

**NORMAL FIRE REHABILITATION PLAN SUPPLEMENT
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
SHEEP FIRE (X-275)
BLM/EK/PL-2001/073**

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), 5 (Dozer Line Rehabilitation), 6 (Road Repair), 8 (Non-native Invasive Weed Species Control), 9 (Site Preparation Treatments), and 10 (Cultural Resource Site Stabilization and Rehabilitation). 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.

List of Preparers:

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Project Area Description:

A. Fire Description:

The Sheep Fire was started by a lightning strike and was reported on August 10, 2001. The fire was declared controlled on August 19, 2001. The Sheep Fire burned a total of 83,673 acres, which encompasses 41,824 acres of public land administered by the BLM, Elko Field Office, 533 acres of public land administered by the Bureau of Reclamation, and 41,316 acres of private land in Lander County, Nevada. Only one grazing allotment was affected by this fire, which is the Twenty-five Allotment. No structures were burned.

B. Vegetation and Soil Description:

Elevations within the burned area range from approximately 4,500 feet to 7,300 feet above mean sea level (AMSL). Average annual precipitation is 7 to 12 inches. Burn severity was moderate through most of the fire. However, burn intensity within the Battle Creek drainage was high.

The dominant vegetation within the burned area consist of Wyoming big sagebrush with an understory of Sandberg's bluegrass on the lower elevations. The higher elevations consisted of a mixture of low sagebrush and Wyoming big sagebrush with an understory of Sandberg's bluegrass, Thurber's needlegrass, and bluebunch wheatgrass. Cheatgrass is present on the land below the rim of the Sheep Creek Range. Riparian species included willows, aspen, sedges, rushes, and grasses.

Mountain slopes range from 4-50 percent with elevations from 5,700 feet to 7,000 feet AMSL. Soils range from gravelly loam to cobbly loam. Permeability is slow and runoff ranges from slow to rapid. Potential erosion from water ranges from slight to moderate. Potential erosion from wind is slight. Foothill slopes range from 15-50 percent with elevations from 5,000 feet to 6,000 feet AMSL. Soils are cobbly loams. Potential erosion from water ranges from moderate to severe. Potential erosion from wind is slight. Fan piedmont remnants slopes range from 2-8 percent with elevations from 5,000 feet to 5,500 feet AMSL. Soils are very fine sandy loams. Permeability is moderately slow to moderate and runoff is medium. Potential erosion from water and wind ranges from slight to moderate. These soils are made up of Hydrologic Group B, C and D. The soils after the fire were not hydrophobic.

The range sites are: 24X2 Loamy 5-8", 24X3 Sodic Terrace 6-8", 24X4 Silty 4-8", 24X5 Loamy 8-10", 24X17 Sandy 8-10", 24X20 Droughty Loam 8-10", 24X27 Claypan 12-16", 24X29 South Slope 12-16", 24X35 Shallow Loam 12-14", 25X14 Loamy 10-12", 25X18 Claypan 10-12", and 25X19 Loamy 8-10".

Proposed Project Treatments:

A. Revegetation:

1. Rangeland Aerial/Broadcast Seeding:

The 4,285 acres proposed for drill seeding would be aerially overseeded with forage kochia. When possible, seed would be broadcast on snow to aid in germination and reduce seed consumption by rodents and birds. Seeding this area would provide soil stabilization, forage for wildlife and livestock, and reduce the potential for the invasion of non-native invasive weed species.

2. Rangeland Drill Seeding:

Approximately 4,285 acres would be drill seeded with a mixture of Siberian wheatgrass, Nordan and Hycrest crested wheatgrass, and Boizoisky Russian wildrye. Seeding this area would provide soil stabilization, forage for wildlife and livestock, and reduce the potential for the invasion of non-native invasive weed species.

3. Wildlife Aerial/Broadcast Seeding:

Approximately 13,625 acres would be aerially seeded as follows:

Crucial Mule Deer Winter Range Emphasis: Every other swath within 12,287 acres, which equals 6,144 acres, would be seeded on selected areas throughout the burn. Seed mixture would include Wyoming big sagebrush, basin big sagebrush, forage kochia and Western yarrow.

