



# FACT SHEET



## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT GEOTHERMAL RESOURCES LEASING PROPOSAL

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### ***Why are we doing this Project?***

In May 2001, the President adopted a National Energy Policy to respond to our Nation's increasing energy needs. In response to this policy, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) developed an implementation strategy titled: *BLM Implementation of the National Energy Policy*. This implementation strategy identifies a number of tasks that would streamline energy development on public lands.

BLM, Nevada has received numerous applications to lease public lands to explore for, and develop geothermal resources. A large number of these applications are located within the Winnemucca Field Office boundaries. To expedite our processing of these pending lease applications and meet the intent of the National Energy Policy, we are preparing a Programmatic Environmental Assessment in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act. The EA would provide a broad scope analysis, addressing cumulative impacts of reasonably foreseeable geothermal development and exploration scenarios. Based on the analysis, a decision will be implemented in form of lease stipulations, mitigation measures, and conditions of approval on all new geothermal leases. The decision may also defer leasing geothermal resources in areas.

### ***What is our Proposed Action?***

The Nevada BLM is considering leasing geothermal resources on public lands within the Winnemucca Field Office administrative boundary and within the Dixie Valley, Known Geothermal Resource Areas (KGRAs) in Dixie Valley, NV, administered by the BLM Carson City Field Office. Leasing would comply with the *Winnemucca BLM Paradise-Denio, Sonoma-Gerlach Management Framework Plans* and the *Consolidated Resource Management Plan (RMP)* for the Carson City Field Office. Lease applications located within the Black Rock Desert – High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trail National Conservation Area (NCA) and wilderness or wilderness study areas are not being considered.

### ***What are the proposed alternatives?***

**Proposed Action Alternative.** Under this alternative, we would consider leasing all or some of the geothermal resources at lease application sites, KGRAs, and Prospectively Valuable Areas (PVAs) within the administrative boundary of Winnemucca Field Office and the Dixie Valley KGRA administered by the Carson Field Office. Leases located within the boundaries of the Black Rock Desert – High Rock Canyon NCA and wilderness/wilderness study areas are not being considered. Under this alternative, all lease application sites, KGRAs, and PVAs identified within the assessment area would be analyzed for possible leasing, consistent with the current Land Use Plans. All future geothermal resource leases would be subject to stipulations, mitigation measures, or performance standards developed in this analysis. Future lease applications would require a cultural resources inventory and site visit addressing wildlife and threatened and endangered, or sensitive species, prior to leasing within the Winnemucca

Field Office administrative boundary. Existing leases or other valid existing geothermal rights within the project area would not be subject to stipulations, mitigation measures, or performance standards developed in this analysis but would be subject to the above should these leases be dropped and leased again.

**No Action Alternative.** Under this alternative, all or some of the future leases for geothermal resources would be analyzed using the currently approved geothermal environmental assessment and would be consistent with existing land use plans. The basis for approving and issuing all pending and future geothermal leases would be the *Stipulations for Oil and Gas and Geothermal Leases, Winnemucca Office Instruction Memorandum No. 84-160*, and the *Winnemucca District Regional Geothermal/Oil and Gas Leasing Environmental Assessment (EA-NV-020-2-38), N-11821, June 1982* and the applicable land use plans for the BLM Winnemucca and Carson City Field Offices.

### ***What is Scoping and how will my comments and ideas be used?***

An essential part of the environmental assessment process (required by the National Environmental Policy Act and outlined by the Council on Environmental Quality implementing regulations) is Scoping. Scoping is defined as an open process to inform the public of the agency's proposed action and possible alternatives, to solicit public input to identify significant environmental issues requiring detailed study, and to eliminate insignificant environmental issues from further analysis. By participating in the Scoping process and sharing your ideas and environmental concerns, you are helping us focus our environmental study, analysis time, and resources on the issues you feel are significant. Your comments may also help us to identify new alternatives that were not previously considered.

### ***How can I stay involved?***

To remain involved in this process, make sure that your name and mailing address are included on our contact list. We also encourage you to review the Programmatic Environmental Assessment when it is released for public review later this summer. It will be posted on our web site, or you may request that a printed copy be mailed to you. After reviewing the released assessment, send us your comments during the 14-day public comment period. You may either send your comments by mail (to the address listed below), or you may send them electronically by going to the comment page on our web site.

### ***Where can I get more information?***

We've developed an Internet web site specifically for this project. Most of the pertinent information relating to this project is, or will soon be posted on the site. We have also listed some useful links for you to explore for more detailed information about geothermal energy and other related information. Please visit our web site at: [www.nv.blm.gov/winnemucca/geed](http://www.nv.blm.gov/winnemucca/geed).

To speak to a BLM agent about this project, you may contact Mr. Jeff Johnson at (775) 623-1500. Or you may write for additional information at:

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