

Bonus Lesson Three: Significance

Project Scenario: Fuels Treatment

Proposed Action: Treat 5,000 acres within the 2 million-acre planning area using management-ignited fire. The fuels treatments will occur mostly in wildland-urban interface areas over the next five years. The objective is to create a mosaic pattern of burned and unburned areas to reduce the threat of large wildfires, maximize benefits to wildlife and domestic livestock grazing, and reduce the amount of interior chaparral.

Additional Information: There are 50,000 acres of interior chaparral in the planning area. These areas are in Fire Condition Class 3 (Fire regimes and vegetation attributes have been significantly altered from their historical range. The risk of losing key ecosystem components is high. Fire frequencies have departed from historical frequencies, resulting in dramatic changes to: fire size, frequency, and intensity.)

The treatment area is adjacent to the Big Rock Area of Critical Environmental Concern (An area designated and administered by the BLM where special management attention is required to protect and prevent irreparable damage to historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources, or other natural systems or processes, or to protect people from natural hazards.), which has rare plants and habitat for a threatened warbler. There are no known cultural or historical resources in the area.

The public is in favor of removing chaparral in the areas indicated because they've seen the positive results from the treatments the field office has undertaken over the past few years to remove chaparral.

The action is consistent with federal, state, and local laws, such as the Federal Land Policy & Management Act, Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act; as well as being consistent with the BLM land use plan and the county plan.