

**United States Department of the Interior**  
**Bureau of Land Management**



**CARSON CITY Field Office**  
Carson City, Nevada 89701

~~March 2001~~

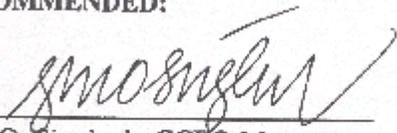
**PRE-PLAN ANALYSIS  
AND  
PROJECT MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**PINE NUT MOUNTAINS PLAN AMENDMENT  
AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**



PROJECT MANAGEMENT PLAN  
FOR THE  
PINE NUT MOUNTAINS PLAN AMENDMENT  
AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

RECOMMENDED:

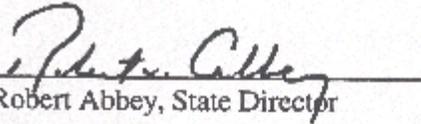


John O. Singlaub, CCFO Manager

2-28-01

Date

APPROVED:



Robert Abbey, State Director

2-28-01

Date

**PINE NUT MOUNTAINS PLAN AMENDMENT  
TO THE  
WALKER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN  
!  
PRE-PLAN ANALYSIS  
AND  
PROJECT MANAGEMENT PLAN**

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# PINE NUT MOUNTAINS PLAN AMENDMENT TO THE WALKER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN ! PRE-PLAN ANALYSIS AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT PLAN

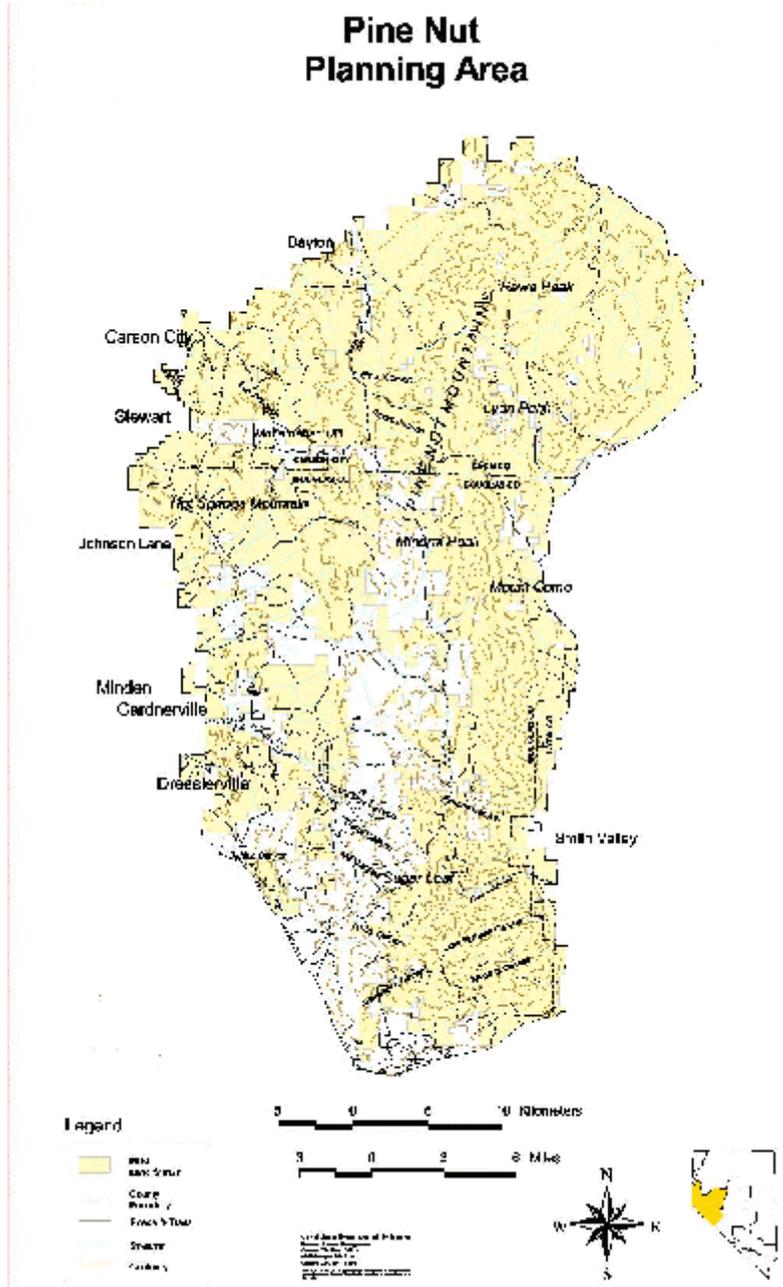
## Introduction and Background

This proposed amendment to the Walker Resource Management Plan (RMP) involves public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management in the Pine Nut Mountains.

