



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Las Cruces District Office
1800 Marquess
Las Cruces, New Mexico 88005
www.blm.gov/nm

In Reply Refer To:

8550 (NM 03210)

Dear Interested Party:

The following is an environmental assessment (EA) that was prepared containing the details and assessing the environmental impacts of a proposed action in the West Potrillo Mountains and Aden Lava Flow Wilderness Study Areas. The proposed West Potrillos Grassland Restoration project would chemically treat approximately 27,280 acres of creosote dominated range sites in the vicinity of the West Potrillo Mountains. The project would be completed in three phases over a nine year period.

The goal of the project is to restore, protect, and maintain the wilderness characteristics of the WSAs by restoring historical grassland conditions that will allow for factors such as fire to play their natural role in the environment. The purpose of the West Potrillos Grassland Restoration project is to return the vegetative communities plant composition, distribution, and abundance to within the natural range of variability for the ecological sites that occur within the project area. Historic overgrazing by livestock of the project area as led to invasion of woody shrubs causing a large increase in density and establishment into sites where they did not occur. Ecological conditions have been altered to a degree that prevents recovery without human intervention.

Please submit comments by June 26, 2010. Comments may be provided via e-mail or in writing to the following address:

Steven J. Torrez
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Bureau of Land Management
Las Cruces District Office
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Las Cruces, NM 88005
Steven_J_Torrez@blm.gov

Sincerely,

/s/ Bill Childress

Bill Childress

District Manager