

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)

Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range Prescribed Fire Environmental Assessment DOI-BLM-MT-0010-2010-0047-EA

Tiered to the

Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range Environmental Assessment (MT-010-08-24) and Herd Management Area Plan, May 2009

This unsigned FONSI and EA (DOI-BLM-MT-0010-2010-0047-EA) is for the implementation of vegetation treatments utilizing prescribed burning in the northern portions of the Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range (PMWHR) on portions of approximately 6,200 acres. The BLM has determined through the Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range/Territory EA and Herd Management Area Plan (HMAP) and subsequent FONSI and Decision Record that hazardous fuels build up and unhealthy forest conditions exist. The proposed action to use prescribed fire would improve forest health and provide vegetation diversity, both in species composition and structure. The use of prescribed fire would be based on providing the best benefit to natural resources and strategically placed to limit the spread of wildland fire. Proper placement would reduce the potential for a severe stand replacing event. Strategically placed prescribed fire would allow wildland fire to play more of a natural role and function in the ecosystem.

The EA is available for a 30-day public review and comment period beginning on September 25, 2013, and ending on October 24, 2013. The documents are available on the Billings Field Office website at http://www.blm.gov/mt/st/en/fo/billings_field_office.html

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts in the attached EA and consideration of the significance criteria in 40 CFR 1508.27, I have determined, with proposed mitigating measures incorporated as part of the proposed action, this would not result in significant impacts on the human environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required.

The decision to approve or deny the use of prescribed fire, and if appropriate a signed FONSI with a rationale, will be released after consideration of public comments and completion of the EA.