



Torrey Rim Prescribed Fire Project



Decision Memo

Torrey Rim Prescribed Fire Project

U.S. Forest Service

Wind River Ranger District, Shoshone National Forest

Fremont County, Wyoming

This decision incorporates all information in this document and included in the project file.

Decision

I have decided to authorize the activities described in the “Proposed Action” section, including any modifications that resulted from environmental analysis and review of regulatory compliance.

Applicable Categorical Exclusion and Findings Required by Other Laws

The “Applicable Categories” section identifies the appropriate category/categories for this action, and provides rationale for categorically excluding this action from documentation in an environmental assessment (EA) or environmental impact statement (EIS) and for using the identified category/categories. The “Environmental Analysis” section documents rationale to support my finding that no extraordinary circumstances exist, along with findings required by other applicable laws and regulations to demonstrate compliance with the regulatory framework for the activities authorized by this decision.

Agencies, Organizations and Persons Contacted

A list of Agencies, Organizations and Persons Contacted regarding this proposal is provided, along with a brief overview of comments/feedback received and how they were considered.

Implementation Date

The initial project activities will be implemented in the late summer to early fall of 2021. Subsequent project activities, including application of prescribed fire, will occur over the subsequent two years subject in compliance with project design features and other regulatory considerations.

Administrative Review

Decisions that are categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement are not subject to an administrative review process (Agriculture Act of 2014 [Pub. L. No. 113-79], Subtitle A, Sec. 8006).

Contact

Joseph Flower, Wildlife Biologist, 333 East Main Street, Lander, WY 82520, joseph.flower@usda.gov, (307) 335-2517

Jeff von Kienast, Wind River District Ranger



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Project Information

Proposal Name: Torrey Rim Prescribed Fire

Proposal Date: 5/4/2021

Project Contact: Joe Flower, South Zone Wildlife Biologist, joseph.flower@usda.gov, 307-335-2157

Responsible Official: Jeff von Kienast, Wind River District Ranger

Unit: Shoshone National Forest

Ranger District: Wind River

Counties: Fremont County

State: Wyoming

Anticipated Implementation: Summer 2021

Signing Authority: District Ranger

Public web link: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=59906>

General Location: Western slope of the Wind River Mountains near Whiskey Mountain, approximately 10 miles south of the community of Dubois.

Legal Description: T 40 N, R 106 W, Sections 9, 10, 15 and 16.

NEPA Analysis

The Responsible Official will determine the level of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis after soliciting feedback from resource specialists, interested parties, and the public. This proposal is categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement because it fits within the categories of activities set forth under 36 C.F.R. § 220.6(e)(6). The project would encompass habitat improvement activities to achieve the project purpose and need.

Proposed Action

Project Need:

The project is necessary to support the productivity, health, and resiliency of the Whiskey Mountain Bighorn Sheep herd. Project activities would occur within the Glacier Addition to the Fitzpatrick Wilderness, an area that was designated to secure crucial habitats that support the Whiskey Mountain herd. The area's unique management direction is distinct from the rest of the Fitzpatrick Wilderness, and this project is intended to help perpetuate the primary wilderness value that supported designation of the area as wilderness: the Whiskey Mountain Bighorn Sheep herd.

In the late 1980's, this herd was estimated at approximately 2,000 sheep. During a period of bitter-cold and high winds in the winter of 1990-91, a catastrophic pneumonia-related die-off occurred and reduced the population to ~630 individuals. The herd rebounded slightly during the mid-1990s to nearly 900 individuals, but the most recent raw count from aerial surveys indicates there may be fewer than 500 sheep in the herd today. The herd continues to languish below population objectives primarily due to low productivity and poor lamb recruitment. Since 2016, lamb recruitment rates have been alarmingly low.

Proposed Action:



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In coordination with the interagency Whiskey Mountain Bighorn Sheep Technical Committee, the Shoshone National Forest is proposing a multi-phase project that would return the landscape to more natural conditions that support the area's unique wildlife resource. The primary ignition unit encompasses approximately 684 acres on the eastern flank of Whiskey Mountain, Wind River Ranger District, near Dubois, Wyoming (Figure 1). The Technical Committee has proposed a prescribed fire in this area to enhance migration corridors, improve forage conditions, and increase protected loafing areas within the Glacier Addition to the Fitzpatrick Wilderness. When combined with ongoing research and conservation efforts, these management actions are intended to help perpetuate a core value and icon of the Fitzpatrick Wilderness: the Whiskey Mountain Bighorn Sheep herd.

