

**NORMAL FIRE REHABILITATION PLAN SUPPLEMENT
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
COYOTE FIRE (X-284)
BLM/EK/PL-2001/070**

Introduction:

This Supplemental Environmental Assessment (EA) tiers to the Elko Field Office FY 2000 Normal Fire Rehabilitation Plan Environmental Assessment (NFRPEA) BLM/EK/PL-2000/037. The Proposed Action includes the following NFRPEA Treatments: 1 (Construction and Repair of Fence to Facilitate Grazing Closure), 2 (Planting of Multiple Species Seed Mixtures), 4 (Construction of Erosion and Sediment Control Structures), 5 (Dozer Line Rehabilitation), 8 (Non-native Invasive Weed Control), and 10 (Cultural Resource Site Stabilization and Protection). The format of this Supplement EA follows the outline in the Emergency Fire Rehabilitation Handbook, BLM Manual Handbook H-1742-1, dated July 27, 1999, and is consistent with the draft Interagency Burned Area Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Handbook, Version 1.0, dated June 14, 2001.

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Project Area Description:

A. Fire Description:

The Coyote Fire started by a lightning strike and was reported on August 12, 2001. The fire was declared controlled on August 18, 2001. The Coyote Fire burned a total of 11,672 acres, which encompasses 7,827 acres of public land administered by the BLM and 3,845 acres of private land

in Elko County, Nevada. This fire burned within four grazing allotments: Tuscarora, T Lazy S, Hadley, and Twenty-five Allotments. The fire burned approximately 45 acres within the Tuscarora Allotment, which includes 23 acres of public land and 22 acres of private land. The fire burned approximately 71 acres of public land within the T Lazy S Allotment. The fire burned approximately 402 acres within the Hadley Allotment, which includes 27 acres of public land and 375 acres of private land. Approximately 11,154 acres were burned in the Twenty-five Allotment, which includes 7,706 acres of public land and 3,448 acres of private land.

No structures were burned in this fire. The majority of the dozer lines were constructed on the northeast corner of the fire at the base of Swales Mountain. Burn severity was moderate to high in the channel bottoms where fire removed most of the vegetation.

B. Vegetation and Soil Description:

Elevations in the Coyote Fire range from 6,070 feet to 8,202 feet above mean sea level (AMSL). Vegetation on the Coyote fire consisted of Idaho Fescue, bluebunch wheatgrass, Thurber's needlegrass, Great Basin wildrye, mountain big sagebrush, Wyoming big sagebrush, low sagebrush, rabbitbrush and antelope bitterbrush. Riparian area vegetation included aspen, willows and various species of sedges and rushes.

The northeast portion of the fire consists of low dissected terraces and strongly sloping to moderately steep uplands. Soils are shallow to very deep and well drained. Hazard of erosion due to water is moderate to high. Hazard of erosion due to wind is slight to moderate. These soils have a very slow rate of infiltration. The remainder of the fire occurs on steep to very steep mountainsides with slopes ranging from 30 to 75 percent. Soils are deep to very deep and well drained to excessively drained. Hazard of erosion due to water is moderate to high. Hazard of erosion due to wind is slight. Infiltration rates are moderate.

On an aerial reconnaissance it was observed that the steep mountainsides along Beaver and Little Beaver Creeks were actively eroding. Large fans occurred at the mouth of intermittent tributaries along Beaver Creek indicating high pre-fire rates of erosion.

Proposed Project Treatments:

A. Revegetation:

1. Wildlife Aerial/Broadcast Seeding:

Approximately 1,704 acres in the upland portions of the burn would be aerially seeded with basin big sagebrush and Western yarrow within selected ephemeral drainages, draws, and swales throughout the burned area. Target seeding areas are in the vicinity of several sage grouse leks. When possible, seed would be broadcast on snow to aid in germination and reduce seed consumption by rodents and birds. The purpose of the seeding is to provide forage for livestock

and wildlife, particularly summer and intermediate range for mule deer and sage grouse habitat, and to reduce the potential for the invasion of non-native invasive weed species.

