

**OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
STAFF REPORT**

MEETING DATE: April 16, 2012

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 3G

STAFF: Juan F. Guzman, Open Space Manager



REQUEST: Discussion and update regarding the BLM Carson City District Resource Management Plan.

GENERAL DISCUSSION: Attached for your use please find a Board Action Request Form by which staff recommends to the Board of Supervisors that Carson City becomes a cooperative agency and join forces as part of the team that will facilitate the development of the update of the BLM Resources Management Plan. Due to our transactions after the lands bill and the amount of land that the BLM manages within Carson City, this is a very important step in facilitating our participation and increasing the opportunity to influence the outcome of that plan.

Numerous materials about the preliminary issues and general themes developed as part of the scoping sessions have been attached to this report. Staff will continue to update the Open Space Advisory Committee as to the progress of this plan.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: No action may be taken. This item is for discussion only.

**City of Carson City
Agenda Report**

Date Submitted: April 10, 2012

Agenda Date Requested: April 19, 2012
Time Requested: Consent

To: Mayor and Supervisors

From: Parks and Recreation Department - Open Space Division

Subject Title: For possible action to authorize the City Manager to execute documents designating Carson City as a cooperating agency regarding the preparation of a revised Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for the Bureau of Land Management Carson City District.

Staff Summary: This action is to authorize staff to join other agencies in assisting the BLM with the preparation of an update to the Resource Management Plan and related Environmental Impact Statement as a cooperating agency. Carson City's responsibilities include the review of draft documents and the costs are to be covered through the standard staff duty functions. The City Manager or his designee will become the point of contact for this effort, which is expected to require approximately 15 months.

Type of Action Requested: (check one)

Resolution Ordinance
 Formal Action/Motion Other (Specify)

Does This Action Require A Business Impact Statement: Yes No

Recommended Board Action: I move to authorize the City Manager to execute documents designating Carson City as a cooperating agency regarding the preparation of a revised Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for the Bureau of Land Management Carson City District.

Explanation for Recommended Board Action: Staff is of the opinion that Carson City will be able to become aware and exercise more effective participation in this BLM Resources Management Plan update by joining as a cooperative agency. Carson City's responsibilities are enumerated in the attached memorandum. The City Management or his designee should become the point of contact. The update of the BLM plan is important to Carson City due to the implementation of the Federal Lands Bill and the large amount of lands under the jurisdiction of the BLM within Carson City.

Applicable Statue, Code, Policy, Rule or Regulation: National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.)

Fiscal Impact: To be absorbed as part of staff routine operations and activities.

Explanation of Impact: The participating agencies are responsible for standard operation costs such as their staff time, reproduction of documents, transportation to meetings, and similar expenditures.

Funding Source: Open Space Division accounts

Alternatives: Not to approve Carson City becoming a cooperating agency.

Supporting Material:

- Cover letter from Chris McAlear, Director, BLM - Carson City Management District
- Draft Memorandum of Understanding

Prepared By: _____ Date: ___ / ___ / ___
Juan F. Guzman, Open Space Manager

Reviewed By: _____ Date: ___ / ___ / ___
Roger Moellendorf, Parks & Recreation Director

_____ Date: ___ / ___ / ___
Lawrence A. Werner, City Manager

_____ Date: ___ / ___ / ___
District Attorney's Office

_____ Date: ___ / ___ / ___
Finance Department

Board Action Taken:

Motion: _____ 1: _____ Aye/Nay
2: _____ _____

(Vote Recorded By)



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Carson City District Office

5665 Morgan Mill Road

Carson City, Nevada 89701

http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/carson_city_field.html

In Reply Refer to:
1610/(LLNVC00000)

MAR 26 2012

Larry Werner
City Manager
Carson City
201 N Carson St., Suite 2
Carson City, NV 89701

MAR 27 2012
CARSON CITY
PUBLIC OFFICE

Dear Larry Werner:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Carson City District Office (CCD) has begun the process to revise its Resource Management Plan (RMP). This major planning effort will revise the 2001 Carson City Field Office Consolidated Resource Management Plan. The BLM has selected a contractor, EMPSi, to assist in the development of the RMP and associated environmental impact statement (EIS).

In the spirit of cooperative consultation and collaborative public involvement, the CCD is requesting that the Carson City formally participate in the planning process as a Cooperating Agency for the duration of the RMP/EIS process. The Council on Environmental Quality's regulations (40 CFR 1501.6 and 1508.5) implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) allow federal agencies (as lead agencies) to invite tribal, state, and local governments, as well as other federal agencies, to serve as Cooperating Agencies in the preparation of environmental impact statements. Cooperating Agency status provides the opportunity for us to work together and to enhance the BLM's planning efforts.

The description and duties of a cooperating agency are found at 40 CFR 1501.6(b).

"Each cooperating agency shall:

- 1) Participate in the NEPA process at the earliest possible time.
- 2) Participate in the scoping process (as described in 43 CFR 1501.7).
- 3) Assume on request of the lead agency responsibility for developing information and preparing environmental analyses including portions of the environmental impact statement concerning which the cooperating agency has special expertise.
- 4) Make available staff support at the lead agency's request to enhance the latter's interdisciplinary capability.
- 5) Normally use its own funds. The lead agency shall, to the extent available and as funds permit, fund those major activities or analyses it requests from cooperating agencies. Potential lead agencies shall include such funding requirements in their budget requests."

Agencies and the public have participation opportunities such as attending public meetings and reviewing and commenting on plan documents. Being a Cooperating Agency provides the opportunity for interested agencies to take on additional roles and responsibilities beyond basic participation opportunities. Cooperating Agencies have obligations to contribute staff to the RMP/EIS team, assist with analysis of a discipline in which they have special expertise or jurisdiction by law, and fund their own participation.

Cooperating Agencies would be expected to provide a point of contact to attend meetings to accomplish the tasks set forth in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The BLM anticipates 12 Cooperating Agency meetings (more if warranted) over the first 12 to 15 months of the planning process, with an additional 3 to 4 meetings over the following year. There will also be specified timelines and deadlines to review and provide comment on documents.

Specific information about Cooperating Agency relationships is available at the following website: http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/info/nepa/cooperating_agencies.html

As a Cooperating Agency, you would work closely with BLM and other agencies throughout the RMP/EIS process. While Cooperating Agency status does not eliminate rights to protest or appeal the EIS Record of Decision, it is expected that your agency would have had sufficient opportunity to work with BLM and others during the planning process so that a protest or appeal would not be necessary.

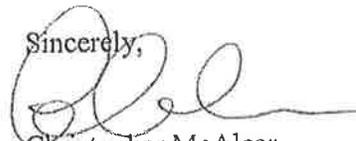
The BLM requests that agencies declining to accept Cooperating Agency status also respond to this invitation. Should you choose not to become a Cooperating Agency, be assured that we will still provide your agency with ample opportunity to participate in the planning process.

Please respond, in writing, to Colleen Sievers at the above address within 15 days of receipt of this letter. The CCD will need to sign an MOU that describes the roles and responsibilities of the BLM and your agency. A draft of the MOU is attached for your review. The CCD will need a point of contact to finalize the MOU and the name of the person who will represent your agency for the planning process.

If you have questions regarding Cooperating Agency status or want more information concerning opportunities available for your agency to participate in the land use planning process, do not hesitate to call Colleen Sievers, Project Manager, at (775) 885-6168 or email csievers@blm.gov.

Thank you for your interest in the planning process and administration of your public lands. The CCD looks forward to working with you as we proceed with this land use planning effort.

Sincerely,



Christopher McAlear
District Manager

1 Attachment
Memorandum of Understanding (8 pp)

February 2012

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
February, 2012

United States Department of Interior
Bureau of Land Management



And

List of Cooperating Agencies

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
Between
THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT,
CARSON CITY DISTRICT
And
List all participating agencies
as a Cooperating Agency

Regarding the Preparation of the Bureau of Land Management, Carson City District Revised
Resource Management Plan
and
Environmental Impact Statement

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) establishes a cooperating agency relationship between the Department of the Interior through the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and the AAA County, BBB County, Military, etc. (Agencies) for the purpose of preparing the Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The BLM acknowledges that Cooperating Agencies have special expertise applicable to the RMP/EIS, as defined at 40 CFR 1508.15 and 1508.26. This MOU describes responsibilities and procedures agreed to by the Agencies and the BLM (the Parties).
- B. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) was passed by Congress in 1969 and signed into law on January 1, 1970. This legislation encourages environmental protection and informed decision-making. It provides the means to carry out these goals by:
1. mandating that every Federal agency prepare a detailed statement of the effects of "major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment,"
 2. establishing the need for agencies to consider alternatives to those actions,
 3. requiring the use of an interdisciplinary process in developing alternatives and analyzing environmental effects,
 4. requiring that each agency consult with and obtain comments of any Federal, State, tribal, and local agency which has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact involved and,
 5. requiring that detailed statements and the comments and views of appropriate Federal, State, tribal, and local agencies be made available to the public.
- C. The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) was established by NEPA to establish policies for implementation of the Act. CEQ regulation (40 CFR 1501.6) provides for and describes both lead and cooperating agency status, and emphasizes agency cooperation early in the NEPA process. To this end, BLM

offered Agencies the opportunity to participate in this RMP/EIS development relative to its expertise and jurisdictional responsibility.

II. PURPOSE

The purpose of this MOU between the BLM, and the Agencies is to identify each of the Agencies as a cooperating agency and establish the roles and responsibilities of BLM and Agencies in the preparation of the RMP/EIS. The BLM and Agencies recognize the need to work together and develop coordinated action plans; to provide a basis for timely disposition of material issues or problems connected with the development of the RMP/EIS; and to achieve maximum efficiency for their respective agencies. This MOU will serve as a single-project MOU for the RMP/EIS.

III. AUTHORITY

A. This MOU is entered into by BLM under the following authorities:

1. Title IV of the Inter-Governmental Cooperative Act of 1968.
2. The Taylor Grazing Act of June 28, 1934, (48 STAT. §1259, 43 U.S.C. §315, as amended.
3. The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended 43 USC §1737(b), P.L. 94-579 (FLPMA).
4. National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).
5. Implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act (43 C.F.R. Part 46).
6. Alternative Dispute Resolution Act of 1990 (5 U.S.C. 581 et seq.).

B. This agreement is not intended to limit any Federal or State laws, rules, or regulations. This agreement is not intended to give any agency or entity additional authority beyond current laws, rules or regulations.

IV. PROCEDURES

A. The BLM agrees to:

Maintain responsibility for the administration and management of public lands. The BLM will be the lead agency in the NEPA process as described by Federal Regulations 40 C.F.R. § 1501.5, 1508.16. As the lead agency, the BLM will use its final environmental analysis document drafted pursuant to NEPA, as a basis a Record of Decision (ROD).

B. The Agencies agree to:

Participates as a cooperating agency in the NEPA process as described by Federal Regulations 40 CFR 1501.6 and 1508.5.

C. All Parties agree to:

1. Meet as needed on a mutually agreed date to review and evaluate the implementation of current conditions and trends concerning the intent and functioning of this MOU. This meeting will also serve as a coordination session to determine immediate and future timing requirements and the general programming of cooperative actions as related to the RMP/EIS.
2. Adhere to the applicable Federal, State, and local laws and regulations.
3. Any agency participating in this MOU may opt out of participating in the RMP/EIS by letter from the signing authority or designated agent for that agency with 30 days notice.

V. RESPONSIBILITIES

A. The BLM Responsibilities:

1. Ensure that Agencies have an opportunity to review and comment on documents related to the NEPA process and the RMP/EIS within its identified area of expertise. If necessary, BLM may withhold certain documents from general circulation based on their proprietary nature or other Privacy Act concerns.
2. Coordinate the exchange of information among the Parties and the RMP/EIS Contractor Environmental Management and Planning and Solutions, Inc. (EMPSi) and its subcontractors who will be preparing the RMP/EIS for the BLM.
3. Invite all cooperating agencies, to attend meetings with Federal, State, Native American, regional and local agencies, and other groups as appropriate to discuss the alternatives, engineering details, expected public benefits and mitigation. Agencies will be invited to participate in any major long term planning meetings.
4. Provide regular verbal and/or written progress updates of the NEPA review to all cooperating agencies.
5. Lead the Section 7 Endangered Species Act consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding the proposed RMP/EIS. To the extent appropriate, ensure that studies and surveys for the consultations are conducted in accordance with requests of cooperating agencies.

6. Lead the Section 106 National Historic Preservation Act (16 USC 470f) consultation with the Nevada State Historic Preservation Office, including Native American consultation, in accordance with the regulations at 36 CFR Part 800.
7. BLM will review proposed treatments, alternatives and mitigation to determine if they should be carried forward into analysis in the RMP/EIS. BLM will notify Agencies in writing of changes to the alternatives, preferred alternative, methods or mitigation measures.

B. The Agencies Responsibilities:

1. Participate as a Cooperating Agency in the document review and preparation of the RMP/EIS.
2. Participate in communications regarding the NEPA review of the project, including, but not limited to, conference calls, meetings, and emails, particularly when such communication concerns Agencies' jurisdiction or expertise. When appropriate, send a representative(s) to attend project related meetings scheduled by the BLM (this could include public meetings for the Draft or Final EIS documents).
3. Provide guidance and expertise in establishing baseline information concerning Agencies resources.
4. Provide written comments on EIS-related documents, including mitigation compliance and public notices, for which review and comments are requested by BLM. Provide review and written comments for those portions of the administrative versions of the Draft and Final EIS directly relating to Agencies resources, within the established timeframe of receipt of draft versions. The comment time for the formal Draft EIS and the Final EIS will remain consistent with 40 CFR § 1506.10(c) timing of agency action.
5. Maintain the confidentiality of the documents and deliberations during the period prior to public release by BLM of any project related work products, including, but not limited to drafts, proprietary information, sensitive resource data and locations, baseline reports and other RMP/EIS related documents.
6. Identify a point of contact (POC) and alternate POC on the Agencies' behalf regarding comments and input for the agency in RMP/EIS project documents.
7. Funding for Agencies participation in the RMP/EIS development process will be a responsibility of Agencies.

C. BLM and Agencies Joint Responsibilities:

BLM and EMPSi will have the lead responsibility in maintaining the Administrative Record; however, Agencies shares the responsibility with BLM for ensuring that the Administrative Record is complete and accurate.

VI. ADMINISTRATION

A. It is mutually agreed and understood by all parties that:

1. Nothing in this MOU will be construed as affecting the authorities of the participants or as binding beyond their respective authorities, or to obligate the BLM, Agencies, State of Nevada or the United States to any current or future expenditure in advance of the availability of appropriations from Congress for such expenditures. Nor does this agreement obligate the BLM, Agencies, State of Nevada, or the United States to spend funds on any particular project or purpose, even if funds are available.
2. Information furnished to the BLM or Agencies during and related to the RMP/EIS process may be subject to the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552).
3. This MOU in no way restricts the BLM, or Agencies from participating in similar activities with other public or private agencies, organizations, and individuals, or from accepting contributions and donations for activities related to the preparation of the RMP/EIS.
4. Nothing in this MOU shall require the BLM or Agencies to obligate or transfer any funds. Specific work projects or activities that involve the transfer of funds, services, or property among the various agencies and offices of the BLM and Agencies require execution of separate agreements and would be contingent upon the availability of appropriated funds. Such activities must be independently authorized by appropriate statutory authority. This MOU does not provide such authority. Negotiation, execution, and administration of each such agreement must comply with all applicable statues and regulations.
5. This MOU is not intended to and does not create, any right, benefit, or trust responsibility, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity, by a party against the United States, its agencies, its officers, or any person.
6. Conflicts between the participants concerning procedures under this MOU which cannot be resolved at the operational/staff level will be referred to successively higher levels as necessary for resolution.

7. Upon request by either of the parties, each party shall review this MOU to assure that it continues to reflect the appropriate understandings and procedures to provide for current needs and capabilities and adherence to the Public Laws.
8. The terms of this MOU may be renegotiated at any time at the initiative of either party after providing a 30-day notice to the other party. Such changes will be in the form of an amendment and will become effective upon signature by the MOU participants.
9. The Federal Government's liability shall be governed by the provisions of the Federal Tort Claims Act (28 U.S.C. 2671-80). The parties shall operate in conformance with the Code of Federal Regulations and the United States Code.
10. The Parties shall comply with all Federal Statutes relating to nondiscrimination. These include but are not limited to: a) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (P.L. 88-352), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, handicap, or national origin; b) Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended (20 U.S.C. §1681-16783, and §1685-1686), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex.
11. Any party may terminate their involvement under this MOU upon providing a 30-day written notice of such termination to all parties.
12. Unless otherwise provided, this agreement is not intended to supersede provisions of other agreements between both parties, in whole or in part, unless there is a conflict between the two agreements. This MOU is limited to the preparation of the RMP/EIS.

