

June/July 2010

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Moriah Herd Area Wild Horse Gather: The BLM Ely District, Schell Field Office has issued the Decision Record for the Final Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Moriah Herd Area Wild Horse Gather. The BLM will gather and remove approximately 72 excess wild horses from in and around the Moriah Herd Area (HA), located about 48 miles northeast of Ely, beginning on or about Aug. 10, 2010. *(See page 13 for more information)*

Silver King Herd Management Area Wild Horse Gather: The BLM Ely District, Caliente and Schell Field Offices expect on Friday, July 30, 2010, to issue the Decision Record for the Final Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Silver King Herd Management Area Wild Horse Gather. The BLM will gather and remove approximately 546 excess wild horses from in and around the HMA, located about 70 miles south of Ely, beginning in September. If more than 546 wild horses are gathered, selective removal criteria would be used to return horses to the range. *(See page 13 for more information)*

Spring Valley Wind, LLC: The BLM has released the Spring Valley Wind Project Revised Preliminary Environmental Assessment and draft Finding of No Significant Impact for public review and comment. The 30-day formal public comment period concludes at 5 p.m., on Wednesday, Aug. 18, 2010. The Spring Valley Wind, LLC-proposed project is a 150-megawatt wind generation farm that would be constructed in north Spring Valley, about 30 miles east of Ely. *(See page 4 for more information)*

Wilson Creek Power Partners, LLC: The BLM expects in summer 2010 to publish in the Federal Register a Notice of Intent (NOI) for a proposed Wilson Creek Power Partners, LLC, wind generation facility. The BLM received an amended application and updated plan of development (POD) for the environmental analysis of the 990-MW wind generation facility, which would be located on approximately 31,000 acres of the public lands in the area of Mt. Wilson, from Wilson Creek Power Partners, LLC, on Feb. 11, 2010. *(See page 4 for more information)*

One Nevada Line (ON Line) Project: The BLM expects in September 2010 to release the final environmental impact statement (EIS) for the One Nevada Line (ON Line) project. The 45-day public comment period for the draft supplemental EIS concluded on Jan. 8, 2010. The BLM received 19 comment letters. The 236 mile, 500 kV power line would extend from a proposed substation on Robinson Summit, west of Ely, to the Harry Allen substation, in Las Vegas. *(See page 6 for more information)*

Travel Management Planning: The BLM is asking the public to provide input for designating routes in south Steptoe Valley, in White Pine County, Nev. Route designations consider a wide range of public land uses while managing access to prevent long-term ecological damage. The 30-day public input period concludes at 5 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 31, 2010. *(See page 17 for more information)*

Exhibit G - LANDS
Document consists of 17 pages.
Entire Exhibit provided.
Meeting Date: 07-30-10

ELY RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Lawsuit: Western Watersheds Project has challenged 18 environmental impact statements supporting an equal number of resource management plans prepared by BLM offices in six western states, i.e., California, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Utah and Wyoming. The case is before the U.S. District Court for the District of Idaho, which dismissed challenges to the Pocatello (Idaho) and Kemmerer (Colorado) RMPs because Records of Decision had not been issued. The court, however, retained jurisdiction over the remainder. The BLM has filed a motion for partial dismissal or to have the cases severed and transferred to the appropriate district court in each state. The parties to the lawsuit are currently discussing how best to proceed.

Plan Amendments: None at this time.

Plan Maintenance:

AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT

Habitat Restoration -

Gleason Creek Riparian (Fence): Construction on the approximately four-mile fence is tentatively scheduled to begin in August 2010. The two cattle guards for the project have been installed in June 2010. The fence will be located about 12 miles west of Ely, Nev., and will prevent cattle from over utilizing riparian vegetation, and eliminate trampling and soil compaction. The project also provides for the installation of a stock-water pipeline and trough.

Remediation of Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) –

Caselton Tailings AML: Updates the engineering plan for tailings remediation, reactivates a community action plan, and reapplies a polymer surface seal to a series of abandoned impoundments located about three miles southwest of Pioche that contain nearly three-million cubic yards of highly-acidic metal processing tailings. The Soil treatment (polymer surface) portion of this project was completed spring of 2010.

Golden Butte, Nevada AML: Covers and seeds nine acres of the abandoned mine's waste rock dump to mitigate the potential for acid generation. The site is located 45-plus miles north of Ely. The project is completed.

Ward Mtn., Nevada AML: The BLM has completed the project located about 12 miles south of Ely, Nev., which provides for the plugging and abandonment of two water wells, reseeded of disturbed soils and creation of a drainage diversion to prevent acidic waste from spilling onto the public lands.

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Ely District Update

Renewable Energy (Biomass) Authorizations –

Clover Mountain Ponderosa Pine Restoration: Scheduled for completion in fall of 2010, the project selectively thins encroaching pinyon pine and juniper from approximately 60 acres of Ponderosa pine in the Clover Mountains, in eastern Nevada. The resulting biomass will be made available for purchase by the public to use as firewood.

North Antelope Thinning Stewardship: The stewardship contract was awarded June 30, 2010. The contractor began work on the project July 23, 2010. The approximately 2,200-acre treatment removes encroaching pinyon pine and juniper from sagebrush communities. The treatment is part of a 12,000 acre habitat improvement and fuels reduction project located in the Antelope and north Steptoe valleys, about 65 miles north of Ely, Nev. The contractor will utilize the biomass locally for firewood and the local school district.

