



**U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Elko Field Office**

**January 2004**

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# **PROJECT AND PLANNING SCHEDULE**

## *BLM MISSION STATEMENT*

*The Bureau of Land Management is responsible for the stewardship of our public lands. The BLM is committed to manage, protect and improve these lands in a manner to serve the needs of the American people for all time.*

*Management is based upon the principles of multiple use and sustained yield of our nation's resources within the framework of environmental responsibility and scientific technology. These resources include recreation, rangeland, timber, minerals, watersheds, fish and wildlife habitat, wilderness, air and scenic quality, as well as scientific and cultural values.*





# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Elko Field Office  
3900 East Idaho Street  
Elko, Nevada 89801  
<http://www.nv.blm.gov>



In Reply Refer To:  
1790 (NV-010)

January 22, 2004

Dear Reader:

This *Project and Planning Schedule* is provided as a source of information on the status of environmental reviews and evaluations at the Elko Field Office. It updates the report from September 2003. Proposed actions for which analyses are being completed are listed in this *Schedule* by resource program area, i.e., Minerals, Lands, Recreation/Wilderness, Fire Management, Range/Wildlife/Riparian Habitat Improvements and Invasive/Non-native Species. We hope that this information will increase your awareness of BLM activities and your opportunities to discuss these activities with us.

In an effort to reduce unnecessary mailings, this document is available for viewing on the web at: <http://www.nv.blm.gov/elko/nepa.htm>. If you wish to be added to, or removed from, our mailing list, please contact the Elko Field Office (see letterhead for address and telephone numbers).

*If you wish to participate in the planning and decision making process, you may do so at any time by calling the contact listed for a given action. If your interest is for the management of livestock grazing, your request should be in writing and include:*

- 1) The specific allotment you are interested in by name; and
- 2) The specific type(s) of grazing management actions you are interested in for each allotment.

A listing and map of grazing allotments within the Elko Field Office area of administration is available on request.

Thank you for your continued interest in our public lands.

Sincerely,

/s/

David Stout  
Associate Field Manager

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## **BLM/Elko *Project and Planning Schedule* Terms and Acronyms**

The following definitions may be useful to you as you read about plans and projects and their status, as listed within the various sections of the Elko Field Office *Project and Planning Schedule*.

**Allotment Evaluations:** The Elko Field Office completes evaluations of grazing allotments to determine if standards and guidelines for rangeland health, established pursuant to the 1995 grazing regulations, are being met. If not, changes in grazing management are proposed by allotment evaluations that are subject to public review. Proposed range improvement projects undergo site specific review for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) before being implemented.

**Categorical Exclusion (CX):** A category of actions that have not been found to individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment and for which, therefore, neither an environmental assessment (EA) nor an environmental impact statement (EIS) is required to be prepared for compliance with NEPA.

**Decision Record (DR):** BLM's decision document that is associated with an EA and FONSI.

**DNA (“Documentation of Land Use Plan Conformance and NEPA Adequacy Review”):** The DNA process replaced BLM's Administrative Determination (AD) in 1999. DNAs are prepared to assist the resource specialist in determining conformance with the appropriate land use plan, and assess whether existing NEPA documents adequately cover new proposals. Reliance on an existing NEPA document is appropriate when: (1) a currently proposed action was previously proposed and analyzed, or is a part of an earlier proposal that was analyzed; (2) resource conditions and circumstances have not changed, and (3) there is no suggestion of a significant new and appropriate alternative. If the DNA concludes that these conditions exist, a new or supplemental environmental analysis is not necessary and a decision may be issued.

**Environmental Assessment (EA):** Under NEPA, an EA is used to determine whether or not a proposed action would result in significant impact(s) to the human environment. If not, preparation of an EIS is not required. An EA also serves as a vehicle for an interdisciplinary review of a proposed action and identification of measures to mitigate (avoid or minimize) impacts. EAs are sometimes prepared to facilitate preparation of an EIS when one is necessary.

**Environmental Impact Statement (EIS):** The EIS level of analysis is conducted for major Federal actions, which significantly affect the quality of the human environment. **DEIS** refers to a draft EIS and **FEIS** refers to a final EIS.

**FLPMA:** Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1711)

**Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI):** A FONSI is a document prepared by a Federal agency in conjunction with an EA that briefly presents the reasons why an action will not have a significant effect on the human environment and for which an EIS will, therefore, not be prepared.

**Implementation and Activity Plans:** Decisions of an approved land use plan are often put into effect by implementation or activity plans. Such plans that focus on specific resource programs include such things as habitat management plans, allotment management plans, and recreation management plans. Plans that focus on multiple resource programs within a defined geographic area and result in a “multiple use decision” are sometimes called integrated, interdisciplinary, coordinated resource management, landscape management, or ecosystem management plans.

**Land Use Plans, Resource Management Plans (RMPs) and RMP Amendments:** Sections 201 and 202 of FLPMA (43 U.S.C. 1711) and regulations at 43 CFR 1600 establish BLM land use planning requirements. Approved land use plans are the basis for every on-the-ground action BLM undertakes. RMPs establish goals and objectives for resource management, measures needed to achieve these goals and objectives, and parameters for using public lands under BLM jurisdiction. The 1987 Elko RMP and 1985 Wells RMP guide management of lands administered by the Elko Field Office. A plan amendment serves to address issues or proposals not considered by an existing RMP.

**Management Action Selection Report (MASR):** Actions proposed following completion of an Allotment Evaluation are documented by a MASR.

**Multiple Use Decision (MUD):** In Nevada, an Allotment Evaluation and MASR serve as the basis for issuing a MUD. MUDs are based on the attainment or non-attainment of multiple use objectives and standards for rangeland health. Following completion of an Allotment Evaluation, a MASR and Proposed MUD (PMUD) is distributed to interested parties, typically with an EA and FONSI, before a Final MUD (FMUD) is issued.

**NEPA:** The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321-4347) is our basic national charter for protection of the environment.

**Notice of Intent (NOI):** A Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS or an EA (such as for an EA-level RMP Amendment) is published in the *Federal Register*. Publication of a NOI notifies the public of proposed federal action(s) and formally begins scoping (issue identification).

**Record of Decision (ROD):** The decision document associated with an EIS.

## **BLM/Elko Project and Planning Schedule – January 2004**

### **I. Land Use Plans**

#### **1. Fire Management Amendment – Elko/Wells Resource Management Plans**

**Type of Action:** Land Use Plan

**Location:** Elko District (Elko and Wells resource planning areas)

**Description:** An amendment of the 1987 Elko RMP and 1985 Wells RMP is needed due to recent above-normal wildfire seasons; concerns about habitat for wild horses; wildlife, and domestic livestock; implementation of the National Fire Plan; and increased interest from local publics, cooperators and interest groups. Four alternatives for the amendment are described and analyzed in the EA: the Proposed Action (BLM's "preferred" alternative); Existing Management (No Action); Limited Suppression or Fire Use; and Full Suppression. BLM's preferred alternative includes a mix of management actions to increase preparedness for initial attack, treat fuels and use fire where appropriate to achieve resource benefits.

**Status:** Public scoping for preparation of the Amendment/EA was conducted from April 23 to May 23, 2001 (66 FR 20830-20831, April 25, 2001). Public meetings were held on September 25, 26, 27, and 28 in 2001, and again on May 20, 21, 22 and 23 in 2002. These meetings were in Elko, Eureka, Jackpot and Wells, Nevada. A draft RMP Amendment/EA was distributed for public review and comment October 16-November 15, 2002. A NOA of the Proposed Amendment, EA and FONSI was published in the *Federal Register* on November 10, 2003, and initiated a 30-day public protest period. Issuance of an Approved Amendment and DR is dependent on resolution of any issues that may be raised as a result of review of the Proposed Amendment and EA.

**Contact:** Joe Freeland

#### **2. Wild Horse Amendment – Elko Resource Management Plan**

**Type of Action:** RMP Amendment

**Location:** Four wild horse herd areas located in Elko County: Little Humboldt, Rock Creek (Spanish Ranch and Squaw Valley allotments), Owyhee and Diamond Hills North (Red Rock and Browne allotments)

**Description:** The BLM is proposing to amend and update the 1987 Elko RMP to designate wild horse herd management areas (HMAs) within the Little Humboldt and Rock Creek herd areas, and designate the Owyhee and Diamond Hills North herd areas as HMAs in their entirety. Herd areas are limited to areas of public lands identified as being habitat used by wild horses at the time of passage of the Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act of 1971. HMAs are established only on areas within HAs where wild horses can be managed for the long term. Designation of an HMA to exclude portions of a herd area may include a decision to remove horses from all or part of the HA.

