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Karla Norris
Assistant District Manager - SNPLMA Division
BLM - Southern Nevada District Office
4701 N. Torrey Pines Dr.
Las Vegas, NV 89130

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SOUTHERN NEVADA
DISTRICT OFFICE
2013 JUN -5 AM 8:26

Dear Karla:

The following SNPLMA Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Project (ENLRP) is completed:

F002/8-2 White Pine Sagebrush Restoration Project (FS Job Code SNHR02)

The funding for this project provided the opportunity for the Forest Service to conduct sagebrush restoration activities on National Forest lands in White Pine County, Nevada. A total of 4,003 acres was treated with chainsaw cutting and brush mowing to remove pinyon-juniper and cheatgrass over the course of the project. Risk of continued invasion of pinyon-juniper and cheatgrass was reduced to prevent future displacement and loss of existing sagebrush. See the attached project completion report for further details. This project was conducted in compliance with all policies, procedures, and guidelines in the current SNPLMA Implementation Agreement, Federal Acquisition Regulations, and the terms and conditions of the financial instrument (i.e., transfer documentation).

This project was approved (February 20, 2008) by the Secretary of the Interior in Round 8 of the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) for a total available funding of \$896,390 (including 10% contingency). To date, the total approved funding amount of \$893,390 was transferred and a total of \$718,190.99 was expended to complete 100% of the project deliverables listed in the SNPLMA workplan. The difference of \$178,199.01 will be returned to the Special Account via a quarterly transfer once we receive word that our close out request has been approved. The table below summarizes the project's financial information.

Approved funding:	\$ 814,900
New Allowed Costs (NAC)	\$ 0
Special Account Reserve (SAR)	\$ 0
Budget Reallocation (BRA)	\$ 0
Project approve funding	\$814,900
10% contingency	\$81,490
Total authorized funding	\$ 896,390
Direct Transfer Expenditures	\$718,190.99
Reimbursable Expenditures	\$0
Total expended	\$ 718,190.99
Amount of Transferred Dollars to be returned to the SNPLMA Special Account via a quarterly transfer	\$178,199.01
Amount of Remaining Authorized Dollars to be returned to the SNPLMA Special Account	\$0
Total amount to be returned to SNPLMA special account	\$178,190.01



Enclosed, please find documentation of project completion report, a cost summary spreadsheet and a list personnel and project expenses for your files. All supporting documentation and expenditure records are retained and available for review by the BLM-SNPLMA Division in the project files (e.g., closeout package). The financial documents retained in the project files are annotated to explain expenses, and to explain the function/role of each staff charging labor to the project.

If there are any questions regarding this request, please contact Lori Headrick at (702) 839-5573 or leheadrick@fs.fed.us. Please provide us with written notification when the project has been closed.

Sincerely,



RANDALL G. SWICK
Spring Mountains NRA Area Manager

cc: Roslyn A Dunsmore, Tara Beck, Ron R Mobley, Justin Rozich, Jose Noriega

Attachments:

- Project Completion Report
- Cost Summary Spreadsheet
- List of Personnel and Project Expenses



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service
Intermountain
Region 4

May 2013



F002/8-2 White Pine Sagebrush Restoration

Project Completion Report

Spring Mountains National Recreation Area
Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest
Clark County, Nevada



After
Treatment



Before
Treatment

This project was approved (February 20, 2008) by the Secretary of the Interior in Round 8 of the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) for a total available funding of \$896,390 (including 10% contingency).

The funding for this project provided the opportunity for the Forest Service to conduct sagebrush restoration activities on National Forest lands in White Pine County, Nevada. A total of 4,003 acres was treated with chainsaw cutting and brush mowing to remove pinyon-juniper and cheatgrass over the course of the project. Before and After Treatment Photos are given in Appendix A. The majority of treatable acres in relation to the goals of the project were treated within the project area. The acres treated were based on archaeology and wildlife/plant surveys and locations of sensitive sites, flora and fauna, and on available acres to treat effectively with hand cutting methods. Areas of particular concern were avoided and were left untreated, as were areas that would have been ineffective to treat with hand cutting methods. This in turn assisted in maintaining a mosaic pattern across the landscape. Risk of continued invasion of pinyon-juniper and cheatgrass was reduced to prevent future displacement and loss of existing sagebrush.

