



**BLM WINNEMUCCA DISTRICT
Program Overview
Legislative Committee on Public Lands
Winnemucca, NV**

November 6, 2009

Presented by Gene Seidlitz, District Manager

FLUID MINERALS/ENERGY

Geothermal Exploration

Black Rock Field Office (BRFO)

- **San Emidio**

U.S. Geothermal Nevada LLC (USG) postponed the 6-well exploration program to search for resources for possible expansion of plant output on public lands near their existing geothermal project. We are anticipating receiving a draft environmental assessment (EA) at the end of November. The cultural resource inventory report has not yet been received by the BLM.

- **Gerlach**

Gerlach Geothermal, the joint venture between USG and Gerlach Green Energy plans to drill and test one exploration well just north of the town of Gerlach.

Humboldt River Field Office

- **Blue Mountain**

The Nevada Geothermal Power Company continues development work at the Blue Mountain Project in Humboldt County. Activities include drilling of production, fresh water and monitor wells, the relocation of the cooling tower gathering system on BLM land, and injection well drilling on adjacent private land. Earthwork began fall 2008 on public and adjacent private land for the 51 megawatt power plant which started production in Fall, 2009.

- **Desert Queen**

Magma Energy (US) Corp (Magma) submitted a revised project description in September, 2009. BLM reviewed the description and requested additional information, which has not been received to date.

- **Geophysical exploration**

- **Leasing (WDO)**

On April 9, 2009, WD received a list of 40 parcels nominated for the proposed July 2009 Geothermal lease sale, including those deferred from the 2008 sale. The area

nominated totals over 101,000 acres. We have reviewed those parcels for land-use plan and NEPA compliance, and have prepared appropriate NEPA documents. We had to defer three (3) parcels due to on-going Native American Consultation (Black Warrior Peak).

SOLID MINERALS

Black Rock Field Office

- **Crofoot-Lewis**

This mine, commonly known as Hycroft, has reactivated the Plan of Operations, and has resumed mining at the Brimstone pit and processing activities that were authorized in 1996. They are planning to continue exploration and development drilling in the vicinity of previously mined pits during this summer. They are currently conducting exploration and development drilling in the vicinity of previous mine pits. They also are looking outside the current plan boundary for additional resources.

- **Black Rock Opal Mines**

Notices allowing surface disturbing activities beyond casual use have expired for the Wagner Springs and Royal Rainbow sites. We have sent notification to the operators that removal of the occupancies and reclamation are required. Further operations will require approved plans of operation. Follow-up field visits are planned this fall.

Humboldt River Field Office

- **Western Energy Corporation - Uranium Exploration**

Western Energy has been exploring for uranium on the western flank of the Montana Mountains, in the Kings River Valley, under two notices. The company has proposed to expand exploration up to a maximum of 250 acres, under a Plan of Operations. On February 27, 2009, a scoping letter was sent to interested parties for development of an EA for Phase I exploration activities, which would disturb approximately 58 acres. On May 1, 2009 WDO conducted a consultation tour with the Fort McDermitt Tribe.

The WD responded to a statewide FOIA request for all materials concerning uranium, coal exploration, and mining in Nevada. That request was received from the Center for Biological Diversity on January 23, 2009.

- **Western Lithium Corporation - Lithium Exploration**

Western Lithium has been exploring for lithium on the southern flank of the Montana Mountains, near Thacker Pass, under a notice. Under the Plan of Operations, the company is proposing to expand exploration up to a maximum of 75 acres. On October 28, 2008, a kick-off meeting was held for development of an EA, for Phase I exploration activities, expected to disturb approximately 25 acres. A scoping letter has been sent and other early-stage work on the development of the EA is ongoing.

- **Coeur Rochester**

The expansion/closure amendment has been withdrawn and the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process has been terminated. A work plan has been submitted for collecting baseline data for the closure of the site. Under the present work plan for

closure studies, a final permanent closure plan is expected by January 2012. We received a complete amendment to the plan of operations (Amendment #8) on August 27, 2009, for renewed mining, construction of a new leach pad, backfill of an existing pit lake, and construction of a buttress. We have determined that an EA will be prepared to analyze the impacts from the proposal.