VII. APPROVALS

This MOU will become effective upon the last date of signature and shall remain in effect through: (A) Completion of the Record of Decision (ROD); or (B) upon thirty days (30) advance written termination notice by Agencies or BLM.

Bureau of Land Management, Carson City District Office

Christopher McAlear, District Manager

Date

Agency

Name, Title

Date

RMP/EIS POINT OF CONTACT LIST

Bureau of Land Management Carson City District

Christopher McAlear – District Manager

cmcalear@blm.gov

775-885-6000

Colleen Sievers – Project Manager

csievers@blm.gov

775-885-6168

5665 Morgan Mill Rd.

Carson City, NV 89701

Agency

2.2

BLM CARSON CITY DISTRICT *RMP Planning Issues*

Christopher McAlear, CCD Manager
5665 Morgan Mill Road, Carson City, NV 89701
Office hours are 7:30 am to 4:30 pm
Phone: (775) 885-8000
FAX: (775) 885-6147

PLANNING ISSUES are conflicts or concerns over a resource management topic that is well defined and entails alternative actions or decisions. Based on the lands and resources that we manage, the BLM has identified categories of issues.

Issue 1. Restoring Ecological Health

Issue 2. Air and Atmospheric Values

Issue 3. Water

Issue 4. Cultural Resources, Native American Concerns, and Paleontology

Issue 5. Visual Resource Management

Issue 6. Special Status Species (including Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Status Species)

Issue 7. Fish and Wildlife

Issue 8. Wild Horses and Burros

Issue 9. Fire Management

Issue 10. Livestock Grazing

Issue 11. Recreation and Visitor Services

Issue 12. Lands and Realty

Issue 13. Mineral Resources

Issue 14. Hazardous Materials

Issue 15. Special Designations

Issue 16. Renewable Energy

Issue 17. Socio-Economics

Issue 18. Environmental Justice

Issue 19. Sustainable Development

Issue 20. Comprehensive Travel and Transportation Management

Issue 21. Cave and Karst Resources

Issue 22. Urban Growth

Issue 23. Forest/Woodland Management

We expect most public issues and concerns fall within one of these statements; however, we do not presume that they are all-encompassing.

BLM

2.2—RMP Planning Issues

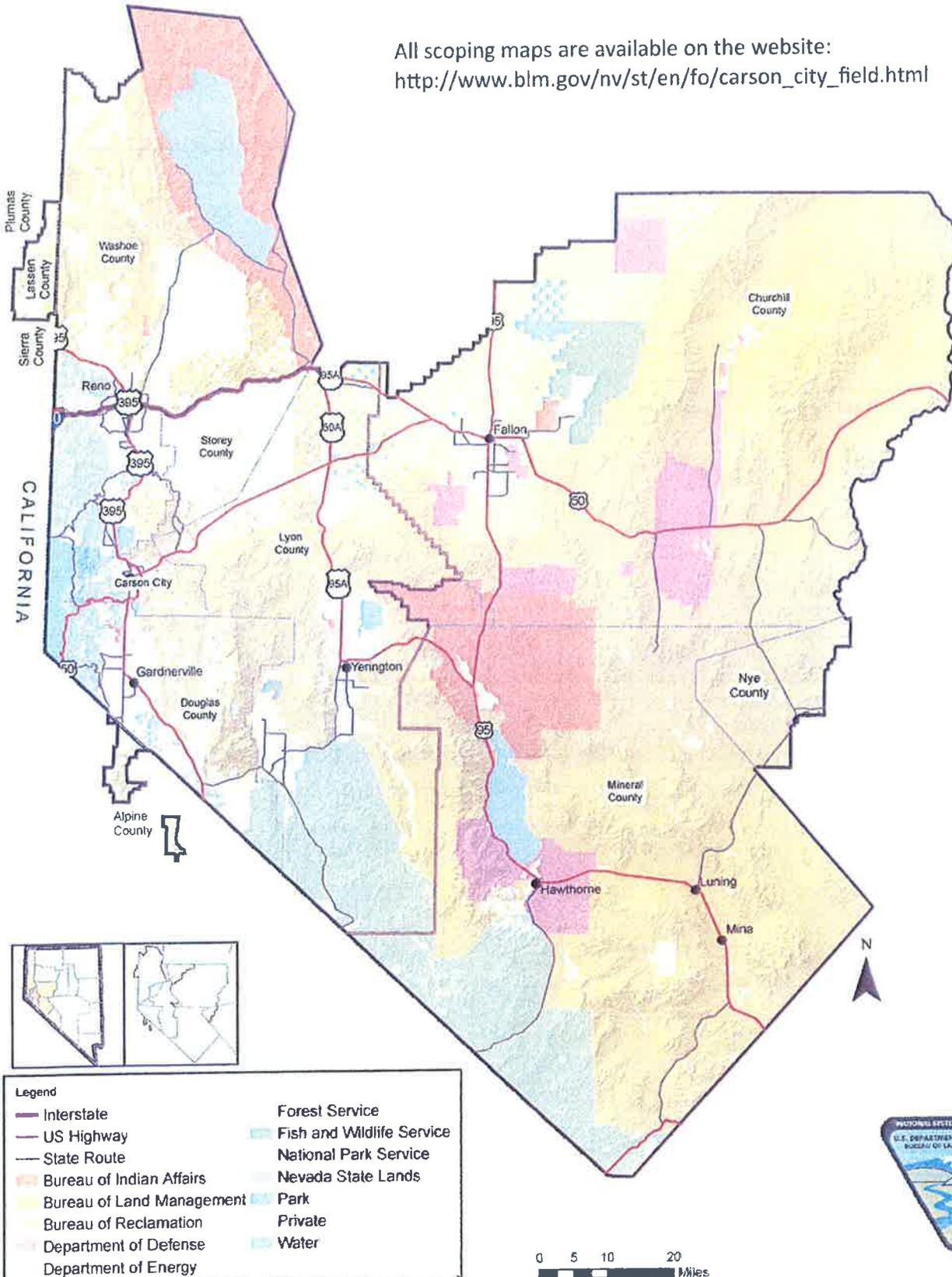


2.3

BLM CARSON CITY DISTRICT Map

Christopher McAlear, CCD Manager
 5665 Morgan Mill Road, Carson City, NV 89701
 Office hours are 7:30 am to 4:30 pm
 Phone: (775) 885-6000
 FAX: (775) 885-6147

All scoping maps are available on the website:
http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/carson_city_field.html



BLM

2.3— CCD Map



BLM CARSON CITY DISTRICT
*Providing Comments
 During Public Scoping*

Christopher McAlear, CCD Manager
 5665 Morgan Mill Road, Carson City, NV 89701
 Office hours are 7:30 am to 4:30 pm
 Phone: (775) 885-6000
 FAX: (775) 885-6147

The BLM Carson City District (CCD) is developing the Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the Carson City District planning area. The Carson City District RMP will provide detailed information about the current state of resources on public lands within the planning area, and set forth a plan of action for managing those resources for the next twenty or so years under the BLM's multiple use mandate.

PROVIDE EFFECTIVE COMMENTS

This is an opportunity for you to be involved in the decision-making process of the federal Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and to offer your thoughts on alternative ways for the agency to accomplish what it is proposing. Many public land users, organizations, and individuals want to provide comments to help in the Carson City District RMP planning effort. Comments that provide relevant and new information with sufficient detail are most useful and are referred to as substantive comments. The BLM reviews all comments and identifies the topics that are substantive for consideration in the final published document. Try not to provide comments that offer opinion only.

Substantive comments during scoping do one or more of the following:

- Raise issues BLM has not considered; reinforce issues BLM has already identified
- Identify additional planning criteria
- Present information that can be used when developing alternatives
- Present reasonable alternatives
- Present information that can be used when BLM considers impacts of alternatives
- Raise concerns, with reasoning, regarding public land resources within the planning area
- Raise concerns, with reasoning, regarding uses of public lands within the planning area
- Recommend specific changes to the landscape or management actions
- Question, with reasonable basis, the accuracy of information in a report already created

Comments that are not substantive include:

- Comments in favor of or against an action without any reasoning (such as "I don't like" without providing any rationale)
- Comments that only agree or disagree with BLM policy
- Comments without justification or supporting data (such as "allow more grazing")
- Comments that don't pertain to the planning area (such as "the government should eliminate all dams throughout the west")
- Comments that take the form of vague, open-ended questions.



Comments can also be mailed

CCD Planning Webpage:
http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/carson_city_field.html

to:
 Colleen Sievers,
 RMP Project Manager
 5665 Morgan Mill Road
 Carson City, NV 89701

Email address for public comments:
BLM_NV_CCDO_RMP@blm.gov

Glossary of Common BLM Terms

Acquired Lands. Acquired lands, as distinguished from public lands, are those lands in federal ownership which have been obtained by the government by purchase, condemnation, or gift, or by exchange for such purchased, condemned or donated lands, or for timber on such lands.

Adaptive Management. A type of natural resource management in which decisions are made as part of an ongoing science-based process. Adaptive management involves testing, monitoring, and evaluating applied strategies, and incorporating new knowledge into management approaches that are based on scientific findings and the needs of society. Results are used to modify management policy, strategies, and practices.

Allotment. An area of land in which one or more livestock operators graze their livestock. Allotments generally consists of BLM lands but may include other federally managed, state-owned, and private lands. An allotment may include or more separate pastures. Livestock numbers and periods of use are specified for each allotment.

Animal Unit Month (AUM). The amount of forage necessary for the sustenance of one cow or its equivalent for a period of one month.

Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). Areas within the public lands where special management attention is required (when such areas are developed or used or where no development is required) to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources, or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards (BLM Manual 1613, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern).

Best Management Practice (BMP). A practice or usually a combination of practices that are determined by a State or a designated planning agency to be the most effective and practicable means (including technological, economic, and institutional considerations) of controlling point and nonpoint source pollutants at levels compatible with environmental quality goals.

Big Game. Indigenous, ungulate (hoofed) wildlife species that are hunted, such as elk, deer, bison, bighorn sheep, and pronghorn antelope.

Biodiversity (biological diversity). The variety of life and its processes, and the interrelationships within and among various levels of ecological organization. Conservation, protection, and restoration of biological species and genetic diversity are needed to sustain the health of existing biological systems. Federal resource management agencies must examine the implications of management actions and development decisions on regional and local biodiversity.

Candidate Species. Taxa for which the US Fish and Wildlife Service has sufficient information on their status and threats to propose the species for listing as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act, but for which issuance of a proposed rule is currently precluded by higher priority listing actions. Separate lists for plants, vertebrate animals, and invertebrate animals are published periodically in the Federal Register (BLM Manual 6840, Special Status Species Manual).

Condition Class (fire regimes). Fire regime condition classes are a measure describing the degree of departure from historical fire regimes, possibly resulting in alterations of key ecosystem components, such as species composition, structural stage, stand age, canopy closure, and fuel loadings. One or more of the following activities may have caused this departure: fire suppression, timber harvesting, livestock grazing, introduction and establishment of exotic plant species, introduced insects or disease, or other management activities.

Conditions of Approval. Conditions or provisions (requirements) under which an application for a permit to drill or sundry notice is approved.

Controlled Surface Use (CSU). A stipulation intended for application where standard lease terms and permit-level decisions are deemed insufficient to achieve the level of resource protection necessary to protect the public interest, but where a No Surface Occupancy stipulation is deemed overly restrictive.

Cooperating Agency. Assists the lead federal agency in developing an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement. These can be any agency with jurisdiction by law or special expertise for proposals covered by NEPA (40 CFR 1501.6). Any tribe or Federal, State, or local government jurisdiction with such qualifications may become a cooperating agency by agreement with the lead agency.

Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ). An advisory council to the President of the US established by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. It reviews federal programs to analyze and interpret environmental trends and information.

Critical Habitat. An area occupied by a threatened or endangered species “on which are found those physical and biological features (1) essential to the conservation of the species, and (2) which may require special management considerations or protection.”

Cultural Resources. Locations of human activity, occupation, or use. Cultural resources include archaeological, historic, or architectural sites, structures, or places with important public and scientific uses, and locations of traditional cultural or religious importance to specified social and/or cultural groups.

Cumulative Effects. The direct and indirect effects of a proposed project alternative’s incremental impacts when they are added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions, regardless of who carries out the action.

Desired Future Condition. For rangeland vegetation, the condition of rangeland resources on a landscape scale that meet management objectives. It is based on ecological, social, and economic considerations during the land planning process. It is usually expressed as ecological status or management status of vegetation (species composition, habitat diversity, and age and size class of species) and desired soil qualities (soil cover, erosion, and compaction). In a general context, desired future condition is a portrayal of the land or resource conditions that are expected to result if goals and objectives are fully achieved.

Disposal. Transfer of public land out of federal ownership to another party through sale, exchange, Recreation and Public Purposes Act of 1926, Desert Land Entry or other land law statutes.

Easement. A right afforded a person or agency to make limited use of another's real property for access or other purposes.

Endangered Species. Any species that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range (BLM Manual 6840, Special Status Species).

Environmental Assessment. A concise public document prepared to provide sufficient evidence and analysis for determining whether to prepare an environmental impact statement or a finding of no significant impact. It includes a brief discussion of the need for the proposal, alternatives considered, environmental impact of the proposed action and alternatives, and a list of agencies and individuals consulted.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). A detailed statement prepared by the responsible official in which a major federal action that significantly affects the quality of the human environment is described, alternatives to the proposed action are provided, and effects are analyzed.

Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA). A public lands unit identified in land use plans containing all acreage not identified as an SRMA. Recreation management actions within an ERMA are limited to only those of a custodial nature.

Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA). Public Law 94-579, October 21, 1976, often referred to as the BLM's "Organic Act," which provides most of the BLM's legislated authority, direction policy, and basic management guidance.

Fluid Minerals. Oil, gas, coal bed natural gas, and geothermal resources.

Forage. All browse and herbaceous foods that are available to grazing animals.

Geographic Information System (GIS). A system of computer hardware, software, data, people, and applications that capture, store, edit, analyze, and display a potentially wide array of geospatial information.

Geothermal Energy. Natural heat from within the Earth, captured for production of electric power, space heating or industrial steam.

Habitat. An environment that meets a specific set of physical, biological, temporal, or spatial characteristics that satisfy the requirements of a plant or animal species or group of species for part or all of their life cycle.

Habitat Management Plan. A written and approved activity plan for a geographical area which identifies habitat management activities to be implemented in achieving specific objectives of planning decisions.

Herd Management Area. Public land under the jurisdiction of the BLM that has been designated for special management emphasizing the maintenance of an established wild horse or burro herd.

Historic Resources. Any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object included in, or eligible for inclusion in, the National Register of Historic Places.

Intermittent Stream. An intermittent stream is a stream that flows only at certain times of the year when it receives water from springs or from some surface sources such as melting snow in mountainous areas.

Land Use Plan. A set of decisions that establish management direction for land within an administrative area, as prescribed under the planning provisions of FLPMA; an assimilation of land use plan level decisions developed through the planning process outlined in 43 CFR 1600, regardless of the scale at which the decisions were developed. The term includes both RMPs and management framework plans (BLM Handbook H-1601-I, Land Use Planning).

Lease. Section 302 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 provides the BLM's authority to issue leases for the use, occupancy, and development of public lands. Leases are issued for purposes such as a commercial filming, advertising displays, commercial or noncommercial croplands, apiaries, livestock holding or feeding areas not related to grazing permits and leases, native or introduced species harvesting, temporary or permanent facilities for commercial purposes (does not include mining claims), residential occupancy, ski resorts, construction equipment storage sites, assembly yards, oil rig stacking sites, mining claim occupancy if the residential structures are not incidental to the mining operation, and water pipelines and well pumps related to irrigation and nonirrigation facilities. The regulations establishing procedures for processing these leases and permits are found in 43 CFR 2920.

Lease Stipulation. A modification of the terms and conditions on a standard lease form at the time of the lease sale.

Leasable Minerals. Those minerals or materials designated as leasable under the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920. They include coal, phosphate, asphalt, sulphur, potassium and sodium minerals, and oil and gas. Geothermal resources are also leasable under the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970.

Lek. An assembly area where birds, especially sage-grouse, carry on display and courtship behavior.

Locatable Minerals. Minerals subject to exploration, development, and disposal by staking mining claims as authorized by the Mining Law of 1872, as amended. This includes deposits of gold, silver, and other uncommon minerals not subject to lease or sale.

Mineral. Any naturally formed inorganic material, solid or fluid inorganic substance that can be extracted from the earth, any of various naturally occurring homogeneous substances (as stone, coal, salt, sulfur, sand, petroleum, water, or natural gas) obtained usually from the ground, under federal laws considered as locatable (subject to the general mining laws), leasable (subject to the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920), and salable (subject to the Materials Act of 1947).