**Status:** NOI published in *Federal Register* on February 10, 2003. Public scoping meetings held in Elko, Eureka and Reno on February 24, 25 and 26, with written input due March 12, 2003. The Proposed Amendment/EA/FONSI was distributed for a 30-day protest period, which closed August 30, 2003. No protests were received, and the Amendment was approved by the State Director on October 14, 2003.

**Contact:** Bryan Fuell

## BLM/Elko Project and Planning Schedule – January 2004

### II. Activity/Implementation Plans

#### A. Areawide and Programmatic Minerals, Lands & Recreation Plans

##### 1. Regional EA for Permitting Competitive Recreational Vehicle Events

**Type of Action:** Special Recreation Permits (motorcycle, OHV, mountain bike race events)

**Location:** Elko District lands south of Interstate 80 and east of Highway 93 (southeast of Wells)

**Description:** Analysis for competitive motorcycle, off highway vehicle and mountain bike race events that are held annually that use previously used race routes.

**Status:** EA to be completed in 2004

**Contact:** JuLee Palette Lindsay

##### 2. Programmatic EA for Commercial Special Recreation Permits

**Type of Action:** Special Recreation Permits (outfitting and guiding)

**Location:** District-wide

**Description:** Programmatic analysis for commercial special use recreation permits for outfitting and guiding occurring on public lands administered by the Elko Field Office.

**Status:** EA to be completed in 2004

**Contact:** Tamara Hawthorne

##### 3. California National Historic Trails Interpretive Center and Waysides

**Type of Action:** Interpretive development

**Location:** Along Interstate 80, at the Hunter exit between Elko and Carlin, NV and four rest stops in northeastern Nevada

**Description:** Congressional authorization has been given to establish a new national interpretive center featuring the California National Historic Trails near Elko, NV. The proposed center is a jointly funded venture involving the City of Elko, Elko County, the State of Nevada and the Bureau of Land Management. The Center would be located on land to be acquired from Maggie Creek Ranches next to the Hunter Exit of I-80. Four interpretive waysides have also been identified for development at existing rest stops along I-80. Analyses for additional interpretive waysides that would be tied directly to the Center may be proposed for development in 2004.

**Status:** Numerous public meetings have been held since July 2002. EA for the interpretive center and four rest stop waysides is scheduled for release in February 2004. Preliminary planning is underway for about 20 additional waysides.

**Contact:** David Jamiel

## BLM/Elko Project and Planning Schedule – January 2004

### II. Activity/Implementation Plans

#### B. Area-Specific Multiple Use Implementation Plans and Decisions

Multiple Use Decisions are issued based on allotment-specific assessments of standards and guidelines for rangeland health and field office priorities. The following evaluations are currently underway:

ALLOTMENT EVALUATION	Status	Contact
<b>1-Rock Creek Complex Allotments:</b> Spanish Ranch Squaw Valley	Evaluation issued in 1996. The PMUD was issued in October 2003. The proposed decision includes changes to the livestock grazing system to meet rangeland health objectives for riparian and aquatic habitat, and establishes the appropriate management level for wild horses. FMUD to be issued Winter 2004.	Carol Evans Tyson Gripp
<b>2.-25 Allotment (AMP revision)</b>	An Allotment Management Plan (AMP) was written for the 25 Allotment in 1971 and revised in 1978. The 1978 AMP included a grazing system designed to address a number of resource issues. New fences, wildfires, seedings, and other factors have created the need for a more current plan. Several wildlife habitat improvement projects proposed by the Nevada Division of Wildlife and BLM in cooperation with the 26 Ranch need to be addressed and formalized through the AMP revision process. An EA is to be prepared in Spring 2004.	Donna Nyrehn
<b>3-Hubbard Vineyard</b>	Evaluation issued in 1997. MASR and PMUD to be issued in Spring 2004.	Sarah Newman
<b>4-Cottonwood Allotment Re-evaluation</b>	Evaluation was issued in July 2003. Currently considering public comments. Decision to be issued in spring 2004.	Jeff Moore
<b>5-Frost Creek Allotment Re-evaluation</b>	PMUD issued August 6, 2002. FMUD to be issued in the Winter/Spring 2004.	Justin Rodgers Jason Spence
<b>6-Marys River Complex Allotments:</b> Deeth; Pole Creek Antelope Basin Anderson Creek Hot Creek; Stormy	Evaluation issued in November 2003. Currently considering public comments. MASR, PMUD and FMUD to be issued in 2004.	Wendy Fuell Leticia Lister Sarah Newman
<b>7-Lindsay Creek Allotment</b>	Standards and guidelines assessment issued in September 2002. Current livestock grazing determined to be a causal factor in non-attainment of standards for riparian areas. A proposed livestock grazing management plan will be drafted in 2004 for public comment followed by issuance of a MUD.	Justin Rodgers

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ALLOTMENT EVALUATION	Status	Contact
<b>8-N. Diamond Complex Allotments:</b> Red Rock Browne	Evaluation issued for public comment in May 1997. Interim livestock use levels were documented through Livestock Use Agreements in June 1997 and wild horse appropriate management levels identified pending the collection and evaluation of additional monitoring data. Wildfires burned these allotments in 1999, resulting in temporary closures to grazing and extended monitoring. In 2004, the BLM intends to finalize the evaluation and issue a FMUD.	Bryan Fuell
<b>9-Bald Mountain Allotment</b>	In 2004, re-evaluation of the grazing capacity and issuance of a decision is planned, in response to two applications for the AUMs that became available following the cancellation of one of the grazing permits in this allotment.	Bruce Thompson
<b>10-Gulley Allotment</b>	In 2004, a standards and guidelines assessment is planned.	Sarah Newman Bruce Thompson

### III. Projects

#### A. Minerals

##### 1. Hollister Development Block Project Hecla Ventures Corporation

**Type of Action:** Plan of Operations (exploration)

**Location:** Ivanhoe Mine -- about 50 miles northwest of Carlin and 15 miles southeast of Midas portions of T. 37 N., R. 48 E.

**Description:** Hecla proposes to conduct underground exploration. The facilities to be constructed consist of a decline, waste rock dump and ancillary facilities. The facilities would be located within the existing east pit. Disturbance created by this project would be approximately 40 acres of public land.

**Status:** EA in progress

**Contact:** Janice Stadelman

##### 2. Graymont Section 10 Exploration Plan

**Type of Action:** Plan of Operations (exploration)

**Location:** T. 34 N., R. 68 E., sections 10, 11, 15  
 13 miles northwest of West Wendover, North of the Pilot Peak Mine

**Description:** Graymont proposes to drill no more than 30 drill holes with the total disturbance totaling 15 acres or less

**Status:** EA completed and FONSI/DR signed 10/24/2003

**Contact:** Lori Allen

##### 3. Ruby Lake Geothermal Lease

**Type of Action:** Non-competitive lease sale

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**Location:**

T. 31 N., R. 59 E., sections 2, 10, 11, 14

**Description:** This lease sale is driven by public interest and would be conducted by non-competitive bidding. Following leasing the parcels could eventually be subject to geothermal exploration, development, production and eventual abandonment of the facilities. Plans for such activities would be subject to environmental review upon submission.

**Status:** EA in progress.

**Contact:** Jim Lindsay

#### **4. Cortez/Katz Creek Geothermal Lease (2003/008)**

**Type of Action:** Non-competitive lease sale

**Location:**

T. 28 N., R. 49 E., sections 4, 6, 8 10 & 16

**Description:** This action is in response to a noncompetitive geothermal lease application. Parcels of public lands are proposed to be offered to encourage development of geothermal resources. This lease sale would be conducted by non-competitive bidding. Following leasing the parcels could eventually be subject to geothermal exploration, development, production and eventual abandonment of the facilities. Plans for such activities would be subject to environmental review upon submission.

**Status:** EA in progress, for completion in Spring 2004

**Contact:** Jim Lindsay

#### **5. Earth Power Resources Seismic Line**

**Type of Action:** Geophysical Exploration Application

**Location:**

T. 41 N., R. 52 E., sections 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 16, 17

**Description:** Earth Power Resources filed a notice of intent to conduct geophysical exploration operations using seismic methods on lands for which they have obtained a geothermal lease.

