



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Elko Field Office
3900 East Idaho Street
Elko, Nevada 89801-4611
<http://www.nv.blm.gov>



In Reply Refer To:
1793/4130 (NV-012)

December 1, 2005

Dear Reader:

Enclosed for your review and comment is the Sheep Complex, Big Springs, and Owyhee Grazing Allotments Sensitive Bird Species Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). This EIS has been prepared by the Bureau of Land Management, Elko Field Office, to comply with an order issued by the U.S. District Court, District of Nevada. It analyzes the impacts of three grazing management decisions on sage grouse and ten BLM-sensitive raptor species, consistent with the court order to *“to evaluate the impacts of grazing, considering springs, seeps and riparian areas, uplands habitat and land use plans.”* Impacts of four alternatives are analyzed for each of three multiple use decisions previously issued on the Sheep Allotment Complex, Big Springs Allotment and Owyhee Allotment :

- Alternative 1. Re-issue Grazing Permits at Historic Levels
- Alternative 2 - Implement the Multiple Use Decision
- Alternative 3. Grazing without Riparian Exlosures and Seedings
- Alternative 4. Adjust Grazing in Key Sensitive Species Habitat.

A public meeting to discuss issues and accept written comments is scheduled for January 11, 2006, at 7:00 P.M. at the Elko Field Office conference room (3900 E. Idaho Street, Elko, Nevada). Written comments will be accepted during a 45-day comment period, which closes on January 24, 2006. Please address your comments to the Sensitive Bird Species EIS Project Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Elko Field Office (see letterhead address); comments may also be sent via facsimile to 775-753-0255.

Based on consideration of comments received, a Final Environmental Impact Statement will be prepared. For additional information, please call Bryan Fuell or Lorrie West at 775 753-0200.

Sincerely,

/s/

Helen M. Hankins
Field Manager