Mineral Estate. The ownership of minerals, including rights necessary for access, exploration, development, mining, ore dressing, and transportation operations.

Mineral Materials (salable minerals). Materials such as sand and gravel and common varieties of stone, pumice, pumicite, and clay that are not obtainable under the mining or leasing laws but that can be acquired under the Materials Act of 1947, as amended.

Mining Claim. A parcel of land that a miner takes and holds for mining purposes, having acquired the right of possession by complying with the Mining Law and local laws and rules. A mining claim may contain as many adjoining locations as the locator may make or buy. There are four categories of mining claims: lode, placer, millsite, and tunnel site.

Mining Law of 1872. Provides for claiming and gaining title to locatable minerals on public lands. Also referred to as the "General Mining Laws" or "Mining Laws."

Multiple-use. The management of the public lands and their various resource values so that they are used in the combination that will best meet the present and future needs of the American people; making the most judicious use of the land for some or all of these resources or related services over areas large enough to provide sufficient latitude for periodic adjustments in use to changing needs and conditions; the use of some land for less than all of the resources; a combination of balanced and diverse resource uses that takes into account the long-term needs of future generations for renewable and nonrenewable resources, including recreation, range, timber, minerals, watershed, wildlife and fish, and natural scenic, scientific and historical values; and harmonious and coordinated management of the various resources without permanent impairment of the productivity of the land and the quality of the environment with consideration being given to the relative values of the resources and not necessarily to the combination of uses that will give the greatest economic return or the greatest unit output (FLPMA) (BLM Manual 6840, Special Status Species).

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). Public Law 91-190. Establishes environmental policy for the nation. Among other items, NEPA requires federal agencies to consider environmental values in decision-making processes.

National Register of Historic Places. A listing of architectural, historical, archaeological, and cultural sites of local, state, or national significance, established by the Historic Preservation Act of, 1966 and maintained by the National Park Service.

National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. A system of nationally designated rivers and their immediate environments that have outstanding scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, and other similar values and are preserved in a free-flowing condition. The system consists of three types of streams: (1) recreation—rivers or sections of rivers that are readily accessible by road or railroad and that may have some development along their shorelines and may have undergone some impoundments or diversion in the past; (2) scenic—rivers or sections of rivers free of impoundments with shorelines or watersheds still largely undeveloped but accessible in places by roads; and (3) wild—rivers or sections of rivers free of impoundments and generally inaccessible except by trails, with watersheds or shorelines essentially primitive and waters unpolluted.

No Surface Occupancy (NSO): A fluid minerals leasing constraint that prohibits occupancy or disturbance on all or part of the lease surface to protect special values or uses. Lessees may exploit the fluid mineral resources under the leases restricted by this constraint through use of directional drilling from sites outside the NSO area.

Off-highway Vehicle (off-road vehicle). Any motorized vehicle capable of, or designated for travel on or immediately over land, water or other natural terrain, excluding: (1) any non-amphibious registered motorboat; (2) any military, fire, emergency, or law enforcement vehicle while being used for emergency purposes; (3) any vehicle whose use is expressly authorized by the authorized officer, or otherwise officially approved; (4) vehicles in official use; and (5) any combat or combat support vehicle when used for national defense.

Off-highway Vehicle Area Designations. BLM-administered lands in the CCD are designated as Open, Limited, or Closed for OHV use.

- **Open.** Designated areas where all types of motorized vehicles (jeeps, all-terrain vehicles, motorized dirt bikes, etc.) are permitted at all times, anywhere in the area, on roads or cross country, subject to the operating regulations and vehicle standards set forth in 43 CFR subparts 8341 and 8342.
- **Limited.** Designated areas where motorized vehicles are restricted to designated routes. Off-road, cross-country travel is prohibited in Limited areas, unless an area is specifically identified as an area where cross-country over-snow travel is allowed. Some existing routes may be closed in Limited areas.
- **Closed.** Designated areas where off-road motorized vehicle travel is prohibited yearlong. Emergency use of vehicles is allowed yearlong.

Outstandingly Remarkable Values. Values among those listed in Section 1(b) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968: "scenic, recreational, geological, fish and wildlife, historical, cultural, or other similar values...." Other similar values that may be considered include ecological, biological, or botanical.

Paleontological Resources. The physical remains or other physical evidence of plants and animals preserved in soils and sedimentary rock formations. Paleontological resources are important for correlating and dating rock strata and for understanding past environments, environmental change, and the evolution of life.

Perennial Stream. A stream that flows continuously. Perennial streams are generally associated with a water table in the localities through which they flow.

Permittee. A person or company permitted to graze livestock on public land.

Petroglyph. A form of rock art created by incising, scratching or pecking designs into rock surfaces.

Planning Area. The geographical area for which land use and resource management plans are developed and maintained. The Carson City District (CCD) RMP planning area totals approximately 5 million acres in 11

Planning Criteria. The standards, rules, and other factors developed by managers and interdisciplinary teams for their use in forming judgments about decision making, analysis, and data collection during planning. Planning criteria streamlines and simplifies the resource management planning actions.

Planning Issues. Concerns, conflicts, and problems with the existing management of public lands. Frequently, issues are based on how land uses affect resources. Some issues are concerned with how land uses can affect other land uses, or how the protection of resources affects land uses.

Prehistoric Resources. Any material remains, structures, and items used or modified by people before Euro-Americans established a presence in the region.

Prescribed Fire Treatments. A pre-planned, management-ignited fire designed to meet specific resource objectives, such as reducing fuel loads, preparing a site for chemical treatment or seeding, or promoting vegetation regeneration. Prescribed fires are useful for reducing fuel loads and providing or promoting vegetation regeneration. Prescribed fires can be performed anywhere that specific fire prescriptions can be met and fire risks to resources are mitigated after site-specific planning and NEPA

Public Land. Land or interest in land owned by the US and administered by the Secretary of the Interior through the BLM without regard to how the US acquired ownership, except lands located on the Outer Continental Shelf and land held for the benefit of Indians, Aleuts, and Eskimos (BLM Handbook H-1601-I, Land Use Planning).

Reasonable Foreseeable Development Scenario. The prediction of the type and amount of oil and gas activity that would occur in a given area. The prediction is based on geologic factors, past history of drilling, projected demand for oil and gas, and industry interest.

Recreation and Public Purposes Act of 1926. Provides for the lease and sale of public lands determined valuable for public purposes. The objective of the Recreation and Public Purposes Act is to meet the needs of state and local government agencies and nonprofit organizations by leasing or conveying public land required for recreation and public purpose uses. Examples of uses made of Recreation and Public Purposes Act lands are parks and greenbelts, sanitary landfills, schools, religious facilities, and camps for youth groups. The act provides substantial cost-benefits for land acquisition and provides for recreation facilities or historical monuments at no cost.

Renewable Energy. Resources that constantly renew themselves or that are regarded as practically inexhaustible. These include solar, wind, geothermal, hydro and wood. Although particular geothermal formations can be depleted, the natural heat in the Earth is a virtually inexhaustible reserve of potential energy.

Resource Advisory Council (RAC). A council established by the Secretary of the Interior to provide advice or recommendations to BLM management. The Northeastern Great Basin RAC cover issues within the CCD.

Resource Management Plan (RMP). A land use plan as prescribed by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act that establishes, for a given area of land, land-use allocations, coordination guidelines for multiple-use, objectives, and actions to be achieved.

Right-of-Way (ROW). Public lands authorized to be used or occupied for specific purposes pursuant to a right-of-way grant, which are in the public interest and which require ROWs over, on, under, or through such lands.

Riparian Area. A form of wetland transition between permanently saturated wetlands and upland areas. Riparian areas exhibit vegetation or physical characteristics that reflect the influence of permanent surface or subsurface water. Typical riparian areas include lands along, adjacent to, or contiguous with perennially and intermittently flowing rivers and streams, glacial potholes, and the shores of lakes and reservoirs with stable water levels. Excluded are ephemeral streams or washes that lack vegetation and depend on free water in the soil.

Roadless. A linear route declared a road by the owner, managed for use by low-clearance vehicles having four or more wheels, and maintained for regular and continuous use.

Scoping. An early and open public participation process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed and for identifying the significant issues related to a proposed action.

Season of Use. The time during which livestock grazing is permitted on a given range area, as specified in the grazing lease.

Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA). A public lands unit identified in land use plans to direct recreation funding and personnel to fulfill commitments made to provide specific, structured recreation opportunities. Both land use plan decisions and subsequent implementing actions for recreation in each SRMA are geared to a strategically identified primary market—destination, community, or undeveloped.

Special Status Species. Includes proposed species, listed species, and candidate species under the Endangered Species Act; also, state-listed species and BLM State Director-designated sensitive species (BLM Manual 6840, Special Status Species Management).

Split Estate. Lands on which the mineral estate remains with the federal government (BLM).

Standard Lease Terms and Conditions. Areas may be open to leasing with no specific management decisions defined in a Resource Management Plan; however, these areas are subject to lease terms and conditions as defined on the lease form (Form 3100-11, Offer to Lease and Lease for Oil and Gas; and Form 3200-24, Offer to Lease and Lease for Geothermal Resources).

Stipulation. A condition of lease issuance that provides a level of protection for other resource values or land uses by restricting lease operations during certain times or locations or to avoid unacceptable impacts, to an extent greater than standard lease terms or regulations. A stipulation is an enforceable term of the lease contract, supersedes any inconsistent provisions of the standard lease form, and is attached to and made a part of the lease. Lease stipulations further implement BLM's regulatory authority to protect resources or resource values. Lease stipulations are developed through the land use planning process.

Threatened Species. Any species that is likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range (BLM Manual 6840, Special Status Species Management).

Timing Limitation (TL). A leasing stipulation that prohibits surface use during specified time periods to protect identified resource values. The constraint does not apply to the operation and maintenance

of production facilities unless analysis demonstrates that such constraints are needed and that less stringent, project-specific constraints would be insufficient.

Traditional Cultural Property. A property that derives significance from traditional values associated with it by a social or cultural group, such as an Indian tribe or local community. A traditional cultural property may qualify for the National Register of Historic Places if it meets the criteria and criteria exceptions at 36 CFR 60.4. See National Register Bulletin 38.

Traditional Use. Longstanding, socially conveyed, customary patterns of thought, cultural expression, and behavior, such as religious beliefs and practices, social customs, and land or resource uses. Traditions are shared generally within a social and/or cultural group and span generations. Usually traditional uses are reserved rights resulting from treaty and/or agreements with Native American groups.

Utility Corridor. Tract of land varying in width forming passageway through which various commodities such as oil, gas, and electricity are transported.

Visual Resource Management (VRM). The inventory and planning actions taken to identify visual resource values and to establish objectives for managing those values, and the management actions taken to achieve the visual resource management objectives.

Visual Resource Management Classes. Define the degree of acceptable visual change within a characteristic landscape. A class is based on the physical and sociological characteristics of any given homogeneous area and serves as a management objective. Categories assigned to public lands are based on scenic quality, sensitivity level, and distance zones. Each class has an objective that prescribes the amount of change allowed in the characteristic landscape (from BLM Handbook H-1601-1, Land Use Planning). The four classes are described below:

- Class I provides for natural ecological changes only. This class includes primitive areas, some natural areas, some wild and scenic rivers, and other similar areas where landscape modification activities should be restricted.
- Class II areas are those areas where changes in any of the basic elements (form, line, color, or texture) caused by management activity should not be evident in the characteristic landscape.
- Class III includes areas where changes in the basic elements (form, line, color, or texture) caused by a management activity may be evident in the characteristic landscape. However, the changes should remain subordinate to the visual strength of the existing character.
- Class IV applies to areas where changes may subordinate the original composition and character; however, they should reflect what could be a natural occurrence within the characteristic landscape.

Wild and Scenic Study River. Rivers identified in Section 5 of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 for study as potential additions to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The rivers will be studied under the provisions of Section 4 of the act (BLM Manual 835 I, Wild and Scenic Rivers – Policy and Program Direction for Identification, Evaluation, and Management).

Wilderness. A congressionally designated area of undeveloped federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, that is protected and managed to preserve its natural conditions and that (1) generally appears to have been affected mainly by the forces of nature, with human imprints substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) has at least 5,000 acres or is large enough to make practical its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value. The definition contained in Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 891) (BLM Handbook H-6310-1, Wilderness Inventory and Study Procedures).

Wilderness Characteristics. Wilderness characteristics include size, the appearance of naturalness, outstanding opportunities for solitude, or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. They may also include ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value. However Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964 has been updated by Instruction Memorandum 2003-195, dated June 20, 2003. Indicators of an area's naturalness include the extent of landscape modifications, the presence of native vegetation communities, and the connectivity of habitats. Outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation may be experienced when the sights, sounds, and evidence of other people are rare or infrequent, in locations where visitors can be isolated, alone or secluded from others, where the use of the area is through nonmotorized, nonmechanical means, and where no or minimal developed recreation facilities are encountered.

Wilderness Study Area. A designation made through the land use planning process of a roadless area found to have wilderness characteristics, as described in Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964 (BLM Handbook H-6310-1, Wilderness Inventory and Study Procedures).

Wildland Fire. Any fire, regardless of ignition source, that is burning outside of a prescribed fire and any fire burning on public lands or threatening public land resources, where no fire prescription standards have been prepared (BLM Handbook H-1742-1, Emergency Fire Rehabilitation).

Wildland Fire Use. A vegetation treatment that involves taking advantage of a naturally-ignited wildland fire in an area where fire would benefit resources. Wildland fire use would be conducted in specific areas needing treatment after a site-specific plan and NEPA analysis are completed and only if predetermined prescriptive parameters (e.g., weather/fire behavior) can be met. Until this planning and NEPA analysis are accomplished, wildland fires would be suppressed using an appropriate management response.

Wildland-urban Interface (WUI). The line, area or zone where structures and other human development meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland or vegetative fuels.

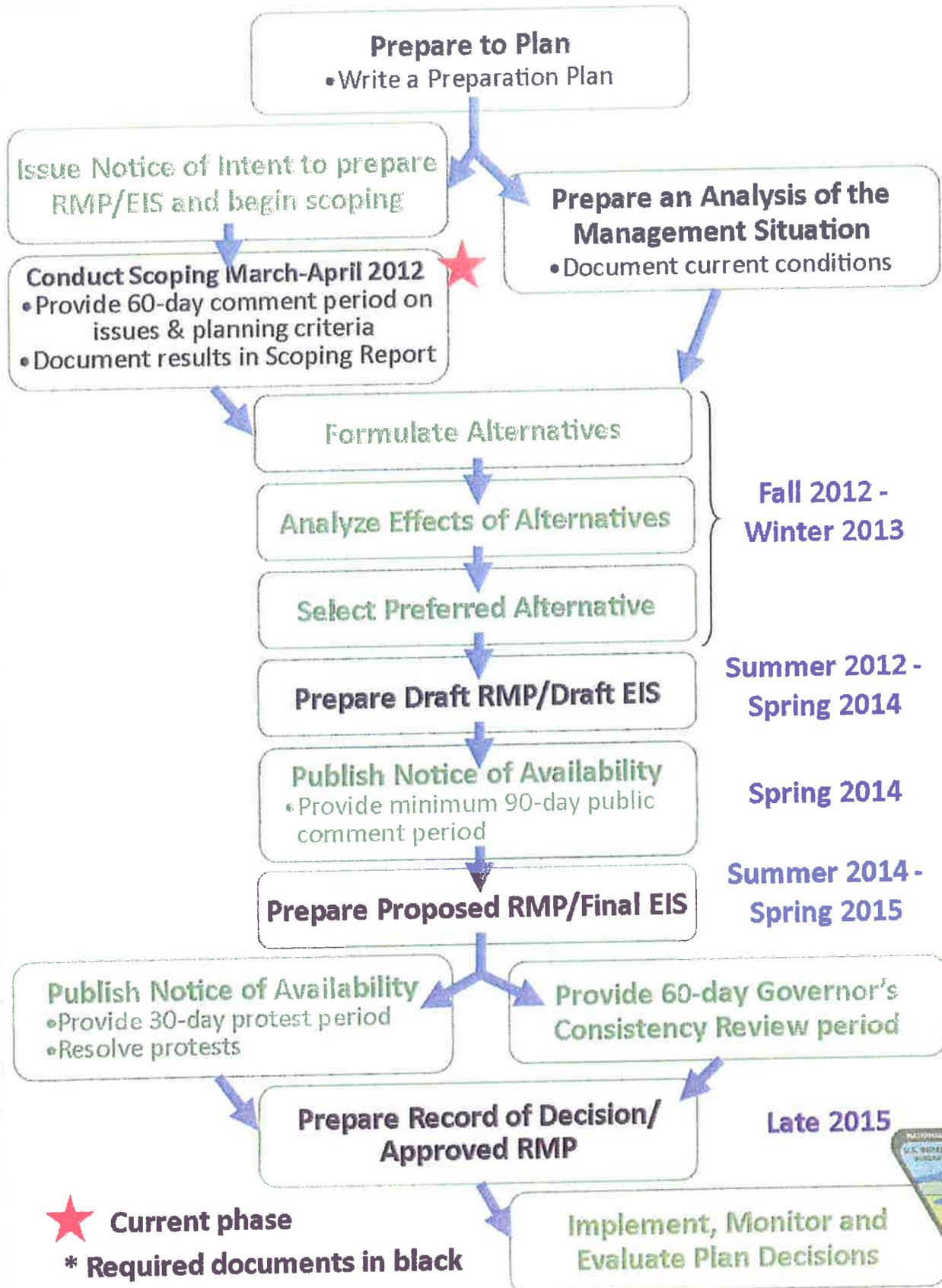
Withdrawal. An action that restricts the use of public land and segregates the land from the operation of some or all of the public land and mineral laws. Withdrawals are also used to transfer jurisdiction of management of public lands to other federal agencies.

