

Letter L1

November 22, 2005

Bureau of Land Management
Attention Gene Drais
Ely Field Office
HC 33 Box 33500
Ely, Nevada 89301

Dear Mr. Drais:

L1-1 [In regards to the Resource Management Plan, I have concerns pertaining to the special recreation permit 2.5.15.2. Of the four alternatives proposed, I'm in favor of a revised version of Alternative E. I would like the wording to read as follows: "For the first three years following plan implementation, outfitter and guide permits for hunting would be limited to parties who have had a permit for the past 3 years. This permit would then remain with the outfitter until it is not renewed or until it is forfeited. The present number of outfitters who have had a permit for the past 3 years would serve as the cap. For any open permit that occurs, non-permitted outfitters would then be placed into a draw procedure to fill the position. Permits would limit the number of sub-guides that could operate. Any one outfitter would be eligible to obtain only one permit at a time."

L1-2 [I definitely feel that we need to put a cap on the number of outfitters. Most importantly, however, I feel that it would be unfair to place the permits on a competitive bid process. It would make it very difficult for a small local business to compete against the huge nation-wide outfitters who currently guide or may desire to guide in the area.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Pat Gloeckner
LINCOLN COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD OF MANAGE WILDLIFE

Responses to Letter L1

L1-1 In response to this and similar comments, the management action in Section 2.4.15.2 of the Proposed RMP and Final EIS regarding outfitter and guide permits has been revised.

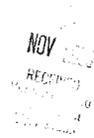
L1-2 Please refer to Response to Comment L1-1.

Letter L2

White Pine County
Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife

November 27, 2005

Gene Drais, RMP Project Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Ely Field Office
HC 33 Box 33500
Ely, Nevada 89301



Re: Comments on the BLM's Draft Resource Management Plan for the Ely BLM District.

Dear Mr. Drais:

The White Pine County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife would like to make the following comments to the Draft RMP/EIS for the BLM's Ely District.

- L2-1 [Our concerns fall with the inaccurate statements made toward the introduction of Rocky Mountain Elk being release in White Pine County in 1932. (Section 3.6-7, Paragraph 2). Historical Testimony reveals that Rocky Mountain Elk were in fact indigenous to the State of Nevada and their habitat included many areas within the Ely BLM's District.
- Captain J.H. Simpson, in 1859, observed Elk in the Snake Range. (Report of Explorations across the Great Basin of the Territory of Utah for a direct wagon route from Camp Floyd to Genoa, in Carson Valley in 1859).
- In 1849, Washington Irving stated that he encountered Rocky Mountain Elk in his travels from the Great Salt Lake Southwest to California. (Washington Irving, Bonneville's Edition 1849 P. 61)
- L2-2 [Based on these findings and other related historical comments, the statement should be changed to, "The Reintroduction Efforts for Rocky Mountain Elk"
- L2-3 [Therefore, Rocky Mountain Elk need to be recognized as an indigenous specials within this draft RMP/EIS. Habitat maintenance and restoration for Elk shall have the same priorities as the other indigenous big game species.
- L2-4 [Alternatives 2.5, 6.6
Parameter-Great Basin Big Game Habitat
(Mule Deer, Pronghorn and Elk)
Alternative B is our recommended alternative, with the following adjustments.
Section 2.5 – 61 paragraph 2.

Responses to Letter L2

- L2-1 In response to your comment, the text in Sections 3.6.2 and 4.6 of the Proposed RMP and Final EIS has been revised to acknowledge the indigenous nature and historic reintroduction of elk in eastern Nevada. The basic impact conclusions presented in the Draft RMP and EIS have not changed.
- L2-2 Please refer to response to comment L2-1 for a discussion of text changes related to elk reintroduction.
- L2-3 In response to your comment, corrections have been made in the Proposed RMP and Final EIS to recognize elk as a native species to the planning area throughout all alternatives. Text in Chapters 2 and 4 of the Proposed RMP and Final EIS has been revised to indicate that management of habitat for elk under the Proposed RMP and Alternatives B and C would conform to the county elk plans.
- L2-4 Please refer to Response to Comment L2-3.

Letter L2 Continued

L2-4 { Elk Habitat Management objectives would be developed to support elk, and as habitat improved and expanded, elk numbers would be allowed to increase to appropriate levels. The White Pine Elk Sub Plan shall be utilized as a guideline.

L2-5 { Improvements to the Habitat in White Pine County pay a great role towards economic growth. As available habitat increases, so will the population of numerous wildlife species. This renewable resource is not only beneficial to this community, but to the people who come to utilize it as a recreation experience.

Should you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me at (775) 289 – 4907.

Sincerely



William Miller, Chairman
White Pine County
Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife
955 Avenue D
Ely, Nevada 89301

Board Members:

Wade Robinson
Steve Marich
Shane Boren
Jared Bybee

Responses to Letter L2

L2-5 Please refer to Section 4.23 in the Draft RMP and EIS and Proposed RMP and Final EIS for a discussion of the linkage between the improvement of wildlife habitat and economic benefits in White Pine and Lincoln counties.

Letter L3

John A. Cyachas, Commissioner
Brent Eldridge, Commissioner
David Pound, Commissioner
Gary Perea, Commissioner
Raymond Urizaga, Commissioner
Donna M. Beth, Ex-Officio Clerk of the Board

Courthouse Annex
801 Clark Street, Suite #4
Ely, Nevada 89301
(775) 289-2341
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White Pine County Board of County Commissioners

November 23, 2005



Gene Drais, Project Manager
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Ely Field Office
HC 33, Box 33500
Ely, NV 89301

Dear Mr. Drais:

On behalf of the White Pine County Commission, I am pleased to submit the following comments concerning the draft EIS on the Ely District Resource Management Plan. The Commission reviewed the draft and approved the comments unanimously at our November 9, meeting. The County Commission agrees with the request from the Baker Advisory Board to allow a thirty day extension for comments on the Draft EIS. The time extension would enable the Commission to continue its review and work with the communities throughout the County to solicit further comments.

L3-1

1. Page 1.9.4 Consistency with other Programs, Plans, and Policies, lists the planning documents reviewed for the Draft RMP process. The list represents the County planning documents approved at the time the Resource Management Plan process was initiated. It is already out of date. It does not include the White Pine County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies completed from 2002 through 2005 or the 1999 White Pine County Water Resources Plan. In addition, the County recently completed and approved the White Pine County Open Space Plan (September, 2005), it is in the process of completing the Urban Interface Emergency Services planning effort, and the Water Advisory Committee is in the process of updating the 1999 White Pine County Water Resources Plan. The McGill Ruth General Improvement District is beginning a McGill/Ruth Wellhead Protection Plan. And, the County is working with State Lands Division to update the Public Land Use Policy, its Land Use Plan, and related planning documents. The Commission asks that the Final EIS include an updated review of the County's planning documents that have been completed and approved during the RMP process.

L3-2

Responses to Letter L3

L3-1

The required comment period on a Draft RMP and EIS is 90 days. BLM elected to set a 120-day comment period for the Ely Draft RMP and EIS and did not formally extend this period. Although the BLM did not elect to extend the official comment period for this document, comments received after the end of the comment period were considered as late as practicable within the overall document revision and publication process. Comments that were received after the close of the comment period have been accepted and considered in the preparation of the Proposed RMP and Final EIS.

