2.0 ALTERNATIVES

2.1 Introduction

Chapter 2.0 begins with introductory material describing the development of alternatives and then moves to the presentation of the management actions for resources, resource uses, and resource management programs encompassing 26 topics. Information is presented in the same sequence in Chapters 3.0 and 4.0 for each of the topic areas. Several of the categories contain subsections that focus on particular aspects of a resource program.

The table presented in Section 2.9 summarizes the management goals for each resource program and compares the management actions for each of the alternatives considered in detail. Detailed discussions of the environmental effects of each alternative can be found in Chapter 4.0.

All maps referenced in Chapter 2.0 are presented in the separate Map Volume. The maps contained in the map volume were developed with the goal of optimizing comprehension of information related to the resources portrayed in each respective map within the constraints of an 11x17-inch black-and-white format. The maximum scale that would fit on an 11x17-inch page while allowing room for an appropriate legend and title block was chosen. Background information (major roads and towns, county boundaries, shaded relief, etc.) is presented to orient the reader to the extent that such background information does not detract from the readability of the map. For this reason, a shaded relief background was used where it did not detract from presentation of the relevant information regarding a specific resource or resources, while the shaded relief background was omitted in more complex maps (e.g., minerals). Where it was deemed to be warranted (e.g., ACECs and land disposals), “blow-ups” of smaller areas were created to convey information at a more detailed scale.

This chapter contains alternatives that describe different approaches to the management of public lands and resources in the planning area, which includes the Caliente Field Station. Each alternative represents a complete and reasonable set of goals and management actions to guide future management of BLM-administered public lands and resources in the planning area. As discussed in various sections throughout this document, disturbances such as fire and drought are natural components of the ecological systems of the Great Basin and the planning area. Many of the management actions considered among the alternatives in this Proposed RMP address different approaches to dealing with these disturbances in terms of resource management options.

Five alternatives are presented in this chapter. The first alternative is the Proposed RMP, which is a modified version of Alternative E that was initially presented in the Draft RMP/EIS. The Proposed RMP contains the management actions that the Ely Field Office proposes to implement to manage the resource programs. Alternative A describes the continuation of current, existing management and serves as the No Action alternative. This alternative is required by Council on Environmental Quality regulations and provides a baseline for comparison of the other alternatives (Council on Environmental Quality 1981). Three other action alternatives (B through D) describe proposed changes to current management as well as the existing management that would be carried forward into future management. These alternatives provide a range of choices for resolving the planning issues identified in Chapter 1.0.

Management actions outlined in the alternatives only apply to BLM-administered public land and interests in the planning area.

2.2 Development of Alternatives

The development of management alternatives for the Ely RMP/EIS was guided by provisions of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and the NEPA, as well as planning criteria listed in Chapter 1.0. Other laws, BLM planning regulations, and current policy also directed alternative considerations and focused the alternatives on appropriate land use plan-level decisions. To begin the alternative development process, goals and desired future conditions were identified by the planning team in consideration of public comments received through scoping and direction established by BLM-wide initiatives and mandates. The goals directed the overall management actions proposed within the alternatives.

The goals (including the Resource Advisory Council standards) and objectives presented in Section 2.4 for the Proposed RMP also apply to Alternatives A through D presented in Sections 2.5 through 2.8. Summary descriptions of each alternative analyzed in the Proposed RMP and Final EIS (Proposed RMP and Alternatives A through D) are presented below. Important quantitative differences among the alternatives are highlighted in the second paragraph of each summary description.

2.2.1 Proposed RMP

The Proposed RMP will balance the need to restore, enhance, and protect resources with the public's desire to provide for the production of food, fiber, minerals, and services on public lands. This will be accomplished within the limits of an ecological system's ability to sustainably provide these products and services and within the constraints of various laws and regulations. Restoration will be implemented proactively to build resiliency to prevent further degradation of ecological systems. Restoration activities will be accelerated in comparison to current management to the limits of available funding and resources. Vegetation communities will be managed to achieve appropriate composition of woody and herbaceous species that promote resiliency. This will involve a mosaic of vegetation communities having differing ages (since treatment) and differing composition and structure. Vegetation resources and fish and wildlife habitats will be restored and enhanced using a variety of tools; however, constraints to protect sensitive resources will be implemented in specified geographic areas. Increases in herbaceous vegetation resulting from restoration will be allocated to livestock and wild horses, and/or reserved for watershed maintenance and wildlife.

Approximately 3.5 million acres will be designated as Visual Resource Management Class I or II. Approximately 75,600 acres of public land will be available for disposal in Lincoln and White Pine counties. Off-highway vehicle use will be restricted to designated roads and trails. Road and trail designations will occur at the watershed level through subsequent implementation-level plans developed using a public review team process. No areas will be open and approximately 1.1 million acres will be closed to off-highway vehicle use. Five special recreation management areas encompassing approximately 1.2 million acres will be created. Approximately 11.2 million acres will be available for livestock grazing. Mineral extraction will be managed for fluid leasable minerals (10.0 million acres open with varying restrictions), solid leasable minerals (9.9 million acres open), locatable minerals (9.9 million acres open), and mineral materials (9.9 million acres open). Acreage available for wildland fire use will increase. Three existing ACECs will be retained, and 17 new ACECs will be designated, totaling about 317,800 acres.

2.2.2 Alternative A

Under Alternative A, resources, resource uses, and sensitive habitats would receive management emphasis (methods and mix of multiple use management of public land) at present levels. In general, most activities would be analyzed on a case-by-case basis, and few uses would be limited or excluded as long as land health standards could be met. Restoration of ecological systems would be implemented primarily in reaction to changes that occur from events such as fire or other disturbances. Restoration activities would be conducted on approximately 10,000 acres per year. Vegetation communities would be managed to achieve appropriate composition of woody and herbaceous species that promote resiliency. This would involve a mosaic of vegetation communities having differing ages (since treatment) and differing composition and structure. Increases in herbaceous vegetation resulting from restoration would be allocated to livestock and wild horses and/or reserved for watershed maintenance and wildlife as directed in the existing plans.

Approximately 1.7 million acres would be managed as Visual Resource Management Class I or II. Up to 28,000 acres of public land would be available for disposal in Lincoln and White Pine counties. Off-highway vehicle use would remain relatively unrestricted throughout the planning area. Approximately 9.8 million acres would remain open and 1.1 million acres would be closed to off-highway vehicle use. One special recreation management area encompassing approximately 550,000 acres would be managed. Approximately 11.2 million acres would be available for livestock grazing. Mineral extraction would be managed for fluid leasable minerals (4.0 million acres open with varying restrictions), solid leasable minerals (10.1 million acres open), locatable minerals (10.1 million acres open), and mineral materials (10.0 million acres open). Fire management would continue under the existing Ely District Fire Management Plan, which incorporates the Ely Managed and Natural Prescribed Fire Plan. Three existing ACECs would be retained, totaling about 203,670 acres.

2.2.3 Alternative B

Alternative B would emphasize the maintenance of those systems that are functioning and healthy and the restoration of ecological systems and their historic mosaic patterns that have been degraded or altered. There would be a coordinated effort to restore the resiliency of native vegetation in shrub communities, woodlands, and riparian areas. Commodity production would be constrained to protect resources and systems that display healthy ecological processes or to accelerate improvement in those areas that do not. Production of food, fiber, minerals, and services would be more constrained than in the other alternatives, and in some cases and some areas, uses would be excluded to protect sensitive resources. Restoration would be implemented proactively to build resiliency and resistance to changes that would degrade natural systems. Restoration activities would be accelerated in comparison to the Proposed RMP and limited by available funding and resources. Sagebrush communities would be managed to achieve a mosaic of herbaceous/shrub phases with minimal bare ground; interspaces between shrubs would be occupied by perennial grasses and forbs. Increases in herbaceous vegetation resulting from restoration would be reserved for watershed maintenance and wildlife.

Approximately 3.5 million acres would be designated as Visual Resource Management Class I or II. Up to 90,000 acres of public land would be available for disposal in Lincoln and White Pine counties. Off-highway vehicle use would be restricted to designated roads and trails. No areas would be open and approximately 1.1 million acres would be closed to off-highway vehicle use. Nine special recreation management areas encompassing approximately 2.7 million acres would be created. Approximately 7.7 million acres would be available for livestock grazing. Mineral extraction would be managed for fluid leasable minerals (10.1 million acres open with varying restrictions), solid leasable minerals (10.1 million acres open), locatable minerals (10.1 million acres open), and mineral materials (9.4 million acres open). Acreage available for wildland fire use would increase. Three existing ACECs would be retained, and 15 new ACECs would be designated, totaling about 338,020 acres. Under this alternative, management would more often be applied across several vegetation types with a restoration emphasis on those areas most at risk of crossing a threshold into a less desirable vegetation community or ecological process, rather than focusing on specific sensitive resources in particular geographic areas.

2.2.4 Alternative C

Alternative C would emphasize commodity production and production of food, fiber, minerals, and services, including provisions for several types of recreation. Under this alternative, constraints on commodity production for the protection of sensitive resources would be the least restrictive possible within the limits defined by law, regulation, and BLM policy, including the Endangered Species Act, cultural resource protection laws, and wetland preservation. Under this alternative, constraints to protect sensitive resources would tend to be implemented in specified geographic areas rather than across the decision area. Restoration of ecological systems would be accelerated in comparison to the Proposed RMP and limited by available funding and resources. Land health restoration activities would focus on areas with understory vegetation appropriate for the ecological site, which could provide the production of additional forage. Sagebrush communities would be managed to achieve sites dominated by herbaceous vegetation (i.e., grasses) with some shrubs. Increases in herbaceous vegetation resulting from restoration would be allocated to livestock.

Approximately 3.6 million acres would be designated as Visual Resource Management Class I or II. Up to 291,000 acres of public land would be available for disposal in Lincoln and White Pine counties. Off-highway vehicle use would be restricted to designated roads and trails except on 32,000 acres of dry lake beds, which would be designated as open to cross country off-highway vehicle use. Approximately 1.1 million acres would be closed to off-highway vehicle use. Nine special recreation management areas encompassing approximately 2.6 million acres would be created. Active and organized recreation activities (such as off-highway vehicle use and races) would be emphasized in this alternative. Approximately 11.2 million acres would be available for livestock grazing. Mineral extraction would be managed for fluid leasable minerals (9.9 million acres open with varying restrictions), solid leasable minerals (9.9 million acres open), locatable minerals (9.9 million acres open), and mineral materials (9.4 million acres open). All wildland fires would be suppressed and prescribed fires would be used only in limited situations as a vegetation treatment tool. Three existing ACECs would be retained, and 17 new ACECs would be designated, totaling about 333,390 acres.

2.2.5 Alternative D

Alternative D would exclude all permitted, discretionary uses of the public lands including livestock grazing, mineral sale or leasing, lands and realty actions (such as disposals, leases, rights-of-way), recreation uses requiring permits, etc. Some components of Alternative D could be implemented through the discretionary authority of the Ely Field Manager or the Nevada State Director, while others would require action by the Secretary of the Interior or new legislation by Congress. Where appropriate, management actions that would not be consistent with existing legislation or policies have been noted in text. This alternative was included in response to scoping comments for the RMP, which requested the elimination of certain uses of the public lands in the RMP planning area. It sets a baseline for the comparison of impacts from management actions included in other alternatives and allows for the analysis of a range of management actions in the EIS. Alternative D would allow no commodity production and would include management actions necessary to maintain or enhance resources and protect life and property. Restoration would be restricted to previously treated areas (such as mechanical treatments, seedings, and prescribed burns); areas dominated by invasive species; and newly disturbed areas (such as those resulting from wildland fires). Restoration activities would be focused toward a much narrower set of conditions than in all other alternatives. Such restoration would be primarily in reaction to changing conditions. Sagebrush communities would be managed to protect existing native communities and to prevent expansion of annual exotic species. Increases in herbaceous vegetation resulting from restoration would be reserved for watershed maintenance and wildlife, and/or allocated to wild horses.

All areas would be designated as Visual Resource Management Class I or II. Up to 12,000 acres of public land would be available for disposal in Lincoln and White Pine counties. Off-highway vehicle use would be restricted to maintained roads. No areas would be open and 11.1 million acres would be closed to off-highway vehicle use. No special recreation management areas would be created, and one existing area would be eliminated. No acreage would be available for livestock grazing. Mineral extraction would be managed for fluid leasable minerals (no acres open with varying restrictions), solid leasable minerals (no acres open), locatable minerals (6.2 million acres open), and mineral materials (no acres open). The Ely Field Office would petition the Department of the Interior to withdraw a majority of the decision area from locatable mineral entry. Wildland fires would not be suppressed unless they are human-caused or threaten life or property. No ACECs would be retained or designated.

2.3 Management Common to All Alternatives

The following management would be implemented by the Ely Field Office in association with all alternatives.

2.3.1 Management by Watershed

BLM policy calls for the use of watershed, rather than administrative, boundaries when conducting local analyses except when compelling issues dictate that an administrative or other ecological-based boundary take precedence. The Ely Field Office is currently conducting watershed analyses on a limited basis, and proposes to continue this process as part of the Approved RMP. The RMP/EIS proposes the use of tools and techniques for watershed analysis that have already been approved for use throughout the BLM (see Section 1.4.3, Types of Decisions). The Ely Field Office has established 61 watershed management units (based on draft 10-digit Hydrologic Unit Code Level 5 watershed boundaries or portions thereof) to address watershed objectives and management needs to implement the goals of the Great Basin Restoration Initiative and the Proposed RMP. The watershed determination documents and watershed restoration strategies that would flow from the watershed analyses would provide site-specific restoration direction. The implementation of site-specific actions would be subject to NEPA. Until the watershed analysis is completed for a particular watershed management unit, lands and resources would be managed following existing BLM regulations and policies, in conformance with the management direction for that area identified in the Proposed RMP.

Watershed analysis interdisciplinary teams would assess and evaluate watersheds based on indicators outlined in the Resource Advisory Council Standards and Guidelines for the Northeastern Great Basin and Mojave/Southern Great Basin Areas (see Appendix B). The Ely Field Office is using BLM guidance 43 Code of Federal Regulations §4180.1, and BLM Handbook/Manual H-4180-1 – *Rangeland Health Standards* to guide this watershed analysis process, which includes the on-the-ground implementation of existing programs that are in compliance with current laws, regulations, and policies. Public involvement also would be used to achieve a greater understanding of land health issues.

The watershed analyses would help to implement the Proposed RMP by:

1. Identifying dominant plant community reference and preferred conditions;

2. Identifying existing plant communities and their general conditions;

3. Developing restoration goals (e.g., restoring plant communities that do not meet the Resource Advisory Councils' land health standards or other criteria for healthy ecological communities);

4. Evaluating and determining causal factors for not meeting the Resource Advisory Councils land health standards; and

5. Providing a strategy for restoring and maintaining watershed health and function.

The watershed analyses would characterize the human, terrestrial vegetation and wildlife, aquatic vegetation and wildlife, and physical features and the associated conditions, processes, and interactions within each watershed. Watershed analysis enhances Ely Field Office's ability to estimate direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of management activities and allows for greater flexibility within the watershed. It guides the general type, location, and sequence of management activities. It establishes baseline watershed conditions that permit measurement of progress toward management objectives. It allows for a shift from species and individual use-driven management to management of the natural systems that support the watershed function. This approach allows the Ely Field Office to focus on flexible management techniques necessary to maintain or improve the functionality of the watershed. Future landscape-scale actions would be able to be applied in such a manner as to affect or influence much more of the watershed and its functionality. Please refer to Appendix A for more detail on the processes that take place during watershed analysis.

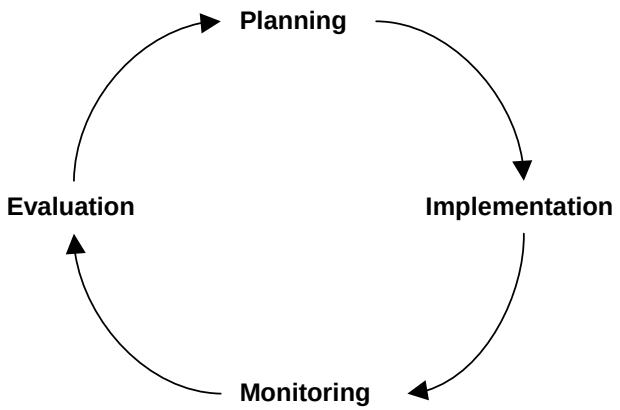
2.3.2 Ecological Analysis at the Watershed Scale

The Proposed RMP provides the management goals and actions for ecological analysis at the watershed scale in terms of issues to be addressed and desired range of conditions to be achieved. Much of the ecological analysis and development of appropriate treatment plans would focus on application of current state and transition models and LANDFIRE Biophysical setting models as discussed further in Section 3.5 and Appendix C. The evaluation of the conditions achieved would be through appropriate monitoring. Refer to Chapter 2.0.

2.3.3 Adaptive Management

The Department of the Interior Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance issued ESM03-6, which provides initial guidance to all agencies on the implementation of adaptive management practices for NEPA compliance. The Interior Departmental Manual 516 DM 4.16 defines adaptive management as "a system of management practices based on clearly identified outcomes, monitoring to determine if management actions are meeting outcomes and, if not, facilitating management changes that would best ensure that outcomes are met or re-evaluate the outcomes." The Ely Field Office recognizes that specific knowledge regarding natural resource systems is sometimes uncertain and in those situations, adaptive management is the preferred management method. The Ely Field Office intends to implement the Approved RMP utilizing adaptive management as defined by 516 Department Manual 4.16.

This Proposed RMP/Final EIS recommends an adaptive management strategy. This adaptive management process is flexible and generally involves four phases: planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation.



Adaptive management is a formal, systematic, and rigorous approach to learning from the results of management actions, accommodating change, and improving management. It involves synthesizing existing knowledge, exploring alternative actions, and making explicit forecasts about their results. Management actions and monitoring programs are carefully designed to generate reliable feedback and clarify the reasons underlying results. Actions and objectives are then adjusted based on this feedback and improved understanding. In addition, decisions, actions, and results are carefully documented and communicated to others, so that knowledge gained through experience is passed on rather than lost when individuals move or leave the organization.

As the BLM obtains new information, it is possible to evaluate monitoring data and other resource information to periodically refine and update goals, objectives, management actions, and allowable uses. This allows for the continual refinement and improvement of management prescriptions and practices.

Land use plan level decisions would not be adaptable. These include the goals, objectives, special designations, and allocations. Plan amendments would be required to change these decisions. Implementation or activity level decisions could be adapted. Future activity level plans would follow NEPA procedures and involve the public.

2.3.3.1 Land Health Standards

There are two Resource Advisory Councils that guide the Ely Field Office: the Northeastern Great Basin and the Mojave/Southern Great Basin (see Appendix B). They each have developed a set of similar and complementary land health standards by which ecological systems and rangeland “health” of the planning area can be assessed. While the standards and guidelines developed by the Northeastern Great Basin and Mojave/Southern Great Basin Resource Advisory Councils are not identical in terms of the resources addressed or their specific wording, the goals presented were developed to be consistent with both sets of

standards. The Ely Field Office's continued use of these standards is an inherent part of the foundation for this RMP/EIS.

2.3.3.2 Activity Plans

Program-specific "activity plans," such as habitat management plans or watershed restoration strategies, have been written over the years to apply a more focused approach to achieving land use planning goals. Activity plans provide direction for more site-specific actions. NEPA analysis is required for site-specific implementation actions.

2.3.3.3 Tools and Techniques

A wide variety of tools and techniques would be applied as appropriate to implement the management actions identified in the following sections. These tools and techniques are based on current management practices and procedures applicable to the planning area, and are meant to represent best management practices. The array of tools and techniques identified in Appendix G illustrates those measures that would be applied as appropriate and where necessary in implementing any of the alternatives. It must be emphasized that Appendix G is not exhaustive or site-specific. It is anticipated that new tools and techniques would be developed during the useful life of this plan, and all tools and techniques could be used in all parts of the planning area where they are appropriate and effective.

2.3.3.4 Best Management Practices

Best management practices may be found in Appendix F. Best management practices are management actions that have been developed by agency, industry, scientific, and/or working groups as methods for mitigating environmental impacts associated with certain kinds of activity. Appendix F contains three sections:

- Section 1 – Ely Field Office best management practices (organized by resource or resource use).
- Section 2 – Fluid Minerals Lease Notices and Stipulations.
- Section 3 – BLM Wind Energy Development Program, Policies, and Best Management Practices.

Best management practices would be implemented at the discretion of the Ely Field Office on a project-specific basis, depending on the specific characteristics of the project area and the types of disturbance being proposed. They may not be appropriate to implement in all cases. It has been assumed for impact analysis that best management practices would be implemented wherever appropriate.

2.3.3.5 Monitoring

The BLM planning regulations (43 Code of Federal Regulations 1610.4-9) call for the monitoring of resource management plans on a continual basis with formal evaluation done at periodic intervals. The Ely RMP/EIS would be monitored on a continual basis. Plan evaluations would occur on 5-year intervals. Management actions arising from activity plan decisions would be evaluated to ensure consistency with the Approved RMP objectives.

Monitoring is the process of following up on the management actions and documenting BLM's progress toward achievement of goals and objectives. Monitoring is identified in Section 2.4.23.

2.4 Proposed RMP

2.4.1 Introduction to the Proposed RMP

The Proposed RMP primarily is based on Alternative E presented in the Draft RMP/EIS (July 2005) (BLM 2005b) and on changes to management actions in response to public and internal comments received on the Draft. The management actions that are presented in the Proposed RMP were developed through consideration of the planning criteria presented in Section 1.5 of the Draft and Final RMP/EIS, public scoping comments presented in Section 1.6, BLM policy especially as presented in the Land Use Planning Handbook, the professional judgment of the staff in the Ely Field Office, and comments from a wide array of users of the planning area. The Proposed RMP is a compilation of those individual management actions from the other four alternatives, plus unique management actions, that the Ely Field Office has determined will best meet its obligations for multiple use management of the resources found within the decision area.

The planning area includes all lands regardless of jurisdiction; however, the BLM will only make decisions on lands that fall under BLM's jurisdiction. The "decision area" consists of public lands administered by the Ely Field Office in Lincoln, White Pine, and a portion of Nye counties in east-central Nevada. The "decision area" also includes those private lands on which there is a "split estate," and the BLM continues to manage subsurface mineral commodities.

Tables, maps, and figures have been included to display and summarize pertinent information. Acreages displayed in this document should be considered approximations even when displayed to the nearest acre. Most acreages were calculated from Geographic Information System coverage and rounded to the nearest 1,000 acres. As a result, the acreages presented may not match acres provided in prior published documents containing calculations from master title plats or other base data. The data used throughout this document are for land use planning purposes and not necessarily for on-the-ground implementation. The precision afforded by Geographic Information System calculation does not reflect project-level accuracy. Acreage figures that are provided in this document for land use plan analysis purposes would be refined as subsequent site-specific analysis is conducted.

Management actions from the Approved Caliente Management Framework Plan Amendment and Record of Decision for the Management of Desert Tortoise Habitat (BLM 2000a), have been incorporated into relevant sections of the Proposed RMP. Where appropriate, the management actions have been modified to reflect changes in conditions since 2000 and the editorial style of the Proposed RMP.

2.4.2 Air Resources

The Clean Air Act requires the BLM to minimize emissions of air quality pollutants from activities on public lands to protect human health and the environment. The Clean Air Act also requires each state to develop a state implementation plan for regions within the state that have nonattainment status, to ensure that the national ambient air quality standards are attained and maintained for the criteria pollutants. Federal agencies are required to ensure that their actions conform to state implementation plans. The Nevada

Division of Environmental Protection is responsible for producing the state implementation plan. The Nevada Smoke Management Program coordinates and facilitates the statewide management of prescribed outdoor burning in the State of Nevada. This program is designed to meet the requirements of Nevada Revised Statutes 445B.100 through 445B.845, inclusive, which deal with air pollution, and the requirements of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Interim Air Quality Policy on Wildland and Prescribed Fires (April 1998). The planning area is considered in attainment. The Clean Air Act places additional restrictions on impacts to air quality and visibility within Class I and II areas. Class I areas consist of many national wildlife refuges and most national parks and designated wilderness that existed when legislation was enacted in 1977. Class II areas include most other western public lands. Little degradation of air quality is allowed in Class I areas; less stringent requirements apply to Class II areas. There are no Class I areas in the planning area; the nearest Class I areas are the Jarbidge Wilderness in northeast Nevada and Zion National Park in southwest Utah.

Goal

Meet all applicable local, state, and tribal constraints, and National Ambient Air Quality Standards under the Clean Air Act (as amended), and prevent significant deterioration of air quality (defined as violation of air quality regulations) within the Ely planning area from all direct and authorized actions.

Objective

To ensure air quality in the Ely planning area meets all National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

Management Actions

AR-1: Develop burn plans that include incident and cumulative air quality considerations prior to implementing all prescribed burn treatments.

AR-2: Coordinate with the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection prior to the planning of prescribed fires and other air quality related actions.

AR-3: Authorize activities likely to adversely affect the Class II classification of public lands within the planning area, or the designation of the nearest Class I areas, such as Jarbidge Wilderness, on a case-by-case basis after compliance with appropriate laws.

2.4.3 Water Resources

Suitable water quality is important for proper ecological function as well as for supporting designated beneficial uses, including domestic supply (drinking water). The maintenance or improvement of water quality in streams and aquifers is, therefore, a major BLM management goal. The Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1977, as amended, (commonly known as the “Clean Water Act”) requires the restoration and maintenance of the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation’s waters. The State of Nevada has regulatory primacy in administering the Act within its boundaries. A Memorandum of Understanding identifies responsibilities and activities to be performed by each agency in carrying out water quality

programs on agency-administered lands in Nevada. In addition to the Clean Water Act, numerous laws, regulations, policies, and Executive Orders direct the BLM to manage water quality for the benefit of the Nation and its economy, and to sustain multiple uses of the land. The BLM is required to maintain water quality where it presently meets approved state water quality requirements, guidelines, and objectives, and to improve water quality on public lands where it does not meet those requirements, guidelines, and objectives.

It is BLM policy to conform with applicable state laws and administrative claims procedures for water rights when managing and administering all BLM programs and projects, except as otherwise specifically mandated by Congress. The State Engineer Office in the Division of Water Resources of the Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, administers water rights programs in Nevada based on beneficial use and the Doctrine of Prior Appropriation. The State of Nevada regulates its water rights programs using guidance in chapters 533 and 534 of the Nevada Revised Statutes. The BLM will acquire and perfect water rights necessary for public land management purposes according to these state laws and procedures. The BLM also will protect existing water rights of the U.S. by protesting or providing comment during the state permitting process on applications for new water rights or for changes to existing water rights that may interfere with BLM's ability to utilize such water for public land management purposes.

Goal

The quality of water resource on public lands administered by the Ely Field Office will be suitable for the appropriate beneficial uses and will meet approved federal, state, tribal, and local requirements, guidelines, and objectives. The quantity of water on public lands administered by the Ely Field Office will be suitable to meet public land management purposes.

Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council Standard. Riparian and wetland areas exhibit a properly functioning condition and achieve state water quality criteria.

Objective

To protect the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of waters as needed to maintain healthy ecological systems and provide values that support multiple uses. Acquire and perfect sufficient water rights to meet public land management needs.

Management Actions

WR-1: Ensure authorized activities on public lands do not degrade water quality by complying with the Clean Water Act and Nevada Water Pollution Control Regulations (Nevada Revised Statute 445A). Cooperate with the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection to reduce non-point source water pollution as per the Memorandum of Understanding between the BLM and Nevada Division of Environmental Protection dated September 2004.

WR-2: Integrate land health standards, best management practices, and appropriate mitigation measures into authorized activities to ensure water quality meets state requirements and BLM resource management objectives (BLM Manual 7240 Nevada Supplement).

WR-3: Recognize community wellhead protection areas approved by the State of Nevada and only authorize activities within such areas that do not have potential for degrading groundwater quality.

WR-4: Maintain or improve watershed conditions by controlling or restricting land uses and utilizing tools, where appropriate, to promote desired vegetation conditions.

2.4.4 Soil Resources

Soils are the growth medium for vegetation and the source of sediment in streams. Management goals for vegetation, watershed, wildlife, and livestock cannot be achieved without productive and stable soils.

Goal

Maintain or improve long-term soil quality.

Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council Standard. Upland soils exhibit infiltration and permeability rates that are appropriate to soil type, climate, and landform.

Mojave/Southern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council Standard. Watershed soils and stream banks should have adequate stability to resist accelerated erosion, maintain soil productivity, and sustain the hydrologic cycle.

Objective

To ensure that soils throughout the planning area exhibit infiltration and permeability appropriate to the soil type, with erosion and compaction having minimal effect on soil quality.

Management Actions

SR-1: Restore and maintain desired range of conditions to increase infiltration, conserve soil moisture, promote groundwater recharge, and ground cover composition (including litter and biotic crusts) to increase or maintain surface soil stability and nutrient cycling.

SR-2: For soil disturbing actions which will require reclamation, salvage and stockpile all available growth medium prior to surface disturbances. Seed stock piles if they are to be left for more than one growing season. Re-contour all disturbance areas to blend as nearly as possible with the natural topography prior to re-vegetation. Rip all compacted portions of the disturbance to an appropriate depth based on site characteristics. Establish an adequate seed bed to provide good seed-to-soil contact.

SR-3: Protect soils from high compaction during surface disturbing activities through soil moisture and/or seasonal use restrictions commensurate with soil surface texture or other properties on a case-by-case basis.

2.4.5 Vegetation Resources

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act, the Public Rangeland Improvement Act, and the Healthy Forests Restoration Act, provide objectives and priorities for management of public land vegetation resources. Guidance contained in Title 43, Subpart 4180 of the Code of Federal Regulations directs public land management toward the maintenance or restoration of the physical function and biological health of vegetation systems. Land Health Standards for lands administered by the BLM in Nevada were approved by the Secretary of the Interior in 1997.

Ecological site descriptions will be used as the initial basis to guide integrated management/treatments to meet the desired goals and objectives for vegetation.

Implement specific management actions and decisions by vegetation community to achieve the desired range of conditions and objectives, and to meet the overall goal of vegetation in the Proposed RMP. A variation of 5 percent above or below the values listed in the desired range of conditions for all vegetation communities is considered acceptable.

Goal

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.

Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council Standard. Habitats – Exhibit a healthy, productive and diverse population of native and/or desirable plant species, appropriate to the site characteristics, to provide suitable feed, water, cover, and living space for animal species and maintain ecological processes; habitat conditions meet the life cycle requirements of threatened and endangered species.

Mojave/Southern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council Standard. Habitats and watersheds should sustain a level of biodiversity appropriate for the area and conducive to appropriate uses. Habitats of special status species should be able to sustain viable populations of those species.

Objective

To manage for resistant and resilient ecological conditions including healthy, productive, and diverse populations of native or desirable nonnative plant species appropriate to the site characteristics.

2.4.5.1 General Vegetation Management

Management Actions

VEG-1: Emphasize treatment areas that have the best potential to maintain desired conditions or respond and return to the desired range of conditions and mosaic upon the landscape, using all available current or future tools and techniques.

VEG-2: Develop specific management objectives through the watershed analysis process, incorporating direction from activity plans (see Management Actions WL-8 and WL-15).

VEG-3: Adhere to the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (Section 102 (e)) to protect old-growth characteristics or their equivalent.

VEG-4: Design management strategies to achieve plant composition within the desired range of conditions for vegetation communities, and emphasize plant and animal community health at the mid scale (watershed level).

VEG-5: Focus restoration of undesirable conditions initially on those sites that have not crossed vegetation transitional thresholds.

VEG-6: Emphasize the conservation and maintenance of healthy, resilient, and functional vegetation communities before restoration of other sites.

VEG-7: Determine seed mixes on a site-specific basis dependent on the probability of successful establishment. Use native and adapted species that compete with annual invasive species or meet other objectives.

2.4.5.2 Parameter – Pinyon-Juniper Woodlands

Management Actions

VEG-8: Implement actions to attain the desired vegetation states shown in **Table 2.4-1**.

VEG-9: Integrate treatment priorities to include:

1. Public safety and protection from catastrophic wildland fire above other considerations.

2. Limit the transition of immature and mature phases to the overmature phase and from becoming infested with invasive species.

Table 2.4-1
Desired Range of Conditions of Pinyon-Juniper (Distribution of Woodland Phases and States)

State and Phase	Herbaceous State	Herbaceous State (Immature Woodland Phase)	Tree State (Mature Woodland Phase)	Tree State (Overmature Woodland Phase)[1]	Altered State
Canopy Description[2]	0 to 10% canopy cover-includes herbaceous, herbaceous-shrub, and sapling phase	11 to 20% canopy cover	21 to 35% canopy cover	>36 to 50% canopy cover	Site dominated by invasive species or weeds
LANDFIRE classes	A and B	C	D and E	E	Uncharacteristic
Proposed RMP[3]	10% (359,300 acres)	20% (718,700 acres)	65% (2,335,700 acres)	5% (179,700 acres)	0% (0 acres)

[1] Overmature woodland refers to woodlands exhibiting greater than 35 percent canopy cover. This classification is not the same as "old growth" although the two classifications may coincide in some situations.
[2] Canopy descriptions derived from Natural Resource Conservation Service Ecological Site Descriptions.
[3] The Proposed RMP approximates and incorporates the LANDFIRE Biophysical Settings models for Great Basin Pinyon-juniper Woodland. Altered state is an uncharacteristic condition not recognized by LANDFIRE Biophysical Settings models but is part of current conditions.

3. Direct overmature woodlands toward earlier phases (i.e., herbaceous state and phase) on a watershed basis, and only if existing immature and mature woodlands are considered resilient and do not need treatments to maintain resiliency.

4. Manage for pinyon-juniper old-growth characteristics to include broad asymmetric tops, deeply furrowed bark, twisted trunks or branches, dead branches and spike tops, large lower limbs, hollow trunks (mostly in juniper), large trunk diameters relative to tree height, and branches covered with a bright yellow-green lichen on true woodland sites as defined by ecological site description.

2.4.5.3 Parameter – Aspen

Management Actions

VEG-10: Implement actions to attain the desired vegetation states shown in **Table 2.4-2**.

VEG-11: Integrate treatment priorities that include:

1. Areas where select species of conifers dominate the tree overstory and where canopy cover exceeds the percentages listed in the desired range of conditions in **Table 2.4-2** (Overmature Phase).

2. Areas where understory species are declining and aspen are not regenerating.

3. Managing aspen communities (using disturbance) to remain in or move toward those phases that are more resilient and resistant to disturbance.

Table 2.4-2
Desired Range of Conditions of Aspen (Distribution of Phases and States)

State and Phase	Herbaceous State (Herbaceous, and Herbaceous-Shrub and Sapling Phase)	Herbaceous State (Immature Woodland Phase)	Tree State (Mature Woodland Phase)	Tree State (Overmature Woodland Phase)
Canopy Cover[1]	0 to 15% tree canopy cover	16 to 29% tree canopy cover.	30 to 45% tree canopy cover	45% or greater tree canopy cover (includes conifer dominated)
LANDFIRE classes	A	B	C and D	D and E
Proposed RMP[2]	14% (980 acres)	40% (2,800 acres)	45% (3,150 acres)	<1% (<70 acres)

[1] Canopy cover determined from Natural Resource Conservation Service Ecological Site Descriptions.
[2] The Proposed RMP approximates and incorporates the LANDFIRE Biophysical Setting Models for Rocky Mountain aspen forest and Inter-mountain Basin aspen-mixed conifer forest and woodland. Description of LANDFIRE CLASSES can be found at www.landfire.gov.

4. Allowing regeneration to occur where potential allows, and to protect that regeneration through use restrictions or other protection methods.

5. Selecting and applying of protection measures on a site-specific basis during implementation of the RMP.

6. Managing aspen stands to maintain or improve stand characteristics and promote regeneration.

2.4.5.4 Parameter – High Elevation Conifer Species

Management Actions

VEG-12: Implement actions to attain the desired vegetation states shown in **Tables 2.4-3** and **2.4-4**.

Table 2.4-3
Desired Range of Conditions of High Elevation Conifer (Distribution of States and Phases)

State and Phase	Herbaceous State, (Herbaceous, and Herbaceous/Sapling Phase)	Herbaceous State (Immature Phase)	Tree State (Mature Phase)	Tree State (Overmature Phase)[1]
Canopy Cover[2]	0 to 15% canopy Cover	16 to 31% canopy cover	31 to 40% canopy cover	41 to 60% canopy cover
LANDFIRE classes	A	B	C	C
Proposed RMP[3]	20% (9,400 acres)	20% (9,400 acres)	50% (23,500 acres)	10% (4,700 acres)

[1] Overmature high elevation conifer refers to stands with canopy cover exceeding 40 percent. This classification is not the same as “old growth,” although the two classifications may coincide in some situations.
[2] Canopy cover derived from Natural Resource Conservation Service Ecological Site Descriptions.
[3] The Proposed RMP approximates and incorporates the LANDFIRE Biophysical Setting Models for Inter-Mountain white fir limber-bristlecone pine woodland (47,000 acres).

Table 2.4-4
Desired Range of Conditions of Ponderosa Pine (Distribution of States and Phases)

State and Phase	Herbaceous State, (Herbaceous, and Herbaceous/Sapling Phase)	Tree State (Saplings and survivors)	Tree State (Mature Phase)	Tree State (Overmature Phase)
Canopy Cover	0 to 5% canopy cover	5-10% canopy cover	10-20% canopy cover	Greater than 20% canopy cover
LANDFIRE Classes	A	C	D	B and E
Proposed RMP[1]	10% (900 acres)	20% (1,800 acres)	60% (5,400 acres)	10% (900 acres)

[1] LANDFIRE Biophysical Setting Model for southern Rocky Mountain ponderosa pine and appropriate ecological site descriptions.

VEG-13: Integrate treatment priorities that include:

1. Areas where tree overstory canopy is approaching threshold levels (i.e., self-thinning and understory is diminishing).

