

**Bureau of Land Management, Roswell Field Office  
DNA Review Checklist, EA# NM-510-2008-0076A  
Ballard Hills (Garcia Flats) Salt Cedar Control**

Resources	Not Present on Site	No Impacts	May Be Impacts *	Mitigation Included	BLM Reviewer	Date
<b>CRITICAL ELEMENTS OF THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT</b>						
Air Quality			√		Hydrologist	
Floodplains			√	√	/s/ Michael McGee	4/16/08
Water Quality - Surface/Ground			√	√	Geologist/Hydrologist /s/ Michael McGee	4/16/08
Cultural Resources	X				Archaeologist /s/ Rebecca L. Hill 08-R-084A	6/24/08
Native American Religious Concerns	X				Archaeologist /s/ Rebecca L. Hill	6/24/08
Environmental Justice		X			/s/J H Parman	4/15/08
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	X				Plan & Env. Coord.	
Farmlands, Prime or Unique			X		Realty /S/sanderford	5/14/08
Invasive, Non-native Species			√	√	Range Mgmt. Spec. /s/ Joseph M. Navarro	4/11/08
Wastes, Hazardous or Solid		√			/s/ Al Collar Haz. Mat Spec	4/28/08
Threatened or Endangered Species	X				Biologist /s/ D Baggao	4/23/08
Wetlands/Riparian Zones			X	X		
Wild and Scenic Rivers	X				Outdoor Rec. Plnr.	
Wilderness	X				/s/ Bill Murry	5/7/08
Caves/Karsts			X			

**U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Roswell Field Office**

**Documentation of Land Use Plan Compliance and NEPA Adequacy (DNA)**

**DNA-NM-510-2008-0076A**

**Prepared by: Allan Wyngaert**

A. Roswell Field Office

Proposed Action Title/Type: FY 2008 Ballard Hills (Garcia Flats) Salt Cedar Control

Locations and Description of Proposed Action: Location all in Chaves County, NM (see attached map).

Ballard Hills (Garcia Flats) Project Area –

The Garcia Flats Allotment, (64051) is located 12 mile north northeast of Roswell, New Mexico. The Garcia Flats allotment is located with in parts of the Arroyo Del Macho and Salt Creek flood plains. In 2001 and 2002 Texas Tech University conducted research on the effects of using fire to control Salt cedar by burning blocks of vegetation at various times of the year. The area within the research sites included portions of sections 10, 11, 14 and 15 of T. 8 S, R. 24 E. The cooperative agreement between BLM, Roswell Field Office and Texas Tech University for the research site ended in December of 2007.

(New Mexico, Salt Creek 1:100,000 topographic map, BLM Edition Surface Management Status. 2002)

All or portions of:

T. 8 S. R. 24 E. Sec. 10, 11, 13, 14, 15

T. 8 S. R. 25 E. Sec. 7, 18

The project area totals about 4,700 acres of public land managed by the Pecos District, Roswell Field Office. The proposed action would consist of mechanical extraction, burning, and chemical treatment of salt cedar in the Garcia Flats allotment 64051. Treatment would occur in specific areas with in the Arroyo Del Macho and Salt Creek Flood Plain to reducing fire hazard potential, improving riparian habitat, and potentially increasing available ground and surface water. Follow-up treatments would include burning of slash created from extracted material, chemical treatment would be used in the future to control re-sprouts from saltcedar. A Class III Cultural Survey and a review of cultural and historical data must be completed prior to

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mechanical extraction, burning, or chemical treatment work beginning. A DRASTIC would be prepared prior to chemical treatment. In addition, seeding and re-planting with native vegetation may be considered on feasible sites to restore the grassland aspect of the areas.

#### B. Conformance with the Land Use Plan (LUP) and Consistency with Related Subordinate Implementation Plans

LUP Name: Roswell RMP

Date Approved: October 1997

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUPs, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decisions (objectives, terms, and conditions) and, if applicable, implementations plan decisions.