L3-2

In response to your comment, recent planning reports were obtained from White Pine County and reviewed. The text in Section 1.9 of the Proposed RMP and Final EIS has been updated to include White Pine County plans that were completed through March 2007. Planning studies and reports that are completed by the County after this date will be reviewed by the Ely Field Office during the RMP evaluation process, which will consult with the County and strive to be consistent with the new plans.

Letter L3 Continued

John A. Chachas
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- L3-3 [Page 1.9.7. Consistency with Other Plans, Programs, and Policies: Page 1.9.7 makes the statement that the Draft Resource Management Plan is consistent with existing planning documents. The Draft does not identify any land for disposal in the Lund/Preston area or adjacent to Baker. The County's approved Land Use Plan shows land Preston identified for public land disposal for new schools, recreational facilities, and a golf course; an airport and industrial park; and a public safety complex. Baker identified land south and east of the community for future recreational fields and the need for an additional 5 acres for expansion of its cemetery. The Draft EIS does not include an explanation for the omission of the public land disposals identified in the County's Land Use Plan for Preston and Baker.
- L3-4 [The concern has been raised by the Nevada State Engineer that there are not adequate water resources available in the Lund/Preston area to allow increased irrigation. The Commission believes that residential and community development projects are a valuable addition to the communities of Lund and Preston and the land needed for these activities should be made available through public lands disposals independent of the concerns regarding available water resources for irrigation.
- L3-5 [a. The County Commission asks that the Final EIS include the lands for disposal identified by White Pine County communities through our Land Use Plan process. (Please see attached maps and legal descriptions).
- L3-6 [b. Where the Resource Management Plan is inconsistent with approved local planning documents, the Final EIS should include an explanation for the inconsistency.
- L3-7 [2. Adaptive Management Strategies: Page 1.7.1 discusses the concepts to be used for Adaptive Management which will be based on new information as it becomes available.
- L3-8 [a. The County Commission asks that the Final EIS specifically identify newly completed County planning documents and updated reports on the County's economic and social conditions as new information to be considered through its Adaptive Management strategies.
- L3-9 [b. The County Commission asks that the newly completed County planning documents and updated reports of social and economic conditions in White Pine County be incorporated into the plan as part of the Bureau of Land Management's on-going program of plan maintenance.
- L3-10 [3. Recreational Access: One of the critical issues discussed during the Open Space Plan process is the need to maintain access to recreational areas and trails as the urban interface area surrounding Ely and McGill develops.

Responses to Letter L3

- L3-3 In response to your comments, the land disposal legal descriptions and maps have been updated in coordination with the County.
- L3-4 In response to your comment, the text in Section 2.4.12.2 of the Proposed RMP and Final EIS has been revised to clarify the discussion of land disposal. Land disposal is no longer linked to water availability.
- L3-5 In response to your comments, the land disposal legal descriptions and maps have been updated in coordination with the County.
- L3-6 Please refer to Section 1.9.3.3 in the Draft RMP and EIS and Proposed RMP and Final EIS for a discussion of inconsistencies with County plans and policies. Inconsistencies were noted where the counties adopted policies that are in conflict with the laws, regulations, and BLM policies under which the Ely Field Office must manage the Public lands in the Ely planning area. The inconsistencies noted relate to wilderness (White Pine and Lincoln counties), wetlands (Lincoln County), and land acquisition (Lincoln County).
- L3-7 The Proposed RMP concentrates land disposals around the communities for economic development, and the Ely Field Office considers the disposal of the proposed acreage more than adequate to accommodate needs during the life of the Approved RMP.
- L3-8 Please refer to Response to Comment L3-2 for a discussion of new White Pine County planning documents. The Ely Field Office will continue to cooperate with the County throughout the life of the plan.
- L3-9 Please refer to Response to Comment L3-2 for a discussion of recently completed planning documents.
- L3-10 Please refer to Section 2.4.14 in the Proposed RMP and Final EIS for a discussion of access to recreational areas and trails.

Letter L3 Continued

John A. Chachas
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- L3-11 a. The Commission asks that the Final EIS include recommendations consistent with the recommendations of the 2005 White Pine County Open Space Plan. In particular, the Open Space Plan recommends maintaining recreational access in the Urban Interface Area and it recommends development of a special emphasis recreational area and access corridor for OHV use in the Urban Interface to reduce conflicts between residential property owners and OHV users.
- L3-12 b. The Commission asks that the Final EIS include a standard operating procedure for land disposals to require reservations of land for recreational access easements where the need is identified.
4. Public Land Disposals in White Pine County:
- L3-13 a. The White Pine County Commission asks that Final EIS specify that the County Commission will be included as a Cooperating Entity on all Environmental Assessment and EIS processes for public land disposals in White Pine County to allow the Commission to identify services needed to support proposed development, participate in the mitigation strategies, and provide a public forum for discussion of the suggested development and timing for release of public lands.
- L3-14 b. The White Pine County Regional Landfill is projected to have a thirty year life if the County's population and use patterns remain at the current level and if the landfill does not experience conditions that cause violations of the existing permit. The White Pine County Commission believes that the Resource Management Plan needs to include the potential for an alternative landfill site if the County's population grows or if the current landfill cannot maintain compliance with its permit requirements. The County Commission asks that the Final EIS address the need to work with the community to identify suitable landfill sites including the Copper Flat site (see attached) to be included in the inventory of lands identified for disposal.
- L3-15 c. The White Pine County Commission does not support the recommendation to designate a utility corridor through Spring Valley from the White Pine/Lincoln County border to the White Pine/Elko County border as identified in Alternatives B, C, and E. The White Pine County Commission believes that the identification of a utility corridor is premature and asks that the Final EIS omit designation of the utility corridor in Spring Valley. The Utility Corridor should be designated only if the Record of Decision for the Ground Water Development Project EIS indicates that there is a need for the corridor.
- L3-16 5. Alternatives: The White Pine County Commission supports Alternative C as its preferred alternative. Alternative C represents the most flexibility for development of current and potential economic development projects to benefit the County and its residents.

Responses to Letter L3

- L3-11 In response to this and similar comments, the text in Section 2.4.14.1 of the Proposed RMP and Final EIS has been revised to clarify how comprehensive travel management planning will occur in the Ely RMP planning area.
- L3-12 Please refer to management action LR-15 in Section 2.4.12.2 in the Proposed RMP and Final EIS for a discussion of recreational access. BLM is currently working on policy for easements.
- L3-13 The Ely Field Office will continue to cooperate with White Pine County as management actions are implemented. This will include the disposal of public lands where County services may be required.
- L3-14 In response to your comments, the land disposal legal descriptions and maps have been updated in coordination with the County. Recreation and public purpose leases and disposals would be allowed outside of designated disposal areas.
- L3-15 In response to your comment, the Proposed RMP no longer designates a corridor in the northern end of Spring Valley. The Spring Valley corridor would begin near the Atlanta mine, where the Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act corridor ends, and would trend in a northerly direction along the west side of Spring Valley, ending at the Southwest Intertie Project corridor (see Map 2.4.12-5).
- L3-16 Comment noted.