Trails Maintenance and Construction-

Duck Creek Travel Plan: The BLM is rehabilitating nearly 60 miles of Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) routes in Duck Creek Basin, about five miles east of Ely, through barrier construction, and soil de-compaction and seeding, as provided for in the 2004 Duck Creek Travel Plan. Work is scheduled for completion by Sept. 30, 2010.

ENERGY

Coal-fired Energy Development -

Toquop Energy Project: In 2003, the BLM issued rights-of-way for a 1,000-megawatt natural gas-fired power plant to be located approximately 12 miles north of Mesquite, Nevada. In 2004, Sithe Global filed an application to amend the 2003 grant to allow for construction of a coal-fired power plant. A final environmental impact statement was completed in 2009, but no decision has been made to date. In January 2010, the company notified the BLM that they would be withdrawing their application to amend the ROW and proceeding with the natural gas-fired plant for which the 2003 ROW was issued. The BLM on March 19, 2010, received from Sithe Global, LLC, a Plan of Development (POD) to construct a natural gas-fired power plant under the terms of the 2003 right-of-way grant. The BLM provided comments on the POD to Sithe Global on April 28, 2010. Sithe Global is currently revising the POD.

White Pine Energy Station: On April 14, 2010, the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA) affirmed a BLM decision to approve rights-of-ways (ROWs) for the 1,590-megawatt coal-fired White Pine Energy Station (WPES) to be located about 35 miles north of Ely, in White Pine County, Nevada. The project proponent is LS Power. The decision responds to an appeal filed in January 2009 by a consortium of appellants collectively known as the Bristlecone Alliance, and that includes: the Center for Biological Diversity, Earthjustice and Western Resource Advocates. The appellants contended: 1) the record did not support the decision; 2) the FEIS did not comply with

NEPA; and 3) an inadequate definition of the “action area” fatally flawed the ESA section 7 consultation. The appellants base these contentions in part on what they believe to be a flawed assessment of the impacts to air quality, climate change, and imperiled species. The IBLA decision affirmed the BLM decision, stating “We conclude that BLM’s decision, and the extraordinary effort it undertook to analyze the impacts of approving the ROWs and the subsequent sale of land for the Project, fully complies with FLPMA, NEPA, and the ESA.” While the decision clears the way for the project to proceed, on May 10, 2009, LS Power affiliate White Pine Energy Associates (WPEA), LLC, notified the BLM in writing that it was indefinitely postponing construction of the White Pine Energy Station due to economic conditions and increasing regulatory uncertainties. They did, however, request that the ROWs not be terminated until they have the opportunity to fully explore their future plans for the site.

Wind Energy Development -

Spring Valley Wind, LLC: The BLM Ely District has released the Spring Valley Wind Project Revised Preliminary Environmental Assessment and draft Finding of No Significant Impact for public review and comment. The 30-day formal public comment period concludes at 5 p.m., on Wednesday, Aug. 18, 2010. The EA is tiered to the 2005 Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement on Wind Energy Development. The Spring Valley Wind, LLC-proposed project is a 150-megawatt wind generation farm that would be constructed on 8,565 acres of the public lands in north Spring Valley, about 30 miles east of Ely. The project would consist of 75 wind turbines and electrical substation; and would utilize an existing 230 kilovolt (kV) transmission line for distribution.

Wilson Creek Power Partners, LLC: The BLM expects in summer 2010 to publish in the Federal Register a Notice of Intent (NOI) for a proposed Wilson Creek Power Partners, LLC, wind generation facility. The BLM received an amended application and updated plan of development (POD) for the environmental analysis of the 990-MW wind generation facility, which would be located on approximately 31,000 acres of the public lands in the area of Mt. Wilson, from Wilson Creek Power Partners, LLC, on Feb. 11, 2010.

The project would be constructed in three phases, i.e., Wilson-Table, Atlanta Summit, and the White Rock Range. Phase 1 (Wilson-Table) would consist of up to 195 wind turbines and generate approximately 500 megawatts (MW) of electrical energy. Phases 2 and 3 (Atlanta Summit/White Rock Range) would, combined, consist of 155 wind turbines generating a total of 490 MW of electricity. The exact number and location of the turbines in phases 2 and 3 has not been determined.

The BLM will conduct an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) level of analysis for phase 1 that includes analysis of the ancillary facilities and infrastructure for the latter two phases. Additional environmental analysis will be conducted as the latter two phases commence.

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Windlab Systems: Rights-of-Way (ROW) grants have been issued for two project areas in and around Horse Corral Pass and Muleshoe Summit. An anemometer has been erected within each project area to monitor wind activity.

Ely Wind Mountain: The BLM Elko and Ely district offices are reviewing a plan of development (POD) received from Cherry Creek Wind to develop a 700 megawatt (MW) wind generation facility encompassing approximately 14,090 acres in the Antelope, Egan and Northern Cherry Creek ranges.