- **Twin Creeks**

WD received a Plan of Operations amendment for expansion of the Vista Pit. We have determined that an EA will be prepared to analyze the impacts from the proposal. An EA kickoff meeting was held on September 22, 2009, and a public scoping period initiated on October 22, 2009.

- **Standard Mine**

Standard Gold Mine has proposed an expansion of their operation onto public lands. Processing will remain on private land, but pits, roads, and waste rock disposal would impact approximately 150 acres of public land. The Plan of Operations has been accepted and the NEPA process initiated. A preliminary EA is presently being reviewed.

- **Sandman**

Newmont has submitted a Plan of Operations for exploration at the Sandman Project. Presently, Sandman has a collection of notices in the Krum Hills of Humboldt County. That Plan would consolidate the notices and add further disturbance, totaling about 500 acres on public and private land, over an area of approximately 40,000 acres. The Plan was reviewed and comments provided. The company has since provided a revised plan, which is under review.

CULTURAL LANDS AND REALTY

Black Rock Field Office

- **SNPLMA Round 8 Acquisitions**

Acquisition of 831 acres in the Black Rock NCA (Little High Rock Canyon/Hardin City) area (Humboldt and Washoe Counties) and an additional 451 acres in the Poodle Mountain WSA continues on schedule. Property condition and hazardous materials inspections of the 1,282 total acres were completed in May. A Phase I Site Inspection was completed in late June with the formal report expected to be completed and submitted in July. The DOI Appraisal Services Directorate (ASD) has contracted the same appraiser who appraised the nearly 12,000 acres acquired in the Granite Mountains and Poodle Mountain WSA in 2008 to appraise the latest lands targeted for acquisition during the first quarter of CY 2010. A mandatory pre-appraisal conference with the landowner, the contract appraiser and BLM is scheduled for late July 2009 at NSO. The final Site Inspection was recently approved. The EA for the acquisition is being reviewed by the ID team.

- **Cultural**

Segments totaling 11 miles of the Applegate Trail are currently being inventoried with metal detectors as a research project. Over 200 artifacts related primarily to the trail and later wagon road have now been recorded. Additional surveys will soon be started in conjunction with stimulus funds for transportation management projects.

Humboldt River Field Office

In celebration of Historic Preservation Month, Winnemucca District Office and Nevada Outdoor School (NOS) hosted a three day event at Lovelock Cave. Three hundred fourth grade students from five local grammar schools were treated to tours and activities at Lovelock Cave and the Marzen House Museum in Lovelock.

The Winnemucca District Office's archaeology staff wrote two articles that appeared in the Humboldt Sun's August 4 edition; "Looking at the Past: Civilian Conservation Corps" and "Stone tools, wagon trails traces of the past."

- **Land Sales**

The targeted sale of approximately 440 acres in the Schoolhouse Butte area west of Winnemucca has slipped to the second quarter of CY 2010 due to perpetual right-of-way requests within the appraised boundaries. An appraisal requested earlier this year has been completed, approved by DOI's Appraisal Services Directorate and received at WDO. Work on the Environmental Assessment will be completed once the right-of way issues are resolved.

- **Major Rights of Way Projects**

WD continues to work with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and the applicant to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed 650-mile Ruby Pipeline Project from Wyoming to Oregon. In May 2009, a Ruby Pipeline/Tribal Meeting was held in Reno to further discuss comments, questions, and concerns from the Tribes. In addition, the Bio Team for the project also met.

In June 2009, the NV Bio Team met in Elko and Winnemucca to further review the alternatives from a mile per mile perspective and brought forth mitigation, minimization and avoidance areas for key wildlife species (pygmy rabbit, sage-grouse and big game).

On June 19, 2009, the Draft EIS was released for a 45 day comment period. Public comment meetings are scheduled for July 23, 2009 in Winnemucca and July 28, 2009 in Elko. The comment period ends on August 10, 2009.