Letter L3 Continued

John A. Chachas
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Page 4

- L3-17 a. The County Commission strongly supports the Lands and Realty proposals for Alternative C (as amended to include the lands identified by White Pine County communities and the potential need for an alternate landfill site) rather than Alternatives B and E. The Commission asks that the Final EIS support the recommendation for public land disposals in Alternative C regardless of which alternative is selected as the preferred alternative overall.
- L3-18 6. Visual Resource Management: The Draft Resource Management Plan, Alternatives B, C, and E, identify Visual Resource Management categories for all of the land in the District. In the past only specific areas of the County have been identified with Visual Resource Management classifications. The proposed classification system includes Class II and Class III areas near proposed economic development projects including the White Pine Energy Station, transmission lines, and wind energy projects. The County Commission opposes use of the proposed Visual Resource Management classification system if it will negatively impact energy development projects and the infrastructure required to support them. At the White Pine County Commission meeting on November 9, the Resource Management Plan Project Manager explained the process for determining Visual Resource impacts and identifying possible mitigation strategies. The County Commission asks that the Final EIS specifically address the process and limited impact of the proposed Visual Resource Management Classifications as explained in the November 9 Commission meeting (see attached minutes)
- L3-19
- L3-20 7. Special Designations: Special designations including Areas of Critical Environmental Concern and Recreation Special Use Designations are identified in Alternatives B, C, and E. The County Commission is concerned that the proposed Goshute Canyon ACEC and the proposed special recreation use area in the Egan Range could negatively impact economic development projects in progress or that may be proposed. The County Commission asks that the Final EIS specifies that special designations identified through the Resource Management Plan will not negatively impact economic development projects in progress, especially energy development projects and the infrastructure required to support them.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the Draft EIS for the Ely District Resource Management Plan. We look forward to working with you through the adoption and implementation of the Ely District Resource Management Plan.

Sincerely,



John A. Chachas,
Chairman

cc: Senator Harry Reid
Senator John Ensign
Congressman Jim Gibbons

Responses to Letter L3

- L3-17 The Proposed RMP concentrates land disposals around the communities for economic development, and the Ely Field Office has determined that the disposal of the proposed acreage will more than accommodate needs during the life of the plan.
- L3-18 Visual Resource Management classes are established during the RMP planning process based on the existing visual resources within the planning area and the management considerations for other land uses.
- L3-19 Please refer to section 2.5.11 in the proposed RMP and Final EIS for a discussion of visual resource management policy. The VRM classifications shown on Map 2.4.11-1 have been incorporated into the Proposed RMP and will be used during the life of the plan to manage visual resources. VRM management class objectives would be considered when evaluating BLM projects or private party proposals. Mitigation for potential visual resource impacts would be evaluated on a project-specific basis. VRM class objectives do not prohibit other multiple uses.
- L3-20 As part of the White Pine County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act of 2006, the Goshute Canyon proposed ACEC has been included in designated wilderness. In response to this and similar comments, the text in Section 2.4.15.1 of the Proposed RMP and Final EIS has been revised regarding special recreation management areas. The Telegraph special recreation management area proposal is not being carried forward. The Ely Field Office is not aware of any ACEC or SRMA designations that would negatively impact economic development projects, but it can not specify that no such effects would occur during the life of the plan.

Letter L4

Responses to Letter L4



BOARD of LINCOLN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

P.O. Box 90 Pioche, Nevada 89043

Telephone (775)962-5390 FAX (775) 962-5180



29 November 2005

Mr. Gene Draais, Project Manager
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Ely Field Office
HC 33 Box 33500
Ely, Nevada 89301

Dear Mr. Draais:

Thank you for giving Lincoln County the opportunity to participate in the drafting of and being able to reply to the Draft of the Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement for the Ely District.

It is important for our county to have input into this plan as every decision made will affect Lincoln County for years to come.

We will address the area of the Plan 2.4-1

Vegetation: Goal: where possible, manage vegetation resources to achieve or maintain resistant and resilient ecological conditions while providing for sustainable multiple uses and options for the future across the landscape.

Pinyon-Juniper Woodland

Lincoln County supports alternative C. We support the concept of commodity production. We believe that the communities can be managed in a way that could provide more projects for commercial use. Our pinyon population within Lincoln County in some areas has taken over and become so dense that little or nothing else will grow. It has also been hit hard with drought and beetle infestation. We need to actively treat a higher population to keep down the over growth and to keep the rest of the population healthy.

L4-1

Aspen

Lincoln County supports alternative C.

L4-2

High Elevation Conifer Species (White fir, Ponderosa Pine, Limber Pine, Bristlecone Pine, Engelmann Spruce, etc.)

L4-1

Thank you for expressing your position on the alternatives analyzed in the Draft RMP and EIS. The response to this and the following comments will indicate which alternative from the Draft RMP has been incorporated in the Proposed RMP. The management actions in Alternative E have been incorporated into the Proposed RMP presented in this document.

L4-2

The management actions in Alternative E have been incorporated into the Proposed RMP presented in this document.

Letter L4 Continued

Responses to Letter L4

- L4-3 [**Salt Desert Shrub**
Lincoln County Supports alternative B.
- L4-4 [**Sagebrush**
Lincoln County Supports alternative B. This would help in restoring and maintaining healthy community and satisfy wildlife habitat requirements.
- L4-5 [**Mountain Mahogany**
Lincoln County Supports alternative B.
- L4-6 [**Mojave Desert Vegetation**
Lincoln County Supports alternative C. We would hope that you NOT consider eliminating all livestock grazing within desert tortoise habitat. As you have seen, when there is an exceptional growing year, no grazing at all could and does raise the fire hazard significantly.
- L4-7 [**Riparian/Wetlands**
Lincoln County Supports alternative C.
- L4-8 [**Nonnative Seedlings**
Lincoln County supports alternative C.
- Fish and Wildlife**
Goal: In cooperation with the Nevada Department of Wildlife, manage suitable aquatic habitats to sustain nonnative fisheries and minimize conflicts between nonnative and native fish species.
- L4-9 [**Aquatic Habitat and Fisheries**
Lincoln County supports alternative C.
- Terrestrial Wildlife**
Goal: In cooperation with Nevada Department of Wildlife, provide habitat for wildlife (i.e., forage, water, cover, and space) that is of sufficient quality and quantity to support productive and diverse wildlife populations, in a manner consistent with the principles of multiple-use management, to enhance biological diversity, and to sustain the ecological, economic, and social values necessary for all species.
- L4-10 [**Wildlife Habitat Management**
Lincoln County supports alternative D. We would request that multiple-use on all water developments be considered. We support that no existing water developments would be removed and that, where necessary, new water developments be created.
- L4-11 [**Migratory Bird Habitat**
Lincoln County supports alternative E.

- L4-3 The management actions in Alternative B have been incorporated into the Proposed RMP presented in this document.
- L4-4 The management actions in Alternative B have been incorporated into the Proposed RMP presented in this document.
- L4-5 The management actions in Alternative B have been incorporated into the Proposed RMP presented in this document.
- L4-6 Management actions in the Proposed RMP include the allotments in desert tortoise habitat outside ACECs as lands available for livestock grazing.
- L4-7 The management actions in Alternative E have been incorporated into the Proposed RMP presented in this document.
- L4-8 The management actions in Alternative E have been incorporated into the Proposed RMP presented in this document.
- L4-9 The management actions in Alternative E have been incorporated into the Proposed RMP presented in this document.
- L4-10 This comment appears to be internally inconsistent since it voices support for Alternative D which would, in fact, remove most of the water developments supported by other portions of the comment. The management actions in Alternative E have been incorporated into the Proposed RMP presented in this document.
- L4-11 The management actions in Alternative E have been incorporated into the Proposed RMP presented in this document.