2. Watershed Aerial/Broadcast Seeding:

Approximately 97 acres in the Beaver Creek and Little Beaver Creek drainage bottoms would be seeded with Basin Wildrye, Sodar Streambank Wheatgrass, Critana Thickspike Wheatgrass and Canby Bluegrass. Seed would be aerially applied on stream terraces, benches and alluvial fans in the canyon bottoms between late October through December. When possible, seed would be broadcast on snow to aid in germination and reduce seed consumption by rodents and birds. The purpose of this seeding is to promote vegetation response within the drainages, which would reduce erosion and stabilize banks over time.

3. Non-native Invasive Weed Species Control:

Monitoring to detect noxious weed invasion would be conducted on 10,500 acres within the perimeter of the Coyote Fire, including the dozer lines. According to the documentation in the BLM, Elko Field Office, Noxious Weed Database, Scotch thistle and Russian knapweed have been identified and inventoried within the burned area. Appropriate Integrated Weed Management (IWM) control measures, including chemical treatments, would be implemented to treat approximately 5 acres each of Scotch thistle and Russian knapweed. When new infestations of noxious weeds are detected by monitoring, treatment would be implemented.

Long term monitoring (3 years) of 10,500 acres throughout the burned area and existing weed locations would be conducted to determine the spread of any non-native invasive weed species infestations. Any new infestations would be treated and monitored as necessary. By treating prior to seed set and maturation, the spread of these noxious weeds within the burned area would be controlled.

B. Structures:

1. Repair Existing Fence for Resource Protection:

Approximately 2.5 miles of fence would be repaired to allow for a grazing closure of the burned area within the Beaver Creek Riparian Pasture in the Twenty-five Allotment. The purpose of this fence repair is to maintain the integrity of the existing pasture fence, provide for proper rangeland and livestock management, and to protect the proposed watershed seeding treatments and burned area in order to allow for vegetation to become re-established.

C. Erosion Control Treatments:

1. Dozer Line Rehabilitation:

Approximately 9 miles of dozer line would be seeded with intermediate wheatgrass and Nordan crested wheatgrass. These areas would be drill seeded, where possible, and broadcast seeded using a dozer where the terrain is too steep or rough to use the drill. The purpose of seeding the dozer line is to reduce the risk of erosion, stabilize the soil, and to encourage revegetation.

2. Bale Bombing:

Straw mulch would be aerially applied on alluvial fans in Beaver Creek drainage to slow surface runoff, reduce erosion and increase soil moisture. This would allow for better establishment of the watershed seeding on the straw mulch treatment area. Approximately 17 acres would be mulched.

D. Site Preparation: None

E. Other:

1. Cultural Resource Inventory:

Cultural resource inventories have been conducted on approximately 3 miles of dozer line. As a result of this cultural resource inventory, one archaeological site was damaged by the construction of the dozer line. Cultural resource inventories would be conducted on the remaining approximately 6 miles of dozer line. The cultural resource inventories would be conducted prior to the implementation of the proposed rehabilitation efforts. The purpose of inventorying the dozer line is to assess and document any damage to cultural resource sites that occurred as a result of the suppression activities and to prevent damage to these sites from the rehabilitation efforts.

2. Aspen Stand Protection and Monitoring:

Monitoring the aspen regeneration within the burned clones is proposed for a period of at least 3 years or until the average stem height is at least 7 feet. When monitoring shows that the regeneration is being impacted by grazing, an acceptable number of quality stems per acre are not establishing, or other impacts that could defer the re-establishment of a healthy aspen clone, other management measures (such as restricting grazing or fencing stands) may be implemented to protect and/or enhance the clones. Most aspen clones within the burn are in areas that are not easily accessible to livestock, which should help the regeneration. Deferring livestock use in the pastures that contained burned aspen, until the regeneration attains an average stem height of at

least 7 feet, is the preferred regeneration method.

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)
- Wastes (hazardous/solid)
- Wild and Scenic Rivers
- Wilderness

Critical elements and resources brought forward for analysis:

A. Air Quality:

The burned area would be 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 would encourage regrowth of vegetation, thus reducing future potential air quality impacts.

B. Cultural Resources:

Few cultural resource inventories have been completed within the Coyote Fire perimeter. The BLM archaeologists inventoried approximately 3 miles of the dozer line created during fire suppression. As a result of this inventory, one lithic scatter was found.

