



# United States Department of the Interior



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In Reply Refer To:  
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NV020.00

**NOTICE OF ACTION**  
**NOTICE OF PROPOSED ACTION**  
**IN WILDERNESS STUDY AREA**

**STATE:** Nevada

**COUNTY:** Humboldt County

**OFFICE:** Black Rock Field Office  
Winnemucca District  
5100 East Winnemucca Blvd.  
Winnemucca, Nevada 89445

**WILDERNESS STUDY AREA** **Poodle Mountain WSA**  
(NV-020-012)

**ACTION:** Fire Suppression Activity and Emergency Stabilization and  
Rehabilitation – Poodle Fire

**Background**

The Poodle fire was ignited by lightning on July 30, 2016 and contained on August 9, 2016. Approximately 6,557 acres burned. The fire was completely within the Poodle Mountain Wilderness Study Area (WSA). Of the total area burned, 6,104 acres are classified as Greater Sage-Grouse Priority Habitat Management Area (PHMA) and 453 acres of Greater Sage-Grouse General Habitat Management Area (GHMA). The entire fire area is classified as mule deer crucial summer and winter habitat, and pronghorn summer range and crucial winter habitat as defined by the Nevada Department of Wildlife. The area is also utilized by grassland birds and migratory birds and is near raptor nesting sites.

The degree of fire burn severity was low to moderate and burned the entire shrub community. The affected vegetation includes mountain sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata ssp. vaseyana*), Lahontan sagebrush (*Artemisia arbuscular ssp. longicaulis*), Wyoming sagebrush (*Artemisia*

*tridentata ssp. wyomingensis*), low sagebrush (*Artemisia arbuscular ssp. arbuscular*), basin wild rye (*Leymus cinereus*), bluebunch wheatgrass (*Pseudoroegneria spicata*), and Thurbers needlegrass (*Achnatherum thurberianum*). The fire area has known populations of invasive annual plant species including cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) and medusahead (*Taeniatherum caput-medusae*) and has a high probability of dominance by invasive annuals.

A portion of the Poodle fire area burned in 2005.

### **Description of the Action**

Because the area burned is classified as a Priority Habitat Management Area (PHMA) for Greater Sage-Grouse habitat, immediate and full fire suppression was necessary. Suppression efforts included the use of a dozer within the WSA boundary and resulted in approximately 15.26 miles (~23 acres) of surface disturbance within the WSA. The use of the dozer does not meet the non-impairment standard for activities within WSAs. Exceptions to the non-impairment standard include responding to emergencies (BLM Manual 6340).

The BLM Black Rock Field Office is in the process of rehabilitating fire suppression efforts. This will include repairing dozer lines where necessary, such as removing berms and piles, replacing displaced rock and reseeding dozer lines with native species.

The BLM Black Rock Field Office is proposing to rehabilitate the burned area. Proposed rehabilitation efforts would include the following activities and is expected to commence in the fall of 2016 as weather permits:

- **Seeding:** Approximately 3,900 acres would be treated by aerial seeding with a mix containing native perennial grasses, forbs and sagebrush. The area impacted by the dozer would be seeded via broadcast seeding of native plant species.
- The burned portion of the Buffalo Hills grazing allotment would be closed to livestock grazing until vegetation objectives are met. Closure would be implemented by adjusting the pasture rotation schedule, herd placement management, and riding to ensure livestock are not using burned portion of the allotment.
- **Noxious Weed Control:** Noxious weeds would be controlled within the burned area and area disturbed by dozer for 3 years. Herbicide application, if any, would be conducted via spot treatments with the use of a backpack sprayer.
- **Monitoring:** Treatment success monitoring would occur for up to 3 years to determine if the objectives of the proposed treatments have been met. It is anticipated that the proposed treatments would reestablish perennial cover, mitigate soil loss, minimize establishment of undesirable invasive annual and noxious weeds, and support rehabilitation of vital Greater Sage Grouse habitat.

The proposed action is being reviewed in conformance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) through a Documentation of NEPA Adequacy (DNA). Once completed, this document and associated Decision Record will be available through the NEPA Register ([https://www.blm.gov/epl-frontofficeplanning/nepa/nepa\\_register.do](https://www.blm.gov/epl-frontofficeplanning/nepa/nepa_register.do)). The Holloway Fire Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Plans EA (DOI-BLM-OR-B060-2013-0003) (3/1/13) is one of the EAs supporting the DNA document and addresses impacts of stabilization

and rehabilitation plans in a WSA.