2. Areas where overstory tree canopy cover and density have crossed a threshold, and are restricting understory growth.

3. Protect conifer trees, as appropriate, that meet the old growth criteria. General characteristics are: white fir, 24 inches diameter breast height and 75 feet in height; limber pine, 20 inches diameter breast height and 75 feet in height; ponderosa pine, 30 inches diameter breast height and 75 feet in height.

2.4.5.5 Parameter – Salt Desert Shrub

Management Actions

VEG-14: Implement actions to attain the desired vegetation states shown in **Table 2.4-5**.

Table 2.4-5
Desired Range of Conditions of Salt Desert Shrub (Distribution of Phases and States)

Habitat Type	Herbaceous State	Shrub State	Altered State Annual Invasive/Exotic State	Altered State Perennial Nonnative Seeded
LANDFIRE classes	A	B and C	Uncharacteristic	Uncharacteristic
Proposed RMP[1]	5% (61,050 acres)	77% (940,170 acres)	0% (0 acres)	18% (219,800 acres)

[1] The Proposed RMP approximates and incorporates the LANDFIRE Biophysical Setting Models for Inter-Mountain Basins mixed salt desert shrub and Inter-Mountain Basins greasewood flat. Altered state (invasive species/weeds) is an uncharacteristic condition not recognized by LANDFIRE Biophysical Setting Models but is part of current conditions.

VEG-15: Intensively manage areas currently in the herbaceous state to facilitate conversion to the shrub state.

2.4.5.6 Parameter – Sagebrush (basin big sagebrush, Wyoming big sagebrush, mountain big sagebrush, and black sagebrush)

Management Actions

VEG-16: Implement actions to attain the desired vegetation states shown in **Table 2.4-6**.

Table 2.4-6
Desired Range of Conditions of Sagebrush (Distribution of Phases and States)

State/Phase Name	Total Herbaceous State (Early, Mid, and Late Phases)[1]	Total Shrub State	Total Tree State	Altered State Annual/Perennial Invasive	Altered State Nonnative Perennial Seeded
LANDFIRE classes	A, B, and C	D	E	Uncharacteristic	Uncharacteristic
Proposed RMP[2]	85% (4,776,500 acres)	5% (281,000 acres)	5% (281,000 acres)	0% (0 acres)	5% (281,000 acres)

[1] Sagebrush in the mid-late phase of the herbaceous state is desired for wildlife habitat.
[2] The Proposed RMP approximates and incorporates the LANDFIRE Biophysical Setting Models for Great Basin xeric mixed sagebrush and Inter-Mountain Basin big sagebrush. Altered states (annual/perennial invasive and nonnative perennial seeded) are an uncharacteristic condition not recognized by LANDFIRE Biophysical Setting Models but are part of current conditions.

VEG-17: Integrate treatments to:

1. Establish and maintain the desired herbaceous state or early shrub state where sagebrush is present along with a robust understory of perennial species.

2. Prioritize treatments toward restoration of sagebrush communities on areas with deeper soils and higher precipitation.

VEG-18: Manage native range to meet the requirements of wildlife species. Management will focus on maintaining or establishing diversity, mosaics, and connectivity of sagebrush between geographic areas at the mid and fine scales.

2.4.5.7 Parameter – Mountain Mahogany

Management Actions

VEG-19: Implement actions to attain the desired vegetation states shown in **Table 2.4-7**.

Table 2.4-7
Desired Range of Conditions of Mountain Mahogany (Distribution of Phases and States)

State and Phase	Herbaceous State (Herbaceous Phase)	Shrub State (Shrub/ Herbaceous Phase)	Shrub State (Shrub Phase)	Shrub/Tree-like State (No Understory Phase)[1]
Canopy Cover[2]	0-15% mahogany canopy cover	15-25% mahogany canopy cover (desired mix of herbaceous and shrub species in understory)	30-45% mahogany canopy cover (approaching threshold with no understory)	45-60% mahogany cover (shrub/tree-like and tree dominant)
LANDFIRE classes	A and C	B	D	E
Proposed RMP[3]	20% (9,200 acres)	20% (9,200 acres)	15% (6,900 acres)	45% (20,700 acres)

[1] Refers to savanna sites.
[2] Canopy cover determined from Natural Resource Conservation Service Ecological Site Descriptions.
[3] The Proposed RMP approximates and incorporates the LANDFIRE Biophysical Setting Models for Inter-Mountain Basins Mountain Mahogany woodland and shrubland.

VEG-20: Integrate treatments in areas where:

1. Wildlife habitat requirements will receive the highest priority consideration when determining site-specific objectives in mountain mahogany sites.

2. Desirable understory is still present and where canopy cover is near threshold level or exceeds percentages listed for the desired range of conditions above (i.e., shrub/tree-like dominant state).

2.4.5.8 Parameter – Mojave Desert Vegetation

Management Actions

VEG-21: Implement actions to attain the desired vegetation states shown in **Tables 2.4-8** and **2.4-9**.

Table 2.4-8
Desired Range of Conditions of Creosotebush and Bursage (Distribution of Phases and States)

Habitat Type	Herbaceous State	Shrub State	Altered State (Annual Invasive and Exotics)	Perennial Nonnative Seeded State
LANDFIRE Classes	A	B	Uncharacteristic	Uncharacteristic
Proposed RMP[1]	15% (54,825 acres)	70% (255,850 acres)	0% (0 acres)	15% (54,825 acres)

[1] In creosotebush/bursage communities, the herbaceous state and shrub state will correspond respectively to Class A and Class B as given in the LANDFIRE Biophysical Setting Model for Sonora-Mojave creosotebush-white bursage description. Altered states are an uncharacteristic condition not recognized by LANDFIRE Biophysical Settings models but are part of current conditions.

Table 2.4-9
Desired Range of Conditions of Blackbrush (Distribution of Phases and States)

Habitat Type	Herbaceous State	Shrub State	Altered State (Annual Invasive and Exotics)	Perennial Nonnative Seeded State
LANDFIRE Classes	A	B	Uncharacteristic	Uncharacteristic
Proposed RMP[1]	15% (57,375 acres)	75% (286,875 acres)	0% (0 acres)	10% (38,250 acres)

[1] The herbaceous state and shrub state will correspond respectively to Class A and Class B as given in the LANDFIRE Biophysical Setting Model for Mojave mid-elevation desert scrub. Altered states are an uncharacteristic condition not recognized by LANDFIRE Biophysical Settings models but are part of current conditions.

VEG-22: Intensively manage areas currently in the herbaceous state to facilitate conversion to the shrub state.

2.4.5.9 Parameter – Riparian/Wetlands

Desired Range of Conditions. The Ely Field Office is directed to follow the appropriate rangeland health standards. The Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council states "Riparian and wetland areas exhibit a properly functioning condition and achieve state water quality criteria." The Mojave/Southern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council specifies "Riparian and watershed vegetation should have structural and species diversity characteristic of the stage of stream channel succession in order to provide forage and cover, capture sediment, and capture, retain, and safely release water (watershed function)." In addition to achieving riparian proper functioning condition, composition, structure, and cover of riparian vegetation will occur within capabilities of the site. Ground cover and species composition will be appropriate to the site. Riparian areas with free-flowing water (i.e., undeveloped springs) that are non-functional or functioning at risk will show improving trends toward proper functioning condition.

Management Actions

VEG-23: Promote vegetation structure and diversity that is appropriate and effective in controlling erosion, stabilizing stream banks, healing channel incisions, shading water, filtering sediment, and dissipating energy, in order to provide for stable water flow and bank stability.

VEG-24: Focus management actions on uses and activities that allow for the protection, maintenance, and restoration of riparian habitat.

2.4.5.10 Parameter – Nonnative Seedings (Existing)

Management Actions

VEG-25: Implement actions to attain the desired vegetation states shown in **Table 2.4-10**.

Table 2.4-10
Desired Range of Conditions of Seedings (Distribution of Phases and States)

Habitat Type	Herbaceous State	Shrub State	Tree State	Altered State (Annual Invasive)
Proposed RMP	65% (175,200 acres)	25% (67,400 acres)	10% (26,900 acres)	0% (0 acres)

VEG-26: Include the following integrated treatments:

1. Use of ecological site descriptions as references for identifying appropriate management of non-seeded species on the sites.

2. Management of seedings to allow sagebrush, perennial grasses, and forbs to become established on the site.

2.4.6 Fish and Wildlife

Introduction

Section 102(8) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended, states it is policy to manage public lands in a manner that will protect the quality of multiple resources and provide habitat for fish, wildlife, domestic livestock, and wild horses. Standards and guidelines direct BLM to foster productive and diverse populations and communities of plants and animals. It also is BLM policy to cooperate with state agencies to accommodate species management population goals to the extent that they are consistent with the principles of multiple use management. The BLM acknowledges the role of the State of Nevada and the Nevada Department of Wildlife, under the direction of the State Board of Wildlife Commissioners, in managing, protecting, augmenting, and restoring fish and wildlife populations. The Ely Field Office will work in close coordination with the State of Nevada and the Nevada Department of Wildlife and draw on and implement the goals, objectives, and actions outlined in Nevada's Wildlife Action Plan and various species management plans, as appropriate.

The ecological condition of the various vegetation communities greatly influences the quality of wildlife habitat. The Ely Field Office fish and wildlife habitat management, as presented in this RMP, will emphasize restoration to achieve the desired range of conditions for the various vegetation communities (see Section 2.4.5, Vegetation Resources).

Goal

Provide habitat for wildlife (i.e., forage, water, cover, and space) and fisheries that is of sufficient quality and quantity to support productive and diverse wildlife and fish populations, in a manner consistent with the principles of multi-use management, and to sustain the ecological, economic, and social values necessary for all species.

Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council Standard. Habitats exhibit a healthy, productive and diverse population of native and/or desirable plant species, appropriate to the site characteristics, to provide suitable feed, water, cover and living space for animal species and maintain ecological processes. Habitat conditions meet the life cycle requirements of threatened and endangered species.

Mojave/Southern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council Standard. Habitats and watersheds should sustain a level of biodiversity appropriate for the area and conducive to appropriate uses. Habitats of special status species should be able to sustain viable populations of those species.

Objective

To manage suitable habitat for aquatic species, priority wildlife species, and migratory birds in a manner that will benefit wildlife species directly or indirectly and minimize conflicts among species and wildlife or habitat losses from permitted activities. Priority species for terrestrial wildlife habitat management are elk, mule deer, pronghorn antelope, Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, desert bighorn sheep, and migratory birds; because these species cover the entire Ely RMP planning area. Priority habitats include calving/fawning/kidding/lambing grounds, crucial summer range, crucial winter range, and occupied desert bighorn sheep habitat.

To use wildlife water developments, both natural and artificial, to improve the condition of wildlife habitat, and to use artificial wildlife water developments to mitigate impacts to wildlife species from loss of natural water sources or loss of habitat.

2.4.6.1 General Wildlife Habitat Management (Aquatic and Terrestrial)

Management Actions

WL-1: Emphasize management of priority habitats for priority species. (See Section 2.4.5, Vegetation Resources, for the desired range of conditions for the various vegetation communities.) See **Map 2.4.6-1**, **Map 2.4.6-2**, **Map 2.4.6-3**, and **Map 2.4.6-4**.

WL-2: Release wildlife on public lands within the planning area in conformance with Manual 1745, and the Memorandum of Understanding between the BLM and the Nevada Department of Wildlife.

WL-3: Consider objectives listed in the appropriate U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Wildlife Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan when managing wildlife habitat adjacent to a national wildlife refuge.

WL-4: Mitigate all discretionary permitted activities that result in the loss of aquatic and priority wildlife habitats by improving 2 acres of comparable habitat for every 1 acre of lost habitat as determined on a project-by-project basis (see **Map 2.4.6-1**, **Map 2.4.6-2**, **Map 2.4.6-3**, and **Map 2.4.6-4**).

2.4.6.2 Parameter – Elk, Mule Deer, Pronghorn Antelope, and Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep Habitats

Management Actions

WL-5: In coordination with Nevada Department of Wildlife, update priority habitats for elk, pronghorn antelope, mule deer, and Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, as well as other seasonal habitats for these priority species (see **Map 2.4.6-1**, **Map 2.4.6-2**, **Map 2.4.6-3**, and **Map 2.4.6-4**).

WL-6: Where appropriate, restrict permitted activities in big game calving/fawning/kidding/lambing grounds and crucial summer range from April 15 through June 30 (see **Map 2.4.6-1**, **Map 2.4.6-2**, **Map 2.4.6-3**, and **Map 2.4.6-4**).

WL-7: Where appropriate, restrict permitted activities in crucial winter range from November 1 through March 31 (see **Map 2.4.6-1**, **Map 2.4.6-2**, **Map 2.4.6-3**, and **Map 2.4.6-4**).

WL-8: Focus restoration projects initially in priority habitats (i.e., calving/fawning/kidding/lambing grounds, crucial summer range, and crucial winter range), and then in other seasonal habitats within a watershed (see **Map 2.4.6-1**, **Map 2.4.6-2**, **Map 2.4.6-3**, and **Map 2.4.6-4**).

WL-9: Manage elk habitat by implementing the actions and strategies identified in the Central Nevada, Lincoln County, and White Pine County Elk Management Plans that the Ely Field Office has the authority to implement, and that are consistent with watershed restoration strategies.

WL-10: Manage habitat for Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep in the Snake Range. Manage domestic sheep and goats in accordance with current BLM policy when changes to BLM grazing permits are being considered in the Snake Range.

WL-11: Consider managing habitat for Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep in unoccupied ranges if and when domestic sheep grazing no longer occurs in the area (see **Map 2.4.6-4**).

2.4.6.3 Parameter – Desert Bighorn Sheep Habitat

Management Actions

WL-12: Manage desert bighorn sheep habitat in all occupied ranges (see **Map 2.4.6-4**). Manage domestic sheep and goats in accordance with current BLM policy when changes to BLM grazing permits are being considered.

WL-13: Where appropriate, restrict permitted activities within occupied desert bighorn sheep habitat from March 1 through May 31 and from July 1 through August 31 (see **Map 2.4.6-4**).

WL-14: Consider managing habitat for desert bighorn sheep in unoccupied ranges if and when domestic sheep grazing no longer occurs in the area (see **Map 2.4.6-4**).

2.4.6.4 Parameter – Migratory Bird Habitat

Management Actions

WL-15: Identify the spatial and temporal habitat needs for those migratory bird species of concern for the sagebrush biome to help achieve the desired range of conditions of the various vegetation communities (see Section 2.4.5, Vegetation Resources).

WL-16: When planning projects, consider migratory birds, as appropriate, to minimize take and limit impacts.

WL-17: Work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Nevada Department of Wildlife and other partners (e.g., Great Basin Bird Observatory, Partners in Flight) to conduct breeding bird surveys to document the population status and trends of those migratory bird species of concern.

2.4.6.5 Parameter – Wildlife Water Developments

Management Actions

WL-18: Restore natural water sources (i.e., springs and seeps) to increase water availability through restoration of riparian habitats and proper livestock and wild horse management.

WL-19: Identify areas of suitable wildlife habitat that are water limited in coordination with the Nevada Department of Wildlife and interested public (i.e., elk management technical review teams, sportsmen groups, etc.).

WL-20: Use the criteria listed below to identify artificial wildlife water developments:

- To mitigate for loss of natural water sources;
- To mitigate for habitat loss or habitat fragmentation;
- To reduce inter-specific competition between wildlife, livestock, and wild horses;
- To reduce inter-specific competition between wildlife species; and
- In suitable wildlife habitat that is water limited.

2.4.7 Special Status Species

Section 102(8) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended, requires that public land be managed to protect the quality of multiple resources and to provide habitat for fish, wildlife, domestic livestock, and wild horses. Special status species include federally listed, proposed, or candidate species; state protected species; and BLM sensitive species. The BLM must follow the requirements of the

Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, and BLM policy to conserve federally listed threatened and endangered species and the ecological systems on which they depend. BLM policy also states, "…ensure that actions requiring authorization or approval by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM or Bureau) are consistent with the conservation needs of special status species and do not contribute to the need to list any special status species, either under provisions of the ESA or other provisions of this policy." The Ely Field Office will manage special status species following the direction and guidance identified in BLM Manual 6840; recovery plans; biological opinions; conservation agreements, plans, and strategies; habitat conservation plans; and the recommendations from interagency recovery implementation teams.

Goal

Manage public lands to conserve, maintain, and restore special status species populations and their habitats; support the recovery of federally listed threatened and endangered species; and preclude the need to list additional species.

Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council Standard.

- Habitats exhibit a healthy, productive, and diverse population of native and/or desirable plant species, appropriate to the site characteristics, to provide suitable feed, water, cover, and living space for animal species and maintain ecological processes. Habitat conditions meet the life cycle requirements of threatened and endangered species.

- Riparian and wetland areas exhibit a properly functioning condition and achieve state water quality criteria.

Mojave/Southern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council Standard.

- Habitats and watersheds should sustain a level of biodiversity appropriate for the area and conducive to appropriate uses. Habitats of special status species should be able to sustain viable populations of those species.

- Watersheds should possess the necessary ecological components to achieve state water quality criteria, maintain ecological processes, and sustain appropriate uses. Riparian and wetlands vegetation should have structural and species diversity characteristic of the stage of stream channel succession to provide forage and cover, capture sediment, and capture, retain, and safely release water (watershed function).

Objective

To manage suitable habitat for special status species in a manner that will benefit these species directly or indirectly and minimize loss of individuals or habitat from permitted activities.

2.4.7.1 Parameter – Special Status Species Habitat

Management Actions

SS-1: Prioritize conservation, maintenance, and restoration actions for special status species based on the following order of importance: 1) federally listed endangered species, 2) federally listed threatened species, 3) federal proposed species, 4) federal candidate species, and 5) BLM sensitive species.

SS-2: Develop and implement an interagency inventory and monitoring program for special status plant and animal species.

SS-3: Participate on interagency recovery implementation teams to identify and address implementation of management actions for the recovery of listed species in the Ely planning area.

SS-4: Where appropriate, restrict permitted activities from May 1 through July 15 within 0.5 mile of raptor nest sites unless the nest site has been determined to be inactive for at least the previous 5 years.

SS-5: Manage Bonneville cutthroat trout habitat by implementing those actions and strategies identified in the Conservation Agreement and Conservation Strategy for Bonneville Cutthroat Trout in the State of Nevada that the Ely Field Office has the authority to implement.

SS-6: Use the Revised Nevada Bat Conservation Plan (Bradley et al. 2006) for guidance on implementation of bat management actions, such as:

- Bat-friendly techniques for abandoned mine closures;
- Proper bat surveys of abandoned mines identified for hard closure techniques;
- Improving livestock grazing of riparian and upland habitat;
- Limiting off-highway vehicle travel in or near riparian habitat;
- Stopping conversion of native sagebrush vegetation communities to annual grasslands, and restoration to native rangelands;
- Installing escape ramps in artificial water sources;
- Monitoring wind energy development projects; and
- Rehabilitating areas damaged by fires.

SS-7: Implement management actions identified in the Ely Cave Management Plan (BLM 1986a) (i.e., closures, bat gates, etc.) to protect bats, on a case-by-case basis.

SS-8: In vegetation communities, especially riparian areas and pinyon-juniper woodlands, consider the habitat needs of obligate bat species in restoration treatments.

SS-9: Perform springsnail surveys prior to the development of any spring source.

SS-10: Mitigate all discretionary permitted activities that result in the loss of special status species habitats on a ratio of 2 acres of comparable habitat for every 1 acre of lost habitat as determined on a project-by-project basis. This will not apply to desert tortoise habitat as remuneration fees and other measures to minimize effects to the tortoise are required for disturbance in desert tortoise habitat.

2.4.7.2 Parameter – Great Basin Riparian Habitat

Management in Great Basin riparian habitat will benefit the following special status species:

Pahrump poolfish (federally listed endangered species)
White River spinedace (federally listed endangered species)
Railroad Valley springfish (federally listed threatened species)
Big Spring spinedace (federally listed threatened species)
Ute ladies'-tresses (federally listed threatened species)

Management Actions

SS-11: Manage the refugium at Shoshone Ponds for Pahrump poolfish in accordance with the Recovery Plan for the Pahrump Killifish (now called the Pahrump poolfish).

SS-12: Expand the fenced area at Shoshone Ponds.

SS-13: Manage the uplands around Shoshone Ponds to increase vegetation cover, reduce runoff, and prevent excessive siltation into the ponds.

SS-14: Develop additional ponds at Shoshone Ponds to increase the habitat for the Pahrump poolfish.

SS-15: Manage public lands adjacent to designated critical habitat for the White River spinedace, located on private land, in accordance with the White River Spinedace Recovery Plan.

SS-16: Manage public lands adjacent to designated critical habitat for the Railroad Valley springfish, located on the Duckwater Indian Reservation, in accordance with the Railroad Valley Springfish Recovery Plan.

SS-17: Manage Big Spring spinedace habitat by implementing those actions and strategies identified in the Big Spring Spinedace Recovery Plan that the Ely Field Office has the authority to implement, and in accordance with the Condor Canyon Habitat Management Plan.

SS-18: In cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, survey appropriate habitats on public lands in Lincoln County for the Ute ladies'-tresses. Develop and implement conservation and recovery actions for any populations that may be discovered.

2.4.7.3 Parameter – Mojave Desert and Great Basin Riparian Habitats

Management in Mojave Desert and Great Basin riparian habitat will benefit the following special status species:

Southwestern willow flycatcher (federally listed endangered species)
Western yellow-billed cuckoo (federal candidate species)
Meadow Valley Wash desert sucker (BLM sensitive species)
Meadow Valley Wash speckled dace (BLM sensitive species)
Arizona southwestern toad (BLM sensitive species)

Management Actions

SS-19: Manage southwestern willow flycatcher habitat by implementing those actions and strategies identified in the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher Recovery Plan and appropriate actions from future habitat conservation plans that the Ely Field Office has the authority to implement.

SS-20: Limit livestock grazing in the Lower Meadow Valley Wash ACEC through terms and conditions and/or season-of-use restrictions on grazing permits in accordance with a site-specific ACEC plan.

2.4.7.4 Parameter – Mojave Desert Riparian Habitat

Management in Mojave Desert riparian habitat will benefit the following special status species:

White River springfish (federally listed endangered species)
Hiko White River springfish (federally listed endangered species)
Pahranagat roundtail chub (federally listed endangered species)

Management Actions

SS-21: Manage White River springfish habitat at Ash Spring by implementing those actions and strategies identified in the Recovery Plan for the Aquatic and Riparian Species of Pahranagat Valley and the Ash Springs Coordinated Management Plan that the Ely Field Office has the authority to implement.

SS-22: Manage public lands adjacent to designated critical habitat for the Hiko White River springfish, located on private land, in accordance with the Recovery Plan for the Aquatic and Riparian Species of Pahranagat Valley.

SS-23: Manage public lands adjacent to the aquatic habitat for the Pahranagat roundtail chub, located on private and state land, in accordance with the Recovery Plan for the Aquatic and Riparian Species of Pahranagat Valley.

2.4.7.5 Parameter – Mojave Desert Scrub Habitat

Management in Mojave Desert scrub habitat will benefit the following special status species:
Desert tortoise (federally listed threatened species)
Banded Gila monster (BLM sensitive species)

Management Actions

SS-24: Manage desert tortoise habitat by implementing those actions and strategies identified in the Desert Tortoise Recovery Plan and appropriate actions from future habitat conservation plans that the Ely Field Office has the authority to implement.

SS-25: Coordinate with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Nevada Department of Wildlife to inventory desert tortoise habitat and desert tortoise populations.

SS-26: Implement an interagency monitoring program for desert tortoise habitat and desert tortoise populations, approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Desert Tortoise Management Oversight Group.

SS-27: Cooperate with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Nevada Department of Wildlife, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Wildlife Services in a program to control desert tortoise predators.

SS-28: Coordinate with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Nevada Department of Wildlife to develop approved translocation research projects for desert tortoises.

SS-29: Coordinate with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Nevada Department of Wildlife, Federal Highway Administration, the Nevada Department of Transportation, and Lincoln County to install tortoise-proof fencing and crossing culverts along U.S. Highway 93 in the Kane Springs ACEC and along other roads, as needed, in all three desert tortoise ACECs.

SS-30: Manage leased public lands in the Coyote Springs area in accordance with Public Law 100-275 dated March 31, 1988, and the Land Lease Agreement signed July 14, 1988.

SS-31: Limit maintenance of existing roads to the existing disturbance and perform maintenance in accordance with specifications provided by the Ely Field Office in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

SS-32: Where appropriate, restrict permitted activities from March 1 through October 31 within desert tortoise habitat (see **Map 2.4.7-1**).

SS-33: Implement the following management actions for desert tortoise habitat (see **Map 2.4.7-1**) (also refer to Section 2.4.8, Wild Horses; Section 2.4.12, Lands and Realty; Section 2.4.15, Recreation;

Section 2.4.16, Livestock Grazing; Section 2.4.18, Geology and Mineral Extraction; and Section 2.4.20, Fire Management).

- Within desert tortoise ACECs: (Unless enclosed with tortoise-proof fence or determined that fencing is not necessary by the BLM authorized officer and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) a qualified biologist will be present during surface-disturbing activities from March 1 through October 31 (most active season) to ensure that desert tortoises are not inadvertently harmed (unless determined by the BLM authorized officer and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that the project does not need one). The biologist will be on-call from November 1 through February 28/29 (less active season). The biologist will check construction areas immediately before construction activities begin.

- Within desert tortoise ACECs: If fence construction occurs during the tortoise active season, a qualified tortoise biologist will be onsite during construction of the tortoise-proof fence to ensure that no tortoises are harmed. If the fence is constructed during the tortoise inactive season, a qualified tortoise biologist will thoroughly examine the proposed fence line and burrows for the presence of tortoises no more than three days before construction. Any desert tortoises or eggs found in the fence line will be relocated offsite by the biologist in accordance with approved protocol (Desert Tortoise Council 1994, 1999). Tortoise burrows that occur immediately outside of the fence alignment that can be avoided by fence construction activities will be clearly marked to prevent crushing.

- Within desert tortoise ACECs: Projects will require fencing, unless determined by the BLM authorized officer and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that the project should not be fenced. In accordance with current specifications, fencing will consist of 1-inch horizontal by 2-inch vertical mesh. The mesh will extend at least 18 inches aboveground and, where feasible, 6 to 12 inches belowground. In situations where it is not feasible to bury the fence, the lower 6 to 12 inches of the fence will be bent at a 90 degree angle towards potentially approaching tortoises and covered with cobble or other suitable material to ensure that tortoise or other animals cannot dig underneath.

- Within desert tortoise ACECs: Tortoise fencing will be inspected on a quarterly basis, and any repairs completed within 72 hours from March 1 through October 31, and within 7 days from November 1 through February 28/29. The operator will inspect the fencing at least on a quarterly basis and after major precipitation events to ensure zero ground clearance. Monitoring and maintenance will include regular removal of trash and sediment accumulation and restoration of zero ground clearance between the ground and the bottom of the fence, including re-covering the bent portion of the fence if not buried. The operator will perform maintenance when needed including removing trash, sediment accumulation, and other debris. Fencing will be removed upon termination and reclamation of the project, or when it is determined by the BLM authorized officer and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that the fence is no longer necessary.

- Within desert tortoise ACECs: After a project has been fenced and a tortoise clearance completed, if a desert tortoise in imminent danger is encountered, it will be moved out of harm's way and onto adjacent BLM-administered land by personnel that have completed appropriate U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-approved training. If the tortoise cannot be avoided or moved out of harm's way onto

BLM-administered land, it will be placed in a cardboard box or other suitable container and held in a shaded area until BLM personnel can retrieve the tortoise.

- Within desert tortoise ACECs: During surface-disturbing activities, tortoise burrows will be avoided whenever possible. If a tortoise is found onsite during project activities, which may result in take of the tortoise (i.e., in harm's way), such activities will cease until the tortoise moves, or is moved, out of harm's way. The tortoise will be moved by a qualified tortoise biologist. All workers also will be instructed to check underneath all vehicles before moving such vehicles and within stockpiled materials. Tortoises often take cover under vehicles and construct burrows in stockpiled material.

- Within desert tortoise ACECs: Construction sites, staging areas, and access routes will be cleared by a qualified tortoise biologist before the start of construction. The project area will be surveyed for desert tortoise using survey techniques that provide 100 percent coverage. From March 1 through October 31, the preconstruction clearance will be no more than 3 days before initiation of construction; and from November 1 through February 28/29, the preconstruction clearance will be within 10 days before work begins. All desert tortoise burrows, and other species' burrows, which may be used by tortoises, will be examined to determine occupancy of each burrow by desert tortoises. Tortoise burrows will be cleared of tortoises and eggs, and collapsed. Any desert tortoise or eggs found in the fenced area will be removed under the supervision of a qualified tortoise biologist in accordance with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service protocol.

- Within desert tortoise ACECs: The BLM authorized officer will approve the selected consulting firm/biologist to be used by the applicant to implement the terms and conditions of the permit issued by the BLM. Any biologist and/or firm not previously approved will submit a curriculum vitae and be approved by the BLM authorized officer. Other personnel may assist with implementing terms and conditions that involve tortoise handling, monitoring, or surveys, only under direct field supervision of the approved, qualified biologist.

- Within desert tortoise ACECs: Tortoises and nests that are found will be handled and relocated by a qualified tortoise biologist in accordance with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-approved protocol. Burrows containing tortoises or nests will be excavated by hand, with hand tools, to allow removal of the tortoise or eggs. Desert tortoises moved during the tortoise inactive season or those in hibernation, regardless of date, will be placed into an adequate burrow; if one is not available, one will be constructed in accordance with Desert Tortoise Council protocol. During mild temperature periods in the spring and early fall, tortoises removed from the site will not necessarily be placed in a burrow. Tortoises and burrows will only be relocated to federally managed lands. If the responsible federal agency is not the BLM, verbal permission, followed by written concurrence, will be obtained before relocating the tortoise or eggs to lands not managed by the BLM.

- Within desert tortoise ACECs: Tortoises that are moved offsite and released into undisturbed habitat on public land will be placed in the shade of a shrub, in a natural unoccupied burrow similar to the hibernaculum in which it was found, or in an artificially constructed burrow in accordance with Desert Tortoise Council protocol.

- When a permitted activity results in residual impacts to desert tortoise habitat, compensation will be required. The compensation rate will be determined through the NEPA process for each proposed action. The amount to be paid will be calculated according to the formula identified in the "Compensation for the Desert Tortoise" report approved by the Desert Tortoise Management Oversight Group in November 1991.

- Desert tortoises moved in the winter (i.e., November 1 through February 28/29), or those in hibernation regardless of date, will be placed into an adequate burrow; if one is not available, one will be constructed utilizing the protocol for burrows in Section B.5.f. of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-approved guidelines (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1994a).

- The BLM will present a tortoise-education program to all personnel working on projects or activities occurring within the planning area. This program will be presented by a qualified tortoise biologist for those projects with the greatest potential impacts to desert tortoise. A video or fact sheet, as approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, may be presented or provided in lieu of a presentation for those projects with low potential impacts. A tortoise-education program will be given to, but not limited to: off-highway vehicle event entrants, pit crew members, crowd-control officials, race monitors, checkpoint personnel, clean-up crews, foremen, workers, grazing allotment permittees, hazardous materials management staff, fencing crews, fire suppression personnel, and others as appropriate.

- The program will include information on the life history of the desert tortoise, legal protection for desert tortoises, penalties for violations of federal and state laws, general tortoise-activity patterns, reporting requirements, measures to protect tortoises, terms and conditions of the permit, and personal measures employees can take to promote the conservation of desert tortoises. The definitions of take will be explained. Specific and detailed instructions will be provided on the proper techniques to capture and move tortoises which appear onsite, in accordance with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-approved protocol. The presentation shall be approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service prior to implementation. Workers will be encouraged to car pool to and from project sites.

- All projects in desert tortoise habitat will be reviewed by the BLM's wildlife staff to ensure that appropriate measures have been incorporated into the BLM authorization (e.g., material site, land sale, or off-highway vehicle event) to minimize the potential take of desert tortoise and loss of habitat.

- In accordance with Procedures for Endangered Species Act Compliance for the Mojave Desert Tortoise, a qualified desert tortoise biologist should possess a bachelor's degree in biology, ecology, wildlife biology, herpetology, or closely related fields as determined by the BLM. The biologist must have demonstrated prior field experience using accepted resource agency techniques to survey for desert tortoises and tortoise sign, which should include a minimum of 60 days field experience. All tortoise biologists will comply with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-approved handling protocol prior to conducting tasks in association with terms and conditions of a permit. In addition, the biologist will have the ability to recognize tortoise sign and accurately record survey results.

- A BLM representative(s) will be designated and will be responsible for overseeing compliance with terms and conditions of all permitted activities and reporting requirements. The designated representative will provide coordination among the permittee, project proponent, the BLM, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

2.4.7.6 Parameter – Mojave and Great Basin Desert Scrub and Salt Desert Shrub Habitats

Objective

To manage Mojave Desert and Great Basin desert scrub and salt desert shrub habitats for the benefit of the following special status species:
Western burrowing owl (BLM sensitive species)
Sunnyside green gentian (BLM sensitive species)

Management Actions

SS-34: Identify the spatial and temporal habitat needs for the western burrowing owl to help achieve the desired range of conditions of the various vegetation communities (see Section 2.4.5, Vegetation Resources).

SS-35: Work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Nevada Department of Wildlife and other partners (e.g., Great Basin Bird Observatory, Partners in Flight) to conduct breeding bird surveys to document the population status and trends of western burrowing owls.

SS-36: Inventory and monitor populations of the Sunnyside green gentian in conjunction with the development of the White River Valley ACEC management plan.

2.4.7.7 Parameter – Great Basin Sagebrush Habitat

Objective

To manage Great Basin sagebrush habitats for the benefit of the following special status species:
Greater sage-grouse (BLM sensitive species)
Pygmy rabbit (BLM sensitive species)

Management Actions

SS-37: Manage greater sage-grouse habitat by implementing those actions and strategies identified in the BLM National Sage-Grouse Habitat Conservation Strategy, Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Plan for Nevada and Eastern California, and local greater sage-grouse conservation plans that the Ely Field Office has the authority to implement.

SS-38: Maintain intact and quality sagebrush habitat. Prioritize habitat maintenance actions from the BLM National Sage Grouse Conservation Strategy to: 1) maintain large areas of high quality sagebrush currently occupied by greater sage-grouse; 2) maintain habitats which connect seasonal sagebrush habitats in occupied source habitats; and 3) maintain habitats that connect seasonal sagebrush habitats in occupied isolated habitats.

SS-39: Implement proactive and large scale management actions to restore lost, degraded, or fragmented sagebrush habitats and increase greater sage-grouse populations. Prioritize habitat restoration actions from the BLM National Sage Grouse Conservation Strategy to: 1) reconnect large patches of high quality seasonal habitats, which greater sage-grouse currently occupy; 2) enlarge sagebrush habitat in areas greater sage-grouse currently occupy; 3) reconnect stronghold/source habitats currently occupied by greater sage-grouse with isolated habitats currently occupied by greater sage-grouse; 4) reconnect currently occupied and isolated habitats; 5) restore potential sagebrush habitats that currently are not occupied by greater sage-grouse. Develop allowable use restrictions in greater sage-grouse habitats undergoing restoration, on a case-by-case basis, as dictated by monitoring.

SS-40: Outside of designated corridors, above-ground facilities will not be constructed within 0.25 mile of greater sage-grouse leks. Underground facilities will not be installed within 0.25 mile of greater sage-grouse leks unless the vegetation can be established to pre-disturbance conditions within a reasonable period of time. No new roads will be constructed within 0.25 mile of greater sage-grouse leks. Exceptions may be granted by the authorized officer, in consultation with Nevada Department of Wildlife, if the project can be designed so that it will not affect breeding activity nor degrade the integrity of the habitat associated with the lek, or if the lek has been inactive for at least 5 consecutive years or the habitat has changed such that there is no likelihood that the lek will become active.

SS-41: Where appropriate, restrict permitted activities from March 1 through May 15 within 2 miles of an active greater sage-grouse lek (see **Map 2.4.7-2**).

SS-42: Where appropriate, restrict permitted activities from November 1 through March 31 within greater sage-grouse winter range (see **Map 2.4.7-2**).

SS-43: Survey all proposed ground disturbing activities in suitable pygmy rabbit habitat utilizing the appropriate protocol. Surveys will be completed by a qualified biologist approved by the Ely Field Office.

2.4.8 Wild Horses

Introduction

The Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act of 1971 (Public Law 92-195) requires the BLM to protect and manage wild horses in areas where they were found at the time of the Act (**Map 2.4.8-1**), in a manner designed to achieve and maintain a thriving natural ecological balance in keeping with the multiple use management concept of public lands. These requirements are further detailed in the Standards and Guidelines for Wild Horses and Burros developed by the Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council and the Mojave/Southern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council.

Goal

Maintain and manage healthy, self-sustaining wild horse herds 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.

Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council Standard. Healthy wild horse and burro populations exhibit characteristics of healthy, productive, and diverse population. Age structure and sex ratios are appropriate to maintain the long-term viability of the population as a distinct group. Herd management areas are able to provide suitable feed, water, cover and living space for wild horses and burros and maintain historic patterns of habitat use.

Mojave-Southern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council Standard. Wild horses and burros within herd management areas should be managed for herd viability and sustainability. Herd management areas should be managed to maintain a healthy ecological balance among wild horse and/or burro populations, wildlife, livestock, and vegetation.

Objective

To maintain wild horse herds at appropriate management levels within herd management areas where sufficient habitat resources exist to sustain healthy populations at those levels.

Herds will consist of healthy animals that exhibit diverse age structure, good conformation, and any characteristics unique to the specific herd.

2.4.8.1 General Wild Horse Management

Management Actions

WH-1: Do not authorize domestic horse grazing permits within wild horse herd management areas (see **Map 2.4.8-2**).

WH-2: Coordinate wild horse management with other federal and state jurisdictions and resource management agencies.

WH-3: Do not construct permanent fences that prohibit the free-roaming behavior of wild horses or prevent wild horses from moving within herd management areas. Remove existing fences within herd management areas that restrict the free-roaming behavior of wild horses.

