



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Inyo National Forest
Mono Lake R.D.

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File Code: 1950, 2430

Date: October 25, 2023

To: Jeffrey Pine EA File
Subject: Prescribed Fire Boundaries

This letter to the file for the Jeffrey Pine Environmental Assessment (EA) authorizes the expansion of prescribed fire treatment boundaries to the nearest road, trail, or holding feature. Extending the treatment area to established holding features will facilitate prescribed burning by utilizing existing, more secure, containment lines and avoiding construction of redundant fire line, allowing for a greater window of opportunity to use fire to reduce the activity-generated and natural fuels.

This letter authorizes extending the prescribed fire unit boundaries a total of 121 acres on the Mono Lake Ranger District as shown on the attached map. Forest Specialists will be consulted before implementation of a prescribed fire treatment to ensure no undue negative effects result from the addition of treated area.

The Jeffrey Pine EA did not specifically analyze this area extension for treatment; however I considered the following information before authorizing this action:

- The EA did allow for treatment by prescribed fire. The original unit boundaries are drawn around timber stands, leaving out the area that is not part of the target vegetation. The ground disturbance caused by fire line construction may have more impact on resources than burning will.
- The 2019 Land Management Plan for the Inyo National Forest states multiple goals in support of increasing fire on the landscape and an objective for the Terrestrial Ecosystems and Vegetation component to “Restore low and moderate severity fire mosaics using prescribed fire on at least 20,000 acres within 10 to 15 years following the plan”. Although not the primary targeted vegetation type for the Jeffrey Pine EA, allowing fire to cross into surrounding vegetation types will improve the mosaic pattern for the larger landscape.

Based on this information, I find the expansion of the prescribed fire treatment area to be a non-significant action, and as such the environmental consequences have not changed.

Stephanie A. Heller
District Ranger

MLRD Jeffrey Pine EA RX Vicinity

