field Manager

DATE SIGNED: 4/30/13