Project activities include a suite of actions necessary to accomplish the project goals and meet the project needs. The primary activity will be prescribed burning, which will occur throughout the 684-acre primary ignition unit (Figures 2 and 3). A smaller sub-unit of the project area encompassing approximately 181 acres has been identified for selective felling of live and dead trees. Selective felling would occur in advance of the prescribed burn to establish sufficient ground fuels to support prescribed fire ignition. In addition to numerous small diameter stems, an average of 57 trees per acre between 6" and 12" diameter at breast height would need to be felled to establish sufficient ground fuels. These felling activities would provide an adequate fuel base for subsequent prescribed fire activities. Based on previous attempts at prescribed fire projects in this area, these fuels are necessary to carry fire vertically into tree canopies, facilitate desired effects of killing live trees and clearing the understory, and allow for effective burning under moderate environmental conditions to lower the risk of fire escape.

The Forest Service will utilize chainsaws to carry out the project's tree felling activities. The Forest Service considered, but rejected as infeasible, using crosscut saws for these activities. When compared with crosscut felling, chainsaw felling would greatly decrease the number of entries into the project area and would truncate the length of time disturbance would be present. These outcomes translate to fewer impacts to wilderness character and increased safety for operators. Chainsaw felling would also result in fewer residual visual impacts than crosscut felling after prescribed fire activities are completed. For example, chainsaws allow operators to fell trees closer to the ground, leaving a stump near-flush with the ground versus crosscut saw stumps, which are readily visible on the landscape even after a fire. The Forest Service therefore identified as necessary chainsaws to carry out these tree felling activities in the limited 181-acre sub-unit of the project.

After fuels are sufficiently cured, the Forest Service would apply prescribed fire to the project area. Prescribed fire is a necessary tool to address the critical need to improve migration corridors and crucial habitat for the Whiskey Mountain bighorn sheep herd. At present, traditional bighorn sheep migration corridors within the Glacier Addition are densely forested, which represents a departure from more natural historical conditions that existed prior to decades of human-caused fire suppression. Prescribed fire activities would also occur on the adjacent Whiskey Basin Wildlife Habitat Management Area administered by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (Figures 2 and 3). The Forest Service has finalized a minimum requirements analysis that analyzes, discloses, and mitigates potential effects from this project on wilderness character. The Forest Service will identify, consider, and apply minimum impact strategies and tactics that maintain wilderness character and reduce project effects during all phases of implementation and post-burn rehabilitation. Appropriate and tailored design features have also been developed through an interdisciplinary analysis consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act. These design features include direction to coordinate with state agencies and other interested parties to address protection of cultural resources, wildlife and plant species, and the potential spread of invasive plant species.

