



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

July 2004



**PROJECT AND PLANNING
SCHEDULE**

3900 East Idaho Street
Elko, Nevada 89801
775-753-0200
<http://www.nv.blm.gov>

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

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In Reply Refer To:
1790 (NV-010)

July 30, 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 January 2004. Proposed actions for which analyses are being completed are listed in this *Schedule* by resource program area, i.e., Land Use Planning, Minerals, Lands, Recreation/Wilderness, Fire Management, Range/Wildlife/Riparian/Wild Horses 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: www.nv.blm.gov/Elko/nepa. 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 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/

Dave Stout
Associate Field Manager

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BLM/Elko Field Office
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 assessments 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 and range improvement projects are considered by allotment evaluations that are subject to public review. Proposed management actions undergo site specific review for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

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 environmental assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (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): A detailed statement that NEPA requires be prepared for major Federal actions that 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. In Nevada, plans that focus on multiple resource programs within a defined geographic area and result in a “multiple use decision” (MUD).

Land Use Plans, Resource Management Plans (RMPs) and RMP Amendments: Sections 201 and 202 of FLPMA 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 public review 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 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) is published in the *Federal Register*. Publication of a NOI notifies the public of proposed federal action(s) and formally begins public scoping (issue identification) for preparation of the EIS.

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

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A. Land Use Plans

A1. Fire Management Amendment – Elko/Wells Resource Management Plans

Type of Action: Land use plan amendment

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 will follow consideration of protests received on the Proposed Amendment by the Director of the BLM.

Contact: Joe Freeland

B. Areawide /Programmatic Minerals, Lands & Recreation Plans

B1. 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: Cancelled, due to lack of funds and staff

Contact: Steve Dondero

B2. 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

B3. California National Historic Trails Interpretive Center and Waysides

Type of Action: Interpretive development

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Location: Along Interstate 80 in northern Nevada, at the Hunter exit between Elko and Carlin, NV (interpretive center) and four rest stops (waysides)

Description: Congressional authorization has been given to establish a new national interpretive center near Elko, Nevada, featuring the California National Historic Trail. 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, and would be located on land to be donated north of the Hunter Exit of I-80. Four interpretive waysides at existing rest stops along I-80 have also been identified for development. Analyses for additional interpretive waysides that would be tied directly to the Center would be completed as funds are available.

Status: Numerous public meetings held since July 2002. EA for the interpretive center and reststop waysides completed in November 2003. The decision was issued 7/23/2004, following completion of the land donation. Final designs for construction of the center and interpretive exhibits is underway.

Contact: David Jamiel

B4. California National Historic Trail Interpretive Waysides

Type of Action: Interpretive site developments

Location: Many locations in northeastern Nevada

Description: This is related to development of the California National Historic Trail Interpretive Center near Elko, Nevada. In accordance with an interpretive plan for the historic trail in settling the west, the development of approximately 20 wayside sites associated with its use as emigrants traveled through Nevada is currently proposed. Sites to be analyzed have been chosen in coordination with the Nevada State Historic Preservation Officer. Development of the sites would include parking areas and interpretive signs, and some sites also include trails. Development of some sites will require agreements with funding partners and/or landowners. Future development of the sites would be subject to the availability of funds.

Status: An EA is scheduled for completion in September 2004.

Contact: Tamara Hawthorne

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C. Minerals Projects

C1. 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 completed and FONSI/DR signed 3/26/2004.

Contact: Janice Stadelman

C2. Ruby Lake Geothermal Lease

Type of Action: Non-competitive lease sale

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

C3. 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 2004

Contact: Jim Lindsay

C4. Quarterly Elko District Competitive Oil & Gas Lease Sales

Type of Action: Oil & Gas Competitive Lease Sale

Location: Elko District

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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) 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: Sale in June 2004 was adequately covered by existing analyses.

Contact: Jim Lindsay

C5. 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 2004.

Contact: Jim Lindsay

C6. 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 and decision to be issued in summer 2004

Contact: Tom Schmidt

C7. Emigrant Mine Exploration Plan

Type of Action: Locatable mineral exploration Plan of Operations

Location: About ten miles south of Carlin, Nevada.

