



BLM News

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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DRAFT FIRE MANAGEMENT AMENDMENT AVAILABLE

The BLM Elko Field Office is seeking public review and comment for a Draft Fire Management Amendment and Environmental Assessment of its Elko and Wells Resource Management Plans. When completed, the Amendment will serve as the Elko Field Office's guidance for fire management actions to benefit all other resources under the responsibility of the BLM in northeastern Nevada.

Modifications to the existing Elko and Wells Resource Management Plans are needed due to recent above-normal wildfire seasons; concerns about critical habitat for wild horses; wildlife habitat needs; domestic livestock grazing and rangeland health; implementation of the National Fire Plan; and increased interest from local publics, cooperators and interest groups.

BLM's intent is to meet policy, expand on proactive management options to reduce wildfire damage, integrate fire where appropriate, and reduce costs and adverse impacts to our customers. The major emphasis of the plan is to provide a framework to:

- a. improve effectiveness of initial attack on fires that should be suppressed;
- b. increase options for vegetation management prior to wildfires to reduce the scale, cost, and adverse impacts of large fires;
- c. minimize damage to other resources through advance coordinated planning for suppression strategy and tactics based on each discipline involved; and
- d. lessen the impact of wildfire in habitat and public land-based sectors of the local economy such as recreation, hunting, and grazing.

In addition to the Proposed Action for the amendment, the Environmental Assessment analyzes three alternatives - Limited Suppression or Fire Use, Full Suppression, and No Action (continue existing management). BLM's Proposed Action has been developed to incorporate preferred portions of the other alternatives.

BLM appreciates public review and comment on the adequacy and accuracy of this draft document toward preparation and finalization of the Proposed Fire Management Amendment and Environmental Assessment. To obtain a copy of the document, please call or visit the Elko Field Office at (775) 753-0200. If you have questions, ask to speak to either our Fire Management Officer, Joe Freeland, or Environmental Coordinator, Lorrie West. Written

comments on the draft documents should be submitted by **November 15, 2002**. Your comments should be sent to **Bureau of Land Management, Elko Field Office, Attn: Joe Freeland, Fire Management Officer, 3900 E. Idaho St, Elko, NV, 89801.**

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