Project Maps

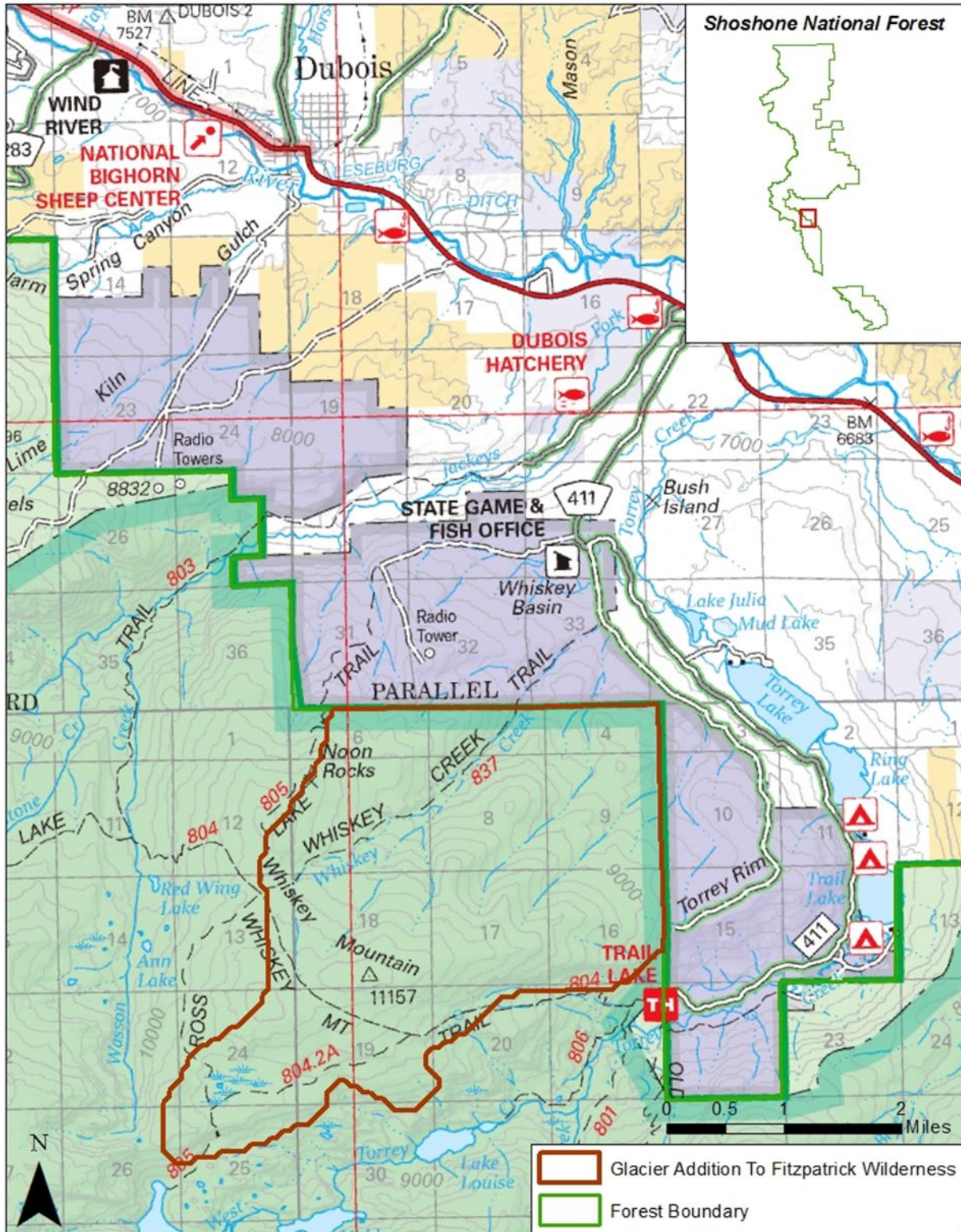


Figure 1: Area Orientation

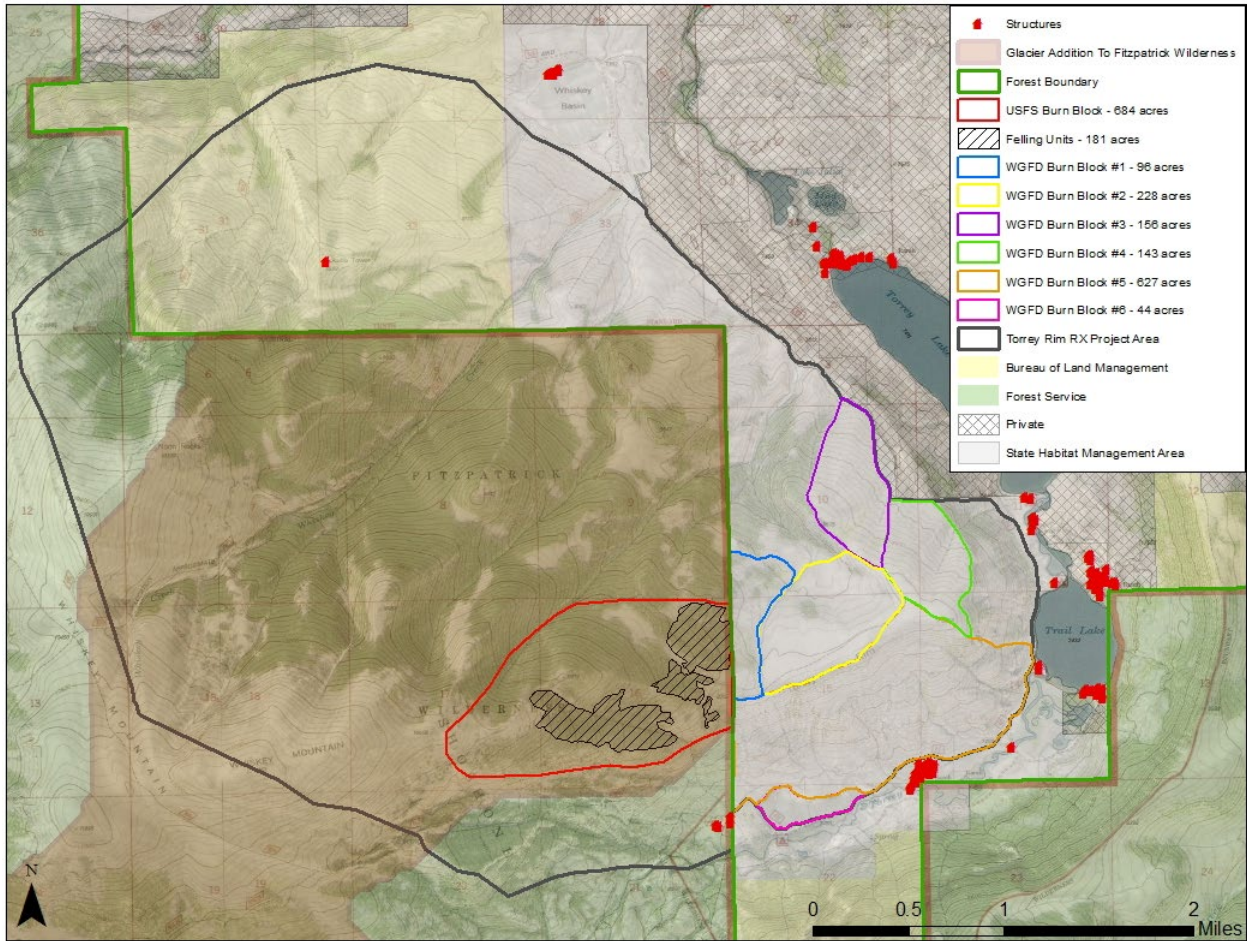


Figure 2: Torrey Rim Prescribed Burn Overview Map

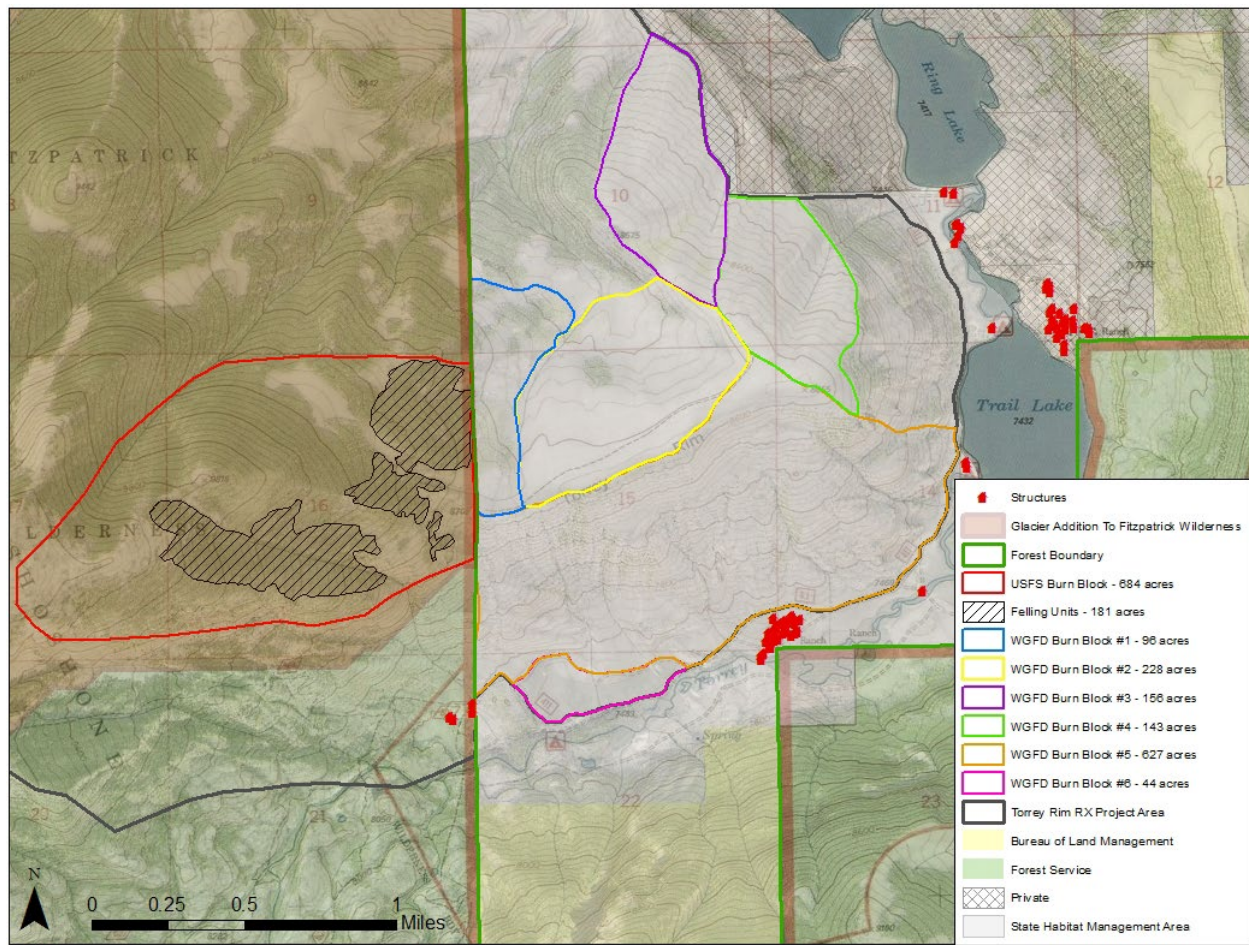


Figure 3: Torrey Rim Prescribed Burn Detail Map

Environmental Analysis

National Forest Management Act (NFMA) - Land Management Plan Consistency

The pertinent specialists have reviewed the proposal, incorporating specific Design Elements listed above to ensure consistency with applicable land management plan direction. The following summarizes the analysis and conclusions supporting plan consistency.

Botany: The project area is dominated by high quality native plant communities with rare plant habitat bordered by disturbance zones such as trailheads and roads with established invasive plant populations. Design features and implementation plans that minimize the opportunity for cheatgrass (and other invasive plant) establishment into native areas after project implementation are key to both the success of the project and to maintaining plan consistency. Design features and implementation plans are also critical for maintaining soil productivity and rare plant habitat and will ensure Forest Plan compliance.