Blackhorse Wind: The BLM on March 4, 2010, met with NextEra Energy to discuss wind generation development for a site originally applied for under Boulevard Associates. The proposed project would consist of between 25,000 – 40,000 acres and generate up to 250MW. The project proponent is in the process of preparing biological studies and expects to conduct an EIS level of analysis. The proponent hopes to be in operation in 2012.

Hamblin Valley: The BLM has granted a rights-of-way (ROW) for Wasatch Wind Intermountain to conduct wind monitoring on 41,200 acres of the public and private lands. The project area is split between the Filmore Field Office, in Utah, and Schell Field Office, in Nevada. The Schell Field Office will manage the project. The proponent will place four anemometers within the project area by July 2012.

Solar Energy Development -

Pahroc Summit Solar Energy Project: Per instructions from the proponent, the BLM has placed on hold an application for the proposed 100-180 megawatt (MW) Pahroc Summit Solar Energy Project to be located on approximately 2,800 acres of the public lands in southern Lincoln County. The proponent is actively seeking a new site location due to conflicts over air space with the U.S. Air Force. If constructed, the concentrating solar facility would consist of a single 650-foot high tower, and associated heliostat fields and support facilities.

Hydro Energy -

White Pine Pumped Storage Project: Gridflex Energy, LLC, and White Pine Water Power, LLC, are proposing through the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to construct a stored water pumping facility north of Ely. It is named the White Pine Pumped Storage Project. It will have an annual generation of 919,800 megawatt-hours.

The proposed pumped storage project would consist of the following: (1) a 210-foot-high upper, rockfill dam; (2) an upper artificial, lined reservoir with a surface area of about 74 acres and volume of approximately 4,938 acre-feet at normal water surface elevation; (3) a lower artificial, lined reservoir with a surface area of about 72 acres and volume of approximately 5,011 acre-feet at normal water surface elevation; (4) 10,950 feet of conduit; (5) a proposed powerhouse 63 feet wide by 253 feet long by 120 feet high to be located underground approximately 3,620 feet west of the upper reservoir intake at an elevation of approximately 6,320 feet; (6) one 150-megawatt (MW), one 100-MW,

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and one 50-MW reversible pump-turbines totaling 300 MW in capacity with up to 100 MW of additional pumping capacity; (7) an access tunnel approximately 3,380 feet long and 24 feet in diameter leading from the ground level to the powerhouse; (8) a proposed 2.4-mile-long, 230 kilovolt transmission line to interconnect to a substation operated by Sierra Pacific Power; and (9) appurtenant facilities.

Electrical Transmission Development -

Great Basin Transmission Line Project: Great Basin Transmission, LLC, a subsidiary of LS Power, Inc., is developing and constructing the Great Basin Transmission Line, a 500 kilovolt (kV) electrical transmission line that would extend from the Harry Allen substation north of Las Vegas, Nev., to a substation near Burley, Idaho. The project proponent is coordinating with the BLM Ely District Office on the portion of line that extends from Las Vegas to Ely, Nev., and with the BLM Elko District Office on the portion of line extending from Ely to Burley. Construction is proposed to begin in September 2010.

ON Line Project: The BLM expects in September 2010 to release the final environmental impact statement (EIS) for the One Nevada Line (ON Line) project. The 45-day public comment period for the draft supplemental EIS concluded in January 2010. The BLM received 19 comment letters. The NV Energy-proposed 500 kV transmission line would extend approximately 236 miles from the Harry Allen substation, north of Las Vegas, Nev., to a substation to be constructed west of Ely, Nev., connecting the public utility's northern and southern electrical transmission systems. The line could also transport power generated by some of the renewable energy projects proposed for east-central Nevada, if constructed.

On January 11, NV Energy announced that they had reached an agreement to partner with LS Power, Inc., to build the Great Basin Transmission Line, which is located in the same corridor as the proposed ON Line project. A partnership with LS Power requires Nevada Public Utilities Commission (NPUC) approval. The NPUC is expected to rule on the proposal in August, 2010.

Gateway South Project: The BLM is processing an application for the Gateway South Project. The proposed high-voltage 500 kV electrical transmission line would extend from near Medicine Bow, Wyoming, through Colorado and Utah, to near Glendale, Nev. The Wyoming State Office is the lead office for the project. The project crosses the Ely District in the southeast corner of Lincoln County just north of Mesquite, Nevada. Public scoping is expected to begin later this summer.

TransWest Express Project: The BLM is processing an application for the Trans West Express Transmission Project. The proposed 500 kV electrical transmission line would extend from south-central Wyoming, through Colorado and Utah, to southern Nevada. The Wyoming State Office is the lead office for the project. The project crosses the Ely District in the southeast corner of Lincoln County north of the proposed Gateway South Project. Public scoping is expected to begin later this year.

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Chinook/Zephyr Transmission Lines: The Chinook High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) Electric Transmission Line project would originate in Montana and provide 3,000 megawatts (MW) of new transmission capacity to deliver renewable energy from wind generation projects in Montana to major load centers in the southwestern United States. The Zephyr HVDC Electric Transmission Line project would originate in Wyoming and provide 3,000 MW of new transmission capacity to deliver renewable energy from wind generation projects in Wyoming and Idaho to major load centers in the southwestern U.S. The BLM is determining which state office will be the lead office for the projects. DC is direct current and is used to move power over long distances then it is converted to AC (alternating current to go into homes and businesses). Converter stations are the receipt and delivery points for other projects to connect. Converter stations will be located in Montana, Idaho and Eldorado Valley in Nevada.

