

Worksheet
Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

OFFICE: Worland Field Office
TRACKING NUMBER: DOI-BLM-WY-R010-2013-0066-DNA
CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER:
PROPOSED ACTION TITLE/TITLE: Prescribed fire treatment in the North Willow Pasture
LOCATION/LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Sec. 2 T48N R87W
APPLICANT (if any):
BLM -- WFO
Bighorn National Forest

A. Description of the Proposed Action and any applicable mitigation measures

The BLM is proposing adopt environmental analysis conducted in the Southwest Fuels Healthy Forest Initiative Project EA, and to include approximately 170 acres of BLM administered lands into the fuel treatment project of sage brush vegetative communities in the North Willow Pasture, as proposed and analyzed by the Bighorn National Forest.

Prescribed fire will be used as the preferred treatment tool for sagebrush units. Range improvements in the form of fencing and/or water developments may be reconstructed or added to allotment pastures to facilitate the prescribed burning. This is primarily due to the rest needed in advance of and after prescribed burning, and to take advantage of improved distribution opportunities.

B. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance

LUP Name* Date Approved – Washakie RMP 1988

Other document Date Approved _____

Other document Date Approved _____

** List applicable LUPs (for example, resource management plans; activity, project, management, or program plans; or applicable amendments thereto)*

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decisions:

The decisions in the Washakie Resource Management Plan provide general management direction and allocation of uses and resources on the public lands in the area. This plan has been reviewed to determine if the proposed action conforms to the land use plan as required by 43 CFR 1610.5. The RMP provides that the planning area is open to consideration for prescribed fire treatment. Planned actions within the Washakie RMP are “Prescribed fire will be used to achieve management objectives, especially those identified in detailed activity plans such as AMPs and HMPs.” [Page 28]

The proposed action is in conformance with the LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decisions (objectives, terms, and conditions): N/A

C. Identify applicable National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents and other related documents that cover the proposed action.

List by name and date all applicable NEPA documents that cover the proposed action.

Environmental Assessment, Southwest Fuels Healthy Forest Initiative Project, 2007; Powder River Ranger District, Bighorn National Forest -- Washakie, Bighorn, and Johnson Counties

List by name and date other documentation relevant to the proposed action (e.g., biological assessment, biological opinion, watershed assessment, allotment evaluation, and monitoring report).

As referenced in the document.

USDA Forest Service. 2002. Tensleep Assessment Area CEEM Assessment. 105 pp. Unpublished Report. On file at Sheridan and Buffalo USFS offices.

USDA Forest Service. 2005. Revised Bighorn National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement. Lakewood, CO. On file at Sheridan USFS office.

USDI Fish and Wildlife Service. 2002. Utah Field Office Guidelines for Raptor Protection from Human and Land Use Disturbances. Salt Lake City, UT. 30pp.

USDI Fish and Wildlife Service. 2006. Letter to Bighorn NF displaying T&E species necessary for project analysis.

D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

1. Is the new proposed action a feature of, or essentially similar to, an alternative analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? Is the project within the same analysis area, or if the project location is different, are the geographic and resource conditions sufficiently similar to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? If there are differences, can you explain why they are not substantial?

Documentation of answer and explanation:

The new proposed action is a feature of the proposed action alternative analyzed in the existing NEPA document. The new proposed action project area is adjacent to the analysis area described in the existing analysis. Resource conditions are sufficiently similar to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document. The new proposed project would include treatment of the sage brush vegetative community as described in the EA.

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

Documentation of answer and explanation:

The existing NEPA document analyzed the Proposed Action Alternative and the No Action Alternative. The analysis included the direct, indirect and cumulative effects of the sage brush treatments within the proposed project area. The new proposed action is appropriate given current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values analyzed in the existing document.

3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances (such as, rangeland health standard assessment, recent endangered species listings, updated lists of BLM-sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that new information and new circumstances would not substantially change the analysis of the new proposed action?