#### C. Identify the applicable NEPA document(s) and other related documents that cover the proposed action.

Roswell Field Office Saltcedar (*Tamarix* spp.) and Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*.) Control/Eradication Environmental Assessment (EA No. NM-060-2004-159 & Record of Decision dated February 17, 2005.

The proposal to implement a vegetation treatment on salt cedar is consistent with the New Mexico Record of Decision dated July 1991, for the Vegetation Treatment on BLM Lands in Thirteen Western States, Final Environmental Impact Statement of May 1991.

#### D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

1. Is the current proposed action substantially the same action (or is a part of that action) as previously analyzed?

Yes. It is essentially a continuation of the above methods of treatment referenced in the above EA and conforms to methods of saltcedar control conducted in the past throughout the Roswell Field Office resource area.

2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the current proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, resource values and circumstances?

Yes. Current environmental concerns, interests, resource values and circumstances remain the same as when the above-referenced EA was prepared.

3. Is the existing analysis adequate, and are the conclusions adequate in light of any new information or circumstances? Can you reasonably conclude that all new information and all

new circumstances are insignificant with regard to the analysis on the proposed action?

There is no new information or circumstances have arisen with respect to this method of saltcedar control at the location of the proposed project within the affected allotment.

4. Do the methodology and analytical approach used in the existing NEPA document(s) continue to be appropriate for the current proposed action?

Yes. The proposed action is essentially identical with the above referenced EA, other than location and amount of saltcedar control on public lands. The Garcia Flat allotment encompasses close to 4,700 acres of area, all salt cedar with in the area would be treated by mechanical, burning and chemical. The specific goal is to reduce the Salt cedar stand densities and rejuvenate growth in native plant communities. The methodology and analytical approach is appropriate for the current proposed action.

5. Are the direct and indirect impacts of the current proposed action substantially unchanged for those identified in the existing NEPA document(s)? Does the existing NEPA document sufficiently analyze site-specific impacts related to the current proposed action?

Yes. The above referenced EA address saltcedar control found within the Roswell Field Office resource area. The proposed action is essentially the same. Impacts to resources resulting from the proposed action are unchanged.

6. Can you conclude without additional analysis or information that the cumulative impacts that would result from the implementation of the current proposed action are substantially unchanged from those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)?

Yes. Saltcedar control is an ongoing activity conducted on many land parcels along the Pecos River by the Bureau of Reclamation through vegetative treatment withdrawals. In addition, large-scale (9,200 acres) chemical treatment of saltcedar on private and state land along the Pecos River from Ft. Sumner downstream to the Carlsbad area occurred in 2002. Within the context of these activities occurring on land other than federal ownership, the impact of the BLM's endeavor to control saltcedar within the Roswell Field Office resource area would not add substantially to cumulative impacts resulting from the implementation of the proposed action, and is unchanged from the analysis conducted in the referenced EA.

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

Yes. BLM's endeavor to improve wetland-riparian habitat along the Pecos River and other areas located with in the Roswell Field Office resource area is known to the various publics and agencies through public meetings held to discuss wetland-riparian area management, among other resources, during the development of the Roswell RMP, Overflow Wetlands Area of Critical Environmental Concern Implementation Plan, and Cooperative Management Plans. In

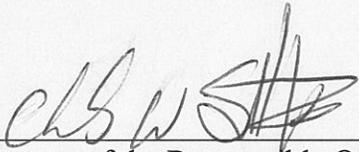
addition, the BLM was represented during several public meetings conducted by the State of New Mexico concerning large scale saltcedar control in both the Pecos and Rio Grande drainages where the BLM-preferred method of control was presented.

8. Interdisciplinary Analysis: See attached EA Checklist.

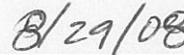
9. Mitigation Measures: Standard Operation Procedures for surface disturbing activities, chemical treatments and prescribed fire. Refer to the above-referenced EAs.

**Conclusion**

Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the existing NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action. This constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirement of NEPA.