Letter L4 Continued

- L4-12 [**Nonnative Upland Game Bird Habitat**
Lincoln County supports alternative E
- L4-13 [**Great Basin Big Game Habitat (Mule Deer, Pronghorn, and Elk)**
Lincoln County would support alternative E. We request that the wildlife be managed in balance with game and non-game species. The needs of both wildlife and non-wildlife needs to be factored in.
- L4-14 [**Great Basin (Sagebrush, Salt Desert Shrub, Woodlands, conifer Forests. And Riparian Habitat Types) (Rocky Mountain Big Horn Sheep)**
Lincoln County supports alternative E.
- Special Status Species**
Goal: Manage public land to maintain, restore, improve, or enhance populations and habitats which lead to the recovery of federally listed species and preclude the need for listings of proposed, candidate, state-protected, or sensitive species.
- L4-15 [**General Special Status Species**
Lincoln County supports alternative E.
- L4-16 [**Bats**
Lincoln County supports alternative C.
- L4-17 [**Great Basin Riparian Habitats**
Lincoln County supports alternative C.
- L4-18 [**Mojave Desert and Great Basin Riparian Habitats**
Lincoln County supports alternative C. We would request that the ACEC be managed to support multiple-use. When we have very productive forage years and you restrict livestock grazing altogether, then you compound the problems in the area through fire hazards.
- L4-19 [**Mojave Desert Mountain and Desert Scrub Habitats**
Lincoln County supports alternative E.
- L4-20 [**Mojave Desert Mountain and Desert Scrub Habitats**
Lincoln County supports alternative E.
- L4-21 [**Mojave Desert and Great Basin Desert Scrub and Salt Desert Shrub Habitats**
Lincoln County supports alternative A.
- L4-22 [**Great Basin (Sagebrush Obligates Habitat)**
Lincoln County supports alternative C. Lincoln County has worked a long time on its Sage-grouse plan and is willing to do what is necessary to preserve this species.

Responses to Letter L4

- L4-12 The management actions in Alternative E have been incorporated into the Proposed RMP presented in this document.
- L4-13 The management actions in Alternative E have been incorporated into the Proposed RMP presented in this document. This will provide for balanced management of both game and non-game species.
- L4-14 The management actions in Alternative E have been incorporated into the Proposed RMP presented in this document.
- L4-15 The management actions in Alternative E have been incorporated into the Proposed RMP presented in this document.
- L4-16 The management actions in Alternative E have been incorporated into the Proposed RMP presented in this document.
- L4-17 The management actions in Alternative E have been incorporated into the Proposed RMP presented in this document.
- L4-18 Areas of Critical Environmental Concern are designated where special management is required to protect and prevent irreparable damage to: important historic, cultural, and scenic values; fish or wildlife resources; or other natural systems or processes.
- L4-19 The management actions in Alternative E have been incorporated into the Proposed RMP presented in this document.
- L4-20 The management actions in Alternative E have been incorporated into the Proposed RMP presented in this document.
- L4-21 The management actions in Alternative E have been incorporated into the Proposed RMP presented in this document.
- L4-22 The management actions in Alternative E have been incorporated into the Proposed RMP presented in this document. The Ely Field Office will continue to coordinate with Lincoln County on sage-grouse issues.

Letter L4 Continued

Responses to Letter L4

- L4-23 [**Great Basin Desert Shrub Habitat**
Lincoln County supports alternative A.
- Wild Horses**
Goal: Maintain and manage healthy and genetically viable wild horses inside herd management areas within appropriate management levels to ensure a thriving natural ecological balance while preserving a multiple use relationship with other uses and resources.
- L4-24 [**Herd Management Area Establishment**
Population management
Genetic Health/Viability
Lincoln County supports alternative B. on the above three parameters.
- Cultural Resources**
Goal: Identify, protect, and classify at-risk archaeological resources, significant historic properties, and cultural landscapes.
- L4-25 [**Cultural Resource Use Allocation-Historic roads, trails, railways, highways, and associated sidings and stations.**
Lincoln County supports Alternative E.
- L4-26 [**Cultural Resource Use Allocation-Rock Art sites**
Lincoln County supports Alternative E.
- L4-27 [**Cultural Resource Use Allocation-Historic Town sites, Historic Mining Camps, Historic Mining Districts, and related Historic Buildings & Historic Standing Structures, and Historic Racetracks.**
Lincoln County supports alternative E.
- L4-28 [**Cultural Resource Use Allocation-Historic Cemeteries and isolated Historic Gravesites.**
Lincoln County supports Alternative E.
- L4-29 [**Cultural Resource Use Allocation-Ethnic Arboreal Narratives and Graphics and Bow Stave Trees.**
Lincoln County supports Alternative B.
- L4-30 [**Cultural Resource Use Allocation-Paleo-Indian Sites.**
Lincoln County supports Alternative B.
- L4-31 [**Cultural Resource Use Allocation-Formative Puebloan Sites.**
Lincoln County supports alternative C with the changes: Take out "Allocate no more than one site per watershed to Public Use."

- L4-23 The management actions in Alternative E have been incorporated into the Proposed RMP presented in this document.
- L4-24 The management actions in Alternative B have been incorporated into the Proposed RMP presented in this document.
- L4-25 The management actions in Alternative E have been incorporated into the Proposed RMP presented in this document.
- L4-26 The management actions in Alternative E have been incorporated into the Proposed RMP presented in this document.
- L4-27 The management actions in Alternative E have been incorporated into the Proposed RMP presented in this document.
- L4-28 The management actions in Alternative E have been incorporated into the Proposed RMP presented in this document.
- L4-29 The management actions in Alternative B have been incorporated into the Proposed RMP presented in this document.
- L4-30 The management actions in Alternative B have been incorporated into the Proposed RMP presented in this document.
- L4-31 In response to your comment, the text in Section 2.4.9.8 of the Proposed RMP and Final EIS has been revised to clarify the discussion of formative Puebloan sites.

Letter L4 Continued

Responses to Letter L4

- L4-32 [**Cultural Resource Use allocation-Rock shelter and Cave Sites.**
Lincoln County supports alternative C .
- L4-33 [**Cultural Resource Use Allocation-Prehistoric Complex Sites, Campsites, or Specialized Activity Areas.**
Lincoln County supports alternative C.
- L4-34 [**Cultural Resource Use Allocation-Tool stone Sources or Quarries.**
Lincoln County supports alternative C.
- L4-35 [**Cultural Resource Use Allocation-Historic Ranching and Livestock related Historic Sites, Buildings, Standing Structures, and Landscapes.**
Cultural Resource Use Allocation-Ethnohistoric Sites.
Cultural Resource Use Allocation-“Other” sites.
Lincoln County supports alternative B. on the above three parameters.
- Paleontological Resources**
Goal: Identify and manage at-risk paleontological resources; preserve and protect vertebrate fossils through best science methods; and promote public and scientific use of invertebrate and paleobotanical fossils.
- L4-36 [**Trilobite Collecting.**
Lincoln County supports a no-fee based registration system.
- Visual Resources**
Goal: Manage public land actions and activities consistent with District visual resource management class objectives.
- L4-37 [**Visual Resource Management**
Lincoln County supports alternative C.
- Lands and Realty**
Goal: Manage public lands in a manner that allows the retention of public land with high resource values and consolidates public land patterns to ensure effective administrations and improve resource management. Make available for disposal public lands that promote commodity development. Meet public needs for use authorizations such as right-of-way, permits, leases, and easements while avoiding or minimizing adverse impacts to other resource values. Utilize withdrawal actions with the least restrictive measures and minimum size necessary to accomplish the desired purpose.
- L4-38 [**Retention of Public Lands**
Lincoln County supports alternative B.