Significant comments were generated by interested publics, Tribes and Cooperating Agencies on the DEIS. The cooperating agencies further reviewed the AFEIS and comments on the review were due October 26, 2009. The cooperating agencies went on record stating there are collective concerns that the AFEIS for the Ruby Pipeline Project, as currently, written, does not adequately address or analyze our expressed concerns regarding potential impacts to cultural resources, wildlife and their habitats, and does not adequately analyze (compare and contrast) the direct, indirect and cumulative impacts of the three alternatives. Specific deficiencies include:

Outstanding Cultural Resource Issues
Special Status Species
Effects to Visual Resources
Effects to Wilderness Resources
Analysis of Cumulative Effects and Connected Actions
Identification and Analysis of Effects from Access Roads and Ancillary Facilities
Mitigation and
Plan of Development.

In BLM's letter to FERC, the agency requested an additional 2 months to address and complete the above mentioned items. FERC granted an extension of 45 days. The FEIS is scheduled to be released on January 8, 2010. After the issuance of the FEIS, FERC has 30 days to issue their certificate and the BLM has 90 days from the issuance of the FEIS to issue the ROD for the ROW.

RECREATION

Black Rock Field Office

Staffing Update—Justin Robbins, park ranger, and Dave Lefevre, outdoor recreation planner moved on to other positions. A new park ranger will arrive in December, and recruitment is in progress for the outdoor recreation planner position.

- **Burning Man Event, August 31 – September 7, 2009**

Peak population at this year's event was 43,535.

- **Public Outreach Products**

A new and improved visitor guide for the National Conservation Area will be available soon following a recent revision. Also in the works is a brochure specific to High Rock Canyon Area of Critical Environmental Concern. The brochures were developed in partnership with the Friends of Black Rock-High Rock and are now being finalized for printing.

- **Transportation Implementation Project – Stimulus Funded**

Funding was received to implement decisions from the RMP for transportation management and route designations. Several miles of routes that were identified for closure will be decommissioned and rehabilitated. In addition, the designated routes will be marked to identify them on the ground and to establish end points for some routes. In addition to route marking, new portal information signs have been developed to provide orientation and area regulations at key entrance points. Cultural resource surveys are underway in support of these projects.

Humboldt River Field Office

- A Great Basin Institute (GBI) intern is gathering data and assisting with NEPA planning for a revision of the Pine Forest Recreation Area Management Plan. The revised plan will address management of some recently acquired land in the Knott Creek area and generally update the plan, which are several years old.

- A Nevada Outdoor School (NOS) crew, working with the two GBI interns and BLM, updated and replaced signs on the Bloody Shins Trail System and replaced damaged carsonites and directional decals.
- Wilderness Characteristics Inventory of recently acquired lands in the Granite Range identified two areas that meet wilderness characteristics.

Our National Public Lands Day event was in conjunction with RESPECT, Humboldt County, City of Winnemucca, and many other entities. On October 10, 2009, we cleaned up trash on public and private lands near Winnemucca totaling over eight tons.

- The cultural survey and report for the Winnemucca Bike Trail is being completed and RCI is working on the EA.
- Inventory of 500 miles of motorcycle race routes are virtually complete and a report is being assembled.

Activities in Water Canyon include:

- A volunteer group from the U.K., coordinating through NOS, worked with BLM to construct a rail fence to protect a sensitive area, did maintenance along the interpretive trail, and planted trees along the creek.
- A camp host was hired for the summer for Water Canyon. He is keeping the facilities cleaned and maintained, maintaining the interpretive trail and parking areas, and providing recreational information to visitors.
- A Record of Decision/FONSI was signed 8/15/97 for Water Canyon. This decision stated that cross country driving, motorcycle and ATV riding would not be allowed in Zone 1 (area inside the exclosure fence), except at the OHV Staging Area. Snowmobiling was allowed in Zone 1. A Decision Record with attached FONSI was signed 11/16/05 for the "*Environmental Assessment of the Water Canyon Implementation Plan Amendment*".