2.4.8.2 Parameter – Herd Management Area Establishment

Management Actions

WH-4: Manage wild horses within six herd management areas designated from herd areas (see **Map 2.4.8-2**) based on wild horse use and habitat suitability listed in **Table 2.4-11** covering approximately 3.7 million acres.

Table 2.4-11
Proposed Herd Management Areas

Proposed Herd Management Areas	Size Acres	Initial Appropriate Management Level
Pancake	855,000	240-493
Triple B	1,225,000	250-518
Antelope	331,000	150-324
Silver King	606,000	60-128
Eagle	670,000	100-210
Diamond Hills South[1]	19,000	10-22
	3,705,000	**810-1,695**

[1] Managed as a complex with Elko and Battle Mountain BLM.

WH-5: Remove wild horses and drop herd management area status for those areas that do not provide sufficient habitat resources to sustain healthy populations as listed in **Table 2.4-12.**

2.4.8.3 Parameter – Population Management

Management Actions

WH-6: Initially manage the appropriate management level as a range between 810 and 1,695 animals on all herd management areas within the planning area. Manage populations within ranges of appropriate management levels in which the upper level is based on available habitat and the lower level is based on the projected recruitment rate between gather cycles as developed from herd monitoring data (see **Table 2.4-11**).

WH-7: Base adjustments to appropriate management levels on monitoring data and perform adjustments typically, but not exclusively, in conjunction with the watershed analysis process.

WH-8: Manage sex ratios, phenotypic traits, reproductive cycles, and other population dynamics on a herd management area basis.

Table 2.4-12
Herd Management Areas Dropped

Herd Management Areas	Public Land Area (acres)[1]	Approximate Number Removed
Antelope (west of Highway 93)	62,900	0
Applewhite	30,300	0
Blue Nose Peak	84,600	5
Cherry Creek (eastern portion)	3,200	0
Clover Creek	33,100	10
Clover Mountains	168,000	20
Delamar Mountains	183,600	40
Highland Peak (southern 2/3)	65,500	0
Jakes Wash	153,700	50
Little Mountain	53,000	30
Meadow Valley Mountains	94,500	5
Miller Flat	89,400	30
Moriah	53,300	30
Rattlesnake (southern 1/2)	37,400	0
Seaman	358,800	100
White River	116,300	80
Totals	**1,587,600**	**400**

[1] Rounded to hundreds.

WH-9: Implement the following management actions for desert tortoise habitat (also refer to Section 2.4.7, Special Status Species). The Ely Field Office does not plan to manage for any wild horses in desert tortoise habitat and this management only will be used if emergency gathers are needed in the future should wild horses reenter the area (see **Map 2.4.7-1**).

- For gathers: Trap sites should be located at previous trap site locations or in previously disturbed areas, where possible. All trap and holding sites, and access routes will be cleared by a qualified tortoise biologist before the trap and holding facilities are set up. The parcel will be surveyed for desert tortoise using survey techniques that provide 100 percent coverage.

- For gathers: Holding facilities will not be located inside ACECs. If possible, they should be located outside of desert tortoise habitat. If they cannot be located outside of desert tortoise habitat, they should be placed in previously disturbed areas.

- For gathers: All vehicle use in desert tortoise habitat will be restricted to existing roads and trails and within surveyed areas. Vehicles will not exceed 25 mph.

- For gathers: Trash and garbage will be contained in a covered, raven-proof trash receptacle and disposed of off-site in a designated facility. No trash or garbage will be buried at the sites.

- For gathers: Use of hay or grains as enticements into the traps will not occur within desert tortoise habitat to avoid the introduction of nonnative plant species. The feeding of hay or grains to animals will not be allowed within ACECs. The feeding of hay or grains to animals at holding facilities on public land within desert tortoise habitat will be avoided when possible.

- For gathers: The discharge of firearms will be prohibited at all traps and holding facilities except in the case of euthanasia of a captured animal by an authorized BLM employee or contractor.

2.4.9 Cultural Resources

Introduction

Management of cultural resources is directed primarily by two laws: the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979. The National Historic Preservation Act requires management and enhancement of significant historic properties and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act requires protection of archaeological resources (sites and objects of 100 years or more in age). The Federal Land Policy and Management Act directs the BLM to manage public lands on the basis of multiple use and to "protect the quality of historical resources and archaeological values." This act provides for the periodic inventory of public lands and resources.

Goal

Identify, preserve, and protect significant cultural resources and ensure that they are available for appropriate uses by present and future generations (Federal Land Policy and Management Act, Section 103(c), 201(a), and (c); National Historic Preservation Act, Section 110(a); Archaeological Resources Protection Act, Section 14 (a)).

Seek to reduce imminent threats and resolve potential conflicts from natural or human-caused deterioration, or potential conflict with other resource uses (Federal Land Policy and Management Act, Section 103(c), National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106, 110(a)(2)) by ensuring that all authorizations for land use and resource use will comply with the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106.

Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council Standard. Land use plan will recognize cultural resources within the context of multiple use.

Objective

To protect and maintain cultural resources on BLM-administered land in stable condition. Appropriate management actions will be determined after evaluation and allocation of cultural resource use categories through cultural resource project plans.

2.4.9.1 General Cultural Resources Management

Management Actions

CR-1: Prioritize inventories to identify sites eligible to the National Register.

CR-2: Allocate all cultural resources in the planning area, whether already recorded or projected to occur on the basis of existing data synthesis (including cultural landscapes), or not projected to occur but later identified through inventory, to the following six uses according to their nature and relative preservation value: Scientific Use, Conservation for Future Use, Traditional Use, Public Use, Experimental Use, and Discharged from Management. See the Cultural category in the glossary for definitions. These use allocations pertain to cultural resources, not to areas of land. Each resource will be assigned to a primary use category, but that assignment does not preclude management from other use categories. Allocate and manage all sites determined eligible to the National Register of Historic Places to Scientific, Public, and Conservation for Future Use.

Focus on three of the six cultural resource use allocations: Scientific Use, Public Use, and Conservation for Future Use. These allocations currently address the majority of issues within the planning area and, therefore, are of high importance.

Do not emphasize the remaining three cultural resource use allocations – Traditional Use, Experimental Use, and Discharged from Management – for the following reasons:

- Traditional Use. Several recent and extensive efforts have identified no Traditional Cultural Properties within the planning area. Appropriate measures for identification and evaluation of Traditional Cultural Properties, as well as assignment to use categories, will be taken during tribal consultation and public involvement in planning and project implementation. Although currently not identified as such, several historic cemeteries may qualify as Traditional Cultural Properties.

- Experimental Use. Because there are few activities in the planning area where the destructive nature of impacts on archaeological sites are uncertain or unknown, this allocation will not be emphasized.

- Discharged from Management. This cultural resource use allocation may occur. However, this will not be emphasized because conducting a program driven by this goal would defeat the long-term preservation of these resources.

CR-3: Allocate and manage all sites determined not eligible to the National Register of Historic Places and not containing archaeological resources as Discharged from Management Use.

CR-4: Pending completion of watershed, site type, or site-specific Cultural Resource Project Plans, direct inventory priorities to testing high-medium-low predictions found in archaeological predictive models, including the Gnomon forecast model (Gnomon 2004).

CR-5: Continue to educate the public on Cultural Heritage resources, their importance as a non-renewable resource, and the laws that provide for their preservation. Work with local groups and volunteers to enhance interpretive capabilities and provide educational opportunities.

CR-6: The following thirteen classes of site types found in the planning area have specific management needs based on each site type. Priorities for inventory and appropriate management actions have been identified for each site type.

2.4.9.2 Parameter – Cultural Resource Use Allocation: Historic Roads, Trails, Railways, Highways, and Associated Sidings and Stations

- Management:
  - Perform an intensive archaeological inventory of the corridor of each site to establish baseline information on a priority basis as identified in Cultural Resources Project Plans.
  - Write an historic context report for each resource on a priority basis as identified in Cultural Resource Project Plans.
  - Encourage the use of site stewards for monitoring.
- Scientific Use:
  - Inventory road/trail/railway/highway related sites (e.g., stage stops, stage stations) and record the condition on a priority basis as identified in Cultural Resources Project Plans.
  - Allow excavation subject to management plan with appropriate research design (which conserves samples for future use).
- Conservation for Future Use:
  - Post informational signs at all major intersections along existing Public Use sites.
  - Allow excavation subject to management plan with appropriate research design (which conserves samples for future use).
  - Inventory road/trail/railway/highway related sites (e.g., stage stops, stage stations) and record the condition.
- Public Use:
  - Post informational signs at all major intersections along Public Use sites as appropriate.
  - Prepare activity level cultural resource project plans for public use sites to identify interpretive needs including signs, interpretive kiosks, driving guides, etc.
  - Complete National Register nominations for all Public Use sites on a priority basis as identified in Cultural Resource Project Plans.
- Priorities for Inventory:
  - Potential threats identified in Cultural Resource Project Plans
  - Existing designated National Scenic and Historic Trails
  - Routes under national study

Manage the cultural historic landscape (setting) around the Pony Express Trail and California Trail (National Historic Trail) according to the National Historic Preservation Act and current policy regarding Historic Landscape Management along National Historic Trails and current policy regarding the Determination of the Direct Effects Analysis Area for National Historic Trails. The area of direct effect around national historic

trails is established as 1 mile from centerline, although in some cases, the area of effect may be larger or smaller than 1 mile from centerline. Manage designated national historic trails according to the National Scenic and Historic Trail Act (16 USC sections 1241-1251) and the BLM's National Scenic and Historic Trails Strategy and Work Plan (BLM 2006).

Allocate and manage all National Register eligible historic roads, trails, railways, highways, and associated sidings and stations for Scientific, Conservation, and Public Use. No fee sites will be established.

Allocate national historic trails to Public Use and prepare Cultural Resource Project Plans to better balance Public, Scientific, and Conservation Use. Establish fee sites at Public Use sites as appropriate.

2.4.9.3 Parameter – Cultural Resource Use Allocation: Rock Art Sites

- Management:
  - Consider for allocation to Public Use, any rock art site with evidence of public use.
  - Allocate any rock art site with no evidence of public use to Conservation Use and/or Scientific Use and consider those sites for public use as appropriate.
  - Preserve in place all rock art sites eligible to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion c. Do not discharge these sites from management.
  - Use the best and most accurate technologies available to photograph and gather locational information at all rock art panels (for example, digital photographs and global positioning system readings with position error no greater than 20 feet).
  - Take detailed measured drawings and sub-meter global positioning system locations of all panels.
  - Allow Scientific Use subject to management plans that minimize physical damage to rock art.
  - Conduct condition monitoring of rock art sites on at-risk/threatened rock art sites annually.
  - Limit livestock and human contact with rock art panels through physical barriers (fences or natural barriers such as plantings or boulder placement).
  - Allow emergency stabilization if natural or cultural threats are causing loss of integrity to rock art.
  - Evaluate fire potential and remove fuels where there is threat of loss.
  - Encourage the use of site stewards for monitoring.
- Scientific Use:
  - Permit surface collection of artifacts on non-rock art portions of sites under the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 if there is threat of loss or destruction.
- Public Use:
  - Post informational signs on rock site etiquette and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 at all Public Use sites.
  - Develop site-specific recreation management plans/interpretative plans for all Public Use rock art sites before implementing Cultural Resource Project Plan actions.
  - Consider installing at least one interpretative trail/footpath at each rock art site allocated to Public Use.
  - Install visitor registers at all Public Use sites.

- Priorities for Inventory:
  - Potential threats identified in Cultural Resource Project Plans
  - Those areas containing rock art identified for prescribed or wildland fire use
  - Existing designated sites

Allocate and manage all National Register eligible rock art sites for Scientific, Conservation, and/or Public Use, and continue to develop interpretative sites with priority placed on maintaining and improving existing interpretative facilities.

Establish fee sites at Public Use rock art sites as appropriate. American Indians will be exempt from fees only when visiting rock art sites for religious practices.

2.4.9.4 Parameter – Cultural Resource Use Allocations: Historic Townsites, Historic Mining Camps, Historic Mining Districts and Related Historic Buildings and Standing Structures, and Historic Racetracks

- Management:
  - Stabilize or rehabilitate standing structures on a priority basis as identified in Cultural Resources Project Plans and consistent with the Memorandum of Agreement with the Nevada Division of Minerals for Mine Safety Closures (State Protocol Agreement, page 38. Appendix F, Part B: Hazard Abatement).
  - Write an historic context report and an historic structure report for each mining district based on priorities identified in Cultural Resource Project Plans.
  - Complete an intensive archaeological inventory of the resource (townsite, camp, or district) for baseline information based on priorities identified in Cultural Resource Project Plans.
  - Follow Appendix H of the State Protocol Agreement for recording all standing structures for baseline information based on priorities identified in Cultural Resource Project Plans.
  - Evaluate fire potential and remove fuels where there is threat of loss.
  - Encourage the use of site stewards for monitoring.
- Scientific Use:
  - Allow excavation subject to management plan with appropriate research design (which conserves samples for future use).
  - Post signs with information on site etiquette and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 as appropriate.
  - Permit surface collection of artifacts under the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 if there is threat of loss or destruction.
  - Permit data recovery in those instances where future protection is not feasible.
- Conservation for Future Use:
  - Allow excavation subject to management plan with appropriate research design (which conserves samples for future use).
  - Post signs with information on site etiquette and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 as appropriate.

  - Perform stabilization and/or rehabilitation of standing structures on a priority basis as identified in Cultural Resource Project Plans.
- Public Use:
  - Place at least one kiosk with interpretation panel for each resource.
  - Develop site-specific information brochures for all Public Use sites.
  - Complete National Register nominations for all Public Use sites based on priorities developed in Cultural Resource Project Plans.
  - Consider preservation and reuse of historic buildings as appropriate.
- Priorities for Inventory:
  - Potential threats identified in Cultural Resource Project Plans
  - Those areas containing historic townsites, mining camps, mining districts, buildings, standing structures and historic racetracks identified for prescribed or wildland fire use
  - Existing designated sites

Allocate and manage all National Register eligible sites with evidence of unauthorized excavation for Conservation Use and/or Scientific Use in order to perform data recovery in those instances where future protection is not feasible. Allocate and manage the remaining National Register eligible sites for Scientific and/or Public Use.

Allocate and manage all of the National Register eligible sites with standing structures for Conservation and/or Public Use.

Establish fee sites at Public Use sites as appropriate.

2.4.9.5 Parameter – Cultural Resource Use Allocations: Historic Cemeteries and Isolated Historic Gravesites

- Management:
  - Allow preservation in place and emergency stabilization if natural or cultural threats are causing loss of integrity to cemetery (including wood treatment and stone repair).
  - Write historic context report and equivalent of historic structure report for all cemeteries based on priorities identified in Cultural Resource Project Plans.
  - Follow Appendix H of the State Protocol Agreement for recording all standing structures for baseline information based on priorities identified in Cultural Resource Project Plans.
  - Follow Appendix H of the State Protocol Agreement based on priorities identified in Cultural Resource Project Plans.
  - Evaluate fire potential and remove fuels where there is threat of loss.
  - Install visitor registers and create informational brochures.
  - Install fences or physical barriers.
  - Install physical protection of historic cemeteries and isolated gravesites in the Cultural Resource Project Plans.

  - Post appropriate signs with information on site etiquette and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979.
  - Encourage the use of site stewards for monitoring.
  - If established, allocate and manage for Traditional Use.
- Scientific Use:
  - No scientific excavation of cemeteries except in those instances where physical disturbance is unavoidable and scientific study of human remains and associated funerary objects, and/or burial patterns, may be appropriate to answer questions about demography, health, and/or status, as well as site significance.
- Public Use:
  - Prepare National Register nominations, with the expectation that historic cemeteries and isolated gravesites that are no longer in use and part of historic townsites, landscapes, or themes, will meet National Register criteria.
- Discharged from Management:
  - Discharge from Management under the Act of June 14, 1926, commonly known as the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, to a public (government) body requesting transfer with conditions/stipulations that maintain historic character.
- Priorities for Inventory:
  - Potential threats identified in Cultural Resource Project Plans
  - Those areas containing historic cemeteries or isolated gravesites identified for prescribed or wildland fire use
  - Existing designated sites

Allocate and manage all sites for Conservation and/or Public Use.

Establish fee sites at Public Use sites as appropriate.

2.4.9.6 Parameter – Cultural Resource Use Allocations: Ethnic Arboreal Narratives and Graphics, and Bow Stave Trees

- Management:
  - Perform detailed recordation of all arboreal narratives, graphics, and bow stave trees on a priority basis as identified in Cultural Resource Project Plans. Recordation will include, for example, detailed measured drawings, digital photographs, and sub-meter global positioning system locational information.
  - Evaluate fire potential and remove fuels where there is threat of loss.
  - Develop management plans and National Register nomination addressing collection/curation policy for specimens.
  - Perform a reconnaissance inventory of all threatened aspen stands based on priorities identified in Cultural Resource Project Plans.
  - Post appropriate signs with information on site etiquette and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 as appropriate.
  - Encourage the use of site stewards for monitoring.

- Priorities for Inventory:
  - Potential threats identified in Cultural Resources Project Plans
  - Those areas containing aspen stands identified for prescribed or wildland fire use
  - Oldest aspen groves with known carvings
  - Existing designated sites

Allocate and manage all National Register eligible sites for Scientific Use while promoting public access.

2.4.9.7 Parameter – Cultural Resource Use Allocations: Paleoindian Sites

The term Paleoindian is defined as follows: "Paleoindian or Pre-Archaic has been attributed to include both fluted and stemmed complexes as well as being reserved for complexes containing fluted points and extinct megafauna. The term Paleoindian is used here to denote archeological sites and artifact assemblages dating between 12,000 to 8,000 years Before Present, which include fluted or stemmed points, and possibly crescents. Under this broad Paleoindian umbrella there are several local traditions and possible variants that may represent different peoples using the land in different ways. This includes Clovis, Folsom, Western Pluvial Lakes Tradition, and Stemmed Complex" (Sherve 2001).

- Management:
  - Due to fragility of these sites to unauthorized collection, do not allocate these sites to public use, unless disclosure of site location does not harm but benefit the resource.
  - Complete National Register nominations for all sites on a priority basis as identified in Cultural Resource Project Plans.
  - Develop partnerships to encourage scientific research on Paleoindian sites in the planning area.
  - Address research and preservation potential in Cultural Resource Project Plans.
  - Perform site recordation to include, for example, collection of sub-meter global positioning system locational information of all diagnostic Paleoindian tools when located.
  - Encourage the use of site stewards for monitoring.
- Scientific Use:
  - Allow excavation subject to management plan with appropriate research design to conserve samples for future use.
- Conservation Use:
  - Post appropriate signs with information on site etiquette and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 where evidence of unauthorized collection is evident.
  - Conduct annual monitoring of all Paleoindian sites on a priority basis as identified in Cultural Resource Project Plans.
  - Allow activities that do not have direct impacts to the integrity of the sites.
- Priorities for Inventory:
  - Potential threats identified in Cultural Resource Project Plans
  - Existing designated sites

Allocate and manage all National Register eligible sites for Scientific and/or Conservation Use.

2.4.9.8 Parameter – Cultural Resource Use Allocations: Formative Puebloan Sites

- Management:
  - Evaluate fire potential and remove fuels where there is threat of loss.
  - Allow preservation in place and emergency stabilization if natural or cultural threats are causing loss of integrity to sites.
  - Post appropriate signs with information on site etiquette and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979.
  - Develop partnerships to encourage scientific research on formative Puebloan sites.
  - Conduct annual monitoring of all formative Puebloan sites based on priorities developed in Cultural Resource Project Plans.
  - Allocate no more than one site per watershed to Public Use.
  - Address Scientific, Conservation, and Public Use, as well as public participation in research on formative Puebloan sites in Cultural Resource Project Plans.
  - Protect formative Puebloan sites from vehicular traffic in the event of fire on or near the sites.
- Scientific Use:
  - Allow excavation/scientific research subject to management plan with appropriate research design (which maximizes conservation of the site for future use and also maximizes public participation in the research).
- Conservation for Future Use:
  - Post appropriate signs with information on site etiquette and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 only where public knowledge is inevitable.
- Public Use:
  - Install visitor registers and create informational brochures based on priorities established in Cultural Resource Project plans.
  - Develop specific recreation management plan/interpretative plans for all formative Puebloan sites developed for Public Use.
  - Perform surface collection of artifacts on all sites allocated to Public Use prior to Public Use designation.
- Priorities for Inventory:
  - Potential threats identified in Cultural Resource Project Plans
  - Existing designated sites

Allocate and manage all National Register eligible sites for Scientific, Conservation Use, and Public Use.

Establish fee sites at Public Use sites as appropriate.

2.4.9.9 Parameter – Cultural Resource Use Allocations: Rockshelter and Cave Sites

- Management:
  - Evaluate fire potential and remove fuels where there is threat of loss.
  - Preserve in place and allow emergency stabilization if natural or cultural threats are causing loss of integrity to sites.
  - Post appropriate signs with information on site etiquette and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 where evidence of ongoing public use exists.
  - Conduct a Class II inventory of areas identified as high potential for aboriginal site occurrence on a priority basis as identified in Cultural Resource Project Plans.
  - Encourage the use of site stewards for monitoring.
- Scientific Use:
  - Encourage partnerships that assist the Ely Field Office in evaluating loss of scientific data due to vandalism and in estimating cost of restoration and repair.
  - Develop partnerships for excavation/scientific research to assist the Ely Field Office to understand the paleo-environmental record.
- Conservation for Future Use:
  - Evaluate the cost of restoration and repair as soon as vandalism is detected.
- Public Use:
  - Install visitor registers and create informational brochures based on priorities established in Cultural Resource Project plans.
  - Develop specific recreation management plan/interpretative plan for all rockshelter cave sites developed for Public Use.
  - Perform surface collection of artifacts on all sites allocated to Public Use prior to Public Use designation.
- Priorities for Inventory:
  - Potential threats identified in Cultural Resource Project Plans
  - Those areas containing rockshelters identified for prescribed or wildland fire use
  - Existing designated sites

Allocate and manage all National Register eligible sites for Scientific, Conservation Use, and Public Use.

Establish fee sites at Public Use sites as appropriate.

2.4.9.10 Parameter – Cultural Resource Use Allocations: Prehistoric Complex Sites, Campsites, or Specialized Activity Areas

- Management:
  - Evaluate fire potential and remove fuels where there is threat of loss.
  - Post appropriate signs with information on site etiquette and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979, where evidence of public use exists.

  - Develop Cultural Resource Project Plans that further define this class of sites and clarify acceptable management actions.
  - Allow excavation subject to management plan with appropriate research design (which conserves samples for future use).
  - Subject all sites initially allocated to Conservation, Scientific, Experimental, or Discharged from Management Use to site-specific activity plans that preserve portions of the sites for future use.
  - Encourage the use of site stewards for monitoring.
- Scientific Use:
  - Complete National Register nominations for all sites allocated to Scientific Use on a priority basis as identified in Cultural Resource Project Plans.
- Public Use:
  - Continue to produce materials and programs on “Leave What You Find” principles and environmental ethics.
  - Develop and produce a brochure covering the topic “What Do You Do If You Find an Artifact?”.
- Priorities for Inventory:
  - Potential threats identified in Cultural Resource Project Plans
  - Existing designated sites

Allocate and manage 90 percent of the National Register eligible sites for Conservation and/or Scientific Use and up to 10 percent of the sites per watershed for Experimental Use.

2.4.9.11 Parameter – Cultural Resource Use Allocations: Toolstone Sources or Quarries

- Management:
  - Evaluate fire potential and remove fuels where there is threat of loss.
  - Post appropriate signs with information on site etiquette and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979, where evidence of public use exists.
  - Develop Cultural Resource Project Plans that include addressing mineral collection of non-artifacts from quarry/source locations.
  - Implement photographic monitoring for all obsidian sources.
  - Encourage the use of site stewards for monitoring.
- Scientific Use:
  - Compile National Register nominations for all sites allocated to Scientific Use on a priority basis as identified in Cultural Resource Project Plans.
- Public Use:
  - Develop and produce a brochure to enable the public to distinguish between artifacts and mineral specimens.
- Priorities for Inventory:
  - Potential threats identified in Cultural Resource Project Plans
  - Existing designated sites

Allocate and manage all obsidian toolstone sources/quarries for Scientific and/or Conservation Use; 90 percent of all other National Register eligible material sources/quarries for Scientific and/or Conservation Use; and up to 10 percent of all other National Register eligible material sources/quarries for Experimental Use.

2.4.9.12 Parameter – Cultural Resource Use Allocations: Historic Ranching and Livestock-related Historic Sites, Buildings, Standing Structures, and Landscapes

- Management:
  - Evaluate fire potential and remove fuels where there is threat of loss.
  - Post appropriate signs with information on site etiquette and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 where evidence of public use exists.
  - Write historic context reports on a priority basis as identified in Cultural Resource Project Plans.
  - Write historic structure reports on a priority basis as identified in Cultural Resource Project Plans.
  - Complete Level I documentation (measured drawings, plans, elevations, photos, and narratives) on all standing structures on a priority basis as identified in Cultural Resource Project Plans.
  - Obtain photo documentation of historic features and landscapes.
  - Encourage the use of site stewards for monitoring.
- Scientific Use:
  - Allow excavation subject to management plan with appropriate research design (that conserves samples for future use).
- Conservation Use:
  - Emphasize conservation of the setting.
  - Perform stabilization and/or rehabilitation of standing structures on a priority basis as identified in Cultural Resource Project Plans.
- Discharged from Management:
  - Subsequent to scientific use, discharge sites when preservation in place is impractical.
- Public Use:
  - Complete National Register nominations for all Public Use sites on a priority basis as identified in Cultural Resource Project Plans.
  - Consider standing structures for adaptive uses.
- Priorities for Inventory:
  - Potential threats identified in Cultural Resource Project Plans
  - Existing designated sites

Manage and allocate sites for Public Use on a watershed basis. Allocate and manage all of the National Register eligible sites for Scientific Use and/or Public Use.

2.4.9.13 Parameter – Cultural Resource Use Allocations: Ethnohistoric Sites, Sacred Sites, Traditional Use Areas, Traditional Cultural Properties

- Management:
  - When identified, describe locations and boundaries of Ethnohistoric Sites, Sacred Sites, Traditional Use Areas, and Traditional Cultural Properties with global positioning systems or other appropriate technology.
  - When identified, record Ethnohistoric Sites, Sacred Sites, Traditional Use Areas, and Traditional Cultural Properties.
  - Evaluate fire potential and remove fuels where there is threat of loss.
  - Complete National Register nominations on a priority basis as identified in Cultural Resource Project Plans.
  - Pending approval of Cultural Resource Project Plans, allocate all sites to Conservation use.
  - Encourage the use of site stewards for monitoring.
- Priorities for Inventory:
  - Potential threats identified in Cultural Resource Project Plans
  - Existing designated sites

Allocate and manage all National Register eligible Ethnohistoric Sites primarily for Conservation Use unless subject to Cultural Resource Project Plans.

Allocate and manage all identified Traditional Cultural Properties primarily for Traditional Use.

Allocate and manage all identified Sacred Sites or Traditional Use Areas for Conservation Use.

2.4.9.14 Parameter – Cultural Resource Use Allocations: “Other” Sites

“Other” is defined as those sites not included in any of the above 12 site types.

- Management:
  - Evaluate fire potential and remove fuels where there is threat of loss.
  - Post appropriate signs with information on site etiquette and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979, where evidence of public use exists.
  - Encourage the use of site stewards for monitoring.
- Public Use:
  - Due to sensitivity of some of these resources, monitor public use on these sites (excluding the agave roasting pits).
- Priorities for Inventory:
  - Potential threats identified in Cultural Resource Project Plans
  - Existing designated sites

Allocate and manage all National Register eligible sites for Scientific and/or Conservation Use with public use being monitored. Permit Scientific Use if it does not destroy features.

Allocate all of the agave roasting pits to Scientific, Conservation, and/or Public Use.

2.4.10 Paleontological Resources

The BLM has authority to manage and protect paleontological resources under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and various sections of Part 43 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

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.

Objective

To manage fossil sites with high scientific value in a stable condition, while allowing appropriate research and casual public collecting.

2.4.10.1 General Paleontological Resource Management

Management Actions

PAL-1: Allocate and manage all vertebrate sites for Scientific Use.

PAL-2: Allocate and manage all invertebrate and paleobotanical sites for Public and/or Scientific Use.

PAL-3: Change the use allocation without a plan amendment if another use is evident or proposed.

2.4.10.2 Parameter – Trilobite Collecting

Management Actions

PAL-4: Establish a no-fee-based registration system[1].

PAL-5: Establish the following priorities for Inventory:

- Predicted threats identified in Cultural Resource Project Plans
- Existing designated sites
- Lands identified for disposal

[1] Implementation level decision.

2.4.11 Visual Resources

Introduction

Section 102(8) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act declares that public land will be managed to protect the quality of scenic values and, where appropriate, to preserve and protect certain public land in its natural condition. NEPA, section 101(b), requires federal agencies to ". . . assure for all Americans . . . esthetically pleasing surroundings." Section 102 of NEPA requires agencies to ". . . utilize a systematic, interdisciplinary approach which will ensure the integrated use of . . . Environmental Design Acts in the planning and decision making . . ." process. Guidelines for the identification of visual resource management classes on public land are contained in BLM Manual Handbook 8410-1, Visual Resource Inventory. New technology in the form of geographic information systems, as well as changing public perceptions about visual resources led to the development of a new inventory for the planning area.

Goal

Manage public land actions and activities in a manner consistent with Ely Field Office visual resource management class objectives.

Objective

To implement multiple use activities within the planning area with mitigation measures consistent with the visual resource management classes.

Management Actions

VR-1: Manage designated wilderness, wilderness study areas, and some special designation areas such as ACECs (see Section 2.4.22) for scenic qualities under Visual Resource Management Class I objectives.

VR-2: Manage wilderness study areas released by Congress at the baseline visual resource inventory class.

VR-3: Manage visual resources in accordance with the following visual resource management classes (approximate acreages – see **Map 2.4.11-1**).

Class I: 1,154,500 acres
Class II: 2,396,700 acres
Class III: 4,874,200 acres
Class IV: 3,031,200 acres

VR-4: Manage the Pony Express National Historic Trail corridor under Visual Resource Management Class II objectives.

2.4.12 Lands and Realty

Introduction

Section 102(a)(1) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act requires that public land be retained in federal ownership unless disposal of a particular parcel will serve the national interest. Acquisition of land to consolidate ownership patterns will provide for more efficient land management and administration for both public and private landowners. Retention and acquisition of land containing significant resource values will provide for long-term protection and management of those values.

Rights-of-way and other land uses are recognized as major uses of the public lands and are authorized pursuant to sections 302 and 501 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act. Section 503 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act provides for the designation of utility corridors and encourages utilization of rights-of-way in-common to minimize environmental impacts and the proliferation of separate rights-of-way. It is BLM policy to encourage prospective applicants to locate their proposals within corridors. Only facilities and uses that are consistent with the special designation associated with that area will be permitted in avoidance areas. Designation of exclusion zones—those areas where no new rights-of-way will be allowed—will provide protection of lands and resources with values that are not compatible with rights-of-way or other land uses.

The acquisition of legal public and administrative access is required to ensure continued effective administration and public use of these lands. This need becomes more acute as public use of these lands increases and as landowners become more aware of the value of public and private land for recreation and other purposes. Land tenure adjustment actions (exchanges or fee purchases) can be a valuable tool for access acquisitions. However, without careful review, lands actions, particularly disposals, can result in lost access.

Section 204 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act gives the Secretary of the Interior the authority to make, modify, extend, or revoke withdrawals and mandates periodic review of existing withdrawals.

Goal

Manage public lands in a manner that:

- Allows the retention of public land with high resource values;
- Consolidates public land patterns to ensure effective administration and improve resource management;
- Makes public lands that promote community development available for disposal;

- Meets public, local, state, and federal agency needs for use authorizations such as rights-of-way, permits, leases, and easements while avoiding or minimizing adverse impacts to other resource values; and

- Utilizes withdrawal actions with the least restrictive measures and minimum size necessary to accomplish the desired purpose.

Objective

To respond to public, local, state, and federal agency needs for land for community development, utility and other associated rights-of-way, communication sites, and other allowed uses of BLM-administered lands.

2.4.12.1 Parameter – Retention

Management Actions

LR-1: Retain lands or interest in lands within designated critical habitat for federally listed threatened and endangered species unless the disposal results in the acquisition of land with higher quality habitat.

LR-2: Retain lands within ACECs.

LR-3: Under authority of the Federal Land Policy Management Act, Section 203, retain portions of the National Trails System including the corridors of both the Pony Express National Historic Trail and the California National Historic Trail within the designated corridor. This limitation is without regard for eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places and is instead tied to the congressionally-designated corridor.

LR-4: Prior to disposal, review all lands for National Natural Landmark eligibility and retain lands containing resources qualifying as National Natural Landmarks.

LR-5: Retain all public lands with springs and creeks that contain fisheries in federal ownership unless the disposal of these lands will result in the acquisition of lands with higher quality habitat.

LR-6: Retain lands in areas with high recreation value, unless state and county entities show an over-riding need through an acceptable recreation management plan.

2.4.12.2 Parameter – Disposal (Sales, Exchanges, Recreation and Public Purposes Act, and Airport Conveyances)

Management Actions

LR-7: In accordance with Section 7 of the Taylor Grazing Act, 43 U.S.C. 315f, and Executive Order No. 6910, the described lands are hereby classified for disposal by sale, exchange, Recreation and Public Purposes Act, and airport conveyances.

LR-8: In accordance with the Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act of 2004, the Ely Field Office will dispose of not more than 90,000 acres of public land in Lincoln County identified for disposal by the Ely Field Office through the Ely Resource Management Plan or a subsequent amendment to the land use plan. The Ely Field Office and the County jointly will select the parcels of land to offer for sale. The lands identified in the approved plan upon signature of the Record of Decision will be withdrawn from:

- All forms of entry and appropriation under the public land laws, including the mining laws;
- Location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and
- Operation of the mineral leasing and geothermal leasing laws.

Once the lands are disposed of by a sale or an election by the County to obtain land under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, the withdrawal will no longer apply.

LR-9: In accordance with the Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act of 2004, up to 15,000 acres of public land in Lincoln County could be conveyed to Lincoln County for open space and parks.

LR-10: In accordance with the Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act of 2004, approximately 4,780 acres of public land in Lincoln County could be conveyed to the State of Nevada for state park expansion.

LR-11: In accordance with the White Pine County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act of 2006, the Ely Field Office will dispose of not more than 45,000 acres of public land in White Pine County identified for disposal by the Ely Field Office through the Ely Resource Management Plan or a subsequent amendment to the land use plan. The Ely Field Office and the County will jointly select the parcels of land to offer for sale. The lands identified in the approved plan upon signature of the Record of Decision will be withdrawn from:

- All forms of entry and appropriation under the public land laws, including the mining laws;
- Location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and
- Operation of the mineral leasing and geothermal leasing laws.

Once the lands are disposed of by a sale or an election by the County to obtain land under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, the withdrawal will no longer apply.

LR-12: In accordance with the White Pine County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act of 2006, the following lands will be conveyed to the State of Nevada, subject to valid existing rights, for no consideration, all right, title, and interest if the state and White Pine County enter into a written agreement supporting the conveyances.

- Approximately 6,265 acres identified as "Steptoe Valley Wildlife Management Area Expansion Proposal"; and

- Approximately 658 acres identified as "Ward Charcoal Ovens Expansion."

LR-13: In accordance with the White Pine County Conservation, Recreation and Development Act of 2006, the following lands will be conveyed to White Pine County, subject to valid existing rights, for no consideration, all right, title, and interest:

- Approximately 1,550 acres identified as "Airport Expansion"; and
- Approximately 200 acres identified as "Industrial Park Expansion."

LR-14: The U.S. mineral estate inside or outside the designated disposal areas may be conveyed to consolidate surface and sub-surface management ownership, if there is no known mineral value present, or if the reservation of mineral rights by the U.S. is interfering with or precluding appropriate non-mineral development that is considered to be a more beneficial use of the land. Conveyance of mineral interest shall be made only to the owner of record of the surface, upon payment of administrative costs and the fair market value of the interests being conveyed.

LR-15: Subject all Land Tenure adjustments to valid existing rights at the time of disposal.

LR-16: Dispose of lands outside of designated disposal areas to resolve unauthorized use of public land only when there are no other practical means of resolution.

LR-17: Maintain access to recreation areas.

LR-18: Exchanges. Consider land exchanges that serve the national interest and are beneficial to Ely Field Office programs or that support the programs of other agencies, per Sections 102, 205, and 206 of Federal Land Policy Management Act.

LR-19: Recreation and Public Purposes Act. Convey or lease public lands only for an established or definitely proposed project for which there is a reasonable timetable of development and satisfactory development and management plans. Convey no more land than is reasonably necessary for the proposed use.

LR-20: A total of 75,582 acres are available for potential disposal: 57,039 acres in Lincoln County; 0 acres in Nye County; and 18,543 acres in White Pine County. See **Maps 2.4.12-1**, **2.4.12-2**, **2.4.12-3**, and **2.4.12-4**. (See Appendix H.) Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, Sections 203 and 209, states that sales are the preferred method of disposal.

LR-21: If rights-of-way are approved for power plants, dispose of up to 4,500 acres in White Pine County by direct sale.

LR-22: Dispose of 40 acres located at Township 6 South, Range 57 East, Section 25, NW¼ NW¼ by direct sale to resolve a long standing agricultural lease that has several structures on it.

LR-23: If a right-of-way is approved for a power plant, dispose of up to 640 acres in Lincoln County by direct sale.

LR-24: Use the following criteria for disposal. These criteria may be modified as appropriate in the future.

- Allow land disposal of parcels containing National Register eligible sites when mitigation and/or data recovery has occurred prior to patent.

- Allow disposal of lands that are difficult to manage and are not suitable for management by another federal department or agency.

- Allow disposal of lands when disposal will serve important public objectives, including but not limited to community expansion or economic development; disposal could not be achieved prudently or feasibly on land other than public lands; and disposal outweighs other public objectives or values.

