

Decision Record

Teddy Creek Forest Management

DOI-BLM-WY-030-EA15-59



Rawlins Field Office



The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Bureau accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical, cultural, and other resources on public lands.

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DECISION RECORD

Decision:

I have reviewed this Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), including the analysis and discussion which disclosed no potentially significant environmental impacts. The EA was posted to the public Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Rawlins Field Office (RFO) NEPA Register on December 17, 2014. No public comments have been received. It is my decision to authorize the Proposed Action to treat approximately 685 acres of forest vegetation within the Upper North Platte watershed. Treatments include sanitation/salvage, pre-commercial thinning, prescribed burning and mechanical treatments as defined during the analysis. The access will use existing roads and re-open temporarily closed roads, with a maximum of one mile of temporary road development. Cultural and wildlife stipulations will be adhered to, including no harvesting activities from November 30 to April 30, for the protection of elk crucial winter range. Monitoring will be performed at the stand exam level, using forest inventory plots. The reclamation and implementation will conform to BLM standards as required in the BLM Wyoming State Reclamation Policy (IM-WY-2012-032) and the Rawlins RMP (RMP Appendix 36).

Alternatives Considered: The alternative considered was the No Action alternative. The No Action alternative would allow vegetation to mature and die across the landscape, allowing heavy fuels to accumulate until wildfire removed the accumulated biomass from the sites greatly increasing the chance of a wildfire. The impacts of the accumulated large amounts of woody biomass could result in delays in re-establishing or the exclusion of regeneration from lack of an exposed bare mineral seed bed or excessive fuel bed accumulation. Production of a sustainable supply of timber and other forest commodities to support local and regional economies would be inhibited. There would be continued deterioration of forest health.

Plan Conformance and Consistency:

The Proposed Action and alternative meet the standards and direction of the various guiding laws, regulations, and directives that apply, including the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) (43 USC 1701). The proposed action was reviewed and found to be in conformance with the BLM, RFO Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Record of Decision (ROD), approved December 24, 2008

The decision to approve the proposed action was based upon the following: (1) consistency with the BLM, RFO RMP; (2) national policy; (3) agency statutory requirements; (4) relevant resource and economic issues; (5) application of measures to avoid or minimize environmental impacts; (6) meeting the purposes and need for the project; and (7) application of resource protection mitigation. The proposed action was chosen as being the most environmentally sound alternative that meets the purpose and need of the Project.

1. This decision is in conformance with the BLM, RFO RMP.
2. The decision is consistent with all federal, state, and county authorizing actions required for implementation of the forest management treatments including sanitation/salvage,

pre-commercial thinning, prescribed burning and mechanical treatments as defined during the analysis.

3. Economic benefits derived from implementation of the forest management treatments including sanitation/salvage, pre-commercial thinning, prescribed burning and mechanical treatments as defined during the analysis. have been considered and analyzed in the EA.
4. The decision meets the stated purpose and need in the EA without creating adverse impacts to present resources, while protecting resource values in accordance with guiding laws, regulations, and the BLM, RFO RMP.

Appeal Information:

Any appeal of this Decision must follow the procedures set forth in 43 CFR Part 4. A notice of appeal must be filed in the BLM Rawlins Field Office, 1300 North Third Street, P.O. Box 2407, Rawlins, WY 82301 within 15 days of this Decision [43 CFR 5003.3]. The appellant has the burden of showing that the Decision is in error.

To file for a stay of this Decision during the time your appeal is being reviewed by the Board, the petition for a stay must accompany your notice of appeal. A petition for a stay is required to show sufficient justification based on the standards listed on Form 1842-1. Copies of the notice of appeal and petition for a stay must be submitted to the Interior Board of Land Appeals and the appropriate Office of the Solicitor (43 CFR 4.413) at the time the original documents are filed with this office. A copy of the notice of appeal and petition for a stay must also be submitted to each adversely affected party at the same time the original documents are filed with this office. The appellant has the burden of proof to demonstrate that a stay should be granted.

Standards for Obtaining a Stay:

Except as otherwise provided by law, or other pertinent regulations, a petition for a stay pending appeal shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

1. The relative harm to parties if the stay is granted or denied.
2. The likelihood of the protesters' success on the merits.
3. The likelihood of the immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted.
4. Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

Authorized Official:



Dennis J. Carpenter
Rawlins Field Manager

MAR 02 2015

Date