**Status:** EA completed in September 2003. Exploration completed in October 2003

**Contact:** Tom Schmidt

#### **6. Quarterly Elko District Competitive Oil & Gas Lease Sales**

**Type of Action:** Oil & Gas Competitive Lease Sale

**Location:** Elko District

**Description:** Competitive oil and gas lease sales are conducted quarterly, in March, June, September, and December. The proposed parcels to be leased can be found on the BLM web site ([www.nv.blm.gov](http://www.nv.blm.gov)) 45 days prior to the sale date. The Elko District may or may not have proposed parcels available for leasing on each quarterly sale. Leasing parcels is the initial step in the search for oil and gas. Subsequent actions to leasing parcels are exploration, development, production of oil and gas, and eventual abandonment plugging of wells and reclamation of the site. These subsequent actions create surface disturbance, which is analyzed when a lessee submits plans for the action.

**Status:** Analysis (DNA) completed for a sale in March 2004

**Contact:** Jim Lindsay

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### **7. Non-Competitive Phosphate Lease Sale**

**Type of Action:** Non-Competitive Lease Sale

**Location:** All of portions of:

T. 28 N., R. 50 E., sections 14 and 24

T. 29 N., R. 51 E., sections 20, 30, 32

**Description:** Parcels of public lands are offered to encourage development of phosphate resources. This proposed lease sale is driven by public interest (2002/006), and would be conducted by non-competitive bidding. Following leasing the parcels could be subject to phosphate exploration, development, production and eventual abandonment of the facilities. Plans for such activities would be subject to environmental review upon submission.

**Status:** EA in progress, for completion in Spring 2004.

**Contact:** Jim Lindsay

### **8. Title: West Pine Valley Exploration Plan**

**Type of Action:** Locatable mineral Exploration Plan of Operations

**Location:** T. 26 N., R. 48 E.

**Description:** This project is a locatable mineral exploration Plan of Operations from Cortez Gold Mines. The proposed exploration activities would consist of construction of access roads, access to drill sites via two-track trails and overland routes, construction of drill pads and sumps, and drilling exploration evaluation holes. Disturbance would only occur on land necessary for exploration activities (i.e., exploration roads, drill pads, and sumps). This project area encompasses 32,200 acres of which approximately 100 acres is private and the remainder is BLM-administered public lands. Approximately 150 acres of surface disturbance would occur scattered across the 32,200-acre claim block.

**Status:** EA in preparation for completion in February 2004

**Contact:** Tom Schmidt

## **III. Projects**

### **B. Lands**

#### **1. Maggie Creek Exchange (N-63163)**

**Type of Action:** Land Exchange

**Location:** Carlin, Nevada

**Description:** Exchange involving federal and non-federal lands in order to facilitate the consolidation of land ownership in the area for both parties.

**Status:** EA completed and decision record signed on September 24, 2003.

**Contact:** Jason Allen

#### **2. Western Resource Management Land Exchange, Part III (N-59405)**

(Also known as the Indian Creek Land Exchange, Part III)

**Type of Action:** Land Exchange

**Location:** Various locations throughout the Elko District

**Description:** This is an assembled land exchange from a pool of private and selected lands. A ledger balance log is maintained to ensure equal value.

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**Status:** Analysis underway for completion in Summer 2004

**Contact:** Jason Allen

### **3. City of Elko Exchange (N-59230)**

**Type of Action:** Land Exchange

**Location:** Elko, NV

T.34N., R.55E., portions of sections 1 and 8

**Description:** Exchange involving federal lands for community expansion and non-federal lands for possible hotshot crew barracks and other associated fire facilities.

**Status:** Analysis underway for completion in Summer 2004

**Contact:** Jason Allen

### **4. Wood Hills (NLRC) Land Exchange (N-74293)**

**Type of Action:** Land Exchange

**Location:** Independence Valley and Wood Hills area

**Description:** Exchange involving federal and non-federal lands in order to facilitate the consolidation of land in the area for both parties.

**Status:** Proposal withdrawn

**Contact:** Jason Allen

### **5. Baca Land Sales (N-77169 through N-77177)**

**Type of Action:** Land Sale

**Location:** Elko, Eureka and Lander Counties.

**Description:** Parcels offered for sale are identified in the Elko RMP. There are 10 parcels ranging from 40 to 320 acres for a total of approximately 1,208 acres.

**Status:** Analysis underway for completion in 2004

**Contact:** Jason Allen

### **6. Distributed Generation Systems, LLC (N-75666)**

**Type of Action:** Right-of-way (wind energy project)

**Location:** Snake Mountains, northwest of Wells, NV

**Description:** Project includes the construction of meteorological towers in order to record and evaluate the wind resources in the area.

**Status:** Proposal withdrawn

**Contact:** Jason Allen

### **7. Susie Creek Desert Land Entries**

**Type of Action:** Desert Land Entry

**Location:** Susie Creek Basin

**Description:** Evaluate 9 DLE applications; reduce to 2 allowances per State Water Engineer.

**Status:** Analysis underway

**Contact:** Jason Allen

### **8. City of West Wendover Road ROW (N-76488)**

**Type of Action:** Right-of-way – Collector road

**Location:** West Wendover, NV

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**Description:** A paved collector road is proposed to provide access from I-80 to west area of W. Wendover in order to accommodate new golf course, subdivisions, and proposed casino. Road involves 1.3 acres of public lands and ROW width of 60 feet is to include utilities, curb, and gutter.

**Status:** EA pending.

**Contact:** Darci Beaupeurt

### **9. Lisk Access ROW (N-77254)**

**Type of Action:** Land Use and ROW Access

**Location:** Wells, Nevada

T. 39 N., R. 62 E., Sec 24, MDM

**Description:** Gravel access road off existing county road 0.5 mi east/west, to be built to BLM standards.

**Status:** EA completed December 2003

**Contact:** Darci Beaupeurt

### **10. Metropolis Irrigation District-Bishop Cr. Dam Access (N-77957)**

**Type of Action:** ROW – access into private property.

**Location:** Meadow Ranch Subdivision, Silver Zone Pass

T. 34 N., R. 68 E., Section 30

**Description:** Geophysical testing to determine usability of dam requires access roads and construction of drill pads.

**Status:** EA being prepared

**Contact:** Darci Beaupeurt

### **11. Lowell Access (N-77541)**

**Type of Action:** ROW

**Location:** Elko, County

T. 40 N., R.64 E., Section 22, Lots 10, 11

**Description:** 2,792 ft. long, 30 ft. wide private access road. Surface disturbance would occur.

**Status:** EA pending

**Contact:** Darci Beaupeurt

### **12. Legarza Road Amendment**

**Type of Action:** Right-of-way (road)

**Location:** Spring Creek

**Description:** Access road and water diversion (road, improvement)

**Status:** Preliminary evaluation, pending receipt of additional information from applicant.

**Contact:** Marvin Urban

### **13. Tuscarora Buried Telephone Cable (N-33412)**

**Type of Action:** Right-of-way (utility)

**Location:** West of Tuscarora

**Description:** Authorize existing buried telephone cables

**Status:** EA in progress.

**Contact:** Marvin Urban

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### **14. Wells Rural Electric ROW (Nev-004430)**

**Type of Action:** Right-of-way (utility)

**Location:** Emigrant Summit

**Description:** Amend power line right-of-way

**Status:** EA in progress

**Contact:** Marvin Urban

### **15. Silver Zone Development Access Road (N-75508)**

**Type of Action:** Right-of-way (road)

**Location:** Silver Zone Pass west of Wendover, NV

**Description:** Access Road

**Status:** EA in progress

**Contact:** Marvin Urban

### **16. Sierra Pacific Spring Creek 25-KV Powerline Extension (N-7673)**

**Type of Action:** Right-of-way (utility)

**Location:** Spring Creek area, approximately 10 miles southeast of Elko, NV

**Description:** Approximately 7 mile long power line to provide secondary source of electricity to the Spring Creek housing area

**Status:** EA completed October 2003

**Contact:** Marvin Urban

### **17. Barth Mine/Citizens Communications Underground Line (N-77542)**

**Type of Action:** Right-of-way (utility)

**Location:** Two Hill Canyon area, approximately 10 miles west of Carlin, NV

**Description:** Approximately 18 acres (10,597 feet in length by 10 feet wide) of public land would be encumbered by an underground line to provide better source of communication to the Barth Iron mine site.

