

Legislative Committee on Public Lands
January 25, 2008

Presentation by:

Battle Mountain Field Office
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Planning

Resource Management Plan Revision:

We are initiating the revision of the Tonopah and Shoshone-Eureka Resource Management Plans (RMPs) for the Battle Mountain Field Office. Revision of the Tonopah (1997) and Shoshone-Eureka (1986) RMPs is needed to update resource management directions, and will incorporate management decisions from the existing RMPs if those decisions remain appropriate. It will also provide updated decisions for the balance of the issues. At this time, we are in the process of starting the Pre-Plan, which will identify the anticipated planning issues and management concerns, data needs and availability, participants in the process, plan preparation schedule, and the public participation plan. The RMP revision is community based. Training will be provided to our partners and staff prior to starting the revision. At the completion of the RMP revision, management direction for the Battle Mountain District will be guided by one planning document.

Beatty Master Plan

The Town of Beatty has been continuing to draft a Master Plan for its taxing district. The assistance of BLM is paramount in this process, as Beatty is surrounded by public lands that lie within the taxing district. The Beatty Town Board has invited and continues to invite the Tonopah Field Station to be part of the collaborative efforts in drafting the Master Plan.

Non-renewable Resources

Green Energy:

Geothermal

Silver Peak – Sierra Geothermal Power Inc. is proposing to conduct the Silver Peak Geothermal Exploration Project, a geothermal resources exploration program of temperature gradient hole, small-diameter well (slim well) and full-size exploration well (full-size well) drilling and testing on public lands leased for geothermal resource development in Esmeralda County. A Notice of Intent to drill up to 14 thermal gradient wells was submitted to the Bureau of Land Management, Tonopah Field Station in December 2006. An Operations Plan to drill and test up to six slim and six full-size wells was submitted to the BLM. We are currently consolidating resource specialist comments on the draft environmental assessment.

EXHIBIT F-1 - LANDS
Document consists of 4 pages.
Entire Exhibit Provided
Meeting Date: 01-25-08

Alum - Sierra Geothermal Power Inc. plans to submit a plan for exploration in the near future on public lands in Esmeralda County, north of Silver Peak.

Rock Hill – Ormat Nevada Inc. submitted a geothermal operations plan and a Notice of Intent to conduct geothermal exploration operations. The company plans to drill up to 10 thermal gradient wells, 10 slim wells, and 10 exploration wells in Esmeralda County, north of Columbus Salt Marsh. We are currently consolidating resource specialist comments on the draft environmental assessment.

Truckee Geothermal – Western Renewable Powers geothermal project is located on private lands north of Carvers, in Nye County. We will process any necessary rights-of-way for the project as needed.

Solar

Beatty Airport – Solar Millennium has submitted a right-of-way application of 4,800 acres for the construction of a parabolic solar trough electric power plant near the Beatty Airport, with a production capacity of 150 to 350 GW. We are currently working with the company to perfect their Plan of Development in order to begin the environmental review process.

Tonopah Airport - Solar Millennium has submitted a right-of-way application of 2,457 acres for the construction of a parabolic solar trough electric power plant near the Tonopah Airport, with a production capacity of 150 to 350 GW. We are currently working with the company to perfect their Plan of Development in order to begin the environmental review process.

Mud Lake – Mud Lake Solar has submitted a right-of-way application of 3,843 acres for the construction of a solar thermal electric power plant between Mud Lake and the Tonopah Airport. We are currently working with the company to perfect their Plan of Development in order to begin the environmental review process.

Wind

Rhyolite – Greenwing Pacific Energy Corporation submitted a 7,380 acre right-of-way application for a wind energy site testing and monitoring project area, consisting of two meteorological towers, west of Rhyolite, near Beatty.

Flat Top – Clipper Windpower Development Company has been issued a wind energy site testing and monitoring project area of 8,024 acres, consisting of 4 meteorological towers, near Goldfield.

Round Mountain – Round Mountain Gold Corporation has been offered a site specific wind energy site testing and monitoring right-of-way grant for one meteorological tower in Big Smoky Valley, near Hadley.

Lands and Realty

Beatty competitive land sale of 39.73 acres was completed on August 22, 2007. The parcel sold for the appraised value of \$220,000.00.

Direct sales were completed near Dyer, to Della Patterson (16 acres), and in Big Smoky Valley, to Round Mountain Gold Corp, (105 acres) to resolve trespass issues in 2007. The Stage Coach direct sale in Beatty (.46 acres), to resolve a trespass will be completed in 2008.

Patent was issued for two 320 acre Desert Land Entries in Stone Cabin Valley in 2007.

We are processing three 320 acre Desert Land Entries applications in Big Smoky Valley, north of Carvers. An environmental assessment is in the final editing stages.

The Fish Lake and Lida Airport Leases were issued to Esmeralda County in 2007.

Minerals

The complete preliminary draft Round Mountain Gold Mine Expansion SEIS is expected to be ready for BLM review in March 2008.

MGC Resources Inc. has submitted a draft amendment to their Plan of Operations for the Midway Project at the intersection of State Route 376 and the Belmont Road, for an underground mine.

Abandoned Mine Lands

The abandoned mine lands program is one of our commitments to public health and safety on BLM managed lands. In late September 2007, 73 abandoned mine sites in the Lida Canyon and Gold Point areas were for backfilled. The project was completed with help from a wide variety of volunteers, organizations, and companies, including, Cashman Equipment, Nevada Division of Wildlife, Nevada Natural Heritage Foundation, Paul DeLong Heavy Haul Trucking Co., Round Mountain Gold Corporation, Nevada Mining Association, BLM Nevada State Office and the Nevada Division of Minerals. Over the last four years this group has backfilled over 200 shafts in the Tonopah, Lida and Gold Point areas.

Cultural Resources

Rhyolite – We have a great partnership with Nye County for the preservation of the historic Rhyolite townsite. Nye County Commissioner Joni Eastley received funds from the Nye County Parks and Recreation Department for RV shade structures at the caretaker facilities, and obtained \$99,000 in grants for a new roof on the Train Depot and trench drain at the bottle house complex. A contract for the roof replacement on the Miner's cabin/brothel has been awarded, with work scheduled to start in February 2008. Another contract has been awarded for handicap accessibility at the Tom Kelly Bottle House and construction of caretaker facilities.

Renewable Resources

Grazing Lease/Permit Renewals

The Magruder Mountain grazing lease was issued in September 2007. The Montezuma Allotment grazing lease and two grazing leases in the Razorback Allotment will be issued in February 2008. Forage reserves managed by the grazing lease holders were established in the allotments.

Monitoring for the FY-2008 permit renewals for the San Antone and Smoky Allotments has been completed. Monitoring for the FY-09 permit renewals for the Crater Black Rock, Sand Springs, Hot Creek, Morey, Nyala, Stone Canyon, and Hunts Canyon Allotments are on going.

Wild Horses and Burros

There were 461 wild horses removed from the Stone Cabin and Saulsbury HMAs in January 2007. In August 2007, 12 burros were removed from inside the town of Beatty at the request of the Beatty Town Advisory Board, Beatty General Improvement District and Nye County School District. In September 2007, 14 wild horses were removed from Fish Lake Valley, along State Route 264, at the request of an Esmeralda County Commissioner and local residents.