- Process existing Desert Land Entry, Carey Act, and Indian Allotment applications. If the application is cancelled, relinquished, or rejected, the lands could not be applied for again. Reject applications for Desert Land Entries, Carey Act, or Indian Allotments in designated disposal areas if they are located within a closed water basin unless existing water rights are held.

- Allow land disposals within herd management areas when the disposal 1) will not prohibit free roaming behavior within or between areas inside the herd management area, 2) will not eliminate so much habitat within the herd management area that a significant reduction of the appropriate management levels will result, and 3) will be subject to mitigation.

- Dispose of lands only in identified areas (see Appendix H). Exceptions will be Recreation and Public Purposes Act, Airport Conveyances, existing Desert Land Entries, Carey Act and Indian Allotments, and disposals to resolve trespasses.

LR-25: The BLM will work cooperatively with tribes when specific expansion proposals are provided to BLM in the future. They will be reviewed and processed according to appropriate BLM policy related to the expansion of tribal lands.

2.4.12.3 Parameter – Acquisitions

Management Actions

LR-26: Limit acquisition of lands to situations where no other reasonable alternative exists. Coordinate on acquisitions with federal, state, and county agencies, and other interested parties prior to the acquisition. Consider private lands or rights for acquisition from willing sellers.

- Consider acquisition of lands or interest in lands with at-risk or high resource values or those characteristics that contribute to restoration, healthy watersheds, or other resource goals (e.g., ACECs, wilderness study areas, habitat for threatened and endangered species, cultural resources, and designated wilderness) in the planning area, or those lands that also provide for environmentally responsible commercial activities.

- Consider split-estate where appropriate to improve resource management while protecting resource values.

LR-27: Acquire legal public or administrative access from willing landowners, where a public demand or administrative need exists.

LR-28: Manage newly acquired lands in the same manner as comparable surrounding public lands or in conformance with established guidelines for the special management area.

LR-29: Prior to the acquisition of non-federal lands, conduct assessments (e.g., noxious weed) to enable the authorized officer to factor the cost of weed control into the acquisition decision.

2.4.12.4 Parameter – Withdrawals

Management Actions

LR-30: Implement proposed withdrawals, if appropriate, consisting of the BLM Caliente Administrative Site, the municipal water supply for the City of Ely, Murry Springs Watershed, and the entrance area from Baker to Great Basin National Park (see Section 3.12).

LR-31: Recommend withdrawal of lands with sensitive or high resource values (e.g., ACECs) from surface and mineral entry (see Section 2.4.18, Geology and Mineral Extraction).

LR-32: Consider requests by other federal agencies for new withdrawals, withdrawal relinquishments, and modifications on a case-by-case basis.

LR-33: Withdraw the 80-acre area around Ash Springs (Township 5 North, Range 61 East, Section 31, SW¼ SW¼, and Township 6 North, Range 61 East, Section 6, Lot 8, Mount Diablo Meridian) from settlement, sale, location, or entry (with the exception of a no surface occupancy stipulation for fluid mineral leasing).

2.4.12.5 Parameter – Corridors

Management Actions

LR-34: Manage corridors in the RMP planning area as follows (see **Map 2.4.12-5**):

A. Retain a corridor 1,000 feet wide, 500 feet on either side of the centerline of the existing telephone fiber optic lines, beginning within Township 11 South, Range 71 East, Section 30 running easterly to the Arizona state line.

B. Retain the Falcon to Gonder corridor, 0.5 mile wide, as an east-west corridor to interconnect with the Ely to Utah State Line portion of the Southwest Intertie Project corridor.

C. Retain the Ely to Utah State Line portion of the Southwest Intertie Project corridor as 0.5 mile wide.

D. Designate the approved Southwest Intertie Project corridor as 0.75 mile wide from the Elko/White Pine County line to the point where it parallels Highway 93 and the Pahranagat Wildlife Refuge at which point it will be 0.5 mile wide to the Clark County line.

E. Maintain the Moapa corridor at 0.5 mile wide.

F. Maintain the corridors designated by the Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation and Development Act as 0.5 mile wide.

G. Designate a new corridor, 0.5 mile wide, connecting with the corridor designated by the Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act. This corridor will begin near the Atlanta Mine where the Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act corridor ends and will trend in a northerly direction along the west side of Spring Valley, ending at the Southwest Intertie Project corridor.

2.4.12.6 Parameter – Communication Sites

Management Actions

LR-35: Authorize communication site locations that support community and economic development with an emphasis on co-location of sites.

LR-36: Establish wilderness study areas as avoidance areas.

LR-37: Establish designated wilderness as exclusion areas.

LR-38: Establish ACECs as avoidance or exclusion areas.

LR-39: Coordinate, as appropriate, with appropriate local, state, and federal agencies on siting and construction for all communication towers.

2.4.12.7 Parameter – Land Use Authorizations (Rights-of-Way, Permits, Leases, Easements, and Unauthorized Use)

Management Actions

LR-40: Establish wilderness study areas as avoidance areas.

LR-41: Establish designated wilderness as exclusion areas.

LR-42: Establish ACECs as avoidance or exclusion areas (see Section 2.4.22, Special Designations).

LR-43: Coordinate, as appropriate, with appropriate local, state, and federal agencies on siting and construction for rights-of-way proposals.

LR-44: Consider existing material site rights-of-way in ACECs (both developed and undeveloped) authorized under the provisions of the Federal Highway Aid Act as valid existing rights and consistent with the land use plan. Material site rights-of-way will be authorized within the 1-mile-wide corridor (0.5 mile on each side) on state and county roads and will be restricted to not less than 10-mile separations.

LR-45: Manage rights-of-way in desert tortoise habitat the same as that described for the Beaver Dam Slope, Kane Springs, and Mormon Mesa ACECs.

LR-46: Reclaim surface disturbances from unauthorized uses to pre-disturbance conditions, if possible.

LR-47: Where feasible, consolidate new land use authorizations within or adjacent to existing authorizations.

LR-48: Coordinate with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on utility line development and Avian Protection Plan guidelines.

LR-49: Implement the following management actions for desert tortoise habitat (also refer to Section 2.4.7, Special Status Species; and Section 2.4.18, Geology and Mineral Extraction) (see **Map 2.4.7-1**).

- Within desert tortoise ACECs: Drilling fluids and cuttings will be contained in portable mud pits or lined reserve pits in all operations.

- Within desert tortoise ACECs: Vibriosis, drill hole shot, or surface shot will not be completed within 100 yards of known tortoise burrows.

- Within desert tortoise ACECs: Companies controlling new road segments may be required to restrict access to the general public. This access could be in the form of closed gates, and these restrictions will not apply to authorized agents of the operator or their subcontractor(s), the land managing agency, and other agencies with a legitimate access need.

- A speed limit of 25 miles per hour will be required for all vehicles on the project site and unposted dirt access roads.

- If possible, overnight parking and storage of equipment and materials, including stockpiling, will occur in previously disturbed areas or areas to be disturbed that have been cleared by a qualified tortoise biologist. If not possible, areas for overnight parking and storage of equipment will be designated by the BLM authorized officer based on recommendations of a qualified tortoise biologist.

- All vehicular traffic will be restricted to existing access roads, or those roads approved by the BLM authorized officer in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

- Project activity areas will be clearly marked or flagged at the outer boundaries before the onset of construction. All activities will be confined to designated areas. Blading of vegetation will occur only to the extent necessary and will be limited to areas designated for that purpose by the BLM authorized officer based on recommendations from a qualified tortoise biologist.

- When a permitted activity results in residual impacts to desert tortoise habitat, compensation will be required. The compensation rate will be determined during the NEPA process for each proposed action. The amount to be paid will be calculated according to the formula identified in the “Compensation for the Desert Tortoise” report approved by the Desert Tortoise Management Oversight Group in November 1991.

- Projects resulting in residual impacts will require the submission of a BLM and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-approved reclamation plan, unless determined by the BLM authorized officer and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that reclamation or rehabilitation is not necessary. The reclamation/rehabilitation plan will describe objectives and methods to be used, species of plants and/or seed mixture to be used, time of planting, success standards, and follow-up monitoring. Depending upon the size and location of the project, reclamation could range from recontouring, to rehabilitation and restriction of access points, to intensive reclamation over the entire area of surface disturbance. The plan will be prepared within 60 days following completion of the surface disturbance phase of the project. Reclamation will be addressed on a case-by case basis.

- If trenches or holes are to remain open overnight, they will be checked for tortoises at the end and beginning of each workday. The trenches or holes also will be checked immediately prior to backfilling.

- Prior to starting operations each day on any land, energy, or minerals project that have not been totally enclosed by tortoise proof fencing and cattle guards, the operator will be responsible for conducting a desert tortoise inspection by qualified desert tortoise biologists using techniques approved by the U.S.

Fish and Wildlife Service and BLM. The inspection will determine if any desert tortoises are present in the following locations:

a. Around and under all equipment;
b. In and around all disturbed areas to include stockpiles and reject materials areas;
c. In and around all routes of ingress and egress; and
d. In and around all other areas where the operation might expand to during that day.

If a tortoise is discovered during this inspection or later in the day, the operator will immediately cease all operations in the immediate vicinity of the tortoise and will immediately notify the BLM authorized officer.

- A litter-control program shall be implemented to minimize predation on tortoises by ravens drawn to the project site. This program will include the use of covered, raven-proof trash receptacles, removal of trash from project areas to the trash receptacles following the close of each work day, and the proper disposal of trash in a designated solid waste disposal facility. Appropriate precautions must be taken to prevent litter from blowing out along the road when trash is removed from the site. The litter-control program will apply to all actions. A litter-control program will be implemented by the responsible federal agency or their contractor, to minimize predation on tortoises by ravens and other predators drawn to the project site.

- The project applicant will notify the BLM's authorized officer at least ten days before initiation of any project. Notification will be made to the BLM's wildlife staff in Caliente or Ely.

- BLM's wildlife staff in Caliente or Ely and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Southern Nevada Field Office must be notified of any desert tortoise death or injury due to the project implementation by close of business on the following work day.

- All appropriate Nevada Department of Wildlife permits or letters of authorization will be acquired prior to handling desert tortoises and their parts, and prior to initiation of any activity that may require handling tortoises.

- The project proponent must submit a document to the BLM within 30 days of completion of the project, showing the number of acres disturbed; remuneration fees paid; and the number of tortoises taken, which includes capture and displacement, killed, injured, and harassed by other means, during project activities.

2.4.13 Renewable Energy

Introduction

The Ely Field Office will follow established policy for the processing of right-of-way applications (see Section 2.4.12.7) for potential renewable energy development projects on public lands administered by the

BLM, and for evaluating the feasibility of installing energy systems on BLM administrative facilities and projects. Guidance also will be obtained from the BLM Wind Energy Development Programmatic EIS. Note: Geothermal energy is discussed in Section 2.4.18.

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.

Objective

To be responsive to applications for renewable energy sites and associated rights-of-way, as encouraged by current BLM policy.

Management Actions

RE-1: Review proposed renewable energy developments on a project-specific basis, considering potential resource conflicts and mitigation measures. Areas of high potential for wind and solar energy development are identified but no specific areas are designated for such development (see **Maps 2.4.13-1** and **2.4.13-2**).

RE-2: Conform wind energy development to the direction presented in Appendix F, Section 3 – BLM Wind Energy Development Program Policies and Best Management Practices.

RE-3: Wind energy developers should conduct pre-application consultation with the Ely Field Office, the appropriate Department of Defense representatives, and the Department of Homeland Security, to determine possible constraints posed by military testing and training operations.

RE-4: Establish wilderness study areas as avoidance areas.

RE-5: Establish designated wilderness areas as exclusion areas.

RE-6: Establish ACECs as avoidance or exclusion areas (see Section 2.4.22, Special Designations).

RE-7: Increase the utilization of biomass from BLM lands and utilize tools of the Healthy Forest initiative such as Stewardship Contracting. Review proposed biomass energy development on a project-specific basis in relation to specific areas of restoration needed to restore healthy vegetation communities.

2.4.14 Travel Management and Off-highway Vehicle Use

Introduction

Federal regulations (Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations Subpart 8340) and BLM planning guidance require the Ely Field Office to designate all BLM-administered land as either open, limited, or closed in

regard to off-road vehicle (now termed off-highway vehicle) use. These designations are designed to help meet public demand for off-highway vehicle activities, protect natural resources, ensure public safety, and minimize conflicts among users.

The BLM designates areas as “open” for cross country vehicle use where there are no compelling resource protection needs, user conflicts, or public safety issues to warrant limiting cross-country travel.

The BLM designates areas as “limited” where it must restrict off-highway vehicle use to meet specific resource management objectives. These limitations may include: restricting the number or types of vehicles; limiting the time or season of use; allowing permitted or licensed use only; limiting use to existing roads and trails; and limiting use to designated roads and trails. The BLM may enact other limitations, as necessary to protect resources, particularly in areas of intense motorized off-highway vehicle use.

The BLM designates areas as “closed” if closure to all vehicular use is necessary to protect resources, ensure visitor safety, or reduce use conflicts.

Goals

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.

Work closely with local, state, tribal, and other affected parties and other resource users to address off-highway vehicle management including land use and route designations, and monitoring and adaptive management strategies such as applying the Limits of Acceptable Change process.

Objective

To manage motorized vehicle traffic to sustain this type of use while protecting sensitive resources and providing access.

2.4.14.1 Parameter – Transportation Plan

Comprehensive travel and transportation planning is the BLM’s interdisciplinary approach to addressing multiple-use access concerns. Comprehensive travel management planning addresses all resource use aspects and accompanying modes and conditions of travel on public lands, and is not limited to recreational off-highway vehicle activities. Providing and maintaining access to the public lands is an important public service provided by the BLM. The National Management Strategy for Motorized Off-Highway Vehicle Use on Public Lands (BLM 2001a) provides guidance in developing and implementing solutions to off-highway vehicle issues. Roads on BLM-administered lands are used by permitted users such as miners and livestock operators and by recreationists for dispersed recreation activities such as hunting, fishing, camping, rock-hounding, off-highway vehicle use, and sightseeing. Access is necessary for BLM personnel to administer the various resource management programs on public land including livestock grazing,

mining, wildlife habitat management, watershed management, recreation management, and numerous other programs. Access also is an important factor in fire suppression and fire management.

Complexity, incomplete data, and insufficient resources have made it infeasible to complete road and trail network selection and data collection for this planning effort. Collection will follow a standardized process using appropriate technology to allow staff to record road and trail conditions and characteristics.

Travel Management in the planning area will be:

- **Comprehensive:** All motorized and non-motorized travel that occurs on public lands will be considered.
- **Multi-functional:** Participation will encompass all functions within the BLM.
- **Collaborative:** Travel plans will be accomplished in a collaborative and community-based process.
- **Outcome based:** Travel systems will be designed for transportation outcomes.
- **Holistic:** Travel management implementation will be accomplished in a holistic approach that provides clear direction for access and recreation opportunities while protecting sensitive areas. This includes signs, maps, education, maintenance, construction, reconstruction, planning, field presence, law enforcement, and monitoring.

Management Actions

TM-1: Close designated wilderness to motorized and mechanized travel according to policy and enabling legislation.

TM-2: Close the Park Range, Blue Eagle, Antelope Range, and Riordan's Well wilderness study areas to motorized and mechanized travel.[2]

TM-3: Incorporate the Duck Creek Basin designations into the transportation plan[3] (see **Map 2.4.14-1**).

TM-4: Update the Ely Field Office Transportation Plan through subsequent implementation-level plans completed primarily along watershed boundaries. Transportation planning may move ahead of the watershed analysis process where the need for vehicle route designation is a greater priority than other watershed management needs. If this is the case, changes in route designations may be made once watershed analysis and additional site-specific NEPA is complete. Until site-specific implementation plans and route designations are complete, motorized travel will be limited to existing roads and trails except when cross-country travel is needed for safety, required for government (federal, state, and local) administrative needs, as authorized on a permit, for big game retrieval, or as otherwise officially approved.

[2] Implementation level decision.
[3] Implementation level decision.

The planning process is described as follows:

- Establish an interdisciplinary team to ensure broad participation from a variety of resources.

- Define the goals and objectives of the proposed Travel and Transportation Management Plan.

- From inventory data, complete a map of the proposed planning area, and identify the baseline of roads, primitive roads, and trails. As road and trail data collection is completed, the interdisciplinary review team will analyze each route and make recommendations for designations within the specific watershed based on the following criteria. (Other criteria will be added as new issues develop in different watersheds over time.) In addition to making recommendations on designations for existing routes, the review team may recommend the development of new roads or trails based on the same criteria.

  - Route redundancy
  - Wildlife habitat needs – integrate concepts of habitat connectivity into off-highway vehicle planning to minimize habitat fragmentation
  - Visual resource management class objectives
  - Recreation opportunities
  - Administrative needs
  - Public access needs
  - Special management areas
  - Cultural Resources
  - Riparian and wetland resources

- Hold public scoping meetings. Notify the public of the meetings through local media, as appropriate, to reach the potentially affected public. Involve Resource Advisory Councils, local government, state and federal agencies, gateway communities, local motorized and non-motorized user group clubs as applicable to the planning area. Notify the meeting attendees of the objective of the proposed plan using maps and other appropriate materials to facilitate discussion regarding public issues, concerns, and access needs.

- Produce a map depicting the designated roads, primitive roads, and trails available for use.

- Implement decisions on the ground. Rehabilitate roads that have been identified through the process as closed to motorized traffic on a case-by-case basis to discourage continued motorized use. In addition, place signs and barriers and produce public maps and other appropriate forms of education and communication to inform the public of updated route designations.

TM-5: Limit motorized vehicle traffic to designated routes within desert tortoise habitat outside of designated wilderness. This action will be given a high priority for completion.

TM-6: Restrict the establishment of new permanent roads and trails in designated desert tortoise habitat. New access routes may be allowed on a temporary basis, or permanently if approved through the NEPA process.

TM-7: Reroute roads and trails where feasible to improve manageability of desert tortoise habitat.

TM-8: Coordinate with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Lincoln County Road Department, and the Nevada Department of Transportation when possible to identify roads and trails with high tortoise mortality due to impacts from vehicles. Fences and culverts may be installed along these roads and trails to allow for the safe passage of desert tortoises.

2.4.14.2 Parameter – Off-highway Vehicles

Management Actions

TM-9: Manage off-highway vehicles in accordance with the following designations (see **Map 2.4.14-2**).

- Off-highway vehicle use limited to designated roads and trails: 10,306,500 acres.
- Closed to off-highway vehicle use: 1,153,500 acres. This acreage reflects designated wilderness and wilderness study areas.

2.4.15 Recreation

Introduction

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act provides for recreation use of public land as an integral part of multiple use management. Dispersed, unstructured activities typify the recreational uses occurring throughout the majority of the planning area. BLM Manual 8300 directs the BLM to designate special units known as special recreation management areas. Management within special recreation management areas focuses on providing recreation opportunities that will not otherwise be available to the public, reducing conflicts among users, minimizing damage to resources, and reducing visitor health and safety problems.

Goals

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

Conduct an assessment of current and future off-highway vehicle demand, and plan for and balance the demand for this use with other multiple uses/users.

Develop sustainable off-highway vehicle use areas to meet current and future demands, especially for urban interface areas.

Objectives

To provide a wide variety of recreation opportunities to satisfy a growing demand by a public seeking the open, undeveloped spaces that are characteristic of the planning area.

To provide visitor information to familiarize people with recreational opportunities throughout the planning area and encourage minimum impact or "Leave No Trace" and "Tread Lightly" recreational skills and ethics for recreational activities.

2.4.15.1 Parameter – Special Recreation Management Areas

Management Actions

REC-1: Manage for the protection of cave resources in the planning area according to the Ely Field Office Cave Management Plan.

REC-2: Manage five special recreation management areas (1 existing – Loneliest Highway, 4 new) for a broad recreation opportunity spectrum ensuring a balance of recreation experiences (see **Map 2.4.15-1**).

- The **Loneliest Highway Special Recreation Management Area** (675,123 acres);
- The new **Chief Mountain Special Recreation Management Area** (111,181 acres);
- The new **Egan Crest Special Recreation Management Area** (53,455 acres);
- The new **Pahranagat Special Recreation Management Area** (298,500 acres); and
- The new **North Delamar Special Recreation Management Area** (202,890 acres).

REC-3: Develop recreation sites, as appropriate, to proactively manage for tourism and recreation experiences.

REC-4: Write recreation area management plans for each special recreation management area identified in REC-2 to provide further management guidance at a site-specific level. The process for development of recreation area management plans is described as follows:

- Establish an interdisciplinary team to ensure broad participation.

- Hold public scoping meetings, as appropriate, to identify the potentially affected publics. Involve Resource Advisory Councils, local government, state and federal agencies, gateway communities, local user groups as applicable to the recreation management area. Prepare appropriate maps to facilitate discussion in identifying issues, concerns and desired future needs.

- Using information from the interdisciplinary team and through public scoping, identify different recreation niches to be served in the special recreation management area. Write specific objectives for the

recreation opportunities that would be provided and managed. Use the recreation opportunity spectrum to describe the existing setting character and the desired future setting character.

- Collect and analyze data identified through the scoping process to assist in the development of the best set of proposed actions to meet the recreation and other resource objectives of the area.

- All recreation area management plans will incorporate guidance from Appendix C of the BLM Land Use Planning Handbook. Plans would address the following:

  - Development of specific recreation management zones within each special recreation management area.

  - Public education and interpretation. This would include working with the local communities and other land management agencies in public outreach as well as in marketing an areas recreation opportunities.

  - Monitoring.

  - Necessary support actions for the administration of the areas including any business plans, fee programs, permit programs and potential concessionaires.

REC-5: Manage areas not designated as Special Recreation Management Areas as extensive recreation management areas. A majority of the planning area is available for dispersed, backcountry, and undeveloped recreational uses.

REC-6: Manage for recreation facilities and services such as trails, trailheads, staging areas, and associated structures in extensive recreation management areas following activity-level plans and NEPA analysis for the management of designated wilderness, ACECs, the Silver State Off-highway Vehicle Trail, backcountry byways, and where appropriate, for management of recreational impacts to natural and cultural resources.

REC-7: Develop or construct recreation trails and routes in extensive recreation management areas as future needs are identified in site-specific planning.

REC-8: Conduct a study of potential routes for the Silver State Off-highway Vehicle trail in White Pine County in accordance with Subtitle E of the White Pine County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act of 2006.

REC-9: Continue to provide visitor orientation information, interpretive activities, signage, safety programs, and other visitor outreach activities. Familiarize the public with recreational opportunities throughout the planning area and encourage minimum impact or “Leave No Trace” behavior for recreational activities.

2.4.15.2 Parameter – Special Recreation Permits

Management Actions

REC-10: Monitor the use and number of outfitter and guide permits for geographic regions within the planning area for 3 years following plan implementation. Following the monitoring period, issue outfitter and guide permits with special stipulations and conditions to protect resources and reduce user conflicts.

REC-11: Manage four special recreation permit areas totaling approximately 1.3 million acres to provide opportunities for competitive motorcycle special recreation permit events (see **Map 2.4.15-2**).

REC-12: Manage competitive motorcycle events on designated routes within special recreation permit areas (see **Map 2.4.15-2**).

REC-13: Designate event routes and develop additional mitigation in subsequent activity level plans.

REC-14: Manage for a maximum of two competitive truck events each calendar year.

REC-15: Manage four routes for competitive truck events. Rotate use of routes to lessen impacts (see **Map 2.4.15-2**).

REC-16: Permit non-competitive off-highway vehicle events on a case-by-case basis.

REC-17: Close desert tortoise ACECs to all high-speed, competitive off-highway vehicle use.

REC-18: Close desert tortoise ACECs to all types of organized non-speed, off-highway vehicle events from March 1 to June 15, and September 1 to October 31.

REC-19: Limit non-speed off-highway vehicle events in desert tortoise ACECs as identified in **Table 2.4-13**.

Table 2.4-13
Summary of Limitations for Non-speed Off-highway Vehicle Events Within Desert Tortoise ACECs

Stipulations	Corridors		
	Carp-Elgin, Halfway Wash, and East Halfway Wash	Littlefield	Kane Springs Road
Dates allowed for events	June 16 – August 31 November 1 – February 28-29	November 1 – February 28-29	June 16 – August 31 November 1 – February 28-29
Maximum number of vehicles	100	300 4-wheeled vehicles or 400 motorcycles	300
Maximum number of laps	1	1	1
Maximum number of events allowed per tortoise ACEC	3	4	4

REC-20: Limit vehicle off-loading areas, if authorized within desert tortoise habitat, to areas of existing disturbance. Limit event size by the number of vehicles that can be involved without expanding the disturbed area. Terms and conditions and best management practices describe stipulations that will be attached to all special recreation permits for organized off-highway vehicle events in desert tortoise habitat.

REC-21: Implement the following management actions for desert tortoise habitat (also refer to Section 2.4.7, Special Status Species) (see **Map 2.4.7-1**).

- For speed events: Event participants will be informed that they will not ride their ATVs or motorcycles in the desert after they finish an event. This includes the open desert as well as roads and trails. Failure to comply with this condition by anyone associated with a particular rider will result in the disqualification of that rider.

- For speed events including non-speed sections: If a vehicle breaks down, it will be moved to the side of the race course, avoiding damage to vegetation to the extent possible. Participants who stop to rest will pull over onto side roads or areas devoid of perennial vegetation, if possible. Riders who voluntarily retire from the event will either wait along the course for their crew to pick them up, or travel along the course to a pit area. Chase crews will be limited to retrieving vehicles that are broken down along the course. All chase vehicles must have a pit pass, retrieval pass, or other form of access permission from the Ely Field Office.

- For speed events: No spectators or spectator areas will be allowed in ACECs. Spectator vehicles will be allowed in designated spectator areas only. Spectator areas will be confined to existing disturbed areas or new areas selected in coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Spectator areas are established for viewing purposes only and vehicles will be prohibited. The promoter will be required to mark the boundaries of the spectator area so that spectators can readily tell where the boundary is located. Rope or wire with warning triangles or other similar sturdy materials will be used. A monitor will be placed at each spectator area to ensure spectators remain within the designated boundary. Anyone found outside of the designated area will be subject to citation.

- For speed events: Pit crews will use only authorized pit areas. Pits shall be confined to existing disturbed areas, unless otherwise approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Pit areas will be marked with a sign stating that a pit pass is required. A maximum of ten pit passes will be issued to each entrant; however, in unusual cases, the Ely Field Office may authorize issuance of additional passes to meet specific needs or conditions. Under no circumstances will the issuance of additional passes create or contribute to expansion of designated pit areas. Pit passes should be identified by color or unique number, the name and date of event, and distinguish the pit to which the pass applies (i.e., main pit or course pit), and will be affixed to the windshield of each vehicle. Vehicles in the pit area without pit passes will be towed at the owner's expense. Unauthorized duplication of pit passes will result in disqualification of the entrant and this will be stated on each pass.

- For speed events including non-speed sections: All event-related activities will be confined to authorized vehicle routes, pit areas, spectator areas, and the course itself, and will not stray into vegetated areas. All major access routes leading into restricted areas will be monitored or marked closed and bannered off. Personnel will be stationed at these areas, as appropriate, to enforce access restrictions. Directional signs to spectator and pit areas will be posted at all main access points. “Race-in-progress” signs will be posted at each location where the race crosses another road. Other disqualification or hazard zones will be monitored periodically during the event.

- For all events, Ely Field Office staff will be present to check for compliance with stipulations of the race permit. The importance of staying on the race course will be stressed to all participants by the Ely Field Office and promoter.

- For all events: A sufficient number of BLM rangers, monitors, and crowd control officials, as determined by the Ely Field Office in coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, will be required to enforce compliance with stipulations of the event permit. Monitors may be Ely Field Office or proponent personnel and will be stationed at all disqualification or hazard areas to record any violations. As a general guideline, the Ely Field Office will provide one law enforcement officer per 50 participants to control unauthorized vehicular travel off existing roads, and ensure that habitat damage does not occur. The number of law enforcement officers present may be increased or decreased based on the event proponent’s past history of event management and stipulation compliance, the estimated number of spectators, geographic setting of the event, or experience gained from previous similar events, at the discretion of the BLM’s authorizing officer.

- For all events: Permittees will be responsible for trash and litter clean-up along the course and in spectator and pit areas. Stakes, flagging materials, temporary facilities, litter, and all other event-related materials will be removed from the course and pit, parking, and spectator areas. The race courses and parking areas will be restored, at a minimum, to pre-event conditions within 15 days after the event. Garbage and food will be removed from the site of the event at the end of each day, and will be disposed of in authorized sanitary landfills.

- For all events including non-speed sections: To reduce casual use of the race course, the race area may be legally closed to casual use on the day of the race. The promoter will be required to station monitors or post signs at road intersections, prohibiting public access, where the general public is likely to access the race course. A Federal Register notice providing authority to close race areas in the Ely and Las Vegas Field Offices will be issued. This will allow BLM law enforcement officers to enforce regulations. A legal notice will be published in the local newspaper, or other appropriate publication, before the permitted events take place.

- For all events: Any desert tortoise found on or adjacent to the event course will be moved into undisturbed desert within 2 miles by a qualified tortoise biologist or BLM personnel experienced or trained in the handling of tortoises, according to current U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-approved protocol. Occupied desert tortoise burrows along the event route will be temporarily penned during the event in accordance with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service approved protocols. Currently, the U.S. Fish

and Wildlife Service-approved protocol is “Guidelines for Handling Desert Tortoises During Construction Projects.” Tortoises will be deliberately moved solely for the purpose of moving them out of harm’s way. Desert tortoises will not be placed on land not under the ownership of the BLM without written permission of the landowner. All personnel involved in tortoise capture will obtain appropriate permits from Nevada Department of Wildlife prior to handling any desert tortoise. All road repair crews will be accompanied by BLM personnel or their designee to ensure that no tortoises or tortoise burrows are harmed during repair operations.

- For speed events: Publicity runs will not occur within ACECs, and all event-related vehicular activity will be confined to authorized routes and the course itself and will not stray into vegetated areas.

- For all events: To the extent possible, the event course will be cleared of all unauthorized vehicles and personnel prior to each event.

- For all events: Participants in each event who violate any stipulation of that event will be disqualified from the event. Additionally, failure to comply with permit conditions by any member of the support team or spectators associated with a particular driver or rider will result in the disqualification of that driver or rider.

- For all events: Participants will be informed that passing will be limited to the disturbed areas of roads, trails, and washes and will not occur in vegetated areas adjacent to the course.

- For speed events: To help control spectators, the event promoter will station at least one person at the primary entrance to the spectator area for at least 2 hours before the start of the race and 1 hour after the start of the race. This individual will stop all cars coming into the area, give the occupants information on the limits of the spectator area, and advise them where they can and cannot park.

- For non-speed portions of speed events in ACECs: Participants will be escorted through the ACEC at a speed of no greater than 25 miles per hour.

- For organized non-off-highway vehicle events within ACECs (e.g., dog trials, model airplane events, etc.): The event area will be surveyed for desert tortoise immediately prior to the event. If desert tortoise or sign of desert tortoise is observed, the event will be moved to a different location or set up in such way as to avoid adverse effects to desert tortoise.

- Horse endurance rides will be limited to existing roads and trails. Horse endurance rides are considered speed events and will not be permitted in desert tortoise ACECs.

2.4.16 Livestock Grazing

Introduction

The Taylor Grazing Act, as amended and supplemented, is the legislative authority providing for livestock grazing on, and protection of, public land. The Federal Land Policy Management Act of 1976 and the Public Rangeland Improvement Act of 1978 direct the management of public land for multiple use and sustained yield. Rangeland management strategies will provide for the maintenance or restoration of watershed function, nutrient cycling and energy flow, water quality, habitat for special status species, and habitat quality for populations and communities of native plants and animals. These management strategies have been supported by development of Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing for the Mojave/Southern Great Basin and Northeastern Great Basin regions, which were adopted and approved by the Secretary of Interior in 1997 (Appendix B).

Goal

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

Northeastern Great Basin Area Standards

- Upland soils exhibit infiltration and permeability rates that are appropriate to soil type, climate, and land form.

- Riparian and wetland areas exhibit a properly functioning condition and achieve state water quality criteria.

- Habitats exhibit a healthy, productive, and diverse population of native and/or desirable plant species, appropriate to the site characteristics, to provide suitable feed, water, cover and living space for animal species and maintain ecological processes. Habitat conditions meet the life cycle requirements of threatened and endangered species.

Mojave-Southern Great Basin Area Standards

- Watershed soils and stream banks should have adequate stability to resist accelerated erosion, maintain soil productivity, and sustain the hydrologic cycle.

- Watersheds should possess the necessary ecological components to achieve state water quality criteria, maintain ecological processes, and sustain appropriate uses. Riparian and wetlands vegetation should have structural and species diversity characteristic of the stage of stream channel succession in order to provide forage and cover, capture sediment, and capture, retain, and safely release water (watershed function).

- Habitats and watersheds should sustain a level of biodiversity appropriate for the area and conducive to appropriate uses. Habitats of special status species should be able to sustain viable populations of those species.

Objective

To allow livestock grazing to occur in a manner and at levels consistent with multiple use, sustained yield, and the standards for rangeland health.

Management Actions

LG-1: Make approximately 11,246,900 acres and 545,267 animal unit months available for livestock grazing on a long-term basis (see **Map 2.4.16-1**).

LG-2: The following public lands are unavailable for livestock grazing (see **Map 2.4.16-2**):

- Mormon Mesa, Kane Springs, and Beaver Dam Slope ACECs (203,670 acres);
- Baker Archaeological Site ACEC (80 acres) and Snake Creek Indian Burial Cave ACEC (40 acres);
- Leased public lands associated with the Coyote Springs Development (6,200 acres);
- Public lands west of U.S. Highway 93 and west of the Desert National Wildlife Range (6,900 acres); and
- Private/Utah Allotment above Beaver Dam State Park (4,400 acres).

LG-3: Allow allotments or portions of allotments within desert tortoise habitat, but outside of ACECs to remain at current stocking levels as shown in **Table 2.4-14** unless a subsequent evaluation indicates a need to change the stocking level.

LG-4: Continue to monitor and evaluate allotments to determine if they are continuing to meet or are making significant progress toward meeting the standards for rangeland health. **Table 2.4-15** shows the current grazing preference, season-of-use, and kind of livestock for those allotments that currently are evaluated for meeting standards, are making progress towards achieving the standards, or are in conformance with the policies as determined either through the allotment evaluation process or associated with fully processed term permit renewals. Changes, such as improved livestock management, new range improvement projects, and changes in the amount and kinds of forage permanently available for livestock use, can lead to changes in preference, authorized season-of-use, or kind of livestock. Such changes will continue to meet the RMP goals and objectives, including the standards for rangeland health.

Table 2.4-14
Allotments Within Desert Tortoise Habitat but Outside ACECs

Allotment	Map Unit Number[1]	Season-of-use	Active Use Animal Unit Months
Boulder Spring	22	10/1 to 3/31	416
Breedlove	23	3/1 to 2/28	698
Buckhorn	26	3/1 to 3/28	3,370
Delmar	57	3/1 to 2/28	5,558
Garden Spring	76	10/1 to 5/31	2,809
Gourd Springs	85	10/1 to 5/31	3,458
Grapevine	86	3/1 to 2/28	349
Henrie Complex	91	3/1 to 2/28	1,380
Lime Mountain	102	10/1 to 5/15	6,754
Lower Lake East	106	3/1 to 2/28	640
Lower Lake West	107	3/1 to 2/28	1,247
Lower Riggs	108	5/1 to 3/24	1,408
Mormon Peak	126	3/1 to 2/28	600
Pahranagat East	143	8/1 to 5/31	511
Pahranagat West	144	10/1 to 5/31	2,144
Snow Spring	191	10/1 to 5/31	3,567
Summit Spring	202	10/1 to 5/15	715
Terry	207	11/1 to 5/31	1,511
White Rock	222	10/1 to 5/31	2,880

Source: BLM, Caliente Field Station data, 1996a.

[1] Map unit number refers to livestock grazing allotments shown on **Map 2.4.16-1**.