T. 32 N., R. 53 E., portions of sections 24, 26, 34, 36

T. 31 N., R 53 E, portions of sections 1, 2, 3, 11, 12

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Description: The Newmont Mining Corporation has submitted a Plan of Operations to open the Emigrant Mine. The proposed gold mine would include developing and operating an open pit mine; constructing a waste rock disposal facility, storing mined areas of the pit with oxide waste; developing an oxide heap leach pad; constructing ancillary facilities; temporarily rerouting intermittent stream and flows in the pit area; and concurrent reclamation. Proposed mining operations would last for approximately 9 years. Approximately 1,172 acres of public land and 260 acres of private land would be disturbed.

Status: Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS published in the Federal Register on 5/25/2004. Open house held 6/16/2004, and the public scoping period closed 7/7/2004. BLM is guiding preparation of the EIS by a contractor, and a DEIS is scheduled for release in October 2004.

Contact: Tom Schmidt

D. Lands Actions

D1. 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.

Status: Analysis underway for completion in summer 2004

Contact: Jason Allen

D2. 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

D3. Baca Land Sales (N-77169, N-77170, N-77171, N-77176, N-77177)

Type of Action: Land Sale

Location: Elko and Lander Counties.

Description: Parcels offered for sale are identified in the Elko RMP. There are 5 parcels ranging from 40 to 250 acres, for a total of approximately 648 acres.

Status: Analysis underway for completion in 2004

Contact: Jason Allen

D4. Susie Creek Desert Land Entries

Type of Action: Desert Land Entry

Location: Susie Creek Basin

Description: Evaluate 9 DLE applications and reduce to 2 allowances, per State Water Engineer.

Status: Analysis underway

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Contact: Jason Allen

D5. Clover Valley Acquisition

Type of Action: Land acquisition

Location: Elko County, Clover Valley/Angel Creek Campground area

Description: Pursuing acquisition of environmentally sensitive lands from the private landowner under the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act.

Status: Preliminary stage

Contact: Jason Allen

D6. Rock Creek Acquisition

Type of Action: Land acquisition

Location: Rock Creek, northwest of Midas, NV

Description: Pursuing acquisition of environmentally sensitive lands from the private landowner under the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act.

Status: Preliminary stage

Contact: Jason Allen

D7. IL Ranch Acquisition

Type of Action: Land acquisition

Location: North of Tuscarora, Nevada

Description: Pursuing acquisition of environmentally sensitive lands from the private landowner under the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act.

Status: Waiting for funding to be finalized. Acquisition process has not started yet.

Contact: Jason Allen

D8. City of West Wendover Road ROW (N-76488)

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

Location: West Wendover, NV

Description: A paved collector road is proposed to provide access from I-80 to west area of W. Wendover to accommodate new developments (golf course, subdivisions, and casino). Involves 1.3 acres of public lands; the ROW width of 60 feet is to include utilities, curb, and gutter.

Status: EA completed in July 2004. Waiting on completion of the ROW grant.

Contact: Darci Beaupeurt

D9. Metropolis Irrigation District-Bishop Cr. Dam Access (N-77957)

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

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 and construction of drill pads.

Status: EA completed 2/28/04.

Contact: Marvin Urban

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D10. Lowell Access (N-77541)

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

Location: 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 being prepared

Contact: Darci Beaupeurt

D11. City of Elko (N-78388)

Type of Action: Recreation & Public Purposes (R&PP)

Location: T 34 N, R 56 E, section 18, (Elko County, Nevada)

Description: Landfill expansion

Status: Preliminary survey

Contact: Darci Beaupeurt

D12. Legarza Road Amendment

Type of Action: Right-of-way (road and water diversion)

Location: Spring Creek

Description: Access road and water diversion

Status: Pending trespass paper work

Contact: Marvin Urban

D13. Tuscarora Buried Telephone Cable (N-33412)

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

Location: West of Tuscarora

Description: Authorize existing buried telephone cables

Status: Pending cultural report.

Contact: Marvin Urban

D14. Wells Rural Electric ROW (Nev-004430)

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

Location: Emigrant Summit

Description: Amend power line right-of-way

Status: Pending for paperwork

Contact: Marvin Urban

D15. 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: Closed due to sale

Contact: Marvin Urban

D16. 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

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Description: Approximately 18 acres (10,597 feet in length by 10 feet wide) of public land would be used for an underground line to improve communication to the Barth Iron mine site.

Status: EA completed 2/5/04.

Contact: Marvin Urban

D17. Carison & Associates Meteorological Site (N-77698)

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

Location: Cherry Creek Range

Description: Construct meteorological towers to record and evaluate wind resources in the area.

