U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Uncompahgre Field Office
Montrose, Colorado, CO 150

DOCUMENTATION OF LAND USE PLAN CONFORMANCE AND NEPA ADEQUACY

NUMBER: CO-150-2006-43 DNA

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER (optional):

PROJECT NAME: Stucker Mesa Fire Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation (ESR)

PLANNING UNIT:

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T14S, R92W, Sections 3-4

APPLICANT: Bureau of Land Management, UFO.

ISSUES AND CONCERNS (optional):

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION:

1) Seeding
Reseed 49 acres of BLM land with a diverse seed mix specifically formulated to establish quickly, compete with nonnative annuals, persist for more than 10 years, and reestablish basic ecologic function to the burned area. Seed will be applied with a fixed wing aircraft. The proposed seed mix and rate is as follows:

Seed Name	Drill Seeding (acres)	Aerial Seeding (acres)	Seedling Planting (#)	Lbs/acre	Total Pounds
Indian ricegrass, Rimrock		49		2.4	117.6
Bottlebrush squirreltail		49		2.4	117.6
Western wheatgrass, Arriba		49		3.2	156.8
Intermediate wheatgrass		49		4.8	235.2
Sand dropseed		49		0.15	7.35
Galleta grass Viva		49		0.5	24.5
Annual sunflower		49		1.2	58.8
Small burnett		49		3.6	176.4

Northern sweetvetch		49		0.1	4.9
Sagebrush, Wyo. big (bulk seed)		49		0.50	24.5
Sagebrush, Basin big (bulk seed)		49		0.50	24.5
Four-wing saltbush		49		0.50	24.5

Additionally, reseed 49 acres of BLM land with a greenstrip seed mix made up of fire resistant perennial grasses as follows, to also be applied by aircraft in the fall or winter of 2006.

Seed Name	Drill Seeding (acres)	Aerial Seeding (acres)	Seedling Planting (#)	Lbs/acre	Total Pounds
Indian ricegrass, Rimrock		49		3.2	156.8
Bottlebrush squirreltail		49		3.2	156.8
Western wheatgrass, Arriba		49		3.2	156.8
Intermediate wheatgrass		49		4.8	235.2
Sand dropseed		49		0.3	14.7
Galleta grass Viva		49		1.0	49
Total		49		15.7	

The seed would be applied aerially in the fall or early winter 2006. Chaining will be used in areas with lesser slopes to incorporate seed into the soil. In areas inaccessible to heavy equipment, a contract would be pursued to use domestic animal hoof action to incorporate seed.

Follow-up management of land use activities would be implemented to protect the revegetated area and promote its chance for success. The burned area is not allocated for livestock grazing. Off-road travel (for any purpose) would also be prohibited in the burned area for two years to promote vegetation establishment. An elk-proof fence will be erected in the largest area of the burn to protect recovering and establishing plants from grazing.

2) Weed Inventory, Treatment, and Monitoring

Initial herbicide treatment will occur across the majority of the burned area to control sprouting cheatgrass seed which survived the fire. Roundup will be the primary chemical used, although small trial areas of Plateau and Acetic Acid will be established to the extent allowed by BLM regulations.

The stabilized area will be reviewed periodically for noxious weed infestations. Spot weed control will be carried out on noxious weeds which are found to be establishing in the burned area. The seeding is the primary means of establishing competition and preventing additional widespread weed invasion.

LAND USE PLAN (LUP) CONFORMANCE REVIEW: The proposed action is subject to the following plan:

Name of Plan: Uncompahgre Basin Resource Management Plan (RMP)

Date Approved: July 1989. Amended February 1997 to include Rangeland Health Standards and Colorado Guidelines.

Page or Decision Number: Refer to Health Standards 1-5, as amended in February, 1997.

The proposed action has been reviewed for conformance with this plan (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM 1617.3). The proposed action is necessary to establish desired plant communities and wildlife species identified in the RMP.

REVIEW OF EXISTING NEPA DOCUMENTS:

List by name and date all existing NEPA documents that cover the Proposed Action.

Name of Document: CO-150-2004-12 EA, Normal Year Fire Rehabilitation Plan

Date Approved: April 4, 2005

Name of Document: Bureau of Land Management, Uncompahgre Basin RMP/Environmental Impact Statement, Record of Decision.

