

**NORMAL FIRE REHABILITATION PLAN SUPPLEMENT  
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT  
AND  
DECISION RECORD  
HOGAN FIRE, Z495  
BLM/EK/PL2000/042**

**Finding of No Significant Impact:**

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in Normal Fire Rehabilitation Plan Supplement Environmental Assessment BLM/EK/PL2000/042, I have determined that the proposed action will not have significant impacts on the human environment and that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

**Decision:**

It is my decision to implement the Normal Fire Rehabilitation Plan (NFRP) Supplement as described in the Environmental Assessment for the Hogan Fire BLM/PL2000/042. Over 1891 acres of public lands within the South-Pequop Wilderness Study Area (WSA) managed by the Bureau of Land Management Elko Field Office were burned during this fire. Approximately 14.4 miles of roads outside the WSA will be repaired and 3.4 miles of dozer line will be rehabilitated.

**Rationale:**

Implementation of the proposed action described in the NFRP Supplement EA for the Hogan Fire will protect soils in and along roads used for suppression efforts and restore dozer lines created by suppression efforts. This includes preventing potential loss of soil due to wind and water erosion and will reduce potential invasion and establishment of noxious weeds and cheatgrass.

The Wells Resource Management Plan is silent for the proposed action. The proposed action is consistent with the objectives of the RMP and is consistent with federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and plans to the maximum extent possible

**Monitoring:**

Post-treatment monitoring studies will be conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of the proposed treatments.

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Helen Hankins  
Elko Field Office

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Date



**NORMAL FIRE REHABILITATION PLAN SUPPLEMENT  
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT  
HOGAN FIRE (Z495)  
BLM/EK/PL-2000-042**

**Introduction:**

This Supplement Environmental Assessment (EA) tiers to the Elko Field Office FY 2000 Normal Fire Rehabilitation Plan Environmental Assessment (NRFPEA) BLM/EK/PL2000/037. The Proposed Action includes NFRPEA Treatment # 2 ( Planting of multiple species seed mixtures), 5 (Dozer line rehabilitation), and 6 (Road repair). The format of this Supplement EA follows the outline in the Emergency Fire Rehabilitation Handbook, BLM Manual Handbook H-1742-1 dated 7/27/99.

**List of Preparers:**

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**Project Area Description:**

A. Fire Description:

The fire was started by a lightning strike, was reported on June 18, 2000, and was declared out on June 22, 2000. It burned 1891 acres of public land within the South Pequop Wilderness Study Area (WSA). Only one grazing allotment was affected, the Spruce Allotment, but less than 1% of the allotment acreage burned. No structures or fences were burned in the Hogan Fire. Approximately 14.4 miles of road were damaged and 3.4 miles of dozer line was constructed during fire suppression efforts.

B. Vegetation and Soil Description:

The burned area ranges in elevation from 5775 ft along the county road to 7425 ft on the east edge of the fire. There are no perennial streams in the Hogan Fire area. Soils are mostly

shallow to moderately deep with medium to rapid runoff. Hazard of erosion due to water is slight to high under preburn conditions. Vegetation at the site ranges from a sagebrush/bunchgrass complex with a significant understory of cheatgrass. At higher elevations the dominant vegetation is pinyon pine and juniper.

### **Proposed Project Treatments:**

#### A. Revegetation:

##### 1. Rangeland drill seeding:

Approximately 3.4 miles of rehabilitated dozer line will be drill seeded with Nordan crested wheatgrass and Siberian crested wheatgrass using standard drill seeding techniques. It is possible that the same area will be subsequently aerial seeded with the same mixture plus rice hulls as a dispersal mechanism depending on site conditions and drill seeding response. This rangeland seeding will reduce erosion and encourage revegetation.

#### B. Structures: None

#### C. Erosion Control Treatments

##### 1. Road repair:

Approximately 14.4 miles of suppression-damaged roads outside the WSA will be regraded and graveled after adequate soil moisture is present to reduce erosion and widening by travelers trying to get around damaged areas.

##### 2. Dozer line rehabilitation:

Approximately 3.4 miles of bulldozer-damaged areas will be rehabilitated by pushing back berms and regrading the disturbed areas. The same area will then be drill and/or aerial seeded with Nordan crested wheatgrass and Siberian crested wheatgrass to reduce erosion and encourage revegetation as discussed above.

#### D. Site Preparation: None.

### **Consideration of Critical Elements and Resources:**

The following critical elements of the human environment are not present or are not affected by the proposed action or alternative:

- ACECs
- Environmental Justice
- Farmlands, prime or unique
- Floodplains
- Wastes, hazardous/solid

Water Quality, surface/ground  
Wetlands/Riparian Areas  
Wild and Scenic Rivers  
Wild Horses

Critical elements and resources brought forward for analysis:

A. Air Quality:

The damaged roads and dozer lines in or near the burned area are highly susceptible to wind erosion until revegetation occurs. Wind erosion can increase Particulate Matter #10 (PM#10) emissions causing exceedence of PM #10 air quality standards which can negatively affect human health. In addition, airborne dust can cause visibility and safety problems on roads in the area. The proposed vegetation and erosion control treatments will encourage regrowth of vegetation, thus reducing future potential air quality impacts.