**Status:** EA in progress.

**Contact:** Marvin Urban

### **18. Carison & Associates Meteorological Site (N-77698)**

**Type of Action:** Right-of-way (Wind energy project)

**Location:** Cherry Creek Range

**Description:** Project includes the construction of meteorological towers in order to record and evaluate the wind resources in the area.

**Status:** Analysis on hold, pending receipt of information from applicant

**Contact:** Marvin Urban

## **III. Projects**

### **C. Recreation/Wilderness**

#### **1. Rock Spring Rehabilitation Plan**

**Type of Action:** Wilderness Study Area - restoration

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**Location:** Bluebell WSA, Rock Spring

**Description:** The proposal is to modify a spring development for long-term use within the WSA while also restoring vegetation to the area. Issues involved are wild horses, historic and cultural, wilderness characteristics, and wildlife.

**Status:** Preliminary design phase. Analysis for a proposed rehabilitation plan is scheduled to begin winter 2003/2004.

**Contact:** Tamara Hawthorne

### **2. Utah Desert Foxes Off Road Motorcycle Race**

**Type of Action:** Special Recreation Permit

**Location:** South of Wendover, NV

**Description:** A single day motorcycle race event to be held on March 13, 2004, that utilizes previously used race routes.

**Status:** Analysis/document preparation phase. A DNA is in the process of being completed. Expected decision date is February 2004.

**Contact:** Tamara Hawthorne

### **3. Bonneville Off Road Racing Enthusiasts (B.O.R.E.) Wendover 100 Race**

**Type of Action:** Special Recreation Permit

**Location:** South of Wendover, NV

**Description:** A 100-mile competitive buggy race for all types of off highway vehicles (race buggies, modified Volkswagens, Jeeps, pickups, and 4x4 vehicles). This annual race is normally held in early May and is confined to previously used race routes.

**Status:** EA will be completed in April 2004

**Contact:** Tamara Hawthorne

### **4. Carlin to Golconda Back Country Byway**

**Type of Action:** Byway Nomination

**Location:** Carlin - Tuscarora - Midas - Golconda; following county roads and state highways

**Description:** Complete Byway nomination for proposed scenic drive.

**Status:** Nomination and EA are scheduled for completion in 2004

**Contact:** JuLee Pallette Lindsay

### **5. Wild Rockies Bordertown Challenge Mountain Bike Race**

**Type of Action:** Border Town Challenge Mountain Bike Race

**Location:** Pequop Mountains – south of Interstate 80 and west of Oasis, NV.

**Description:** An annual one-day mountain bike race event, along previously used race routes. Race scheduled for May 2004 should use previously approved routes.

**Status:** EA completed for race held May 24, 2003. Expect 2004 race to be approved with completion of a DNA.

**Contact:** JuLee Pallette Lindsay

### **6. Bonneville Off-Road Racing Enterprises (BORE) Jackpot 200 Off Road Vehicle Race**

**Type of Action:** Special Recreation Permit

**Location:** Northeast of Jackpot, NV

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**Description:** An annual one-day off-highway vehicle race event, along previously used race routes. BLM's Burley Field Office, Idaho, is the lead. Race scheduled for July in 2004.

**Status:** DNA anticipated for 2004 event.

**Contact:** JuLee Palette Lindsay. Lead is Dennis Thompson of ID Field Office (208) 677-6664.

### **7. Hi Desert Racing Motorcycle Race**

**Type of Action:** Special Recreation Permit

**Location:** East of Wells - Wood Hills and Pequop Mts.

**Description:** An annual one-day motorcycle race event, generally along previously used race routes. Race date for summer 2004 has not been set yet.

**Status:** EA completed for race held September 6, 2003. Analysis for 2004 event will be started once permit application is received.

**Contact:** JuLee Palette Lindsay

### **8. Spruce Mountain OHV Trail**

**Type of Action:** Designation/development of an off-highway vehicle route

**Location:** On and around Spruce Mountain area (40 miles south of Wells, NV)

**Description:** The proposal is to designate the Spruce OHV Trail. The Trail would follow existing graded and two-track vehicle routes around the Spruce Mountain area; an area that is very scenic, provides opportunities to view wildlife, and also view several historic mining areas.

The Trail would be approximately 88 miles long, divided into two loops. At the beginning of each loop would be at a staging area, parking area, and information kiosk. The northernmost staging/parking area would also have a four unit primitive campground with restroom facility. The Trail route would be marked with Carsonite signs to allow visitors to easily follow the designated routes. Interpretive signs are also proposed, to assist the visitor in enjoying and understanding the rich history of the area. The trail is a cooperative effort between the BLM, Elko Convention and Visitors Authority, the City of Wells and OHV users groups.

**Status:** EA being prepared for completion in late February, 2004. Implementation would begin in May-June, 2004, and is expected to take one to two years to complete.

**Contact:** Steve Dondero

## **III. Projects**

### **D. Fire Management**

#### **1. Burned Area Emergency Rehabilitation (BAER) Plans**

**Type of Action:** Fire Emergency Stabilization and Restoration projects

**Location:** Wherever wildlife occurs on Elko District lands

**Description:** Plans for the rehabilitation of burned areas are prepared under a tight time frame following a wildfire in accordance with national fire plan procedures. EAs that are prepared tier off of the "Normal Fire Rehabilitation Plan" EA, as prepared in 2000, to propose specific treatments for a burned area. Proposed treatments may include seeding, fencing, dozer line rehabilitation, monitoring, road repair, horse gathers, cultural surveys, noxious weed control, tree and shrub planting, and erosion and sediment control structures.

**Status:** Work completed for the Schell and Savannah fires of the 2003 fire season.

**Contact:** Tom Warren

## **BLM/Elko Project and Planning Schedule – January 2004**

### **2. Owyhee Complex- Mechanical Fuel Breaks**

**Type of Action:** Fuels and wildlife habitat treatment

**Location:** Owyhee Allotment, north of Midas

**Description:** Use of mechanical treatment is proposed in the Star Ridge and Dry Creek pastures of the Owyhee Allotment to reduce fuel hazard and improve wildlife habitat, range condition, and watershed stability. The project schedule is to treat up to 3,000 combined acres, in conjunction with the Owyhee Complex of Prescribed Fires project, in blocks no larger than 500 acres.

**Status:** Preliminary survey and design; NEPA analysis to be completed in summer 2004.

**Contact:** Michael Pope

### **3. Double Mountain Mechanical Fuels Treatment**

**Type of Action:** Fuels and wildlife habitat treatment

**Location:** Near Double Mountain, approximately 40 miles north of Elko.

**Description:** This project is proposed to prevent or reduce the potential for large scale burns of mature big sagebrush and improve habitat diversity for wildlife. Mechanical treatments using vegetative mowers and rubber-tired vine rollers are proposed to create fuel breaks. Treatment would reduce big sagebrush foliar cover on approximately 100 acres on the allotment. Fuel breaks would be about 200 to 300 feet in width, and located primarily along, or in close proximity to, improved and unimproved roads. About 15-20 percent of the sagebrush in a fuel break area would be left untreated to create islands of cover for wildlife. Treatments would also be considered in upland areas away from roads. Broadcast seeding of perennial forbs and grasses, with emphasis on the use of native plants species, would be considered, as necessary, to enhance wildlife habitat and allow for establishment of plants that would potentially stay succulent through the summer fire season.

**Status:** Preliminary proposal, for treatment in late summer/early fall of 2004.

**Contact:** Tyson Gripp

### **4. Elko North Fuelbreak**

**Type of Action:** Fuels treatment (Wildland-Urban Interface)

**Location:** West Elko and areas north of Interstate 80, from Elko to Osino and Ryndon

**Description:** Establish a fuelbreak/greenstrip west of Elko, and then north of Interstate 80 from the city of Elko continuing east to residential developments at Kittridge Canyon, Coin, Osino, and Ryndon. Phase 1 would be constructed in FY 2003 west of the city of Elko to the Mountain City Highway. No treatment is proposed from Mountain City Highway northeast to North 5th Street in Elko, due to the existence of an effective firebreak from seedings of the recent Shale fire in 2001 and roads in the area. Phase 2 would be constructed in FY 2004 from north and east from North 5th Street to above the Kittridge Canyon community and extending to Coin and over to Osino. The location of Phase 3 is still in the preliminary planning stage but would run from Osino over to Ryndon. The fuelbreak/greenstrip would be 300 feet wide. It would be constructed using mechanical treatment and seeding. Mechanical treatment would entail brush beating along existing roads in the area to create a wide firebreak that will slow or possibly stop a fast moving wildland fire. The fuelbreak could also be used as a holding line, and the greenstrip could be used to burn out from. Where no roads exist, the greenstrip would be constructed cross-country. Where suitable, areas would be seeded with a fire resistant species of

## **BLM/Elko Project and Planning Schedule – January 2004**

grass. Certain areas of the project would also need to be fenced to keep livestock and off-road vehicles from damaging the greenstrip.