- L4-32 The management actions in Alternative E have been incorporated into the Proposed RMP presented in this document.
- L4-33 The management actions in Alternative E have been incorporated into the Proposed RMP presented in this document.
- L4-34 The management actions in Alternative E have been incorporated into the Proposed RMP presented in this document.
- L4-35 The management actions in Alternative B have been incorporated into the Proposed RMP presented in this document.
- L4-36 The management actions in Alternative E have been incorporated into the Proposed RMP presented in this document.
- L4-37 The management actions in Alternative E have been incorporated into the Proposed RMP presented in this document.
- L4-38 The management actions in Alternative B have been incorporated into the Proposed RMP presented in this document.

Letter L4 Continued

Disposal of Public Lands

L4-39 Lincoln County generally supports some of alternative C and E. Lincoln County sent in new disposal request maps depicting where we see the areas that would best help

L4-40 development in our county. This addressed the 90,000 acres that is in the Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act. We would hope that the latest map given to BLM quite awhile ago would be taken into consideration. In alternative C, it shows Lincoln County with 200,243 acres up for disposal. Our new map depicts acreage in line with the 90,000 acres. We would like to keep Lincoln County within the range

L4-41 of the 90,000 acres that the Act allowed us. We also realize that there are still requests on your books from ranchers for DLE's. The county supports those requests.

L4-42 In alternative B, BLM identifies only 65,156 acres. That is 25,844 acres less than what the Act allows. Why such a large disallowance? You have never come to the county to say which lands asked for would be disallowed. We feel that there can be some middle ground reached. With our modified request into the BLM, and these existing requests for DLE's, we feel that 65,156 acres is not an acceptable balance. We do not support the lesser acreage.

L4-43 Also, the portion showing the open space conveyance to Lincoln County is inaccurate. Through the Lincoln County Conservation, Recreations, and Development Act, it was identified that Lincoln County could receive up to 15,000 acres for parks and natural areas. Lincoln County will have requests for parks from all different parts of the county and not just the one identified.

Acquisitions

L4-44 Lincoln County supports alternative A.

Withdrawal of Public Land

L4-45 Lincoln County supports alternative C with the exception of differences in acres mentioned above on the Lincoln County side for the mineral entry.

Corridor Designations

L4-46 Lincoln County supports a designation of a ½ mile instead of 0.5. We feel that 3 miles is excessive. However, with the same explanation as above, we support the newer acreage request and feel that there needs to be acreages closer to our requested amount.

It also needs to be noted that Lincoln County created a Resolution in opposition to the Wind Generation proposal for Table Mountain and Mt. Wilson. If the new corridor proposed is to support this proposal, then we are in opposition to land withdrawal for that corridor also.

Communication Sites

L4-47 Lincoln County supports alternative C.

Land Use Authorizations (Rights-of-way, Permits, Leases, and Easements)

L4-48 Lincoln County supports alternative C.

Responses to Letter L4

L4-39 The management actions in Alternative E have been incorporated into the Proposed RMP presented in this document.

L4-40 In response to your comment, the land disposal maps and legal descriptions have been changed in coordination the Lincoln County Commissioners. See Map 2.4.12-1 through 2.4.12-4.

L4-41 In response to your comment, the land disposal maps and legal descriptions have been changed in coordination the Lincoln County Commissioners. See Maps 2.4.12-1 through 2.4.12-4 and Appendix I. Desert Land Entry (DLEs) are addressed in the criteria for disposal in the Proposed RMP presented in this document.

L4-42 A range of alternatives was presented and analyzed in the Draft RMP and EIS and Proposed RMP and Final EIS. Each alternative had a different management emphasis, based on comments received during scoping and the needs/desires of various public land users. While not all management direction would be acceptable to all users, the alternatives do contain a range of approaches for analysis purposes.

L4-43 Please refer to Section 2.4.12.2 in the Proposed RMP and EIS for a discussion of conveyance of lands for parks.

L4-44 The management actions in Alternative A have been incorporated into the Proposed RMP presented in this document.

L4-45 The management actions in Alternative E have been incorporated into the Proposed RMP presented in this document.

L4-46 BLM's proposed corridor designations would be 0.5 or 1/2 mile wide as opposed to the 3-mile width considered in Alternative C. Proposed corridors are not intended to support any specific wind energy project.

L4-47 The management actions in Alternative E have been incorporated into the Proposed RMP presented in this document.

L4-48 The management actions in Alternative E have been incorporated into the Proposed RMP presented in this document.

Letter L4 Continued

Renewable Energy

Goal: Provide opportunities for development of renewable energy sources such as wind, solar, biomass, and other alternative energy sources while minimizing adverse impacts to other resources such as wildlife and visual resources.

Wind and Solar Energy

L4-49

Lincoln County would support wind and or solar energy in our County. However, even though your map 2.4-25 does not show wind energy into to Lincoln County, we know that Mt. Wilson and Table Mountain are under consideration. Lincoln County has adopted a Resolution in opposition to those two sites. BLM has copies of those Resolutions. There are other sites that could be looked at within our county without tearing up those two mountain tops.

L4-50

Lincoln County has never been contacted as far as solar projects.

Travel Management and Off-Highway Vehicle Use

Goal: Provide and maintain suitable access to public lands. Manage off-highway vehicle use to protect resource values, promote public safety, provide off-highway vehicle opportunities where appropriate, and minimize conflict.

L4-51

Transportation Plan

Lincoln County supports alternative C.

L4-52

Off-highway Vehicles

Lincoln County supports alternative C. We do not support restriction of all cross country off-vehicle travel. If you restrict 100% of all cross country off-highway vehicle use, limiting off-highway vehicles to only designated roads then how do you plan to enforce these restrictions? What is BLM's designation as a designated road? Also, since Lincoln County Road Department maintains a good percent of all BLM roads in Lincoln County, who do you expect to maintain these designated roads that will be getting a tremendous amount of usage?

L4-53

Recreation

Goal: Provide quality settings for developed and undeveloped recreations experiences and opportunities while protecting resources.

L4-54

Special Recreation Management Areas.

Lincoln County supports alternative C. As Lincoln County is now and will continue to be the recreation destination of Clark County and surrounding areas, we would encourage alternative C. As the population of Lincoln County grows, we will need more recreation opportunities. If we can offer diversified recreation opportunities in different areas, then maybe there won't be such over use in concentrated areas.

L4-55

Special Recreation Permits

Lincoln County supports alternative C. However if you choose to take the guides through a competitive bid process, here are our thoughts. If there is a competitive bid,

Responses to Letter L4

L4-49

Please refer to Section 2.4.13 in the Draft RMP and EIS and Proposed RMP and Final EIS for a discussion of wind and solar energy development. Potential development areas for these forms of renewable energy have not been designated in the Proposed RMP, and the text and map titles in the Proposed RMP and Final EIS have been changed to clarify this. Applications received for wind or solar energy development would be subject to NEPA analysis in coordination with local, state, and other federal agencies. Impacts to visual resources and recreation would be analyzed. Please also refer to Appendix F, Section 3, in the Proposed RMP and Final EIS for the BLM Wind Energy Development Program Policies and Best Management Practices published in conjunction with the Record of Decision for BLM's Final Wind Energy Development Programmatic EIS.

L4-50

Please refer to Response to Comment L4-49.

L4-51

The management actions in Alternative E have been incorporated into the Proposed RMP presented in this document.

L4-52

The management actions in Alternative E have been incorporated into the Proposed RMP presented in this document. Your comment has been noted.

L4-53

In response to this and similar comments, the text in Section 2.4.14.1 of the Proposed RMP and Final EIS has been revised to clarify criteria that may be used when designating routes in a project-specific transportation plan. The public will be invited to participate in the transportation planning process.