As shown in the map, the planning area includes about 362,000 acres in the Pine Nut Mountains, which are located in the vicinity of Carson City, and Douglas and Lyon counties in western Nevada just east of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. The Pine Nut Mountains are bounded by the Walker River to the south and east and the Carson River to the west and north. The cities and communities of Carson City, Minden, Gardnerville, Dayton, Yerington, and Smith Valley are located in valleys surrounding the mountains. The Washoe, and Yerington Paiute Tribes have reservations in close proximity to the Pine Nut Mountains. The Walker River Paiute, and Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribes have reservations in the general vicinity.

Individuals from these communities and tribes utilize the mountains for a wide variety of commercial, recreational, subsistence, cultural and religious activities. These groups have an affiliation with or attachment to the Pine Nut Mountains and are concerned about the condition and management of resources in the area. Groups and individuals have expressed interest vocally and in writing regarding participation in the collaborative planning process.

Both the Washoe Tribe and Yerington Paiute Tribe include all or portions of the Pine Nut Mountains as part of their ancestral homelands.



## Anticipated Planning Issues and Management Concerns

**A. Urban Interface Management:** The urban interface is the zone where commercial and residential development on private land abuts adjacent public lands. Population growth, and rapidly expanding residential and economic development in this area creates conflicts between the owners of the private lands and some of the uses occurring on public lands. Development, particularly residential development, in these areas has created a new set of expectations about how the neighboring public lands are and should be managed. There are numerous issues that BLM is currently experiencing and expecting to address in this plan amendment. These issues include (but may not necessarily be limited to) the following elements.

- public access
- trespass on private lands
- mineral extraction
- land tenure
- Off Highway Vehicle use
- recreation
- hunting and shooting
- utility rights-of-way
- wild horse herd management
- livestock management
- wildfire control; fuels treatment
- equestrian access and use

Although many of these issues exist elsewhere in the planning area, their impacts are more notable in the interface areas, which in the Pine Nut Planning area, includes the following general locations.

- Eastern Carson Valley
- Carson City Area
- Dayton Valley
- Yerington Area
- Smith Valley
- Indian Allotment Lands

**B. Off Highway Vehicle Use and Management:** Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) uses and management of such uses is a controversial national public lands issue. OHV issues center on the following basic concerns.

- C The public nuisance caused by the noise and dust generated, particularly along the urban interface (generally 1-3 miles of residential homes).
- C Conflicts between OHV's and other legitimate public land uses (other recreational activities, safety issues).
- C The effects on wildlife and wildlife habitat caused by noise, human presence and an expanding network of roads and trails that serve to fragment existing habitats.
- C The environmental effects of such use on air quality, soil erosion, and vegetative cover.
- C Concerns relating to open versus limited OHV use status.
- C Concerns over 4WD and ATV use and resulting degradation of single track trails.
- C Inadequate signing and dedicated/designated access corridors and access points.
- C Inadequate patrols and public education.
- C Sanctioned/permitted OHV events.

**C. Recreation/Visual and Scenic Resources:** Given the location of the Pine Nut Mountains to the urban areas, interest is high to preserve the scenic and aesthetic qualities of the area. Issues include the following elements.

- C Designation of areas of high scenic qualities.
- C Passive use versus active use.

**D. Vegetation Resource Management:** All of our resource management programs need accurate vegetation data in order to make reasonable and effective management decisions. However, each program needs different types of data at varying scales. There is no one size fits all vegetation inventory program. Further complicating the issue vegetation communities are dynamic and data collection is time consuming and very expensive. This proposal, under

a Plan Amendment, would: 1) examine all of the available vegetative data; 2) apply what we know to the identified issues; 3) identify gaps or weaknesses in the data we currently have; 4) identify data needs to address specific issues; and 5) collect only data that is essential to adequately addressing issues identified in the Pine Nut Mountains Plan Amendment.