Table 2.4-15
Allotments Evaluated for Meeting Standards of Rangeland Health

Allotment Name	Map Unit Number[1]	Allotment Number	Public Acres	Season of Use	Total Active Animal Unit Months[2]
Badger Spring	3	00823	24,125	4/15 to 11/30	1,412
Baker Creek	4	10125	55,515	Cattle: 10/16 to 6/18, Sheep: 12/01 to 04/30	4,311
Bassett Creek	7	10114	7,328	3/1 to 2/28	591
Bastian Creek	8	10121	13,527	3/1 to 2/28	1,778
Batterman Wash	9	11018	39,878	Cattle: 11/15 to 6/15, Sheep: 12/1 to 4/15	2,093
Becky Creek	11	00404	12,904	11/1 to 3/15	671
Becky Springs	12	10101	40,621	Cattle: 11/15 to 2/28, Sheep: 11/1 to 4/30	3,842
Bennett Creek	13	00409	1,473	6/1 to 10/31	37
Bennett Spring	14	21006	48,264	10/16 to 4/30	3,498
Big Indian Creek	15	00410	6,144	7/1 to 10/19	99
Big Rock Seeding	16	00428	1,862	5/1 to 7/15, 9/1 to 2/28	621
Big Six Well	17	00812	2,412	12/1 to 5/31	140
Black Bluff	18	10122	32,200	Cattle: 9/1 to 5/15, Sheep: 9/1 to 4/15	1,668
Black Canyon	19	11007	8,438	10/16 to 4/30	1,105
Black Horse	21	10123	15,394	3/1 to 2/28	510
Brown Knoll	24	00831	10,366	11/1 to 5/31	161
Butte Seeding	27	00507	976	6/1 to 10/30	275
Cattle Camp/Cave Valley	29	00903	75,846	5/15 to 11/30	6,878
Cave Valley Ranch	30	00904	38,524	5/1 to 10/31	2,403
Cave Valley Seeding	31	00908	942	5/1 to 8/10	200
Cherry Creek	32	00403	153,107	5/1 to 2/28	6,562
Chimney Rock	33	00914	20,037	Cattle and Sheep: 5/1 to 11/1	1,233
Chin Creek	34	10104	148,017	Cattle: 11/1 to 5/31, Sheep: 11/1 to 10/31	13,115
Chokecherry	35	10131	32,334	10/16 to 6/5	3,327

Table 2.4-15 (Continued)

Allotment Name	Map Unit Number[1]	Allotment Number	Public Acres	Season of Use	Total Active Animal Unit Months[2]
Cleveland Ranch	36	10119	11,656	11/1 to 2/28	1,021
Coal Valley Lake	39	10108	115,176	Cattle: 9/1 to 5/15, Sheep: 11/1 to 4/10	4,821
Cold Creek	40	00603	62,103	Cattle: 4/16 to 10/31, Sheep: 11/01 to 03/31	5,803
Cold Spring	41	00909	10,253	5/1 to 9/30	1,265
Connors Summit	44	00915	27,316	3/1 to 2/28	2,449
Copper Flat	45	00427	40,058	Cattle and Sheep: 4/15 to 11/1	3,033
Cottonwood	46	21021	62,145	5/1 to 10/31	1,296
Cottonwood	46	11015	42,172	10/1 to 12/31, 4/1 to 5/31	1,177
Cottonwood	46	00132	49,975	11/1 to 6/15	2,248
Cove	47	00817	26,538	1/1 to 4/30	1,544
Crescent (N-4)	48	01028	61,502	Cattle: 3/1 to 2/28, Sheep: 10/1 to 2/28	951
Crestline	50	11023	2,415	3/1 to 2/28	55
Crossroads	51	21024	19,201	5/1 to 10/31	689
Crystal Springs	52	21025	7,596	8/1 to 5/31	437
Dark Peak	53	00827	19,477	Cattle and Sheep: 4/1 to 11/1	1,826
Dee Gee Spring	54	00815	4,975	12/1 to 5/31	200
Deep Creek	55	10103	23,932	11/1 to 5/15	2,934
Devil's Gate	58	10115	17,686	11/15 to 4/30	2,316
Douglas Point	60	00810	19,318	4/1 to 5/31	368
Dry Farm	61	11024	32,464	Cattle: 6/1 to 9/30, Sheep: 10/1 to 4/15	1,530
Dry Mountain	62	00609	27,552	Cattle and Sheep: 10/1 to 4/1	1,757
Duckcreek	63	00423	9,531	6/1 to 10/31	498
Duckcreek Basin	64	00419	8,301	4/1 to 9/30	436
Duckcreek Flat	65	00412	32,406	8/1 to 6/15	1,347
Duckwater	66	00701	807,662	Cattle and Sheep: 3/1 to 2/28	23,364
East Wells	67	00830	3,542	12/1 to 5/31	122
Enterprise	70	11031	21,585	5/1 to 10/31	1,261
Forest Moon	72	01010	108,273	Cattle: 6/1 to 3/31, Goats and Sheep: 1/1 to 3/31, 8/16 to 10/15	2,263
Fox Mountain	74	11001	73,412	11/1 to 4/10	6,322
Geyser Ranch	78	01101	237,413	3/1 to 2/28	12,308
Gilford Meadows	79	00424	4,666	5/1 to 9/30	420
Giroux Wash	80	00826	48,200	Cattle: 4/1 to 12/15, Sheep: 4/1 to 11/1	5,326
Gold Canyon	82	00413	23,640	6/20 to 11/30	1,068
Goshute Basin	83	00402	9,397	Cattle: 7/1 to 9/1, Sheep: 7/1 to 10/15	633
Goshute Mountain	84	10102	5,693	11/1 to 3/31 (Administered by Elko Field Office)	465
Gourd Spring[3]	85	01071	57,700	10/1 to 5/31	3,458
Hamblin Valley	88	00133	105,831	Cattle and Sheep: 11/1 to 5/31	8,177
Hardy Spring	89	11022	124,008	10/15 to 5/15	3,478
Henrie Complex[3]	91	11034	165,060	11/1 to 4/30	1,380
Horse Haven	95	00620	25,000	5/1 to 9/30	1,056
Indian Creek	96	00401	3,167	7/1 to 9/1	177
Indian George	97	10112	41,650	10/16 to 4/15	2,860
Indian Jake	98	00804	47,168	3/15 to 6/15, 9/1 to 2/28	2,948
Irish Mountain	99	11006	83,465	Cattle: 3/1 to 2/28, Sheep: 10/1 to 2/28	3,141
Jake's Unit Trail	N/A	00821	15,056	4/1 to 4/30, 11/1 to 11/30	832
Klondike	100	01085	7,072	10/16 to 4/30	678
Lake Area	101	00910	27,556	Cattle and sheep; 5/1 to 11/1	2,978
Little White Rock	104	00913	13,012	Cattle and Sheep: 5/1 to 11/01	904
Lovell Peak	105	00406	2,360	7/1 to 9/30	105
Lower Lake West[3]	107	11013	57,000	3/1 to 2/28	1,247
Majors Allotment	110	10126	99,193	Cattle: 3/1 to 5/31, Sheep: 5/1 to 10/31	12,535
Maybe Seeding	113	00828	941	12/1 to 5/31	300
McCoy Creek	114	10135	5,289	3/1 to 2/28	508
McDermitt Creek	116	00505	2,703	Administered by Elko Field Office	630
McQueen Flat	118	00805	10,403	4/15 to 11/15	496
Meadow Creek	119	10113	8,273	3/1 to 2/28	445
Medicine Butte	121	00501	287,368	Cattle: 3/1 to 2/28, Sheep: 4/15 to 11/15	7,232
Middle Steptoe	122	00411	2,361	7/1 to 10/7	173
Mill Spring	123	10109	5,587	4/1 to 9/30	341
Monte Cristo	124	00614	6,138	6/21 to 9/18	1,125
Moorman Ranch	125	00802	123,491	3/1 to 2/28	10,099
Muncy Creek	127	20111	207,906	3/1 to 2/28	12,384
Murphy Gap	128	10110	35,210	Cattle and Sheep: 10/1 to 4/15	1,951

Table 2.4-15 (Continued)

Allotment Name	Map Unit Number[1]	Allotment Number	Public Acres	Season of Use	Total Active Animal Unit Months[2]
N4/N5	132	01049	43,500	3/1 to 2/28	825
Narrows	133	11002	6,909	12/1 to 2/28	535
Needles	134	11016	85,500	Cattle: 10/1 to 2/28, Sheep: 10/1 to 4/15	2,679
Newark	136	00608	218,105	Cattle: 11/1 to 10/31, Sheep: 11/1 to 4/1	9,061
North Butte	137	00502	26,467	2/15 to 4/15, 8/1 to 10/31	180
North Chokecherry	138	20134	8,692	10/15 to 05/15	770
North Cove	139	00816	25,446	12/1 to 5/31	1,004
North Steptoe	140	00405	12,701	10/1 to 3/15	700
Oak Wells	142	01051	29,139	3/1 to 2/28	511
Pleasant Valley	153	00110	5,113	4/15 to 9/30	405
Preston	154	00806	10,250	4/18 to 5/31	166
Preston Lund Trail	N/A	00822	10,856	4/1 to 4/30, 11/1 to 11/30	1,569
Rabbit Spring	155	01057	20,975	6/1 to 3/15	884
Railroad Pass	156	00601	27,025	Cattle: 6/1 to 9/30, Sheep: 4/5 to 11/15	3,542
Red Hills	160	00108	35,489	11/1 to 4/30	2,600
Rock Canyon	162	00808	7,256	12/1 to 5/31	432
Ruby Valley	165	00619	20,081	3/1 to 4/3, 11/1 to 2/28	467
Sampson Creek	167	10105	13,232	5/1 to 9/30	1,327
Sand Springs	170	01066	249,685	3/1 to 2/28	7,005
Sawmill Bench	171	00807	319	11/10 to 12/17	114
Schellbourne	173	00407	16,316	10/15 to 5/15	685
Schlarman	174	01068	5,345	11/1 to 4/30	240
Sheep Flat	179	01069	74,171	6/1 to 9/30	1,977
Sheep Pass	180	00905	26,800	4/1 to 12/31	1,150
Sheep Springs	181	01070	31,077	6/1 to 3/15	409
Sheep Trail Seeding	182	00829	564	12/1 to 5/31	200
Shoshone Unit Trail	N/A	10140	16,517	5/1 to 5/5, 5/31 to 6/4, 10/25 to 10/29	483
Silverado	185	00623	6,284	11/15 to 2/13	338
Six Mile	188	00613	21,335	Cattle: 4/15 to 10/31, Sheep: 11/1 to 4/15	1,209
Smith Creek	190	20117	68,072	11/16 to 6/15	5,355
Sorensen Well	192	00818	5,880	12/1 to 5/31	193
South Butte	193	00504	26,081	4/15 to 2/28	396
South Butte Seeding	N/A	00506	968	5/1 to 10/31	245
South Coal Valley	195	10120	46,701	Cattle: 9/1 to 5/15, Sheep: 12/1to 4/15	2,205
South Hiko Six-Mile	196	11008	33,018	3/1 to 2/28	858
South Pancake	197	00615	31,088	3/15 to 4/30, 11/15 to 1/15	1,155
South Spring Valley	198	10130	79,323	Cattle: 2/1 to 6/15, Sheep: 5/1 to 6/15, 9/1 to 9/30	6,329
Stephen's Creek	199	10118	3,784	Cattle and Sheep: 6/1 to 10/31	318
Steptoe	200	00415	44,025	3/1 to 2/28	2,836
Strawberry	201	00607	21,135	6/1 to 10/30	1,032
Sunnyside	203	21023	219,519	6/1 to 10/31	5,402
Swamp Cedar	204	00832	6,333	12/1 to 5/31	192
Taft Creek	205	10116	28,294	Cattle: 4/15 to 11/30, Sheep: 11/1 to 2/28	1,831
Tamberlaine	206	00901	31,692	3/15 to 10/15	2,002
Thirty Mile Spring	208	00503	178,716	4/15 to 2/28	8,405
Timber Mountain	209	01004	43,839	Cattle and Sheep: 11/1 to 4/10	2,373
Tippett	210	10106	200,041	Cattle: 3/1 to 2/28, Sheep: 4/16 to 12/15	12,800
Tippett Pass	211	20107	77,161	Cattle: 11/1 to 5/31, Sheep: 10/1 to 6/15	8,177
Uvada	212	01079	13,608	5/1 to 10/31	463
Warm Springs	215	00606	306,971	3/01 to 2/28	7,744
Warm Springs	214	01080	1,401	3/1 to 2/28	74
Warm Spring Trail	N/A	00622	16,385	3/1 to 3/31, 4/15 to 5/1, 11/1 to 11/30, 11/15 to 12/1	2,481
Well's Station	216	00819	5,880	12/1 to 5/31	312
West Schell Bench	217	00433	25,915	5/1 to 11/1	1,389
West Timber Mountain	218	11020	12,570	12/1 to 4/15	735
White River	221	11009	9,725	10/1 to 5/15	501
White River Trail	N/A	11005	19,300	11/1 to 4/20	1,505
White Rock[3]	223	01078	32,916	10/1 to 5/31	2,880
White Rock	222	00902	80,513	3/1 to 12/31	7,473
Willard Creek	226	10127	10,246	4/15 to 11/30	1,132
Willow Springs Addition	228	00825	602	6/1 to 7/1	114
Willow Springs Seeding	229	00824	300	8/31 to 10/6	70

Table 2.4-15 (Continued)

Allotment Name	Map Unit Number[1]	Allotment Number	Public Acres	Season of Use	Total Active Animal Unit Months[2]
Willow Springs	227	10129	46,967	3/1 to 2/28	6,608
Wilson Creek	230	01201	1,077,994	Cattle and Sheep: 3/1 to 2/28	48,250
Worthington Mountain	231	11021	77,798	Cattle: 1/13 to 5/31, Sheep: 12/15 to 4/10	5,641
Total			**8,408,789**		**424,602**

[1] Map unit number refers to livestock grazing allotments shown on **Map 2.4.16-1**.
[2] There are a total of approximately 190,000 suspended animal unit months. These are a matter of record at the Ely Field Office.
[3] Allotments with acres, animal unit months, or season of use adjusted, as a result of the 2000 Caliente Management Framework Plan Amendment for Management of Desert Tortoise Habitat.

LG-5: Maintain the current grazing preference, season-of-use, and kind of livestock until the allotments that have not been evaluated for meeting or making progress toward meeting the standards or are in conformance with the policies are evaluated (see **Table 2.4-16**). Depending on the results of the standards assessment, maintain or modify grazing preference, seasons-of-use, kind of livestock, and grazing management practices to achieve the standards for rangeland health. Changes, such as improved livestock management, new range improvement projects, and changes in the amount and kinds of forage permanently available for livestock use, can lead to changes in preference, authorized season-of-use, or kind of livestock. Ensure changes continue to meet the RMP goals and objectives, including the standards for rangeland health.

Table 2.4-16
Allotments Not Evaluated for Meeting Standards of Rangeland Health

Allotment Name	Map Unit Number[1]	Allotment Number	Public Acres	Season of Use	Total Active Animal Unit Months[2]
Applewhite	1	21001	28,448	3/1 to 2/28	562
Ash Flat	2	21002	3,247	5/1 to 3/24	74
Bald Mountain	5	21003	269,723	Cattle and Horses: 3/1 to 2/28	5,811
Barclay	6	11004	79,621	5/16 to 11/15	1,971
Big Wash[3]	232	03498	5,218	Closed by U.S. Forest Service	0
Black Hills	20	21008	3,610	3/1 to 2/28	156
Boulder Spring[4]	22	21009	13,537	10/1 to 3/31	416
Breedlove[4]	23	11010	89,500	3/1 to 2/28	698
Buckboard	25	21011	10,842	3/1 to 2/28	263
Buckhorn	26	21012	82,968	3/1 to 2/28	3,370
Caliente	28	21014	2,008	3/1 to 2/28	40
Choke Cherry Forest Service[3]	233	03496	9,898	Closed by U.S. Forest Service	0
Cliff Springs	37	21016	35,821	3/1 to 2/28	2,043
Clover Creek	38	21015	22,876	11/1 to 4/30, 5/1 to 10/27	613
Comet	42	21018	9,146	3/1 to 2/28	214
Condor Canyon	43	21019	44,035	3/1 to 1/24	676
Corta[5]	--	10033	1,130	Administered by Battle Mountain Field Office	128
Crescent (N-5)	49	01062	36,689	11/1 to 4/30	1,540
Currant Ranch[5]	--	00153	10,500	11/1 to 2/28	177
Deer Lodge	56	21026	6,880	3/1 to 2/28	167
Delamar[4]	57	01083	203,000	3/1 to 2/28	5,558
Douglas Canyon	59	00811	11,422	6/9 to 8/30	175
Ely Springs Cattle	68	11029	55,168	3/1 to 2/28	4,248
Ely Springs Sheep	69	21030	22,927	10/16 to 5/15	1,802
Gallagher Gap	75	00418	3,299	11/1 to 2/28	169
Garden Spring[4]	76	01065	38,823	Cattle and Horses: 10/1 to 5/31	2,809
Georgetown Ranch	77	00422	23,688	3/1 to 5/31, 10/1 to 11/30	1,675
Goat Ranch	81	00421	5,524	4/22 to 9/4	213

Table 2.4-16 (Continued)

Allotment Name	Map Unit Number[1]	Allotment Number	Public Acres	Season of Use	Total Active Animal Unit Months[2]
Grapevine[4]	86	11032	22,000	3/1 to 2/28	349
Haggerty Wash	87	00907	904	6/15 to 10/15	194
Haypress	90	11033	7,843	5/1 to 10/31	154
Heusser Mountain	92	00416	33,956	5/1 to 3/31	1,486
Highland Peak	93	11035	45,542	10/16 to 5/15	3,704
Highway	94	01036	4,251	3/1 to 2/28	118
Lexington[3]	234	03497	7,843	Closed by U.S. Forest Service	0
Lime Mountain	102	21005	67,144	10/1 to 5/15	6,754
Little Mountain[4]	103	00414	18,575	Relinquished	0
Lower Lake East[4]	106	21022	41,800	3/1 to 2/28	640
Lower Riggs[4]	108	01087	19,569	5/1 to 3/24	1,408
Mahogany Peak	109	01040	28,441	3/1 to 2/28	718
Mallory Springs	111	00136	12,186	Cattle: 6/1 to 8/31, Sheep: 9/1 to 5/31	940
Maverick Springs	112	00621	42,679	3/1 to 2/28	1,500
McCutcheon Springs	115	01054	18,276	3/1 to 2/28	446
McGuffy	117	01043	22,115	3/1 to 2/28	298
Meadow Valley	120	01041	3,971	Cattle: 11/1 to 4/30, Horses: 3/1 to 2/28	56
Mormon Peak[4]	126	01044	64,700	6/1 to 3/31	600
Murphy Wash[3]	129	03503	54,307	6/5 to 9/10	728
Mustang	130	01047	23,877	3/1 to 2/28	1,134
Mustang Flat	131	01048	5,987	5/1 to 10/31	147
Negro Creek	135	00120	31,985	3/1 to 2/28	3,727
North Steptoe Trail	N/A	00426	1,181	9/15 to 10/15, 3/1 to 3/30	253
Oak Springs	141	01050	193,609	3/1 to 2/28	9,268
Pahranagat East[4]	143	11027	34,146	8/1 to 5/31	511
Pahranagat West[4]	144	01081	70,138	10/1 to 5/31	2,144
Pahroc	145	01052	117,443	3/1 to 2/28	4,783
Panaca Cattle	146	01053	16,275	3/1 to 2/28	453
Peck	148	01055	17,741	3/1 to 2/28	397
Pennsylvania	149	01056	30,971	5/1 to 10/31	588
Pine Cone	150	01045	28,265	8/1 to 2/28	1,205
Pine Creek	151	11012	34,693	5/1 to 12/31	2,667
Pioche	152	01086	13,440	3/1 to 2/28	402
Rainbow	157	11028	7,033	3/1 to 2/28	665
Rattlesnake	158	01058	28,426	10/16 to 5/30	1,180
Red Bluff	159	01059	10,000	9/9 to 2/28, Administered by Tonopah Field Station	34
Road Side	161	01061	1,123	12/1 to 2/28	32
Rocky Hills	163	--	4,375	Relinquished	0
Sacramento Pass/Strawberry[3]	166	00123	40.582	5/1 to 12/30	2,008
Sand Hills	168	01088	11,585	6/1 to 10/31	229
Sawmill Canyon	172	01067	9,177	3/1 to 2/28	181
Schoolhouse Spring	175	00420	7,033	4/1 to 2/28	191
Scotty Meadows	176	10128	17,322	6/1 to 9/30	1,227
Second Creek	177	00417	7,776	5/1 to 2/28	358
Shadow Wells	178	01060	17,862	11/1 to 4/30	577
Shingle Creek[3]	183	03502	9,302	6/20 to 9/10	575
Shingle Pass	184	00906	74,788	5/16 to 10/15	2,724
Simpson	186	21004	8,379	3/1 to 4/30	747
Six Mile	187	01073	34,531	3/1 to 2/28	859
Six Mile Ranch	189	00814	2,232	4/1 to 4/30, 9/15 to 2/28	162
Snake Creek[3]	235	03499	3,086	Closed by U.S. Forest Service	0
Snow Springs[4]	191	01074	44,042	10/1 to 5/15	3,567
Soap Creek[3]	236	03508	1,284	Closed by U.S. Forest Service	0
Summit Spring[4]	202	01077	18,035	10/1 to 5/31	715
Terry[5]	207	--	30,163	11/1 to 5/31, Administered by St. George Field Office	1,511
Tom Plain	212	00803	77,039	3/1 to 2/28	6,039
White Hills	219	01082	2,755	12/1 to 2/28	101

Table 2.4-16 (Continued)

Allotment Name	Map Unit Number[1]	Allotment Number	Public Acres	Season of Use	Total Active Animal Unit Months[2]
White Pine Seeding	220	00602	4,305	Administered by Elko Field Office	258
Whiteman Creek	224	00408	5,417	5/1 to 2/28	384
Wild Horse	225	11017	18,014	3/1 to 2/28	315
Total			**3,247,411**		**120,665**

[1] Map unit number refers to livestock grazing allotments shown on **Map 2.4.16-1**.
[2] There are a total of approximately 190,000 suspended animal unit months. These are a matter of record at the Ely Field Office.
[3] Eight allotments transferred to the BLM through the White Pine County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act of 2006; availability of two of these allotments for livestock grazing will be determined.
[4] Allotments that had acres, animal unit months, or season of use adjusted, as a result of the 2000 Caliente MFP Amendment for Management of Desert Tortoise Habitat.
[5] Occur outside the planning area.
[6] Southern portion of Terry allotment has a season-of-use of 11/1 to 3/15 (critical desert tortoise habitat).

LG-6: When changes to BLM grazing permits are being considered in Rocky Mountain and desert bighorn sheep occupied habitat, manage domestic sheep and goats in accordance with current BLM policy.

LG-7: Manage allotments that become vacant, for any reason including relinquishment by the permittee, to best meet site-specific and land use planning objectives. Authorized uses may include new grazing permits, forage reserve allotments, dedication to purposes that preclude livestock grazing, and others such as offsetting allotments for permittees who are displaced for any reason.

LG-8: Implement the following management actions for desert tortoise habitat outside the Mormon Mesa, Kane Springs, and Beaver Dam Slope ACECs (also refer to Section 2.4.7, Special Status Species; and Section 2.4.12, Lands and Realty) (see **Map 2.4.7-1**).

- From March 1 to October 31, livestock use may occur as long as forage utilization management levels do not exceed 40 percent on key perennial grasses, shrubs and perennial forbs; and between November 1 and February 28/29, provided forage utilization management levels do not exceed 50 percent on key perennial grasses and 45 percent on key shrubs and perennial forbs. If the utilization management levels are reached, livestock will be moved to another location within the allotment or taken entirely off the allotment.

- All vehicle use in desert tortoise habitat associated with livestock grazing, with the exception of range improvements, will be restricted to existing roads, trails, and large sandy washes. Permittees and associated workers will comply with posted speed limits on access roads. No new access roads will be created.

- Tortoises discovered by the permittee to be in imminent danger during routine cattle movement or maintenance activities, may be removed out of harm's way by the permittee provided the permittee has received the required training.

- Use of hay or grains as a feeding supplement will be prohibited within grazing allotments. Mineral and salt blocks are authorized subject to Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations Section 4130.6-2(c) and should be placed in previously disturbed areas wherever possible to minimize impacts to desert tortoise and its habitat. In some cases, blocks may be placed in areas that have a net benefit to tortoise by distributing livestock more evenly throughout the allotment, and minimizing concentrations of livestock that result in habitat damage.

- Regular site visits will be made to available allotments that are actively grazed by livestock by BLM rangeland specialists and other qualified personnel, including U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologists, to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the grazing permit. Any item in non-compliance will be rectified by the BLM and reported to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

- Livestock levels will be adjusted to reflect significant, unusual climatic conditions that result in a dramatic change in range conditions (e.g., drought and fire) and negatively impact the ability of the allotment to support both tortoise and cattle.

- The permittee is required to take action to remove any livestock that move into areas unavailable for grazing back into the available areas of the allotment. If straying of livestock becomes problematic, the BLM, in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, will take measures to ensure straying is prevented.

2.4.17 Forest/Woodland and Other Plant Products

Introduction

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 directs BLM to ". . . manage public lands according to the principles of multiple-use and sustained yield . . ." One of the multiple uses of resources within the planning area includes the use of forest/woodland areas for fuelwood collection, pinyon nut harvesting, Christmas tree harvesting, posts and poles, seed collection, cactus and yucca collection, and other vegetation product collection. Vegetation management tools (e.g., prescribed fires, thinning) will allow for the regeneration of forest/woodland vegetation types and the selective thinning of these communities to improve their overall health within the planning area and achievement of applicable Resource Advisory Council standards and the desired ranges of conditions for various types of woodlands. Commercial collection of cacti, yucca, and evergreen trees within the state also is regulated under Nevada Revised Statutes (N.R.S. 527.060.120) and the Nevada Administrative Code Chapter 527.

Goal

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

Objective

To make healthy forest/woodlands and populations of other plants available for the responsible harvesting of forest/woodland and plant products by the public, commercial interests, and American Indians and allow access for traditional and non-traditional uses.

2.4.17.1 General Forest/Woodland and Other Plant Product Management

Management Actions

FP-1: Do not allow bristlecone pine, limber pine, or swamp cedar to be harvested except for education, scientific, research purposes; for salvage; or for the purpose of preventing or limiting insect or disease problems. Do not permit the cutting of rare or unique trees and shrubs including bearing trees.

FP-2: Allow the sale and salvage of desert vegetation (primarily cactus and yucca) based on NEPA analysis and, if necessary, Section 7 consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.[4]

FP-3: Allow the harvest of desert vegetation for educational or scientific research purposes.[4]

FP-4: Limit vehicle traffic associated with woodland and vegetation product harvesting to existing roads and trails except in areas where completed site-specific analysis or activity plans (e.g., watershed analysis, forestry management plans, etc.) allow. Specific areas would be identified as a condition of the permits/contracts for large quantity sales of vegetation products. These areas generally would be in locations where such activity would assist in meeting watershed objectives.

2.4.17.2 Parameter – Fuelwood Collection

Management Actions

FP-5: Allow collection of fuelwood from both live and dead trees for personal use (pinyon, juniper, and mountain mahogany) and commercial use (pinyon and juniper) throughout the planning area, except in closed areas (e.g., wilderness study areas, designated wilderness).[4]

FP-6: Allow harvest/collection of other tree species (e.g., aspen, ponderosa pine, and white fir) on a case-by-case basis or through the watershed analysis process.[4]

[4] Implementation level decision.

2.4.17.3 Parameter – Pinyon Pine Nut Harvesting

Management Actions

FP-7: Allow personal use collection of pine nuts throughout the planning area.[5]

FP-8: Utilize commercial harvest sale areas that have been designated throughout the planning area after coordination with American Indian tribes to avoid traditional use areas. Sell these sites through a competitive bidding process. When the competitive bidding is complete and the sales are awarded, the specific sale area will be documented on the permittee's contract.

2.4.17.4 Parameter – Christmas Tree Harvesting

Management Actions

FP-9: Make pinyon, juniper, and white fir available for personal use throughout the planning area, except in closed areas (e.g., wilderness study areas, designated wilderness).[5]

FP-10: Allow commercial use to only pinyon and juniper throughout the planning area.[5]

FP-11: Make white fir available for commercial harvest if future site-specific planning activities (e.g., watershed analysis) determine that harvest will assist in achieving the desired range of conditions, health and resiliency of the stand, and site-specific objectives for the site.

2.4.17.5 Parameter – Post and Pole Harvesting

Management Actions

FP-12: Make pinyon and juniper available for personal and commercial use throughout the planning area, except in closed areas.[5]

FP-13: Allow the use of aspen, fir, and spruce on a case-by-case basis, and if harvest will improve the health of the stand.[6]

FP-14: If harvest will assist in achieving site-specific objectives, designate areas open to harvest with specified limitations until desired conditions are achieved.

[5] Implementation level decision.
[6] Implementation level decision.

2.4.17.6 Parameter – Seed Collection

Management Actions

FP-15: Allow commercial collection on a case-by-case basis.

FP-16: Do not allow harvesting of more than 50 percent of the annual seed crop available in any one area.

FP-17: Do not allow seed harvest of special status plants except for research, federally/state endorsed propagation for restoration, or case-specific small scale commercial/personal use regulated under permit process. All special status seed harvest will be monitored by the Ely Field Office, in the form of permit requirements.

FP-18: Encourage hand collection methods, and allow mechanical collection on a limited basis.

2.4.17.7 Parameter – Other Vegetation Products (i.e., wildings, boughs, etc.) Collection

Management Actions

FP-19: Allow personal and commercial collection on a case-by-case basis.

FP-20: Specify areas for collection on the vegetation sales contract.

FP-21: Limit collection methods to those with the least surface disturbing activities.

2.4.17.8 Parameter – Biomass Products

FP-22: Allow biomass harvest in areas where vegetation projects require vegetation removal and meet project objectives.

2.4.18 Geology and Mineral Extraction

Introduction

The general mining laws give the public the right to locate and develop mining claims on public land. The Mining and Minerals Policy Act of 1970 declares that it is the continuing policy of the federal government to foster and encourage private enterprise in the development of domestic mineral resources. Section 102 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 directs that the public land will be managed in a manner that recognizes the Nation's need for domestic sources of minerals and other commodities from the public lands, while protecting scientific, scenic, historic, archeological, ecological, environmental, air and atmospheric, and hydrologic values. The BLM's mineral and national energy policy states that public lands

shall remain open and available for mineral exploration and development unless withdrawal or other administrative action is justified in the national interest.

Federally owned minerals in the public domain are classified into three categories: leasable minerals, locatable minerals, and mineral materials as discussed below. The classifications are based on acts passed by the U.S. Congress. These acts provide the opportunity for the public to explore for, develop, and produce publicly owned minerals.

Leasable minerals are those minerals on public lands where the land is leased to individuals for their exploration and development. The leasable minerals have been subdivided into two classes, fluid and solid. Fluid minerals include oil and gas; geothermal resources and associated by-products; and oil shale, native asphalt, oil impregnated sands, and any other material in which oil is recoverable only by special treatment after the deposit is mined or quarried. Solid leasable minerals are those leased under the mineral leasing acts and those hardrock minerals leased under Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1946 (acquired lands). Solid leasable minerals are specific minerals such as coal and phosphates. All minerals on acquired lands are considered to be leasable minerals. Leasable minerals are associated with the following laws: Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended and supplemented, Mineral Leasing Act for Acquired Lands of 1947, as amended, and the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970, as amended.

Locatable minerals are those “minerals acquired through the General Mining Law of 1872, as amended” (National Research Council 1999). Locatable minerals can include gold, silver, platinum, lead, zinc, magnesium, nickel, tungsten, bentonite, barite, feldspar, uranium, and uncommon varieties of sand, gravel, and stone. Locatable minerals on public lands (if open to mineral entry) can be acquired by initially staking claims over the deposits. However, before mining can occur, permits from various state and federal agencies must be obtained.

Mineral materials are common varieties of minerals such as sand, gravel, rock, cinders, and common clay. Mineral materials are disposed of through sales contracts or free use permits and are regulated under the Mineral Material Act of July 23, 1947, as amended, and the Surface Use and Occupancy Act of July 23, 1955. Disturbance of public lands in association with mineral material sales is considered a discretionary activity. This means that the action may be denied if resource concerns cannot be protected or mitigated.

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. Allow development of solid leasable and locatable minerals in a manner to prevent unnecessary or undue degradation. Allow development of mineral materials in a manner that will prevent unnecessary or undue degradation, meet public demand, and minimize adverse impacts to other resource values.

Objective

To provide for the responsible development of mineral resources to meet local, regional, and national needs, while providing for the protection of other resources and uses.

2.4.18.1 General Geology and Mineral Management

Management Actions

MIN-1: Implement the following management actions for desert tortoise habitat (also refer to Section 2.4.7, Special Status Species; and Section 2.4.12, Lands and Realty) (see **Map 2.4.7-1**). This decision applies to fluid and solid leasable minerals, locatable minerals and mineral materials parameters.

- Within desert tortoise ACECs: Exploration will be allowed only on existing roads and trails. Unless otherwise authorized, access to mineral operations will be limited to existing roads and trails. All proposed surface disturbance and vehicular travel will be limited to the approved operation plan and access route. Upon determination of an impending field development, a transportation plan will be requested to reduce unnecessary access roads. No blading or other dirt work will be allowed without prior approval of the BLM authorized officer. A qualified biologist will monitor cross country travel for tortoise and will move them as needed.

- Within desert tortoise ACECs: Drilling fluids and cuttings will be contained in portable mud pits or lined reserve pits in all operations.

- Within desert tortoise habitat: Vibriosis, drill hole shot, or surface shot will not be completed within 100 yards of known tortoise burrows.

- When a permitted activity results in residual impacts to desert tortoise habitat, compensation will be required. The compensation rate will be determined during the NEPA process for each proposed action. The amount to be paid will be calculated according to the formula identified in the “Compensation for the Desert Tortoise” report approved by the Desert Tortoise Management Oversight Group in November 1991.

- Ensure, through the review of the proposed action and development of the mitigation measures, that the impacts from the proposed action will not jeopardize the continued existence of a listed species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of designated critical habitat. The operator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and BLM will need to reach concurrence that proposed actions are below the jeopardy or adverse modification threshold. If it is determined that the proposed action will not be below the jeopardy or adverse modification threshold, the project will not go forward.

2.4.18.2 Parameter – Fluid Leasable Minerals

Introduction

Areas available for fluid mineral leasing are identified through management determinations during the planning process. These determinations designate the land as closed or open to leasing, and if open, what stipulations should be applied to the lease. All leases are subject to the terms and conditions of the standard lease form which allows for up to 60-day timing deferments and 200 meter (656 feet) displacements (Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations Section 3101.1-2). Stipulations modify the lease rights beyond the standard lease terms. Constraints are considered to be either major, such as no surface occupancy, or moderate. Moderate constraints consist of timing limitations (seasonal restrictions) and controlled surface use restrictions. Timing limitations indicate that a leased area generally is open to development activities except during a specified period of time to protect identified resource values such as wildlife. Controlled surface use stipulations may require operating constraints to protect resources year round; for example, staying on existing roads.

A lease notice may be attached to the lease to inform potential lessees of important resource issues under existing laws and regulations that may result in delays associated with subsequent permitting, and appropriate mitigation of those resource concerns.

Resources are further protected during operational activities through the application of best management practices, as contained in the Gold Book (U.S. Department of the Interior and U.S. Department of Agriculture 2006) and the development of site-specific conditions of approval.

Under certain conditions, waivers, exceptions, and modification to lease stipulations may be granted. The circumstances for granting an exception, waiver, or modification are attached to each stipulation.

Any lease stipulation may be waived or modified as per Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations Section 3101.1-4. A waiver or modification is allowable only if the authorized officer determines that the factors leading to its inclusion in the lease have changed sufficiently to make requirements of the stipulation(s) no longer justified, or mitigation contained in individual permits will preclude unacceptable impacts. If the waiver or modification is of major concern to the public, such modification will be subject to a 30-day public review. This review can be held concurrent with the required 30-day posting of applications for permit to drill. Plan amendments are not required to waive, modify, or provide exception to lease stipulations.

A waiver eliminates a stipulation from the lease. The stipulation waiver can be considered concurrent with application for permit to drill approvals and can be accomplished with any NEPA vehicle available such as an environmental assessment, documentation of NEPA adequacy, categorical exclusion, or any similar process available to the Ely Field Office. Waivers can be found in Appendix F, Section 2, for various resource concerns.

A modification usually is considered a long-term change in the stipulation to fit the new conditions for which the stipulation was applied; however, it can be short term as well. Depending upon the site conditions, the

stipulation may or may not apply to all actions or authorizations on the leasehold. An example of a modification could be a greater sage-grouse lek site that may no longer need a no surface occupancy stipulation on drilling and construction operations if BLM, in consultation with Nevada Department of Wildlife, determines that portions of the area can be occupied without adversely affecting the sage grouse lek. Public notice is required only if the authorized officer determines it is of major public concern.

An exception is a one-time exception to all or part of the stipulation for a particular action due to changed environmental conditions at the time and place of the action being considered. For example, a seasonal restriction on drilling in critical winter range could be excepted if the winter is mild and the target species have not moved onto the critical portions of the winter range (near the drilling location). In subsequent years, the conditions could change and preclude an exception being granted. Normally, exceptions are considered minor actions and, therefore, are not subject to a 30-day public review.

Table 2.4-17 summarizes the acres open and closed to fluid mineral leasing under the Proposed RMP.

Table 2.4-17
Summary of Fluid Mineral Leasing Acreages

	Acres[1]
Open to Fluid Mineral Leasing	
Standard Lease Terms and Conditions	6,073,400
Moderate Restrictions (Timing/Surface Use Limitations)	3,728,200
Major Restrictions (No Surface Occupancy)	233,600
Open – Total	**10,035,200**
Closed to Fluid Mineral Leasing	
Designated Wilderness/Wilderness Study Areas	1,153,500
Discretionary Closures	311,300
Closed – Total	**1,464,800**
Total	**11,500,000**

Note: There will be about 807,770 acres of lease notices that could apply to any of the above open categories.

[1] Rounded to hundreds.

Management Actions

MIN-2: Open to Leasing – Allow leasing on approximately 6.0 million acres open to leasing subject to existing laws, regulations, and formal orders and the terms and conditions of the standard lease form. A lease notice will be attached, where applicable, to inform potential lessees of important resource issues under existing laws and regulations that may result in delays associated with subsequent permitting and appropriate mitigation of those resource concerns. Lease notices will consist of:

Cultural Site – Areas of known high potential for cultural sites. Properties known at the time of lease announcements that are listed on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places will be avoided where possible using lease exclusions or limits on surface use. The preferred avoidance option is to

exclude areas containing National Register of Historic Places-eligible sites from leasing and all forms of surface disturbance. The next preferred option is to establish no surface occupancy around these sites, including an adequate buffer. Similar constraints may be placed on proposed lease areas based on probability models and the likelihood of encountering properties eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Cultural sites not avoided may require consultation with State Historic Preservation Officer and potential treatment plans.

Historic Sites – Areas include the Pony Express Trail, the Hastings Cutoff, the Lincoln Highway, and the Osceola Ditch. Any activity planned within 1 mile of these sites must undergo a visual assessment in conjunction with environmental review to determine if the activity will adversely affect the visual integrity. Appropriate mitigation will take place as necessary to keep the management corridor in as natural a condition as possible. Nondiscretionary activity will be mitigated as needed to preserve the visual integrity.

Desert Tortoise Habitat – All proposed projects in desert tortoise habitat will require Section 7 consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services.

See **Map 2.4.18-1** for Lease Notices.

MIN-3: Open to leasing, subject to moderate constraints – Protect resources beyond the standard lease terms and conditions by requiring timing and controlled surface use restrictions as indicated in **Table 2.4-17**. **Table 2.4-18** and **Map 2.4.18-1** contain a complete description of all the lease stipulations. There is considerable overlap of acreages associated with various types of timing restrictions. Including this overlap, the cumulative acreage of the separate timing and surface use stipulations totals approximately 3.7 million acres.

