



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Green River District Office

Vernal Field Office

170 South 500 East

Vernal, UT 84078

(435) 781-4400 Fax: (435) 781-4410

<http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/fo/vernal.html>



April 14, 2010

In Reply Refer To:
9210 (UTG01000)

Dear Public Land User:

The Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Monument Ridge Hazardous Fuels Reduction is submitted for your review and comment. The EA was prepared to analyze the potential impacts of the project and alternatives to the proposed action. The project area is located in southeast Uintah County, Utah, approximately 66 miles southeast of Vernal, Utah (see map with EA for details).

This EA analyzes the Proposed Action Alternative and the No Action Alternative. Chapter 2 of the EA contains a discussion of two other alternatives that were considered but not carried forward for further analysis. The proposed action involves the reduction of approximately 493 acres of hazardous fuels through use of the bullhog mastication device. The bullhog methodology involves the chipping of the trees with a reciprocating drum mounted on a rubber tired front end loader machine.

The EA was prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), as well as other regulations and statutes, to address possible environmental impacts which could result from implementation of the project. This EA is not a decision document. Its purpose is to inform the public and the Decision Maker of the impacts associated with implementing the project, to evaluate alternatives to the proposal, and to solicit other agencies and the public for comments.

Please reference the Monument Ridge EA when submitting your comments. Comments, including names, e-mail addresses, and street addresses of respondents will be available for public review at the BLM Vernal Field Office during regular business hours (7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday – Friday), except federal holidays. Comments and related personally identifying information will be subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and comments may be published as part of the EA and other related documents.

Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name, street address, or email address from public review and disclosure under the FOIA, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses will be made available for public inspection in their entirety. The BLM will not accept anonymous comments.

Written comments will be accepted during the public comment period from April 14, 2010, up to close of business on May 15, 2010.

Please submit written comments to:

Bureau of Land Management
Vernal Field Office
Attn: Mark Wimmer
170 South 500 East
Vernal, UT 84078
Fax: (435) 781-4410
UT_Vernal_Comments@blm.gov

For further information, please contact Mark Wimmer, Environmental Coordinator, at (435) 781-4464.

Sincerely,



Michael G. Stiewig
Vernal Field Manager

Enclosure
Monument Ridge Hazardous Fuels Reduction Environmental Assessment