Lower Bench Forage Kochia Seeding: Every other swath within 1,580 acres, which equals 790 acres, would be seeded with forage kochia and rice hulls (seed carrier).

Sage Grouse Habitat Emphasis - Northern Portion of Burn Area: Every third swath within 9,402 acres, which equals 3,134 acres, would be seeded within selected public land sections primarily on the north portion of the burn area. Seed mixture would include Wyoming big sagebrush, basin big sagebrush and Western yarrow.

Sage Grouse Habitat Emphasis: 3,557 acres within selected ephemeral drainages, draws, and swale areas throughout the interior portion of the burn area would be seeded with Wyoming big sagebrush, basin big sagebrush and Western yarrow.

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 and cover for wildlife, particularly, for sage grouse nesting and summer/brood rearing habitat, and winter range for mule deer and pronghorn antelope. Seeding this area would reduce the potential for the invasion of non-native invasive weed species.

4. Watershed Aerial/Broadcast Seeding:

Approximately 469 acres of public land would be seeded with Great Basin wild rye, Critana thickspike wheatgrass, Sodar streambank wheatgrass and Canby bluegrass. 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.

5. Non-native Invasive Weed Species Control:

Monitoring to detect noxious weed invasion of the burned areas would be done on approximately

36,000 acres of public lands within the perimeter of the Sheep Fire. According to the Elko Field Office Noxious Weed Database, hoary cress, Scotch thistle, Russian knapweed and squarrose knapweed have been found within or in close proximity to the burned area. The Sheep Fire Incident Command Post (ICP) was located in a pasture which was infested with Russian knapweed. Although most of the vehicles were kept out of the knapweed infestation, a some vehicles drove through the Russian knapweed and then drove to the fire line. Therefore, fire suppression vehicles and equipment may have spread noxious weed seeds at this incident.

During a recent (September 2001) field inspection and assessment, approximately 10 acres of hoary cress was found along Battle Creek, which would be chemically treated. Additional infestations of hoary cress may be found in the future as vegetation grows back following the fire or after establishing from spread seed. Other noxious weed infestations found while monitoring would be treated using Integrated Weed Management techniques, including chemical treatments.

Long term monitoring (3 years) of existing weed locations would be conducted on 36,000 acres of public land within the burn to determine the effectiveness of the proposed treatments and to identify any new infestations, which would be treated and monitored, as necessary. By treating prior to seed set and maturation, the spread of noxious weeds within the burned area would be controlled.

B. Structures:

1. Construct New Fence for Resource Protection:

Approximately 3.0 miles of new fence would be constructed to allow closure of seeded and burned areas to grazing for a period to be determined by post-rehabilitation monitoring. The purpose of this fence is to protect the burn and seedings from livestock, which would allow for vegetation to re-establish.

2. Repair Existing Fence for Resource Protection:

Approximately 5.9 miles of existing allotment boundary and pasture fences would be repaired to allow closure of seeded and burned areas to grazing for a period to be determined by post-rehabilitation monitoring. The purpose of this fence repair is required in order to maintain the integrity of the allotment boundary fences and to provide for proper rangeland and livestock management. The fences are needed to protect the proposed watershed seeding treatment and burned areas to allow for vegetation to re-establish.

C. Erosion Control Treatments:

1. Dozer Line Rehabilitation:

Approximately 30 miles of dozer line 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 dozer lines would be seeded with intermediate and crested wheatgrass. The purpose of seeding the dozer line is to reduce the risk of erosion, stabilize the soil, and to encourage revegetation.

2. Road Repair:

Approximately 10 miles of secondary roads that were damaged by traffic during fire suppression efforts would require wetting, regrading, and graveling in order to re-establish the roadbed, re-establish drainage, and to prevent widening of the existing road or the development and establishment of new roads or travel routes parallel to the existing road.