Gas pipeline development -

Holly Energy Project: The BLM is processing a Holly Energy Partners, LP, application for a 12-inch pipeline that would extend from near Salt Lake City, Utah, to Las Vegas, Nev. Approximately 20 miles of the pipeline would extend across public lands managed by the BLM Caliente Field Office. The pipeline would generally follow the Kern River gas pipeline route, and accept gasoline, diesel and jet fuel with an initial capacity of 50,000 barrels, daily. Refined products bulk-loading terminals would be constructed near St. George, Utah, and North Las Vegas. The Final EIS was issued in May 2010. There were no protests and it is currently under solicitor review. A Notice of Availability for the Record of Decision is expected in the Federal Register in June/July, 2010 after which the right-of-way grant will be issued.

Geothermal Development –

The BLM conducted a competitive geothermal lease sale in May 2010. Three parcels encompassing almost 9,000 acres within the BLM Ely District were nominated. Two of the parcels are on public lands administered by the Egan Field Office (4,493 acres) and one is on public lands administered by the Schell Field Office (4,472 acres). All three parcels nominated were sold for a total of \$17,932.

Oil & Gas Development –

The Ely District Office has 56 parcels entered in the upcoming September 2010 Competitive Oil and Gas Sale.

The competitive Oil and Gas Sale conducted on March 9, 2010 contained 25 parcels in the BLM Ely District. Only 12 sold from the Egan Field Office totaling 19,740 acres bringing in revenue of \$39,328.

The competitive Oil and Gas Sale conducted in December 2009 contained 41 parcels in the BLM Ely District. Of the 22 parcels sold in Nevada, 20 were in the Ely District. There were 34,815 acres leased in the Ely District.

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The BLM Ely District's Schell Field Office has approved an application from Cabot Oil for a well site in northern Lake Valley, east of U.S. Highway 93. The well is expected to be drilled in the 2010 summer.

The BLM Ely District's Egan Field Office has received an APD from Emergent Value Group, LLC, for a wildcat oil well in the Pancake Range. Drilling is not expected to begin until fall 2010.

WATERSHED ANALYSIS

The BLM has completed the watershed analysis process on six Ely District watersheds, i.e., Antelope, North Antelope, Gleason Creek, North Spring Valley, Smith Valley and Steptoe A. The BLM has assessed and evaluated seven watersheds, i.e., Cave, Hamblin, Lake, Meadow Valley, South Spring, South Steptoe and White River South. Assessments have been completed on four watersheds, i.e., Clover Creek North and South, Dry Lake (with portions of Panaca and Patterson), and White River South. Six additional watersheds have been funded for analysis using Southern Nevada Public Land Management (SNPLMA) funding. The watershed analysis process has begun on Newark Valley, Kane Spring Wash, Coyote Springs, Toquop Wash, Tule Desert, Beaver Dam Wash, and Snake Valley South watersheds. The implementation strategy development has begun on White River South, Steptoe B, Steptoe C, Spring Valley and South Steptoe Watersheds.

FIRE/FUELS

Uvada Sagebrush Project: The BLM has awarded the contract for the Uvada Sagebrush Project. The contractor expects to start the project in midsummer 2010. The project area is located along State Route 319 about 15 miles east of Panaca, Nev. The BLM is treating about 70-percent (1,027 acres) of a 2,100-acre project area. The treatment consists of mechanically thinning pinyon pine and juniper trees to improve the health vigor and production of perennial grasses, forbs and shrubs.

Lincoln County Telephone Company Project: The BLM has completed the environmental assessment and signed the decision giving the go-ahead to the fuels reduction project that will help protect a Lincoln County Telephone Company facility and power line on Chokecherry Mountain, about 25 miles southwest of Caliente, from catastrophic wildfire. The pinyon pine and juniper thinning project will be completed by Nevada Division of Forestry crews in winter 2010, depending on funding and crew availability.

Pioche and Caselton Wildland Urban Interface Project: The BLM on July 15, 2010 signed the DR/FONSI for the Pioche and Caselton Wildland Urban Interface Project. The project is located around the communities of Caselton and Pioche, about 30 miles north of Caliente. The approximately 11,300-acre project allows BLM to selectively thin pinyon pine and juniper trees, and brush to reduce the wildfire threat to Caselton and

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Pioche. Between 3,246 to 4,711 acres of the project area will be treated either by hand or with mechanical equipment.

Stonehouse Fuels Reduction and Habitat Improvement Project: On July 19, 2010, the BLM signed a finding of no significant impact and decision record approving the proposed action of the Stonehouse Fuels Reduction and Habitat Improvement Project. The proposed project would improve sagebrush communities in north Spring Valley, about 50 miles northeast of Ely, Nev., by thinning pinyon pine and juniper. Between 70 and 80-percent of the 23,000-acre project area would be treated. Treatment is scheduled to begin in October 2010.