2.1

BLM CARSON CITY DISTRICT RMP Flowchart & Timeline

Christopher McAlear, CCD Manager
5665 Morgan Mill Road, Carson City, NV 89701
Office hours are 7:30 am to 4:30 pm
Phone: (775) 885-6000
FAX: (775) 885-6147

BLM 2.1—RMP Flowchart and Timeline



2.2

BLM CARSON CITY DISTRICT *RMP Planning Issues*

Christopher McAlear, CCD Manager
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PLANNING ISSUES are conflicts or concerns over a resource management topic that is well defined and entails alternative actions or decisions. Based on the lands and resources that we manage, the BLM has identified categories of issues.

Issue 1. Restoring Ecological Health

Issue 2. Air and Atmospheric Values

Issue 3. Water

Issue 4. Cultural Resources, Native American Concerns, and Paleontology

Issue 5. Visual Resource Management

Issue 6. Special Status Species (including Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Status Species)

Issue 7. Fish and Wildlife

Issue 8. Wild Horses and Burros

Issue 9. Fire Management

Issue 10. Livestock Grazing

Issue 11. Recreation and Visitor Services

Issue 12. Lands and Realty

Issue 13. Mineral Resources

Issue 14. Hazardous Materials

Issue 15. Special Designations

Issue 16. Renewable Energy

Issue 17. Socio-Economics

Issue 18. Environmental Justice

Issue 19. Sustainable Development

Issue 20. Comprehensive Travel and Transportation Management

Issue 21. Cave and Karst Resources

Issue 22. Urban Growth

Issue 23. Forest/Woodland Management

We expect most public issues and concerns fall within one of these statements; however, we do not presume that they are all-encompassing.

BLM

2.2—RMP Planning Issues

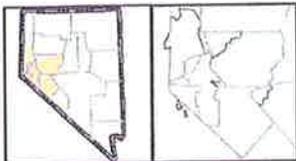
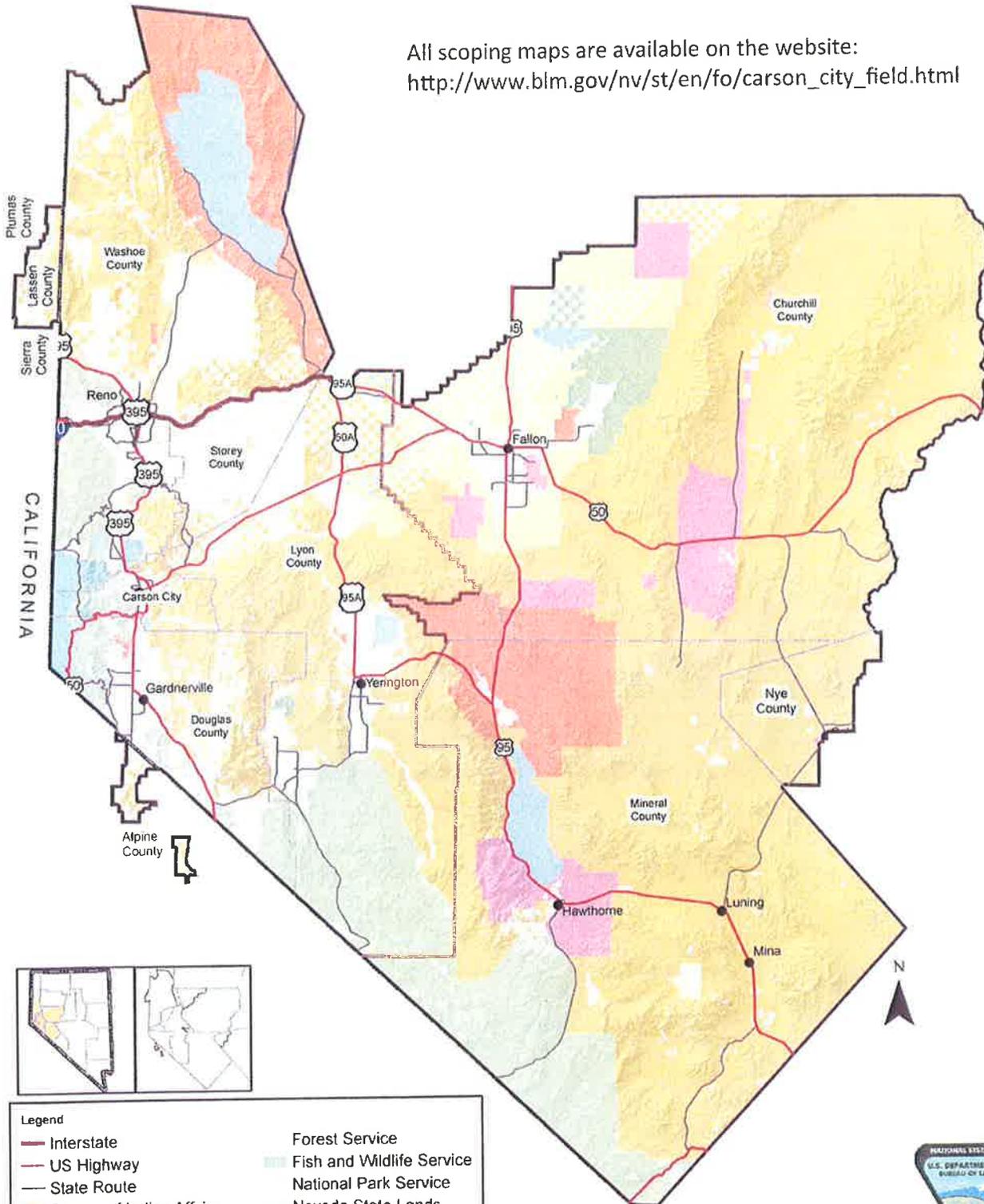


2.3

BLM CARSON CITY DISTRICT Map

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All scoping maps are available on the website:
http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/carson_city_field.html



Legend			
	Interstate		Forest Service
	US Highway		Fish and Wildlife Service
	State Route		National Park Service
	Bureau of Indian Affairs		Nevada State Lands
	Bureau of Land Management		Park
	Bureau of Reclamation		Private
	Department of Defense		Water
	Department of Energy		



BLM
2.3— CCD Map

3.1

BLM CARSON CITY DISTRICT RMP PLANNING FACT SHEET *Recreation and Travel Management*

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The BLM Carson City District (CCD) is developing the Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the Carson City District planning area. The Carson City RMP will provide detailed information about the current state of resources on public lands within the planning area, and set forth a plan of action for managing those resources for the next twenty or so years under the BLM's multiple use mandate.

The CCD manages approximately 5 million acres of public lands that provide the public with a wide variety of recreational opportunities. During the RMP revision recreational planning issues will be addressed with the goal of providing quality recreational experiences while reducing conflicts with other resource demands.

RECREATION MANAGEMENT AREAS

During the planning process, the planning area will be evaluated and divided into three types of recreation management areas:

Special Recreation Management Areas:

SRMA's are areas that will be intensively managed for specific recreation purposes based upon unique opportunities the area can provide. Recreation will be the primary resource management objective.

Extended Recreation Management Areas:

ERMA's are areas that provide a general mix of recreational opportunities but do not contain unique recreational resources. Recreation will be managed equally with other resources and resource uses.

Public Lands Not Designated as Recreation

Management Areas: PLNDARMA are areas that do not meet the specifications for SRMA's or ERMA's. Recreation is not emphasized though recreational activities may occur.

DESIGNATED SRMA'S

Walker Lake Recreation Area and Indian Creek Recreation Area are two designated SRMA's in the planning area. Sand Mountain Recreation Area is an example of a recreation area that has not been officially designated as a SRMA but would meet the criteria for providing unique OHV opportunities.



Recreation activities in the CCD include motorized events ranging from motorcycle or truck and buggy races such as the annual Vegas to Reno OHV Race, to backcountry touring and rallies. Non-motorized events include hiking, fishing, boating, geocaching, equestrian competitions, mountain bike riding and dispersed camping.



BLM

3.1—Recreation and Travel Management

HAVE A FAVORITE RECREATION AREA? Let us know of any areas that provide unique recreational opportunities you would like us to evaluate for SRMA designation.

TRAVEL MANAGEMENT:

Travel and transportation are an integral part of virtually every activity that occurs on BLM-administered public lands. Recreation, management of livestock, wildlife, commodity resources, rights-of-way, access to private inholdings, maintenance of electronic sites, and the day-to-day management and monitoring of the CCD all rely on effective travel management planning. Motorized travel in the CCD ranges from standard passenger vehicles driving on maintained roads to off-highway vehicles (OHVs) operating on primitive roads and trails.

Executive Order 11644 and the Code of Federal Regulations (43 CFR Part 8340) require the BLM to establish OHV management areas and designate them as *open*, *closed*, or *limited* to motorized activities during the planning process.

OHV TRAVEL MANAGEMENT AREAS:

Open Areas are managed specifically for intensive OHV activities where cross country travel is permitted and users are not restricted to a designated route or trail system.

Limited Areas allow for motorized travel on existing roads and trails within the designated area but may be limited by specific designations such as season of use, types of vehicle (4WD, motorcycle, ATV) or street legal vehicles.

Closed Areas prohibit all motorized travel to protect a specific resource or provide for public safety.

A COMPREHENSIVE TRAVEL MANAGEMENT APPROACH

A defined travel and transportation network will be developed during the planning process by engaging the general public, resource users and partner agencies. Steps will include:

- Produce a map of a preliminary road and trail network used by recreational travelers and resource users.
- Identify any easements and rights-of-way needed by the BLM and others to maintain the preliminary or existing road and trail network.
- Outline additional data needs and a strategy to collect needed information.
- Provide a clear planning sequence, including public collaboration, criteria, and constraints for subsequent road and trail selection and identification.
- Produce a schedule to complete the limited area or sub-area road and trail selection process.
- Develop travel management implementation decisions and management prescriptions.
- Develop alternatives to travel network to be analyzed during the NEPA process.
- Develop guidelines for signing and maintaining the travel network.

The BLM wants your input...

- Do you prefer non-motorized travel (hiking or equestrian trails?)
- Do you know of areas that you would like to see designated as open, limited or closed?
- Do you see the need for more routes of travel for motorized or non-motorized use?

CCD Planning Webpage:
http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/carson_city_field.html

Comments can also be mailed
to:
Colleen Sievers,
RMP Project Manager
5665 Morgan Mill Road
Carson City, NV 89701

Email address for public
comments:
BLM_NV_CCDO_RMP@blm.gov

3.2

BLM CARSON CITY DISTRICT RMP PLANNING FACT SHEET *Visual Resource Management*

Christopher McAlear, CCD Manager
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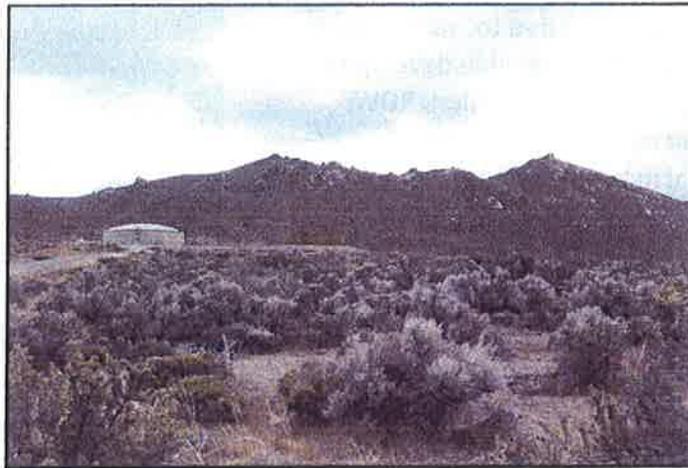
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WHAT IS VISUAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT?

The BLM's *visual resource management* (VRM) process provides a method to inventory and analyze the scenic value of public lands in order to assist the BLM in determining appropriate levels of land management. The VRM system helps to ensure that permitted activities or development taking place today will not degrade the visual qualities associated with BLM landscapes, thereby protecting those visual resources for the future.

THE PLANNING PROCESS

During the Carson City RMP revision, all public land within the planning area will be evaluated by collecting data for three key components; scenic quality, viewer sensitivity levels, and visual distances from areas or routes of travel. This data is then entered into a matrix and analyzed to create four types of inventory units or Visual Resource Inventory Classes. These units are then mapped out so planners can visualize how the units fall within the landscape. With this data, the process then moves into the management objective phase.



VRM CLASS DEFINITIONS

VRM Class I: Assigned to all special areas where the current management situation requires maintaining a natural environment essentially unaltered by man, such as Wilderness Areas or Wilderness Study Areas.

VRM Class II: Highest visual value assigned through the inventory process and based on the combination of Scenic Quality, Visual Sensitivity Levels, and Distance Zones.

VRM Class III: Moderate visual value based on the combination of Scenic Quality, Visual Sensitivity Levels, and Distance Zones.

VRM Class IV: Low visual value based on the combination of Scenic Quality, Visual Sensitivity Levels, and Distance Zones. The VRI is composed of three criteria that are considered together in a map overlay method to assign a Visual Resource Inventory Class (Class I are most highly valued visual landscapes while Class IV are the least.)

BLM

3.2—Visual Resource Management



MANAGEMENT APPROACH

During the management evaluation, impacts to visual values are analyzed under each alternative in order to determine the most appropriate VRM Class designation that factors in protection of visual values, resource management priorities and desired outcomes. Visual values that were established in the VRI process are weighed along with other resource considerations including but not limited to, valid existing rights and reasonable foreseeable development for minerals, geothermal, recreation, ROW, travel management and communication to establish the visual management classes.

DEMANDS ON PUBLIC LANDS

With increased demand for use of public lands for recreation, tourism, renewable energy, and development, preservation of scenic values and visual open space have received increased attention from the public and federal land management agencies. Preservation of sensitive viewsheds will continue to compete with other land use allocations and impacts, including energy development, mining, infrastructure needs, recreation, and various other surface activities.

All resource management proposals will be evaluated in an effort to minimize conflicting management objectives, including VRM.

The BLM wants your input. . .

Do you have a favorite area where you think the scenic values should be protected ?
How should the BLM manage sensitive viewshed corridors such as Hwy 50 , Hwy 95, or Hwy 395 ?
What are the current/potential conflicts with managing VRM values and how can they be mitigated?

VISUAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT CLASSES

Class I: Preserve existing character of landscape; level of change to characteristic landscape should be very low and must not attract attention.

Class II: Retain existing character of landscape; level of change to characteristic landscape should be low.

Class III: Partially retain existing character of landscape; level of change to characteristic landscape should be moderate.

Class IV: Provide for management activities which require major modification of existing character of landscape. Level of change to characteristic landscape can be high.

For example, when land use is not discretionary, such as in areas with valid existing rights, the use must be allowed, but its effect on visual quality can be minimized through project design standards or paint schemes.

Final VRM class boundaries and management objectives designated in the land use plan will result from and reflect resource allocation decisions made in the RMP process.

CCD Planning Webpage:
http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/carson_city_field.html

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ON RECREATION AND TRANSPORTATION

What is travel and transportation management?

To put it simply, it is the identification and management of the roads and trails required to meet the motorized and non-motorized access and transportation needs for multiple uses including recreation, grazing, mining, and energy development.

Will any roads or trails be closed to motorized travel?

There are currently no plans to close roads and trails. Closures will only be used when necessary to prevent resource damages in special resource areas, or to protect soils, riparian or culturally significant areas. The vast majority of today's roads and trails will still be available for motorized travel in the future.

I've heard that BLM wants to eliminate all desert racing and recreational riding!

Not true! OHV racing and recreational riding is a valid use of public lands. The increased demands for multiple use of public lands from other recreational activities, ranching, renewable energy, right-of-ways, facility development and environmental concerns does make it harder to permit desert racing today than it did twenty years ago. The purpose of the RMP is to identify areas that are suitable for OHV events and to streamline the permitting process so these activities can continue.