This EA noted proposals approved in the 1997 Water Canyon Recreation Plan, and have already been put into effect or have been implemented on the ground, then "No change in these decisions is proposed and they will not be considered in the environmental decision." A table listed those "Effective or Implemented Decisions in the original Water Canyon Management Plan". Among those listed was the decision on OHVs/snowmobiles. Thus, no changes in regards to OHVs were made in the Implementation Plan Amendment. We are currently coordinating with the City and County regarding the Zone 1 issue. After discussions the City and County representatives, prefer that we review our previous decision to open the Zone 1 main road to OHV use. We determined to examine alternatives to opening the road to OHV use and then review the options and decide whether an EA amendment was needed with

alternatives or other means of getting input from the community to evaluate the previous decision and potentially choose the alternative to open the road to OHV use. This issue will be resolved in FY2010.

FISHERIES

Black Rock Field Office

Work is complete on an EA for the Mud Meadows Fish Barrier near Soldier Meadows, to protect the federally listed desert dace. With funding from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, construction of barriers should occur later next spring. . The barriers are low rock structures placed in spring brooks to prevent upstream migration of green sunfish, a non-native predator to the desert dace

Humboldt River Field Office

The WD is working on an ARRA project, Lahontan cutthroat trout riparian enclosure maintenance. This project is set to maintain five enclosures. The enclosures are: Washburn Riparian Fence, Riser Creek Fence, Mahogany Creek Riparian Fence, South Fork Little Humboldt River Enclosure, and the North Fork Little Humboldt River Enclosure. The protection of the Lahontan cutthroat trout streams through the enclosure maintenance allows for further recovery opportunity of the threatened species.

WILDLIFE AND VEGETATION

Black Rock Field Office

Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) is planning a bighorn sheep capture in the Calico Mountains in January with a release site outside the designated wilderness in the Jacksons to augment populations.

Interns from Chicago Botanic Garden, working with BRFO ecologist Roger Farschon, completed 12,000 acres of rare plant inventories in the Jackson Mountains. These surveys located 30 new populations of 3 rare plant species. As a result, at least two plant species will likely be removed from the NV BLM sensitive species list.

Humboldt River Field Office

- The primary workload of the wildlife staff continues to be providing input into numerous use authorizations, including range permit renewals, mine expansion proposals and geothermal projects. Currently, the Ruby Pipeline is a high priority workload. The staff is also involved in fuels projects that are in various stages of planning.

WILD HORSES AND BURROS

Black Rock Field Office

- The Calico Mountain Complex gather is scheduled to begin this winter (December 1 2009). This gather will include the Black Rock Range East and West, Calico

Mountains, Granite Range, and Warm Springs Canyon HMAs. About 2,500 head of the estimated 3,100 wild horses will be gathered and removed. The preliminary EA is now available for public review and comment.

Humboldt River Field Office

- An aerial population survey of the Tobin Range, N. Stillwater, and Augusta Mountain HMA's was flown April 18, and 19, 2009. Tobin Range HMA was the only HMA over appropriate management level. The Tobin Range HMA was in October 2009 and 376 were gathered and 371 shipped to PVC.

RANGE

Black Rock Field Office

Staff continues the effort to prepare an EA for renewal of grazing permits in the Buffalo Hills, Leadville, and Coyote Allotments. An improved grazing system is being considered for the Leadville allotment.