Cultural/Heritage: The project area is adjacent to resources of cultural and heritage value. Project design features, including the defined project area boundary, are sufficient to ensure consistency with Land Management Plan direction for managing and protecting these resources

Hydrology: The project area overlaps with water resources designated with the highest level of protections per State Water Quality standards. Forest Plan consistency is achieved through both



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implementation and effectiveness monitoring of prescribed design features and consultation with State regulatory agencies.

Invasive Plants: See the description of compliance for Botany resources above.

Wildlife: The project area is occupied by or contains habitat for several terrestrial wildlife species, including threatened, sensitive, management indicator, and wildlife species of local concern. Project design features for terrestrial wildlife are incorporated into this decision and would minimize impacts to these species and their habitats, ensure consistency with Forest Plan direction, and require coordination with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and Whiskey Mountain Bighorn Sheep Technical Committee.

Other Law, Regulation and Policy Consistency

The following laws, regulations, or policies pertinent to this project include:

Clean Air Act

The Clean Air Act (CAA) establishes standards for air quality that protect public health and welfare. It also provides Federal Land Managers with an “affirmative responsibility” to protect natural and cultural resources in Class 1 areas from the adverse impacts of air pollution through the identification and assessment of effects to air quality related values (AQRVs), including visibility. Compliance with the CAA is based on ensuring that the effects from management actions remain within the bounds of those standards established by the regulatory agencies (or are otherwise permitted) as well as the extent that the air pollution from the action will affect sensitive AQRVs.

- The project is within a Class 1 Wilderness and therefore a Class 1 Airshed (Fitzpatrick Wilderness), is within proximity of the Upper Green River Basin Ozone Nonattainment Designation Area (UGRB), and the AQRVs for this wilderness area are visibility and water.
- Relative to the scope of management actions, regulatory compliance for emissions from vegetative material burning will be achieved as described in the Wyoming Air Quality Standards and Regulations and through the associated permitting, restrictions, and requirements outlined in Wyoming’s Smoke Management Program guidance documents.

The project will not result in a significant contribution to air quality or effects to the air quality related values for this airshed given that impacts will be short-term and localized. The determination that effects to air quality are within acceptable limits and timeframes will be achieved through consultation with the regulatory agencies. Project actions will commence only with regulatory approval and in conjunction with the design elements noted for the project.

Supporting Project Documentation

Table 1. Applicable project file documentation to support Clean Air Act compliance

Supporting Documentation	File Name(s) / Link
AQRVs for the Fitzpatrick Wilderness	AirQuality_AQRV_FitzpatrickWilderness.url
DEQ Air Quality Regulations – Common Provisions	AirQuality_DEQCh1_CommonProvisions.pdf
DEQ Air Quality Regulations – Smoke Management	AirQuality_DEQCh10_SmokeManagement.pdf
FLAG Report for AQRVs	AirQualityAQRV_2010FLAG_Report.pdf



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Clean Water Act

The water quality standards in effect for the Clean Water Act are the Water Quality Rules and Regulations, Chapter 1 – Wyoming Surface Water Quality Standards. These standards apply to “waters of the State” and include all surface and groundwater including waters associated with wetlands.

Class 1 (Outstanding Waters) are those surface waters in which no further water quality degradation is allowed and nonpoint sources of pollution are to be controlled through the implementation of best management practices. The existing quality is defined as the established chemical, physical, and biological water quality understanding that there will be seasonal and annual fluctuations. Relevant to this project, all surface waters located within the bounds of congressionally designated wilderness areas, as of January 1, 1999, are within this classification. Project controls may be imposed on Class 1 waters or their tributaries.

The project and analysis area on Forest Service lands are primarily within the Fitzpatrick Wilderness (Class 1 Wilderness). Per the Wyoming Surface Water Quality Standards: Implementation Policies for Antidegradation (2013), nonpoint source pollution for Class 1 waters, is controlled by the implementation of best management practices and will maintain existing water uses. Through both implementation and effectiveness monitoring of project design features, the project is in compliance with the Clean Water Act.

Supporting Project Documentation

Table 2. Applicable project file documentation to support Clean Water Act compliance

Supporting Documentation	File Name(s) / Link
Implementation Policy for Antidegradation	2013-0924_wqd-wpp-surface-water-standards_Chapter-1-Implementation-Policies.pdf
Surface Water Standards Summary	2020-0812_Surface_Water_Standards_Summary.pdf
NEPA Water Quality Permits & Requirements	2021_NEPA_Water_Quality_Permits_and_Requirements.pdf
Wyoming Surface Water Classification List	2021-0316_Wyoming-Surface-Water-Classification-List.pdf
Wyoming Surface Water Quality Standards, Ch. 1	WYDEQ_SurfaceWaterChapter1.pdf

Endangered Species Act - Threatened, Endangered, Proposed and Candidate Species and Critical Habitat

Table 3. Threatened, endangered, proposed or candidate species and critical habitat effect determinations

Species/Habitat	Status	Proposed or Designated Critical Habitat Present?	Determination	Brief Rationale (or refer to other project documentation)
Whitebark Pine	Proposed Threatened	No	NE	Known individuals and habitat occur within the project area and may be affected. Project actions will likely provide benefits to habitat. Whitebark pine will continue to persist inside and outside the project area.