Status: Analysis on hold for new access

Contact: Marvin Urban

D18. Elko County Recreation Area (N-78306)

Type of Action: Recreation & Public Purposes Act lease

Location: T.34 N., R. 55 E., section 29

Description: Elko County has submitted an application to use about 240 acres of public land for recreational purposes. The site would be used for development of recreational facilities for motorcycles, BMX bikes and other motorized and non-motorized vehicles.

Status: EA is in progress.

Contact: Marvin Urban

D19. Elko County/Ryndon Recreation Park (N-78530)

Type of Action: Recreation & Public Purposes Act lease

Location: Ryndon

T.35 N., R. 57 E., section 6 (8.90 acres)

Description: Elko County has submitted an application to use 8.9 acres of public land for development of recreational facilities. Development may include baseball, softball, soccer and football fields, a children's park, outdoor picnic area and other outdoor uses.

Status: EA is in progress.

Contact: Marvin Urban

D20. Elko County/Ryndon Community Fire Station (N-78529)

Type of Action: Recreation & Public Purposes Act lease

Location: Ryndon, Nevada

T.35 N., R. 57 E., section 6

Description: Elko County has submitted an application to use about 1 acre of public land for a Nevada Division of Forestry fire station, to provide fire protection for the Ryndon RV Park.

Status: EA is in progress.

Contact: Marvin Urban

D21. Nevada Dept. of Transportation/Highway 93 Snow Fence (N-78720)

Type of Action: Right-of-way (fence)

Location: Highway 93, north of Wells, Nevada

T. 39 N., R. 63 E., section 14

Description: NDOT wants to construct a snow fence along portion of Highway 93 north of Wells. About 1 acre of public land would be encumbered.

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Status : EA is in progress.

Contact: Marvin Urban

D22. Randy Croasmun Access Road & Water Line (N-78486 & N-078485)

Type of Action: Right-of-way (access road & utility line)

Location: T. 34 N., R. 69 E., sections 6 and 7

Description: BLM has received an application for use of public land for a one-mile long access road and water line to private property.

Status : EA is in progress

Contact: Marvin Urban

E. Recreation/Wilderness

E1. Rock Spring Rehabilitation Plan

Type of Action: Wilderness Study Area - restoration

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

E2. 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: DNA completed. Approval issued 2/12/2004 and race held..

Contact: Tamara Hawthorne

E3. 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 usually confined to previously used race routes.

Status: EA and approval issued in March 2004.

Contact: Tamara Hawthorne

E4. 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 preparation of an EA deferred due to lack of funds and personnel

Contact: Steve Dondero

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E5. Wild Rockies Bordertown Challenge Mountain Bike Race

Type of Action: Special recreation permit (competitive event)

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

Description: An annual one-day mountain bike race event that is scheduled for May 24, 2004.

Status: This event was not held in 2004.

Contact: Steve Dondero

E6. Hi Desert Racing Motorcycle Race

Type of Action: Special Recreation Permit

Location: East of Wells - Wood Hills and Pequop Mountains

Description: An annual one-day motorcycle race event, generally along previously used race routes. Race scheduled for September 25, 2004.

Status: EA nearing completion, with decision to be issued first week in August 2004.

Contact: Steve Dondero

E7. Recreation Trails 2004

Type of Action: Designation/development of 4-wheel drive touring routes

Location: Vicinity of Wells, NV

Description: The project was originally initiated through the Elko Conventions and Visitors Authority (ECVA) with a proposal for designation and development of a Off-Highway Vehicle Trail (OHV) Trail in the Spruce Mountain area, south of Wells. BLM has considered several alternatives, and is analyzing alternatives within the Spruce Mountain area and an additional alternative in the Hanks Creek/Marys River area, northeast of Wells. Trails would follow existing graded and two-track vehicle routes, and 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 project would be completed as a cooperative effort among the BLM, ECVA, City of Wells and OHV user groups.

Status: EA being prepared for completion in August 2004. Implementation would begin in fall 2004, and is expected to take one to two years to complete.

Contact: Steve Dondero

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F. Fire Management Projects

F1. 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: As of July 2004, no fires had occurred that require preparation of a plan.