D. Site Preparation:

1. Disking:

Approximately 3,885 acres would be disked in the spring to reduce cheatgrass competition. The disking would be done to prepare the site for drill seeding in the fall. The purpose of disking is to reduce the competition of cheatgrass with the plant species that would be drill seeded.

E. Other:

1. Flood Warning Signs:

A flood hazard warning sign would be installed at the bottom of the Battle Creek drainage, where the threat to public safety and property damage are greatest following potential precipitation events. The flood hazard warning sign would warn the public of possible dangers.

2. Cultural Resource Site Stabilization and Protection:

Cultural resource inventories would be conducted on approximately 30 miles of dozer line and 3,885 acres proposed for disking, 4,285 acres proposed for drill seeding, and 3.0 miles of new fence construction. The cultural resource inventories would be conducted prior to the implementation of the proposed rehabilitation actions. Any cultural resources discovered during these inventories would be avoided during rehabilitation activities.

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, erosion control, and site preparation treatments would encourage regrowth of vegetation, thus reducing future potential air quality impacts.

B. Cultural Resources:

Prior to the Coyote Fire, seven cultural resource inventories were completed within the burned area. Typical cultural resources in the Sheep Fire, known from these previous inventories, include prehistoric archaeological sites, the California National Historic Trail and historic period sites related to mining, ranching and railroad development. The BLM archaeologists examined portions of the dozer line and found a damaged prehistoric site located within a sand dune. Additional lithic scatters, but of much smaller extent, were found along other segments of the dozer line. A historic well site was also discovered that may be associated with the California National Historic Trail, and if so would be eligible to the National Register of Historic Places.

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 and fence construction 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.

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 nesting, summer/brood-rearing and winter habitat for sage grouse, a BLM Sensitive Species. With the common observation of sage grouse on the area prior to the fire and availability of suitable habitat, it likely provides sage grouse lek (strutting) habitat. However, no leks have been documented to date. There are three documented leks east of Izzehood Gap approximately five to six miles from the northern boundary of the burn. The 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. 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 treatments 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 big sagebrush species and later successful establishment of these 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, green-tailed towhee, Brewer's blackbird, horned lark, and lark sparrow. Maintaining complete, diverse sagebrush communities is integral to conservation efforts for these species. Wyoming and 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. Wyoming big sagebrush seed banks usually do not persist after the summer following seed dispersal in unburned areas, let alone burned areas. Recruitment would be slow from intact stands without rehabilitation. The proposed action is to seed the area with four seed mixtures. Three of the seed mixtures include a native perennial forb species and two big sagebrush species. The fourth seeding would include a species (forage kochia) that helps to slow down or stop wildfires at lower elevations dominated by cheatgrass. These seed mixtures would help to provide wildlife cover and forage, and help 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 crucial mule deer (November 15 - March 15) range. The availability of winter habitat is a critical limiting factor for the affected mule deer herd unit. Use also occurs in some areas during the summer period. The area also provides pronghorn antelope summer range and crucial winter range and California bighorn sheep year-long 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 Sheep 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 the with four wildlife seed mixes 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 and cheatgrass infestations. 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:

Fire suppression efforts, including use of engines and other mechanized vehicles, is likely to have introduced noxious weed species seeds and spread cheatgrass into the burned area. It is unknown whether or not the vehicles and equipment were washed down for noxious weeds prior to arriving on this fire complex. During fire suppression efforts, including dozer line construction and use of engines and other mechanized vehicles, Russian knapweed or other noxious weed species seeds could have been introduced into the burned area.

Hoary cress was detected in the burned area during a recent (September 2001) field inspection, and may spread due to the lack of plant competition. In order to reduce the potential impacts of future invasion of noxious weeds, monitoring would be conducted on 36,000 acres of public land within the burn. When noxious weeds are discovered to have further invaded the burned area, Integrated Weed Management techniques would be implemented, including chemical treatments, and subsequent monitoring. The proposed monitoring and noxious weed treatment would help to prevent or reduce noxious weed invasions within the perimeter of the Sheep Fire.