The project nomination proposed to treat up to 5,000 acres, within a larger 19,000 acre project area, with various mechanical treatments and prescribed fire. These treatments were to occur in pinyon, juniper, and sagebrush habitats to restore and enhance the sagebrush communities present within the project area. Portions of the project area are considered sage grouse nesting habitat, as well as summer and winter range. Portions of the project area also contain important habitat for elk, mule deer, antelope, and various other mammal and bird species.

Project Accomplishments

Prior to restoration work, archaeology surveys were completed within the project area that were to be treated. The Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition (ENLC) was hired under an agreement to complete plant and wildlife surveys within and in proximity to the project area.

After completion of cultural surveys and plant and wildlife surveys, the appropriate NEPA was completed for the project, and treatments were able to commence. The Forest Service determined that prescribed fire would not be an available option within the project area. Chaining was also a debated topic at the time with the spread of noxious weeds and cheatgrass invasion. This left the majority of the acres to be treated with chainsaws.

A Great Basin Institute (GBI) crew was hired under an agreement to cut pinyon and juniper trees with chainsaws in sagebrush habitats in a small portion of the project area. The Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF) was also hired under two separate agreements to cut pinyon and juniper trees in sagebrush habitats with chainsaws over a large portion of the project area. Also, three separate contracts were awarded to three different contract crews from Oregon to cut pinyon and juniper trees in sagebrush habitats with chainsaws over a large portion of the project area.

Brush mowing and reseeding also occurred over a small portion of the project to maintain a diversity of age classes of sagebrush and increase rangeland health and species composition, and was completed by a local small business contractor. Two service contracts were awarded to a local small business contractor to cut pinyon and juniper trees in sagebrush habitats over a small portion of the project area. Forest Service staff also worked to cut even more pinyon and juniper trees within a portion of the project area. Pre-treatment vegetation monitoring was also completed by the Forest Service staff, who will also conduct future follow up monitoring over certain portions of the project area.

Areas within the project area that were more suitable sage grouse habitat were completely cleared of trees as to not leave any perches available for predatory raptors. Areas more suited to mule deer, elk, and other species (not suitable sage grouse habitat) were left with scattered individual older growth trees and intact patches of trees in a mosaic pattern to provide cover, shade, and travel corridors as well as to provide snag trees for various species of bats and birds.

The trees within the project area that were cut with chainsaws were limbed down and scattered on site as to not exceed a cut height of four (4) feet tall. The project area is a heavily utilized fuel wood gathering area for local residents, and the slash that remains will provide small microclimates and niches for the plant community to thrive. The slash generated provides protection to plants from grazing ungulates and also helps retain moisture in the nearby soil. The removal of trees within the sagebrush habitats will provide more water availability to the brush, forbs, and grasses, and will also leave a more open canopy which provides more light to the understory plant species.

Each year the biologists on the district assist the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) with sage grouse lek counts in the late winter and early spring. With the project area having suitable sage grouse habitat, and with it being in such close proximity to several sage grouse leks, a spotting scope and tripod were purchased with project funds to assist in the observation and counting of the nearby leks. The data collected is given to NDOW, and population estimates and trends are made for the various sage grouse population management units throughout the state. The sage grouse leks in close proximity to the project area are trend leks (meaning the leks are counted multiple times every year, and the year to year data used from these leks is consistent), and the treatments done within the project area should provide for improved habitat and increased numbers of sage grouse in the future.

In early stages of the project, there were several hurdles that initially postponed implementation. After money was made available, the first field season with opportunity to do plant and wildlife surveys was missed. Plant and wildlife surveys must be done at the appropriate times of the year to ensure usable data in NEPA preparation. The original project manager of the project also took another position out of state. The inability to implement prescribed burning within the project area was also an unforeseen setback. Due to these conditions and one year extension of the project was requested and awarded.