Will I still be able to ride my motorcycle or ATV or drive my OHV where ever I want to?

The designation of open, limited, or closed to motorized use already exists within the District -- so this is not something new. The RMP process will help us better define the best use for specific areas to reduce user conflicts.

What if I have a favorite area I like to ride or hike in?

Great! This is your opportunity to provide us with information on your favorite areas to recreate, so we can include it in our recreation setting evaluation. If we are not aware of an opportunity that you know of, it may inadvertently get left out of the planning process. The more you can tell us, the better!

Why does BLM need to complete a travel and transportation management plan?

All public lands are required by federal regulations to have off-highway vehicle area designations with areas identified as open, limited, or closed to motorized travel (43 CFR 8342.1) Designations are based upon the protection of the resources, the promotion of the safety of all users and the minimization of conflicts among various uses. The BLM Land Use Planning Handbook also addresses planning guidance for non-motorized uses to reduce potential conflicts with other resource uses.



What happens during the travel and transportation and recreation planning process?

Recreational activities, including motorized and non-motorized recreational uses will be identified within the planning area, and management goals and objectives will be developed to provide for enhanced recreation opportunities. Roads and trails within the planning area will be mapped out to the extent possible, and areas that provide unique recreational opportunities will be identified. This information will be used to designate areas that will be managed for intensive recreation use, or to provide a variety of general recreation opportunities.

How will travel and transportation affect recreational opportunities?

Travel and transportation planning will enhance recreational opportunities and experiences on public lands by improving our ability to provide a quality recreation experience. Transportation planning will address concerns such as access to your favorite areas, so that areas uniquely suited for a particular type of recreational use are managed for that use, and to establish management objectives to address concerns or conflicts that may exist with other resource demands in an area.

How will this process benefit me?

The recreation setting inventory will help identify areas that should be managed primarily for recreation purposes. This would include both motorized uses such as OHV or motorcycle races or trails, and non-motorized trails for equestrian, hiking or biking use. Combined with the travel management plan, the primary management objective for these identified areas would be the recreation experience above other resource uses in that area.

How can I provide input to this process as an individual or interest group?

The scoping process is your opportunity to let the BLM know the type of recreational activities you would like to see occur on public lands. If you have an area you would like to have managed for hiking, equestrian use, backcountry touring, OHV racing, motorcycle riding, wind sailing, now is the time to let us know! If you have any recreation issues or special concerns we would like to hear about those as well. All you need to do is complete the comment form and submit it to us before the comment period closes.

BLM staff is available to attend your club function or meeting. If you would like additional information or have any questions regarding the Resource Management Plan process or travel and transportation planning, please contact us.

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5.1

BLM CARSON CITY DISTRICT RMP PLANNING FACT SHEET *Greater sage-grouse*

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Phone: (775) 885-6000
FAX: (775) 885-6147

The BLM Carson City District (CCD) is developing the Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the Carson City District planning area. The Carson City RMP will provide detailed information about the current state of resources on public lands within the planning area, and set forth a plan of action for managing those resources for the next twenty or so years under the BLM's multiple use mandate.

Greater sage-grouse stand up to 2 feet tall and weigh between 2 and 7 pounds. Females (hens) are smaller and mottled brown, black and white. Males are more colorful and have spiked tails and large white ruffs around their necks.

In spring, males and females congregate on leks – large, open flats surrounded by sagebrush – to breed. Males strut with tail feathers fanned, swishing their wings, and inflating the bright yellow air sacs on their chests with rhythmic huffing that can be heard from a mile away. Individual birds often use the same lek year after year.

After mating, females lay their eggs in ground nests, usually placed in association with some vertical structure such as overhanging sagebrush or grass cover. Nest sites are selected independently of lek location. Research shows that hens nest within the same area every year. When sage-grouse return to find a familiar lek or nesting area disturbed, they show little ability to adapt to the changes or to find substitute habitat.



Unique Among Game Birds

Sage-grouse have several characteristics that make them unique compared to other game birds. They have thin-walled, non-muscular gizzards to break down food. As a result, they cannot grind and digest tough foods such as grain and seeds and thus rely on soft sagebrush leaves for food. More than 98% of their winter diet is sagebrush leaves. In addition, sage-grouse are relatively long-lived (3-7 years) when compared to other upland game birds (1-2 years) and lay fewer eggs (7-9 eggs) than their counterparts (12-14 eggs). The result is a species that is quick to decline after disturbance, yet slow to recover because of lower productivity.

Sagebrush Restoration

Fragmentation and loss of sagebrush habitat are the primary threats to Greater Sage-Grouse. Research shows that it takes 25 to 75 years or more for mountain sagebrush to recover to pre-disturbance condition. Wyoming big sagebrush recovers even more slowly – in the range of 50 to 120 years.

BLM

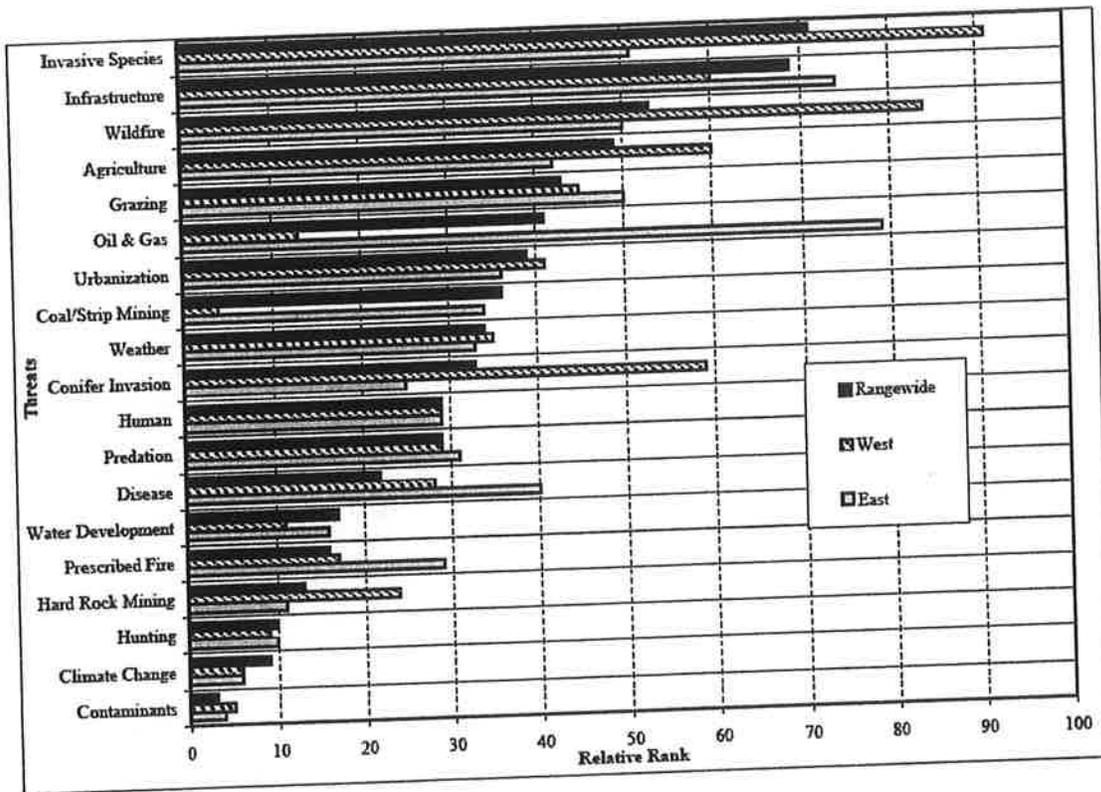
5.1—Greater sage-grouse



Portions of 14 Western states once provided year-round food, shelter and breeding grounds for the greater sage-grouse. Pressure from urbanization, wildfire, recreation, energy development, livestock grazing, invasive weeds and disease have shrunk these historical habitats, such that only portions of 11 states still have lands for the bird to call home. As a result, their numbers have declined by about 40% since the 1970s. As few as 200,000 greater sage-grouse may be left.

No single factor is the cause of declining sage-grouse populations. However, the US Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) "warranted but precluded" findings identify a number of factors that, since the beginning of settlement in the West, have adversely affected the number of birds and the amount, distribution and quality of sagebrush habitats.

US Fish and Wildlife Service Identified Threats to Greater Sage-Grouse



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5.2

BLM CARSON CITY DISTRICT RMP PLANNING FACT SHEET *Special Status Plant/Animals*

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SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES are (1) species listed or proposed for listing under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), and (2) species requiring special management consideration to promote their conservation and reduce the likelihood and need for future listing under the ESA, which are designated as BLM sensitive by the State Director. All Federal candidate species, proposed species, and delisted species in the 5 years following delisting are considered BLM sensitive species (e.g., bald eagle).

Primary Cause of Species Decline

Habitat loss, competition, predation, disease and other factors can contribute to species decline and imperilment. Habitat loss and modification due to human activities are primary threats to ecosystems, particularly for species that are adapted to specific ecological niches. BLM land management practices are intended to sustain and promote wildlife and plants while allowing for other authorized land use activities.



Burrowing Owls (BLM Sensitive Species)

A Focus on Habitat

While our partners from other federal and state agencies primarily focus on population status and trends, the BLM's efforts are focused on habitat management for wildlife and plants. This management concentrates on habitat conditions that will help ensure self-sustaining populations and a natural abundance and diversity of wildlife and plants.

Protecting Federally Listed Species

The ESA mandates the protection of species listed as threatened or endangered of extinction and their habitats. Section 7 of the ESA clarifies the responsibility of federal agencies to carry out programs for the conservation of listed species. In addition, federal agencies must consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to insure that any action authorized, funded, or carried out by an agency is "...not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any endangered or threatened species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of habitat of such species..."

Six Federally protected plant and animal species occur in the planning area. Four are listed as endangered and 2 as threatened. No Critical Habitat currently exists in the planning area.



A Shared Goal with State and Federal Agencies

Federally listed threatened and endangered species and their designated critical habitat are managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in cooperation with other federal agencies, with the ultimate goal of species recovery and viability. Management objectives regarding BLM special status species are:

- 1) To conserve and/or recover ESA listed species and the ecosystems on which they depend so that ESA protections are no longer needed for these species.
- 2) To initiate proactive conservation measures that reduce or eliminate threats to BLM sensitive species to minimize the likelihood of and need for listing of these species under the ESA.



Swainson's Hawk (BLM Sensitive Species)

Other Non-Listed, Non-Status Species (e.g., Big Game, Migratory Birds, Game Fish)



Mule Deer in Prime Habitat

In addition to Special Status Species, the BLM is responsible for managing fish and wildlife habitat quantity and quality that supports a diverse array of species including native and non-native fish, birds, small mammals, big game, carnivores, and reptiles. Habitat condition and quality is based on key plant community and riparian attributes. Population data on game, and increasingly for key non-game species, is tracked by the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW). The BLM assists the NDOW with collection of this information for certain species. Within this framework, the BLM focuses on prominent animal species and their habitat due to their economic value, regulatory status, high public interest, or other qualities.

The BLM wants your input...

What areas do you think are important for plant and wildlife species? How can these areas and species be better protected or managed?

Does the CCD need more protected areas (such as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern or Wildlife Management Areas) within the planning area? For what species and where?

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6.1

BLM CARSON CITY DISTRICT RMP PLANNING FACT SHEET *Vegetation*

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VEGETATION AND HEALTHY RANGELANDS

Ecosystems reflect complex sets of interactions between plants, animals, soil, water, air, temperature, topography, fire and humans. Influences exerted on one component affects other components in the system. Vegetation provides many functions within ecosystems. Vegetation stabilizes soils, prevents erosion, uses carbon dioxide, releases oxygen, and increases species diversity. Vegetation also provides habitat and food for animals and products for human use. Many of the BLM's land management policies are directed toward managing for healthy plant communities which support resistant and resilient ecological systems.

To promote healthy rangelands, the Department of Interior organized Resource Advisory Councils (RAC) throughout the State of Nevada to develop Standards and Guidelines. The Sierra Front-Northwestern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council covers the Carson City District.

These councils developed standards and guidelines to ensure the BLM adheres to mandates requiring multiple use management. The following is a list of the Standards by the Sierra Front-Northwestern Great Basin RAC.

1. Soils
2. Riparian/Wetlands
3. Water Quality
4. Plant and Animal Habitat

VEGETATIVE COMMUNITIES

The ecological systems discussed below are those that provide the most important land cover across the CCD planning area. Vegetation can be generally characterized by plant community types (associations). A terrestrial ecological system is defined as a group of plant community types (associations) that tend to co-occur within landscapes with similar ecological processes, substrates, and/or environmental gradients. Based on **LANDFIRE** the key habitats within the planning area can be grouped into 5 ecological systems.



VEGETATIVE COMMUNITIES



Habitat/Veg type	Percent of District	Percent of BLM land	Acres in District	Acres (of BLM land)
Sierra Conifer Forests	1.8%	1.2%	160,661	58,551
Sagebrush	26.7%	30.6%	2,391,557	1,470,832
Intermountain Cold Desert Scrub	32.3%	38.2%	2,894,047	1,832,107
Lower Montane Woodland	10.5%	10.1%	942,758	486,961
Other*	28.7%	19.9%	2,552,457	953,831
Total	100%	100%	8,941,480	4,802,282

*Other includes a large variety of habitat types, including: Mojave mid-elevation mixed desert scrub, Mojave/Sonoran scrub, lower montane chaparral, desert playas & ephemeral pools, water (rivers, streams, lakes, reservoirs), agricultural lands, developed landscapes (including roads), marshes, desert washes, meadows, rock (cliffs, canyons, quarries, gravel, mines), sand dunes, aspen woodlands, grasslands, intermountain conifer forests and woodlands, barren landscapes, invasive grasslands and forb lands.

The BLM would like your input...

- What criteria should be used when prioritizing vegetative treatments?
- What criteria should be established to identify intact/quality vegetative communities of great importance?
- Should annual or ephemeral vegetation areas be designated and how would they be managed?
- How should forage be allocated for multiple use between wildlife, livestock, wild horses and burros?
- What criteria should be used to determine if the allocation of forage to wild horses, wild burros, livestock or wildlife should be increased or decreased?
- Under what conditions, if any, should non-native plants be used in place of native plants for restoration activities?

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6.2

BLM CARSON CITY DISTRICT RMP PLANNING FACT SHEET *Noxious Weeds, Invasive & Non-Native Species*

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CONTROLLING NOXIOUS WEEDS, INVASIVE & NON-NATIVE SPECIES IN THE PLANNING AREA

The purpose of the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) vegetation treatment program is to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires by reducing hazardous fuels, to restore fire-damaged lands, and to improve ecosystem health by controlling weeds and non-native species, manipulating vegetation to benefit fish and wildlife habitat, improve riparian and wetland areas and improve water quality for priority watersheds (USD I FES 2007).

Noxious weeds and invasive annual grass species out-compete native vegetation, primarily in disturbed areas, for resources through advantageous physiological characteristics. Weeds threaten to degrade public lands in Nevada by spreading into and infesting sensitive riparian ecosystems, important rangelands, wildfire scars and developed lands maintained as rights of way and recreational areas. Unbalanced biodiversity, a weakened ecosystem, a higher propensity for soil erosion, increased frequency of wildfires and limited food stuff resources for wildlife, both terrestrial and aquatic, are threats caused by noxious weed infestations on the CCD. Weeds on private agricultural lands have the potential to spread onto federal lands and vice versa.



Saltcedar (*Tamarix* species) Infestation

Preventing the introduction of noxious weeds and invasive species is the first line of defense against noxious weed establishment and spread, usually associated with cultural control practices.



CCD Noxious Weeds

Common Name	Scientific Name
Russian knapweed	<i>Acroptilon repens</i>
Hoary cress	<i>Cardaria draba</i>
Musk thistle	<i>Carduus nutans</i>
Diffuse knapweed	<i>Centaurea diffusa</i>
Yellow starthistle	<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i>
Spotted knapweed	<i>Centaurea stoebe ssp. Mincranthos</i>
Canada thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>
Bull thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>
Poison hemlock	<i>Conium maculatum</i>
Perennial pepperweed/ Tall whitetop	<i>Lepidium latifolium</i>
Dalmatian toadflax	<i>Linaria dalmatica</i>
Purple loosestrife	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>
Scotch thistle	<i>Onopordum ancanthium</i>
African rue	<i>Peganum harmala</i>
Mediterranean sage	<i>Salvia aethiopsis</i>
Medusahead	<i>Taeniatherum caput-medusae</i>
Saltcedar /Tamarisk	<i>Tamarix sp.</i>
Puncturevine	<i>Tribulus terrestris</i>

Noxious weeds continue to gain dominance in areas where weeds are established. These areas then become launching points from which new areas with suitable habitat and disturbance are infected. Without an IPM approach, damaged or degraded areas are not re-vegetated allowing noxious weeds to persist and increase on the landscape and over time will allow the succession of other non-native invasive species to migrate to the area, establish, and gain dominance. The increasing urbanization of western Nevada and eastern California will bring additional disturbances to native vegetation communities and will facilitate the spread of noxious weeds by means of increased human-caused fires, damage of native plant communities, and spread of weeds by motorized vehicles. Climate change is projected to increase the spread of noxious weeds.

