

I. Project Title:

LIMITED FIREBREAK MAINTENANCE ON THE HANFORD SITE DURING CALENDAR YEAR 2012

II. Project Description and Location (including Time Period over which proposed action will occur and Project Dimensions - e.g., acres displaced/disturbed, excavation length/depth, etc.):
 The Department of Energy (DOE) proposes to perform firebreak maintenance in selected areas of the Hanford Site during calendar year 2012 with limited use of physical, chemical, and prescribed burning methods. Prescribed burning will be performed by the Hanford Fire Department under approved burn plans and permits; and only in previously disturbed infrastructure areas. Similarly, Mission Support Contractor Biological Controls will perform ground-based physical (e.g., manual and mechanical) and chemical (e.g., herbicide) methods; and only in previously disturbed infrastructure areas. Infrastructure areas include utility right-of-ways, railroads, Hanford Site roadways, facility boundaries, fence lines, and highways that pass through the Hanford Site. The objective of firebreak maintenance is to protect human health and the environment by establishing firebreak integrity; reducing vegetative fuels (e.g., tumbleweed accumulations); and minimizing wildfire hazards.

Implementation of physical, chemical, and prescribed burning methods should not adversely impact cultural or biological resources and should only be performed in areas reviewed and cleared by cultural and biological resource specialists in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act Section 106, Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and other applicable regulations. Workers will be directed to contact a cultural resource specialist if any cultural materials (bones, artifacts, etc.) are encountered to determine the significance of the discovery and appropriate mitigation actions. Similarly, a biological resource specialist will be contacted if any nesting birds are encountered (if not a nest, a pair of birds of the same species or a single bird that will not leave the area when disturbed), or bird defensive behaviors are observed (flying at workers, refusal to leave the area, strident vocalizations). Firebreak maintenance activities should be avoided during the bird nesting season that runs from March through July.

This activity-specific categorical exclusion expires one year from date of approval by the DOE NEPA Compliance Officer and may be superseded by the determination from DOE/EA-1728, "Environmental Assessment for Integrated Vegetation Management on the Hanford Site," when issued. The determination will either be a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) or the need to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

III. Reviews (if applicable):
 Biological Review Report #: Actions in previously disturbed & biologically cleared areas only.
 Cultural Review Report #: Actions in previously disturbed & culturally cleared areas only.
 Additional Attachments:

IV. Existing NEPA Documentation (see Steps 3 and 4 of Contractor Screening Process)	YES	NO
Is the proposed action evaluated in a previous EA, EIS, or under CERCLA?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If "NO," proceed to Section V. If "YES," List EA, EIS, or CERCLA Document(s) Title and Number: Not Applicable		
And then complete Section VII and provide electronic copy of Initiator/ECO signed NRSF to DOE NCO for information (see Step 6 of Contractor Screening Process).		

V. Sitewide Categorical Exclusion (see Step 5 of Contractor Screening Process)	YES	NO
Does the proposed action fit within the scope of actions identified in a DOE Hanford NCO-approved sitewide categorical exclusion?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If "NO," proceed to Section VI. If "YES," list Sitewide Categorical Exclusion to be applied and complete Sitewide Categorical Exclusion Criteria: Not Applicable		

NEPA REVIEW SCREENING FORM (continued)

Document ID Number:
DOE/CX-00045

Sitewide Categorical Exclusion Criteria	YES	NO
Does the action fail to meet the eligibility requirements for Appendix B categorical exclusion ("integral elements") of 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B, B(1) through B(4)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the action connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts (see 40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1)) or result in cumulatively significant impacts (see 40 CFR 1508.25(a)(2))?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are there extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does the action involve or disturb the Hanford Reach National Monument, Rattlesnake Mountain, Gable Mountain, Gable Butte or other Traditional Cultural Properties or properties of historic, archaeological or architectural significance, or occur within one-fourth mile of the Columbia River?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does the proposed action impact sensitive species or their habitats?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If "NO" to all Sitewide Categorical Exclusion Criteria questions above, complete Section VII and provide electronic copy of Initiator/ECO signed NRSF to DOE NCO for information (see Step 6 of Contractor Screening Process).
If "YES" to any of the Sitewide Categorical Exclusion Criteria questions above, attach appropriate explanatory information and provide NRSF to DOE NCO; DOE initiates DOE NEPA Review Screening Process - Step 1 by completing Section VI and VIII, as appropriate.

VI. Categorical Exclusion	YES	NO
Does the proposed action fall within a class of actions that is listed in Appendixes A or B to Subpart D of 10 CFR Part 1021?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
List CX to be applied and complete Categorical Exclusion Criteria (based on Eligibility Criteria of the NEPA Determination Procedure): Bl.3 - Routine Maintenance - localized vegetation control to protect infrastructures		

Categorical Exclusion Criteria	YES	NO
Does the proposed action threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environmental, safety, or health, including DOE and/or Executive Orders?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Does the proposed action require siting, construction, or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Does the proposed action disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that pre-exist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Does the proposed action adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Are there extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Is the proposal connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts or result in cumulatively significant impacts (not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

If "NO" to all Categorical Exclusion Criteria questions above, DOE NCO completes Section VIII, provides electronic copy of signed NRSF to contractor, and otherwise complies with Step 4 of the DOE NEPA Review Screening Process - Step 1.
If "YES" to any of the Categorical Exclusion Criteria questions above, DOE NCO complies with Step 5 of the DOE NEPA Review Screening Process - Step 1, and initiates DOE NEPA Review Screening Process - Step 2.

VII. Approvals/Determination			
	Name (Printed)	Signature	Date
Initiator	J. W. Cammann, MSA NEPA SME	<i>J.W. Cammann</i>	1-5-12
Cognizant Environmental Compliance Officer			

VIII. Approval/Determination	
DOE NEPA Compliance Officer: <u>Woody Russell</u>	
Based on my review of information conveyed to me and in my possession (or attached) concerning the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (as authorized under DOE Order 451.1B), I have determined that the proposed action fits within the specified class of action:	
NCO Determination - <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CX <input type="checkbox"/> EA <input type="checkbox"/> EIS	
Signature: <u><i>Woody Russell</i></u>	Date: <u>01/05/2012</u>