Table 1: Project Performance Measures

SNPLMA STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL 2: CONSERVE AND RESTORE THE QUALITY OF THE OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENT BY PRESERVING NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES AND ENHANCING RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES			
Sub-Objective(s)	Performance Measures for Habitat Enhancement	Definition of Performance Measure (Report Accomplishments Only Upon Completion of a Deliverable or Entire Project as Appropriate)	Acres
2.1.1	H4 - Acres of Upland Habitat Treated, Enhanced, or Restored	Report the number of acres of upland vegetation and/or wildlife habitat surveyed, inventoried, or monitored.	4,003
2.1.1	H5 - Acres of Upland Habitat Surveyed, Inventoried or Monitored	Report the number of acres of upland vegetation and/or wildlife habitat surveyed, inventoried, or monitored.	12,000
Sub-Objective(s)	Performance Measures for Wildland Fire Management	Definition of Performance Measure	Acres
2.4.1	F1 - Acres of Hazardous Fuels Treated – Non-Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)	Report the total number of acres of hazardous fuels treated, enhanced, or restored to reduce wildland fuels hazards and to restore or maintain ecosystem resiliency outside the WUI. Where multiple treatments are necessary to meet vegetation management objectives, such as hand thinning followed by re-seeding, each treatment is counted individually. Report to the nearest whole acre.	4,003

Appendix A – Before and After Treatment Photos

Photos Before and After Treatment

Date
Taken,
Photo No.



May 6,
2009,
0672,
Before
Treatment



June 22,
2010,
1937, After
Treatment

Photos Before and After Treatment

Date
Taken,
Photo No.



May 4,
2009,
0654,
Before
Treatment



June
12/2011,
7563, After
Treatment

Photos Before and After Treatment

Date
Taken,
Photo No.



May 4,
2009,
0658,
Before
Treatment



May 8,
2013,
7562, After
Treatment

Photos Before and After Treatment

Date
Taken,
Photo No.



May 6,
2009,
0663,
Before
Treatment



June 22,
2010,
1934, After
Treatment

Photos Before and After Treatment

Date
Taken,
Photo No.



May 6,
2009, 665,
Before
Treatment



June 22,
2010,
1935, After
Treatment

Photos Before and After Treatment

Date
Taken,
Photo No.



11/9/2009,
1351,
During
Treatment

8-2/F002 White Pine Sagebrush Restoration ENRLP (FS Job Code SNHR02)

Description	Total expended	% of approved budget
Planning, and Environmental Assessment Costs - Specialist surveys/reports including cultural resources, archaeology, wildlife, biology, environmental documentation, NEPA if required, etc.	\$ 102,342.25	14.25%
Travel (Including per diem where official travels status required to carry out project, such as COR, experts to review reports, etc..)	\$ 5,297.08	0.74%
Official Vehicle Use (Pro rata cost for use of Official Vehicles when required to carry out project)	\$ 10,337.18	1.44%
Cost of Contracts, Grants and/or Agreements to Perform the Project	\$ 477,933.96	66.55%
Other Direct and Contracted Labor: (Agency payroll for the Contracting Officer to do project procurement, COR, Project Inspector, Sec. 106 consultation if required, NEPA Lead, Project Manager, Project Supervisor, and subject experts to review contracted surveys, designs/drawings, plans, reports, etc.: Also covered is the cost to contract for a Project Manager and/or Project Supervisor if contracted separately from other project contracts)	\$ 96,337.02	13.41%
Other Necessary Expenses - This includes materials, supplies and other miscellaneous expenses such as seed, forestry supplies, gps unit, camera (see project expenditure justification list for complete details),	\$ 25,943.50	3.61%
Contingency used:	\$ -	0.00%
	\$ 718,190.99	
	\$ 896,390.00	
	\$ 178,199.01	

**List of Project Staff/Roles for the
F002/8-2 White Pine Sagebrush Restoration
Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Project
(Forest Service Job Code SNHR02)**