Humboldt River Field Office

- The HRFO range staff is continuing to work on grazing permit renewal (GPR) EAs. All of the proposed decisions are being protested by Western Watershed Project (WWP). Some of the grazing permittee's are also protesting the proposed decisions, resulting in the issuance of final decisions. WWP has appealed several of the final decisions, but normally drop their appeal if their petition for stay is not granted.
- WWP dropped their appeals on the on the Bloody Run, Sand Dunes, Sand Pass, and Scott Spring Allotments grazing permit renewal decisions once their stay petition was denied.
- WWP dropped their appeal on the William Stock GPR EA in January after the hearing had been scheduled, however the William Stock GPR EA has been brought forward in their Battle Creek Case Nevada and Idaho - Activity in Case 4:08-cv-00435-BLW Western Watersheds Project v. Bureau of Land Management.
- WWP did not drop their appeal of the Soldier Meadows Allotment decision, although, the petition for stay was denied. The hearing commenced in Winnemucca from May 11 through May 22, 2009, we are currently in recess and were scheduled to resume November 2, 2009 through November 13, 2009. The Judge has since postponed the November session and will be re-scheduling the hearing in 2010.
- The range staff met and discussed the ongoing drought conditions with the permittee's prior to turnout, to determine appropriate mitigation measures.
- Two allotments were closed by decision. The June thunder storms helped the vegetation in the higher elevations and the shrubs in the low elevations, but they came too late for the grasses and forbs in the low elevations.
- The Humboldt River Field Office has numerous allotments that have been affected by a die-off of cheatgrass.
- The WD is conducting compliance inspections on the allotments where unauthorized livestock were impounded in January 2008. The same individuals still have livestock in trespass.

- The active appeal regarding unauthorized use in the Dolly Hayden Allotment has been decided by the Interior Board of Land Appeals and the BLM was upheld.
- The range staff has also been working on several grazing preference transfers, collecting monitoring data, RMP, Ruby Pipeline, geothermal leasing, minerals, and fuels projects.

FIRE

Operations/Aviation

- Total of 35 Fires for 630.6 acres to date in 2009; 11 Lightning Fires for 520.3 Acres and 24 Human caused Fires for 110.3 Acres. BLM - 27 Fires (16 Human and 11 Lightning) for 491.9 Acres. PVT - 4 Fires (2 Human and 2 Lightning) for 75.1 Acres. BIA - 4 Fires (4 Human) for 64.5 Acres. USFS - 0 Fires for 0 Acres
- Continuing to work toward completion of Interagency Agreements with BIA and HTF - Santa Rosa RD.
- Successful first season establishing a fire station Gerlach. Future plans to co-locate in the Black Rock Field Station at Gerlach, once construction is complete (late 2010).
- Full Service retardant contract for the WID SEAT Base, 6,365 gallons (2008 - 13,879 gallons, 2007 - 303,889 gallons)
- 2 - 30 day Variable Term SEAT contracts began August 2nd.

Fuels Management

- Montana Mountains-
This is a landscape scale project with multiple objectives and partners. Ground truthing and digitizing of possible treatment locations will be done this fall. Then, the NEPA / planning process will go forward through much of FY10.
- Santa Rosa Fuel break-
Landscape scale project involving moving, harrowing, herbicide and seeding to create approximately 54 miles of fuel break along the west side of the Santa Rosa Range. Currently, cultural survey work is being done. Once the EA is complete, some 1,372 acres of treatments are planned for this year. Part of this is already under contract. Additional contracts will be done this year.
- Paradise Green strip Maintenance-
Green strips surrounding Paradise Valley. Cultural work is currently being done for the NEPA on this project.
- Highway Fuel breaks-
This project involves disking and herbicide treatments along Highways 95, 290, 140, and 447. 113 acres of disking has been completed this FY on Highway 95. Disking contractor will be moving to Hwy 140 and 447 soon. Hwy 290 disking was completed last FY. 50 acres of herbicide treatment has been completed to prevent re-growth in the fuel breaks. Herbicide contractor will continue as disking contractor progresses. This year, NEPA is being done to add to the Highway 95

fuel break, from Sand Pass road to Paradise Junction on the East side of the road.

- Winnemucca and Unionville Fuel breaks-
Fuel breaks surrounding Winnemucca and Unionville will be maintained using mechanical and chemical tools.

Mitigation/Education/Prevention

- Assisting various communities with CWPP updates s specifically Rye patch and Unionville.
- Working to finalize all fire season 2009 fire trespass cases
- Planning community outreach events for 2010 Wildfire Awareness Week

Wildfire Support Group (WSG)

- All members and equipment were trained and available for the 2009 season. There were, however, no dispatches for the WSG due to very minimal wildfire activity on the District.
- Continuing to build on the existing organization with qualifications, equipment, and one additional member was voted in this season
- A meeting dealing with the future organizational structure is scheduled in November with all WSG members.

