



Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration
P.O. Box 3621
Portland, Oregon 97208-3621

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

April 5, 2019

In reply refer to: EC-4

To: People Interested in the Post-Fire Cheatgrass Control Project

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has finalized the environmental assessment (EA) for the Post-Fire Cheatgrass Control using Aerial Spraying Project. Based on the final EA, BPA is issuing a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) and has made a decision to fund the project. This letter describes BPA's decision, the implementation schedule, and how to obtain additional information.

Background: BPA will fund the Shoshone Paiute Indian Tribe to aerially apply herbicide (Imazapic) and soil inoculant (MB-906) to control cheatgrass on a 139-acre hillside south of Mountain City, Nevada that has become dominated by this invasive species following the 2012 Brown's Gulch fire. The cheatgrass is hindering this area's post-fire recovery to its native sagebrush-steppe plant community.

BPA prepared an EA to help the agency determine if the project would cause significant impacts that would warrant preparing an environmental impact statement. BPA released the draft EA for public review and comment on March 1, 2019, and received no comments. Some minor grammatical revisions were made to the EA between draft and final, but no changes were made to the proposal or the analysis. Based on the EA analysis and mitigation measures to help lessen impacts, BPA has found that the project will not cause any significant impacts and, therefore, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.

Decision: BPA has decided to fund the Post-Fire Cheatgrass Control using Aerial Spraying Project. Treatment is expected to begin in April 2019 and possibly continue through Fall 2021, if needed for effective control of cheatgrass.

Copies Available: The final EA, FONSI, and mitigation action plan are available on BPA's website at www.bpa.gov/goto/Cheatgrass. If you would like to obtain paper copies of these documents, please call our toll-free document request line at 1-800-622-4520; leave a request naming this project and giving your name and complete mailing address.

For More Information: If you have questions regarding the environmental process, please contact me at 503-230-3018, or by e-mail at cjhamel@bpa.gov, or contact Rob Shull, Contract Environmental Protection Specialist, First Tek Professional Staffing, at 503-230-3962, or by e-mail at rwshull@bpa.gov.

Thank you for your interest in our work.

Sincerely,

/s/ Chad J. Hamel

Chad J. Hamel

Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Enclosures (if requested):

Final EA
FONSI and Mitigation Action Plan