L4-54

Please refer to Section 2.4.15.1 in the Proposed RMP and Final EIS for a discussion of recreation management on BLM-managed public land in Lincoln County.

L4-55

In response to this and similar comments, the management action in Section 2.4.15.2 of the Proposed RMP and Final EIS regarding outfitter and guide permits has been revised.

Letter L4 Continued

Responses to Letter L4

L4-55 [only the outfitters with the largest bank accounts will ever secure a permit. That would effectively take out all of the local guides. This is not a fair way. We would recommend that if you elect to go out to restricting permits, then you do it on a draw basis... not monetary.. Draw for ten permits, using the idea that the draw would come from those parties who have had a permit for the past 3 years. The guides that have hunted in the areas for the past three years and who receive a permit through a draw, would hold that permit for a period of five years. If someone drops out, that permit could be replaced and would continue for the remainder of the five year period of time. After five years, the permits could be re-drawn for another five years.

Livestock Grazing

Goal: Manage the public lands to provide for a level of livestock grazing consistent with multiple use, sustained yield, and watershed function and health.

L4-56 [**Lands Available for Livestock Grazing**
Lincoln County supports alternative E.

L4-57 [**Permit Administration**
Lincoln County supports alternative C.

L4-58 [**Kind of Livestock.**
Lincoln County supports alternative A

L4-59 [**Livestock Management in Bighorn Sheep Ranges**
Lincoln County supports alternative A.

L4-60 [**Non-use Relinquished Permits**
Lincoln County supports alternative C.

L4-61 [**Temporary Nonrenewable**
Lincoln County supports alternative A.

L4-62 [**Water Hauling**
Lincoln County supports alternative A.

Management Common to All Alternatives

L4-63 [**Fuel wood Collection**
Lincoln County supports alternative E.

L4-64 [**Pinyon Pine Nut Harvesting**
Christmas Tree Harvesting
Post and Pole Harvesting
Lincoln County supports alternative A on all three of the above.

L4-56 The management actions in Alternative E have been incorporated into the Proposed RMP presented in this document.

L4-57 The management actions in Alternative E have been incorporated into the Proposed RMP presented in this document.

L4-58 The management actions in Alternative E have been incorporated into the Proposed RMP presented in this document.

L4-59 The management actions in Alternative E have been incorporated into the Proposed RMP presented in this document.

L4-60 The management actions in Alternative C have been incorporated into the Proposed RMP presented in this document.

L4-61 The management actions in Alternative A have been incorporated into the Proposed RMP presented in this document.

L4-62 The management actions in Alternative E have been incorporated into the Proposed RMP presented in this document.

L4-63 The management actions in Alternative E have been incorporated into the Proposed RMP presented in this document.

L4-64 The management actions in Alternative E have been incorporated into the Proposed RMP presented in this document.

Letter L4 Continued

Responses to Letter L4

- L4-65 [**Seed Collection**
Lincoln County supports alternative B and C
- L4-66 [**Cactus and Yucca Collection**
Lincoln County supports alternative E
- Geology and Mineral Extraction**
Goal: Allow for meeting the Nation's energy needs while providing environmentally responsible productions of fluid leasable minerals, and geophysical exploration for energy resources on Public Lands. Allow development of solid leasable and locatable minerals in a manner to prevent undue and unnecessary degradation, meet public demand, and minimize adverse impacts to other resource values.
- L4-67 [**Fluid Leasable Minerals**
Lincoln County supports alternative C, with the notation that the 200,243 acres is more than is being asked for by Lincoln County. Our request is that we have the opportunity to have up to 90,000 acres for disposal within our County which is in accordance with the legislative action taken in 2004.
- L4-68 [**Solid Leasable Minerals**
Lincoln County supports alternative C. Same notation as above.
- L4-69 [**Locatable Minerals**
Lincoln County supports alternative C. Same notation as above.
- L4-70 [**Saleable Minerals**
Lincoln County supports alternative C. Same notation as above.
- Watershed Management (2.5.19)**
Goal: Manage watersheds to restore and maintain resistance and resiliency to disturbances.
- L4-71 [Allocation of additional Forage as a Result of Restoration Actions
Lincoln County supports alternative E.
- Fire Management (2.5.20)**
Goal: Provide and appropriate management response to all wildland fires, with emphasis on firefighter and public safety, consistent with overall management objectives.
- L4-72 [**Fire Management**
Lincoln County supports alternative E. Within this district we have

- L4-65 The management actions in Alternative E have been incorporated into the Proposed RMP presented in this document.
- L4-66 The management actions in Alternative E have been incorporated into the Proposed RMP presented in this document.
- L4-67 Thank you for expressing your support for Alternative C for fluid leasable minerals, solid leasable minerals, locatable minerals, and saleable minerals. The Proposed RMP for minerals (Section 2.4.18) has been revised to allow mineral activities in some areas proposed for closure or withdrawal in the Draft RMP and EIS. Where necessary, additional restrictions have been developed to ensure protection of the environmental features of concern. Thus, the difference between Alternative C and the Proposed RMP has been reduced. The acreage identified for disposal in Lincoln County has been reduced from the Draft RMP and EIS through consultation with the Lincoln County Commission. The Proposed RMP concentrates land disposals around the communities for economic development, and the Ely Field Office has determined that the disposal of the proposed acreage will more than accommodate needs during the life of the plan.
- L4-68 Please refer to Response to Comment L4-67.
- L4-69 Please refer to Response to Comment L4-67.
- L4-70 Please refer to Response to Comment L4-67.
- L4-71 The management actions in Alternative E have been incorporated into the Proposed RMP presented in this document.
- L4-72 The management actions in Alternative E have been incorporated into the Proposed RMP presented in this document.

Letter L4 Continued

Monitoring of Noxious and Invasive Weeds (2.5.21.2)

Goal: Evaluate areas of interest for special designation and appropriately manage those areas that meet necessary requirements.

- L4-73 **Areas of Critical Environmental Concern**
Lincoln County supports alternative E.
- L4-74 **Condor Canyon**
Lincoln County supports alternative B.
- L4-75 **Lower Meadow Valley Wash**
Lincoln County supports alternative C. We want to ensure that the existing roads be maintained through this area. We recommend that all existing roads and trails be left open, and that you clarify your statement that “off-highway vehicles are closed. If there are roads being left open, are you stating that there will be no allowances for a 4-wheeler or a jeep to travel on these roads? This should be re-stated.
- L4-76 We would also like to ensure that if there is a right of way needed through this area, it is still possible. As our Lincoln County is growing, the need for existing roads and the possibility of needed rights of way are in the future. We also do not want to close this entire area to the possibility of grazing, so we strongly request that you keep those options open.
- L4-77 **Mount Irish**
Lincoln County supports alternative A.
- L4-78 **Pahroc Rock Art**
Lincoln County supports alternative B.
- L4-79 **Shooting Gallery**
Lincoln County supports alternative B. We would like to make sure that the grazing option is kept open.
- L4-80 **Shoshone Ponds**
Lincoln County supports alternative B. We would like to make sure that the grazing option is kept open.
- L4-81 **Back Country Byways**
Lincoln County supports alternative C. We would like to continue with our existing byway; we support the Silver State Trail and have done a lot of work on that trail, and we support bring on the Rainbow Canyon Byway.
- L4-82 **Wilderness Study Areas**
While Lincoln County went through the process of our Lincoln County Bill, we had a lot of meetings with a lot of input on the wilderness study areas. We worked hard to have the areas opened back up to multiple uses. We support Alternative C.