B. Cultural Resources:

The Hogan Fire occurred within an area known to archaeologists as the Central Great Basin which has been inhabited by humans for approximately 12,000 years. Archaeological sites and cultural properties in this area must be afforded protection whenever possible. Section 106 of the Natural Historic Preservation Act mandates that the federal government will account for cultural resources in its projects and undertakings, including fire rehabilitation efforts. Ground disturbing activities such as discing, drilling, dozer line rehabilitation, fence construction, and road repair could damage cultural sites. Therefore, areas designated for mechanized seeding and other ground disturbance will be inventoried for cultural resources before the disturbance occurs in accordance with the State Protocol Agreement Between BLM, Nevada and the Nevada State Office of Historic Preservation (SHPO). At a minimum, to reduce potential impacts to cultural resources, activities that involve mechanized surface disturbance of less than 10 cm depth will generally have transect spacing of 100 meters. More intense inventory will be used for highly sensitive areas. If surface disturbance is greater than 10 cm, then 30 meter transect intervals will be used.

All cultural resources discovered or relocated will be plotted on maps and at a minimum will be recorded on the Nevada IMACS short form. Resources except those previously determined not eligible, by BLM and SHPO, or that have been fully mitigated, will be flagged for avoidance and avoided during rehabilitation activities. Flagging will be placed to minimize the potential for looting and vandalism and removed as soon as possible.

C. Invasive, Nonnative Species:

Noxious weeds may be located in areas near the burn. Fire suppression efforts, including dozer line construction and use of engines and other mechanized vehicles, is likely to have introduced noxious weed species seeds into the burned area. In order to reduce the potential impacts of an invasion of noxious weeds, monitoring must be conducted after rehabilitation treatments are completed. If noxious weeds are discovered to have invaded the burn area, herbicide treatments

would need to be implemented to reduce the spread of the noxious weeds. The proposed monitoring and noxious weed treatment would help to prevent or reduce any such noxious weed invasion of the Hogan Fire burn area.

D. Native American Religious Concerns:

Native Americans will be consulted as appropriate prior to any ground disturbing activities such as discing and drilling. If traditional cultural properties or other areas having traditional or religious significance to Native Americans are discovered as a result of this consultation, then BLM will insure that measures are taken to avoid or reduce impacts to these areas of concern to Native Americans.

E. Threatened, Endangered, Candidate, or Sensitive Species:

No threatened or endangered plant species are known to occur in the burn area. The sage grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*) has been designated by the BLM Nevada State Director as a sensitive species and therefore afforded the same protection as a candidate species. Although the suspected causes of sage grouse decline are numerous, loss of habitat, including loss by fire, ranks at the top of the list. Rehabilitation of sage grouse habitat, and the prevention of invasion by fire prone annual weeds such as cheatgrass, is a wildlife priority of both BLM and the Nevada Department of Wildlife. The proposed seeding treatments are designed to reduce the impacts from the invasion or re-invasion of fire prone annual weeds.

F. Visual Resources:

The burned area is within Visual Resource Management Class 1 and actions taken in the area must serve to preserve the existing character of the landscape. Both the fire itself and fire suppression activities such as creation of dozer lines, have resulted in visual impacts to the area. Dozer line revegetation efforts are designed to blend into the background without attracting undue attention and aid in restoring the area to a more characteristic landscape. Recontouring and seeding of dozer lines would reduce adverse visual impacts as well.

G. Wildlife:

Wildlife could be adversely impacted by the Hogan Fire, primarily through temporary loss of habitat through removal of vegetation. The proposed rehabilitation treatments include seeding dozer lines with seed mixtures conducive to wildlife use. In addition, aerial and drill seeding of lower elevation areas will help establish grass species that would out compete exotic invading plant species, as well as provide critical forage and cover.

H. Wilderness:

The Hogan Fire burned in sagebrush and pinyon-juniper communities within the South Pequop WSA. Most of the burned areas within the WSA should recover naturally. However, constructed dozer lines should be rebermed and seeded to restore those areas to a more natural configuration and reduce the potential for noxious weed or cheatgrass invasion of the lines.

Although the lower benches contain cheatgrass, it is not felt that seeding these areas will reduce the cheatgrass dominance. Proposed road repair is for roads lying on the perimeter and outside of the WSA. These roads are already frequented by the public and ranchers in the area and their restoration to pre-fire conditions should have no influence on the WSA itself.

**Project Cost Summary:** (the cost summary information can be found in the Burned Area Emergency Rehabilitation (BAER) Plan and Accomplishment Report for the Elko 13 Fire Complex)

**Project Maps:** (project maps can be found in the Burned Area Emergency Rehabilitation (BAER) Plan and Accomplishment Report for the Elko 13 Fire Complex)

**Cost/Risk Assessment:** (the cost/risk assessment can be found in the Burned Area Emergency Rehabilitation (BAER) Plan and Accomplishment Report for the Elko 13 Fire Complex)

**Native/Nonnative Worksheet:** (the native/nonnative worksheet can be found in the Burned Area Emergency Rehabilitation (BAER) Plan and Accomplishment Report for the Elko 13 Fire Complex)