Table 2.4-18
Timing and Surface Use Stipulations

Resource	Potential Restriction	Acres[1]
Greater Sage-grouse Nesting Habitat Associated with Leks	Timing Limitation. No surface activity will be allowed within two miles of a greater sage-grouse lek from March 1 through May 15.	1,244,200
Greater Sage-grouse Winter Range	Timing Limitation. No surface activity will be allowed within winter range for greater sage-grouse from November 1 through March 31.	100,300
Big Game Calving/Fawning/ Kidding/Lambing Grounds	Timing Limitation. No surface activity will be allowed within big game calving/fawning/kidding/lambing grounds from April 15 through June 30.	794,200
Big Game Crucial Winter Range	Timing Limitation. No surface activity will be allowed within big game crucial winter range from November 1 through March 31.	756,800
Desert Tortoise Habitat	Timing Limitation. No surface activity will be allowed within desert tortoise habitat from March 1 to October 31.	314,700
Desert Bighorn Sheep Habitat	Timing Limitation. No surface activity will be allowed within occupied desert bighorn sheep habitat from March 1 through May 31 and from July 1 through August 31.	477,600
Raptor Nest Sites	Timing Limitations. No surface activity will be allowed from May 1 through July 15 within 0.5 mile of a raptor nest site that has been active within the past 5 years.	40,900
Totals of Individual Categories (including overlap)		3,728,700

[1] Rounded to hundreds.

Timing stipulations apply to the following wildlife species:

- **Greater Sage-grouse** – The greater sage-grouse is a Nevada BLM sensitive species and was petitioned for listing under the Endangered Species Act as a threatened or endangered species. Timing limitations are required to protect greater sage-grouse breeding and nesting activities and habitat during the crucial winter period.

- **Raptors** – Raptors (i.e., hawks, eagles, owls, etc.) are protected under numerous laws including the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, and the Endangered Species Act of 1973. Timing limitations are required to protect raptor nesting activities.

- **Big Game** – Elk, mule deer, pronghorn antelope, and Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep are priority species in the planning area. Timing limitations are required to protect elk, mule deer, pronghorn antelope, and Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep from disturbance during calving, fawning, kidding, and lambing and from disturbance during the crucial winter period.

- **Desert Bighorn Sheep Habitat** – The desert bighorn sheep is a Nevada BLM sensitive species and is a priority species in the planning area. Timing limitations are required to protect desert bighorn sheep from disturbance during lambing and the crucial hot summer months.

- **Desert Tortoise Habitat** – The desert tortoise is listed as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. Timing limitations are required to protect desert tortoise during the most active period.

MIN-4: Stipulation Maintenance – Regularly maintain wildlife databases of species subject to the above stipulations to reflect current inventory status. For example an updated greater sage-grouse lek inventory may show the location of a new lek for which the lease stipulation will be applied in subsequent lease sales.

MIN-5: Existing leases – Apply the constraints and requirements identified in this RMP (and ongoing stipulation maintenance) to new use authorizations on existing leases provided that they are within the authority reserved by the terms and conditions of the lease.

MIN-6: Open to leasing, subject to major constraints. Apply a no surface occupancy restriction as shown in **Table 2.4-19** and **Map 2.4.18-1**. The no surface occupancy for greater sage-grouse leks is a 0.25-mile buffer.

MIN-7: Closed to leasing – Close approximately 1.5 million acres to leasing including designated wilderness/wilderness study areas, Congressionally mandated closures, and additional discretionary closures. It is BLM policy to apply the least restrictive constraint to meet the resource protection objective. However, for ACECs (other than desert tortoise ACECs) that exceed 1 mile in length and width, the outer 0.5-mile perimeter is proposed as no surface occupancy and the remainder closed. Areas closed to leasing are shown in **Table 2.4-20**.

Table 2.4-19
No Surface Occupancy for Fluid Mineral Leasing

Name	Acres
Andies Mine Trilobite Site	180
Ash Springs Proposed Withdrawal	80
Baker Archaeological Site Proposed ACEC	80
Baking Powder Flat Proposed ACEC	6,620
Beaver Dam Slope ACEC[1]	36,800
Blue Mass Scenic Area Proposed ACEC	950
Caliente Field Station	2
Cleve Creek Recreation Area	90
Condor Canyon Proposed ACEC	2,880
Egan Crest Trailhead	250
Garnet Hill	160
Hendry's Creek/Rock Animal Corral Proposed ACEC	3,650
Highland Range Proposed ACEC	3,700
Honeymoon Hill/City of Rocks Proposed ACEC	3,900
Illipah Reservoir	290
Kirch Wildlife Management Area	5,000
Lower Meadow Valley Wash Proposed ACEC	25,000
Mormon Mesa ACEC[1]	66,430
Mount Irish Proposed ACEC	8,000
Pahroc Rock Art Proposed ACEC	2,400
Pony Springs Fire Station	10
Rose Guano Bat Cave Proposed ACEC	40
Sacramento Pass Recreation Site	440
Greater Sage-grouse Leks	31,520
Schlesser Pincushion Proposed ACEC	4,930
Shooting Gallery Proposed ACEC	5,800
Shoshone Ponds Proposed ACEC	1,240
Snake Creek Indian Burial Cave Proposed ACEC	40
Sunshine Locality National Register District[1]	6,460
Swamp Cedar Proposed ACEC	3,200
Ward Mountain Recreation Site	240
White Pine County Shooting Range	255
White River Archaeological District	230
White River Valley Proposed ACEC	13,100
Total[2]	**233,967**

[1] See Appendix F, Section 2 for exception.
[2] Total acres differ from summary table due to overlap among individual areas and categories.

Table 2.4-20
Areas Closed to Fluid Mineral Leasing

Name	Acres
Baker Proposed Withdrawal	6,720
Baking Powder Flat Proposed ACEC	7,020
Condor Canyon Proposed ACEC	1,625
Designated Wilderness/Wilderness Study Areas	1,153,500
Highland Range Proposed ACEC	3,200
Kane Spring ACEC	57,190
Coyote Springs leased public lands (Congressional)	6,200
Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act State Park	4,780
Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act Utility Corridors	113,425
Lincoln County Proposed Disposals	57,000
Mount Irish Proposed ACEC	7,100
Murry Spring Watershed	1,260
Shooting Gallery Proposed ACEC	9,800
Steptoe Valley Wildlife Management Area Expansion	6,265
Sunshine Locality National Register District	12,640
White Pine County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act Airport Expansion	1,550
White Pine County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act Industrial Park Expansion	200
White Pine County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act Additional Withdrawals	98,125
White Pine County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act Disposals	18,600
Total*	**1,566,200**

* Total acres differ from summary table due to overlap among individual areas and categories.

MIN-8: Evaluate geophysical exploration on a case-by-case basis. Geophysical exploration will not necessarily be subject to the same restrictions as shown for fluid leasing.

MIN-9: Apply the following special management actions for leasing within desert tortoise habitat:

a. Continue closure of the Kane Springs ACEC to leasing.

b. Manage the Mormon Mesa and Beaver Dam Slope ACECs as no surface occupancy with exceptions granted upon completion of Section 7 consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

c. Attach a lease notice for all areas within desert tortoise habitat, to alert the lessee that a Section 7 consultation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be completed prior to any surface disturbance within desert tortoise habitat.

d. Impose a timing stipulation for all areas within desert tortoise habitat. The stipulation will involve no surface occupancy from March 1 to October 31.

e. Unless otherwise authorized, all vehicular traffic will be restricted to existing roads and trails.

2.4.18.3 Parameter – Solid Leasable Minerals

Management Actions

MIN-10: Open to leasing – Allow solid mineral leasing on approximately 9.9 million acres of federal mineral estate, subject to best management practices. **Table 2.4-21** and **Map 2.4.18-2** show the areas that will be available to leasing

Table 2.4-21
Summary of Solid Mineral Leasing

	Acres[1]
Open to Solid Mineral Leasing	9,852,000
Closed – Designated Wilderness/Wilderness Study Areas	1,153,500
Closed – Discretionary	494,500
Total	**11,500,000**

[1] Rounded to hundreds.

MIN–11: Issue mineral use authorizations for prospecting permits, exploration licenses, preference right leases, competitive leases, lease modifications, and use permits.

MIN–12: Closed to leasing – Close approximately 1.6 million acres to solid mineral leasing. This includes designated wilderness and wilderness study areas. Closed areas include existing closed areas carried forward (i.e., Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act). **Table 2.4-22** and **Map 2.4.18-2** show the areas that will be closed to leasing.

MIN–13: Apply the following special management actions for solid mineral leasing within desert tortoise ACEC habitat:

a. Continue closure of the Kane Springs ACEC to solid mineral leasing.

b. Close the Mormon Mesa and Beaver Dam Slope ACECs to solid mineral leasing.

2.4.18.4 Parameter – Locatable Minerals

For lands that are open to the location of mining claims, the claimant has statutory authority under the mining laws to ingress, egress, and development of those claims. This authority means that those areas open to mineral entry for the purposes of exploration or development of locatable minerals cannot be unreasonably restricted.

Table 2.4-22
Areas Closed and Proposed for Closure for Solid Leasable, Locatable, and Mineral Materials

Name	Acres
Andies Mine Trilobite Site	180
Ash Springs Proposed Withdrawal	80
Baker Archaeological Site Proposed ACEC	80
Baker Proposed Withdrawal	6,720
Baking Powder Flat Proposed ACEC	13,640
Beaver Dam Slope ACEC[1]	36,800
Blue Mass Scenic Area Proposed ACEC	950
Caliente Field Station	2
Cleve Creek Recreation Site	90
Condor Canyon Proposed ACEC	4,500
Designated Wilderness/Wilderness Study Areas	1,153,500
Egan Crest Trailhead	250
Garnet Hill	160
Hendry's Creek Rock Animal Corral Proposed ACEC	3,650
Highland Range Proposed ACEC	6,900
Honeymoon Hill / City of Rocks Proposed ACEC	3,900
Illipah Reservoir	290
Kane Spring ACEC[1]	57,190
Kirch Wildlife Management Area	5,000
Coyote Springs leased public lands (congressional)	6,200
Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act Corridors	113,425
Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation and Development Act State Park	4,780
Lincoln County Proposed Disposals	57,000
Lower Meadow Valley Wash Proposed ACEC[2]	25,000
Mormon Mesa ACEC[1]	66,430
Mount Irish Proposed ACEC	15,100
Murry Spring Watershed	1,255
Pahroc Rock Art Proposed ACEC	2,400
Pony Springs Fire Station	10
Rose Guano Bat Cave Proposed ACEC	40
Sacramento Pass Recreation Site	440
Schlesser Pincushion Proposed ACEC	4,930
Shooting Gallery Proposed ACEC	15,600
Shoshone Ponds Proposed ACEC	1,240
Snake Creek Indian Burial Cave Proposed ACEC	40
Steptoe Valley Wildlife Management Area	6,265
Swamp Cedar Proposed ACEC	3,200
Ward Mountain Recreation Site	240
White Pine County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act Additional Withdrawal	98,125
White Pine County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act Airport Expansion	1,550
White Pine County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act Industrial Park Expansion	200
White Pine County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act Proposed Disposals	18,600
White Pine County Shooting Range	255
White River Archaeological District	230
White River Valley Proposed ACEC	13,100
Total*	**1,749,537**

* Total acres differ from summary table due to overlap among areas and categories.

[1] Subject to exception for existing valid claims.
[2] Closed for solid leasable and locatable minerals, but open with special stipulations for mineral materials. Mineral materials activities subject to controlled surface use, seasonal timing restrictions, restricted or no use in avoidance areas (e.g., riparian areas, live water, areas with special wildlife or plant features, and sensitive viewsheds), additional NEPA analysis, and Section 7 consultation.

See **Table 2.4-23** for a summary of closed and open acres.

Table 2.4-23
Summary of Locatable Minerals

	Acres
Open to Locatable Minerals	9,852,000
Closed – Designated Wilderness/Wilderness Study Areas	1,153,500
Closed – Discretionary	494,500
Total	**11,500,000**

[1] Rounded to hundreds.

Management Actions

MIN-14: Open to locatable – Allow locatable mineral development on approximately 9.9 million acres of federal mineral estate, subject to the prevention of unnecessary or undue degradation of public lands.

MIN-15: Closed to locatable – Manage approximately 1.6 million acres of federal mineral estate from operation of the mining law as closed to locatable mineral entry. Review any lands with closures that expire to determine whether the withdrawals should be extended, revoked, or modified. **Table 2.4-22** describes the areas that are closed or proposed to be closed.

MIN-16: Apply the following special management actions for locatable minerals within desert tortoise habitat:

a. Close the Kane Springs, Mormon Mesa, and Beaver Dam Slope ACECs to locatable mineral entry. Existing mining claims that have valid existing rights and mining operations could occur in the ACEC. The BLM will be required to perform validity exams on the existing claims to determine if they are valid claims before any operation may proceed within the ACEC. The operation could proceed once the review of the plan of operation, NEPA review, and Section 7 consultation have occurred.

b. Inform operators submitting a notice for activities within desert tortoise habitat, but outside of ACECs, of their responsibilities to comply with specific provisions of the Endangered Species Act.

2.4.18.5 Parameter – Mineral Materials (Salable Minerals)

The same areas are closed for mineral materials as for locatable minerals with the exception of Lower Meadow Valley Wash.

Acreage totals are shown in **Table 2.4-24** and **Map 2.4.18-3** shows the areas that will be open or closed.

Table 2.4-24
Summary of Mineral Materials

	Acres[1]
Open to Mineral Materials	9,857,700
Closed – Designated Wilderness/Wilderness Study Areas	1,153,500
Closed – Discretionary	488,800
Total	**11,500,000**

[1] Rounded to hundreds.

Management Actions

MIN-17: Open to mineral materials – Allow disposal of mineral materials on approximately 9.9 million acres of federal mineral estate, subject to best management practices.

MIN-18: Space mineral material sites appropriately to accommodate public and private needs while preserving environmental qualities.

MIN-19: Maintain and locate community pits and common use areas to provide for the needs of local communities as they develop.

MIN-20: Closed to mineral materials – Close approximately 1.6 million acres to mineral materials disposal as shown in **Table 2.4-22** and **Map 2.4.18-3**.

MIN-21: Apply the following special management actions for mineral material disposal within desert tortoise habitat:

a. Close the Kane Springs, Mormon Mesa and Beaver Dam Slope ACECs to mineral material disposal except for a 1-mile-wide corridor, 0.5-mile each side of the road, on designated roads (U.S. Highway 93, Carp-Elgin, and Kane Springs roads). Space mineral material site developments to provide approximately 10 miles between adjacent sites. This corridor will be open only for free use permits and federal highway material site rights-of-way. Within desert tortoise ACECs, allow mineral materials disposal within the three designated 1-mile-wide corridors only from November 1 through February 28/29.

b. Close and reclaim existing pits and designations identified as not needed to meet current and future demand.

2.4.19 Watershed Management

Introduction

The planning area has been divided into 61 watershed units (entire watersheds or manageable portions thereof). Watershed conditions are controlled by climate, geology, topography, vegetation, and soil characteristics. Vegetation and soil conditions change naturally over time in response to climate, fire, and other natural processes and management. The rate water is captured by the watershed, the amount of storage available, and the rate and location of water release depends on the amount and type of vegetation and type and condition of soil. Thus, healthy watersheds are dependent on achieving or maintaining land health standards.

Goal

Manage watersheds to achieve and maintain resource functions and conditions required for healthy lands and sustainable uses.

Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council Standards

- Upland soils exhibit infiltration and permeability rates that are appropriate to soil type, climate, and land form.
- Riparian and wetland areas exhibit a properly functioning condition and achieve state water quality criteria.
- Habitats exhibit a healthy, productive, and diverse population of native and/or desirable plant species, appropriate to the site characteristics; to provide suitable feed, water, cover, and living space for animal species; and maintain ecological processes. Habitat conditions meet the life cycle requirements of threatened and endangered species.
- Land use plans will recognize cultural resources within the context of multiple use.

Mojave/Southern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council Standards

- Watershed soils and stream banks should have adequate stability to resist accelerated erosion, maintain soil productivity, and sustain the hydrologic cycle.
- Watersheds should possess the necessary ecological components to achieve state water quality criteria, maintain ecological processes, and sustain appropriate uses.
- Riparian and wetlands vegetation should have structural and species diversity characteristic of the stage of stream channel succession in order to provide forage and cover; capture sediment; and capture, retain, and safely release water (watershed function).

- Habitats and watersheds should sustain a level of biodiversity appropriate for the area and conducive to appropriate uses. Habitats of special status species should be able to sustain viable populations of those species.

Objective

To manage watersheds that display physical and biological conditions or functions required for necessary ecological components to achieve state water quality criteria, maintain ecological processes, and sustain appropriate uses.

Management Actions

WS-1: Perform watershed analysis initially on the following watersheds: North Spring Valley, Antelope Valley, Gleason Creek, Smith Valley, South Steptoe Valley, Clover Creek South, North Antelope Valley, Steptoe A, and Spring Valley. When these analyses are complete, analyze the high priority watersheds listed in **Table 2.4-25** followed by the low priority watersheds.

WS-2: Additional forage resulting from implementation of vegetation restoration projects identified through the watershed analysis process will be allocated to livestock and wild horses and/or reserved for watershed maintenance and wildlife depending on the degree of watershed function required to maintain rangeland health standards.

Table 2.4-25
Watershed Priority for Analysis and Treatment

Watershed Name	Priority	Watershed Name	Priority	Watershed Name	Priority
Antelope Valley	High	North Spring Valley	High	Big Sand Springs Valley	Low
Beaver Dam Wash	High	Panaca Valley	High	Butte	Low
Cave Valley	High	Patterson Wash	High	Central Little Smoky Valley	Low
Clover Creek North	High	Rose Valley	High	Coal Valley	Low
Clover Creek South	High	Smith Valley	High	Deep Creek	Low
Coyote Springs	High	Snake Valley South	High	Delamar Valley	Low
Dry Lake Valley	High	South Spring Valley	High	Duck Creek Basin	Low
Dry Valley	High	South Steptoe Valley	High	Egan Basin	Low
Duck Water	High	Spring Valley	High	Emmigrant	Low
Eagle Valley	High	Spring Valley South East	High	Fox-gap Mountain	Low
Escalante Desert	High	Spring Valley South West	High	Garden Valley	Low
Gleason Creek	High	Steptoe A	High	Jakes Valley	Low
Hamblin Valley	High	Steptoe B	High	North Little Smoky Valley	Low
Huntington	High	Steptoe C	High	Park Range	Low
Kane Spring Wash	High	Tikaboo Valley	High	Railroad Valley	Low
Lake Valley	High	Toquop Wash	High	Ruby Valley	Low
Long Valley	High	Tule Desert	High	Sand Hollow Wash	Low
Meadow Valley Wash N	High	White River Central	High	Sand Spring Valley	Low
Meadow Valley Wash S	High	White River North	High	Snake Valley North	Low
Newark	High	White River South	High	South Little Smoky Valley	Low
North Antelope Valley	High				

2.4.20 Fire Management

Introduction

The BLM is charged with clearly defining fire management goals, objectives, and actions in comprehensive fire management plans. Strategic watershed-scale fuel management and fire use planning that integrates a variety of treatment methods, will cost-effectively reduce fuel hazards to acceptable levels and benefit ecological system health. Fire management programs and activities should be based upon safety to fire fighters and the public, protecting resources, minimizing costs, and achieving land management objectives.

Goal

Provide an appropriate management response to all wildland fires, with emphasis on firefighter and public safety, consistent with overall management objectives. Return fire to its natural role in the ecological system and implement fuels treatments, where applicable, to aid in returning fire to the ecological system. Establish a community education program that includes fuels reduction within the wildland urban interface to create fire-safe communities.

Objective

To manage wildland and prescribed fires as one of the tools in the treatment of vegetation communities and watersheds to achieve the desired range of condition for vegetation, watersheds, and other resource programs (e.g., livestock, wild horses, soils, etc.).

Management Actions

FM-1: Use prescribed fire and wildland fire in compliance with applicable smoke management requirements as specified by the Nevada Smoke Management program. Obtain annual permits and provide daily evaluation of the fire conditions to ensure applicable air quality regulations are not violated.

FM-2: Coordinate with the Department of Defense when planning prescribed burns utilizing aircraft within their military operating air spaces in the planning area.

FM-3: Implement and update the Ely Fire Management Plan, as needed. Tier the Ely Fire Management Plan to the general fire management actions in this RMP. Fire management units within the planning area have been identified on the basis of similar vegetation type and condition, management constraints, issues, and objectives and strategies (see **Map 2.4.20-1** and **Table 2.4-26**). The following management actions will take place within those fire management units.

1) **Wildland fire suppression** – provide Appropriate Management Response on all wildland fires that occur within the fire management jurisdiction of the Ely Field Office;

Table 2.4-26
Summary of Fire Management Units for the Ely Field Office

Number	Name	Type[1]
NV-040-01	Meadow Valley-Deerlodge	Vegetation
NV-040-02	Irish/Timber/Worthington Mountains	Vegetation
NV-040-03	Northern Mountains	Vegetation
NV-040-04	Southern Benches	Vegetation
NV-040-05	Seaman Range-Murphy Gap	Vegetation
NV-040-06	Elgin/Blue Nose/Kane Spring Pinyon Juniper	Vegetation
NV-040-07	Southern Valleys	Vegetation
NV-040-08	Northern Valleys	Vegetation
NV-040-09	Lincoln County	Wildland Urban Interface
NV-040-10	Ely/Lund/Duckwater	Wildland Urban Interface
NV-040-11	Cherry Creek/Goshute	Wildland Urban Interface
NV-040-12	Ely/Lund Watershed and Wildland Urban Interface	Wildland Urban Interface
NV-040-13	Caliente Watershed and Wildland Urban Interface	Wildland Urban Interface
NV-040-14	Southern Benches	High Value Habitat
NV-040-15	Northern Benches	High Value Habitat
NV-040-16	Buck and Bald/Diamond Mountains	High Value Habitat
NV-040-17	North Pahroc and Pahranagat	High Value Habitat
NV-040-18	Bullwhack	High Value Habitat
NV-040-19	Illipah/Wells Station/Horse and Quinn	High Value Habitat
NV-040-20	Clover/Delamar/South Pahroc/Irish	High Value Habitat
NV-040-21	Highlands and South Egan Range	High Value Habitat
NV-040-22	Kern/Snake/Cherry Creek/Park Mountain	High Value Habitat
NV-040-23	Mojave	Special Management Area
NV-040-24	Mojave and Highlands	Special Management Area
NV-040-25	Alamo and Hiko	Wildland Urban Interface

[1] A fire management type is assigned to each fire management unit to clearly define its primary resource management objective and fire protection values.

2) **Fuels treatments** – develop and implement prescribed fire and non-fire fuels treatments (mechanical, chemical, and biological) to create fire-safe communities, protect private property, achieve resource management objectives (Section 2.4.5, Vegetation Resources), and restore ecological system health;

3) **Wildland fire use** – manage, to the extent practical for resource benefit, to improve ecological system function, and to allow fire to function as a natural part of the ecological system, approximately 8.9 million acres would be available for wildland fire use;

4) **Emergency stabilization and rehabilitation** – design and implement to achieve vegetation, habitat, soil stability, and watershed objectives in accordance with the Programmatic Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Plan; and

5) **Community assistance/protection** – establish an active community education and assistance program where needed to create fire-safe communities and prevent catastrophic impacts on sensitive natural resources.

FM-4: Incorporate and utilize Fire Regime Condition Class methodologies (Appendix C) as a major component in fire and fuels management activities. Use Fire Regime Condition Class ratings in conjunction

with vegetation objectives (Section 2.4.5, Vegetation Resources) and other resource objectives to determine appropriate response to wildland fires and to help determine where to utilize prescribed fire, wildland fire use, or other non-fire (e.g., mechanical) fuels treatments.

FM-5: In addition to fire, implement mechanical, biological, and chemical treatments along with other tools and techniques outlined in Appendix G to achieve vegetation, fuels, and other resource objectives.

FM-6: Base fire management priorities on: 1) firefighter and public safety, and 2) resource protection objectives.

FM-7: Implement the following management actions for desert tortoise habitat (also refer to Section 2.4.7, Special Status Species) (see **Map 2.4.7-1**).

- Within desert tortoise habitat, initiate full suppression activities using appropriate techniques/tools (engines, equipment off road, burning out, etc.) with the minimum necessary surface disturbances to limit the size of a wildland fire, reduce loss of tortoise cover and minimize the spread of exotic annual grasses.

- Assign a qualified resource advisor to each wildland fire to provide relevant information on the occurrence of desert tortoise and important habitat to the incident commander. The resource advisor serves as the field contact representative responsible for coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

- Do not authorize burning out of unburned fingers or islands of vegetation, unless it is necessary for safety.

- Establish fire camps, staging areas, and helispots in previously disturbed areas outside of ACECs, where possible, and in consultation with a qualified resource advisor. Prior to use of any area, allow a resource advisor to survey 100 percent of the area. If a desert tortoise or desert tortoise burrow is found, the area will be adjusted, if possible, to avoid the tortoise or burrow. If avoidance is not possible, a qualified desert tortoise biologist will examine the burrow for occupancy by tortoise. Any tortoise found in burrows or within the area will be relocated.

- Restrict off-road travel and use of tracked vehicles to the minimum necessary to suppress wildland fires. All vehicles will be parked as close to the road as possible using disturbed areas or wide spots in the road to turn around. All tracks will be obliterated immediately following fire suppression activities, to the extent possible.

- Provide all firefighters and support personnel with a briefing on desert tortoises and their habitat to minimize take, particularly those associated with vehicle use.

- Control the speed of fire suppression vehicles to ensure that tortoises on roads can be seen and avoided.

- If possible, rehabilitate fire lines and disturbances associated with fire suppression activities. Determine seed mixtures on a site-specific basis dependent on the probability of successful establishment. Use native and adaptive species that compete with annual invasive species or meet other objectives.

- Conduct post-fire suppression surveys to identify desert tortoise mortalities and report any take of desert tortoise.

2.4.21 Noxious and Invasive Weed Management

Introduction

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 and Pesticide Registration Improvement Act of 2003 direct the BLM to ". . . manage public lands according to the principles of multiple-use and sustained yield . . ." and ". . . manage the public lands to prevent unnecessary degradation . . . so they become as productive as feasible." The "Carlson-Foley Act" (Public Law 90-583) and the "Federal Noxious Weed Act" (Public Law 93-629) direct weed control on public land. Executive Order 13112, Invasive Species, was authorized to prevent the introduction of invasive species, provide for their control, and to minimize the economic, ecological, and human health impacts caused by these species. Nevada Revised Statute 555, Control of Insects, Pests, and Noxious Weeds, provides information regarding the designation and eradication of and inspection for noxious weeds within the State of Nevada.

Goal

Prevent the introduction and spread of noxious and invasive weeds. Control or eradicate existing populations.

Objectives

To reduce introduction of, and the areal extent of, noxious and invasive weed populations and the spread of these populations.

Management Actions

WEED-1: Continue to use integrated weed management to treat weed infestations and use principles of integrated pest management to meet management objectives and to reestablish resistant and resilient native vegetation communities.

WEED-2: Develop weed management plans that address weed vectors, minimize the movement of weeds within public lands, consider disturbance regimes, and address existing weed infestations.

WEED-3: When manual weed control is conducted, remove the cut weeds and weed parts and dispose of them in a manner designed to kill seeds and weed parts.

WEED-4: All straw, hay, straw/hay, or other organic products used for reclamation or stabilization activities, must be certified that all materials are free of plant species listed on the Nevada noxious weed list or specifically identified by the Ely Field Office.

WEED-5: Where appropriate, inspect source sites such as borrow pits, fill sources, or gravel pits used to supply inorganic materials used for construction, maintenance or reclamation to ensure they are free of plant species listed on the Nevada noxious weed list or specifically identified by the Ely Field Office. Inspections will be conducted by a weed scientist or qualified biologist.

WEED-6: Where appropriate, vehicles and heavy equipment used for the completion, maintenance, inspection, or monitoring of ground disturbing activities; for emergency fire suppression; or for authorized off-road driving will be free of soil and debris capable of transporting weed propagules. Vehicles and equipment will be cleaned with power or high pressure equipment prior to entering or leaving the work site or project area. Vehicles used for emergency fire suppression will be cleaned as a part of check-in and demobilization procedures. Cleaning efforts will concentrate on tracks, feet or tires, and on the undercarriage. Special emphasis will be applied to axles, frames, cross members, motor mounts, on and underneath steps, running boards, and front bumper/brush guard assemblies. Vehicle cabs will be swept out and refuse will be disposed of in waste receptacles. Cleaning sites will be recorded using global positioning systems or other mutually acceptable equipment and provided to the Ely Field Office Weed Coordinator or designated contact person.

WEED-7: Animals used on public lands by special recreation permittees or by contractors for weed control or reclamation will be cleaned, quarantined, and fed weed-free feed prior to being used or released on public lands. The length of this quarantine will be specified in the special recreation permit or contract.

WEED-8: Prior to the entry of vehicles and equipment to a planned disturbance area, a weed scientist or qualified biologist will identify and flag areas of concern. The flagging will alert personnel or participants to avoid areas of concern.

WEED-9: To minimize the transport of soil-borne noxious weed seeds, roots, or rhizomes, infested soils or materials will not be moved and redistributed on weed-free or relatively weed-free areas. In areas where infestations are identified or noted and infested soils, rock, or overburden must be moved, these materials will be salvaged and stockpiled adjacent to the area from which they were stripped. Appropriate measures will be taken to minimize wind and water erosion of these stockpiles. During reclamation, the materials will be returned to the area from which they were stripped.

WEED-10: Prior to project approval, a site-specific weed survey will occur and a weed risk assessment will be completed. Monitoring will be conducted for a period no shorter than the life of the permit or until bond release and monitoring reports will be provided to the Ely Field Office. If the presence and/or spread of noxious weeds is noted, appropriate weed control procedures will be determined in consultation with Ely Field Office personnel and will be in compliance with the appropriate BLM Handbook sections and applicable laws and regulations. All weed control efforts on BLM-administered lands will be in compliance with BLM Handbook H-9011, H 9011-1 Chemical Pest Control, H-9014 Use of Biological Control Agents of

Pests on Public Lands, and H-9015 Integrated Pest Management. Submission of Pesticide Use Proposals and Pesticide Application Records will be required.

2.4.22 Special Designations

This section deals with a variety of special designations mandated by a number of laws, regulations, and policies. Included are ACECs, the BLM's Back Country Byway program, wilderness designated by Congress, wilderness study areas, wild and scenic rivers, and other special designations such as National Historic Trails.

Goal

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

Objective

To ensure that multiple use activities within the planning area are consistent with the management plans developed for special designation areas such as ACECs.

2.4.22.1 Parameter – Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

Section 202(c)(3) of Federal Land Policy and Management Act mandates that priority be given to the designation and protection of ACECs. These areas are defined in section 103(a) as areas where special management attention is required to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important values, resources, systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards. Appendix D contains a detailed description of each existing and proposed ACEC.

Management Actions

SD-1: Manage the Kane Springs, Mormon Mesa, and Beaver Dam Slope ACECs primarily for the recovery of the desert tortoise (203,670 acres) (see **Map 2.4.22-1** and Appendix D). These ACECs were designated through the Approved Caliente MFP Amendment and Record of Decision for the Management of Desert Tortoise Habitat (BLM 2000a) and corresponding Biological Opinion (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2000). See **Table 2.4-27**.

SD-2: Develop management plans for the Kane Springs, Beaver Dam Slope, Mormon Mesa, and Lower Meadow Valley Wash ACECs within 3 years to address and implement multiple-use management actions and conservation measures for desert tortoise and Southwestern willow flycatcher. When completing the management plan for Lower Meadow Valley Wash ACEC, all Union Pacific rights-of-way (approximately 2,675 acres) located within the ACEC will receive special consideration noting the legal limitations contained in the right-of-way grants.

SD-3: Designate 17 new ACECs totaling an additional 114,120 acres. See **Table 2.4-28** for additional information including management prescriptions for each of the newly-designated ACECs.[7]

2.4.22.2 Parameter – Back Country Byways

Management Actions

SD-4: Retain the Mount Wilson Back Country Byway. In addition, designate the Rainbow Canyon and the Silver State Trail as back country byways (see **Map 2.4.22-2**).

2.4.22.3 Parameter – Designated Wilderness

Management Actions

SD-5: Manage 22 designated wilderness areas in accordance with the Wilderness Act of 1964; the Nevada Wilderness Protection Act of 1989; the Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act of 2004; the White Pine County Conservation, Recreation and Development Act of 2006.

Twenty-two designated wilderness areas totaling approximately 1.1 million acres have been designated by Congress in this decision area. This includes six citizen-proposed areas of wilderness quality that were not managed by the Ely Field Office as wilderness study areas.

2.4.22.4 Parameter – Wilderness Study Areas

Management Actions

SD-6: The Ely Field Office currently manages the Park Range and Riordan's Well wilderness study areas in Nye County. Portions of the Blue Eagle and Antelope Range wilderness study areas, which are managed by the Battle Mountain Field Office, also overlap with the planning area. Wilderness study areas within the planning area total approximately 81,000 acres. Manage wilderness study areas under the Interim Management Policy for Lands Under Wilderness Review until such time as Congress makes a determination regarding wilderness designations. Manage lands identified as having wilderness characteristics to protect those characteristics through a variety of other land use plan decisions such as establishing visual resource management class objectives to preserve the existing landscape; attaching conditions to permits, leases, and other authorizations; and establishing limited or closed off-highway vehicle designations. Manage lands released from wilderness study area designation by Congress in the same manner as surrounding lands. In the event that lands released from wilderness study area designation are protected under some other special designation, those lands will retain those protections (e.g., ACECs within a wilderness study area). Wilderness study area lands not retained under some other special designation will be released for other purposes and uses. These other special designations are not a substitute for wilderness designation but provide specific management prescriptions to protect important resources.

[7] Implementation level decision.

Table 2.4-27
Management Prescriptions for Existing ACECs[1]

Beaver Dam Slope (36,800 acres)	
Management Activities	**Management Prescriptions**
Land Use Authorization	Limited[2]/avoidance area[3]
Off-highway vehicle use	Closed/limited[4]
Visual resource management class	IV
Plant collecting	Limited[5]
Road maintenance	Limited[6]
Leasable minerals	No surface occupancy with exception[7]
Locatable minerals	Closed[8]
Mineral materials	Closed
Lands disposal	No disposal
Fire management	Limited[9]
Transportation	Limited
Livestock management	Unavailable
Fuelwood cutting	Not applicable
Renewable energy	Closed[10]
Kane Springs (57,190 acres)	
Management Activities	**Management Prescriptions**
Land Use Authorization	Limited[2]/avoidance[3]/exclusion area
Off-highway vehicle use	Closed/limited[4]
Visual resource management class	I, II, III, IV
Plant collecting	Limited[5]
Road maintenance	Limited[6]
Leasable minerals	Closed
Locatable minerals	Closed[8]
Mineral materials	Limited[11]
Lands disposal	No disposal
Fire management	Limited[9]
Transportation	Limited
Livestock management	Unavailable
Fuelwood cutting	Not applicable
Renewable energy	Closed[10]

Table 2.4-27 (Continued)

Mormon Mesa (109,680 acres)	
Management Activities	**Management Prescriptions**
Land Use Authorization	Limited[2]/avoidance[3]/exclusion area
Off-highway vehicle use	Closed/limited[4]
Visual resource management class	I, II, III, IV
Plant collecting	Limited[5]
Road maintenance	Limited[6]
Leasable minerals	No surface occupancy with exception[7]
Locatable minerals	Closed[8]
Mineral materials	Limited[11]
Lands disposal	No disposal
Fire management	Limited[9]
Transportation	Limited
Livestock management	Unavailable
Fuelwood cutting	Not applicable
Renewable energy	Closed[10]

1 Acres within the existing Beaver Dam Slope, Kane Springs, and Mormon Mesa ACECs are those within the planning area.
2 Rights-of-way; limit authorization of future communication sites to existing established rights-of-way unless technically unfeasible and encourage use of existing corridors for all future rights-of-way when possible.
3 Avoidance area; granting rights-of-way (surface, subsurface, aerial) within the area should be avoided, but rights-of-way may be granted if there is minimal conflict with identified resource values and impacts can be mitigated.
4 Off-highway vehicle use will be limited to designated roads and trails. Areas within ACECs designated as wilderness would be closed to off-highway vehicle use.
5 Plant materials, including common species, may be collected by permit only.
6 Road maintenance would be limited to the designated roadway; shoulder barrow/ditch construction will be limited to only that necessary to ensure public safety and serviceability of the road.
7 Exception requires Section 7 consultation with a no adverse impact conclusion.
8 Subject to exception for existing valid claims.
9 Limits could be placed on fire management activities.
10 Closed to renewable energy facilities. Avoidance area for ancillary rights-of-way for access roads, transmission lines, and pipelines.
11 Closed except for free use permits and federal highway material site rights-of-way on a 1-mile corridor, 0.5 mile each side of road on three designated roads.