Issues:

- C There is a need for vegetation community data, that is, the types of communities, community size, community composition, and the ecological status of the community. Such data would help measurably in addressing and answering questions on some very broad-based issues for each of our programs (such as cultural resources, wildlife habitat resources, and the like) and at the same time helping to narrow our data collection efforts to focus on specific issues.
- C Currently we check a database provided to us by the Nevada Natural Heritage Program for T&E Species. This Program and BLM conduct very few field surveys, and most of the information is provided to the Heritage program by volunteers. T&E species (listed and potentially listed species), as the issue relates to vegetation and habitat includes Sage Grouse, Mtn. Quail and the Carson Skipper butterfly will most likely surface.
- C The pinon forest is of great historic importance to both the Washoe and Paiute Tribes. Both Tribes have relied on the pinon nut harvest as a major food source in historic times. The Pine Nut Mountains and the forest contain culturally significant sites and have areas of religious importance.
- C Introduction (reintroduction) of beneficial species.

**E. Lands and Land Tenure Issues:** BLM lands have been identified for disposal, by either transfer, sale, or exchange; other BLM lands have been identified for retention. Further, the following issues are identified relating to lands in the plan area.

- C Private/Other lands identified for acquisition.
- C Acquisition and disposal criteria.
- C Parcel specific designations (exchange only, R&PP only, Washoe Tribe lands consolidation transfers).
- C Access – Identification and prioritization of access points/routes for acquisition (access corridors).
- C Utility corridors – review and revise as appropriate, major utility corridor designations.
- C Future land use restrictions – Identification of areas for locations of major facilities (water tanks, electrical substations, roads, power lines, etc.).
- C Permitted commercial use of roads (such as that associated with Hodges Transportation).

**F. Wildlife and Threatened and Endangered Species Management:** While important habitat areas have been identified for some for the species listed, much work still needs to be done especially for T&E, sensitive, and USFWS category species. Wildlife concerns for the Pine Nut Mountains would include habitat for sage grouse, mountain quail, both BLM special status species, T&E species, pigmy rabbit, reptiles and amphibians. The area includes habitat for black bear, mountain lion, bobcat, coyote, gray fox, mule deer winter and year long, pronghorn, and many other species of vertebrates as well as many species of birds including neotropical birds and raptors.

Recent range and habitat information for these species is lacking. Once key habitat areas are identified, their proximity to OHV use and other management activities should be considered in order to reduce conflict and impact on the long term viability and importance of these areas. Key habitat areas could include, but not be limited to travel routes (drainages/streams and other high travel areas), mating areas, brooding/maternal areas, seasonal

forage zones, and corridors. Identified T&E and wildlife issues are varied, but include the following elements.

- C Wildlife buffer areas should be identified and managed in order to minimize impact on key habitat areas. Some of these lands may not be within the public domain and should be considered for future acquisition. Open areas adjacent to urban expansion have historically received heavy use in the Pine Nut Mountain region, as well as in other areas throughout the United States. Buffer areas would contribute to insure the public would have recreational access to public lands, as well as protect key habitat areas from direct adverse impacts by such use.
- C Corridors should be identified with appropriate buffer areas so as to insure immigration and emigration between wildlife populations. As a result, corridors would provide for gene flow and protection against extreme environmental change, both of which are challenges associated with the survival of isolated populations. Acceptable areas, which could provide for adequate corridors are rapidly decreasing in all directions surrounding the Pine Nut Mountains.
- C Sage grouse habitat has deteriorated due in part to pinyon pine encroachment into sagebrush, wet meadow and stringer meadows. Also, as stands of sagebrush mature and the canopy cover increases above 25 percent, the forb and grass component decrease to a point no longer providing habitat for sage grouse.
- C Management of sagebrush habitats should consider all species of special concern, keeping in mind the importance of Key Habitat Areas as mentioned above. A mosaic of sagebrush types would provide for these various habitat needs.
- C While expansive pinyon/juniper (p/j) woodlands may not be favorable for some species, a mosaic of varying degrees of canopy cover of p/j is required for the habitat needs of other wildlife. While managing p/j woodlands for all species of special concern in the Pine Nut Mountains, it would be beneficial to leave intermittent strips of p/j leading into and out of riparian zones/drainages to provide for safe travel routes. These areas also provide cover from predators.
- C Consideration of p/j management and fuels reduction, from the perspective of ensuring the existence of safe travel routes to and from riparian areas and drainages should not be overlooked.
- C Special attention should be given to the elimination of roads and trails that pass through meadows, while considering the option of placing these thoroughfares in more appropriate locations, or reducing them completely from the surrounding adjacent areas.
- C Fuels reduction must encompass all the issues and concerns discussed above, and in particular could allow for a mosaic of different habitat types, thus supplying the essential needs of all concerned wildlife.

**G. Livestock Management:** Depending upon how BLM decides to manage vegetative resources, the suitability of areas for livestock grazing may be raised as an issue.