Contact: Tom Warren

F2. Owyhee Greenstrip (Fuelbreak)

Type of Action: Hazardous fuels and wildlife habitat treatment

Location: Owyhee Allotment, 20 miles north of Midas

Description: Use of mechanical treatment is proposed in the Dry Creek pasture of the Owyhee Allotment to decrease the threat of a large wildfire that would devastate the habitat for wildlife and livestock. The greenstrip would be approximately 15 miles in length and 300-500 wide. The objective of this treatment is to create a barrier to large fire growth, by changing vegetation and reducing fire behavior.

Status: Decision issued 6/18/04. Treatment scheduled for late summer 2004.

Contact: Michael Pope

F3. 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: Analysis underway for treatment in late summer/early fall of 2004.

Contact: Tyson Gripp

F4. 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

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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 in this 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. Phase 3 would run from Osino over to Ryndon. The fuelbreak/greenstrip would be 300 feet wide. It would be constructed using mechanical treatment, which 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. Where no roads exist, the greenstrip would be constructed cross-country. Where suitable, areas would be seeded with a fire resistant species of grass. Certain areas would also need to be fenced to keep livestock and off-road vehicles from damaging the greenstrip.

Status: Phase 1 completed, Phase 2 and a portion of Phase 3 treatment underway in 2004.

Contact: Jeff Birrell

F5. 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

F6. Spring Creek North WUI Vegetation Treatment

Type of Action: Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) hazardous fuels reduction

Location: Spring Creek subdivision, T 34 N., R 56 E. and R. 57 E. (many sections)

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: Decision approved 6/18/2004, and treatment is underway

Contact: Leticia Lister

F7. Spring Creek South WUI Vegetation Treatment

Type of Action: Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) hazardous fuels reduction

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Location: South and west of the Spring Creek community, vicinity of T. 33-34 N., R. 56 E.

Description: This hazardous fuels reduction project is to prevent or reduce the potential for large scale burns within mature sagebrush adjacent to residential areas within the Spring Creek Community. Mechanical treatment using a mower/brushbeater is proposed to create a fuel break. The treatment would reduce sagebrush foliar cover on approximately 430 acres of public lands within the Chimney Creek, Shoshone, and LDS FFR Allotments. The treatment area is generally from the Chimney Creek road west and northwest to Ten Mile Creek. A portion of the treatment area would occur on public lands at the intersection of Lamoille Highway (SR 227) and Jiggs Highway (SR 228).

Status: Preliminary survey and design; analysis scheduled for completion in fall/winter of 2004.

Contact: Leticia Lister

F8. Spruce Mountain Restoration Project

Type of Action: Hazardous fuels reduction and wildlife habitat restoration (Forest Health)

Location: Spruce Mountain area, T. 30-32 N., R. 62-65 E.

Description: This hazardous fuels reduction project would allow for the restoration of crucial mule deer winter range. This project is proposed by BLM, in cooperation with several sportsmen groups, Nevada Division of Wildlife, and mining company. The project involves the treatment of 5,000 acres within pinyon-juniper and sagebrush communities to reduce hazardous fuels and diseased trees, restore wildlife habitat, and improve overall forest health consistent with the Healthy Forest Initiative and the Healthy Forest Restoration Act. Treatment would be completed by prescribed fire, chaining, roller chopping, and/or mechanical thinning. Treatment type will be determined by resources specialists based on site evaluation to include slope, aspect, terrain, vegetation composition and condition, amount of fuel/biomass to remove, and access to the sites. Seeding of native species will be completed where understory is lacking. This project will benefit numerous wildlife species, to include mule deer, elk, sage grouse.

Status: Preliminary survey and design; analysis scheduled for completion in fall of 2004.

Contact: Leticia Lister

F9: Spruce Mountain Stewardship Project

Type of Action: Hazardous fuels reduction and wildlife habitat restoration (Forest Health)

Location: Valley Mountain area, T. 31 N., R. 62 E.

Description: This hazardous fuels reduction project would allow for the restoration of crucial mule deer winter range. This project is proposed by BLM, in cooperation with several sportsmen groups, Nevada Division of Wildlife, and mining company. The project involves the treatment of 200 acres within pinyon-juniper community to reduce hazardous fuels and diseased trees, restore wildlife habitat, and improve overall forest health consistent with the Healthy Forest Initiative and the Healthy Forest Restoration Act. Treatment would be completed by mechanical devices via a one-year stewardship contract.

Status: Decision signed 6/24/2004.

