

DOE-ID NEPA CX DETERMINATION

Idaho National Laboratory

SECTION A. Project Title: Wildland Fire Chainsaw Training

SECTION B. Project Description:

The Idaho National Laboratory (INL) fire department is required by the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) to have chainsaw packages on each of the Type 4 wildland fire engines. Prior to placing these chainsaws into service, the INL fire department must train firefighters to chainsaw operational and safety protocols, including both classroom and hands-on training in the field. To enable realistic hands-on training scenarios, the INL fire department has identified a proposed training location east of the East Butte near the T-4 road. This location is 1/4 of a mile down a two track road that turns S/SE off the T-4 road. The intersection of the two track road and the T-4 road is at N43, 30', 12"; W112, 39', 2.9". This location is desirable because a stand of previously burned junipers is accessible from this two track road thus limiting off road travel (see Figures 1-3). Access would include the use of pickups and Type 4 engines keeping vehicles on the road with the exception of turnaround areas. Training would be provided for up to 63 firefighters and involve up to 15 sessions to accommodate shift schedules. Crews would limb, fell, and size dead standing junipers. Up to 100 junipers may be involved. Crews would also package juniper ring samples for ecological evaluation. In addition, dead trees located throughout the Central Facilities Area may also be identified and used for this training.



Figure 1. Proposed training location

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Figure 2. Proposed training location showing previously burned Junipers



Figure 3. Previously burned junipers at proposed training location

SECTION C. Environmental Aspects or Potential Sources of Impact:

Air Emissions - Fugitive dust may be generated traveling to and from the training location on existing gravel roads and two track trails. All reasonable precautions will be taken to prevent particulate from becoming airborne. If dust control methods are required, the date, time, location, and amount/type of suppressant used would be recorded in the project records. These records will be used to demonstrate compliance with the INL Title V Air Permit.

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Disturbing Cultural or Biological Resources - The location and activities associated with this training exercise will need to be cleared by both Biological Resources (Jackie Hafra, Gonzales-Stoller, 525-9358) and the Cultural Resource Management office (Brenda Pace, 526-0916). If objects of potential archaeological or historical significance (e.g., arrowheads, flints, bones, etc.) are encountered during project activities, personnel would discontinue disturbance in the area and contact the CRM office [Brenda Pace (526-0916)].

The proposed site was selected because this location has a two track road that is near the burned junipers and off road travel will not be necessary except for vehicle turnaround. The junipers were burned in a previous fire and crews would limb, fell, and size these dead standing trees. Only dead trees would be used, and except for ring samples for ecological evaluation, material would be left in place.

Generating and Managing Waste - Project activities are expected to generate only minor amounts of uncontaminated industrial waste. The small amount of waste that may be generated could include uncontaminated garbage such as plastic water bottles or other miscellaneous waste. All waste would be disposed of in appropriate recycling containers at INL facilities or in the INL Landfill Complex through Waste Generator Services (WGS). Project personnel would incorporate waste minimization measures by using reusable materials where practical.

Using, Reusing and Conserving Natural Resources - Fuel would be used in vehicles while traveling to and from the training location. Project personnel would carpool and/or use alternative fuel vehicles when appropriate. All applicable waste would be diverted from disposal in the landfill when possible. Project personnel would incorporate waste minimization and recycling where practical. Fuel would also be used in chainsaws.

<p>SECTION D. Determine the Recommended Level of Environmental Review (or Documentation) and Reference(s): Identify the applicable categorical exclusion from 10 CFR 1021, Appendix B, give the appropriate justification, and the approval date.</p>
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For Categorical Exclusions (CXs) the proposed action must not: 1) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environmental, safety, and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders; 2) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment or facilities; 3) 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; 4) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources (see 10 CFR 1021). In addition, no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal exist which would affect the significance of the action, and the action is not "connected" nor "related" (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1) and (2), respectively) to other actions with potentially or cumulatively significant impacts.

References: 10 CFR 1021, Appendix B to Subpart D item B1.2, "Training exercises and simulations"

Justification: The proposed action is consistent with 10 CFR 1021, Appendix B to Subpart D categorical exclusion B1.2, "Training exercises and simulations (including, but not limited to, firing-range training, small-scale and short-duration force-on-force exercises, emergency response training, fire fighter and rescue training, and decontamination and spill cleanup training) conducted under appropriately controlled conditions and in accordance with applicable requirements."

Is the project funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act) Yes No

Approved by Jack Depperschmidt, DOE-ID NEPA Compliance Officer on: 8/1/2013