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6.3

BLM CARSON CITY DISTRICT RMP PLANNING FACT SHEET *Grazing*

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The Carson City District manages livestock grazing portions of 12 counties within two states (Washoe, Storey, Carson City, Douglas, Lyon, Churchill, Mineral, and Nye counties within Nevada, and Sierra, Alpine, Plumas, and Lassen counties within California), and encompasses approximately five million acres of public land. Operators can use more than one allotment and an allotment can have more than one operator.

Within the planning area, there are 111 allotments and 52 permittees. The allotments vary in size from 120 to 512,449 public acres, with grazing allocations ranging from 29 to 11,410 AUMs in each allotment.



A total of 156,731 Animal Unit Months (AUMs) are currently permitted within the district with 6,222 suspended use AUMs. An AUM is the amount of forage necessary for the sustenance of one cow or its equivalent for a period of 1 month and is further defined by 1 cow, bull, steer, heifer, horse, burro, mule, 5 sheep, or 5 goats, over the age of 6 months.

Grazing permits are issued for a maximum of ten years and are reviewed prior to reissuance for conformance with management objectives and to ensure progress towards Resource Advisory Council (RAC) Standards and Guidelines (S&Gs). The RAC was developed to promote healthy rangeland and to balance multiple use on public lands. The Carson City District lies within the Sierra Front-Northwestern Great Basin RAC boundary.

The RAC developed standards and guidelines to ensure the BLM adheres to mandates requiring multiple use management. The following is a list of the Standards by the Sierra Front-Northwestern Great Basin RAC.

- Soils
- Riparian/Wetlands
- Water Quality
- Plant and Animal Habitat

BLM

6.3 - Grazing



Of the 111 allotments, there are 67 permits, 35 of which have been renewed through an Environmental Assessment and Grazing Decision. These decisions have addressed conditions of the Allotment, and have resulted in a variety of outcomes, including; changes in season of use, reduction in AUMs, temporary suspension of AUMs due to drought, wildfire, and/or range improvement conditions, and modification of the terms and conditions for administration.

Rangeland Health Assessments will be completed for each allotment during the permit renewal process.

The following are examples of factors that could cause the need to change grazing management:

1. Inappropriate season of use.
2. Suitability for livestock grazing.
3. Availability and/or functionality of range improvement projects.

The following are examples of the kind of changes that could be made to the grazing management system:

1. Change in season of use.
2. Possible reduction in AUMs.
3. Temporary suspension of AUMs.
4. Prescriptive grazing measures.
5. Implementation of adaptive management.

The BLM would like your input...

What livestock grazing management practices are appropriate to maintain and/or restore properly functioning vegetative communities?

What criteria should BLM use to determine suitability for livestock grazing use?

What criteria should BLM use to determine areas that should not be available to livestock grazing?

How should vacant allotments be managed?

What criteria should be utilized to determine if additional forage is available to consider Temporary Non-Renewable (TNR) grazing above the preference and/or authorize temporary changes in use that are deemed outside the terms and conditions of the permit?

What criteria should BLM use to determine appropriate triggers and end-point indicators as terms and conditions of grazing permits?

How should BLM manage livestock grazing if invasive and/or noxious weeds are present?

How should BLM address allotment management that crosses field office boundaries?

Any other issues or concerns with livestock grazing?

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FOREST AND WOODLAND MANAGEMENT

Forest and woodland management of BLM land within the CCD is focused on forest health, reducing the risk of catastrophic wildfire, and enhancing habitat for wildlife species that use these areas. The BLM also provides forest products to the public through commercial and non-commercial permits. Native Americans also place special value on these communities. This planning effort allows the CCD to balance ecological needs of these communities with economic opportunities and traditional Native American uses.

Potential Issues to address include:

- How will forest and woodlands be managed to enhance wildlife habitat, improve forest health, reduce surface erosion, and improve water quality?
- How do we meet public demand for forest products while also protecting resource values?

Forest Products

- Firewood
- Pine nuts
- Christmas Trees
- Juniper Posts
- Seeds / Cuttings for Reforestation
- Biomass / Chips
- Lumber



Thinning work at Indian Creek Campground, Alpine County

Forest and Woodland Habitats (approx. acres)

- Singleleaf Pinyon-Juniper spp. (900,000 acres)
- Curl-leaf Mountain Mahogany (7,000 acres)
- Three Needle Pine (6,500 acres)
- Riparian Deciduous (4,500 acres)
 ⇒ Aspen and Cottonwood
- Mixed Conifer (600 acres)
- Limber Pine (500 acres)
- White Fir (400 acres)



Forest and Woodlands of the Carson City District

These vegetative communities are scattered across the District with the majority located on hill slopes, valley riparian areas, or along the eastern crest of the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range. Forest and woodlands are found on approximately 950,000 acres, which is approximately 20% of the lands managed by the CCD. Commercial activities include the occasional firewood and timber sale, while most of the non-commercial activity includes personal firewood collection, Christmas tree cutting, and pine nut hunting. The CCD is concerned about two major issues: the expansion of pinyon-juniper into sagebrush habitats and the diminishing health, resiliency, and distribution of riparian deciduous communities (aspen and cottonwood).

The expansion of pinyon-juniper trees into valley bottoms that are dominated by brush or native grasses is a natural response to two factors: exclusion of fire and cattle/horse grazing that opens up areas for trees to establish. As more expansion occurs, tree density increases, understory plants are shaded out, and the result is an overly dense pinyon-juniper woodland that is susceptible to insects, disease, and stand replacing fire. Over time, pinyon-juniper woodland health and resiliency is compromised and after major disturbance these areas are often dominated by non-native annual grasses (e.g. cheatgrass).

Aspen is a deciduous tree that is the most common tree across North America and is under a decline in the west. In Nevada, aspen stands provide a distinctive habitat of significant importance to wildlife species. Encroachment of conifers into aspen stands and the subsequent increase in surface and ladder fuels makes these stands also more susceptible to insects, disease, and stand replacing fire. The same issues exist for riparian areas dominated by cottonwood trees, therefore many of these deciduous riparian communities have reduced distribution across the landscape.

With almost a million acres of forest and woodlands to manage, the CCD has the opportunity to develop a strategic approach to addressing forest health, fire risk, ecological functioning and habitat restoration on these communities. Please take a moment and share your thoughts on this important subject.

The BLM wants your input...

Do you know of any Forest Product areas that concern you, or places you might want to see new firewood areas, and if so, where are these areas located?

Do you know of stands of trees that are currently in an unhealthy state and/or need attention, and if so, what is the location?

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7.2

BLM CARSON CITY DISTRICT RMP PLANNING FACT SHEET *Fire Management*

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FIRE MANAGEMENT

Fighting wildfires, as well as managing fuels in order to prevent wildfires, is a complex, costly, and hazardous undertaking. Every year hundreds of homes and thousands of acres of habitat are lost and lives are endangered throughout the United States due to wildfires. The BLM aggressively manages wildfires to protect the valuable resources. In addition, prescribed fire, mechanical, chemical, and biological fuel reduction treatments are used to modify current fuel conditions and future fire behavior.



Fire's Role in the Ecosystem

"Fire, as a critical natural process, will be integrated into land and resource management plans and activities on a landscape scale, and across agency boundaries. Response to wildland fire is based on ecological, social, and legal consequences of fire. The circumstances under which a fire occurs, and the likely consequences on firefighter and public safety and welfare, natural and cultural resources, and values to be protected dictate the appropriate management response to fire." *1995/2001 Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy*

Fire Information —

Number of Fires 1980 to 2011: 3,113

Number of BLM Acres burned 1980 to 2011: 490,998

Number of Control Acres* 1980 to 2011: 718,109

*Control Acres represent total acreage burned regardless of ownership.

BLM

7.2—Fire Management



DEFINITIONS

Per Guidance for Implementation of Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy, there are two (2) types of fire:

- Wildfires — Unplanned ignitions or prescribed fires that are declared wildfires
- Prescribed Fire — Planned ignitions



Fuels Management

Both hazardous fuels reduction and vegetation treatment efforts are essential within the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) as well as in the surrounding wildland environment. The methods and means of reducing fuels within a community may be similar or completely different to those treatments occurring outside of communities. Each area or unit has specific and unique methods and techniques for accomplishing community, environmental, and resource protection objectives. Some treatments require multiple management techniques such as mechanical, chemical, biological, and or prescribed fire to remove or minimize the hazardous fuel build up. Prescribed fire is also used to reintroduce fire back into the ecosystem, as fire is an essential ecological process.

The BLM wants your input...

Under what conditions should fire suppression or fuel reduction activities occur?

CCD Planning Webpage:
http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/carson_city_field.html

Comments can also be mailed
to:
Colleen Sievers,
RMP Project Manager
5665 Morgan Mill Road
Carson City, NV 89701

Email address for public
comments:
BLM_NV_CCDO_RMP@blm.gov

7.3

BLM CARSON CITY DISTRICT RMP PLANNING FACT SHEET *Emergency Stabilization & Restoration*

Christopher McAlear, CCD Manager
5665 Morgan Mill Road, Carson City, NV 89701
Office hours are 7:30 am to 4:30 pm
Phone: (775) 885-6000
FAX: (775) 885-6147

The BLM Carson City District (CCD) is developing the Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the Carson City District planning area. The Carson City RMP will provide detailed information about the current state of resources on public lands within the planning area, and set forth a plan of action for managing those resources for the next twenty or so years under the BLM's multiple use mandate.

Emergency stabilization is required to be conducted within one year of the containment date of the fire, and includes "planned actions that stabilize or prevent unacceptable degradation to natural and cultural resources, to minimize threats to life and property resulting from the effects of a fire, and to repair/replace/construct physical improvements necessary to prevent degradation of land or resources." (620 DM 3.3E)

Burned area rehabilitation can be conducted within 3 years of the containment date of the fire. Burned area rehabilitation includes "efforts undertaken within three years of containment date of a wildland fire to repair or improve fire-damaged lands unlikely to recover naturally to management approved conditions, or to repair or replace minor facilities damaged by fire." (620 DM 3.3E)

Restoration of burned areas is dependent on a variety of factors that are difficult to assess and predict. Consequently there are varying degrees of successful rehabilitation. The invasion of the site by nonnative species, typically cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) and other annual plant species complicate the situation as these

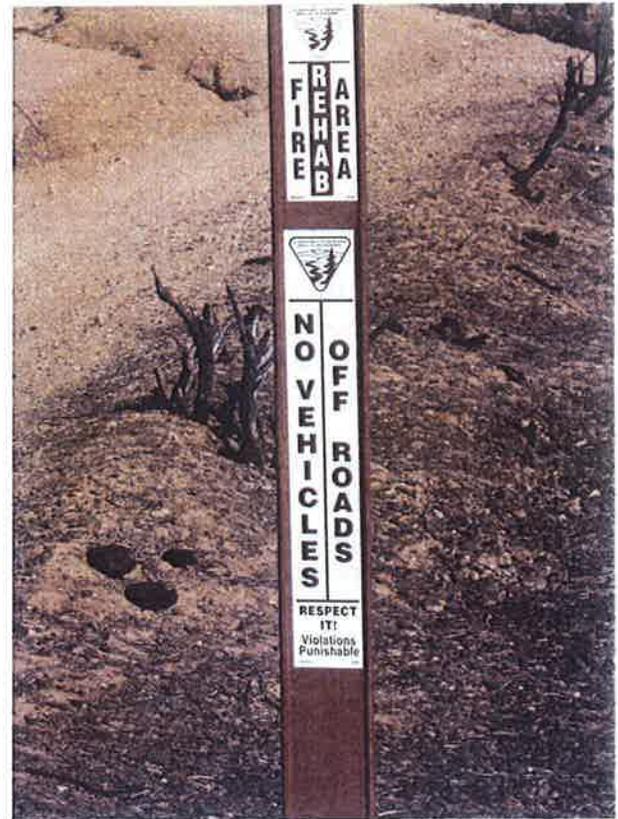


invasive species can quickly dominate the site and potentially increase the probability of a repeat burn which can damage the reestablishment of desired plant species. Areas with sufficient precipitation tend to fare better than areas with low precipitation. Topographic factors such as aspect and elevation influence recovery as well with the key being the availability of moisture and exposure to climatic elements. Soils are also crucial to the reestablishment of vegetation. If the soils are lost by erosion or damaged by intense heat, recovery in these areas is further hampered.

BLM

7.3—Emergency Stabilization & Restoration





The BLM wants your input...

- When is it appropriate to consider using non-native vegetation in a stabilization or rehabilitation project?
- How are emergency closures after fire able to be best publicized and understood, and therefore complied with?
- What project success criteria should (or should not) be outlined in order to re-open rehabilitated areas?

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8.1

BLM CARSON CITY DISTRICT RMP PLANNING FACT SHEET *Soils*

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SOILS RESOURCES

The combinations of geology, depositional history, climate, relief, biological factors, and time combine for a wide variety of soil types throughout the CCD assessment area. Soil Survey data from Washoe County; North and South parts, Carson City Area, Douglas County, Lyon County, Storey County, Churchill County, and Mineral County are used for planning purposes. In 2005, the Web Soil Survey website was launched to provide widespread public access of soil information on public lands. To view the website, go to <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/HomePage.htm>. Soil properties and qualities, such as erosion factors, can be viewed for an area of interest.

One of the primary interpretations for soils within the planning area is the assignment of ecological sites to soil components. It is widely recognized that the soil and climate are components of an ecological site and that the interaction between the soils, climate, and vegetation are reflected in the ecological site. Properly correlated soils and ecological sites provide the basis for various management decisions. Developing management plans for stocking rates, wildlife habitat potentials, and biomass harvesting are examples. Ecological site descriptions are also useful to help identify and manage resource concerns such as re-vegetation, erosion and sediment control, and critical habitats.

BLM wants your input...

- What solutions or treatments are needed to reduce erosion and stabilize soils?
- How will soils be managed to protect biological crusts?

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8.2

BLM CARSON CITY DISTRICT RMP PLANNING FACT SHEET *Water Resources*

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WATER RESOURCES

Water resources within the CCD planning area are affected by urban growth. There is concern of the impact groundwater pumping has on water resources. The supply of water available for use is limited by nature. Occurrence, distribution, and movement of water and the relationship of water with the environment dictate how we plan, analyze, design, utilize, and manage our public lands.

BLM manages multiple uses that can directly or indirectly impact how water interacts as it cycles through the assessment area. This can influence both the quality and quantity of water present.



Walker River in Wilson Canyon



Carson River in Carson Valley

RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL STANDARD FOR WATER QUALITY

Standards for Rangeland Health state that water quality criteria in Nevada and California State Law shall be achieved or maintained, as indicated by:

- chemical constituents do not exceed the water quality standards;
- physical constituents do not exceed the water quality standards;
- biological constituents do not exceed the water quality standards;
- and the water quality of all water bodies, including groundwater located on or influenced by BLM lands will meet or exceed the applicable Nevada or California water quality standards.

Water quality standards for surface and ground water include designated beneficial uses, numeric criteria, narrative criteria, and antidegradation requirements set forth under State law, and as found in Section 303(c) of the Clean Water Act.



The BLM water rights policy provides for management of public lands under principles of multiple use and sustained yield. The BLM water rights program works to insure water availability by acquiring and protecting existing federal reserved water rights and state appropriative water rights.



Hot Spring in Dixie Valley



Curtz Lake

CCD is also responsible for maintaining an up-to-date water use inventory data and water rights records.

Potential Water Resources issues to be addressed include:

- The State of Nevada only has narrative standards for water quality of seeps and springs that are key resources on public lands. How should CCD address water quality on these water sources?
- Which watersheds need special protection to (1) protect public water supplies, (2) ensure the continued existence of federally listed, candidate, or BLM sensitive aquatic species, (3) ensure public health and safety, and (4) facilitate other public uses?

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8.3

BLM CARSON CITY DISTRICT RMP PLANNING FACT SHEET *Riparian and Wetlands*

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RIPARIAN CORRIDORS AND WETLANDS

Riparian-wetland areas are some of the most productive and important ecosystems found on public lands. These areas are also the most frequently overused component of Nevada rangelands, riparian areas have attracted a great deal of management attention. Generally, if riparian areas function properly, all land users will benefit. Because of this, there is a large focus on riparian restoration, including enhancement of water quality, habitat for all wildlife; including special status species, forage for livestock, and water for agriculture. By focusing on the physical functioning of riparian areas, with proper management of uses within the potential and capability of individual settings, BLM can strive to avoid the conflict of differing land uses.