Date Approved: June, 1989

NEPA ADEQUACY CRITERIA:

1. Is the Proposed Action substantially the same action and at the site specifically analyzed in an existing document?

   Documentation of answer and explanation: Yes. The proposed action includes practices analyzed in the Normal Year Fire Plan to be implemented within the Uncompahgre Field Office administrative area.

2. Was a reasonable range of alternatives to the Proposed Action analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s), and does that range and analysis appropriately consider current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values?
   Documentation of answer and explanation: Yes. Appropriate alternatives were considered: the proposed action to seed the burned area and inventory, treat, and monitoring the effectiveness of treatment, and the no action alternative. The Normal Year Fire Plan was completed and approved in April of 2005. It appropriately considered current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values.

3. Does the information or circumstances upon which the existing NEPA document(s) are based remain valid and germane to the Proposed Action? Is the analysis still valid in light of new studies or resource assessment information?

   Documentation of answer and explanation: The information and circumstances behind the original analysis are still valid and relevant. No additional information has become available that would change the nature or findings of the analysis.

4. Does the methodology and analytical approach used in the existing NEPA document(s) continue to be appropriate for the Proposed Action?

   Documentation of answer and explanation: Yes. The methodology and approach used continue to be appropriate.

5. Are the direct and indirect impacts of the Proposed Action unchanged from those identified in the existing NEPA document?

   Documentation of answer and explanation: The direct and indirect impacts of this proposed action are unchanged from those identified previously.

6. Are the cumulative impacts that would result from implementation of the Proposed Action unchanged from those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)?

   Documentation of answer and explanation: The proposed emergency stabilization treatments are intended to increase the rate and success of re-establishment of native and desired vegetation in burned areas, reduce erosion and protect water quality, and reduce the potential for the invasion and/or spread of cheatgrass and other invasive weeds. If successful, these treatments would also reduce the fire frequency in the burned area to that of a more natural fire regime. All of the desired and anticipated effects of the proposed treatments would create long-term beneficial cumulative impacts for wildlife by creating improved forage and habitat conditions. Soil and water resources would also benefit from lower rates of soil erosion, sediment production, and ash constituents in receiving waters. These cumulative impacts are analyzed in the Normal Year Fire Plan.

7. Is the public involvement and interagency review associated with the existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the Proposed Action?

   Documentation of answer and explanation: The public involvement and review is still adequate, and the public will have further opportunity for review of this DNA as it will be available on the internet.

<u>INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW</u>: Identify those team members conducting or participating in the NEPA analysis and preparation of this work sheet (by name and title).

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

Name	Title	Area of Responsibility
Amanda Clements	Ecologist	Vegetation, Weeds
Dennis Murphy	Hydrologist	Water Quality, Soils
Jim Ferguson	Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife, T&E
Glade Hadden	Archaeologist	Cultural

REMARKS:

Cultural Resources: The public lands affected by the Stucker Mesa Fire have a low potential for cultural resources, due to the steepness and rockiness of the slopes, and the dense vegetation which dominated much of the landscape prior to the fire. A Class III inventory for cultural resources was conducted on all of the fire suppression dozer lines and some of the hand trails. An additional Class II effort was made on the lower slopes by BLM archaeologists Glade Hadden and Carol Patterson. No cultural resources were identified as a result of this inventory.

Native American Religious Concerns: No Native American Religious Concerns are known in the area, and none have been noted by Tribal authorities. Should recommended inventories or future consultations with Tribal authorities reveal the existence of such sensitive properties, appropriate mitigation and/or protection measures may be undertaken.

Threatened and Endangered Species: There would be "No Effect" to any listed, candidate or proposed species. No impacts on any BLM sensitive species would occur.

MITIGATION:

COMPLIANCE PLAN (optional):

NAME OF PREPARER: Dennis Murphy

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Amanda Clements

DATE: 8/22/2006

CONCLUSION

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Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the land use plan and that the NEPA documentation previously prepared fully covers the Proposed Action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of NEPA.

SIGNATURE OF RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL: _____*Signed*_____
Uncompahgre Field Office, Field Manager

DATE SIGNED: August 24, 2006

Note: The signed Conclusion on this worksheet is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal decision process and does not constitute an appealable decision.