- C Although Nevada is an open range state, land status designations, urban interface and recreation issues may necessitate changing grazing allotment boundaries.
- C Range improvements such as water developments and fences in some instances are conflicting with other uses such as visual resources, recreation, and wildlife. Range improvements are also being vandalized and livestock are being harassed. Such issues are symptomatic of the variety of uses in a concentrated area.
- C Trespass livestock due to mixed land status. Livestock grazing activities are authorized on BLM lands, however the livestock trespasses onto private property; likewise livestock from BIA/private property trespassing onto BLM lands.

- H. Wild Horse Population Management:** In a previous decision BLM decided to manage for no wild horses in the southern half of the Pine Nut HMA. Due to public interest this decision is an issue that may need to be revisited.
- C Concerns related to horses on private lands.
  - C Verify established AMLs.
- I. Fire Management:** Associated with the urban interface issues, is the ongoing (and possibly escalating) concern related to wildfire risk. At issue are the types of fuels and the proximity of those types of fuels to homes. The following elements describe in general, the issues relating to fire and fuels management.
- C Wildfire risk assessment – fuel types, condition and hazard, ignition risk and values at risk.
  - C Prescribed fire or wildfire risk mitigation strategies – identify and target vegetation types and condition classes along with corresponding treatment methods.
  - C Urban interface fire prevention – defensible space education
  - C Develop and promote desired resource conditions, by altering and maintaining/restoring appropriate and diverse vegetative communities.
  - C Natural burn management for vegetative diversity.
- J. Cultural Resources:** Identified need for a cultural resources *historic context* and *predictive model*, the use of which will assist specialists with resource analysis and NEPA coordination for this current initiative and future plans for the area. The historic context focuses on the history of the local area and identifies important periods. As presented in these comments, a "historic context" is the framework of the identification phase and should address research domains applicable to the archaeological sites expected. In addition, a historic context details the property types and data requirements to address the research domains which will be necessary when building a predictive model. The following issues are identified for this resource.
- C Impacts from population growth in the urban areas in the proximity of the Pine Nut plan area.
  - C Need for consolidated data for cultural inventories associated with resource management issues.
- K. Native American Issues:** Tribal issues in the area are varied, but generally have been identified as follows.
- C Continuation of consultations with tribes.
  - C Washoe Tribe tribal homeland issues, such as ingress and egress from tribal/trust lands in Pine Nut Mountains.
  - C Identification and access to ethno-botanic resources (medicinal and food plants, including pinyon nuts).
  - C Protection of cultural resources, both prehistoric and historic, and areas of concern to tribal members (burials and cemeteries).
  - C Wood cutting and hunting, such as reviving the interest in rabbit drives and access to pinyon nut gathering areas.
- L. Minerals:** While there exists several degrees of minerals activity interest in the plan area, the Como area is experiencing considerably 3809 activity interest. There are also inactive and abandoned mine sites in the plan area (Veta Grande, for example); surface reclamation plans area currently being formulated. Other minerals issues include:
- C Mineral materials sites need to be planned in conjunction with local and county governments.
  - C Vehicle use restrictions as appropriate for minerals related activities.
  - C Mineral withdrawals.

**M. Air Quality:** Identified issues include smoke and particulates caused by agricultural activities, wildfire, wind blown dust, automobile exhaust, prescribed burns, and residential woodstoves/fireplaces. The extent these issues will be a concern are conditional on the proposals advanced in developing this plan amendment.

**N. Water Resources:** *Riparian/Wetlands* - OHV travel occurs in many of the riparian zones and roads cross canyons in numerous places, resulting in vegetation loss and increased erosion. Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) is an issue that needs addressing.

Areas in the Pine Nut Mountains may be (or are being) impacted by over-grazing, invasive woody and non-riparian vegetation species (piñon, sagebrush, and weeds), resulting in non-functioning or “at risk” riparian areas that are inadequate or unsatisfactory for wildlife habitat. Other issues include:

- C fishery assessment in Red Canyon Creek and the upper reaches of Pine Nut Creek;
- C assessment of areas for water quality and PFC; and
- C management of environmentally sensitive areas critical to overall watershed health.

*Surface Water* - evaluation of stream flood plains for PFC, to determine if they are capable of dissipating stream energy during high waterflows (thereby reducing erosion and improving water quality and ground water recharge).

*Water Rights* - determination of unappropriated water sources in the area; assessment of such sources for acquisition to benefit and enhance watershed and wildlife habitat in the area.