Contact: Leticia Lister

BLM/Elko Project and Planning Schedule – July 2004

G. Allotment Evaluations and Multiple Use Decisions

Allotment Evaluations are completed and Multiple Use Decisions are issued based on allotment-specific assessments of actions needed to achieve standards and guidelines for rangeland health in northeastern Nevada and field office priorities. The following evaluations are underway:

ALLOTMENT EVALUATION	Status	Contact
1-Rock Creek Complex <u>Allotments:</u> 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 issued in June 2004.	Carol Evans Tyson Gripp
2.-25 Allotment (AMP revision)	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 was to be prepared in spring 2004, but is now scheduled for fall/winter 2004/2005.	Donna Nyrehn
3-Hubbard Vineyard	Evaluation issued in 1997. PMUD was to be issued in spring 2004, but additional data collection and analysis will delay completion until fall/winter 2004/2005.	Jeff Moore
4-Cottonwood Allotment Re-evaluation	Evaluation was issued in July 2003. Currently considering public comments. Decision was to be issued in spring 2004, but will now be issued during the summer 2004.	Jeff Moore
5-Frost Creek Allotment Re-evaluation	PMUD issued August 6, 2002. FMUD was to be issued in the winter/spring 2004, but will now be issued late summer/fall of 2004.	Justin Rodgers
6-Marys River Complex <u>Allotments:</u> Deeth; Pole Creek Antelope Basin Anderson Creek Hot Creek; Stormy	Evaluation issued in November 2003. Currently considering public comments. PMUD and FMUD to be issued in 2004. Collection and analysis of additional data and consideration of management options will delay issuance of the PMUD until Fall 2004, with the FMUD to be issued in 2005 following consultation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service.	Wendy Fuell Sarah Newman

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ALLOTMENT EVALUATION	Status	Contact
7-Lindsay Creek Allotment	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
8-N. Diamond Complex Allotments: 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
9-Bald Mountain Allotment	In 2004, re-evaluation of the grazing capacity and issuance of a decision was planned, in response to two applications. However, additional data on carrying capacity will be collected over the next few years before determining if permanent forage is available.	Bruce Thompson
10-Gulley Allotment	A standards and guidelines assessment was planned in 2004, but will be rescheduled.	Sarah Newman Bruce Thompson

H. Range and Wildlife/Riparian/Wild Horse Management Projects

H1. 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 proposed in the 1989 Dairy Valley, Gamble and HD Allotment Management Plan.

Status: Preliminary design, for preparation of an EA

Contact: Tyson Gripp

H2. Devils Pass Spring Development and Enclosure

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

Location: Salmon River Allotment

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T. 45 N., R. 66 E.

Description: This project has been modified from the previously proposed “TJ Spring Enclosures” project. It consists of constructing one enclosure, of approximately 200 acres in total area, and developing one spring within the enclosure and piping water to a trough in the immediate vicinity outside of the enclosure. The BLM would construct this project and the permittee would have maintenance responsibility. The enclosure 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

H3. Willow Tree Spring Enclosure and Development

Type of Action: Range Improvement (spring development)

Location: Deeth Allotment;

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

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

H4. 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

H5. Big Springs Allotment Project Package

Type of Action: Range Improvements

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

Description of Project: A variety of range improvement projects were identified in the Big Springs Allotment FMUD. The package includes construction of fences, installation of two cattleguards, and a pipeline extension. The purpose of the projects is to protect riparian areas, and better facilitate cattle management and distribution within the allotment.

Status: Initial stage of survey and design.

Contact: Wendy Fuell

H6. Antelope-Stud Drift Fence

Type of Action: Range Improvement (fence)

Location: Antelope Basin and Deeth Allotments

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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: Wendy Fuell

H7. 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

H8. 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: EA completed and decision signed 6/24/2004.

Contact: Kathy McKinstry

H9. Rim Pasture Water Catchments (3)

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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

H10. 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. Enclosures would be constructed and water would be provided outside of the enclosures.

Status: Initial project identification and layout.