Ash Canyon Sagebrush and Fuels Reduction Project: The BLM is finalizing the Decision Record (DR) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Ash Canyon Sagebrush and Fuels Reduction Project, which would be located adjacent to Ash Canyon in the Clover Mountains, about five miles southeast of Caliente. The approximately 870-acre project would allow BLM to thin pinyon pine and juniper trees from within sagebrush communities to improve overall sagebrush health and reduce the risk of a catastrophic wildland fire. Thinning would be conducted by hand or with mechanical equipment.

Jakes Valley Sagebrush Restoration Project: In August 2010, the BLM will ask for the public to comment on a proposed sagebrush restoration and fuels reduction treatment in south Jakes Valley, about 20 miles west of Ely, Nev. The Jakes Valley Sagebrush Restoration Project would restore or improve sagebrush ecological sites, improve habitat and forage availability for livestock and wildlife including sage grouse, elk, and deer, reduce fuel loading, and improve watershed functionality and health by restoring Wyoming sagebrush sites in the area of Jakes Wash. The proposed project calls for BLM to mow up to 2,000 acres of a nearly 2,500-acre project area, resulting in a mosaic with untreated areas and wildlife edge areas within the treated area. The BLM would seed approximately 60-percent of the treated area with a mix of perennial grasses and forbs. The BLM would cooperate with the livestock grazing permittee to fund and implement the project. Once treated, the project area would be allowed to rest and regenerate for a minimum of two growing seasons or until the vegetative objectives are met. The project helps BLM make progress towards achieving the Standards for Rangeland Health as published by the Northeastern Great Basin Area Resource Advisory Council (RAC) and implements the Ely Resource Management Plan. Implementation would begin in fiscal year 2011.

Combs Creek: The public scoping period concluded June 30, 2010 for a proposed habitat improvement and fuels reduction treatment in south Butte Valley, about 10 miles northwest of Ely, Nev. A preliminary environmental assessment is scheduled to be released in October 2010. The project objectives are to improve habitat for sage-grouse and reduce heavy fuel loadings to reduce fire hazard. Treatments are proposed over a 9,300 acre area where up to approximately 3,500 acres could be treated after mapping and scoping is completed. Implementation would begin in fiscal years 2011 or 2012.

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Smith Valley Project: Implementation of the Smith Valley Stewardship Project is scheduled to begin in late summer 2010. The approximately 1,100-acre project, to be conducted about eight miles northwest of Ely, is expected to yield approximately 4,500 tons of biomass, of which 500 tons will be delivered to an elementary school in Ely where it will be burned for heat in a retrofitted boiler, as part of the Fuels for Schools program.

Sacramento Pass Project: The Sacramento Pass Project is scheduled for completion late summer 2010. The 460-acre stewardship project, located near Sacramento Pass, about 40 miles east of Ely, is expected to yield approximately 1,100 cords of pinyon pine and juniper wood. The contractor has finished thinning trees, and is now hauling firewood from the site. The project provides a fuel break to resident homes at Sacramento Pass.

Cold Springs Project: The approximately 520-acre Cold Springs Stewardship Project, located about 12 miles south of Ely, is expected to be completed in December 2010. The project is expected to yield more than 2,000 cords of pinyon pine and juniper firewood.

Maloy Stewardship Project: The BLM-selected contractor has begun thinning on the 300 acre project located about 20 miles north of Pioche, Nev. Biomass from the wildland urban interface (WUI) project will be utilized in a to-be determined wood pellet – producing facility in Ely, Nev.

Cherry Creek WUI: The BLM Ely District is planning to complete maintenance work on the mowing treatment that was conducted near Cherry Creek, Nevada in 2005. Cheatgrass, an invasive plant has become a dominant component in the site. The project is approximately 500 acres, and would be treated with a pre-emergent herbicide to prevent Cheatgrass establishment in the 2011 growing season. Treatment is expected to occur in early fall 2010.

Becky/Dale Cheatgrass Treatment: The Becky and Dale Fires were wildland fires that burned in the mid and late 1990s. Vegetation establishment consisted of a large amount of cheatgrass. The BLM Ely District treated the fire areas in October 2009 with Landmark XP, a pre-emergent herbicide to prevent Cheatgrass germination.

Cave Valley Ranch Rabbitbrush: The BLM has finished mowing 850 acres of rabbitbrush on public and private lands in Cave Valley, south of Ely. The 850-acre project is being conducted in cooperation with Cave Valley Ranch and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. Herbicide was applied in June 2010. Seeding will be conducted in fall 2011.

Kern Mountain Landscape Restoration Project: The BLM is planning a landscape restoration project in the Kern Mountains to return the area to a fire regime condition class I, improving wildlife habitat, restoring natural disturbance regimes and ecological conditions. Phase 1 of the 15,000 acre project consists of approximately 3,500 acres of tree removal. Implementation of phase 1 is scheduled to begin within the next year. A

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prescribed burn in Mallory canyon within the project boundary will be implemented this summer.