**O. Soils and Noxious Weeds:** Soils issues focus mainly on potential and actual accelerated erosion due to cross-country OHV usage, the proliferation of roads, poor road placement, and degraded riparian areas caused by overgrazing of livestock and wild horses.

Noxious weed infestations are located within and adjacent to the plan area, on both public, tribal, and private lands. Known infestations include Canada Thistle and Russian Knapweed, but the plan area has not been fully inventoried. Invasive weed species are spread by livestock and vehicles.

**P. Hazardous Waste/Materials:** The primary issue that has been identified relating to this topic pertains to illegal dumping on the public, tribal, and private lands in the plan area. Such illegal dumps may contain materials considered hazardous to human health and the environment.

**Q. Wilderness Area Designations:** Interest has been expressed regarding the consideration of areas in the Pine Nut Mountains as wilderness.

Given the potential contentious nature of the resources and activities at stake in the planning areas, serious consideration may be given to the use of 1) a facilitator at the various public meetings and 2), contracting out portions of the plan development and in total, the EIS document development.

### **Preliminary Planning Criteria**

1. Any lands located within the Pine Nut Mountains Planning Area administrative boundary, which are acquired by the BLM, will be managed in a manner consistent with the plan – subject to any constraints associated with the acquisition.
2. The planning process will incorporate the Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Management for the Sierra Front - Northwestern Great Basin Area (1997).
3. The plan will recognize the State’s responsibility to manage wildlife.
4. The plan will address transportation and access, and will identify where better access is warranted, where access should remain as is, and where decreased access is appropriate to protect resources and manage visitation.
5. The planning process will involve Native American tribal governments and will provide strategies for the protection of recognized traditional uses.
6. Decisions in the plan will strive to be consistent with the existing plans and policies of adjacent local, State, Tribal and Federal agencies, to the extent consistent with Federal law.
7. Plan will support BLM’s noxious weed policy as outlined in the Partners Against Weeds document (January 1996) and the CCFO’s Weed Prevention Schedule (1997).
8. The planning process will incorporate the Management Guidelines for the Sage Grouse and Sagebrush Ecosystems in Nevada on public lands identified as sage grouse habitat. [As stated in IM NV-2001-028, these guidelines are Nevada BLM habitat specific. If Cal Fish & Game has other management guidelines they prefer such as the WAFWA Guidelines, we might consider using them instead of the Nevada guidelines].
9. BLM Handbook, H-8410-1, states that “.....Class I is assigned to those areas where a decision has been made previously to maintain a natural landscape.” In a recent Instruction Memorandum, WO IM No. 2000-096, the BLM determined that the above objective should include WSAs. Subsequently, the Walker RMP amendment will address the need to change the VRM designations for the WSA located within the planning unit. This planning guidance will be addressed in the Walker RMP amendment process as a maintenance item. It is identified as a planning criteria under section III of this document.
10. GIS and metadata information will meet FGDC EO 12906 (June 8, 1994) standards.

## **Data and GIS Needs**

### **A. Data Needs**

**Lands:** Land Tenure Map(s); validation of current land tenure and corridor designations; identification of all major ROW’s, utility lines, communications sites, water tanks, etc.; plot of tribal ownership on private lands.

**Vegetation:** Types of vegetative communities, community size, composition and status. Data will assist with many programs, from cultural to wetlands/riparian resources. Once adequacy of data is determined, efforts will commence to build on the data base and configured to a format that can be utilized by other programs to address

specific issues. Specific data needs include current vegetation community and ecological status data, predictive models for ecological transition and program specific vegetation data to address identified issues.

**Noxious Weeds:** Inventories of noxious weeds on lands in the plan area need to be completed.

**Soils:** Soils inventories for the three counties involved are available and have been completed.

**Prime and Unique Farmlands:** Ascertain county designations as appropriate for the plan area under consideration.

**Minerals:** While some data exists, there are no minerals environmental assessments for 3809 POO's; specific minerals inventory/assessments may be needed for areas suggested for minerals withdrawals.

**OHV/Recreation Use:** An explicit route and recreational use area inventory for the area, necessitating a field survey and transfer of collected data to maps; public meetings with specific user groups to identify issues and mitigation solutions; traffic counters in specific areas to measure usage for at least 6 months. Use data may also necessitate collection of data on other active and passive use of the area, such as picnicing, hiking, camping, casual 4WD enjoyment, hunting, fishing, trapping, and the like.

