

BLM News

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Elko Field Office, 3900 East Idaho Street, Elko, Nevada 89801 (775) 753-0200

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CONTACT: Mike Brown
(775) 753-0386
e-mail: Mike_Brown@nv.blm.gov

RANGELAND WORKING GROUP TO FORM

A diverse group of people representing a wide range of interests are coming together to form a working group to develop a plan for improving range conditions on the South Buckhorn allotment southwest of Carlin, Nevada.

Thirty people including representatives from the Western Shoshone Defense Project, Nevada Division of Wildlife, local ranchers, Nevada Committee for Full Statehood, Assemblyman John Carpenter, Western Watersheds, Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council, and the Bureau of Land Management spent a day touring the South Buckhorn allotment on October 22, 2003. The group's discussions were facilitated by Rod Davis, University of Nevada Reno Agricultural Extension Service, from Battle Mountain.

Discussions covered a range of concerns that impact range conditions such as wild horses, livestock use, effects of wildfire, drought, riparian conditions, grasshoppers and Mormon crickets, soils, mining, water quality, fencing, and more.

"There were a lot of good opinions expressed during the tour," said BLM Elko Field Manager Helen Hankins. "The bottom line, though, is that people want to work together in a collaborative effort to go forward with the goal of meeting Rangeland Health Standards and Guidelines that were adopted for public lands in Nevada."

Nevada Assemblyman John Carpenter commented, "It was a good thing that everyone met on the ground, it shows concern that this is an important area. With everyone's cooperation, there are good possibilities for improvement with benefits to wildlife, livestock, and recreation."

The first meeting of the working group will be held in mid-November with the date and location to be announced. The working group will be open to the public. For more information about the South Buckhorn allotment or the working group, contact Jason Spence at the BLM Elko Field Office (775) 753-0200.