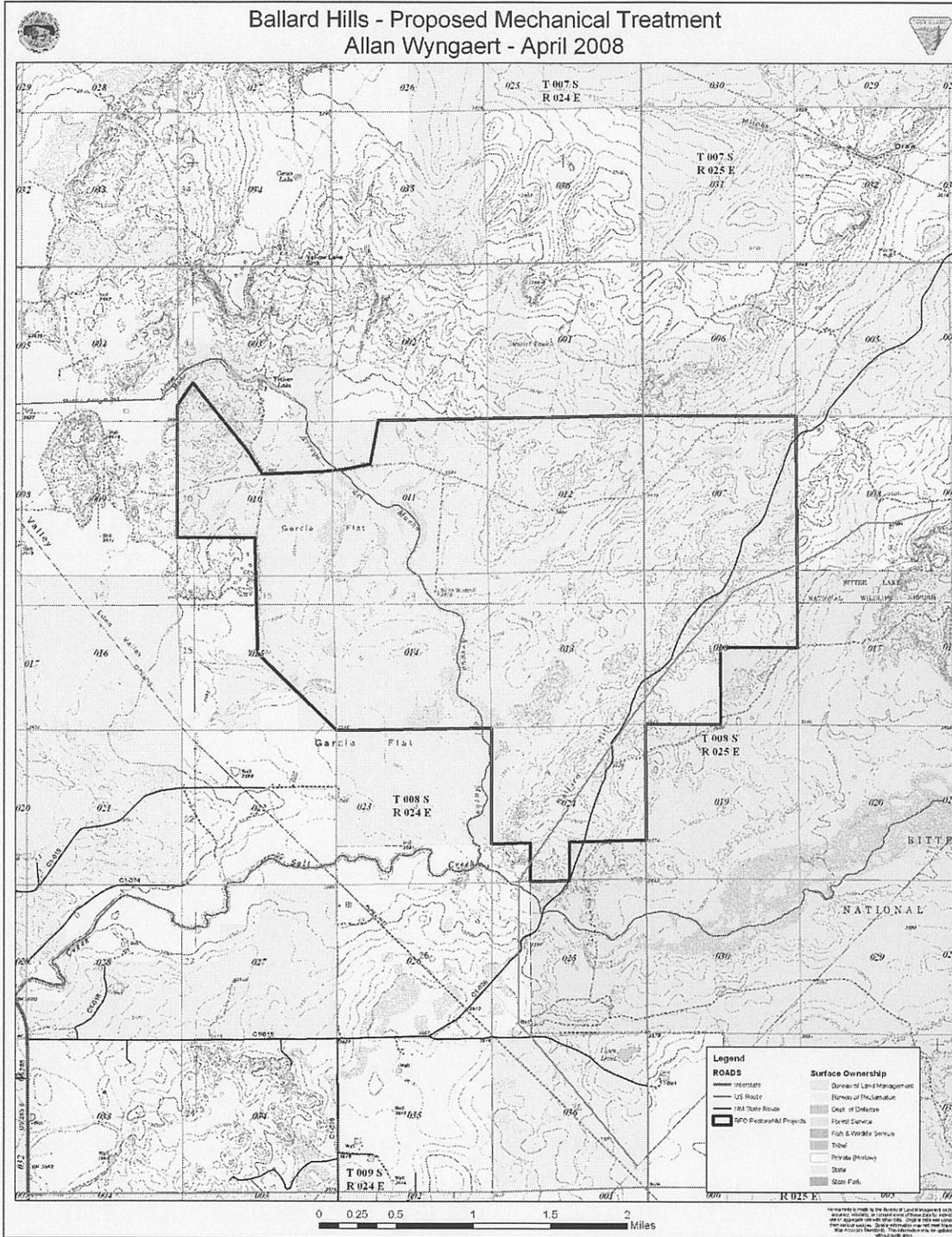


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Signature of the Responsible Official



\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Ballard Hills - Proposed Mechanical Treatment  
 Allan Wyngaert - April 2008



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