**Status:** Public scoping for Phase 1 occurred in spring 2003, and a CX/decision was completed in July. Phase 2 analysis underway.

**Contact:** Jeff Birrell

### **5. Beaver Creek Mechanical Fuels Treatment**

**Type of Action:** Fuels and wildlife habitat treatment

**Location:** Wagon Springs and Browne Fields of the Beaver Creek Allotment approximately 50 miles north of Elko.

**Description:** This project is proposed to prevent or reduce the potential for large scale burns of mature big sagebrush and improve habitat diversity for wildlife. Mechanical treatments using vegetative mowers and rubber-tired vine rollers are proposed to create fuel breaks. Treatment would reduce big sagebrush foliar cover on approximately 100 acres on the allotment. Fuel breaks would be about 200 to 300 feet in width, and located primarily along, or in close proximity to, improved and unimproved roads. About 15-20 percent of the sagebrush in a fuel break area would be left untreated to create islands of cover for wildlife. Treatments would also be considered in upland areas away from roads. Broadcast seeding of perennial forb and grass seed, with emphasis on the use of native plants species, would be considered, as necessary, to enhance wildlife habitat and allow for establishment of plants that would potentially stay succulent through the summer fire season.

**Status:** Analysis underway for treatment in late summer/early fall of 2004.

**Contact:** Tyson Gripp

### **6. Spring Creek Urban Interface Vegetation Treatment**

**Type of Action:** Wildland Urban Interface Fuels Reduction

**Location:** Spring Creek subdivision  
Vicinity of T 34 N., R 56 E. and R. 57 E.

**Description:** The hazardous fuels reduction project is to prevent or reduce the potential for large scale burns of mature big sagebrush adjacent to residential areas. Mechanical treatment of about 680 acres is proposed using mowers/brush-beaters to create a fuel break. The initial proposal is to create a fuelbreak along Lower Lamoille Road, west of Hog Tommy Spring and north along SR 227 to the east side of Spring Creek trailer section.

**Status:** Preliminary survey/design; NEPA analysis scheduled for completion in summer 2004

**Contact:** Kristine Dedolph

## **BLM/Elko Project and Planning Schedule – January 2004**

### **III. Projects**

#### **E. Range/Wildlife/Riparian/Wild Horse Habitat Improvements**

##### **1. Dairy Valley Division Fence**

**Type of Action:** Range Improvements (fence)

**Location:** Dairy Valley Allotment

T. 43 N., R. 70 E.

**Description:** The construction of this fence would create a large spring use riparian pasture within the Dairy Valley Allotment. The fence would be approximately 11 miles long. This fence would allow for the implementation of management actions that would improve riparian and bitterbrush plant communities. The fence was authorized in the 1989 Dairy Valley, Gamble and HD Allotment Management Plan.

**Status:** Preliminary design, for preparation of an EA

**Contact:** Tyson Gripp

##### **2. Devils Pass Spring Development and Exclosure**

**Type of Action:** Range Improvement (riparian habitat/fence)

**Location:** Salmon River Allotment

T. 45 N., R. 66 E.

**Description:** This project has been modified from the previously proposed “TJ Spring Exclosures” project. It consists of constructing one exclosure, of approximately 200 acres in total area, and developing one spring within the exclosure and piping water to a trough in the immediate vicinity outside of the exclosure. The BLM would construct this project and the permittee would have maintenance responsibility. The exclosure would allow for the implementation of management actions that would improve riparian condition and protect existing water sources from livestock impacts.

**Status:** EA in progress

**Contact:** Tyson Gripp

##### **3. Beaver Creek Allotment Prescribed Burn**

**Type of Action:** Habitat Restoration

**Location:** Beaver Creek Allotment

**Description:** This project represents a multi-year prescribed burning plan designed to improve plant species diversity in the Beaver Creek Allotment. The burn schedule is developed by pasture and is based on the livestock grazing system rotation to ensure recovery of burned areas.

**Status:** Implementation stage: Approximately 250 acres burned in the Browne Field in FY03; 500-600 acres planned for burning in 2004/05 in the Wagon Springs or Jakes Field, depending on the 2004 livestock grazing schedule.

**Contact:** Tyson Gripp

##### **4. Willow Tree Spring Exclosure and Development**

**Type of Action:** Range Improvement (spring development)

**Location:** Deeth Allotment;

T. 38 N., R. 59 E., section 5

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**Description:** This project would consist of constructing an enclosure (approximately 1 mile of fence) and developing a spring. The spring development would include a pipeline and troughs to supply water to the middle section of the Steer Field in the Deeth Allotment. Developing this spring would not only protect the existing riparian area, but would also provide water to improve livestock distribution in this field.

**Status:** This project is in the early discussion phase to determine feasibility, location of the project on the ground, and water rights issues.

**Contact:** Wendy Fuell

### **5. Shack Creek Riparian Pasture Fence**

**Type of Action:** Range Improvement

**Location:** Gulley Allotment

T. 47 N., R. 62.E, section 4

**Description:** Construct a permanent pasture fence to improve riparian values. Creeks present in the pasture are: Shack Creek, Bear Creek and Salmon Falls Creek.

**Status:** Initial project identification and layout

**Contact:** Wendy Fuell

### **6. Big Springs Allotment Project Package**

**Type of Action:** Range Improvements

**Location:** Big Springs Allotment; east side of the Pequop Range

**Description of Project:** As stated above the project consists of a variety of range improvement projects identified in the Big Springs Allotment FMUD. The package includes construction of various fences, installation of two cattleguards, and a pipeline extension. The purpose of the projects is to protect lotic and lentic riparian areas, and better facilitate cattle management and distribution within the allotment.

**Status:** Initial stage of survey and design.

**Contact:** Wendy Fuell

### **7. Antelope-Stud Drift Fence**

**Type of Action:** Range Improvement (fence)

**Location:** Antelope Basin and Deeth Allotments

T. 41 N., R. 59 E.

T. 42 N., R. 58 E. and 59 E.

**Description:** This project would consist of constructing approximately 3.5 miles of fence between the Antelope Basin Allotment and South Stud Creek Field of the Deeth Allotment. This fence would eliminate livestock drift between the two allotments and aid in addressing potential future management. For the past several years, a rotation system has been implemented between the North and South Stud Creek Fields of the Deeth Allotment to address riparian issues on a portion of the Bruneau River and Stud Creek. However, with the drift problem continuing, the South Stud Creek Field has continued to receive some use throughout the season. The Antelope Basin Allotment consists of one pasture and has no grazing system. The permittee has voluntarily reduced use to improve overall conditions, but drift continues to be an issue.

**Status:** Survey, design and analysis should be completed in 2004

**Contact:** Mark Reynolds

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### **8. YP Riparian Pasture Fence**

**Type of Action:** Range Improvement (riparian fence)

**Location:** YP Allotment

T. 45 N., R. 49 E., section 5, 6, 8, 9, 10

T. 45 N., R. 48 E., section 1

T. 46 N., R. 48 E., sections 35, 36.

**Description:** Create a small riparian pasture along the South Fork Owyhee River by constructing approximately 5.2 miles of riparian fence on public land, of which approximately 1 mile is within the Owyhee Canyon Wilderness Study Area. This project would allow for improvement of riparian conditions along the South Fork, resulting in significant progress toward fulfillment of riparian/wetland and habitat standards for rangeland health and attainment of the riparian multiple use objectives for the South Fork Owyhee River.

**Status:** Survey/design and NEPA documentation on hold pending the possible re-issuance of a Final Multiple Use Decision, and a decision from the Administrative Law Judge regarding an appeal of a decision to vacate the September 24, 1998 FMUD.

