



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Winnemucca District Office
Black Rock Field Office
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MAR 28 2011

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DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
BUDGET AND PLANNING DIVISION

In Reply Refer to:
1792/1020/9214 (NV024.10)

Dear Interested Party:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Winnemucca District Office (WDO) is proposing a District wide programmatic vegetation management plan (VMP) and environmental assessment (EA). The EA will analyze the expected environmental impacts associated with the proposed plan. The VMP would include integrated pest management, Ecologically Based Invasive Plant Management (EBIPM) and adaptive management actions to achieve goals and objectives identified in the plan.

The VMP proposal is to limit the potential spread of wildfire by constructing strategically placed fuelbreaks to protect communities, infrastructure and important wildlife habitat and rangeland. The proposal would also provide for treating noxious weeds and invasive, nonnative, annual species, to limit the establishment and spread of these species. Wildlife habitat restoration projects and forest health projects would also be included under this proposal.

Vegetation treatment methods would include; mechanical treatments, BLM approved herbicide treatments, hand removal, prescribed fire, prescribed grazing, use of approved biological controls and desirable plant establishment through seeding and seedling planting. Wildlife habitat restoration projects would include treating vegetation to improve or maintain diverse multi-aged stands of vegetation for wildlife and seeding areas to improve habitat. Forest health projects would include actions to maintain or improve the health of woodland stands. These actions would include; thinning and pesticide applications. All treatments would be subject to a per project treatment limit of 1,000 acres with a maximum of 3,000 acres treated annually.

Mechanical treatments would include disking, mowing, harrowing, or use of other mastication equipment.

Application of BLM approved herbicides would be subject to Federal and state laws and regulations and would comply with all BLM standard operating procedures (SOPs) and best management practices (BMPs). Application of herbicides would be by backpack sprayer, ATV, truck mounted sprayers and aircraft, fixed-winged or rotor. Buffer zones and mitigation measures would be developed to protect sensitive resources values within and adjacent from herbicide treatment areas.

Prescribed fire treatments would follow BLM guidance and would include development of burn plans that requires risk assessment and contingency planning. Burning would comply with applicable air quality regulations and requirements.

Prescribe grazing treatments would be utilized in areas where infrastructure is in place to allow for strategically placed intensive grazing to reduce the potential for wildfire effects or meet resource

benefits for weeds or nonnative invasive species. Prescribe grazing treatments would be in full compliance with existing grazing permits.

Biological control includes the use of insects or other biological agents to control undesirable target species. Application of biological control agents must meet or exceed stringent testing by the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS) to ensure that release of agents into a specific ecosystem will not cause undo harm to non-target species.

Thinning and hand removal would include the use of hand crews with chainsaws or other equipment to cut trees and undesirable vegetation. Larger mechanized felling equipment may also be used for forest health projects.

Seeding methods would include broadcasting seed (ie: aerial or ATV or truck broadcasting), hand planting of shrubs or other vegetation, or by rangeland drill seeding.

Based on monitoring results all proposed treatments would be maintained or retreated.

The BLM WDO would like to receive your input and/or comments to this proposal by the close of business April 29, 2011. Comments can be sent to the BLM-Winnemucca District Office (Attn: Jeff Johnson) at this address: 5100 E. Winnemucca Blvd. Winnemucca, NV 89445. Comments may also be submitted by email to: wfoweb@nv.blm.gov. Email comments should reference "Programmatic Vegetation Plan" (J.Johnson) in the subject line.

Public comments submitted for this project, including names and addresses of commenters will be available for public review at the Winnemucca District Office during regular business hours 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except federal holidays. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment -including your personal identifying information -may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Should you have questions, please contact Jeff Johnson, Fire Management Specialist and Project Lead, at (775) 623-1538.

Sincerely,



Mike Fetic
Fire Management Officer
Winnemucca District Office