I. Water Quality (surface/ground):

The only perennial waters located within this fire are Battle Creek and isolated springs. Increased water erosion may occur on steeper slopes due to lack of vegetation to slow runoff and stabilize soils. This may cause a temporary increase in sediments and ash delivered to Battle Creek and the springs within the fire. Mud and debris flows are possible in the Battle Creek drainage because it had a moderate to high burn severity. The possibility of severe erosion in this drainage is expected to be minimal because rock cover would help stabilize soils and slow runoff.

The proposed watershed seedings and rest from grazing would allow for a faster recovery of vegetation to reduce any future erosion within the watersheds. A flood warning sign would be placed at the entrance to the Battle Creek drainage to warn the public of possible dangers.

J. Wetlands/Riparian Zones:

Willows, Aspen, and perennial shrubs along streams should resprout naturally if grazing is prevented during the sensitive early growth stages. The proposed fencing and rest from grazing would enable these riparian species to regrow faster and return the riparian wetlands to a proper

functioning condition. The proposed wildlife seeding would allow for faster revegetation of riparian areas and stabilize soils while slower growing natives recolonize the area.

K. Floodplains

The floodplains of the intermittent and ephemeral drainages located within this fire may be impacted by increased runoff due to current vegetation condition. Watershed seeding and rest from livestock would encourage revegetation of riparian and floodplain areas.

L. Visual Resources:

The Sheep Fire is located within Visual Resource Management (VRM) Classes III and IV. The Sheep Fire is located within VRM Class IV, except for a small area along the southwest face of the Sheep Creek Range below the Rim, which is located within VRM Class 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. The Class IV VRM objective is to provide for management activities which require major modification of the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape can be high. Within Class IV VRM areas, management activities may dominate the view and be the major focus of the viewers attention. However, every attempt should be made to minimize the impact of these activities through careful location, minimal disturbance, and repeating the basic elements.

Both the fire itself and fire suppression activities such as creation of dozer lines, have resulted in visual impacts to the area. Changes in these classes 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.

M. 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
SHEEP FIRE (X-275)
BLM/EK/PL-2001/073**

Finding of No Significant Impact:

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in Normal Fire Rehabilitation Plan Supplemental Environmental Assessment BLM/EK/PL-2001/073, 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 Sheep Fire BLM/EK/PL-2001/073. The Sheep Fire burned a total of 83,673 acres, which encompasses 41,824 acres of public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management, Elko Field Office, 533 acres of public land administered by the Bureau of Reclamation, and 41,316 acres of private land in Lander County, Nevada. Only one grazing allotment was affected by this fire, which is the Twenty-five Allotment.

Approximately 4,285 acres of public land within the burn will be drill seeded with Siberian wheatgrass, Nordan and Hycrest crested wheatgrass, Boizoisky Russian wildrye, and will be overseeded with forage kochia. Approximately 3,825 acres of the drill seeding will be disked prior to drill seeding to reduce cheatgrass competition. Approximately 13,625 acres of public land acres will be aerially seeded using four seed mixtures to rehabilitate wildlife habitat. Approximately 469 acres of public land will be aerially seeded with a watershed seed mixture of Great Basin wildrye, Critana thickspike wheatgrass, Sodar streambank wheatgrass, and Canby bluegrass.

A small (approximately 10 acre) infestation of hoary cress 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.

Approximately 3 miles of fence will be constructed. Approximately 5.9 miles of existing fence will be repaired in order to maintain the integrity of the existing fence. These fences will protect the burned area from livestock, in order to protect the proposed seeding treatments and to facilitate the regrowth and re-establishment of the vegetation.

Cultural resource inventories will be conducted on approximately 30 miles of dozer line, 3,885 acres proposed for disking, 4,285 acres proposed for drill seeding, and 3.0 miles of new fence construction.

A flood hazard warning sign will be installed at the bottom of the Battle Creek drainage, where the threat to public safety and property damage are greatest following potential precipitation events.

Approximately 30 miles of dozer line will be rehabilitated. Approximately 10 miles of secondary roads that were damaged by traffic during fire suppression efforts will be repaired.

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 Sheep 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 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