**Contact:** Kathy McKinstry

### **9. Kelly Creek Seeding Pipeline and Garret Spring Development**

**Type of Action:** Range Improvement (pipeline with several troughs and spring development)

**Location:** Little Humboldt (Tall Corral) Allotment

T. 39 N., R. 43 E., sections 24, 26, 36

T. 48 N., R.43 E., sections 2, 11

**Description:** Garret Spring would be developed and a pipeline would be built starting at the spring and extending into the Kelly Creek North and South Seedings. These are new seedings from the Kelly Creek Fire Rehabilitation efforts. The seedings are fenced as separate pastures and do not contain any water. The spring development and pipeline are essential for the utilization of the seedings. This project is in accordance with an allotment evaluation and stipulated agreement signed on June 24, 2002.

**Status:** Proposed project has been designed and flagged. A cultural inventory has been completed. Further design of the project is pending resolution of water rights. An EA will be completed during Winter of 2004.

**Contact:** Kathy McKinstry

### **10. Rim Pasture Water Catchments (3)**

**Type of Action:** Range Improvement (water catchments)

**Location:** Little Humboldt Allotment

T.39 N., R. 45 E. Sec. 24

T. 39 N., R. 46 E. Sec. 19

**Description:** Up to three small reservoirs would be constructed to collect spring snowmelt and provide livestock water in the Rim pasture. The Rim pasture currently has one water source and livestock are not utilizing the pasture efficiently due to the distance between water and forage. Providing additional water sources in the pasture would distribute livestock use to areas that are currently receiving little to no use. This project is in accordance with an allotment evaluation and stipulated agreement signed on June 24, 2002.

**Status:** Initial project identification and layout.

**Contact:** Kathy McKinstry

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### **11. Castle Ridge Pasture Spring Developments (up to 5)**

**Type of Action:** Range Improvement (spring development)

**Location:** Little Humboldt Allotment

T. 39 N., R. 46 E., Sec. 5, 7

**Description:** The BLM proposes to evaluate up to 5 spring sites for feasibility to fence spring sources and develop off-site watering facilities for livestock, wildlife, and wild horses. The proposed water developments would assist in improving grazing utilization and distribution in the uplands and reduce grazing use within stream riparian areas. Exclosures would be constructed and water would be provided outside of the exclosures.

**Status:** Initial project identification and layout.

**Contact:** Kathy McKinstry

### **12. Owyhee Riparian Management Improvements**

**Type of Action:** Habitat Restoration

**Location:** Owyhee and Petan Allotments

**Description:** Fencing and water development are proposed to move livestock off the Owyhee River.

**Status:** Preliminary survey and design

**Contact:** Kathy McKinstry

### **13. Sustacha Cattleguard**

**Type of Action:** Range Improvement (cattleguard)

**Location:** Elko Hills Allotment.

T. 34 N., R. 57 E., section 18.

**Description:** The project would consist of installing a cattleguard on the road that crosses the existing allotment boundary fence in order to alleviate some of the problems associated with gates being left open. The N-1 Grazing Board would supply funding for the materials and the permittee would supply the required time and labor to install the cattleguard.

**Status:** Analysis is on hold while a cooperative agreement is being developed with the permittee and N-1 Board.

**Contact:** Jeff Moore

### **14. Rooster Comb Let-Down Fence**

**Type of Action:** Range Improvement (fence)

**Location:** 25 Allotment

T. 36 N., R. 45 E., section 32

**Description:** Approximately ½ mile of 3-strand let-down fence would be constructed to keep livestock from drifting over to the Izzenhood pasture. This would be in accordance with the approved 25 Allotment Management Plan.

**Status:** Project is in preliminary stages of survey and design. EA to be completed Winter 2004.

**Contact:** Donna Nyrehn

### **15. Boulder Well Pipeline**

**Type of Action:** Range Improvement (pipeline with several troughs)

**Location:** 25 Allotment

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T. 36 N., R. 48 E., sections 14, 15, 19, 20, 21

**Description:** A pipeline is proposed starting at the Boulder Well and extending into the Six Mile Pasture from the Boulder Field. This will help distribute livestock and provide water for wildlife in accordance with the approved Allotment Management Plan. A third party easement would be required, as the pipeline crosses private property not owned by the permittee.

**Status:** Initial stage of survey and design

**Contact:** Donna Nyrehn

### **16. Squaw Valley Riparian Management Fences**

**Type of Action:** Range Improvement (Fence)

**Location:** Approximately 50 northwest of Elko, between the towns of Midas and Tuscarora

**Description:** Construct three fences to improve management of livestock grazing and the condition of riparian areas in the Squaw Valley Allotment. The Squaw Valley/Spanish Ranch Division Fence would consist of approximately 28 miles, and be constructed along the boundary with the Spanish Ranch Allotment. It would be placed as close as possible on the watershed divide, and designed with considerations for wild horse movement, natural topography, cultural resources, and wildlife values. The fence would tie into existing boundary fences. This action would also include the relocation of the north end of the Buffalo Fire Rehabilitation Fence, so that it lies on the allotment boundary. The second fence would be approximately 7 miles, in the Upper Willow Creek Habitat Enhancement area. This fence was identified in the Betze Project Supplemental EIS, as mitigation for a mining project. The third fence is the Lower Squaw Fence, and consists of about 2 miles.

**Status:** EA completed for all three fences in December 2003; FONSI/DR signed 12/18/03. Implementation scheduled in 2004.

**Contact:** Donna Nyrehn

### **17. Browne Pipeline/Extension**

**Type of Action:** Range Improvement (pipeline)

**Location:** Browne Allotment

T. 26 N., R. 55 E., sections 6, 7

T. 27 N., R. 55 E., sections 30, 31

**Description:** The proposed action is to construct a pipeline that would originate on public land at the Browne Well. Surface disturbance as a result of construction would depend upon the method of installing the pipeline. If ripping or trenching is used, the width of disturbance would be from 30 to 40 ft. overall; if a backhoe is used, the width of disturbance would be from 40-50 ft. In both cases the depth of disturbance would be from 2-4 ft. Black polyethylene pipe would be used and 400/500gallon troughs would be placed approximately every mile along the pipeline route for a total of 2 or 3 troughs. This project was recommended in the Diamond Complex Evaluation as a tool to improve distribution of livestock.

**Status:** Initial project identification

**Contact:** Justin Rodgers

### **18. Crane Springs Cattle Guard #3**

**Type of Action:** Range Improvement (cattle guard)

**Location:** El Jiggs Allotment (Dixie Creek) and Crane Springs Canyon Allotment

T. 30 N., R. 54 E., section 11, SW $\frac{1}{4}$

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**Description:** Replace the existing gate with cattle guard to control movement of livestock between the Scott (native) Pasture of the El Jiggs (Dixie Creek) Allotment and the Crane Springs Canyon Allotment.

**Status:** Project layout, survey, design, and archaeological inventory completed. The NEPA analysis is in progress. Project completion scheduled for 2004.

**Contact:** Justin Rodgers/Bruce Thompson

### **19. Forest Pipeline Reconstruction and Extension**

**Type of Action:** Range Improvement (pipeline)

**Location:** Willow Creek Pockets Allotment

T. 30 N., R. 57 E. section 18 NE $\frac{1}{4}$

**Description:** Reconstruct and extend the Forest Pipeline in the Upper Field of the Willow Creek Pockets Allotment. The pipeline originates on private land, and the landowner would reconstruct the private land portion from the water source (Forest Spring) to the public land boundary (less than  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile). The BLM, in cooperation with private landowner, would reconstruct and extend the portion that is on public land (approximately 3.5 miles).

**Status:** Initial project identification

**Contact:** Justin Rodgers

### **20. Mud Springs/Bear Mt. Fence**

**Type of Action:** Range Improvement (fence)

**Location:** East Buckhorn Allotment

T. 46 N., R. 62 E., sections 21, 22, 23

**Description:** Construction of approximately 3 1/2 miles of fence in the East Buckhorn Allotment. The proposed project was outlined in the Buckhorn FMUD and the East Buckhorn Allotment Management Plan approved October 6, 1995.

**Status:** Survey and design completed. EA preparation and project construction deferred.

**Contact:** Bruce Thompson

### **21. Buckhorn Allotment Spring Enclosures**

**Type of Action:** Range Improvement (Spring enclosures)

**Location:** Buckhorn Allotment

**Description:** Eight spring enclosures were identified for development in the Buckhorn Allotment FMUD, the O'Neil/Salmon Falls Habitat Management Plan, and the Wells RMP to enhance the springs and associated riparian habitat.