Employee	Project Role
Nathan Thomas	Head Archaeologist at the start of the project. Responsible for coordinating and participating in the archaeology surveys across the project area, and writing the reports to send to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) for clearance.
Amanda Kriwox	Responsible for much of the GIS work related to the project outlay and making maps for the project area, treatment areas, sensitive plant and animal locations located from surveys, etc.
Chandler Mundy	Original project manager/lead for this project. Responsible for the original nomination for the project and project outlay. Came up with original project area, size, budget, and treatment acres.
Justin Rozich	Initially assisted with lining out the archaeology crew for surveys over certain areas. Initially helped scope out the project area after money was awarded through SNPLMA to determine treatment methods and to narrow down certain areas for treatment. Is currently the project manager of the project. These duties include putting together and processing agreements and contracts for implementation work, putting together and processing agreements for plant and wildlife surveys, working with the archaeology department to conduct cultural surveys, flagging line around treatment boundaries, and many other miscellaneous duties associated with the project.
Eric Stever	Assisted with surveys of cultural resources throughout the project area (member of the archaeology crew). Wrote reports to SHPO for clearances within the project area.
Caine Daugherty	Assisted with surveys of cultural resources throughout the project area (member of the archaeology crew). Assisted with GIS work making maps for the project area.
Jimmy Flanagan	Member of the fire crew that assisted with archaeology surveys to get more ground surveyed so implementation could start. Also did chainsaw cutting on the project area for overtime.
Courtney Christensen	Member of the fire crew that assisted with archaeology surveys to get more ground surveyed so implementation could start. Also served as a Contracting Officer's Representative (COR) for outside contracts that were awarded on this project.
Kathleen Johnson	District wildlife biologist that assisted with early planning of the project. Assisted with NEPA work for the project and provided expertise in the biological areas.
Lyndsay Fonger	Fuels specialist that helped lay out units for treatment. Assisted with discerning areas for burning vs. different mechanical treatments. Also served as a Contracting Officer's Representative (COR) for outside contracts that were awarded on this project.
Jean Burt	Grants and Agreements specialist out of the supervisor's office. Assisted with the agreement process for plant and wildlife surveys and implementation for chainsaw cutting.

Employee	Project Role
Carol Carlock	District fuels specialist. Assisted with layout of the project area for different treatments. Played an integral role in keeping the district personnel that were responsible for SNPLMA projects on task in relation to requirements needed for the SNPLMA program.
Linda Blubaugh	Financial administration and project management.
Glen Taylor	Member of the fire crew that assisted with archaeology surveys to get more ground surveyed so implementation could start.
Doris Mackey	Assisted with overhead grants and agreements for the project (worked with Jean Burt). Overhead SNPLMA.
Justin Halker	Assisted with surveys of cultural resources throughout the project area (member of the archaeology crew).
Scott Schaley	Assisted with surveys of cultural resources throughout the project area (member of the archaeology crew).
Barbara Drake	Supervisor's office hydrologist. Reviewed hydrology report for mowing treatments and reseeding near White River within the project area.
Amery Sifre	District Range staff. Assisted with vegetation monitoring within the project area. Helped coordinate with permittees for a rotational schedule on grazing on treated areas within the project to rest the treated areas.
Eric Dutcher	Overhead SNPLMA. Provided transaction registers for the project.
David Kern	Served as my Contracting Officer's Representative for the first mechanical vegetation treatment contract.
James Townley	Assisted with surveys of cultural resources to get more ground surveyed so implementation could start (member of the recreation crew).
Joshua Simpson	Assisted with information on wilderness and roadless areas within or near the project area. Helped explore the area and designate treatment boundaries.
Anna Lowell	Financial administration and project management.
Shauna Moran	Financial administration and project management.
Charlene Byrd	Financial administration and project management.
Kellie Eary	Assisted with vegetation monitoring throughout the project area and flagging of unit boundaries.
Steven Roehr	Assisted with Contracting Officer work and overhead SNPLMA.
Todd Hink	Member of the fire crew. Did chainsaw cutting on the project for overtime.
Sandi Imlay	Member of the fire crew. Did chainsaw cutting on the project for overtime.
Ashley Medlyn	Member of the fire crew. Did chainsaw cutting on the project for overtime.
Brian Pratt	Member of the fire crew and fire prevention tech on the district. Did chainsaw cutting on the project for overtime.
Christopher McVicars	Captain of the fire crew. Did chainsaw cutting on the project area for overtime.
Carl Rasmussen	Member of the FS seasonal chainsaw crew. Did chainsaw cutting on the project for overtime.
Bryce Medlyn	Member of the FS seasonal chainsaw crew. Did chainsaw cutting on the project for overtime.
Adam Henriod	Member of the FS seasonal chainsaw crew. Did chainsaw cutting on the project for overtime.
Sean Gallegos	Member of the FS seasonal chainsaw crew. Did chainsaw cutting on the project for overtime.