**Cultural/Native American:** Identification of the concept, time period, and geographical limits for preservation planning, sufficient to construct a historic context and predictive model. Addition of collected data to GIS map layers.

**Wild Horses:** Two years of herd census data and two years of use pattern mapping (in partner with the collection of vegetative data).

**Livestock Grazing:** Use patterns associated with vegetative data collection.

**Water Resources:** Water quality and PFC assessments for riparian and wetlands areas, including an inventory and reassessment as appropriate, for issues associated with wildlife, livestock, OHV impacts and the like. In addition, surface water courses and water rights are in need of inventory, evaluation and analysis.

**Social and Economic Resources:** Currently, little to no data exists on the values associated with OHV use, livestock use, and wildlife in the area. Non-market benefits assessments may be needed to assess the social and cultural values Native American interests, scenic attributes, and open space.

#### B. Existing Data

Some data exists for all resources; however, an effort is necessary to identify completely what currently exists, its relevance and accuracy, and the format. Depending on the resource or issue, such effort may take up to 6 months.

#### C. Data Gaps

Identified in the Data Needs section, where deficient.

#### D. Data Inventory and Collection Plan

**Lands:** none specifically identified, however a need for identifying Washoe Tribe allotment ownership(s) would be useful. Such an effort will likely require a collaborative effort with BIA and the Tribe.

**Vegetation:** Gaps in the existing data will be identified. Upon completion, the following 2 years will be spent collecting and analyzing new data and formatting such for use in dynamic forecasting models.

**Noxious Weeds:** Three to four workmonths effort will likely suffice to complete the weeds inventory by October 2002.

**Minerals:** As areas are considered for minerals withdrawal, inventories will be completed by an outside consultant.

**OHV and Other Recreational Activity Use:** Very little independent and prospectively unbiased data exists for either OHV use or other types of recreational activities in the Pine Nut Mountains (such as camping and hiking, picnicking, fishing, etc.) or passive recreational activities (such as sightseeing). Data collection typically necessitates the use of a survey instrument and thus, requires approval by the Office of Management and Budget before implementation. Such data collection is likely occur over at least one recreational season.

**Cultural Resources/Native American:** In conjunction with other agencies, data will be collected and analyzed in a manner best suited for the predictive model discussed above. Inventory, collection, and analysis are expected to be completed within one year from Plan funding approval.

**Wild Horses:** Identified need for herd census and use pattern data, expected to be completed over 2 years.

**Livestock Grazing:** Over two seasons, inventory vegetation community and ecological status, which will be used in predictive models.

**Water Resources:** Inventory of water rights, surface water courses, water quality and PFC's, anticipated over 2 seasons.

**Social and Economic Resources:** Implement a survey designed to collect expenditure data associated with the various types of recreation occurring in the plan area. One or two seasons would likely be necessary to complete surveys, compile data, and input into the predictive model.

Any new data will have associated metadata in conformance with bureau metadata standards.

## **Planning Partners**

### **A. Indian Tribes**

Washoe Tribe

Walker River Paiute Tribe

Yerington Paiute Tribe

Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe

### **B. Local Government**

Douglas County

Lyon County

Carson City

City of Yerington

### **C. State Agencies**

Nevada Division of Forestry

Nevada Division of Wildlife

Nevada Department of Transportation

Nevada Division of State Lands

Nevada Indian Commission

State Historic Preservation Office

### **D. Federal Agencies**

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Natural Resources Conservation Service

U. S. Forest Service (incl. Research Station)

Environmental Protection Agency

Fish and Wildlife Service

Bureau of Reclamation

U. S. Geological Survey

### **E. Non-governmental Organizations**

Pine Nut Trails Association

Back Country Horsemen of Nevada

Other Major Conservation Groups

Bentley Agrodynamics Inc.

Nevada Mining Association

Nevada Cattlemen's Association

The Nature Conservancy

Pine Nut Preservation League

Sierra Club

Nevada Mining Association

Homeowners Associations

Nevada Farm Bureau

University of Nevada Reno

Nevada Natural Heritage Program

Wild Horse Spirit  
Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses  
High Desert Adventures  
Michaels Cycles  
Motorcycle Racing Ass'n. Of No. Nevada  
Hunting/Fishing guide services/outfitters  
Big Daddy's Bicycle Shop  
Reno Wheelmen Bicycle Club

WHOA  
Carson Valley Trails Association  
Western States Racing Association  
High Sierra Motorcycle Club  
Nevada Motorcycle Adventures  
Nevada All State Trail Riders  
Alta Alpina Bicycle Club