Central Nevada Interagency Dispatch Center (CNIDC)

- Staffed 5days/week 0730 – 1730.
- All PFT positions staffed with the selection of the Assistant Center Manger (BLM) position. Kim Karalus EOD Dec 6
- Dispatching wildland fire incidents for the Winnemucca and Battle Mountain Districts, BLM; and the Santa Rosa, Austin and Tonopah Districts of the Humboldt-Toiyabe NF.
- Monitors status of all field going personnel (fire and non-fire) within the zone.
- Coordinates radio system status and improvements.

EMERGENCY STABILIZATION AND REHABILITATION

- The WD has hired two research associates from the Great Basin Institute to assist the emergency stabilization and rehabilitation staff in completing monitoring studies and updating the existing monitoring database.
- Plans have been approved to rehabilitate approximately 1,630 acres of crucial mule deer winter range destroyed in the Burn Canyon Fire (Hot Springs Range). NDOW will be providing seed and conducting the aerial seeding. To date, approximately 600 sagebrush seedlings have been planted.
- Monitoring, data entry and analysis for all 2006 and 2007 fires has been completed. Closeout summaries for all 2006 fires and monitoring summaries for all 2007 fires have been submitted.

WINNEMUCCA DISTRICT RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

On September 1, 2009, a letter was sent to all cooperating agencies providing an update on the revised Winnemucca District (WD) Draft RMP/EIS (DRMP/DEIS). The letter stated the visual resources and wilderness characteristics inventories required by the Washington Office (WO) were completed. The results of the inventories and response to the remainder of the WO comments were sent to the contractor on September 3, 2009. Initially, the WD had hoped to provide the Director a briefing on the DRMP/DEIS prior to Thanksgiving. This would have allowed the district an opportunity to get the document printed and released for a 90 day public comment period by mid-December 2009. Incorporation of the results of the two inventories required the contractor to change all 115 maps/figures in the document. Due to this delay and the length of time necessary to get the directors approval, the district does not anticipate providing the public with a draft document for review until early 2010.

BLACK ROCK DESERT – HIGH ROCK CANYON EMIGRANT TRAILS NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA & ASSOCIATED WILDERNESS

- **Wilderness Management Plan**

Planning efforts were delayed by the departure of the BRFO Wilderness Specialist.

- **Paiute Meadows Area Public Access Project**

The BLM has initiated construction on the Paiute Meadows Area Public Access project. The project will result in a new motorized vehicle route east of private lands at the Paiute Meadows Ranch and west of private lands at Cane Springs. Culvert installation is underway with project completion scheduled for spring 2010.

- **National Public Lands Day 2009**

On September 19, 2009, the BLM, along with partner groups, hosted a National Public Lands Day Event based on the edge of the Black Rock Desert Playa. Several volunteer projects were offered, along with a kid's camp featuring science education and a hands-on field trip for youngsters. Details are posted on the Friends of Black Rock High Rock Website, <http://www.blackrockfriends.org/friends/>

NEPA PLANNING UPDATE

Much of the planning is covered under other headings, but to put the WD planning work load in proper perspective, it is important to see the broad picture. In FY 09 the WD has completed eight (8) Environmental Assessments (EAs) (and associated FONSI/DRs), sixty one (61) Documentation of NEPA Adequacy (DNA), and forty nine (49) CXs and one (1) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

WINNEMUCCA DISTRICT STIMULUS UPDATE

Black Rock Public Access - Black Rock Desert – High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area – This project would improve public access popular destinations within the conservation area. The following project would be accomplished:

- 1) Road repair/improvement of a key access route leading to High Rock Canyon.
This project would improve public access while minimizing resource impacts. Damaged portions of an existing access route would be reconstructed and hardened to improve crossings through wet areas and to prevent the development of parallel routes through sensitive areas.