Eldorado Canyon, a healthy riparian vegetation community

Resource Advisory Council Standards and Guidelines provide sideboards for management actions. Riparian and wetland areas exhibit a properly functioning condition as indicated by:

- Sinuosity, width/depth ratio, and gradient are adequate to dissipate stream flow without excessive erosion or deposition;
- Riparian vegetation is adequate to dissipate high flow energy and protect banks from excessive erosion; and
- Plant species diversity is appropriate to riparian-wetland systems.

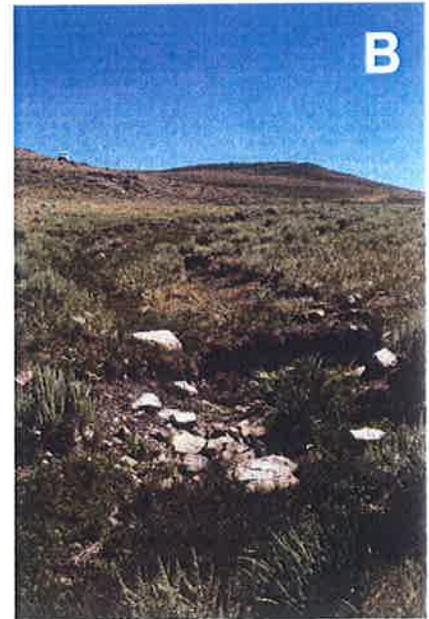
BLM

8.3—Riparian and Wetlands



Current Riparian Conditions

In photos A and B on the right: the channel in photo A is within a fence enclosure and appears to be recovering from past erosion events that created a wide shallow channel. It is covered by vegetation and appears stable. Downstream of the enclosure, photo B, shows bare ground on the stream banks and active head cuts in the channel. The riparian characteristics noted in photo A are missing in photo B.



POTENTIAL RIPARIAN AND WETLAND ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED INCLUDE:

Once PFC is achieved how should planned management work toward desired conditions?

How should riparian and wetland areas be managed to maintain and achieve Proper Functioning Conditions (PFC)? For example, what are other feasible management practices in addition to fence enclosures? How about the size of fence enclosures?

What measurable criteria are appropriate for proper functioning riparian and wetland areas for multiple uses?

Should CCD identify critical riparian and wetland areas? If so, what set criteria should trigger management change or treatment?

For more information on outreach and education workshops, inventory, and monitoring protocols and other technical materials associated with riparian and wetland resource management, please visit website:

<http://www.blm.gov/or/programs/nrst/index.php>

CCD Planning Webpage:
http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/carson_city_field.html

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9.1

BLM CARSON CITY DISTRICT RMP PLANNING FACT SHEET *Wild Horse and Burro Management*

Christopher McAlear, CCD Manager
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Office hours are 7:30 am to 4:30 pm
Phone: (775) 885-6000
FAX: (775) 885-6147

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Half of the nation's wild horses and burros live on Nevada rangelands managed by the BLM. In 1971, the Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act (Act) established herd areas which were identified by the presence of wild horses at the time the Act was passed. The BLM, for management purposes, further identified some of these areas as Herd Management Areas (HMAs). The Carson City District manages 21 Herd Areas (HA). Horses are only managed in the portions of the HAs that are identified as HMAs. Currently the Pah Rah, Horse Springs and Jumbo areas, as well as the southern portion of the Pine Nut HA, are not designated as HMAs, therefore they are not managed for wild horses due to a checker board land pattern.



The appropriate management level (AML) has been determined for all of the HMAs within the district. AML is defined as the number of wild horses that can be sustained within a designated HMA which achieves and maintains a thriving natural ecological balance while preventing degradation of the range within the concept of multiple use.

Soil type and climate dictate the type of vegetation within each HMA and the type of vegetation dictates the success of foraging. Drought, overgrazing, wildfires, and population growth can adversely affect habitat and in some instances herd health. However, the trend is moving toward a desired condition as wild horse and burro management efforts, including gathers and population control methods, have moderated population growth and habitat degradation. Managing for healthy rangelands improves habitat and forage quality for wildlife, livestock, and wild horses and burros.

How Are These Resources Currently Managed?

The BLM manages wild horses and burros under the Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act of 1971 (Public Law 92-195). Under the Act, the BLM is responsible for preserving and protecting wild horses and burros and for managing healthy rangelands. The act was amended by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 and the Public Rangelands Improvement Act of 1978 to require the protection, management, and control of wild free-roaming horses and burros on public lands.

BLM

9.1 - Wild Horse and Burro Management





The BLM would like your input...

Should HMA boundaries be adjusted, combined and/or eliminated?

What criteria should be used to make habitat and population suitability and viability determinations?

What methods, other than removal through gathers, should be considered to achieve AMLs?

How should BLM address wild horse and burro urban-interface issues?

Which HMAs are suitable for the long-term management of wild horses and burros?

What age structure and sex ratios are appropriate to ensure healthy future herds of wild horses and burros?

Where are habitat improvement projects appropriate? What kinds of improvement projects are feasible?

When is it appropriate to develop or augment water for horses and burros?

Any other issues or concerns with the management of wild horses or burros?

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4.1

BLM CARSON CITY DISTRICT RMP PLANNING FACT SHEET *Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs)*

Christopher McAlear, CCD Manager
5665 Morgan Mill Road, Carson City, NV 89701
Office hours are 7:30 am to 4:30 pm
Phone: (775) 885-6000
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AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN, commonly referred to as **ACECs**, are public lands managed by the BLM that require special management objectives to protect special or unique resource values. The resources can be wildlife habitat, scenic areas, or sites of cultural or historical significance. An ACEC can also be an area that is hazardous to humans.

The RMP revision process provides an excellent opportunity for individuals, organized groups or other agencies to bring areas of interest to the attention of BLM to be evaluated for special management objectives.

To qualify as an ACEC, an area must have substantial significance, value, or unique resources. Management prescriptions for ACECs are developed during the RMP process and are tailored to protect the resource value or values that are considered significant in the ACEC.



An ACEC designation does not prevent public access to the area but may restrict or limit the type of uses allowed in order to protect the identified resource. ACECs will frequently have roads or allow other recreational or management activities as long as they are compatible with the management objectives established for the ACEC.

As part of the RMP process, a BLM interdisciplinary team will evaluate potential areas for *relevance* and *importance*. If an area passes this two part evaluation, it will be considered for designation as an ACEC during the RMP development.

The BLM wants your input...

Do you know of any special areas within the Carson City Planning Area that meet the criteria for designation as an ACEC?

BLM

4.1—Areas of Critical Environmental Concern



ACEC designations are a tool in the BLM's management suite that can be used to protect Nevada's special places and resources.

How does an area meet the criteria for relevance and importance?

The interdisciplinary team will evaluate areas for *relevance*:

- Does the area have a significant historic, cultural, or scenic value?
- Does the area contain special habitat for a critical wildlife resource ?
- Is there a natural process or system present (wetlands, riparian, rare plants)?
- Does an area contain natural hazards (floods, unstable soils, dangerous cliffs, toxic material)?

After assessing the relevance of a potential ACEC, the interdisciplinary team then evaluates *importance*. This generally means that an area or resource is characterized by one or more of the following:

- Has more than locally significant qualities or worth that causes it to stand out from other similar areas or resources.
- Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.
- Has been recognized as warranting protection in order to satisfy national priority concerns or to fulfill the mandates of FLPMA.
- Has qualities which warrant highlighting in order to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.
- Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.



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4.2

BLM CARSON CITY DISTRICT RMP PLANNING FACT SHEET *Wilderness Characteristics and Wilderness Study Areas*

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Phone: (775) 885-6000
FAX: (775) 885-6147

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The Federal Lands Policy and Management Act of 1976 requires the BLM to maintain an inventory of lands with wilderness characteristics and to consider this inventory when developing land use plans. In Nevada, the original inventory and an intensive inventory were conducted in the early 1980's to evaluate public lands within the planning area. During the RMP revision, the ID team will update these inventories and document any changes that have occurred over the years. This



process will not create or designate any new wilderness areas since only Congress has that authority. If public lands that meet the wilderness requirements are identified then these lands will be managed under the multiple use mandate with considerations for retaining their wilderness characteristics.

The CCD does not have any wilderness designations.

There are seven areas

designated as Wilderness Study Areas (WSA) within the planning area and two additional WSAs in California that the CCD manages due to travel logistics. Areas that have been designated as WSA's will retain that designation until Congress designates them as wilderness areas or releases them from wilderness consideration.

Wilderness is a resource which can shrink but not grow... the creation of new wilderness in the full sense of the word is impossible.

Aldo Leopold

BLM

4.2 Wilderness Characteristics and WSAs



The CCD manages the areas on the following table as Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) until Congress either designates or releases them from wilderness consideration.

County	WSA Name	Field Office	Acres
Churchill	Clan Alpine Mountains	Stillwater	196,128
Churchill	Stillwater Range	Stillwater	94607
Churchill	Desatoya Mountains	Stillwater	51,504
Churchill	Job Peak	Stillwater	90,209
Churchill	Gabbs Valley Range	Stillwater	79,600
Churchill/Pershing	Augusta Mountains	Stillwater/Humboldt River	89,372
Douglas	Burbank Canyons	Sierra Front	13,395
WSA's Located in California but managed by CCDO			
County	WSA Name	Field Office	Acres
Mono-Alpine	Slinkard	Sierra Front	6,268
Alpine	Carson-Iceberg	Sierra Front	550

CITIZEN PROPOSALS FOR WILDERNESS

Citizen proposals for wilderness areas or areas that meet the lands with wilderness characteristics requirements can be made to the BLM. The minimum standard that BLM must receive to consider the information to conduct a wilderness characteristics inventory process includes:

- A map of sufficient detail to determine specific boundaries of the area in question.
- A detailed narrative that describes the wilderness characteristics of the area and documents how that information substantially differs from the information in the BLM inventory of the area's wilderness characteristics.
- Photographic documentation.

The BLM wants your input.....

Tell us about your knowledge of these areas or let us know of other areas that you feel should be considered for review of wilderness characteristics.

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4.3

BLM CARSON CITY DISTRICT RMP PLANNING FACT SHEET *Wild and Scenic Rivers*

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As part of the RMP process, the Carson City interdisciplinary team must evaluate free-flowing sections of streams or rivers within the Carson City District to determine if there are any sections



that should be designated for status as wild and scenic river (Wild and Scenic River Act, 1968, Section 5 (d)(1)). The entire river does not have to be designated; even a short stretch may be considered wild and scenic. Also, the entire stretch does not have to contain only public lands administered by the BLM. Several agencies or even private land holdings could be included in the wild and scenic

river designation. Cooperation between BLM, other agencies (Federal, State, and local) and private individuals is key during the RMP process for wild and scenic river consideration.

Only the U. S. Congress can actually designate a river or river segment as "wild and scenic".

The Carson City District interdisciplinary team will evaluate all of its free-flowing streams and rivers and consider their characteristics for wild and scenic river status. These river stretches are evaluated during the RMP process.

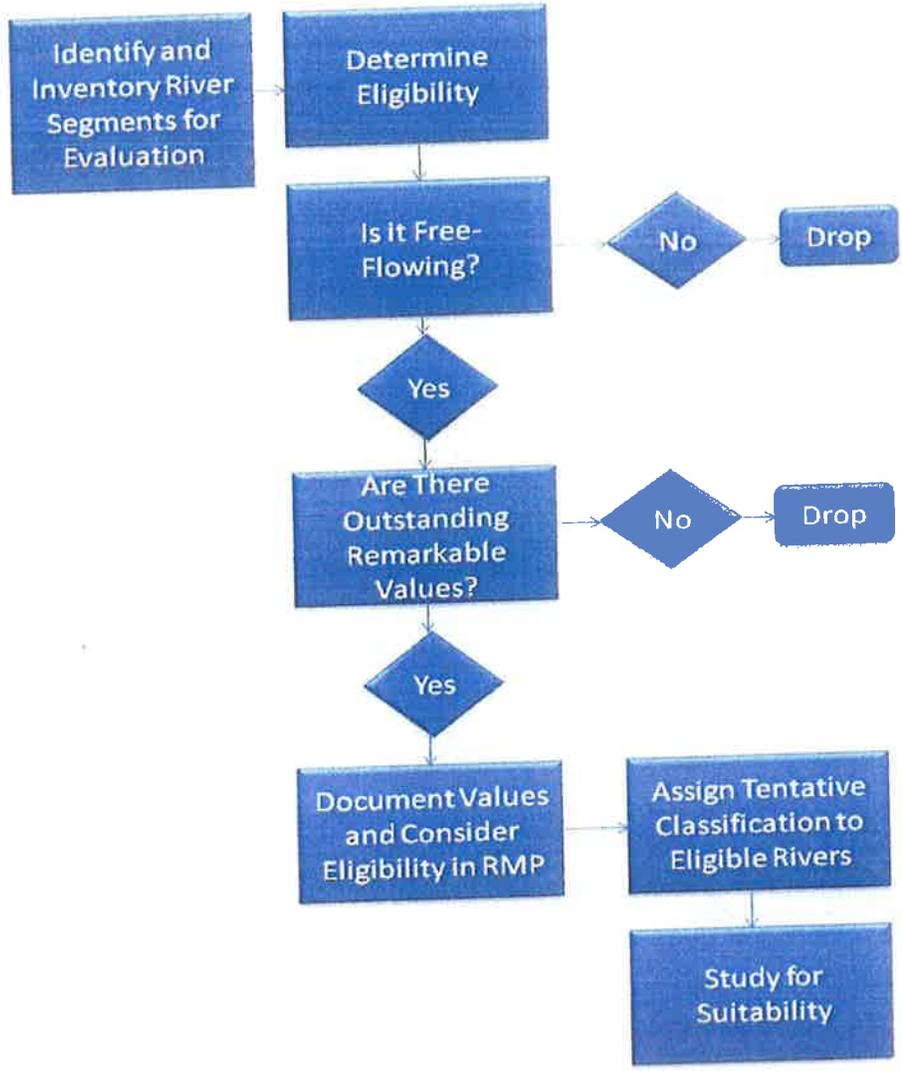
For each stretch of river, the BLM will determine whether it is free-flowing and contains one or more outstanding remarkable values (ORV). These values include: scenic, geological, recreation, fish, wildlife, and cultural. The Carson River and Walker River will be evaluated during the RMP process for wild and scenic river eligibility within the Carson City District.

BLM

4.3 Wild and Scenic Rivers



The Carson City District has identified the following steps for considering wild and scenic rivers as part of the RMP process:



The BLM wants your input.....

Please tell us about your experience with the wild and scenic nature of the Carson River and Walker River in the Carson City District.

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10.1

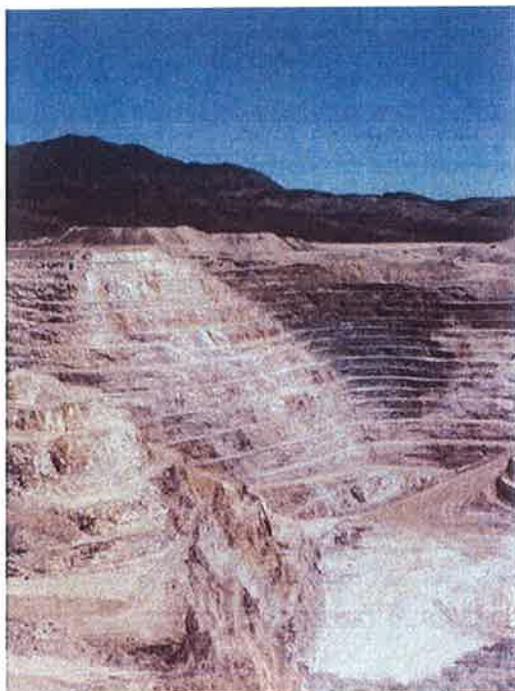
BLM CARSON CITY DISTRICT RMP PLANNING FACT SHEET *Mineral Resources*

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LAND OF VALUABLE RESOURCES

BLM-administered lands are available for the exploration and development of mineral resources because of the BLM's dual mandate of multiple use and sustainable yield. The Mining Law of 1872 provides the legal framework for individuals and companies to acquire mineral rights to a variety of hard rock minerals, including precious metals, base metals, and industrial minerals. Mining claimants are required to get BLM authorization before conducting any significant surface-disturbing activities. Miners are also required to obtain various approvals and permits from other federal, state and local governments. Financial guarantee bonds are also required of miners to ensure reclamation will be completed to all agency standards.