**Status:** Initial project identification and layout

**Contact:** Bruce Thompson

### **22. Pole Creek Corridor Fence**

**Type of Action:** Range Improvement (fence)

**Location:** West Buckhorn Allotment

T. 45 N., R. 61 E., sections 3, 4, 10, 15, 21, 22, 27, 28, 33, 34

**Description:** The proposed project would consist of approximately four miles of fence to exclude spring/riparian communities along Pole Creek from livestock access. The proposed project was outlined in the Buckhorn FMUD and the West Buckhorn Allotment Management Plan approved October 6, 1995.

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**Status:** Initial project identification and layout

**Contact:** Bruce Thompson

### **23. Wilson Creek Pasture Fence**

**Type of Action:** Range Improvement (fence)

**Location:** East Buckhorn Allotment

T. 46 N., R. 62 E., sections 6, 7, 8

**Description:** Construction of approximately 2 1/2 miles of fence in the East Buckhorn Allotment to facilitate livestock grazing. The proposed project was identified in the Buckhorn FMUD and the East Buckhorn AMP approved October 6, 1995.

**Status:** Survey, design and analysis to be completed in 2004.

**Contact:** Bruce Thompson

### **24. Number One Spring Development**

**Type of Action:** Range Improvement (pipeline)

**Location:** Thomas Creek and Safford Canyon Allotments

T. 30 N., R. 50 E., section 2

**Description:** Reconstruct an existing spring and pipeline. The pipeline would be approximately 0.25 miles and there would be two troughs supplying water to the Thomas Creek Native Pasture and the Safford Canyon Seeding. The project was identified in the Thomas Creek Allotment FMUD, February 1995. The proposed spring development would involve fencing the spring.

**Status:** Survey, design and analysis planned for 2004

**Contact:** Jason Spence

### **25. Tomera Trout Creek Fence**

**Type of Action:** Range Improvement (fence)

**Location:** Pine Creek Allotment

T. 30 N., R. 52 E., sections 24, 25, 26, 27

T. 30 N., R. 52 E., sections 16, 19, 20.

**Description:** Construct approximately 5 miles of fence, which would tie into existing exclosures and create a riparian pasture on Trout Creek.

**Status:** Initial project design. EA scheduled for completion in 2004.

**Contact:** Jason Spence

### **26. South Buckhorn Division and Boundary Fences**

**Type of Action:** Range improvement (3 fences)

**Location:** South Buckhorn Allotment, located approximately 60 miles south of Carlin, NV.

T. 26 N., R. 49 E.; T. 27 N., R. 48 E. and R. 49 E.; T. 28 N., R. 51 E.; T. 29 N., R. 50 E.

**Description:** These fences would eliminate historic drift of livestock between adjudicated use areas within the South Buckhorn Allotment and the adjacent Argenta Allotment. The combined length of the fences would be an approximately 20 miles.

**Status:** Initial survey and design

**Contact:** Jason Spence

### **27. Deer Spring Exclosure and Development**

**Type of Action:** Range Improvement (spring development)

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**Location:** Spruce Allotment/Antelope Valley Wild Horse Herd Management Area  
T. 29 N., R. 65 E., section 25

**Description:** This project would consist of constructing a small enclosure around an existing spring development and installing a pipeline to take the water approximately 450 feet to a trough. The spring source would be protected while providing reliable water for wild horses, wildlife and livestock. This proposed project was outlined in the Spruce/Valley Mountain FMUD, approved in January 1998, as well as the Wells RMP Wild Horse Amendment, approved August 1992.

**Status:** Survey, design and analysis planned for 2004

**Contact:** Bryan Fuell

### **28. Wagon Springs Aspen Protection**

**Type of Action:** Habitat Restoration

**Location:** Beaver Creek Allotment

**Description:** A combination of wood rail fence and steel panels would be used to protect up to 11 degraded aspen stands in the Wagon Springs Field of the Beaver Creek Allotment.

**Status:** CX completed. Tentative implementation scheduled for summer of 2004.

**Contact:** Nycole Burton

### **29. Upper Snow Mountain Riparian Enclosures**

**Type of Action:** Riparian Habitat Improvements

**Location:** El Jiggs (Dixie Creek) Allotment

**Description:** Three wood rail and one wood rail/wire enclosures encompassing 20 acres total would be constructed around high priority riparian habitats including one aspen stand, two spring/meadow areas and one cottonwood stand in the El Jiggs Allotment. The projects are part of the El Jiggs Multiple Use Decision and would protect key riparian habitats in the Upper Snow Mountain Pasture.

**Status:** EA Completed.

**Contact:** Nycole Burton

### **30. Wagon Springs Aspen Enclosure and Spring Development**

**Type of Action:** Habitat Restoration

**Location:** Beaver Creek Allotment

**Description:** A spring would be developed and protected with construction of a combination of wood and rail fence enclosure. The development would consist of 2 water troughs.

**Status:** Preliminary survey and design.

**Contact:** Nycole Burton

### **31. T Lazy S Sage Grouse Habitat Improvements**

**Type of Action:** Habitat Restoration

**Location:** T Lazy S Allotment

**Description:** Mechanical or chemical manipulation of about 200 acres of Newmont mitigation lands within the T Lazy S Allotment to improve sage grouse habitat, as identified in the EIS for the South Operations Area Plan Amendment.

**Status:** Preliminary survey and design

**Contact:** Nycole Burton

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### **32. Stampede Ranch Wildlife Fence Modifications**

**Type of Action:** Range Improvement (fencing)

**Location:** Maggie Creek Allotment

**Description:** Removing and replacing a mesh-wire fence with a three strand wire to reduce wildlife endangerment problems, as identified in the EIS for the South Operations Area Plan Amendment.

**Status:** Preliminary survey and design

**Contact:** Nycole Burton

### **33. Barrick 15 Spring Improvements**

**Type of Action:** Habitat Restoration

**Location:** Squaw Valley Allotment

**Description:** Restore up to 15 riparian sites, by enclosure or other measures as deemed appropriate, in the Willow Creek Ridge area. Restoration is identified as part of Barrick's mitigation commitments in the Betze Project Supplemental EIS.

**Status:** Preliminary survey and design

**Contact:** Nycole Burton

### **34. Susie Creek Fence Extension**

**Type of Action:** Habitat Restoration

**Location:** Hadley Allotment

**Description:** Extend riparian fencing along six mile of Susie Creek, as part of Barrick's mitigation commitments in the Betze Project Supplemental EIS.

**Status:** Preliminary survey and design, toward preparation of an EA.

**Contact:** Nycole Burton

### **35. Springsnail Relocation Study**

**Type of Action:** Habitat Restoration

**Location:** Squaw Valley Allotment

**Description:** In cooperation with NDOW , Desert Research Institute and Barrick, determine methods for springsnail relocation from springs that may be impacted by mining operations, as anticipated by the Betze Project Supplemental EIS.

**Status:** Preliminary design

**Contact:** Nycole Burton

### **36. Skull Springs Development**

**Type of Action:** Habitat Protection

**Location:** Double Mountain Allotment

**Description:** A development consisting of one 4,000 to 5,000 gallon storage tank and seven troughs. A standard enclosure would enclose 1.5 acres to eliminate livestock impacts to the spring.

**Status:** Ready to be implemented this spring

**Contact:** Nycole Burton

### **37. Bootstrap Chukar Guzzler (Wildlife)**

**Type of Action:** Water Development

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**Location:** Newmont's Boot Strap Mine located within Boulder Valley

**Description:** The proposed action is to install a water catchment for use by small wildlife, including chukar, on part of a reclaimed waste rock dump at the Boot Strap mine located on public lands.

**Status:** EA underway

**Contact:** Nycole Burton

### **38. Odgers Spring Complex North Fork Exclosure**

**Type of Action:** Range Improvement (fence)

**Location:** Odgers Allotment

T. 27 N., R. 62 E., section 17

**Description:** Construct an exclosure around the spring complex. This project is outlined in the Maverick/Medicine Complex FMUD.

**Status:** Preliminary stage of survey and design

**Contact:** Sarah Newman

### **39. Dry Canyon Spring Exclosure**

**Type of Action:** Range Improvement (fence)

**Location:** Currie Allotment

T. 26 N., R. 63 E., section 18

**Description:** Construct an exclosure around the spring complex. This project is outlined in the Maverick/Medicine Complex FMUD.