Archaeological sites and cultural properties in this area must be afforded protection whenever possible. Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act mandates that the federal government would account for cultural resources in its projects and undertakings, including fire rehabilitation efforts. Ground disturbing activities such as dozer line rehabilitation could damage cultural sites. Therefore, areas designated for potential ground disturbance would be inventoried for cultural resources before the disturbance occurs in accordance with the State Protocol Agreement between the Nevada BLM 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 would generally have transect spacing of 100 meters. More intense inventory would be used for highly sensitive areas. When surface disturbance is greater than 10 cm, then 30 meter transect intervals would be used.

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

C. Native American Religious Concerns:

By law, policy and executive order, BLM is required to undertake a good-faith consultation process with regional Native American tribal and band governments prior to projects that might affect Native American sacred areas, Traditional Cultural Properties or other traditional values. Native Americans would be consulted as appropriate prior to any ground disturbing activities or herbicide treatments. When the BLM obtains information identifying Traditional Cultural Properties or other areas having traditional or religious significance, then the BLM would insure that reasonable measures are taken to avoid impacts to these areas of concern to Native Americans.

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

No threatened or endangered plant species are known to occur in the burn area.

Lahontan cutthroat trout (LCT), a federally listed threatened species, occurs in the upper elevations of Beaver Creek, including its tributaries Toro Canyon, Little Beaver Creek, Barber Canyon and Williams Canyon Creek. Total occupied stream length in the Beaver Creek drainage is approximately 15 miles.

Fire suppression activities including retardant drops, water extraction, and line construction were not conducted directly within the Beaver Creek drainage. Although the Beaver Creek watershed burned with a high intensity but a low burn severity, riparian areas along drainages were almost completely consumed by fire. Only the headwaters of the Beaver Creek drainage, including Williams Canyon and a limited portion of Toro Canyon, remained intact. Potential indirect impacts to the Beaver Creek drainage include excessive sediment loading overland runoff, increases in stream temperatures, scouring associated with flooding, and increases in pH as a result of ash influx. Elevated pH levels can cause depletion of stream oxygen levels, while excess sediment can clog fish gills, destroy spawning habitat, increase water temperatures, and accelerate channel adjustments.

The following recommendations would help to reduce adverse impacts to LCT :

1. Aerially seed alluvial fans and terraces within the drainage bottoms of the burned portions of the Beaver Creek drainage with perennial grasses and forbs (refer to watershed aerial seeding project treatment). These species would accelerate stabilization of eroding fans

and benches and help to reduce future sediment loading to the stream channel. Note that additional watershed seeding or slope stabilization is not recommended. Native grasses in the watershed are expected to recover naturally, while the amount of area requiring site stabilization treatments is too extensive to be practical.

2. Repair existing pasture fence (refer to proposed fencing project treatment).
3. Continue the existing stream and riparian habitat monitoring program on Beaver Creek and its tributaries to allow for comparison of post-fire impacts to existing baseline information. Collect thermal monitoring data and water quality data at two locations on Beaver Creek to evaluate fire impacts to LCT and to develop future management recommendations.

The area provides habitat for golden eagles, burrowing owls, Swainson's hawks and ferruginous hawks, which are State of Nevada Listed Species. The area also provides lek, nesting, summer/brood-rearing, and winter habitat for sage grouse, a BLM Sensitive Species. Nevada BLM policy is to provide State of Nevada Listed and BLM Sensitive Species with the same level of protection as is provided for candidate species to prevent further listings as threatened or endangered. The proposed action would not likely affect any other BLM Special Status Species of plants or animals. 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 the BLM and Nevada Division of Wildlife. The proposed seeding treatment and rest from grazing pressure are designed to help restore sagebrush habitat and/or reduce the impacts from the invasion or re-invasion of fire prone annual weeds. The artificial seeding of a big sagebrush species and later successful establishment of this species from this effort would ensure that these species are on site as future seed sources, as well as cover and forage, in the event that natural sources were lost due to the fire and natural recovery is slow (See Migratory Bird Section below). Sage grouse would be able to more fully utilize the burn area with big sagebrush cover. Otherwise, many areas on the burn would likely be avoided until a semblance of shrubs naturally re-establish.