MAJOR MINERAL RESOURCES IN THE PLANNING AREA

Precious metals (gold and silver) and base metals (copper, iron, and tungsten) are all found in the CCD planning area. Metallic mineral occurrences include both vein hosted and disseminated precious metals deposits and contact metamorphic base metal deposits. Industrial minerals such as diatomite, limestone, clay, and salt are also found in the CCD planning area. Mines operating in the CCD in 2010 produced 350,000 ounces of silver; 20,000 ounces of gold; 26,000 tons of salt and an unreported amount of diatomite, limestone, and clay.

BLM

10.1—Mineral Resources



OTHER MINERAL RESOURCES

- The CCD planning area also contains significant mineral material resources including construction sand and gravel, aggregate, and decorative rock.
- Mineral material production from public land in the CCD planning area averages about 1,000,000 tons per year.
- These resources can be obtained through the BLM-administered material sales program.



OTHER MINERAL FACTS

- The CCD planning area contains over 60,000 mining claims.
- There are 41 authorized Notices and 24 authorized Plans of Operations for exploration and mining activities in the CCD planning area.
- Total surface disturbance authorized in the CCD planning area totals approximately 3,300 acres.

The BLM wants your input...

- How should mineral development be managed to minimize resource conflicts?
- Are there public lands that should be withdrawn from mineral entry because of conflicts with other public land uses?
- Should special conditions of approval be placed on mineral development? If so, what are they and where should they be applied?
- What are the potential social and economic effects associated with mineral development? How would planning decisions affect communities in the Carson City District?

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LAND OF GEOTHERMAL RESOURCES

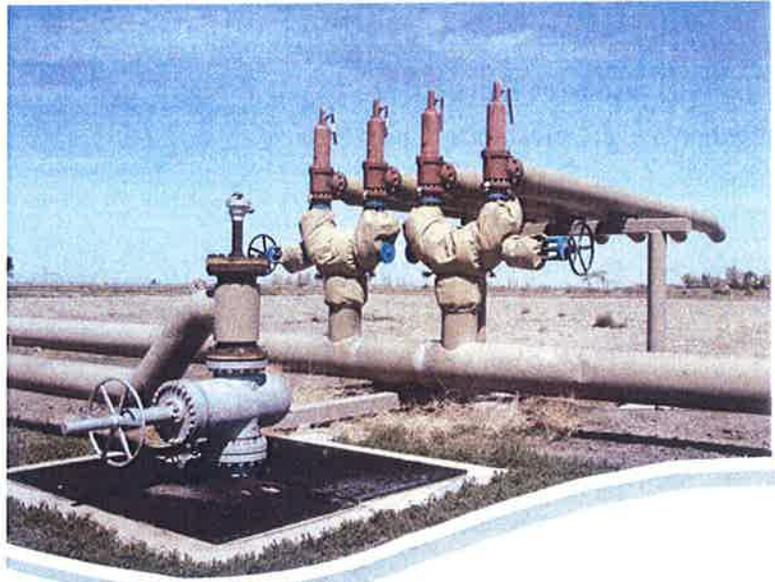
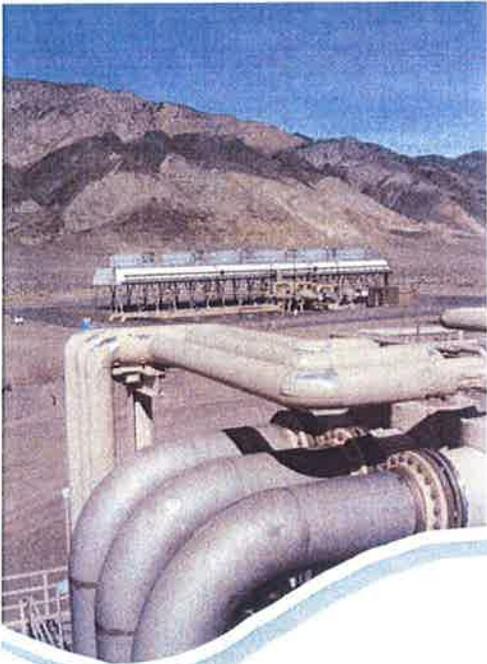
Geothermal resources require three components: a substantial heat source, fractures in the rock at the heat source that are connected over distance, and a water source. The Basin and Range physiographic province is made up largely of north-south trending parallel valleys and mountain ranges separated by normal faults. This extensional tectonic environment is also notable for thinner crust and high heat flow compared to the rest of the United States. These conditions create a high potential for economically viable geothermal resources, particularly in areas along range-front faults or within or adjacent to basinal playas. These areas account for the majority of current geothermal exploration and development within the Carson City District.



As of January 18, 2012 there were 193 geothermal leases totaling approximately 436,185 acres located in the Carson City District. Six areas are identified within the Planning Area with active geothermal power production of approximately 208 MW of electricity (enough to power about 200,000 homes). These include Steamboat Hills near Reno; Dixie Valley; Wabuska; and Soda Lake, Stillwater, and Salt Wells near Fallon. Another three areas have active exploration projects with proposed future energy production including Southern Gabbs Valley, Northern Edwards Creek Valley, and the Hazen area. Additional areas that have active geothermal leases but minimal or no exploration include Soda Springs Valley near Luning; Rhodes Salt Marsh near Mina; Teels Marsh southwest of Mina; and the west Stillwater Range northeast of Fallon.



The Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 (30 USC §1001 et seq.) and its implementing regulations, 43 CFR Part 3200 provide regulatory guidance for geothermal leasing and development by the BLM. These regulations identify four stages of geothermal resource development within a lease: 1) exploration, 2) development, 3) production, and 4) decommissioning. Each of the four stages under the lease requires separate BLM authorization and compliance with the NEPA when ground-disturbing activities are proposed. Geothermal exploration and production on BLM land are conducted through leases with the Bureau and are subject to terms and stipulations to comply with all applicable federal and state laws pertaining to various considerations for sanitation, water quality, wildlife, safety, and reclamation. Stipulations may be site specific and are derived from the environmental analysis process.



The BLM wants your input...

How can the BLM improve the management of geothermal resources?

How should geothermal development be managed to minimize resource conflicts?

Are there public lands that should be closed to geothermal entry because of conflicts with other public land uses?

Should special conditions of approval be placed on geothermal development? If so, what are they and where should they be applied?

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http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/carson_city_field.html

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to:
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11.1

BLM CARSON CITY DISTRICT RMP PLANNING FACT SHEET *Land Tenure Adjustments*

Christopher McAlear, CCD Manager
5665 Morgan Mill Road, Carson City, NV 89701
Office hours are 7:30 am to 4:30 pm
Phone: (775) 885-6000
FAX: (775) 885-6147

The BLM Carson City District (CCD) is developing the Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the Carson City District planning area. The Carson City RMP will provide detailed information about the current state of resources on public lands within the planning area, and set forth a plan of action for managing those resources for the next twenty or so years under the BLM's multiple use mandate.

Land Ownership transfer through purchase, exchange, donation, and sale is an important component of the BLM's land management strategy. The Bureau completes ownership transactions involving land and interests in land when such transactions are in the public interest and consistent with publicly-approved land use plans. The BLM's Land Tenure program is designed to :

- Improve management of natural resources through consolidation of Federal, tribal, State and private lands;
- Increase recreational opportunities and secure public access to public lands;
- Preserve open space and traditional landscapes;
- Secure key property necessary to protect endangered species, promote biological diversity and preserve wildlife habitat and migration corridors;
- Preserve archaeological, historical and paleontological resources;
- Implement specific acquisitions authorized by Acts of Congress; and
- Allow for expansion of communities and consolidation of non-Federal land ownership.

Authority: Section 102 of The Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976, (as amended) states, "Congress declares that it is the policy of the United States that--, (1) the public lands be retained in Federal ownership, unless as a result of the land use planning procedure provided for in this Act, it is determined that disposal of a particular parcel will serve the national interest..."

Section 205 of FLPMA states, "...provide for acquisition of lands or interests in lands by purchase, exchange, or donation.."



Acts Authorizing Land Disposal and Acquisition:

There are a number of Acts which allow the disposal of public lands. Some of the more commonly used authorities are:

1. Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, (as amended).
2. Recreation and Public Purposes Act of 1926, (as amended).
3. Airport and Airway Improvement Act of 1982.

BLM

11.1 – Land Tenure Adjustments



Potential issues to be addressed are:

- Which lands or interests in lands would be appropriate for disposal?
- Which public lands within the “railroad checkerboard” should be identified for disposal?
- What criteria will be used to determine lands suitable for disposal?
- Which lands or interests in lands should be acquired if the acquisition would be economically prudent, and the owner was agreeable?
- Other interests that might be acquired include: mineral or sub-surface estate, water rights, interest in land, including easements for purposes such as access, conservation, and open space, and land with threatened and endangered species habitat or other desirable resource values.
- Which lands should be identified for disposal or for recreational or public purpose uses?
- Should areas of known unauthorized use (trespass) be sold?



Animal Shelter authorized under a Recreation & Public Purpose Act

The BLM wants your input...

Lands currently identified in the Carson City Field Office Consolidated Resources Management Plan for disposal and current acquisition criteria may not meet current or future needs or circumstances.

Do you know of any lands within the planning area that you might want to see designated for disposal for acquisition?

Do you know of any lands currently designated for disposal that shouldn't be?

Any individual, agency, or organization may nominate such lands during the public scoping period. Reasons should be given for a nomination. Consideration will be given to nominated lands within the framework of Multiple Use Management.

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11.2

BLM CARSON CITY DISTRICT RMP PLANNING FACT SHEET *Rights-of-Way*

Christopher McAlear, CCD Manager
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Phone: (775) 885-6000
FAX: (775) 885-6147

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How can I build something on BLM land?

Authority: Section 501 of The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, (as amended) states, "The Secretary, with respect to the public lands . . . (except in each case of land designated as wilderness), are authorized to grant, issue, or renew rights-of-way over, upon, under, or through such lands.."



Each year, thousands of individuals and companies apply to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to obtain a right-of-way (ROW) on public land.

A ROW grant is an authorization to use a specific piece of public land for a certain project, such as roads, pipelines, transmission lines, and communication sites. A ROW grant authorizes rights and privileges for a specific use of the land for a specific period of time. Generally, a BLM ROW is granted for a term appropriate for the life of the project.

<i>Predominate ROW Authorizations in the CCD*</i>		
<i>Type</i>	<i>Number Authorized</i>	<i>Miles</i>
Road	353	1245
Power lines	267	2761
Communication Site Facilities	110	N/A

It is the policy of the BLM to authorize all ROW applications at the discretion of the authorized officer in the most efficient and economical manner possible.

*To a lesser extent, CCD has authorized all types of pipelines, telephone lines, railroads, etc.



Potential issues to be addressed in the new RMP are:

- Should the existing utility and ROW corridors be revised to provide for anticipated future needs? If so, what changes are needed?
- What areas, if any, should be designated as ROW use areas? What types of uses would be permitted in such areas?
- What criteria will BLM use to identify ROW avoidance and/or exclusion areas?



The BLM wants your input...

Do you have concerns about the above ROW issues to be addressed in the new RMP? Are you concerned about the current designated utility corridors or any proposed new ones?

The regulations for processing ROE applications, whether for a short buried water pipeline, a mountaintop communications site, or a major power transmission line many hundreds of miles long, are found at 43CFR 2800. More information about the BLM's right-of-way program can be found online at http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/energy/cost_recovery_regulations.html

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Within the Carson City District boundary are a wide variety of accessible and irreplaceable resources that illustrate past human life. BLM manages these cultural resources through various Federal laws, regulations, executive orders, BLM Manuals and the Nevada and California State protocols.

Antiquities Act of 1906:

- First legislation created to protect cultural resources

Historic Sites Act of 1935

- Makes identification and preservation of "historic sites, buildings, objects and antiquities" of national significance a national policy
- Foundation of the National Register of Historic Places

National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (NHPA):

- *Section 106*: Federal agencies must take into consideration effect of actions on cultural resources
- *Section 110*: Agencies are responsible for inventory, preservation and protection of cultural resources



The Archaeological Resource Protection Act of 1979 (ARPA):

- Protects cultural resources more than 100 years old on public or tribal lands from excavation, damage, removal, alteration, destruction and/or being bought, sold or transported

BLM Manual 8100 Series

- 8100: "The Foundations for Managing Cultural Resources"
- 8110: "Identifying and Evaluating Cultural Resources"
- 8120: "Tribal Consultation Under Cultural Resources"
- 8130: "Planning for Uses of Cultural Resources"
- 8140: "Protecting Cultural Resources"
- 8150: "Permitting Uses of Cultural Resources"
- 8170: "Interpreting Cultural Resources for the Public"

State Protocol Agreement between BLM and SHPO, for Nevada and California:

- Addresses how BLM will interact with SHPO to complete Section 106 of NHPA
- Sets standards and guidelines for managing cultural resources
- Procedures and policies to follow in consultation with SHPO





The BLM would like your input...

Do you know of any traditional cultural properties (TCPs) within the planning area that you want protected?

Do you know of any archaeological sites within the planning area that you want protected, interpreted, or developed for educational purposes?

Sites can include, but are not limited to:

- Historic town sites
- Petroglyph sites
- Historic ranches
- Quarry sites



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Paleontological resources are known for specific geologic areas throughout the Carson City District. Fossils are identified within geological units and are extensively distributed both vertically and horizontally. Fossils can take the form of actual fossilized remains as well as traces, tracks, or imprints of organisms that provide information about the history of life on earth. BLM manages these paleontological resources through various Federal laws, regulations, and BLM Manuals.

Antiquities Act of 1906:

- First legislation created to protect *any object of antiquity*, which is general interpreted to include fossil materials.

Title 18 U.S.C. Section 641 (Public money, property or records):

- Includes the taking of vertebrate fossils as theft of government property.

Federal Cave Resources Protection Act of 1988:

- Address protection of significant caves and cave resources, including paleontological resources.

Paleontological Resources Preservation Act of 2009:

- Requires the Secretary of the Interior to manage and protect paleontological resources on public land using scientific principles and expertise. To date, the Secretary has not issued regulations to carry out this Act.
- Requires that a paleontological resource may not be collected from public land without a permit.
- Directs agencies to begin to establish public awareness and education programs, and for inventorying and monitoring public lands for paleontological resources.
- Includes provisions allowing for casual or hobby collecting of common invertebrate and plant fossils without a permit on public lands, under certain conditions.



Department of the Interior, Secretarial Order:

Order No. 3104 (1984): *Issuance of Archaeological and Paleontological Permits.*

BLM Manual 8200 Series:

8270: "Paleontological Resource Management"

Handbook H-8270-1: "Paleontological Resource Management Handbook"

The BLM would like your input...

- Do you know of any vertebrate fossil finds or fossil beds within the planning area that you want protected?
- Do you know of any paleontological sites within the planning area that you want protected, interpreted, or developed for educational purposes?

Sites can include, but are not limited to:
Fossilized bone or plant
Fossilized invertebrate shells
Fossil traces, tracks, or imprints



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Ten American Indian Tribes hold traditional ties to the Carson City District. Tribes have a unique legal relationship with the United States government, afforded by the Constitution of the United States, treaties, statutes, Executive Orders, and court decisions. BLM has a mandate to respect the status of Tribes and their right to self-government and sovereign power over their members and territory.

National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (NHPA):

- As a part of the *Section 106 Process*: Federal agencies must consult with tribes relative to their perspective on effect of actions on cultural resources.

American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978, as amended:

- Legislation enacted to protect and preserve the traditional religious rights of Native Americans, including accommodation of access to sacred sites.

Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990, as amended:

- Provides a process for agencies to return certain Native American cultural items—human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony—to lineal descendants, and culturally affiliated Indian tribes.

Executive Orders:

- E.O. 13007 (1996): *Indian Sacred Sites*. Directs agencies to accommodate access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites by practitioners, to protect the physical integrity of such sites, and to maintain the confidentiality of sacred sites.
- E.O. 13084 (1998): *Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments*. Agencies may not issue a regulation that is not required by statute, that significantly or uniquely affects the communities of Indian tribal governments.
- E.O. 13175 (2000): *Consultation and Coordination with Tribal Government*. Establishes regular and meaningful consultation and collaboration with tribal officials in the development of Federal policies that have tribal implications.
- E.O. 13592 (2011): *Improving American Indian and Alaska Native Educational Opportunities and Strengthening Tribal Colleges and Universities*. Agencies must help improve educational opportunities.



Department of the Interior, Secretarial Order:

- Order No. 3317 (2011): *Interior Policy on Consultation with Indian Tribes*. Requires offices and agencies to demonstrate a meaningful commitment to consultation

BLM Manual 8100 Series:

- 8120: "Tribal Consultation Under Cultural Resources"
- Handbook H-8120-1: "Native American Consultation and Coordination"



The BLM would like your input...

Do you know of any traditional cultural properties (TCPs) within the planning area that you want protected?

Do you know of any areas that are of tribal interest involving access to cultural or natural resources?

Do you know of or have interest in tribal economic opportunity or social development on public lands?



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