Responses to Letter L4

- L4-73 The management actions in Alternative E have been incorporated into the Proposed RMP presented in this document.
- L4-74 The management actions in Alternative E have been incorporated into the Proposed RMP presented in this document.
- L4-75 In response to this and similar comments, the text in Section 2.4.14.1 of the Proposed RMP and Final EIS has been revised to clarify how comprehensive travel management planning will occur in the Ely RMP planning area. As discussed in Section 2.4.22.1 of the Draft RMP and EIS and Proposed RMP and Final EIS, off-highway vehicle use would be limited in the Lower Meadow Valley Wash ACEC. This would not include secondary county and BLM roads. Minor roads and trails could be closed. These closures would be developed during preparation of the management plan for the ACEC, which is an implementation-level activity. BLM anticipates that Lincoln County would want to be involved in the preparation of this management plan.
- L4-76 This ACEC would be an avoidance area for rights-of-way; however, proposals will be considered by the Ely Field Office when project-specific plans for rights-of-way are submitted by the County and evaluated by the Field Office. Livestock grazing would be controlled through terms and conditions on the grazing permit.
- L4-77 The management actions in Alternative E have been incorporated into the Proposed RMP presented in this document.
- L4-78 The management actions in Alternative E have been incorporated into the Proposed RMP presented in this document.
- L4-79 The management actions in Alternative E have been incorporated into the Proposed RMP presented in this document. As noted in the Draft RMP and EIS, livestock grazing in this proposed ACEC would continue under this alternative with some limitations.
- L4-80 The management actions in Alternative E have been incorporated into the Proposed RMP presented in this document. As noted in the Draft RMP and EIS, livestock grazing in this proposed ACEC would continue under this alternative with some limitations.
- L4-81 Please refer to Section 2.4.22.2 in the Proposed RMP and Final EIS for a discussion of both the Silver State Trail and Rainbow Canyon for designation as Backcountry Byways.
- L4-82 In response to your comment, the text in Section 2.4.22 of the Proposed RMP and Final EIS has been revised to remove discussion on management of lands with wilderness characteristics outside of designated wilderness.

Letter L4 Continued

Responses to Letter L4

L4-82 Lincoln County feels that there has been a tremendous amount of wilderness designated in our County, with the potential of even more through the White Pine bill. In alternative B, although it stipulates that other multiple uses would be emphasized, it also states that management restrictions would be applied to reduce impacts to **some** or **all** of the wilderness characteristics **outside of designated wilderness or Wilderness Study Areas**. This statement is so broad and the areas undefined that it comes close to re-doing the wilderness boundaries. The way this reads is: BLM will, under its selection, put as many restrictions as it wants to and enlarge any of the areas around wilderness and study areas as it elects to. Lincoln County disagrees with this. There are no limitations on boundaries or restrictions.

Table 4.1-1

Climate Air Quality

Goal: Meet all applicable local, state, Tribal, and National Ambient Air Quality Standards under the Clean Air Act (as amended), and prevent significant deterioration of air quality within the Ely District from all direct and authorized actions.

L4-83 Lincoln County supports alternative E.

Water Resources

Goal: Restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the waters in the Ely District to maintain healthy ecological systems while sustaining multiple uses.

L4-84 Lincoln County supports alternative E.

Soil Resources

Goal: Maintain or improve long-term soil quality.

L4-85 Lincoln County supports alternative C. However, under Fire Management, we don't feel that all wildland fires should be suppressed. Although we support the use of more woodland products, we also understand that with full suppression comes the possibility of high-intensity fires. This possibility does not support our ideas for woodland products.
L4-86 We would support the Fire Management under alternative B.

Vegetation

Goal: Where possible, manage vegetation resources to achieve or maintain resilient ecological conditions while providing for sustainable multiple uses and options for the future across the landscape.

L4-83 The management actions in Alternative E have been incorporated into the Proposed RMP presented in this document.

L4-84 The management actions in Alternative E have been incorporated into the Proposed RMP presented in this document.

L4-85 The management actions in Alternative E have been incorporated into the Proposed RMP presented in this document.

L4-86 The management actions in Alternative E have been incorporated into the Proposed RMP presented in this document. Under this alternative, full suppression will not be applied to all wildfires in Lincoln County.

Letter L4 Continued

Responses to Letter L4

L4-87 Lincoln County supports alternative E.

Fish and Wildlife (4.6)

Interactions with Other Programs

Goal: In cooperation with the Nevada Department of Wildlife, manage suitable aquatic habitats to sustain nonnative fisheries and minimize conflicts between nonnative and native fish species. (Bonneville cutthroat trout are discussed under Special Status Species.) Native nongame fisheries are discussed in the Special Status Species section.

L4-88 Lincoln County supports alternative C, however, we would prefer that fires and prescribed burning would continue to be used in combination with other resource programs to actively reduce fuels. We do not agree with full suppression of wildfires.

Goal: In cooperation with Nevada Department of Wildlife, provide habitat for wildlife (i.e. forage, water, cover, and space) that is of sufficient quality and quantity to support productive and diverse wildlife populations in a manner consistent with the principles of multiple-use management; to enhance biological diversity; and to sustain the ecological, economic, and social values necessary for all species.

L4-89 Lincoln County supports alternative E.

Special Status Species (4.7)

Plant Species

Goal: Manage public land to maintain, restore, improve, or enhance populations and habitats which lead to the recovery of federally listed species and preclude the need for listings of proposed, candidate, state-protected, or sensitive species.

L4-90 Lincoln County supports alternative C. However, we do not support full suppression of wildfires.

Aquatic Species

Goal: Manage public land to maintain, restore, improve, or enhance populations and habitats which lead to the recovery of federally listed species and preclude the need for listings of proposed, candidate, state-protected, or sensitive species.

L4-91 Lincoln County supports alternative C.

L4-87 The management actions in Alternative E have been incorporated into the Proposed RMP presented in this document.

L4-88 The management actions in Alternative E have been incorporated into the Proposed RMP presented in this document. Under this alternative, full suppression will not be applied to all wildfires in Lincoln County.

L4-89 The management actions in Alternative E have been incorporated into the Proposed RMP presented in this document.

L4-90 The management actions in Alternative E have been incorporated into the Proposed RMP presented in this document. Under this alternative, full suppression will not be applied to all wildfires in Lincoln County.

L4-91 The management actions in Alternative E have been incorporated into the Proposed RMP presented in this document.

Letter L4 Continued

Wildlife Species (4.7.3)

Goal: Manage public land to maintain, restore, improve, or enhance populations and habitats which lead to the recovery of federally listed species and preclude the need for listings of proposed, candidate, state-protected, or sensitive species.

L4-92 Lincoln County supports alternative E.

Wild Horses (4.8)

Goal: Maintain and manage healthy and genetically viable wild horses inside herd management areas within appropriate management levels to ensure a thriving natural ecological balance while preserving a multiple use relationship with other uses and resources.

L4-93 Lincoln County supports alternative E.

Cultural Resources (4.9)

Goal: Identify, protect, and classify at-risk archaeological resources, significant historic properties, and cultural landscapes.

L4-94 Lincoln County supports alternative E.

Paleontology (4.10)

Goal: Identify and manage at-risk paleontological resources (scientific value), preserve and protect vertebrate fossils through best science methods, and promote public and scientific use of invertebrate and paleobotanical fossils.