Contact: Kathy McKinstry

H11. Owyhee/Lower Fourmile Pasture Well, Pipeline and Riparian Fence

Type of Action: Range improvement (water well, pipeline, riparian protection fence)

Location: Owyhee Allotment

T. 43 N., R. 49 E., section 3 SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ (proposed well location)

T. 43 N., R. 49 E., Sec 10, 11, 12 (portion of proposed pipeline)

T. 43 N., R. 50 E., Sec. 6 (portion of riparian fence)

T. 44 N., R. 49 E., Sec 25, 35, 36 (portion of riparian fence; portion of pipeline)

T. 44 N., R. 50 E., Sec 31 (portion of riparian fence)

Description: A well would be drilled on public lands within the Lower Fourmile Pasture of the Owyhee Allotment. A storage tank, pipeline and troughs would be associated with this well to distribute the water in the pasture. Approximately 4 miles of 3-strand fence would be constructed to eliminate livestock grazing from the public land portion of the South Fork Owyhee River where it transects this pasture. This project was outlined in the Owyhee Final Multiple Use Decision dated April 19, 2002. The proposed project is intended to improve riparian and upland habitat along the South Fork of the Owyhee River by increasing livestock distribution in the upland areas of the pasture while excluding livestock from the river bottom.

Status: Initial project feasibility studies completed. EA to be completed fall 2004.

Contact: Kathy McKinstry

H12. Rooster Comb Let-Down Fence

Type of Action: Range Improvement (fence)

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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 25 Allotment Management Plan, as it was revised and approved in 1978.

Status: EA on hold pending results of preliminary survey and design.

Contact: Donna Nyrehn

H13. Boulder Well Pipeline

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

Location: 25 Allotment

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 25 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

H14. Midas Division Fence

Type of Action: Range improvement (fence)

Location: Squaw Valley Allotment

T. 38 N., R. 46 E., section 5

Description: Approximately 1 mile of 4-strand fence would be constructed to divide the Indian Springs and Frazer Creek Pastures. This fence is necessary to provide proper control and management of livestock to implement the grazing system outlined in the Final Multiple Use Decision for the Squaw Valley and Spanish Ranch Allotments.

Status: Preliminary survey and design and cultural inventory have been completed. EA to be completed summer 2004.

Contact: Donna Nyrehn

H15. Guard Corral Extension Fence

Type of Action: Range improvement (fence)

Location: Squaw Valley Allotment

T. 37 N., R. 44 E., sections 12 and 14

Description: Approximately 0.9 miles of 4-strand fence would be constructed to divide the Indian Springs and Horseshoe Pastures. This fence is necessary to provide proper control and management of livestock to implement the grazing system outlined in the Final Multiple Use Decision for the Squaw Valley and Spanish Ranch Allotments.

Status: Preliminary survey and design and cultural inventory have been completed. EA to be completed summer 2004.

Contact: Donna Nyrehn

H16. Winters Creek/Mahogany Fence Reconstruction

Type of Action: Range improvement (fence)

Location: Spanish Ranch Allotment

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T. 41 N., R. 48 E. and T. 41 N., R. 49 E.

Description: Approximately 14 miles of 4-strand fence would be reconstructed to divide the Winters Creek, Burner Hills, and Fourmile/Red Cow Pastures. This fence is necessary to provide proper control and management of livestock to implement the grazing system outlined in the Final Multiple Use Decision for the Squaw Valley and Spanish Ranch Allotments.

Status: EA to be completed summer 2004, for reconstruction in late summer of 2004.

Contact: Donna Nyrehn

H17. 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: A cooperative agreement is being developed with the permittee and N-1 Board.

Contact: Jeff Moore

H18. 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

H19. 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, SW¹/₄

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

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H20. Forest Pipeline Reconstruction and Extension

Type of Action: Range Improvement (pipeline)

Location: Willow Creek Pockets Allotment

T. 30 N., R. 57 E. section 18 NE¼

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 ¼ 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

H21. 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

H22. 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

H23. 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 1995 Buckhorn FMUD.

Status: Initial project identification and layout

Contact: Bruce Thompson

H24. Wilson Creek Pasture Fence

Type of Action: Range Improvement (fence)

Location: East Buckhorn Allotment

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

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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 1995 Buckhorn FMUD.

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

Contact: Bruce Thompson

H25. 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

H26. Tomera Trout Creek Fence

Type of Action: Range Improvement (fence)

Location: Pine Creek Allotment

T. 30 N., R. 52 E., sections 16, 19, 20, 24, 25, 26, 27

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

Status: EA completed and decision issued 7/2/04.

Contact: Jason Spence

H27. 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

H28. Deer Spring Enclosure and Development

Type of Action: Range Improvement (spring development)

Location: Spruce Allotment/Antelope Valley Wild Horse Herd Management Area

T. 29 N., R. 65 E., section 25

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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 2005.