E. Migratory Birds:

The proposed restorative actions are located in a sagebrush habitat type. The Nevada Partners in Flight Bird Conservation Plan identifies the following bird species associated with this physiographic region: sage grouse (obligate), black rosy finch, ferruginous hawk, gray flycatcher, loggerhead shrike, vesper sparrow, prairie falcon, sage sparrow, sage thrasher, Swainson's hawk, burrowing owl, calliope hummingbird, Brewer's sparrow, Western meadowlark, black-throated sparrow, lark sparrow, green-tailed towhee, Brewer's blackbird, and horned lark.

Maintaining complete, diverse sagebrush communities is integral to conservation efforts for these species. Basin big sagebrush vegetation types generally do not naturally respond well to block

burn configurations, such as large areas observed on the burn, where only relatively small intact stands still exist. Basin big sagebrush seed banks (viable residual seed dispersed last fall and winter) were likely lost in many areas as a result of the fire within the large blocks. Recruitment would be slow from intact stands without rehabilitation. The proposed action to seed the area with a seed mix that includes western yarrow, a forb species; and basin big sagebrush would help to provide wildlife cover and forage and compete with any potential site-specific establishment of exotic annual plant species. This should provide beneficial impacts to these species and is consistent with the conservation measures listed in Section 3 (e) of the President's Migratory Bird Executive Order.

F. Wildlife:

The subject area provides mule deer intermediate range (October 15 - November 15 and March 15 - April 15 emphasis) and summer range (April 16 - October 14 emphasis). The availability of intact intermediate range areas provide for cover and food prior to movements to and from winter range areas. The area also provides pronghorn antelope intermediate range and summer range. Overall, there are approximately 100 bird species, 70 mammal species and several reptile and amphibian species that can be found in sagebrush habitats on the allotment with many more additional species also found in the vicinity of riparian and meadow habitats on a seasonal or year-long basis. The area provides habitat for many of these species.

Wildlife was adversely impacted by the Coyote Fire primarily through temporary loss of habitat through removal of vegetation by the fire. The proposed rehabilitation treatments include resting the area from livestock grazing and seeding with a wildlife seed mix to help restore critical forage and cover more quickly.

G. Grazing:

The proposed closures to grazing within the burned area would protect seeding efforts and aid in natural revegetation of burned public rangeland, while reducing the potential for future noxious weed infestations and cheatgrass invasion. Grazing closures would also improve future forage conditions for both livestock and wildlife. However, grazing closure and relocation of livestock would have some short term adverse impacts on ranchers in the area who normally use the allotments for grazing. The actual animal unit month (AUM) losses suffered by ranchers have not been determined at this point. Through field inventories and monitoring, GIS analyses, and consultation, cooperation, and coordination with individual permittees, specific rest periods and other grazing management options would be identified to reduce impacts to ranchers where possible.

H. Non-native Invasive Weed Species:

Scotch thistle and Russian knapweed have been identified and inventoried on public land within

the perimeter of the Coyote Fire. Scotch thistle and hoary cress have been identified and inventoried along the access roads to this fire. Fire suppression efforts, including dozer line construction and use of engines and other mechanized vehicles, is likely to have spread Scotch thistle, Russian knapweed, and hoary cress in the burned area. The vehicle wash-down location for the Coyote Fire was at the Carlin Park next to the ball field. In order to reduce the potential for an invasion of noxious weeds, Integrated Weed Management techniques should be implemented including chemical treatments and subsequent monitoring. When 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. Monitoring and noxious weed treatments would help to prevent or reduce noxious weed infestations within the burned area.

I. Water Quality (surface/ground):

Portions of the watersheds that experienced high burn severity would be subject to increased water and sediment yield due primarily to the lack of vegetative cover. Increased erosion is likely to result in decreased water quality in receiving waters such as Beaver Creek. Increases in sediment load would cause the channel to aggrade and increase its width-depth ratio resulting in higher stream temperatures. Complete consumption of riparian vegetation along Beaver Creek as well as the blackened effect of the burned watershed would also result in higher temperatures due to lack of cover. Initial ash flows would temporarily elevate pH levels in the perennial streams. The proposed seeding treatment, mulch, and rest from grazing would reduce future sheet, rill, and gully erosion, as well as peak flows.