Both projects would be accomplished through a service contract for equipment and operators. The Bureau of Land Management would provide road materials (i.e. gravel) and project oversight. These projects would implement high priority transportation management decisions from the Black Rock Desert – High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area Resource Management Plan. Cultural resource surveys are underway for this project.

Gerlach Administrative Site and Visitor Center for the Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area:

A joint use compound would be constructed in Gerlach, NV to support management of the NCA and other public lands in northwestern Nevada. The Black Rock Field Office /Winnemucca District Office are located 100 miles away via a gravel road. Due to the long travel times, resource management and visitor contact within the National Conservation Area, is hampered by a lack of on-site presence resulting in damage to wilderness and other nationally designated resources in this 1.2 million acre area. A facility in Gerlach would provide:

- Employees temporary housing
- Storage and work areas
- A secure location for staging of fire and law enforcement resources during critical times
- Provide visitors to the area with a point of contact for area and related information that would be primarily staffed by local "Friends" group

In order to complete the project on schedule:

- The site will be close enough to Gerlach to access existing utilities
- An architectural and design firm already on a BLM contract will be used to develop the site plan and construction contracts
- Structures will use existing building designs used on previous BLM projects
- An architecture and engineering firm recently began design work for this facility. Coordination is underway with the Gerlach General Improvement District and other Washoe County entities.

Black Rock Resource Management Plan Transportation Implementation Project:

The Resource Management Plan for the National Conservation Area identifies open and closed routes, including seasonal closures. This project would implement the route designations by accomplishing three primary tasks:

- 1) Transportation Signage. A contractor or partner would be recruited to develop and implement a transportation sign plan. This project lead would be filled

- through an assistance agreement, or with a term Park Ranger for up to two years. BLM would provide project materials, supervision and project oversight. An existing agreement would be used to hire a field crew for sign installation.
- 2) Decommission and prevent continued use of closed routes. Decommissioning would include use of heavy equipment to de-compact route surfaces, stabilize areas creating impacts due to erosion, and install physical barriers to prevent vehicle use. The sites would be seeded to assist in recovery. Rocks and native materials will be used in areas that have sources nearby. Steel bollard and cable would be used to prevent vehicle trespass in areas where native barriers are not feasible. This project would be accomplished through a service contract, to provide equipment and an operator. BLM would provide project layout and project materials, such as steel bollards, cable, boulder and gravel sources. A separate contractor would be used to complete section 106 cultural resource surveys.
 - 3) Implement Seasonal Closures. This project would be implemented through the placement of signs and improvement of existing fences/gates. New gates may also be installed where appropriate. One of the contractors mentioned above would complete these tasks.

Lahontan cutthroat trout Riparian Exclosure Maintenance

- This project would use contract employees to maintain approximately 42 miles of five riparian exclosures that have been constructed for the protection of Lahontan cutthroat trout streams. The exclosures to be maintained are located within northwestern and north central Nevada. Each exclosure needs various repairs of the four wire fence, associated accessories, gates, panels, and drainage crossings.
- The five exclosures to be maintained are: 1) The Washburn Riparian Fence, which is 7.25 miles in length and is 20 miles southwest of McDermitt, Nevada. 2) The Riser Creek Fence, which is 7.75 miles in length, and is also 20 miles southwest of McDermitt, Nevada. 3) The Mahogany Creek Riparian Fence, which is 10.25 miles in length and is within the Lahontan cutthroat trout Instant Study Area which is 36 miles southwest of Denio, Nevada. 4) The South Fork Little Humboldt River exclosure, which is 10.75 miles in length and is within the Little Humboldt River Wilderness Study Area that is 33 miles east of Paradise Valley, Nevada. 5) The North Fork Little Humboldt River exclosure, which is 5.75 miles in length and is 20 miles northeast of Paradise Valley, Nevada.
- Habitat restoration for the Lahontan cutthroat trout will be available through the maintenance of the riparian exclosures. The protection of the Lahontan cutthroat trout streams through the exclosure maintenance allows for further recovery opportunity of the threatened species. The Lahontan cutthroat trout Exclosure Maintenance provides benefits for both the Lahontan cutthroat trout and seasonal employment.