Contact: Bryan Fuell

H29. Rock-Humboldt Complex Wild Horse Gather

Type of Action: Wild Horse Removal

Location: Rock Creek and Little Humboldt Herd Management Areas (HMAs)

Description: This project would consist of gathering wild horse within the Rock Creek and Little Humboldt HMAs to attain appropriate management level (AML). All animals would be capture and select animals would be returned to the range. Excess animals would be removed and made available for adoption. AML was established through the Rock Creek Final Multiple Use Decision and the Little Humboldt Allotment Evaluation's Stipulated Agreement

Status: Public scoping completed in July 2004. EA and decision to be issued in August 2004.

Contact: Bryan Fuell

H30. Antelope Valley Complex Wild Horse Gather

Type of Action: Wild Horse Removal

Location: Antelope Valley, Spruce-Pequop, Goshute, and Antelope Herd Management Areas

Description: This project would consist of gathering wild horse within the Antelope Valley, Spruce-Pequop, Goshute, and Antelope HMAs to attain appropriate management level (AML). The Antelope HMA is managed by the Ely Field Office. All animals would be captured and select animals would be returned to the range. Excess animals would be removed and made available for adoption. AML was established through the Spruce, Big Springs, Sheep Allotment Complex, and Maverick/Medicine Complex Final Multiple Use Decisions.

Status: Public input to be solicited in August, and EA to be completed in September 2004.

Contact: Bryan Fuell

H31. 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

H32. 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

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Contact: Nycole Burton

H33. 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

H34. 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

H35. 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

H36. 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

H37. Bootstrap Chukar Guzzler (Wildlife)

Type of Action: Water Development

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 completed April 2004

Contact: Nycole Burton

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H38. 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

H39. 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

H40. 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

H41. 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.

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

Contact: Carol Evans

H42. Livestock Grazing Proposal for the Beaver Creek Riparian Pasture within the 25 Allotment

Type of Action: Grazing Decision

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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

H43. 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 mitigation plans completed in 2003 for the South Operations Area Project Amendment, the Betze Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement and the Leeville Mine.

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

Contact: Carol Evans

H44. 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.

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

Contact: Carol Evans

H45. 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

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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 enclosure would allow for upland vegetation and soils monitoring in a control area where no livestock grazing would occur.

Status: CX completed and project approved 4/14/2004.

Contact: Ken Wilkinson

H46. Sheep Creek Seeding

Type of Action: Habitat Restoration (Big Game Winter Range)

Location: 25 Allotment approximately one to three miles east of the Izzenhood Ranch and approximately 18 to 20 miles north of Battle Mountain, NV.

Description: The Sheep Creek Seeding includes the proposal to rehabilitate approximately 700 acres of public lands on the west side of the Sheep Creek Range that has been affected by wildfire and man's activities and is presently dominated by exotic annual vegetation. "Fuel break" and separate wildlife browse seeding efforts are proposed. Glamis Dee Gold Company and Barrick Goldstrike Mines, Inc. are the anticipated partners that would provide challenge funds to mitigate the effects of mining for the same big game herds affected by their respective mining operations. These funds would be matched by approved Federal funds. Additional funds from conservation groups may also be sought. The proposed action area exists in the public-private alternating land section "checkerboard" pattern. To complement the public lands seeding efforts, Nevada Department of Wildlife plans to rehabilitate portions of fire-affected private lands sections through permission of landowners.

Status: Initial field trips by BLM staff specialists completed from 2000-2002. Additional trips for final survey and design planned for summer 2004. NEPA documentation scheduled in summer 2004.

Contact: Kenneth Wilkinson

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I. Invasive, Nonnative Species

I1. 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

I2. 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

I3. 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 summer 2004, for project implementation in fall 2004

Contact: Mark Coca

I4. Tabor Creek Campground Weed Treatment

Type of Action: Range Improvement (vegetation treatment)

Location: Public lands within the Tabor Creek Campground

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

Status: EA to be completed in August 2004, for treatment in summer 2004.

Contact: Mark Coca

I5. 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: BLM is cooperating with APHIS in the control of Mormon cricket and rangeland grasshopper populations where infestations are economically damaging.

Status: EA completed March 2004. Project implementation spring 2004-2008.

Contact: Mark Coca

I6. Cross Ranch Hay Meadows (Perennial Pepperweed Control)

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

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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. 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. 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 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: EA completed and decision signed 7/13/2004.

Contact: Ray Lister