Water quality and soil loss would be monitored along Beaver Creek for three years. Water quality would be monitored at two locations within the fire during spring runoff, mid-summer flows and low flows in the fall. Water quality parameters such as pH, temperature, turbidity, suspended solids and phosphate would be monitored to analyze the effects of the fire on this stream which provides habitat for Lahontan cutthroat trout. This stream would also be examined for excessive erosion and changes in stream channel after large precipitation events and spring runoff. Water quality would continue to be monitored at two sites on Beaver Creek to determine if the ash and sediment have a negative effect on Lahontan cutthroat trout (LCT).

J. Wetlands/Riparian Zones:

Prior to the Coyote Fire, the riparian zone was comprised of a dense, vigorous willow community in the lower and middle reaches and fairly extensive aspen stands in the upper elevations including Toro Canyon. Exceptions include the headwaters of Beaver Creek and Williams Canyon, which continue to be characterized by scattered willows and heavily grazed herbaceous vegetation. The proposed livestock grazing closure should allow for re-establishment of the riparian zone along Beaver Creek and its tributaries.

Beaver Creek and other riparian areas in the burned watersheds were impacted by the Coyote Fire through loss of vegetation. Willows and perennial shrubs along streams should resprout

naturally if grazing is prevented during the sensitive early growth stages. Repairing the existing fencing and rest from grazing would enable these riparian species to regrow faster and return the riparian wetlands to a proper functioning condition.

K. Floodplains

Beaver Creek is the main drainage within the burn. Beaver Creek has a high sediment load and is adjusting laterally. The result is that the stream is cutting into the steep mountainsides and terraces and large amounts of sediment are being deposited into the channel. Having experienced high burn severity within the riparian zone, Beaver Creek would be less able to accommodate its traditional flows and its high sediment load due to almost complete consumption of the riparian vegetation. The channel is expected to continue to adjust laterally at a slightly faster rate than pre-fire conditions.

Portions of Beaver Creek have incised. Where incision has occurred and tributaries enter the stream gullies have formed. Water entering Beaver Creek through these moderate and high burn severity tributaries would runoff at a slightly faster rate and will further erode the existing gullies and may cause headcuts to move upward.

In order to reduce the impacts of increased water and sediment yield, the burned watersheds should be rested from livestock grazing until establishment criteria have been met for seeded and native release vegetation. Seeding of the high burn severity drainages would enhance revegetation of the riparian area and aid in reducing the impacts from future flood events as well. Straw mulching of aerially seeded areas would aid in seed germination and help maintain soil moisture characteristics.

L. Forest Resources:

Quaking aspen is the only significant commercial forest species of concern within the Coyote Fire. Both fairly large clones and remnant clones appear widely scattered within the burned area. The aspen communities support an array of other species and have the highest bio-diversity of any upland forest type in the West. The aspen clones are thought to be tens of thousands of years old with vegetative suckering being the primary regeneration method. Protecting the regeneration from grazing is of the utmost importance to successfully regenerate the clones. The severity of the burn varied from stand replacement to only the edges of the clones being burned. The majority of the aspen clones should successfully regenerate with the proposed post fire grazing strategies of resting the burn area for at least 2 years or until the aspen regeneration reaches an average stem height of at least 7 feet.

M. Visual Resources:

The Coyote Fire is within Visual Resource Management (VRM) Classes III. The Class III VRM objective is to partially retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the

characteristic landscape should be moderate. Within Class III VRM areas, management activities may attract attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes should repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.

Both the fire itself and fire suppression activities such as creation of dozer lines, have resulted in visual impacts to the area. Changes in this class should be subordinate to the existing landscape. Revegetation efforts are designed to blend into the background without attracting undue attention and aid in restoring the area to a more characteristic landscape.

N. Cumulative Impacts:

Cumulative impacts for proposed Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation treatments are discussed in the programmatic FY 2000 Normal Fire Rehabilitation Plan Environmental Assessment (NFRPEA) BLM/EK/PL-2000/037, which is available for review at the BLM, Elko Field Office.

