

United States
Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Miles City Field Office

Harris Creek
Riparian Improvement
Project

Determination of NEPA Adequacy
DOI-BLM-MT-C020-2013-0096-DNA

For Further Information Please Contact:

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BLM



DATE POSTED: 01/30/2013

DATE DUE: 02/28/2013

Worksheet
Documentation of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

BLM Office: Miles City

NEPA Number: DOI-BLM-MT-C020-2012-0096-DNA

Case File/Project No:

Proposed Action Title/Type: Harris Creek Riparian Improvement Project

Location/Legal Description: T. 10 N, R. 48 E, Sections 14 and 24; Custer County, Montana

A: Description of the Proposed Action: The purpose of this project is for the BLM to improve riparian functionality, hydrologic functionality, water quality, and wildlife habitat on approximately 4.5 miles of Harris Creek, a 303(d)-listed impaired stream (see Figure 1). The methods for rehabilitation will include the use of planting native riparian vegetation, and may include the use of weed treatments, bioengineering techniques, seeding or other streambank stability control treatments. Revegetation began in April 2012, and will continue in annual phases until project objectives have been met. Rehabilitation will be carried out by the National Wild Turkey Federation. Bioengineering will occur as necessary to meet goals and objectives if it is determined they will not be met by previous treatments. Internal fences may be removed in the fall of 2013. An enclosure may be created in the southern portion of the pasture in 2014. Monitoring will be used to assess rehabilitation success and achievement of the project goals and objectives.

Applicant: Melissa Schroeder, BLM, MCFO

County: Custer

DNA Originator: Melissa Schroeder

B. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance

LUP Name Big Dry Resource Management Plan

Date Approved 1995

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUPs because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decisions:

The proposed action is in conformance with the LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decisions (objectives, terms, and conditions): This proposed action is in conformance with the Big Dry Resource Management Plan ROD approved in 1995, which designates that approximately 5,000 acres with potential to support woody riparian vegetation will receive special management consideration to

promote substantial reproduction to assure that mature woody riparian areas approach good or better ecological condition. In addition, as amended in 1997 by the Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing for Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota ROD, page 14 states the “guidelines are provided to maintain or improve resource conditions in uplands and riparian habitats available to livestock grazing.”

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

[Harris Creek Riparian Improvement Project EA](#) - DOI-BLM-MT-C020-2011-0003-EA
[2013 Harris Creek Riparian Improvement Plan](#)

Cultural Report MT-020-13-103

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? The proposed action is the same as the existing NEPA document. The project area is the same location on BLM lands.

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, resource values? Yes, the range of alternatives in the existing NEPA document is appropriate. The EA considered the proposed action and a no action alternative.

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 circumstance would not substantially change the analysis of the new proposed action? Yes, there is no new information that would change the analysis of the proposed action.

An occurrence of *Physaria brassicoides* (double twinpod), ranked S3/G5, was identified in 2005 within the watershed of the project area and may therefore occur within the project area. However, this is an upland species that prefers sparse, steep, eroding south facing slopes and badlands. This project does not propose to disturb such areas and therefor impacts to this species will be avoided.

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? The cumulative impacts are the same as those documented in the existing NEPA analysis.

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

public involvement is adequate.

E. Interdisciplinary Analysis: Identify those team members conducting or participating in the preparation of this worksheet.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Resource Represented</u>	<u>Initials & Date</u>
Bobby Baker	Wildlife Biologist	wildlife	BJB 2/25/13
Christina Handy	Range Management Specialist	range/vegetation	CH 2/27/2013
Dena Lang	Recreation Specialist	recreation	DJL 2/26/13
Doug Melton	Archeologist	cultural	DM 02/28/13 Cultural Report MT- 020-13-103
Chris Robinson	Hydrologist	hydrology	CWR 2/20/13
Mel Schroeder	Soil Scientist	project lead/soil/ rehabilitation	MJS 01.30.2013
Brenda Witkowski	Natural Resource Specialist (Weeds)	Invasive Species	BSW 2/11/13



3/4/2013

Environmental Coordinator

Date

F. Mitigation Measures: List any applicable mitigation measures that were identified, analyzed, and approved in relevant LUPs and existing NEPA document(s). List the specific mitigation measures or identify an attachment that includes those specific mitigation measures. Document that these applicable mitigation measures must be incorporated and implemented.

