

Scoping Notice

Proposal to Conduct the Meyer's Spring Juniper Prescribed Fire Treatment

Project Summary

The Bureau of Land Management's Worland Field Office is proposing to treat about 7 acres of Utah juniper with prescribed fire about 35 miles northeast of Manderson, Wyoming in parts of Section 21 in Township 51 North, Range 89 West.

The project is around Meyer's Spring on BLM managed land. The planned burn area consists of 10 acres of Wyoming Big Sagebrush with Utah juniper invasion. Within the 10 acre perimeter, about 70% of the invading junipers would be burned individually with little to no sagebrush or grass burned.

This prescribed fire would be conducted by the BLM in cooperation with the Hamilton Ranch, Ltd.

The project would take place in the spring and fall of 2007 unless weather and fuel conditions cause a delay. The objectives of this project are to: 1) decrease the number of encroached junipers by 70%, 2) protect the Wyoming big sagebrush from the adverse consequences of stand-replacing fire, and 3) improve wildlife habitat by promoting germination and establishment of forbs.

Issues

Junipers provide bird of prey perch sites, use water resources, and contribute to crown fires in sagebrush ecosystems. Removal of junipers can modify the sagebrush ecosystem to improve sagegrouse habitat, improve spring and stream flow, and decrease the potential for devastating wildfires.



Figure 1. Meyer's Spring juniper encroachment documented 26 April 2005

Please contact Eve Warren of the Worland Field Office at 307.347.5109 or worland_wymail@blm.gov if you have concerns about the project or would like to participate in its planning.