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Species/Habitat	Status	Proposed or Designated Critical Habitat Present?	Determination	Brief Rationale (or refer to other project documentation)
Grizzly Bear	Threatened	No	NE	Grizzly bear occupancy in the project area is infrequent and disturbance /displacement effects are unlikely. Implementation would not reduce grizzly bear secure habitat. Food storage requirements in effect during the non-denning season is expected to minimize bear-human conflicts.
Canada lynx	Threatened	No	NE	Project area is outside of mapped lynx habitat and does not overlap with any lynx analysis unit. No lynx occupancy in the project area.
Canada lynx critical habitat	Designated	No	NE	Project area is outside of designated critical habitat for lynx
Yellow-billed cuckoo	Threatened	No	NE	The geographic range of the Yellow-billed cuckoo does not overlap the project area.

NE – no effect; **NLAA** – may affect, not likely to adversely affect; **LAA** – may affect, likely to adversely affect; **No Jeopardy** - not likely to jeopardize the continued existence or adversely modify critical habitat

Sensitive Species (FSM 2670)

Table 4. Sensitive species impact determinations

Species	Determination*	Rationale (or refer to project documentation)
Wyoming tansymustard	NI	Refer to Botany BE Project Documentation
Hall's fescue	NI	Refer to Botany BE Project Documentation
Absaroka goldenweed	NI	Refer to Botany BE Project Documentation
Entire leaf goldenweed	NI	Refer to Botany BE Project Documentation
Shoshone carrot	NI	Refer to Botany BE Project Documentation
Hoary bat	MIIH	Refer to Wildlife BE Project Documentation
Monarch butterfly	MIIH	Refer to Wildlife BE Project Documentation
Western bumblebee	MIIH	Refer to Wildlife BE Project Documentation
Bald eagle	NI	Refer to Wildlife BE Project Documentation
Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep	MIIH	Refer to Wildlife BE Project Documentation
Black tern	NI	Refer to Wildlife BE Project Documentation



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Species	Determination*	Rationale (or refer to project documentation)
Boreal owl	MIIH	Refer to Wildlife BE Project Documentation
Burrowing owl	NI	Refer to Wildlife BE Project Documentation
Ferruginous hawk	NI	Refer to Wildlife BE Project Documentation
Short-eared owl	NI	Refer to Wildlife BE Project Documentation
Trumpeter swan	NI	Refer to Wildlife BE Project Documentation
Harlequin duck	NI	Refer to Wildlife BE Project Documentation
River otter	NI	Refer to Wildlife BE Project Documentation
Northern goshawk	MIIH	Refer to Wildlife BE Project Documentation
Northern harrier	MIIH	Refer to Wildlife BE Project Documentation
Lewis' woodpecker	NI	Refer to Wildlife BE Project Documentation
Long-billed curlew	NI	Refer to Wildlife BE Project Documentation
Loggerhead shrike	NI	Refer to Wildlife BE Project Documentation
Olive-sided flycatcher	MIIH	Refer to Wildlife BE Project Documentation
Water vole	NI	Refer to Wildlife BE Project Documentation
White-tailed prairie dog	NI	Refer to Wildlife BE Project Documentation
Black-backed woodpecker	NI	Refer to Wildlife BE Project Documentation
Greater sage-grouse	NI	Refer to Wildlife BE Project Documentation
Mountain plover	NI	Refer to Wildlife BE Project Documentation
Grasshopper sparrow	NI	Refer to Wildlife BE Project Documentation
Spotted bat	NI	Refer to Wildlife BE Project Documentation
American marten	MIIH	Refer to Wildlife BE Project Documentation
Fringed myotis	NI	Refer to Wildlife BE Project Documentation
Townsend's big-eared bat	NI	Refer to Wildlife BE Project Documentation
Hudsonian emerald	NI	Refer to Wildlife BE Project Documentation
Boreal toad	NI	Refer to Wildlife BE Project Documentation
Columbia spotted frog	NI	Refer to Wildlife BE Project Documentation
Northern leopard frog	NI	Refer to Wildlife BE Project Documentation

NI – no impact; MIIH- may impact individuals or habitat, but will not likely contribute to a trend towards federal listing or loss of viability to the population or species; WIFV - will impact individuals or habitat with a consequence that the action may contribute to a trend towards federal listing or cause a loss of viability to the population or species

Supporting Project Documentation

Table 5. Applicable project file documentation to support agency sensitive species compliance

Supporting Documentation	File Name(s) / Link
Categorical Exclusion Biological Evaluation for Whitebark Pine	20210527_TorreyRim_BE.docx
Biological Evaluation and Assessment for Sensitive, Management Indicator, Threatened, Endangered, and Proposed Species, and their Critical Habitat	Torrey_Rim_BA_BE_FINAL.pdf



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Special Management Areas (for example, Wilderness, Roadless, Wild and Scenic Rivers, etc.)