GROUNDWATER DEVELOPMENT

Lincoln County Land Act Groundwater Development and Utility Rights-of-Way Project: A Record of Decision (ROD) for the Lincoln County Land Act (LCLA) Groundwater Development and Utility Rights-of-Way Project was issued on Jan. 11, 2010. The Lincoln County Water District-proposed project would provide for the development and delivery of groundwater to the Toquop Township north of Mesquite, Nev., as well as the proposed Toquop Energy Project. The volume of water to be transported through the proposed facilities could be up to 24,000 acre feet per year. The Nevada State Engineer (NSE) is responsible for approving or denying water right applications. On February 9, 2010, the Bristlecone Alliance, Center for Biological Diversity and others appealed the ROD citing violations of FLPMA, ESA, NEPA, LCCRDA and the Administrative Procedures Act. In late April, the Center for Biological Diversity took over the appeal case and two of the appellants dropped the appeal. The Statement of Reasons was filed on May 12. BLM is now working on the response.

Clark, Lincoln and White Pine Counties Groundwater Development Project: The BLM anticipates making the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) for the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA)-proposed Clark, Lincoln and White Pine Counties Groundwater Development Project available for public comment in early 2011. The project would develop and convey up to 170,000 acre-feet of water per year from public lands in rural Clark, Lincoln and White Pine counties to the Las Vegas and Coyote Spring valleys to help meet southern Nevada's future water needs. The BLM received the application in 2004.

The Nevada District Court remanded back to the Nevada State Engineer (NSE) the ruling on Delamar, Dry Lake and Cave Valley. SNWA and the NSE have appealed that ruling to the Nevada Supreme Court. In addition, the Nevada Supreme Court remanded back to District Court all NSE rulings on Spring, Delamar, Dry Lake and Cave Valleys, stating that violations of state law had occurred concerning the protest provisions; the Nevada District Court have two options: require that SNWA water rights applications be refiled or require the NSE to reopen the protest period on the applications and then consider the new protests in new hearings and/or rulings.

MINERALS

Bald Mountain Mine and Mooney Basin Expansion: The BLM issued the Record of Decision in February 2010 for Barrick Gold U.S., Inc.'s North Operations Area Project. The decision allows the mining operator to combine the existing Bald Mountain Mine (BMM) and Mooney Basin plans of operations boundaries into one plan of operations, called the BMM North Operations Area Project. The existing operations are located approximately 100 miles northwest of Ely, Nevada. The BLM decision was to select Alternative A, or the Partial Backfill Alternative, which will result in an additional 3,920 acres of disturbance for a total of 8,085 acres of disturbance within the new Plan of Operations boundary. The decision allows existing facilities, including pits, rock

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disposal areas, heap leach pads, processing facilities and inter-pit areas to be expanded. New facilities are to include one new pit, four new rock disposal areas, haul roads, topsoil stockpiles, and a remote truck shop facility.

Winrock/Casino Project: The BLM is preparing an environmental assessment to amend the mine plan for the Winrock/Casino Mine, located adjacent to Ruby Marsh Road about 10 miles south of the Ruby Marshes. The amendment would provide for an additional 13.9 acres of disturbance within existing mine boundaries through mineral exploration. The Winrock/Casino Mine was permitted in 1991 and reclaimed in 1993. Reclamation monitoring continues, though mine owner Barrick Gold, Inc. has since relocated most of the reclaimed leach pad to be used as base material for the Mooney Basin Mine, located south of the Winrock/Casino Mine. The cost of reclaiming the additional disturbed areas will be added to existing bond requirements. Site-specific clearances for archaeological resources, noxious weeds and wildlife will be provided by the mine owner as specific locations are developed. Exploration could take up to five years.

Robinson Mine Rapid Infiltration Ponds Project: The BLM is reviewing an administrative draft environmental assessment (EA) for the Robinson Mine Rapid Infiltration Ponds Project. The proposed project would provide for a series of rapid infiltration ponds in the Copper Flat area, about 15 miles west of Ely, to allow groundwater resulting from the deepening of the Ruth pit to infiltrate back into the basin. The BLM anticipates releasing the draft EA to the public in late spring 2010.

NOXIOUS/INVASIVE WEED MANAGEMENT

Integrated Weed Management Plan: The BLM Ely District expects in 2010 to release a final integrated weed management plan. The plan will provide for non-native and noxious invasive weed inventory, treatment and prevention, and education, district-wide, and include weed prevention procedures and a variety of treatment options, including herbicide use, inside and outside of wilderness. Herbicide use in Threatened and Endangered Species habitat would require consultation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service prior to implementation. The plan is a critical part of implementing weed management for the district. Partnerships are another critical element to weed management. Grassroots participation at the local level through Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMAs) allows BLM to leverage funding, such as Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act dollars, to better contain, control and eradicate weeds, district wide. CWMAs allow private land owners to access money to treat weeds on their property.

RANGELAND MANAGEMENT

Term Permit Renewals: The Ely District has initiated and is processing 60 term permits. The Caliente Field Office is processing 24, the Egan Field Office, 17; and Schell Field Office, 18.

Judge Winmill, of the Federal District Court in Idaho, in January 2010 severed and had transferred to the Federal District Court in Nevada challenges brought by the Western

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Watersheds Project to decisions made by the BLM Battle Mountain, Elko, Ely and Winnemucca districts. The challenged decisions ranged from fuels reduction projects, and geothermal development and Oil and Gas leasing to Term Permit renewals. In the Ely District, 67 term permit renewals were challenged.