Table 2.4-28
Management Prescriptions for Proposed ACECs

Baker Archaeological Site – 80 acres designated for the protection of prehistoric architectural sites	
Management Activities	**Management Prescriptions**
Land Use Authorization	Avoidance area[1]
Off-highway vehicle use	Limited[2]
Visual resource management class	III
Plant collecting	Limited[3]
Road maintenance	Limited[4]
Leasable minerals	No surface occupancy
Locatable minerals	Closed
Mineral materials	Closed
Lands disposal	No disposal
Fire management	Open[5]
Transportation	No new roads
Livestock management	Unavailable
Fuelwood cutting	Not applicable
Renewable energy	Closed[6]
Baking Powder Flat – 13,640 acres designated for the protection of the Baking Powder Flat blue butterfly, a BLM sensitive species	
Management Activities	**Management Prescriptions**
Land Use Authorization	Avoidance area[1]
Off-highway vehicle use	Limited[2]
Visual resource management class	III, IV
Plant collecting	Limited[3]
Road maintenance	Limited[4]
Leasable minerals	No surface occupancy/Closed
Locatable minerals	Closed
Mineral materials	Closed
Lands disposal	No disposal
Fire management	Open[5]
Transportation	No new roads
Livestock management	Available[7]
Fuelwood cutting	Not applicable
Renewable energy	Closed[6]
Blue Mass Scenic Area – 950 acres designated for the protection of exceptional scenic qualities	
Management Activities	**Management Prescriptions**
Land Use Authorization	Avoidance area[1]
Off-highway vehicle use	Limited[2]
Visual resource management class	I
Plant collecting	Limited[3]
Road maintenance	Limited[4]
Leasable minerals	No surface occupancy
Locatable minerals	Closed
Mineral materials	Closed
Lands disposal	No disposal
Fire management	Limited[8]
Transportation	Limited, no new roads
Livestock management	Available[7]
Fuelwood cutting	Closed
Renewable energy	Closed[6]

Table 2.4-28 (Continued)

Condor Canyon – 4,500 acres designated for the protection of the Big Spring spinedace, a federally threatened species, and its designated critical habitat	
Management Activities	**Management Prescriptions**
Land Use Authorization	Avoidance area[1]
Off-highway vehicle use	Limited[2]
Visual resource management class	II, III
Plant collecting	Limited[3]
Road maintenance	Limited[4]
Leasable minerals	No surface occupancy/Closed
Locatable minerals	Closed
Mineral materials	Closed
Lands disposal	No disposal
Fire management	Limited[8]
Transportation	No new roads
Livestock management	Available[7]
Fuelwood cutting	Open[5]
Renewable energy	Closed[6]
Hendry's Creek/Rock Animal Corral – 3,650 acres designated for the protection of prehistoric values	
Management Activities	**Management Prescriptions**
Land Use Authorization	Avoidance area[1]
Off-highway vehicle use	Limited[2]
Visual resource management class	IV
Plant collecting	Limited[3]
Road maintenance	Limited[4]
Leasable minerals	No surface occupancy
Locatable minerals	Closed
Mineral materials	Closed with exception of community pit[9]
Lands disposal	No disposal
Fire management	Open[5]
Transportation	No new roads
Livestock management	Available[7]
Fuelwood cutting	Open
Renewable energy	Closed[6]
Highland Range – 6,900 acres designated for the protection of the basin waxflower, a BLM sensitive plant species	
Management Activities	**Management Prescriptions**
Land Use Authorization	Avoidance area[1]
Off-highway vehicle use	Limited[2]
Visual resource management class	III, IV
Plant collecting	Limited[3]
Road maintenance	Limited[4]
Leasable minerals	No surface occupancy/Closed
Locatable minerals	Closed
Mineral materials	Closed
Lands disposal	No disposal
Fire management	Limited[8]
Transportation	Limited
Livestock management	Available[7]
Fuelwood cutting	Closed
Renewable energy	Closed[6]

Table 2.4-28 (Continued)

Honeymoon Hill/City of Rocks – 3,900 acres designated for the protection of prehistoric values	
Management Activities	**Management Prescriptions**
Land Use Authorization	Avoidance area[1]
Off-highway vehicle use	Limited[2]
Visual resource management class	III, IV
Plant collecting	Limited[3]
Road maintenance	Limited[4]
Leasable minerals	No surface occupancy
Locatable minerals	Closed
Mineral materials	Closed
Lands disposal	No disposals
Fire management	Open[5]
Transportation	No new roads
Livestock management	Available[7]
Fuelwood cutting	Open[5]
Renewable energy	Closed[6]
Lower Meadow Valley Wash – 25,000 acres designated for the protection of federally endangered, threatened, and candidate species such as the southwestern willow flycatcher (endangered), western yellow-billed cuckoo (candidate), Meadow Valley Wash desert sucker (sensitive), Meadow Valley Wash speckled dace (sensitive), and Arizona southwestern toad (sensitive)	
Management Activities	**Management Prescriptions**
Land Use Authorization	Avoidance area[1]
Off-highway vehicle use	Limited[2]
Visual resource management class	II, III, IV
Plant collecting	Closed
Road maintenance	Limited[4]
Leasable minerals	No surface occupancy
Locatable minerals	Closed
Mineral materials	Open[10]
Lands disposal	No disposals
Fire management	Limited[8]
Transportation	No new roads
Livestock management	Available[7]
Fuelwood cutting	Closed
Renewable energy	Closed[6]
Mount Irish – 15,100 acres designated for the protection of historic values including historic mine and mill sites and prehistoric values including petroglyphs, lithic scatters, pottery scatters, and pictographs	
Management Activities	**Management Prescriptions**
Land Use Authorization	Avoidance area[1]
Off-highway vehicle use	Limited[2]
Visual resource management class	II, III
Plant collecting	Limited[3]
Road maintenance	Limited[4]
Leasable minerals	No surface occupancy/Closed
Locatable minerals	Closed
Mineral materials	Closed
Lands disposal	No disposals
Fire management	Open[5]
Transportation	Limited
Livestock management	Available[7]
Fuelwood cutting	Closed
Renewable energy	Closed[6]

Table 2.4-28 (Continued)

Pahroc Rock Art – 2,400 acres designated for the protection of prehistoric values including petroglyphs, rock shelters, and other artifacts	
Management Activities	**Management Prescriptions**
Land Use Authorization	Avoidance area[1]
Off-highway vehicle use	Limited[2]
Visual resource management class	II/III
Plant collecting	Limited[3]
Road maintenance	Limited[4]
Leasable minerals	No surface occupancy
Locatable minerals	Closed
Mineral materials	Closed
Lands disposal	No disposals
Fire management	Open[5]
Transportation	No new roads
Livestock management	Available[7]
Fuelwood cutting	Open[5]
Renewable energy	Closed[6]
Rose Guano Bat Cave – 40 acres designated for the protection of the Brazilian free-tailed bat, a BLM sensitive species	
Management Activities	**Management Prescriptions**
Land Use Authorization	Avoidance area[1]
Off-highway vehicle use	Limited[2]
Visual resource management class	II
Plant collecting	Limited[3]
Road maintenance	Limited[4]
Leasable minerals	No surface occupancy
Locatable minerals	Closed
Mineral materials	Closed
Lands disposal	No disposals
Fire management	Open[5]
Transportation	No new roads
Livestock management	Available[7]
Fuelwood cutting	Open[5]
Renewable energy	Closed[6]
Schlesser Pincushion – 4,930 acres designated for the protection of Schlesser pincushion, a BLM sensitive species	
Management Activities	**Management Prescriptions**
Land Use Authorization	Avoidance area[1]
Off-highway vehicle use	Limited[2]
Visual resource management class	II
Plant collecting	Limited[3]
Road maintenance	Limited[4]
Leasable minerals	No surface occupancy
Locatable minerals	Closed
Mineral materials	Closed
Lands disposal	No disposals
Fire management	Limited[8]
Transportation	No new roads
Livestock management	Available[7]
Fuelwood cutting	Not applicable
Renewable energy	Closed[6]

Table 2.4-28 (Continued)

Shooting Gallery – 15,600 acres designated for the protection of prehistoric values including rock art sites, habitation areas, and a game-drive complex	
Management Activities	**Management Prescriptions**
Land Use Authorization	Avoidance area[1]; valid existing rights will remain in effect
Off-highway vehicle use	Limited[2]
Visual resource management class	II, III
Plant collecting	Limited[3]
Road maintenance	Limited[4]
Leasable minerals	No surface occupancy/Closed
Locatable minerals	Closed
Mineral materials	Closed
Lands disposal	No disposals
Fire management	Open[5]
Transportation	No new roads
Livestock management	Available[7]
Fuelwood cutting	Open[5]
Renewable energy	Closed[6]
Shoshone Ponds – 1,240 acres designated for the protection of the Pahrump poolfish, a federally listed species	
Management Activities	**Management Prescriptions**
Land Use Authorization	Exclusion area; rights-of-way will not be granted within the area
Off-highway vehicle use	Limited[2]
Visual resource management class	III
Plant collecting	Closed
Road maintenance	Limited[4]
Leasable minerals	No surface occupancy
Locatable minerals	Closed
Mineral materials	Closed
Lands disposal	No disposals
Fire management	Limited[8]
Transportation	Limited
Livestock management	Available[7]
Fuelwood cutting	Closed
Renewable energy	Closed[6]
Snake Creek Indian Burial Cave – 40 acres designated for the protection of zooarchaeology, geology, and archaeology	
Management Activities	**Management Prescriptions**
Land Use Authorization	Avoidance area[1]
Off-highway vehicle use	Limited[2]
Visual resource management class	III
Plant collecting	Limited[3]
Road maintenance	Limited[4]
Leasable minerals	No surface occupancy
Locatable minerals	Closed
Mineral materials	Closed
Lands disposal	No disposals
Fire management	Open[5]
Transportation	No new roads
Livestock management	Unavailable
Fuelwood cutting	Not applicable
Renewable energy	Closed[6]

Table 2.4-28 (Continued)

Swamp Cedar – 3,200 acres designated for the protection of rare plant species including Rocky Mountain juniper and the slender thelopody, prehistoric sites, and the site of the Goshute War of 1863	
Management Activities	**Management Prescriptions**
Land Use Authorization	Avoidance area[1]
Off-highway vehicle use	Limited[2]
Visual resource management class	III
Plant collecting	Closed
Road maintenance	Limited[4]
Leasable minerals	No surface occupancy
Locatable minerals	Closed
Mineral materials	Closed
Lands disposal	No disposals
Fire management	Limited[8]
Transportation	Limited
Livestock management	Available[7]
Fuelwood cutting	Closed
Renewable energy	Closed[6]
White River Valley – 13,100 acres designated for the protection of the Sunnyside green gentian, Charleston grounddaisy, Parish phacelia, Tiehm blazingstar, and White River catseye, BLM sensitive plant species	
Management Activities	**Management Prescriptions**
Land Use Authorization	Avoidance area[1]
Off-highway vehicle use	Limited[2]
Visual resource management class	III, IV
Plant collecting	Limited[3]
Road maintenance	Limited[4]
Leasable minerals	No surface occupancy
Locatable minerals	Closed
Mineral materials	Closed
Lands disposal	No disposals
Fire management	Limited[8]
Transportation	No new roads
Livestock management	Available[7]
Fuelwood cutting	Not applicable
Renewable energy	Closed[6]

[1] Avoidance area; granting rights-of-way (surface, subsurface, aerial) within the area should be avoided, but rights-of-way may be granted if there is minimal conflict with identified resource values and impacts can be mitigated.
[2] Off-highway vehicle use would be limited to designated roads and trails.
[3] Plant materials, including common species, may be collected by permit only.
[4] Road maintenance will be limited to the designated roadway; shoulder barrow/ditch construction will be limited to only that necessary to ensure public safety and serviceability of the road.
[5] The activity is allowed in the area. NEPA compliance and clearances for cultural resources and threatened and endangered species required for some activities.
[6] Closed to renewable energy facilities; avoidance area for ancillary rights-of-way for access roads, transmission lines, and pipelines.
[7] Livestock grazing will be controlled through terms and conditions on the grazing permit.
[8] Limits could be placed on fire management activities.
[9] Continue sales within existing community pit.
[10] Open with special stipulations. Open to mineral material activities subject to controlled surface use, seasonal timing restrictions, restricted or no uses in avoidance areas (e.g., riparian areas, live water, areas with special wildlife or plant features, and sensitive viewsheds), additional NEPA analysis, and Section 7 consultation.

2.4.22.5 Parameter – Other Special Designations

This section describes management for special designations other than those described in the previous subsections. The types of special designations include scenic areas, geologic areas, natural areas, research natural areas, and rock hound areas. No herd management areas are recommended for designation as wild horse ranges.

No rivers have been identified for wild and scenic designation within the planning area. A full inventory and evaluation has not occurred, however, it is planned for fiscal year 2008. This evaluation potentially could identify rivers or river segments within the Ely Field Office jurisdiction that are eligible for inclusion under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. If appropriate, management actions associated with these locations will be amended to the RMP.

Management Actions

SD-7: Manage the two special designation areas that are retained as follows:

- White River Narrows Archaeological District (500 acres)

    1. Roads – Maintenance of existing roads (except State Route 318) will only be allowed if it is determined that maintenance will not have an effect on the setting and features that placed this site on the National Register of Historic Places in 1978. New roads will not be permitted.

    2. Structures – Maintenance and construction of structures is allowed if identified in existing habitat management plans or if needed for management of natural values.

- The Garnet Hill Rock Hounding Area (totaling 1,210 acres)

    1. This entire area will be segregated from disposal under the public land laws. The recreation site (160 acres) will be closed to solid leasable, locatable, and mineral materials. In addition, the 160 acres will have a no surface occupancy condition for fluid minerals leasing.

SD-8: Designate the following 8 areas as ACECs (see Management Action SD-3):

- Scenic Areas – Blue Mass
- Natural Areas – Shoshone Ponds, Swamp Cedar
- Archaeological Sites – Rose Guano Bat Cave, Snake Creek Indian Burial Cave, Baker, Hendry's Creek/Rock Animal Corral, Mount Irish

SD-9: Drop the following nine areas, totaling 2,275 acres from special designation status:

- Scenic Areas – Kious Spring, Weaver Creek
- Geologic Areas – Goshute Cave, Leviathan Cave, Cave Valley Cave, Whipple Cave

- Research Natural Areas – Pygmy Sage
- Archaeological Sites – Baker Creek, Garrison

2.4.23 Monitoring

Introduction

Monitoring is an essential component of natural resource management because it provides information on the relative success of management strategies. The following proposed monitoring does not constitute the final monitoring plan for the Ely RMP. The proposed monitoring plan will be modified, as necessary, based on any protests that are received on the Proposed RMP, and included in the Approved RMP and Record of Decision.

Monitoring and Adaptive Management

Monitoring is an integral part of adaptive management and is key to achieving the management goals of the RMP. Tracking the progress of actions and measuring changes resulting from these activities is important in either determining success or the need for a different management approach.

Monitoring results will provide information to determine whether objectives have been met, and whether to continue or modify the management actions. Findings obtained through monitoring, together with research and other new information, will provide a basis for adaptive management changes. The processes of monitoring and adaptive management share the goal of improving effectiveness and permitting dynamic response to increased knowledge within the planning area.

Methods of Monitoring

The monitoring process will be designed to collect information in the most cost-effective manner, and may involve sampling or remote sensing. It is not necessary to monitor every management action. Unnecessary detail and unacceptable costs will be avoided by focusing on key monitoring questions and proper sampling methods. The level and intensity of monitoring will vary, depending on the sensitivity of the resource or area and the scope of the proposed management activity.

The following are program-specific monitoring direction.

Air Resources

On a project-specific basis, monitoring may be required to comply with state permit requirements.

Water Resources

Cooperation with state agencies, municipalities, industry, agriculture, universities, and other federal agencies in the planning area will occur to collect and interpret water resources data, and to participate in local, state, and regional water resources management. Aquifer recharge will be monitored at selected

representative wells and springs throughout the planning area, and on nearby lands as access agreements allow. Water levels and spring flows and durations will be monitored periodically either individually or cooperatively. Existing historical data will be retrieved as available and archived with new data. Stream channel geometry and flow data also will be collected periodically at selected perennial, intermittent, and ephemeral locations of interest. Meteorological data (e.g., precipitation, temperature, wind speed and direction, solar radiation, and relative humidity) also will be collected at selected locations. Site selection, data collection procedures, and the frequency of data collection will depend on the data type, prior knowledge of suitable and significant monitoring locations, budget and personnel considerations, and anticipated resource activities within specific locales. Water resources trends within the planning area will be reviewed periodically.

Water quality monitoring will be conducted at selected sites (wells, springs, and streams) for various parameters to compare applicable water quality requirements and objectives to current conditions. Data collection and interpretations will be performed either by the Ely Field Office individually or cooperatively. Water quality data collection will be conducted in coordination with the water quantity monitoring described above. Water quality constituents to be analyzed will be determined with due consideration of planning needs and the Memorandum of Understanding between the BLM and the State of Nevada. Sampling and analysis will follow standard field and laboratory protocols approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Drinking water sources will be protected by developing and implementing wellhead protection plans and assessing the presence and effects of fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, and other contaminants released to water resources by agriculture, municipalities, industry, and the agency itself. Water quality trends will be reviewed periodically within the planning area for management purposes.

Soil Resources

Soil health and condition will be monitored by conducting reviews of ground-disturbing projects for implementation and effectiveness of best management practices, and by periodically assessing selected undisturbed sites for various parameters including erosion and sedimentation, topsoil characteristics, and groundcover. Monitoring the effects of other resource management actions such as livestock grazing and watershed projects will consider soil condition and health. Baseline soil condition data will be provided through the ecological site inventories and watershed analyses. Site selection, data collection procedures, and the frequency of data collection will depend on the data type, prior knowledge of suitable and significant monitoring locations, budget and personnel considerations, and anticipated resource activities within specific locales. Soil quality trends within the planning area will be reviewed periodically for management purposes.

Vegetation Resources

Vegetation communities in both treated and untreated areas will be monitored to determine progress toward attaining desired range of conditions. Monitoring to determine success in meeting vegetation management objectives will shift to measuring cover, composition, and structure of the community (i.e., the parameters essential for identification of phases within the state and transition model concept). Periodic measurements of vigor and productivity will continue (Natural Research Council 1994, Swanson 2006).

Fish and Wildlife

Baseline wildlife use patterns and estimated population levels will be calculated using information collected annually by the Nevada Department of Wildlife. These will be compared with post-treatment use patterns and population numbers to determine relative effectiveness of watershed restoration. Forage production will be monitored on an allotment basis during livestock allotment evaluations. Annual livestock and wild horse utilization records gathered by Ely Field Office staff and wildlife observations reported by Nevada Department of Wildlife and Ely Field Office will be used to determine possible conflicts. Conflicts between livestock, wild horses, and wildlife will be resolved during the assessments and subsequent management actions including appropriate management level adjustments in herd management areas, cooperative habitat management actions with Nevada Department of Wildlife, and grazing permit renewals. Impacts to wildlife populations will take into account changes in herd management objectives as set by the Nevada Department of Wildlife.

Periodic inventories of fisheries are conducted by the Nevada Department of Wildlife on perennial streams and reservoirs. The Ely Field Office will coordinate with the Nevada Department of Wildlife in review of information relating to management of fisheries habitat on public lands.

Special Status Species

In conjunction with other private, state, or federal agencies, monitoring of known populations of special status species that are considered to be important indicators or obligates to a particular habitat community type (such as greater sage-grouse for sagebrush communities) will continue. Monitoring could consist of intensive research projects or passive population inventories designed to help identify the extent of the populations and habitats being used. Inventories for special status species will be completed within the planning area and information will be used to measure the effectiveness in meeting management objectives on a landscape level and watershed basis.

Wild Horses

Aerial and ground census information periodically will be gathered to determine the number of adults and foals, colors, special characteristics, and overall health of each wild horse herd. Aerial counts will occur at a minimum of once every 3 years. Other herd data, including the ratio of mares to studs, age classes, colors, special characteristics, and overall health will be collected during gathers and at the time wild horses are processed for adoption. Wild horse actual use of forage will be estimated by multiplying inventoried or estimated numbers of horses by the length of grazing period on their summer and winter ranges. Utilization and trend study methods are the same in the monitoring section for Livestock Grazing Management. Data collected in other studies, such as watershed analyses, monitoring of vegetation treatments, special status plants and animals, microbiotic crusts, wildlife, water resources, weeds, riparian, and wetland sources may be used to determine the effects of wild horses on these resources.

Cultural Resources

Monitoring will continue, with assistance from the Nevada Heritage Site Stewardship Program and/or other volunteer groups, of identified sites to determine condition, impacts, deterioration, and use of such sites. The condition of the sites and other data collected will be entered into the cultural database. If a site is listed on or is eligible to the National Register of Historic Places, consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office will be conducted, when necessary, to determine the appropriate action to stop the deterioration of the site or to assist with mitigation. The effectiveness of presentations to the public, educational brochures, interpretative materials, informational materials and displays, scientific research collections and materials, and the site steward program will be monitored. In addition, the effectiveness of archaeological predictive models developed to assist the Ely Field Office in predicting site locations and densities will be monitored.

Paleontological Resources

Paleontological resource sites will be monitored to determine if site conditions are stable and to assist in management actions to mitigate deteriorating conditions.

Visual Resources

Monitoring will be conducted for all projects (including, but not limited to projects associated with any developments, land alterations, vegetation manipulation, etc.) that could potentially affect visual resources. These projects will be monitored to ensure compliance with established visual resource management classes. Monitoring will include the use of the visual contrast rating system, described in BLM Manual 8400 (BLM 1984).

Lands and Realty

Rights-of-way and other land use authorizations will be monitored as proposals are evaluated through the NEPA process. Individual projects will be monitored to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the authorizing document and through the BLM accomplishment tracking process.

Renewable Energy

Wildlife Monitoring Protocol for Wind Energy Development. Local differences in wildlife populations and movement patterns, habitats present, area topography, weather, and facility design, result in each proposed development site being unique and requiring detailed individual evaluation. Data on wildlife use and mortality at one wind energy facility are not necessarily applicable to others. Monitoring protocols will be developed in accordance with current BLM policies.

Travel Management and Off-highway Vehicle Use

Roads will be monitored, usually on an annual basis in coordination with other resource programs, to determine maintenance needs. Monitoring of closed roads will be done in conjunction with monitoring

associated with other resource uses such as watershed condition or off-highway vehicle use. The purpose of this monitoring is to ensure that closed roads are not being used and that resource damage, such as erosion, is not occurring.

Monitoring off-highway vehicle uses within the planning area will focus on compliance with specific designations, and will determine whether these uses are causing adverse effects on various resources (i.e., soils, water, air, vegetation, fish and wildlife, etc.). Roads and trails are common vectors for noxious and invasive species and monitoring will routinely occur. Methods of monitoring may include visitor contacts, permit review, visual surveillance, traffic counters, periodic patrols to check boundaries, signing, and visitor use, limits of acceptable change, and/or aerial reconnaissance. Closures will be monitored to ensure public safety and protect affected roadbeds or areas. Baseline data will be established for sites where off-highway vehicle use is occurring, and sites will be rehabilitated or closed as necessary.

Recreation

Monitoring will include periodic patrols to check boundaries, signing, and visitor use; ensure visitor compliance with rules and regulations; and establish baseline data and observation points for determining impacts from recreation use. Studies will be developed to help determine appropriate levels and patterns of recreational use. Monitoring will focus on visitation levels, compliance with rules, regulations, and permit stipulations for specific sites (developed sites), dispersed uses, and prescribed standards and guidelines as set in the respective recreation opportunity spectrum classes. Methods of monitoring may include the use of traffic counters, surveillance at developed recreation sites, limits of acceptable change studies, user contacts, and photo documentation of the changes in resource conditions over time. Monitoring data will be used to manage visitor use, develop plans and projects to reduce visitor impacts, and meet visitor demand.

Livestock Grazing

Monitoring to assess rangeland health standards will include records of actual livestock use, measurements of forage utilization, ecological site inventory data, cover data, soil mapping, and allotment evaluations or rangeland health assessments. Conditions and trends of resources affected by livestock grazing will be monitored to support periodic analysis/evaluation, site-specific adjustments of livestock management actions, and term permit renewals. Monitoring will determine when grazing will be authorized in burned areas, and will contribute to the selection of prescribed burn treatments or other types of treatments based on attainment of resource objectives.

Forest/Woodland and Other Plant Products

Periodic monitoring will ensure that commercial use of forest/woodland products within designated areas is in accordance with specifications provided in the contract and that public use throughout the planning area occurs in accordance with the RMP. If monitoring shows that harvest in a specific area is causing nonattainment of vegetation objectives, the area will be closed until it is determined that objectives are being met and harvest could be allowed to resume. Outbreaks of disease and infestations of insects affecting woodland species will be monitored to ensure timely implementation of management actions to limit the spread and level of damage related to such problems.

Geology and Mineral Extraction

Monitoring of mineral action disturbances will ensure compliance with Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations Subparts 3100 (oil and gas leasing), 3200 (geothermal leasing), 3500 (solid mineral leasing), 3600 (mineral materials disposal), 3715 (mining occupancy), 3802 (mining, wilderness review), and 3809 (surface management) regulations. Monitoring activities will consist of periodic field inspections of mineral disturbances.

Monitoring for leasable minerals will ensure compliance with applicable laws and regulations, term and conditions of leases, standard practices and procedures for geophysical exploration, and conditions of approval for drilling and production operations. On producing leases, monitoring is intended to ensure an accurate accounting of material produced and protect the environment and public health and safety. Monitoring will include field inspection of leasable mineral activities as authorized under Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations Subparts 3161 and 3590.

Monitoring for locatable minerals will include periodic field inspections of mining and exploration operations. BLM policy establishes minimum inspection frequencies for mining operations as follows: quarterly inspections are required for all operations using cyanide, and biannual inspections for all other active operations. Operations in sensitive areas or operations with a high potential for greater than usual impacts will be inspected more often. Reclamation should be in accordance with the Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations Subpart 3809, 3715, and BLM Handbook H3042-1. Any noncompliance items will be noted and resolved in accordance with Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations Subparts 3809 and 3715.

Monitoring for mineral materials will ensure compliance with applicable laws, regulations, BLM policy contained in BLM Manual Section 3600 and Handbook H-3600-1, the Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations Subpart 3600 regulations, and the requirements of approved contracts and operation plans. An accurate accounting of material removed, reclamation, protection of the environment, public health and safety, and identification and resolution of mineral material trespass issues will be ensured. Monitoring activities will include periodic field inspection of common use areas and other mineral material extraction operations. Operations in sensitive environmental areas or operations with a high potential for greater than usual impacts will be inspected more often and noncompliance items will be noted under procedures as directed by Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations Subpart 3600.

Watershed Management

Most parameters essential for evaluating watershed health (e.g., vegetation cover, species composition and community structure, erosion features, resistance to disturbance, etc.) will be monitored in conjunction with other resource programs such as vegetation.

Fire Management

Monitoring will determine whether fire management strategies, practices, and activities are meeting resource management objectives, concerns, and land health standards. Pre-fire condition and post-fire effects will be determined by monitoring plant community composition and trends in burn areas to determine natural recovery, responses from seed planting, and weed and cheatgrass expansion. Monitoring methods may include photo points, density, cover, frequency plots (pre- and post-burn), fire regime condition class (degree of departure from natural regime), and ocular estimates.

Noxious and Invasive Weeds Management

Monitoring of vegetation treatments will continue in cooperation with the State of Nevada, counties, and private interests as well as other federal agencies. Inventories to identify new introductions, distribution, and density of noxious weed populations will be carried out on an annual basis in cooperation with these entities:

- Known noxious weed sites that are identified for treatment will be visited each year and evaluated for effectiveness of control.
- Known sites not identified for treatment will be visited as funding is available.
- All known sites visited will be located with a global positioning system unit (or other suitable technology), measured, and a determination of the need for future treatment will be made.
- Inventories for new noxious weeds will be conducted within the planning area subject to funding. Emphasis will be placed on areas having a high potential for weed introduction and dispersal, such as road corridors and off-highway vehicle trails.
- All burned areas (natural and prescribed) will be surveyed for noxious weeds following the burn as funding becomes available. Any newly discovered sites will be located with a global positioning system unit, measured, and a determination of the need for future treatment will be made.

Special Designations Management

Areas managed as a special designation will be monitored annually to determine if the resource values for which the area was designated are stable. Monitoring will focus on threats to resource values and the effectiveness of management provisions in protecting and preserving those resource values. Monitoring will assist the BLM in tracking resource conditions, and making effective decisions to improve conditions for the special resource over time. Where necessary, the monitoring strategy for special designation areas will be refined during activity level planning, e.g., ACEC management plans and designated wilderness management plans.

2.5 Alternative A

2.5.1 Overview of Alternative A

Alternative A is the continuation of existing management in the decision area and is called the “No Action Alternative” in this RMP/EIS per NEPA regulations. This alternative would continue present management based on existing land use plans and other decision documents. Decisions contained in the Egan RMP, the Egan RMP Oil and Gas amendment, and the Schell and Caliente MFPs would continue to be implemented. Direction contained in existing laws, regulation, and policy also would continue to be implemented, sometimes requiring amendment of the Egan RMP and Schell and Caliente MFPs.

The descriptions that follow are arranged by resource or resource use and will only describe the differences from the Proposed RMP.

2.5.2 Air Resources

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.5.3 Water Resources

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.5.4 Soil Resources

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.5.5 Vegetation Resources

2.5.5.1 General Vegetation Management

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.5.5.2 Parameter – Pinyon-Juniper Woodlands

Management Actions

Case-by-case management to reduce the amount of overmature woodlands or woodlands near the threshold of mature/overmature would continue. Priority treatments would occur near wildland urban interface areas, with wildlife habitat and livestock needs being second priority. Management emphasis would focus on changing woodlands from the mature and overmature phases (tree state) to the herbaceous state to improve understory composition and reduce the risk of crown fires.

Most common tools used to attain desired range of conditions for pinyon-juniper woodlands would include prescribed fire and mechanical methods (e.g., sawing and chipping).

Table 2.5-1 shows the desired range of conditions of pinyon-juniper for Alternative A.

Table 2.5-1
Desired Range of Conditions of Pinyon-Juniper (Distribution of Woodland Phases and States)

State and Phase	Herbaceous State	Herbaceous State (Immature Woodland Phase)	Tree State (Mature Woodland Phase)	Tree State (Overmature Woodland Phase)[1]	Altered State
Canopy Description[2]	0 to 10% canopy cover-includes herbaceous, herbaceous-shrub, and sapling phase	11 to 20% canopy cover	21 to 35% canopy cover	>36 to 50% canopy cover	Site dominated by invasive species or weeds
LANDFIRE classes	A and B	C	D and E	E	Uncharacteristic
Alternative A[3]	10% (359,300 acres)	10% (359,300 acres)	30% (1,078,000 acres)	50% (1,796,700 acres)	0% (0 acres)

[1] Overmature woodland refers to woodlands exhibiting greater than 35 percent canopy cover. This classification is not the same as "old growth" although the two classifications may coincide in some situations.
[2] Canopy descriptions derived from Natural Resource Conservation Service Ecological Site Descriptions.
[3] This alternative approximates and incorporates the LANDFIRE Biophysical Settings models for Great Basin Pinyon-juniper Woodland. Altered state is an uncharacteristic condition not recognized by LANDFIRE Biophysical Settings models but is part of current conditions.

2.5.5.3 Parameter – Aspen

Management Actions

Select aspen communities would be managed to increase regeneration of aspen trees and understory species. Sites where conifer tree species dominate the tree overstory would be priority areas for treatment. Most common treatment methods would include mechanical (e.g., sawing), grazing management, and prescribed fire treatments.

Table 2.5-2 shows the desired range of conditions of aspen for Alternative A.

Table 2.5-2
Desired Range of Conditions of Aspen (Distribution of Phases and States)

State and Phase	Herbaceous State (Herbaceous, and Herbaceous-Shrub and Sapling Phase)	Herbaceous State (Immature Woodland Phase)	Tree State (Mature Woodland Phase)	Tree State (Overmature Woodland Phase)
Canopy Cover[1]	0 to 15% tree canopy cover	16 to 29% tree canopy cover.	30 to 45% tree canopy cover	45% or greater tree canopy cover (includes conifer dominated)
LANDFIRE classes	A	B	C and D	D and E
Alternative A[2]	10% (700 acres)	10% (700 acres)	35% (2,450 acres)	45% (3,150 acres)

[1] Canopy cover determined from Natural Resource Conservation Service Ecological Site Descriptions.
[2] This alternative approximates and incorporates the LANDFIRE Biophysical Setting Models for Rocky Mountain aspen forest and Inter-mountain Basin aspen-mixed conifer forest and woodland. Description of LANDFIRE CLASSES can be found at www.landfire.gov.

2.5.5.4 Parameter – High Elevation Conifer Species

Management Actions

Management actions would focus on introducing fire into high elevation conifer sites through wildland fire management or use of prescribed fire. Priority treatment areas would be ponderosa pine sites. Wood product collection would be restricted for all high elevation conifer species. Treatments such as rehabilitation of burned areas would be the main focus for treatments in most high elevation conifer sites. The most common treatment tool would be fire. Desired range of conditions for ponderosa pine are the same as the Proposed RMP.

Table 2.5-3 shows the desired range of conditions of high elevation conifer for Alternative A.

Table 2.5-3
Desired Range of Conditions of High Elevation Conifer (Distribution of States and Phases)

State and Phase	Herbaceous State, (Herbaceous, and Herbaceous/Sapling Phase)	Herbaceous State (Immature Phase)	Tree State (Mature Phase)	Tree State (Overmature Phase)[1]
Canopy Cover[2]	0 to 15% canopy Cover	16 to 31% canopy cover	31 to 40% canopy cover	41 to 60% canopy cover
LANDFIRE classes	A	B	C	C
Alternative A[3]	5% (2,800 acres)	5% (2,800 acres)	50% (28,000 acres)	40% (22,400 acres)

[1] Overmature high elevation conifer refers to stands with canopy cover exceeding 40 percent. This classification is not the same as “old growth,” although the two classifications may coincide in some situations.
[2] Canopy cover derived from Natural Resource Conservation Service Ecological Site Descriptions.
[3] This alternative approximates and incorporates the LANDFIRE Biophysical Setting Models for Inter-Mountain white fir limber-bristlecone pine woodland (47,000 acres).

2.5.5.5 Parameter – Salt Desert Shrub

Management Actions

Salt desert shrub habitat invaded with annual invasive or exotic species (e.g., halogeton and cheatgrass) would be treated and restored on a mid-scale basis (watershed level). Treatments could necessitate the use of herbicide on invasive species. Fire would not be considered a useful tool to use in this vegetation type.

Table 2.5-4 shows the desired range of conditions of salt desert shrub for Alternative A.

Table 2.5-4
Desired Range of Conditions of Salt Desert Shrub (Distribution of Phases and States)

Habitat Type	Herbaceous State	Shrub State	Altered State Annual Invasive/Exotic State	Altered State Perennial Nonnative Seeded
LANDFIRE classes	A	B and C	Uncharacteristic	Uncharacteristic
Alternative A[1]	18% (219,800 acres)	64% (781,400 acres)	0% (0 acres)	18% (219,800 acres)

[1] This alternative approximates and incorporates the LANDFIRE Biophysical Setting Models for Inter-Mountain Basins mixed salt desert shrub and Inter-Mountain Basins greasewood flat. Altered state (invasive species/weeds) is an uncharacteristic condition not recognized by LANDFIRE Biophysical Setting Models but is part of current conditions.

2.5.5.6 Parameter – Sagebrush (basin big sagebrush, Wyoming big sagebrush, mountain big sagebrush, and black sagebrush)

Management Actions

Approximately 4.3 million acres would be maintained in the herbaceous, shrub, tree, and seeding states. Treatments would be applied in areas where pinyon or juniper have increased in approximately 1.3 million acres of sagebrush community (20 percent). Native range or seedings would be managed to meet shrub cover needs on some big game winter ranges. In other instances, the presence of special status species would be used as rationale for meeting the desired range of conditions. Fire use would increase in this alternative and seeding of burned areas would increase to prevent infestation of annual invasive and noxious weeds and to prevent soil erosion. Treatment of noxious weeds would be by herbicides.

Table 2.5-5 shows the desired range of conditions of sagebrush for Alternative A.

Table 2.5-5
Desired Range of Conditions of Sagebrush (Distribution of Phases and States)

State/Phase Name	Total Herbaceous State (Early, Mid, and Late Phases)[1]	Total Shrub State	Total Tree State	Altered State Annual/Perennial Invasive	Altered State Nonnative Perennial Seeded
LANDFIRE classes	A, B, and C	D	E	Uncharacteristic	Uncharacteristic
Alternative A[2]	35% (1,966,800 acres)	55% (3,090,700 acres)	2% (112,400 acres)	0% (0 acres)	8% (449,600 acres)

[1] Sagebrush in the mid-late phase of the herbaceous state is desired for wildlife habitat.
[2] This alternative approximates and incorporates the LANDFIRE Biophysical Setting Models for Great Basin xeric mixed sagebrush and Inter-Mountain Basin big sagebrush. Altered states (annual/perennial invasive and nonnative perennial seeded) are an uncharacteristic condition not recognized by LANDFIRE Biophysical Setting Models but are part of current conditions.

2.5.5.7 Parameter – Mountain Mahogany

Management Actions

This alternative includes minimal direction for mountain mahogany site management. These sites would continue to be managed similar to the associated or surrounding sagebrush communities. Fuelwood collection would be allowed in mountain mahogany areas that are reaching threshold canopy cover values.

Fuelwood cutting would continue in sites where canopy cover is exceeding ranges listed above. Prescribed fire and wildland fire use would be allowed in some mountain mahogany sites.

Table 2.5-6 shows the desired range of conditions of mountain mahogany for Alternative A.

Table 2.5-6
Desired Range of Conditions of Mountain Mahogany (Distribution of Phases and States)

State and Phase	Herbaceous State (Herbaceous Phase)	Shrub State (Shrub/ Herbaceous Phase)	Shrub State (Shrub Phase)	Shrub/Tree-like State (No Understory Phase)[1]
Canopy Cover[2]	0-15% mahogany canopy cover	15-25% mahogany canopy cover (desired mix of herbaceous and shrub species in understory)	30-45% mahogany canopy cover (approaching threshold with no understory)	45-60% mahogany cover (shrub/tree-like and tree dominant)
LANDFIRE classes	A and C	B	D	E
Alternative A[3]	10% (4,600 acres)	10% (4,600 acres)	40% (18,400 acres)	40% (18,400 acres)

[1] Refers to savanna sites.
[2] Canopy cover determined from Natural Resource Conservation Service Ecological Site Descriptions.
[3] This alternative approximates and incorporates the LANDFIRE Biophysical Setting Models for Inter-Mountain Basins Mountain Mahogany woodland and shrubland.

2.5.5.8 Parameter – Mojave Desert Vegetation

Management Actions

Resource uses (e.g., livestock grazing) in the Mojave Desert areas would be managed to maintain or improve vegetation composition and protect critical desert tortoise habitat.