Documentation of answer and explanation:

Issues identified for analysis in the existing document include

- 1) How will the project activities reduce hazardous fuels conditions in Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) sites and along primary firefighter and public access to the WUI sites?
- 2) How will the project restore the vigor of forested and rangeland vegetation communities within the project area to implement the provisions of the Forest Plan and the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA), including reducing insect and disease outbreaks?
- 3) How will the project improve watershed health, fish, and wildlife habitat resources?

No additional issues were identified in reviewing the existing analysis, no new information or circumstances have been identified within the new proposed project area to warrant new analysis. The new project area (170 acres) is similar to that analyzed in the existing document; containing the same fuel conditions as analyzed in the existing documents that a reasonable conclusion could be made that new information and circumstances would not substantially change the analysis of the new proposed action.

4. Are the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects that would result from implementation of the new proposed action similar (both quantitatively and qualitatively) to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document?

Documentation of answer and explanation:

The proposed action included treatment on sagebrush vegetative communities and the effects associated with the proposed treatments, including the effects on the fire regime, fish and wildlife, threatened, endangered, and sensitive species, noxious weeds, livestock grazing, roads and roadless areas, scenery, watershed and soils, and economics. Due to the geographic location of the new proposed action in relation to the existing NEPA analysis, it is expected that the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects that would result from implementation of the inclusion of an additional 170 acres to the treatment area would be similar to those analyzed in the Southwest Fuels Healthy Forest Initiative Project EA.

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

Documentation of answer and explanation:

The Bighorn National Forest initiated this document in 2005, at which time public scoping was conducted. As a result of public involvement and collaborative design of the project, eleven letters were received during the scoping period. All of the respondents supported the project and an action alternative. A few requested further clarification. Several comments were incorporated into either the Proposed Action or the design criteria.

In conformance with BLM and CEQ guidance (*CEQ Guidance Regarding NEPA Regulations*, 48 Fed. Reg. 34263 (July 28, 1983)), the conclusions regarding the adequacy of the existing document and Finding of No Significant Impact will be available for public review for thirty days.

E. Persons/Agencies /BLM Staff Consulted

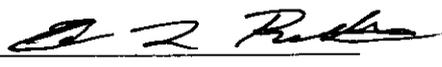
Name	Title	Resource/Agency Represented
Marit Bovee	Archeaologist	Heritage Resources/Paleontology
Jim Critz	Civil Engineer	Engineering
Rita Allen	Realty Specialist	Lands/Access
Mike Peck	Range Management Specialist	Grazing/Vegetation
Brian R. Smith	Outdoor Recreation Specialist	Recreation/VRM/Spec.Designation
Karen A. Hepp	Range Management Specialist	T&E Plants
Ted Igleheart	Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife, including T&E species

CJ Grimes	NRS	Invasive Plants
Jared Dalebout	Hydrologist	Hydrology, Wetlands/riparian
Pam French	Geologist	Geology
Chet Wheelless	NRS	Fluid Minerals
Franklin Sanders	PE	Fluid Minerals
Andy Rothleutner	Range Technician (fire)	Fuels
Stephen Kiracofe	NRS	Soils/HazMat
Jim Gates	Forester	Forestry
Holly Elliott	P&EC	NEPA compliance, socio-economics, Air Quality, Public Health & Safety, greenhouse gas emissions, environmental justice, prime/unique farmlands, natural areas

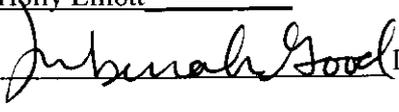
Note: Refer to the EA/EIS for a complete list of the team members participating in the preparation of the original environmental analysis or planning documents.

Conclusion (If you found that one or more of these criteria is not met, you will not be able to check this box.)

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

Signature of Project Lead 

Signature of NEPA Coordinator /s/Holly Elliott

Signature of the Responsible Official:  Date JUN 17 2013

Note: The signed Conclusion on this Worksheet is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal decision process and does not constitute an appealable decision. However, the lease, permit, or other authorization based on this DNA is subject to protest or appeal under 43 CFR Part 4 and the program-specific regulations.