WILD HORSES

Moriah Herd Area Wild Horse Gather: The BLM Ely District, Schell Field Office has issued the Decision Record for the Final Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Moriah Herd Area Wild Horse Gather.

The BLM will gather and remove approximately 72 excess wild horses from in and around the Moriah Herd Area (HA), located about 48 miles northeast of Ely, beginning on or about Aug. 10, 2010. The gathered animals will be transported to the Delta Wild Horse and Burro Facility, in Delta, Utah, where they will be offered for adoption to qualified individuals. Unadopted horses will be placed in long-term pastures where they will be humanely cared for and retain their "wild" status and protection under the 1971 Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act. The BLM does not sell or send any horses to slaughter.

The BLM Ely District is implementing the Ely Resource Management Plan that was signed in August 2008. Through the planning process, a decision was made to remove all wild horses and change the management classification from Herd Management Area (HMA) status to Herd Area status on 12 HMAs. This was due to insufficient habitat resources to sustain healthy wild horse populations, including forage, water, space, cover and reproductive viability. The Moriah HA was included in this decision.

Silver King Herd Management Area Wild Horse Gather: The BLM Ely District, Caliente and Schell Field Offices expect on Friday, July 30, 2010, to issue the Decision Record for the Final Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Silver King Herd Management Area Wild Horse Gather. Appropriate Management Level (AML) for the Silver King HMA is 60-128 wild horses. There are currently more than 600 wild horses within the HMA. Monitoring data indicates that over-utilization of key grazing areas by wild horses in the HMA is preventing recovery of the vegetation on those sites. Over utilization is also causing horses to move outside the HMA in search of forage.

The BLM will gather and remove approximately 546 excess wild horses from in and around the HMA, located about 70 miles south of Ely, beginning in September. If more than 546 wild horses are gathered, selective removal criteria would be used to return horses to the range. Of the horses remaining on the range, BLM would conduct fertility control measures on mares and/or adjust the sex ratios of the gathered animals to be returned to the HMA to 60 percent male/40 percent female ratios.

Removing the excess wild horses will help to prevent further deterioration of the range, and achieve and maintain a thriving natural ecological balance and multiple-use relationship as required under the 1971 Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act, and Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as well as help to achieve and

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maintain healthy, viable wild horse populations. Removing the excess wild horses will also make “significant progress towards achievement” of Mojave-Southern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council (RAC) Standards for Rangeland Health, in addition to conforming to the 2008 Ely Resource Management Plan that was signed in August 2008. The gathered animals will be transported to the National Wild Horse and Burro Center at Palomino Valley (PVC), near Reno, Nev., and Delta Wild Horse and Burro Facility, in Delta, Utah, where they will be prepared for the BLM adoption program. Unadopted horses will be placed in long-term pastures where they will be humanely cared for and retain their “wild” status and protection under the 1971 Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act. The BLM does not sell or send any horses to slaughter.

U.S. Highway 93 Corridor Wild Horse Gather: The BLM anticipates in fall 2010 to begin gathering approximately 50 wild horses from along the U.S. Highway 93 corridor, using bait and water trapping. The gather was scheduled to begin in late March 2010 but was delayed due to inclement weather that continued into May. Currently, the animals are moving higher into the hills due to warmer weather and increased vegetation. Wild horses near the highway need to be removed for their protection and the safety of motorists. Gathered animals will be transported to the National Wild Horse and Burro Center at Palomino Valley, north of Reno, Nev., or the Delta Wild Horse and Burro Facility, in Delta, Utah. The BLM Ely District, Schell Field Office issued the Decision Record for the Final Environmental Assessment (EA) for the U.S. Highway 93 Corridor Wild Horse Gather on February 12. The protest period closed March 14. To date, no appeals or protests have been received. The Cloud Foundation submitted a letter and expressed opposition to the gather and made some suggestions regarding fencing the highway and the long term economics of gathering.

Eagle Herd Management Area Wild Horse Gather: The BLM in spring 2010 determined there was not adequate time to safely conduct the proposed Eagle Herd Management Area (HMA) gather prior to the beginning of foaling season, and therefore, deferred issuing a decision on the proposed gather until later this year. BLM will conduct further environmental analysis at that time and will extend additional opportunities for public comment prior to issuing a decision to address removal of excess wild horses from the Eagle HMA. On December 28, 2009, the BLM issued a preliminary environmental assessment (EA) proposing to gather excess wild horses from the Eagle HMA during the month of February 2010. More than 9,000 public comments were submitted following a 30-day comment period. The preliminary EA also included a proposal to gather the approximately 50 wild horses that have moved outside of the Eagle and Silver King Herd Management Areas (HMA) to the detriment of motorist safety along U.S. Highway 93 near Pioche, Nev.

The BLM is scheduled in September 2010 to remove 746 wild horses from the Antelope Complex. The BLM Elko district is the lead office for the proposed gather.

RECREATION & TRAVEL MANAGEMENT PLANNING

Special Recreation Permits: The BLM Ely District has so far in fiscal year 2010 received 11 special recreation permit (SRP) applications for new events and expects to receive three more. The district is processing six five-year permit renewals for competitive or commercial events. The district anticipates processing 26 permit renewals for outfitters and guides by May 1, 2010.