**Status:** Preliminary stage of survey and design

**Contact:** Sarah Newman

### **40. Mud Spring Complex Exclosure**

**Type of Action:** Range Improvement (Habitat Restoration)

**Location:** Odgers Allotment

T. 27 N., R. 61 E., section 11

**Description:** Construct exclosure around the spring complex. This project is outlined in the Maverick/Medicine Complex FMUD.

**Status:** Preliminary stage of survey and design.

**Contact:** Sarah Newman

### **41. North Fork Humboldt River Fence**

**Type of Action:** Stream and Riparian Habitat Improvement

**Location:** Devil's Gate Allotment

T. 39 N., R. 57 E. and 58 E.

T. 40 N., R. 57 E. and 58 E.

**Description:** This project would consist of constructing approximately 10 miles of fence in the Devil's Gate Allotment for the purpose of protecting the North Fork of the Humboldt River. The fencing would limit timing and intensity of livestock grazing on the River. Depending on water rights issues, water developments, in the form of spring developments, pipelines, and/or reservoirs may be proposed to provide alternate sources of water for livestock. Construction of this project would allow for the restoration of up to 10 miles of the North Fork of the Humboldt River within the Devil's Gate Allotment.

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**Status:** Early discussion phase to determine feasibility, actual location of the projects on the ground, and water rights issues.

**Contact:** Carol Evans/Mark Reynolds

### **42. Livestock Grazing Proposal for the Beaver Creek Riparian Pasture within the 25 Allotment**

**Type of Action:** Grazing decision

**Location:** 25 Allotment, Beaver Creek drainage

**Description:** In August of 2001, most of the Beaver Creek watershed was burned by wildfire. Much of the riparian corridor along Beaver Creek and its tributaries were severely impacted. The pasture is currently closed to grazing until stream and riparian conditions are good. This proposal is to change the terms and conditions of the grazing permit for the 25 Allotment once criteria for re-opening the Beaver Creek Riparian Pasture have been met. The proposed grazing system limits the frequency of hot season grazing (July, August and early September) to no more than once in a 4-year cycle. In addition, a minimum of two years of rest would be required in the 4-year cycle. The changes are proposed for the protection and long-term management of high priority riparian and stream habitat for fish and wildlife, including the Lahontan cutthroat trout, a species listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. BLM has prepared a biological assessment that determines that livestock grazing may affect LCT, but that possible adverse effects would be offset by the proposed system.

**Status:** EA completed. Final decision to be issued for implementation in 2004/05 pending completion of the consultation process with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

**Contact:** Carol Evans

### **43. Maggie Creek Basin Culverts Replacement**

**Type of Action:** Habitat Restoration

**Description:** Replace culverts in the Maggie Creek basin with structures suitable for fish passage. Maggie Creek and its tributaries support Lahontan cutthroat trout, a federally listed species. The culverts are located on private and county roads in Eureka and Elko Counties. The project is being done in cooperation with Newmont and Barrick Goldstrike Mining companies under provisions of the mitigation plans completed for the South Operations Area Project Amendment, the Betze Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, and the Leeville Mine in 2003.

**Status:** Survey and design completed; consultation with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service in progress; construction planned for 2004.

**Contact:** Carol Evans

### **44. Trout Unlimited Lahontan Cutthroat Trout Watershed Studies**

**Type of Action:** Research study

**Location:** Maggie and Willow Creek basins, northern Elko County

**Description:** Two cooperative fisheries research studies are underway in the Maggie and Willow Creek basins. as part of a cooperative project involving the Elko Field Office, Trout Unlimited, Newmont Mining Company, and Barrick Goldstrike Mines, Inc. Both the Maggie and Willow Creek drainages support Lahontan cutthroat trout, a federally listed species. Genetics, population dynamics, movement patterns and habitat quality will be evaluated as part of the research program.

## **BLM/Elko Project and Planning Schedule – January 2004**

**Status:** Baseline data has been collected and additional research is planned over the next three to five years, depending on funding.

**Contact:** Carol Evans

### **45. Bob's Flat Exclosure/Test Plot**

**Type of Action:** Monitoring

**Location:** T Lazy S Allotment

T. 32 N., R. 49 E., sections 2 and 12

T. 32 N., R. 50 E., section 6

**Description:** Install a 3-strand fence to enclose one acre within the 1997-98 Bob's Flat Emergency Fire Rehabilitation and Mule Deer Mitigation Reseeding area. This exclosure would allow for upland vegetation and soils monitoring in a control area where no livestock grazing would occur.

**Status:** CX anticipated, pending completion of survey and design

**Contact:** Ken Wilkinson

## **III. Projects**

### **F. Invasive, Nonnative Species**

#### **1. Owyhee Allotment Weed Treatment**

**Type of Action:** Range Improvement (vegetation treatment)

**Location:** Owyhee Allotment

**Description:** Chemically or manually treat various noxious weeds at in the Owyhee Allotment.

**Status:** EA to be completed winter 2003/04. Project implementation summer 2004-2007.

**Contact:** Mark Coca

#### **2. Northeast Elko Conservation District Weed Treatment**

**Type of Action:** Range Improvement (vegetation treatment)

**Location:** Public lands within the Northeast Elko Conservation District

**Description:** Chemically or manually treat various noxious weeds within the boundary of the Northeast Elko Conservation District

**Status:** EA to be completed winter 2003/04. Project implementation summer 2004-2007.

**Contact:** Mark Coca

#### **3. Dry Gulch Seeding**

**Type of Action:** Range Improvement (vegetation treatment)

**Location:** Public lands within the Maggie Creek/Suzie Creek drainages

**Description:** Drill seeding of desired grasses to compete against cheatgrass invasion and Scotch thistle infestation within the Maggie Creek Weed Treatment project.

**Status:** EA to be completed winter 2003/04. Project implementation fall 2004

**Contact:** Mark Coca

#### **4. Tabor Creek Campground Weed Treatment**

**Type of Action:** Range Improvement (vegetation treatment)

**Location:** Public lands within the Tabor Creek Campground

## **BLM/Elko Project and Planning Schedule – January 2004**

**Description:** Herbicide treatment of Canada thistle infestation throughout the Tabor Creek Campground.

**Status:** EA to be completed winter 2003/04. Project implementation spring 2004.

**Contact:** Mark Coca

### **5. Rangeland Grasshopper and Mormon Cricket Suppression Program**

**Type of Action:** Range Improvement (pest control)

**Location:** Public lands within the district boundary of the Elko Field Office.

**Description:** Pesticide control of Mormon cricket and rangeland grasshopper populations where infestations are economically damaging.

**Status:** EA to be completed winter 2003/04. Project implementation spring 2004-2008.

**Contact:** Mark Coca

### **6. Cross Ranch Hay Meadows Integrated Perennial Pepperweed Control Project**

**Type of Action:** Integrated Weed Management

**Location:** Lower Marys River, Cross Ranch Hay Meadows

**Description:** The BLM acquired the Cross Ranch meadow properties in the 1991 Marys River Land Exchange and manages the area to maintain riparian and stream habitat in good or excellent condition. Since 1992, five irrigated hay fields, comprising approximately 600 acres of the Cross Ranch meadows along the lower Marys River, have continued to be irrigated and hayed through various agreements under the supervision of the BLM Elko Field Office.

Perennial pepperweed (also known as tall whitetop) is a noxious weed in Nevada that was first discovered within the Cross Ranch hay meadows in about 1998. It is speculated that this weed was brought in by haying equipment that had been working in contaminated hay meadows along the lower Humboldt River. The noxious weed was found in two of the fields, and the Elko Field Office began an aggressive herbicide control program on the Cross Ranch in 2001. Livestock grazing has been excluded from the irrigated hayfields, as per the Marys River Land Exchange, so hay contractors have been required to harvest and remove hay from the property. Although chemical control efforts have been very successful, the hay harvested from the two treated fields can not be certified as weed free. To avoid potentially spreading perennial pepperweed through removal of the hay crop from the treated fields, the BLM Elko Field Office is proposing to integrate livestock grazing into the management of the Cross Ranch Hay Meadows. Rather than swathing, baling, and removing the hay offsite from the fields that are chemically treated, it is proposed to swath and windrow the hay crop and then allow cattle to graze the windrowed hay on site. The grazing would be strictly monitored to require removal of livestock from the meadows once the windrows have been eaten, to avoid impacts associated with potential grazing of the adjacent riparian habitat along lower Marys River.

**Status:** Preliminary planning

**Contact:** Ray Lister