The use of the dozer and the proposed site rehabilitation described above do not meet the non-impairment standard for activities within WSAs. Although temporary, these activities cause surface disturbance. Exceptions to the non-impairment standard include responding to emergencies or activities that benefit or enhance wilderness characteristics.

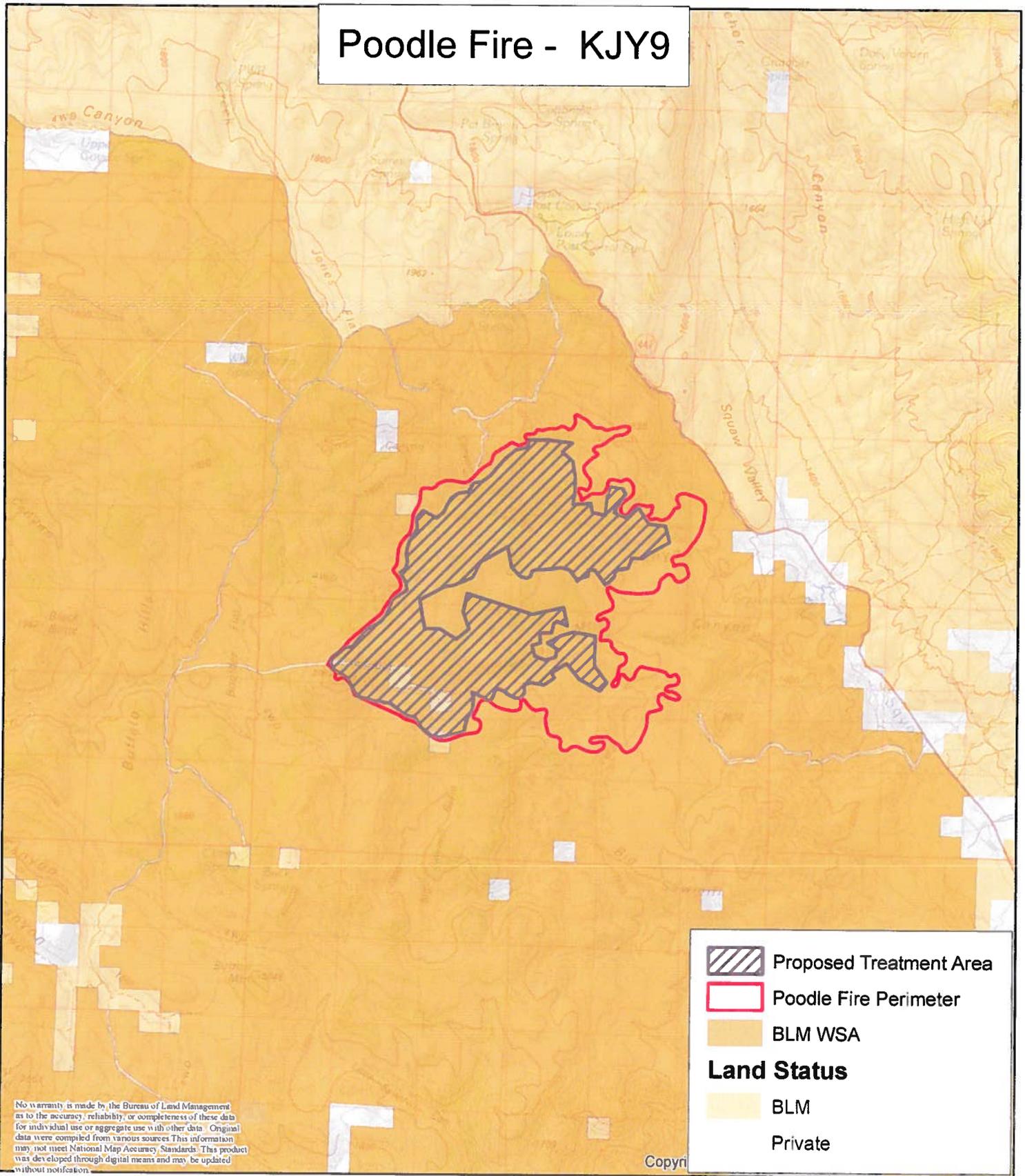
Administrative Review or appeal opportunities will be described in the Decision Record for the DNA for this project, which will also be available through the NEPA Register.



Robert B. Towne  
District Manager  
Winnemucca District

9/7/16  
Date

# Poodle Fire - KJY9

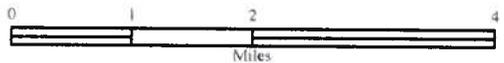


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