Table 6. Special management area compliance determinations

Management Area Type	Applicable Law / Regulation to Demonstrate Compliance With	Rationale for Compliance
1.1A	Wyoming Wilderness Act of 1984	The Wyoming Wilderness Act of 1984 designated the Glacier Addition to the Fitzpatrick Wilderness to secure crucial habitats needed for the welfare of the Whiskey Mountain bighorn sheep herd. The activities proposed under this project are consistent with the intent of the Wyoming Wilderness Act of 1984 and necessary for the project's purpose and need.

National Historic Preservation Act – Section 106 Review

The Shoshone National Forest – Heritage Program contracted ACR Consultants, Inc. in the summer of 2020 to conduct Class III inventory of a total of 1,007 acres (435 Federal – 572 State) of the Torrey Rim Rx Project.

Survey blocks to be intensively surveyed (i.e., Class III) were identified using criteria outlined in Appendix F of the *Programmatic Agreement Among the U.S.D.A. Forest Service, Wyoming Forests, Wyoming State Historic Preservation Officer, and Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Regarding Compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act on the National Forests and Grasslands of Wyoming* (Region 2 Agreement #09-MU-11020000-003).

The inventory resulted in the recording and evaluation of three new historic properties. All three properties were determined not eligible by the contractor for the survey. The Shoshone National Forest – Heritage Program concurred with these determinations.

The contactor survey report and Wyoming Cultural Properties forms were entered into the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office’s online database with the *NOT ELIGIBLE* determinations for the three historic properties recorded during the 2020 survey.

The Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office (WY SHPO) responded to the SNF on April 6th, 2021. The WY SHPO concurred with the finding that the three historic properties were *NOT ELIGIBLE* for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

As standard procedure, the WY SHPO also requested:

“If any cultural materials are discovered during construction, work in the area shall halt immediately, the federal agency and SHPO staff be contacted, and the materials be evaluated by an archaeologist or historian meeting the Secretary of the Interior’s Professional Qualification Standards (48 FR 22716, Sept. 1983)”

The Forest Archaeologist is including this clause in the Project Design Features (PDFs) for Heritage Resources. Copies of the survey report and the cultural properties forms are retained with the cultural records of the Shoshone National Forest Heritage Program. Disclosure of site locations resulting from this survey are prohibited under 43 CFR 7.18.

No historic properties affected - 36 CFR 800.4(d)(1). Section 106 Review has been completed for the project area and no National Register eligible cultural sites were found.



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Supporting Project Documentation

A Class III Cultural Resource Survey for the Torrey Lakes Rx Project for Bighorn Sheep Habitat Enhancement – Shoshone National Forest & Wyoming Game & Fish Department, Fremont County, Wyoming.

Table 7. Applicable project file documentation to support National Historic Preservation Act compliance

Supporting Documentation	File Name(s) / Link
36 CFR PART 800 – Protection of Historic Properties	
Programmatic Agreement Among the U.S.D.A. Forest Service, Wyoming Forests, Wyoming State Historic Preservation Officer, and Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Regarding Compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act on the National Forests and Grasslands of Wyoming (Region 2 Agreement #09-MU-11020000-003)	

Government to Government Consultation (EO 13175)

The responsible official identified the following regarding Government-to-Government consultation:

- Lisa A. Timchak, Forest Supervisor – Shoshone National Forest

Government to Government Tribal consultation completed

Comments

Letters, the report and Wyoming Cultural Properties forms were sent to four Tribal Councils for review & consultation on April 26th, 2021. Materials were sent to:

1. Eastern Shoshone
2. Northern Arapaho
3. Shoshone-Bannock
4. Crow Tribe

To date, no tribal comments have been returned to the Shoshone National Forest regarding this project.

Supporting Project Documentation

Table 8. Applicable project file documentation to support Tribal consultation compliance

Supporting Documentation	File Name(s) / Link
36 CFR PART 800 – Protection of Historic Properties	

Relevant Executive Orders

The responsible official determined the proposal complies with the following Executive Orders, which were deemed relevant based on the nature of the proposal.

Below is a list of Executive Orders that typically apply to Forest Service proposals. Links to all Executive Orders can be found in the [Federal Register \(https://www.archives.gov/federal-register/executive-orders/disposition\)](https://www.archives.gov/federal-register/executive-orders/disposition).



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EO 11988, Floodplain Management – requires determination of action occurring in a floodplain, using HUD floodplain map or more detailed map if available.