## F. Individuals and Stakeholders

Rights of Way Holders

Allotment Permittees

## G. BLM Staff

Management Lead: Dan Jacquet

Team Leader: Tom Crawford

### Core Team

Air Quality: Tim Roide  
Wetlands/Riparian:  
    Gabe Venegas, Dean Kinerson,  
    Katrina Leavitt  
Soils: J. deLaureal  
Wildlife: George Valentic, John Axtell  
Wild Horses Richard Jacobsen  
Paleontology: Susan McCabe  
Environmental Justice: Mike McQueen  
Wilderness: F. Hull  
Visual Resources: F. Hull  
Hazardous Wastes: Neal Brecheisen  
Lands: JoAnn Hufnagle

Water Resources: Gabe Venegas  
Flood Plains: G. Venegas  
Vegetation: G. Venegas, K. Leavitt, T. Roide  
Noxious Weeds: Jim deLaureal  
Prime/Unique Farm Lands: J. deLaureal  
T & E Species: D. Kinerson, G. Valentic  
Livestock: K. Leavitt  
Socio-Economic: Tom Crawford  
Recreation: Fran Hull  
ACEC: T. Crawford  
Minerals: Carla James  
Cultural Resources: S. McCabe

## **Format and Process for the Plan**

The format and outline for the plan will come from BLM NEPA, planning and management guidance and manuals. All legal and policy requirements will be met in the plan and in the process regarding public notices, required elements, distribution of draft and final documents, and specific laws; the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) and Council on Environmental Quality guidelines (CEQ ) will be met. The draft and final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be published with the Draft and final versions of the plan.

Public comments will be analyzed after a 90-day review period for the Draft plan and EIS. All comments will be considered by the agencies before the final plan and EIS, and Record of Decision(s) are published. See the plan and EIS preparation schedule for general content of the plan and the process to be used. Detail of maps in the plan will depend on the information being presented.

A range of alternatives, including a No Action alternative, will be developed to respond to the issues identified at the outset of the process. Each alternative will provide different solutions to the issues and concerns brought out. The objective in alternative formulation will be to develop realistically implementable solutions that represent a complete plan in and of themselves. Sub-alternatives may be identified where only portions of an alternative require variations in resource management potential.

Funding, in excess of the direct planning allocation, may come from planning partners, as appropriate. Third-party contracting may be employed for data collection, plan and EIS development; a facilitator may be used for public hearings and meetings.

### **Plan Preparation Schedule**

A proposed preparation schedule for the Planning Process is provided in the Appendix. The schedule gives estimated time frames for the completion of the required plan components. The time line considers using a contractor for plan (or portions thereof) and EIS preparation and also allows time for the hiring of a Plan Team Leader and a collaborative process towards issue resolution. Plan and EIS components may be accomplished consecutively or concurrently, as appropriate.

### **Public Participation Plan**

The public participation opportunities for the major stages of the planning process are listed below. The schedule for these events will be published later. The Appendix provides a preliminary and general draft of the public participation schedule. Every effort will be made to assure meaningful and collaborative public involvement throughout the process, which may include using Internet technology. Plans are for an interactive website that provides information and solicits comments from public land users, stakeholders, and interested publics.

#### *Identify Issues*

1. Federal Register Notice of Intent, media articles, and website information regarding the preparation and content of the plan, an announced schedule of upcoming scoping meeting. E-mail messages and letters will be sent to people on mailing lists.
2. Informal public open house scoping meetings organized and facilitated by plan contractor (as appropriate) to gather public input on the issues, management concerns to be resolved in the plan and on the planning criteria and process. Request for written comments on issues/scope of Plan with 30-day comment period.

#### *Formulate Alternatives*

3. Informal public open house meetings with public, interested groups, agencies, etc. To discuss alternatives and make sure issues are addressed. Newsletters developed by contractor provide background information on issues and alternatives.

Public responds via written, verbal responses in 30 day comment period.

#### *Issue the Draft Plan/EIS*

4. Public Notice of the availability of the draft plan/EA: Federal Register Notices regarding the availability of the draft plan/EIS and a 90-day period for public comments to be submitted; newspaper articles will be published in local/regional papers advertising the availability of the draft plan/EIS, the 90-day comment period, and the schedule of the public meetings to be held during the comment period.
5. Public meetings held locally during the 90-day public comment period to gather verbal or written input on the draft plan/EIS.