CONCLUSION

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 NEPA.

Note: If one or more of the criteria are not met, a conclusion of conformance and/or NEPA adequacy cannot be made and this box cannot be checked



Todd Yeager
Field Manager
Miles City Field Office

03/04/2013

Date

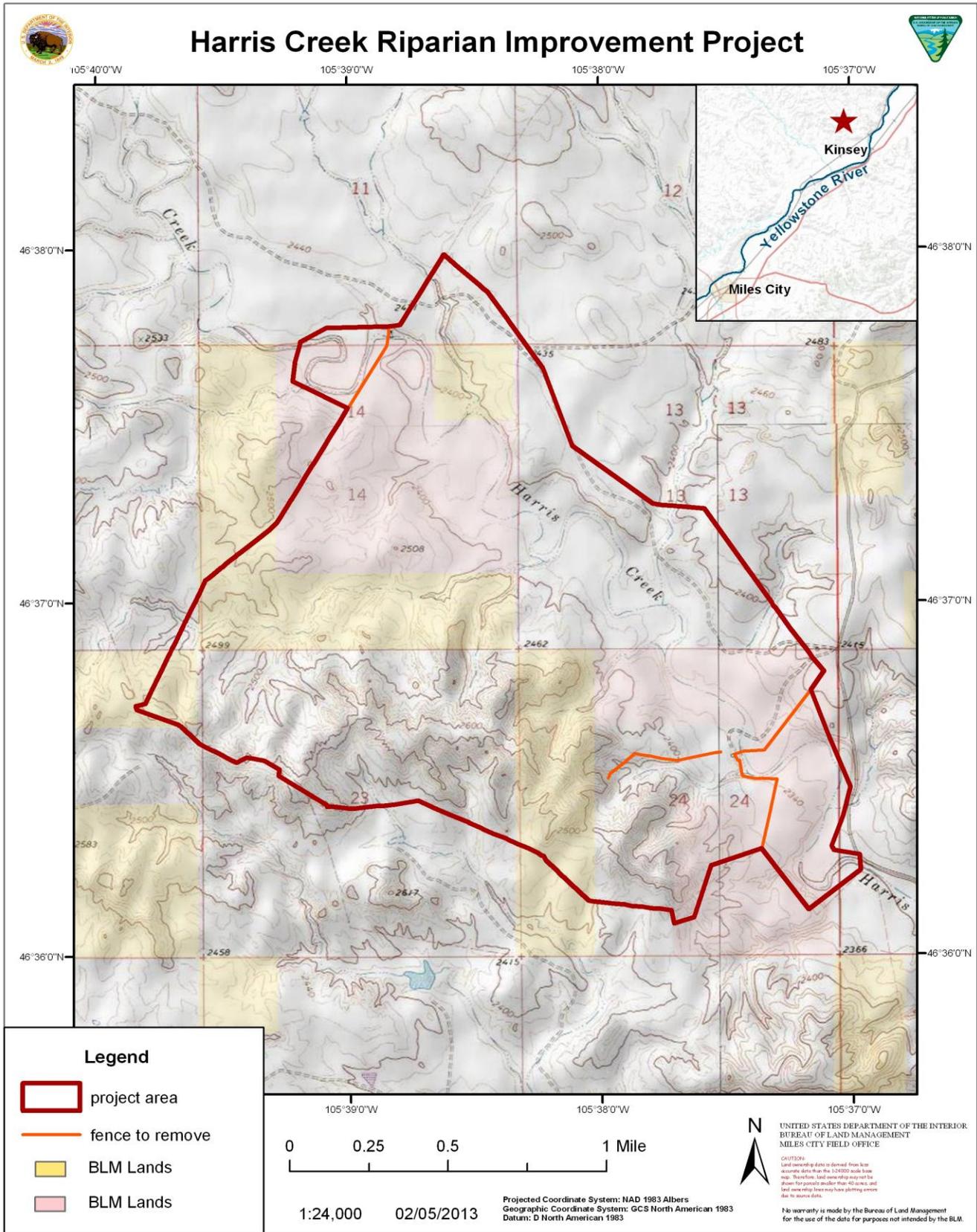


Figure 1: Harris Creek riparian improvement project boundary