- Floodplains in this area are not mapped. The vegetation modifications will incorporate project design features which minimize adverse effects to floodplains and floodplain function.

EO 11990, Protection of Wetlands – avoid actions within wetlands unless there are no practical alternatives, and the action includes all practicable means to minimize harm to wetlands.

- There are few mapped wetlands identified in the project area, per the National Wetlands Inventory. Unmapped groundwater dependent wetlands are present. Long and short-term effects will be minimized to the extent possible through the implementation of design features.



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Extraordinary Circumstance Determinations

Pertinent specialists have reviewed the proposal and made the following determinations with regards to degree of effects for the resource conditions considered:

Table 9. Resource conditions considered for extraordinary circumstance determinations

Resource Conditions Considered for Extraordinary Circumstances	Is there a degree of potential effect that raises uncertainty over its significance? Briefly explain.
Federally listed threatened or endangered species, designated critical habitat, and Forest Service sensitive species	<p>Botany: NO, there is no uncertainty Rationale for yes/no: With a cheatgrass management plan in place, potential effects should be mitigated. Populations of any potentially affected species exist throughout the forest outside the project area, ensuring viability.</p> <hr/> <p>Fisheries: N/A, not present</p> <hr/> <p>Wildlife: NO, there is no uncertainty Rationale for yes/no: The project area is occupied by or contains habitat for several terrestrial wildlife species, including threatened, sensitive, management indicator, and wildlife species of local concern. Project design features for terrestrial wildlife are incorporated into this decision and would minimize impacts to these species and their habitats, ensure consistency with Forest Plan direction, and require coordination with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and Whiskey Mountain Bighorn Sheep Technical Committee. N/A, not present</p>
Floodplains, wetlands, or municipal watersheds	NO, there is no uncertainty Rationale for yes/no: Project design features adequately minimize effects.
Congressionally designated areas, such as wilderness, wilderness study areas, or national recreation areas	NO, there is no uncertainty Rationale for yes/no: Project activities are consistent with the congressional intent behind designating the Glacier Addition to the Fitzpatrick Wilderness and have been developed through a science-based collaborative framework to support the resident bighorn sheep herd.
Inventoried roadless areas	N/A, not present
Research natural areas	NO, there is no uncertainty Rationale for yes/no: The Arrow Mountain RNA is located within .15 miles of the project area, closest to the WY Game and Fish portion of the project on the eastern project boundary. The RNA is located on the opposite of Torrey Creek from the project. The values for which the RNA was formed are not likely to be affected by project activities due to project design features, geographic distance and natural geologic barriers.
American Indians and Alaska Native religious or cultural sites	NO, there is no uncertainty Rationale for yes/no: There are significant Native American Rock Art sites adjacent to the proposed Rx treatment areas. Rx activities will be contained to the project area and not be allowed to move into culturally sensitive sites and adversely impact rock art.



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Resource Conditions Considered for Extraordinary Circumstances	Is there a degree of potential effect that raises uncertainty over its significance? Briefly explain.
Archaeological sites, or historic properties or areas	NO, there is no uncertainty Rationale for yes/no: There are significant Native American Rock Art sites adjacent to the proposed Rx treatment areas. Rx activities will be contained to the project area and not be allowed to move into culturally sensitive sites and adversely impact rock art.

Supporting Project Documentation

Table 10. Applicable project file documentation to support NEPA compliance

Supporting Documentation	File Name(s) / Link
E.O. 11988, Floodplains	EO11988_FloodplainsMap.pdf
E.O. 11990, Wetlands	EO11990_NWIIWetlandsMap.pdf

Agencies, Organizations and Persons Contacted

The responsible official contacted the following interested and affected agencies, organizations, and persons about this project.

December 4, 2019: Project briefing from South Zone Wildlife Biologist to Whiskey Mountain Bighorn Sheep Technical Committee (Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Bureau of Land Management, US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Forest Service) in Lander, Wyoming.

February 27, 2021: Project briefing from South Zone Wildlife Biologist to National Bighorn Sheep Center and interested public via virtual meeting platform.

February, 2021: Project proposal coverage in local *Dubois Frontier* newspaper.

April 5, 2021: Project briefing from Wind River District Ranger, South Zone Wildlife Biologist, and Environmental Coordinator to the Wind River Inter-Tribal Council via virtual meeting platform.

April 6, 2021: Project briefing from South Zone Wildlife Biologist to Whiskey Mountain Bighorn Sheep Technical Committee (Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Bureau of Land Management, US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Forest Service) via virtual meeting platform.

May 4-25, 2021: Scoping notice distribution to Wyoming Game and Fish Department, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, National Wild Sheep Foundation, Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation, National Bighorn Sheep Center, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, and Wyoming Wilderness Association.

May 21, 2021: Project briefing from Forest Environmental Coordinator to Greater Yellowstone Coalition Conservation Coordinator.



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