References:

United States Department of Agricultural. Natural Resource Conservation Service (formerly Soil Conservation Service). 1997. Soil Survey of Northwest Elko County Area, Nevada, Parts of Elko And Eureka Counties.

Project Cost Summary: (the cost summary information can be found in the Burned Area Emergency Rehabilitation (BAER) Plan 2001 and Accomplishment Report for the August 2001 Fire Complex.)

Project Maps: (project maps can be found in the Burned Area Emergency Rehabilitation (BAER) Plan 2001 and Accomplishment Report for the August 2001 Fire Complex.)

Cost/Risk Assessment: (the cost/risk assessment can be found in the Burned Area Emergency Rehabilitation (BAER) Plan 2001 and Accomplishment Report for the August 2001 Fire Complex.)

Native/Nonnative Worksheet: (the native/nonnative worksheet can be found in the Burned Area Emergency Rehabilitation (BAER) Plan 2001 and Accomplishment Report for the August 2001 Fire Complex.)

**NORMAL FIRE REHABILITATION PLAN SUPPLEMENT
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
AND
DECISION RECORD
COYOTE FIRE (X-284)
BLM/EK/PL-2001/070**

Finding of No Significant Impact:

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the Normal Fire Rehabilitation Plan Supplemental Environmental Assessment BLM/EK/PL-2001/070, 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 Coyote Fire BLM/E/PL-2001/070. The Coyote Fire burned a total of 11,672 acres, which encompasses 7,827 acres of public land administered by the BLM and 3,845 acres of private land in Elko County, Nevada. This fire burned within four grazing allotments: Tuscarora, T Lazy S, Hadley, and Twenty-five Allotments. The fire burned approximately 45 acres within the Tuscarora Allotment, which includes 23 acres of public land and 22 acres of private land. The fire burned approximately 71 acres of public land within the T Lazy S Allotment. The fire burned approximately 402 acres within the Hadley Allotment, which includes 27 acres of public land and 375 acres of private land. Approximately 11,154 acres were burned in the Twenty-five Allotment, which includes 7,706 acres of public land and 3,448 acres of private land.

Watershed treatments include aerially seeding approximately 97 acres in the Beaver Creek and Little Beaver Creek drainage bottoms with Basin Wildrye, Sodar Streambank Wheatgrass, Critana Thickspike Wheatgrass and Canby Bluegrass, and aerially applying straw mulch to 17 acres of alluvial fans in the Beaver Creek drainage to slow surface runoff, reduce erosion and increase soil moisture. Approximately 1,704 acres of upland areas that provide mule deer summer and intermediate range, and sage grouse habitat will be rehabilitated throughout the burn area by aerially seeding basin big sagebrush and Western yarrow.

Approximately 2.5 miles of fence will be repaired to allow for a grazing closure of the burned area within the Beaver Creek Riparian Pasture in the Twenty-five Allotment.

Approximately 9 miles of dozer line will be rehabilitated. Of the 9 miles of dozer line constructed on the Coyote Fire, 3 miles have been inventoried. Therefore, cultural inventories will be conducted on the remaining 6 miles of dozer line.

Two small (approximately 5 acres each) infestations of Scotch thistle and Russian knapweed will be treated. Monitoring for noxious weed invasion within the burned and disturbed areas will be conducted and treatments will be applied when weeds are detected.

Monitoring the aspen regeneration within the burned clones will be conducted for a period of at least 3 years or until the average stem height is at least 7 feet.

Post-fire grazing management, including the period of time needed for closure, will be determined based on monitoring and achievement of site specific resource objectives. Post-fire grazing management, including the period of time needed for closure, will be determined based on the BLM and Permittee agreements, monitoring, and achievement of site specific resource objectives.

Rationale:

Implementation of the proposed action described in the NFRP Supplement EA for the Coyote Fire will protect soils in the burned area, including preventing potential loss of soil due to wind and water erosion; will reduce potential invasion and establishment of noxious weeds and cheatgrass; will provide quality forage for livestock and wildlife; and will facilitate meeting established standards and guidelines for livestock grazing.

The Elko Resource Management Plan (RMP) 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 and to determine the time frame for reopening lands for grazing.

Helen Hankins
Elko Field Manager

Date