L4-95 Lincoln County supports alternative E. However, again we request that the corridors are ½ mile wide.

Visual Resources (4.11)

Goal: Manage public land actions and activities consistent with District visual resource management class objectives.

L4-96 Lincoln County supports alternative C. However, again we request that the corridors are ½ mile wide.

Lands and Realty (4.12)

Goal: Manage public lands in a manner that allows the retention of public land with high resource values and consolidates public land patterns to ensure effective administration and improve resource management. Make available for disposal public lands that

Responses to Letter L4

L4-92 The management actions in Alternative E have been incorporated into the Proposed RMP presented in this document.

L4-93 The management actions in Alternative E have been incorporated into the Proposed RMP presented in this document.

L4-94 The management actions in Alternative E have been incorporated into the Proposed RMP presented in this document.

L4-95 The management actions in Alternative E have been incorporated into the Proposed RMP presented in this document. BLM's proposed corridor designations would be 0.5 or 1/2 mile wide as opposed to the 3-mile width considered in Alternative C.

L4-96 The management actions in Alternative E have been incorporated into the Proposed RMP presented in this document. BLM's proposed corridor designations would be 0.5 or 1/2 mile wide as opposed to the 3-mile width considered in Alternative C.

Letter L4 Continued

promote community development. Utilize withdrawal actions with the least restrictive measures and minimum size necessary to accomplish the desired purpose.

L4-97 Lincoln County supports some of alternative C. Lincoln County sent in new disposal request maps depicting where we see the areas that would best help development in our county. This addressed the 90,000 acres that is in the Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act. We would hope that the latest map given to BLM quite awhile ago would be taken into consideration. In alternative C, it shows Lincoln County with 200,243 acres up for disposal. Our new map depicts acreage in line with the 90,000 acres. We would like to keep Lincoln County within the range of the 90,000 acres that the Act allowed us. We also realize that there are still requests on your books from ranchers for DLE's. The county supports those requests also.

Goal 2: Meet public needs for use authorizations such as rights-of-way, permits, leases, and easements while avoiding or minimizing adverse impacts to other resource values.

L4-98 Lincoln County supports alternative C. However, we feel that the width of the corridors could be ½ mile wide.

Renewable Energy (4.13)

Goal: Provide opportunities for development of renewable energy sources such as wind, solar, biomass, and other alternative energy sources while minimizing adverse impacts to other resources such as wildlife and visual resources.

L4-99 Lincoln County supports alternative E. Please note that Lincoln has signed a resolution stating that we do NOT support wind energy on top of the Mt. Wilson area nor on the Table Mountain area. We are not in opposition to wind energy, however just not in those two areas. We have sent copies of those Resolutions to all of our Nevada Delegation as well as BLM in the Ely Office.

Travel Management and Off-highway Vehicle Use. (4.14)

Goal: Provide and maintain suitable access to public lands. Manage off-highway vehicle use to protect resource values, promote public safety, provide off-highway vehicle opportunities where appropriate, and minimize conflict.

L4-101 Lincoln County supports alternative C.

Recreation (4.15)

Goal: Provide quality settings for developed and undeveloped and recreation experiences and opportunities while protecting resources.

L4-102 Lincoln County supports alternative C.

Responses to Letter L4

L4-97 Please refer to Responses to Comments L4-40, 41, and 42.

L4-98 The management actions in Alternative E have been incorporated into the Proposed RMP presented in this document. BLM's proposed corridor designations would be 0.5 or 1/2 mile wide as opposed to the 3-mile width considered in Alternative C.

L4-99 The management actions in Alternative E have been incorporated into the Proposed RMP presented in this document.

L4-100 Please refer to Response to Comment L4-49.

L4-101 The management actions in Alternative E have been incorporated into the Proposed RMP presented in this document.

L4-102 The management actions in Alternative E have been incorporated into the Proposed RMP presented in this document.

Letter L4 Continued

Livestock Grazing (4.16)

Goal: Manage the public lands to provide for a level of livestock grazing consistent with multiple-use, sustained yield, and watershed function and health.

- L4-103 [Lincoln County supports alternative C. Again, we do not agree with full suppression of wildland fires.
We would like to make sure that grazing is still maintained and that it is noted that Lincoln County is not asking for 200,243 acres of land disposals.

Woodland and Native Plant Products (4.17)

Goal: Provide opportunities for traditional and non-traditional uses of vegetation products on a sustainable, multiple-use basis.

- L4-104 [Lincoln County supports alternative C. We have in certain areas, over populated areas with pinyon-juniper trees. These areas especially need to be thinned out. However, under the fire management section fire suppression is the part that we do not agree with. Although it would help with the availability of the product in the front end, with full suppression, it could destroy most of the product in the long run. We would request the fire management be somewhere in the middle of A, B, and C.

Geology and Mineral Extraction (4.18)

Goal: Allow for meeting the Nation's energy needs while providing environmentally responsible production of fluid leasable minerals, and geophysical exploration for energy resources on Public Lands.

- L4-105 [Lincoln County supports alternative C.
Goal 2: The development of solid leasable minerals would occur in a manner to prevent undue and unnecessary degradation.

- L4-106 [Lincoln County supports alternative E.

Salable Minerals (4.18.3)

Goal: Allow development of saleable minerals in a manner that would prevent undue and unnecessary degradation, meet public demand, and minimize adverse impacts to other resource values.

- L4-107 [Lincoln County supports alternative E.

Responses to Letter L4

- L4-103 The management actions in Alternative E have been incorporated into the Proposed RMP presented in this document. As mentioned in responses to previous comments, the Proposed RMP does not require full suppression of wildfires, will continue to allow grazing, and is designating approximately 90,000 acres of land for disposal in Lincoln County.

- L4-104 The management actions in Alternative E have been incorporated into the Proposed RMP presented in this document. Under the Proposed RMP, managed and prescribed fire will continue to be a tool used for vegetation management and watershed restoration.

- L4-105 The management actions in Alternative E have been incorporated into the Proposed RMP presented in this document.

- L4-106 The management actions in Alternative E have been incorporated into the Proposed RMP presented in this document.

- L4-107 The management actions in Alternative E have been incorporated into the Proposed RMP presented in this document.

Letter L4 Continued

Watershed Management (4.19)

Goal: Manage watersheds to restore and maintain resistance and resiliency to disturbances.

L4-108 Lincoln County supports alternative E.

Fire Management (4.20)

L4-109 Lincoln County supports alternative C. Again without the use of full suppression.

Noxious and Invasive Weed Management (4.21)

L4-110 Lincoln County supports alternative C.

Special Designation (4.22)

L4-111 Lincoln County supports alternative C.

Economic Conditions (4.23)

L4-112 Lincoln County supports alternative C.

Lincoln has been involved with the Resource Management Plan/ Environmental Impact Statement for the Ely District for almost three years. We hope our comments will be taken into consideration and if there are any questions on our response, please feel free to contact myself or Commissioner Ronda Hornbeck.

Sincerely,


George T. Rowe, Chairman
Lincoln County Commission

Responses to Letter L4

L4-108 The management actions in Alternative E have been incorporated into the Proposed RMP presented in this document.

L4-109 The management actions in Alternative E have been incorporated into the Proposed RMP presented in this document. Also refer to Response to Comment L4-104.

L4-110 The management actions in Alternative C have been incorporated into the Proposed RMP presented in this document.

L4-111 The management actions in Alternative C and E have been incorporated into the Proposed RMP presented in this document.

L4-112 The management actions in Alternative E have been incorporated into the Proposed RMP presented in this document.