*Publish the Proposed Final Plan/EIS*

6. The final plan/EIS will be sent to those on the mailing list as well as to all those that participate in the planning process during the preparation of the plan; the availability of the plan will be advertised in regional newspapers and other media. Include notice explaining protest period of 30 days.
7. Solicit Governor's consistency review (60 days).
8. Informal public input, written, verbal, and e-mail will be welcomed anytime in the process, and is to be documented and routed to the BLM Field Office Manager then to the Team Leader.

*Respond to Protests*

9. Written responses will be sent to the public as needed.
10. Federal Register Notice requesting comments on significant changes made as result of a protest.

*Publish Approved Plan*

11. Notify publics via news articles, e-mail, website, and transmittal letters of availability of approved Plan.

# Budget

Proposed Budget						
Grand Total (all funding sources): \$3.30 MM	Consolidated Plan Components					
Grand Total (planning funds): \$1.40 MM	Total	Baseline data collection, compilation, and analysis; map development; GIS support; aerial photographs; vehicle needs; contract work	Project initiation; team establishment; meetings; field trips	Scoping meetings, consultations, outreach,, equipment, overhead, support	Plan and EIS Development (printing, contract work, etc.)	Program Coordination (Team Leader, CCFO and NSO Staff support); travel/training
Average planning funds expended: \$280K/year						
<b>FY 2001:</b> From Base	\$51,000					\$51,000
From Other Programs/Subactivities	\$0					
From Planning	\$196,000			\$130,500		\$65,500
From Planning Partners	\$0					
<b>FY 2002:</b> From Base	\$306,000					\$306,000
From Other Programs/Subactivities	\$61,000	\$61,000				
From Planning	\$299,000			\$4,000	\$165,000	\$130,000
From Planning Partners	\$199,000	\$199,000				
<b>FY 2003:</b> From Base	\$306,000					\$306,000
From Other Programs/Subactivities	\$225,000	\$225,000				
From Planning	\$300,500			\$10,000	\$155,000	\$135,500
From Planning Partners	\$196,000	\$196,000				
<b>FY 2004:</b> From Base	\$306,000					\$306,000
From Other Programs/Subactivities	\$0					
From Planning	\$301,000			\$8,000	\$146,000	\$147,000
From Planning Partners	\$192,000	\$192,000				
<b>FY 2005:</b> From Base	\$0					
From Other Programs/Subactivities	\$0					
From Planning	\$300,000				\$157,000	\$143,000
From Planning Partners	\$48,000	\$48,000				

Start: 02/12/01  
Finish: 08/14/04

### Pine Nut Mountains Plan Amendment Outline Gantt View: Outline Gantt Table

Task ID	Activity Name	Duration	Start	Year												
				1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005		
1	<b>Pine Nut Mountains Plan A</b>	910	02/12/01							02/12/01	[Gantt Bar]					08/13/04
2	Pre-Plan	28	02/12/01							Pre-Plan						
3	FR Notice of Intent	15	07/18/01							FR Notice of Intent						
4	Media Articles/website inf	800	03/15/01							Media Articles/website info	[Gantt Bar]					
5	Data Collection/Analysis	700	10/01/01							Data Collection/Analysis	[Gantt Bar]					
6	InHouse Resource Spec	30	11/30/01							InHouse Resource Spec	Scoping					
7	Issue Identification/Public	90	07/02/01							Issue Identification/Public	Scoping					
8	Informal open houses/disc	800	04/02/01							Informal open houses/discussions w/ interest group	[Gantt Bar]					
9	Request for written comm	30	11/05/01							Request for written comments on issues/scope						
10	Formulate Alternatives	80	08/13/01							Formulate Alternatives						
11	Formal response to altern	30	11/05/01							Formal response to alternatives by public						
12	Develop Draft Plan	365	08/01/01							Develop Draft Plan	[Gantt Bar]					
13	Develop Draft EIS	365	11/19/01							Develop Draft EIS	[Gantt Bar]					
14	Internal Review	30	04/15/03							Internal Review						
15	Issue Draft Plan/EIS, Publ	90	08/02/03							Issue Draft Plan/EIS, Public Hearings						
16	Response to Comments	120	12/05/03							Response to Comments	[Gantt Bar]					
17	Publish Prop. Final Plan/E	60	05/24/04							Publish Prop. Final Plan/EIS	[Gantt Bar]					

Project: Start [Gantt Bar] Finish [Gantt Bar] Critical Activity: [Gantt Bar] Non Crit. Activity: [Gantt Bar]  
 Name: [Gantt Bar] Resource Name: [Gantt Bar] Event: [Gantt Bar]