Silver State Trail, White Pine County Study: The BLM Ely District is conducting a study of existing motorized vehicle routes in White Pine County and preparing a related environmental assessment (EA) for the Silver State Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Trail. The study and EA are in accordance with the White Pine County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act of 2006. The district anticipates making a draft EA available for public review and comment in summer 2010.

The Silver State OHV Trail currently extends from near Caliente, in Lincoln County, Nev., northward to near the White Pine County line, about 45 miles south of Ely. The Act would extend the trail northward to Elko County with a potential spur route extending westward to Eureka County. The Act mandates that the selected route(s) not result in significant negative impacts to wildlife, natural or cultural resources, or traditional uses.

Travel Management Planning: The BLM is asking the public to provide input for designating routes in south Steptoe Valley. Route designations consider a wide range of public land uses while managing access to prevent long-term ecological damage. The 30-day public input period concludes at 5 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 31, 2010.

Three preliminary options have been developed by the BLM and White Pine County travel management planning coalition, which includes the City of Ely, hunting and non-hunting wildlife advocates, grazing permittees, motorized and non-motorized recreationists, Native American interests, property owners, White Pine County Sheriff's Office and members of the general public. The Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council, which advises BLM on public lands issues, was also represented.

The recommendations and input received will assist the BLM in preparing a travel management plan for south Steptoe Valley. The BLM anticipates completing a draft plan and making it available to the public in summer 2011.

WILDERNESS

Wilderness Plans:

The BLM is implementing site-specific actions identified in the Fortification, Parsnip Peak and White Rock Range Wilderness Management Plan.

The BLM is scheduled in July 2010 to release the final Clover Mountains and Tunnel Spring Wilderness Management Plan.

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The BLM is scheduled in August 2010 to put the Mount Grafton, Far South Egans, Highland Ridge and South Egan Range Wilderness Management Plan and EA out for public comment. A second round of public workshops will follow in fall 2010.

Restoration Activities: The BLM is restoring routes in wilderness in coordination with volunteer groups and local partners.

YUCCA MOUNTAIN RAIL CORRIDOR

In 2008, the Department of Energy (DOE) filed an application for rights-of-way to construct and operate a railroad for the purpose of transporting spent nuclear fuel and high level nuclear waste to a repository to be located at Yucca Mountain, about 100 miles northwest of Las Vegas, Nev. The approximately 333-mile-long rail line would tie into an existing rail line near Caliente, Nev., and extend westward to Goldfield before turning south toward the proposed repository.

In 2010, the Secretary of Energy announced that the DOE would be withdrawing their application to construct the Yucca Mountain Repository from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), and would in-turn withdraw their ROW application from the BLM. In March, 2010, the DOE formally requested the Yucca Mountain Repository application be returned from the NRC. Several lawsuits were filed as a result, alleging the DOE lacked the authority to withdraw the application since the Yucca Mountain Repository is codified in law. No letter has been received by BLM to date withdrawing the application for the railroad ROW.

In 2005, acting on a request from the Department of Energy, the Secretary of the Interior issued a public land order withdrawing all public lands located within a half-mile of the proposed rail line from mineral entry for 10 years.

SPECIAL LEGISLATION

Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA): SNPLMA Round 11 is underway. Proposals in the Capital Improvements, Conservation Initiatives, Fuels, Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Project, and Parks, Trails and Natural Areas initiatives categories and land acquisitions have been ranked by the sub-groups, Partners Working Group and Executive Committee. A recommendation for funding will be sent to Secretary Salazar in July followed by a signed Decision Memo in August.

Lincoln County Archaeological Initiative (LCAI): Eleven proposals have been received under Round 3 of the Lincoln County Archaeological Initiative. The Executive Committee reviewed the proposals in March 2010 and made a recommendation to the Director of the BLM for funding. A Decision Memo is expected in August. An announcement for new proposals for Round 4 will be published in August 2010 and be open through September. The Archaeological Resources Team finalized the priorities for Round 4 of LCAI on Feb. 18, 2010.

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LANDS

Public Comment Sought on Proposed Land Sale: The BLM is asking the public to provide comment on a proposal to offer for competitive sale a 2.5-acre parcel of agency-administered public lands located at the junction of U.S. Highway 6 and State Route 318, about 11 miles northwest of Lund, Nev. The 45-day public comment period concludes August 16, 2010.

The proposed sale complies with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 and White Pine County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act of 2006, and is in conformance with the Ely Resource Management Plan. Five percent of the proceeds from the proposed land sale would go to the Nevada State General Education Fund, 10 percent to White Pine County, and the remainder deposited in a special account to be used for wilderness planning and natural resource protection, and recreation and other opportunities in White Pine County.

If, after reviewing the comments, the BLM determines to proceed with the sale, a sale date will be scheduled and announced on the Ely District Web site and in the local media at least 15 days in advance of the sale. The lands will not be sold prior to 60 days following the publication of the Notice of Realty Action in the Federal Register on July 2, 2010. Bidding on the parcel would begin at not less than the appraised fair market value, which is \$6,900.

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Contact Chris Hanefeld, BLM Ely District public affairs specialist, at (775) 289-1842 or chris_hanefeld@nv.blm.gov for more information on these and other projects/programs in the BLM Ely District.