**Justification of Project Receipts for the
F002/8-2 White Pine Sagebrush Restoration
Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Project
(Forest Service Job Code SNHR02)**

Date	Supplier	Total Cost	Items	Justification
07/29/2008	Amazon.com	\$699.99	Vortex Skyline ED Spotting Scope	To conduct annual sage grouse lek surveys within and near the project area before, during, and after mechanical treatments.
07/29/2008	Amazon.com	\$159.90	Aluminum Tripod	Purchased in conjunction with the spotting scope, to conduct sage grouse lek surveys.
07/29/2008	Adorama.com	\$109.29	Grip Action Ball Head (for aluminum tripod)	Purchased in conjunction with the spotting scope and tripod, to conduct sage grouse lek surveys.
07/29/2008	Newegg.com	\$636.15	(3) Digital cameras	For the archaeology crew to document and record historic sites while completing cultural surveys for the project.
10/01/2008	Trimble Navigation Limited	\$3,760.00	(2) Trimble GPS units And (2) Power adapters	For the archaeology crew to navigate the project area, survey the project area, and record historic sites within the project area.
01/14/2009	The Ely Times	\$110.20	Scoping Document	Scoping document published in the local newspaper to notify the public on the opportunity to comment on the project.
03/09/09	BW Landmark Inn	\$227.58	Hotel rooms	Hotel stay for employee that attended Shipley writing class. Hotel was paid for with a credit card from an employee in Boise, ID.
05/18/2009	Forestry Suppliers, Inc.	\$243.45	Flagging	Flagging needed to mark cut/leave boundaries for the mechanical treatments on the project area.
4/29/2009	Amazon.com	\$384.00	(3) Garmin GPS units	For the archaeology crew to record their survey areas and historic sites within the project area.
09/08/2009	Granite Seed	\$11,484.00	Seed mix	Native seed mixes were used to reseed areas of decadent sagebrush that were mowed within the project area.
08/17/2009	Bushnell Outdoor Products	\$104.33	Binoculars	Safety award for a member of the archaeology crew working on the project.
11/03/2009	Bristlecone	\$68.76	(1) night stay in local	Lodging for off district COR to

Date	Supplier	Total Cost	Items	Justification
	Motel		hotel	assist with inspections and contract work on the project.
01/12/2009	Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition	\$30.00	Weed Training	District employee attended this local comprehensive weed training to better assist in project mapping and to learn about new innovations in the weed world to assist with the project layout and mechanical treatments.
01/08/2009	NPI, Inc.	\$449.00	COR Training	District employee attended this training to become a Contracting Officer's Representative (COR) to assist with contracting needs for this project.
03/12/2012	The Shipley Group	\$795.00 or \$295.00	Writing for Technical Specialists workshop	Head archaeologist attended this training to better write the archaeology reports for this project that would need approval from the supervisor's office and the state historic preservation office (SHPO).
02/09/2010	Amazon.com	\$187.50	Digital camera and extra battery	Digital camera and battery to take before/after photos, photos of crews working on the project, and other miscellaneous photos associated with the project.
02/23/2010	NPI, Inc.	\$500.00	COR training	District employee attended this training to become a Contracting Officer's Representative (COR) to assist with contracting needs for this project.
07/27/2011	Thomas Brunson	\$2,500.00	Service Contract for Vegetation treatments	Service contract awarded to a local businessman to chainsaw cut trees in the project area.
08/26/2011		\$500.00	Extra Effort Award	Extra effort award given to a district employee for work done on the project.
03/22/2012	Forestry Suppliers, Inc.	\$63.72	Flagging	Extra flagging to flag cut/leave areas on the project for mechanical treatments.
05/30/2012	Bath Lumber Company	\$301.74	Flagging, chainsaw supplies	Extra flagging to flag cut/leave areas on the project for mechanical treatments, and chainsaw supplies for overtime cutting on the project.
07/18/2012	Thomas Brunson	\$2,500.00	Service Contract for Vegetation treatments	Service contract awarded to a local businessman to chainsaw cut trees in the project area.