Tables 2.5-7 and **2.5-8** show the desired range of conditions of creosotebush, bursage, and blackbrush for Alternative A.

Table 2.5-7
Desired Range of Conditions of Creosotebush and Bursage
(Distribution of Phases and States)

Habitat Type	Herbaceous State	Shrub State	Altered State (Annual Invasive and Exotics)	Perennial Nonnative Seeded State
LANDFIRE Classes	A	B	Uncharacteristic	Uncharacteristic
Alternative A[1]	42% (153,510 acres)	43% (157,165 acres)	0% (0 acres)	15% (54,825 acres)

[1] In creosotebush/bursage communities, the herbaceous state and shrub state will correspond respectively to Class A and Class B as given in the LANDFIRE Biophysical Setting Model for Sonora-Mojave creosotebush-white bursage description. Altered states are an uncharacteristic condition not recognized by LANDFIRE Biophysical Settings models but are part of current conditions.

Table 2.5-8
Desired Range of Conditions of Blackbrush (Distribution of Phases and States)

Habitat Type	Herbaceous State	Shrub State	Altered state (annual invasive and exotics)	Perennial Nonnative Seeded State
LANDFIRE Classes	A	B	Uncharacteristic	Uncharacteristic
Alternative A[1]	60% (229,500 acres)	30% (114,750 acres)	0% (0 acres)	10% (38,250 acres)

[1] The herbaceous state and shrub state will correspond respectively to Class A and Class B as given in the LANDFIRE Biophysical Setting Model for Mojave mid-elevation desert scrub. Altered states are an uncharacteristic condition not recognized by LANDFIRE Biophysical Settings models but are part of current conditions.

2.5.5.9 Parameter – Riparian/Wetlands

Desired Range of Conditions

The Ely Field Office is directed to follow the appropriate rangeland health standards, which in the case of the Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council, states, “Riparian and wetland areas exhibit a properly functioning condition and achieve state water quality criteria.” In addition to achieving riparian proper functioning condition, composition, structure, and cover of riparian vegetation would occur within

potential of the site. Ground cover and species composition would be appropriate to the site. Riparian areas with free-flowing water (i.e., undeveloped springs) that are non-functional or functioning at risk would show improving trends toward proper functioning condition. Factors that prevent proper functioning condition have been addressed and mitigated, whenever possible. Restoration or maintenance of riparian areas would be a management priority applicable to all alternatives.

Management Actions

Resource uses (e.g., grazing) would be managed to maintain, achieve, or make progress toward proper functioning condition. Treatment emphasis would be in riparian areas that are functioning at risk or are non-functional on a case-by-case basis. Approximately 713 acres (23 percent) are estimated to exist in this condition (functioning at risk). The treatment would include the removal of exotic species such as tamarisk (salt cedar). This could involve the use of herbicides labeled for this use and in concert with "current biological opinions."

Construction of new and maintenance or improvement of existing riparian/wetland livestock exclosures would continue. Areas not in proper functioning condition would be managed to attain an upward trend in the composition and structure of key riparian/wetland vegetation and desired physical characteristics of the stream channel and wetland soils. Uses and activities in riparian/wetland areas would be adjusted if current management does not allow for the maintenance or measurable progress toward achieving proper functioning condition.

2.5.5.10 Parameter – Nonnative Seedings

Management Actions

Management of nonnative seedings would focus on appropriate uses and treatments to maintain or improve understory species (i.e., grass and forbs) composition for multiple use objectives.

Treatments would primarily be in sites with increasing shrub composition and decreasing herbaceous composition. Areas would continue to be seeded with native and nonnative species as appropriate. The preferred treatment method would be prescribed fire.

Table 2.5-9 shows the desired range of conditions of seedings for Alternative A.

Table 2.5-9
Desired Range of Conditions of Seedings (Distribution of Phases and States)

Habitat Type	Herbaceous State	Shrub State	Tree State	Altered State (Annual Invasive)
Alternative A	25% (67,400 acres)	66% (177,900 acres)	9% (24,200 acres)	0% (0 acres)

2.5.6 Fish and Wildlife

2.5.6.1 General Wildlife Habitat Management (Aquatic and Terrestrial)

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP, except priority wildlife species and associated priority habitats would not be designated in the RMP, and the mitigation goal of 2:1 acreage for disturbance of priority habitat would not be a management action.

Within the historic Schell Resource Area, streams would be retained in public ownership for wildlife values unless environmental assessments show clear overriding values to warrant land disposal.

Habitat management plans would be prepared for nine streams in the historic Schell Resource Area.

Special riparian use restrictions or limitations would be implemented on a case-by-case basis to protect fisheries habitat. Examples of restrictions or limitations include fencing, grazing exclusions, and no fire retardant allowed within 100 yards of riparian areas.

2.5.6.2 Parameter – Elk, Mule Deer, Pronghorn Antelope, and Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep Habitats

Management Actions

Habitat management plans would be prepared and implemented to support reasonable numbers of big game species. Increases in forage bases would occur through implementation of existing land use plans, activity plans (including local elk plans), allotment evaluations, and watershed restoration strategies. Additional forage would be divided 70 percent to livestock and wild horses and 30 percent to wildlife in the historic Schell Resource Area. In the rest of the planning area, additional forage would be allocated to livestock and/or wild horses, and/or reserved for watershed maintenance and wildlife depending on the degree of watershed function needed to maintain rangeland health standards.

Timing limitations would be implemented in certain areas within the planning area to protect crucial mule deer and pronghorn antelope winter range and pronghorn antelope kidding areas.

Elk would be managed through procedures and actions identified in the Central Nevada, Lincoln County, and White Pine County Elk Plans.

Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep habitat would be managed in all occupied ranges, including Mount Grafton. When changes to BLM grazing permits within unoccupied Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep range are being considered, domestic sheep and goats would be managed in accordance with current BLM policies.

The needs of nongame species would not be factored heavily into habitat management actions.

2.5.6.3 Parameter – Desert Bighorn Sheep Habitat

Management Actions

Habitat management plans would be prepared and implemented to support reasonable numbers of desert bighorn sheep habitat in occupied range. When changes to BLM grazing permits in unoccupied desert bighorn sheep range are being considered, domestic sheep and goats would be managed in accordance with current BLM policies.

2.5.6.4 Parameter – Migratory Bird Habitat

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.5.6.5 Parameter – Wildlife Water Developments

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP except the Ely Field Office would use the following Nevada Department of Wildlife criteria to identify artificial wildlife water developments:

- Promote sound scientific wildlife management;
- Ensure projects incorporate all reasonable and practical ecological and wildlife diversity considerations;
- Construct functional, durable projects using up-to-date designs, materials, and techniques;
- Maximize federal aid revenues;
- Ensure maintenance and upgrade work are programmed to be completed in a timely and efficient manner;
- Increase opportunity for consumptive and non-consumptive recreation;
- Increase wildlife species numbers and distribution;
- Avoid disease issues and maintain herd/population health and reduce inter/intra specific competition between wildlife species;
- Mitigate for loss, degradation, or fragmentation of habitat;
- Meet various wildlife species plan objectives; and
- Retain the effectiveness of identified wildlife movement corridors.

2.5.7 Special Status Species

2.5.7.1 Parameter – Special Status Species Habitat

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP except:

In most cases, special status species management would address an immediate need or habitat niche for the maintenance, mitigation, or restoration of a single special status species. Special status species management would be implemented on a case-by-case basis predominately at the fine scale (i.e., allotment, project, portion of a watershed), and occasionally at the planning area level.

Within the Egan Resource Area, only ferruginous hawks, and no other raptors, would receive protection as a result of a timing limitation and no surface occupancy stipulation on mineral leases.

Within the Egan Resource Area, several BLM sensitive species would receive protection as a result of a no surface occupancy stipulation on mineral leases.

Bats would be managed on a case-by-case basis and through actions identified in the Ely Cave Management Plan.

Springsnail habitat would be managed on a case-by-case basis as a result of proposed actions in other programs.

2.5.7.2 Parameter – Great Basin Riparian Habitat

Special Status Species

Pahrump poolfish
White River spinedace
Railroad Valley springfish
Big Spring spinedace
Ute ladies'-tresses

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP except:

Within the Egan Resource Area, the Railroad Valley springfish would receive protection as a result of a no surface occupancy stipulation on mineral leases.

Management for the Ute ladies'-tresses would only occur if the species is documented in the planning area through some other activity.

2.5.7.3 Parameter – Mojave Desert and Great Basin Riparian Habitats

Special Status Species

Southwestern willow flycatcher
Western yellow-billed cuckoo
Meadow Valley Wash desert sucker
Meadow Valley Wash speckled dace
Arizona southwestern toad

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP except livestock grazing would not be limited in Lower Meadow Valley Wash.

2.5.7.4 Parameter – Mojave Desert Riparian Habitat

Special Status Species

White River springfish
Hiko White River springfish
Pahranagat roundtail chub

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.5.7.5 Parameter – Mojave Desert Scrub Habitat

Special Status Species

Desert tortoise
Banded Gila monster

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP except active season for desert tortoise would be from March 15 to October 15.

2.5.7.6 Parameter – Mojave and Great Basin Desert Scrub and Salt Desert Shrub Habitats

Special Status Species

Western burrowing owl
Sunnyside green gentian

Management Actions

Western burrowing owl habitat would be managed on a case-by-case basis as a result of proposed actions in other programs.

The Sunnyside green gentian would be managed on a case-by-case basis as a result of proposed actions in other programs.

2.5.7.7 Parameter – Great Basin Sagebrush Habitat

Special Status Species

Greater sage-grouse
Pygmy rabbit

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP except sagebrush habitat maintenance would be performed in consideration of the priorities identified in the BLM National Sage Grouse Conservation Strategy.

Sagebrush restoration would be centered on restoring potential sagebrush habitats encroached by pinyon or juniper and in consideration of the restoration priorities identified in the BLM National Sage Grouse Conservation Strategy.

The Ely Field Office would consider the standard operating procedures in Appendix J of the Ely Draft RMP/EIS (July 2005).

2.5.8 Wild Horses

2.5.8.1 General Wild Horse Management

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.5.8.2 Parameter – Herd Management Area Establishment

Management Actions

Wild horses would continue to be managed within the existing 24 herd management areas covering approximately 5.4 million acres (see **Map 2.5.8-1** and **Table 2.5-10**). The appropriate management level of wild horses is 2,141 animals (including the maximum number on some herd management areas where the appropriate management level is currently listed as a range).

Table 2.5-10
Herd Management Areas Under Jurisdiction of the Ely Field Office

Herd Management Areas	Public Acres	Appropriate Management Level
Antelope	389,000	324
Applewhite	30,300	1
Blue Nose Peak	84,600	1
Buck and Bald	799,500	423
Butte	427,800	95
Cherry Creek	35,000	0
Clover Creek	33,000	1-14
Clover Mountains	168,000	1-16
Deer Lodge Canyon	105,300	30-50
Delamar Mountains	183,600	51-85
Diamond Hills South	19,500	22
Dry Lake	487,800	94
Highland Peak	136,100	20-33
Jakes Wash	153,700	1-21
Little Mountain	53,000	9-15
Meadow Valley Mountains	94,500	0
Miller Flat	89,400	9-15
Monte Cristo	369,800	236
Moriah	53,300	1-29
Rattlesnake	71,400	1
Sand Springs East	476,100	257
Seaman	358,800	159
White River	116,300	90
Wilson Creek	624,500	160
Totals	**5,361,300**	**1,986-2,141**

2.5.8.3 Parameter – Population Management

Management Actions

Populations would be managed within existing appropriate management level ranges, where applicable. For areas with single appropriate management level numbers, gather when necessary to reduce the population approximately 40 percent below that number to allow for natural population growth before the next gather cycle.

Population growth rates of approximately 20 percent have been observed for several of the larger wild horse populations in the planning area. It is neither economically practical nor desirable from an animal stress and health standpoint to conduct annual gathers to remove excess animals. Hence, gathers of greater numbers of animals are typically conducted on 3- to 4-year cycles. At a 20 percent annual population growth rate, approximately 40 percent of the population would need to be removed every 3 years to prevent population growth beyond the upper appropriate management level. For populations with growth rates less than 20 percent, the population reduction at gathers would be less than 40 percent and the cycle time between gathers would be extended until the population level again reached the upper appropriate management level. This population range would ensure that a thriving natural ecological balance is obtained since wild

horses would be managed in a manner designed to not exceed habitat limitations. Wild horses would be managed within the existing herd management areas regardless of whether habitat conditions can support a long-term self-sustaining healthy population or not.

2.5.9 Cultural Resources

2.5.9.1 General Cultural Resources Management

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.5.9.2 Parameter – Cultural Resource Use Allocation: Historic Roads, Trails, Railways, Highways, and Associated Sidings and Stations

Management Actions

The cultural historic landscape (setting) around National Historic Trails would be managed according to the National Historic Preservation Act and current policy regarding Historic Landscape Management along National Historic Trails and current policy regarding the Determination of the Direct Effects Analysis Area for National Historic Trails. The area of direct effect around national historic trails is established as 1 mile from centerline, although in some cases, the area of effect may be larger or smaller than 1 mile from centerline. Designated national historic trails would be managed according to the National Scenic and Historic Trail Act (16 USC sections 1241-1251) and the BLM's National Scenic and Historic Trails Strategy and Work Plan (BLM 2006).

Historic roads, trails, railways, highways, and associated sidings and stations would continue to be managed for future Cultural Resource Use Allocations. No established fee sites.

2.5.9.3 Parameter – Cultural Resource Use Allocation: Rock Art Sites

Management Actions

The Ely Field Office would manage cultural resources for future resource use allocations, continue to develop interpretative sites at White River Narrows and Mount Irish, and conduct a Class II inventory of areas identified as high potential for prehistoric site occurrence.

No surface occupancy lease stipulations will be in effect for approximately 29,700 acres to protect the integrity of cultural properties that contribute to the National Register eligibility of the resource, which includes the Black Point Complex (1,200 acres) and City of Rocks Archaeological District (6,514 acres).

No fee sites currently exist.

2.5.9.4 Parameter – Cultural Resource Use Allocations: Historic Townsites, Historic Mining Camps, Historic Mining Districts, and Related Historic Buildings and Standing Structures, and Historic Racetracks

Management Actions

The Ely Field Office would manage for future Cultural Resource Use Allocations and would inventory the Delamar townsite and cemetery for its cultural and historical values.

No fee sites currently exist.

2.5.9.5 Parameter – Cultural Resource Use Allocations: Historic Cemeteries and Isolated Historic Gravesites

Management Actions

The Ely Field Office would manage cultural resources for future Resource Use Allocations.

No fee sites currently exist.

2.5.9.6 Parameter – Cultural Resource Use Allocations: Ethnic Arboreal Narratives and Graphics, and Bow Stave Trees

Management Actions

The Ely Field Office would manage cultural resources for future Resource Use Allocations.

2.5.9.7 Parameter – Cultural Resource Use Allocations: Paleoindian Sites

For the purposes of this RMP, the term Paleoindian would be defined as follows: “Paleoindian or Pre-Archaic has been attributed to include both fluted and stemmed complexes as well as being reserved for complexes containing fluted points and extinct megafauna. The term Paleoindian would be used here to denote archeological sites and artifact assemblages dating between 12,000 to 8,000 years Before Present, which include fluted or stemmed points, and possibly crescents. Under this broad Paleoindian umbrella there are several local traditions and possible variants that may represent different peoples using the land in different ways. This includes Clovis, Folsom, Western Pluvial Lakes Tradition, and Stemmed Complex” (Sherve 2001).

Management Actions

The Ely Field Office would manage cultural resources for future Resource Use Allocations.

No surface occupancy lease stipulations will be in effect for approximately 29,700 acres to protect the integrity of cultural properties that contribute to the National Register eligibility of the resource, which includes the Little Smoky Valley Paleoindian Quarry (3,100 acres).

No surface occupancy lease stipulations will be in effect for 17,860 acres of the Sunshine Locality National Register District for the protection of fragile prehistoric resources inclusively listed on the National Register of Historic Places and to provide integrity to the surface and subsurface environmental context in which the resources occur.

A lease notice describing special cultural resource compliance requirements to operate on the remaining 16,160 acres of the Sunshine Locality National Register District shall be issued and in effect.

2.5.9.8 Parameter – Cultural Resource Use Allocations: Formative Puebloan Sites

Management Actions

The Ely Field Office would manage for future Cultural Resource Use Allocations.

No fee sites currently exist.

2.5.9.9 Parameter – Cultural Resource Use Allocations: Rockshelter and Cave Sites

Management Actions

The Ely Field Office would manage for future Cultural Resource Use Allocations.

No surface occupancy lease stipulations will be in effect for approximately 29,700 acres to protect the integrity of cultural properties that contribute to the National Register eligibility of the resource, which includes the Newark Cave (120 acres).

No fee sites currently exist.

2.5.9.10 Parameter – Cultural Resource Use Allocations: Prehistoric Complex Sites, Campsites, or Specialized Activity Areas

Management Actions

The Ely Field Office would manage cultural resources for future Resource Use Allocations and a Class II inventory of areas identified as high potential for aboriginal site occurrence would be conducted.

2.5.9.11 Parameter – Cultural Resource Use Allocations: Toolstone Sources or Quarries

Management Actions

The Ely Field Office would manage for future Cultural Resource Use Allocations and a Class II inventory of areas identified as high potential for aboriginal site occurrence would be conducted.

2.5.9.12 Parameter – Cultural Resource Use Allocations: Historic Ranching and Livestock Related Historic Sites, Buildings, Standing Structures, and Landscapes

Management Actions

The Ely Field Office would manage for future Cultural Resource Use Allocations.

2.5.9.13 Parameter – Cultural Resource Use Allocations: Ethnohistoric Sites, Sacred Sites, Traditional Use Areas, Traditional Cultural Properties

Management Actions

The Ely Field Office would manage for future Cultural Resource Use Allocations.

No surface occupancy lease stipulations would be in effect for approximately 29,700 acres to protect the integrity of cultural properties that contribute to the National Register eligibility of the resource, which includes the Huntington Valley Village (640 acres).

The Snake Creek Indian Burial Cave (ethnohistoric site) would receive partial protection under the Fire Management Action Modification Plan.

2.5.9.14 Parameter – Cultural Resource Use Allocations: “Other” Sites

“Other” is defined as those sites not falling into any of the above 12 site types.

Management Actions

The Ely Field Office would manage for future Cultural Resource Use Allocations in a Class II inventory of areas identified as high potential for aboriginal site occurrence would be conducted.

No surface occupancy lease stipulations would be in effect for approximately 29,700 acres to protect the integrity of cultural properties that contribute to the National Register eligibility of the resource, which includes the Little Smoky Valley Antelope Wall (340 acres).

2.5.10 Paleontological Resources

2.5.10.1 General Paleontological Resource Management

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.5.10.2 Parameter – Trilobite Collecting

Management Actions

No registration system currently is in place for trilobite collecting.

2.5.11 Visual Resources

Management Actions

Visual resources would be managed in accordance with the following visual resource management classes (approximate acreages – see **Map 2.5.11-1**).

Class I: 1,450,900 acres
Class II: 283,700 acres
Class III: 678,700 acres
Class IV: 5,466,300 acres
No visual resource management class: 3,577,000 acres

Management would continue under the existing visual resource management classes for the Schell and Caliente resource areas. The Egan Resource area would establish visual resource management classes at the site-specific project level.

2.5.12 Lands and Realty

2.5.12.1 Parameter – Retention

Management Actions

Big game habitat, upland game habitat, and wild horse herd management areas would be retained. Lands would be retained to prevent adverse effects on threatened or endangered species or their habitat. Lands would be retained where necessary to prevent loss, occupancy, destruction, or degradation of wetlands or riparian areas that would lead to the modification, or loss of the natural and beneficial functions of floodplains.

2.5.12.2 Parameter – Disposal (Sales, Exchanges, and Recreation and Public Purposes Act)

Management Actions

A total of 31,912 acres are identified to be available for potential disposal under this alternative: 3,580 acres in Lincoln County; 3,893 acres in Nye County; and 24,438 acres in White Pine County. Approximately 10,958 acres would be available under the Federal Lands Transaction Facilitation Act in White Pine County (see **Maps 2.5.12-1**, **2.5.12-2**, **2.5.12-3**, and **2.5.12-4**). Known unauthorized use of public lands would be resolved. Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, Sections 203 and 209, state that sales are the preferred method of disposal.

Criteria for disposal under Alternative A:

- Disposal of additional lands would be allowed on a case-by-case basis under existing land use plans.
- Disposal of lands outside designated big game habitat, upland game habitat, and wild horse herd management areas would be allowed on a case-by-case basis (Egan RMP).
- Lands that contain National Register eligible archaeological resources or historic properties would not be considered for disposal (Caliente MFP).
- Land for agricultural production would be disposed of only in those areas that have been determined to have development potential in the Caliente MFP.
- New applications for Carey Act, Desert Land Entries, and Indian Allotments would be processed on a case-by-case basis (Egan RMP and Schell MFP).

2.5.12.3 Parameter – Acquisitions

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.5.12.4 Parameter – Withdrawals

Management Actions

Requests for new withdrawals, withdrawal relinquishments, or modifications would be considered on a case-by-case basis. Approximately 31,900 acres of lands identified for potential disposal would be recommended for withdrawal from mineral entry.

2.5.12.5 Parameter – Corridors

Management Actions

No new utility corridors would be designated. All rights-of-way would be encouraged to locate within existing designated corridors (**Map 2.5.12-5**).

Existing corridors would be managed as follows:

A. Maintain a corridor 1,000 feet wide, 500 feet on either side of the centerline of the existing telephone fiber optic lines, beginning within Township 11 South, Range 71 East, Section 20 running easterly to the Arizona state line. This corridor crosses portions of the Beaver Dam Slope ACEC and the management is consistent with the Arizona Strip Field Office.

B. Maintain the Falcon to Gonder corridor as 0.5 mile wide, as an east-west corridor to interconnect with the Ely to Utah state line portion of the Southwest Intertie Project corridor.

C. Maintain the Ely to Utah state line portion of the Southwest Intertie Project corridor as 0.5 mile wide.

D. Maintain the approved Southwest Intertie Project corridor as 0.5 mile wide from the Elko/White Pine County line to the point where it parallels Highway 93 and the Pahranagat Wildlife Refuge at which point it will remain 0.5 mile wide, but will be oriented so that the centerline defining that corridor is 50 feet from the eastern edge of the corridor.

E. Maintain the Moapa corridor at 0.5 mile wide.

F. Maintain the corridors designated by the Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act as 0.5 mile wide.

2.5.12.6 Parameter – Communication Sites

Management Actions

New communication sites would be authorized on a case-by-case basis.

2.5.12.7 Parameter – Land Use Authorizations (Rights-of-Way, Permits, Leases, Easements, and Unauthorized Use)

Management Actions

Land use authorizations would be issued on a case-by-case basis.

Areas outside of proposed corridors within existing ACECs for the protection of desert tortoise would be right-of-way avoidance areas.

Designated wilderness would be considered right-of-way exclusion areas.

2.5.13 Renewable Energy

2.5.13.1 Parameter – Wind, Solar, and Biomass Energy

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.5.14 Travel Management and Off-highway Vehicle Use

2.5.14.1 Parameter – Transportation Plan

Management Actions

Outside desert tortoise habitat, road and trail designation would be on a case-by-case basis. Resource impacts resulting from motorized vehicle travel would be handled through emergency closures.

2.5.14.2 Parameter – Off-highway Vehicles

Management Actions

Off-highway vehicles would be managed in accordance with the following designations (see **Map 2.5.14-1**):

- Open to cross-country off-highway vehicle use: 9,798,300 acres.
- Off-highway vehicle use limited to designated roads and trails: 589,000 acres. This acreage reflects wilderness study areas and the area addressed in the Caliente MFP Amendment.
- Closed to off-highway vehicle use: approximately 1,072,700 acres. This acreage reflects designated wilderness.

2.5.15 Recreation

2.5.15.1 Parameter – Special Recreation Management Areas

Management Actions

An estimated 550,000 acres would continue to be managed as one special recreation management area. Emphasis for the special recreation management area would be on maintaining existing developed facilities.

Only the Loneliest Highway Special Recreation Management Area would exist. The Loneliest Highway Special Recreation Management Area is located within White Pine County and is comprised of four

separate areas: Illipah Reservoir, Cold Creek Reservoir, Garnet Fields Rockhound Area, and the Pony Express Trail. All remaining public land would be managed as an extensive recreation management area. Existing recreation sites would remain open and would be maintained at current levels. Closure of sites would remain an option in the case of public safety or resource condition issues. Dispersed use management would remain reactive rather than proactive. The Ely Field Office would continue to work as a member of the diversified interagency recreation team to promote recreational opportunities in the planning area. Tourism and recreation opportunities would not be emphasized.

2.5.15.2 Parameter – Special Recreation Permits

Management Actions

No limitations would be placed on outfitter and guide permits for hunting. No areas would be identified for off-highway vehicle emphasis areas. Motorcycle events would be limited to twelve races based on available staff time. A maximum of two truck events would be permitted each year on race routes subject to NEPA.

Desert tortoise ACECs would be closed to all types of organized off-highway vehicle events from March 15 to June 15 and August 31 to October 15. The maximum number of events allowed within desert tortoise ACECs would be more than allowed in the Proposed RMP.

2.5.16 Livestock Grazing

Management Actions

Approximately 11,247,000 acres are available for livestock grazing subject to modification associated with disposal actions.

Changes to livestock grazing use resulting from reduced land acreage due to land disposals could include one or more of the following actions: reduction in stocking levels; distribution of livestock to other areas; a shorter grazing period; more intensive management practices (e.g., water hauling, fencing, and water development); or no changes in grazing management practices. No areas in addition to the 203,670 acres in the three existing ACECs would be unavailable (see **Map 2.5.16-1**), but various acres are proposed for potential land disposal as discussed in Section 2.5.12.2, and would no longer be public lands.

Authorized active use would fluctuate above and below the total active use or level of use authorized in the grazing permit. Authorized active use above the total active use is temporary nonrenewable. Active use not activated is nonuse. Authorized active use would fluctuate based on annual forage production.

Allotments would continue to be monitored and evaluated to determine if they are continuing to meet or are making significant progress toward meeting the standards for rangeland health.

Domestic sheep and goats would continue to be managed in accordance with current BLM policies for management of domestic sheep and goats in bighorn sheep habitat when proposed changes to BLM

grazing permits are being considered. This would apply relative to both Rocky Mountain bighorn and desert bighorn sheep.

2.5.17 Forest/Woodland and Other Plant Products

2.5.17.1 General Forest/Woodland and Other Plant Product Management

Management Actions

Direction for management of forest/woodland and other plant products is outlined in three land use plans (i.e., Caliente MFP, Egan RMP, and the Schell MFP), individual forest activity plans, and a field office policy implemented in 2000. Decisions in each land use plan direct the preparation of forest management plans, which identified areas suitable for sales of forest products. Several forest management plans were developed that identified specific areas for harvest of forest/woodland and other plant products. Prior to year 2000, live (greenwood) fuelwood cutting was allowed only in areas identified in forestry management plans or other similar activity plans. A decision was issued in 2000 that allowed fuelwood harvest of live pinyon and juniper throughout the entire planning area except wilderness study areas, ACECs, and some other restricted areas.

Generally, harvest of forest/woodland products would be restricted in designated wilderness, wilderness study areas, ACECs, or scenic or natural areas. Harvest of seed species would be allowed in such areas on a case-by-case basis.

With the exception of travel in designated cutting areas that have been specified in forestry management plans, all vehicle traffic would be limited to existing roads and trails.

2.5.17.2 Parameter – Fuelwood Collection

Management Actions

Fuelwood collection of live and dead pinyon and juniper and dead and down mountain mahogany would continue to be allowed throughout the planning area except in designated wilderness, wilderness study areas, ACECs, and other restricted areas. Cutting of live (greenwood) trees of species other than pinyon and juniper would be allowed only within areas designated through site-specific activity or forestry management plans and if cutting would improve the health of the stand. Dead and down other species (e.g., fir, spruce, aspen) would be cut on site-specific case-by-case basis where the health of the stand would be enhanced by the removal of such material. Cutting of live and dead wood would be permitted within active unpatented mining operations as salvage, by the general public if no interference or safety hazard is created with mining operations.

Commercial fuelwood permits would be issued to members of the public who intend to resale the product, or to those who harvest more than ten cords annually.

2.5.17.3 Parameter – Pinyon Pine Nut Harvesting

Management Actions

Free personal use of up to 25 pounds per person would be allowed within the planning area. Commercial harvest sale areas would be designated throughout the planning area and sold through a competitive bidding process. When the competitive bidding is complete and the sales are awarded, the specific sale area would be documented on the permittee's contract. Mechanical harvesters would not be allowed.

2.5.17.4 Parameter – Christmas Tree Harvesting

Management Actions

Pinyon and juniper would continue to be available for personal and commercial use throughout the planning area. Commercial harvest permits would be issued to members of the public who plan to sell the trees or to those who purchase more than twenty trees. Permits would be issued throughout the planning area except for certain excluded areas as marked on the ground. For commercial permits, the specific harvest site would be designated on the contract at the time of sale.

2.5.17.5 Parameter – Post and Pole Harvesting

Management Actions

Pinyon and juniper would continue to be available for personal and commercial use throughout the planning area, except in restricted areas. Commercial harvest locations would be designated on the contract at the time of sale.

2.5.17.6 Parameter – Seed Collection

Management Actions

Commercial use would be allowed on a case-by-case basis.

Hand collection methods would be encouraged, and mechanical collection would be allowed on a limited basis.

2.5.17.7 Parameter – Other Vegetation Product (i.e., wildings, boughs, etc.) Collection

Management Actions

Wildings would be sold on a non-commercial basis. Aspen and fir trees would be sold only where the sale is needed to enhance maintenance of the stand. Petrified wood would be allowed on a non-commercial basis at the rate of 25 pounds plus 1 piece per day, up to 250 pounds per year without a permit.

All other products would be sold on a case-by-case basis.

2.5.17.8 Parameter – Biomass Products

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.5.18 Geology and Mineral Extraction

2.5.18.1 General Geology and Mineral Management

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.5.18.2 Parameter – Fluid Leasable Minerals

Management Actions

Existing land use plans include: the Oil and Gas Leasing Amendment to the Egan RMP, the Schell MFP, the Caliente MFP, and the Caliente MFP Amendment and Record of Decision for the Management of Desert Tortoise Habitat, which identify 7,752,700 acres open to leasing. Older environmental assessments are no longer valid to support leasing under NEPA on approximately 3.2 million acres. Areas that are open to leasing could be leased with appropriate NEPA coverage on a case-by-case basis.

Current valid leasing documents in the Ely Field Office are the Egan Oil and Gas Amendment (BLM 1994a) and the Caliente MFP Amendment and Record of Decision for the Management of Desert Tortoise Habitat (BLM 2000a). Existing leases in other areas are being honored.

The following areas currently are available for leasing:

Historic Egan Resource Area:	3,804,230 acres
Desert Tortoise Habitat:	736,805 acres
Total	4,541,035 acres

Table 2.5-11 presents a summary of the distribution of acres for Alternative A. **Map 2.5.18-1** shows the location of the leasing stipulations for this alternative.

Leases would continue to be issued in the Egan and Caliente MFP Amendment areas for those areas open to fluid mineral leasing. Current stipulations would be carried forward. Geothermal leasing would be allowed in desert tortoise habitat as provided for in the Caliente MFP Amendment for the Management of the Desert

Tortoise Habitat. Additional site-specific NEPA analysis would be conducted prior to issuing geothermal leases in the remainder of the planning area.

Table 2.5-11
Summary of Fluid Mineral Leasing
(Geothermal Not Included)

	Acres[1]
Open to Fluid Mineral Leasing	
Standard Lease Terms and Conditions	2,715,200
Moderate Restrictions (Timing Limitations)	1,188,100
Major Restrictions (No Surface Occupancy)	46,000
Open – Total	3,949,300
Closed to Fluid Mineral Leasing	
Designated Wilderness/Wilderness Study Areas	471,900
Discretionary Closure	119,800
Closed – Total	591,700
Total for Leasing Areas	**4,541,000**
Currently Unavailable to Leasing	**6,959,000**
Total	**11,500,000**

[1] Rounded to hundreds.

Open to Leasing

There would be approximately 2.8 million acres open for leasing subject to standard lease terms and conditions.

Lease Notices

Alternative A has a cultural notice for the Pony Express Trail and for the Sunshine Locality National Register District. The Pony Express Trail lease notice lets the operator know that there could be special visual mitigations required within the viewshed of the Pony Express Trail. The Sunshine Locality Lease Notice surrounds the core area of the Sunshine Locality National Register District, which has a no surface occupancy designation. The lease notice lets the operator know that there still could be a high density of potentially significant cultural artifacts around that core area that may require consultation, mitigation, or treatment plans.

In desert tortoise habitat, a lease notice is in effect which informs the lessee that Section 7 consultation will be completed prior to any surface disturbance. **Table 2.5-12** shows the areas that are listed as lease notices in Alternative A.

Table 2.5-12
Lease Notices for Fluid Mineral Leasing

Area	Acres
Pony Express Trail	70,460
Sunshine Locality National Register District	17,280
Desert Tortoise Habitat	736,800
Total	**824,540**

Moderate Restrictions – Traditional Surface Use/Timing

There would be approximately 1.3 million acres open for leasing with surface use and/or timing restrictions. Surface use and/or seasonal timing restrictions would be in place for the protection of greater sage-grouse leks and greater sage-grouse winter habitat, ferruginous hawk nesting territories, and desert tortoise habitat as shown in **Table 2.5-13** and **Map 2.5.18-1**. Timing restrictions for the protection for other raptors, big game, and desert bighorn sheep habitat, as listed in the Egan Oil and Gas Amendment, would be applied as best management practices during ground disturbing activities.

Table 2.5-13
Timing and Surface Use Stipulations for Fluid Mineral Leasing

Resource	Restriction	Acres
Greater Sage-grouse Nesting Areas	Timing Limitation. No surface activity would be allowed within 2 miles of a greater sage-grouse lek from March 15 through May 30.	615,800
Greater Sage-grouse Winter Range	Timing Limitation. No surface activity would be allowed within winter range for greater sage-grouse from November 1 through March 31.	104,430
Hawk Nesting Territories	No surface activity within 0.5 mile of an occupied ferruginous hawk nest March 15 to July 1 or until the birds have fledged. At all other times, avoid damage to nests.	146,200
Desert Tortoise	No surface activity March 15 to October 15, stay on existing roads and trails.	462,720
Total[1]		**1,329,150**

[1] Total differs from summary table due to overlap among categories.

Major Restrictions – No Surface Occupancy

Major restrictions under this alternative consist of 46,000 acres of no surface occupancy for the resources shown in **Table 2.5-14** and **Map 2.5.18-1**.

Table 2.5-14
No Surface Occupancy for Fluid Mineral Leasing

Name	Acres
Antelope Summit Recreation Sites	80
Bald Eagle Habitat	45
Bassett Lake Recreation Site	214
Black Point Archaeological Site	1,204
Bonneville Cutthroat Trout Threatened and Endangered Species Habitat	460
City of Rocks Archaeology Site	6,514
Comins Lake Recreation Area	120
Ferruginous Hawk Nest Sites (40 acres each)	9,058
Garnet Hill Recreation Site	166
Highway 6 Threatened and Endangered Species Habitat	247
Huntington Valley Archaeology Site	623
Little Smokey Valley Antelope Wall	345
Little Smokey Valley Paleo Indian Quarry	3,100
Monte Neva Paintbrush Threatened and Endangered Habitat	154
Newark Cave	120
Newark Valley Tui Chub Threatened and Endangered Species Habitat	40
Orchard Canyon Riparian Area	360
Ragged Ridge Scenic Area	2,210
Railroad Valley Springfish Threatened and Endangered Species Habitat	2
Sunnyside Green Gentian Threatened and Endangered Species Habitat	640
Sunshine Locality National Register District	17,856
Swamp Cedar Threatened and Endangered Species Habitat	150
Ward Recreation Site	1,630
Welshes Cateye Threatened and Endangered Species Habitat	650
White River Spinedace Threatened and Endangered Species Habitat	360
Total	**46,348**

* Totals differ from summary table due to overlap among areas and categories.

Closed to Leasing

There would be approximately 528,900 acres closed to leasing. The areas closed to leasing include approximately 471,900 acres within designated wilderness and wilderness study areas, and 57,000 acres of additional closures outside of the designated wilderness/wilderness study areas as shown in **Table 2.5-15** and **Map 2.5.18-1**.

Proposed actions for geophysical exploration would be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and would not necessarily be subject to the same restrictions as shown for fluid leasing.

Table 2.5-15
Closed to Fluid Mineral Leasing

Name	Acres
Cave Valley Cave	40
Cold Creek Reservoir Recreation Area	220
Designated Wilderness/Wilderness Study Areas	471,940
Illipah Reservoir Recreation Area	320
Kane Springs ACEC	57,190
Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act Corridors	25,320
Nevada Division of Forestry Honor Camp	180
Nevada State Prison	1,470
Steptoe Valley Wildlife Management Area Expansion	6,275
White Pine County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act Airport Expansion	1,530
White Pine County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act Industrial Park Expansion	200
White Pine County Shooting Range	80
Total	**564,765**

* Totals differ from summary table due to overlap among areas and categories.

Oil and gas and geothermal well drilling, production, and geophysical exploration would be subject to the standard operating procedures for Alternative A listed in Appendix M of the Ely Draft RMP/EIS (July 2005) as well as the Gold Book Best Management Practices for Oil and Gas (U.S. Department of Interior and U.S. Department of Agriculture 2006).

2.5.18.3 Parameter – Solid Leasable Minerals

Management Actions

There would be approximately 10.1 million acres of federal mineral estate open for development of solid leasable minerals. Leasing would be allowed in desert tortoise habitat as provided for in the Caliente MFP Amendment for the Management of the Desert Tortoise Habitat. Additional site-specific NEPA analysis would be conducted prior to issuing solid minerals leases in the remainder of the planning area.

Table 2.5-16 presents a summary of the distribution of acres for Alternative A.

Table 2.5-16
Summary of Solid Leasable Minerals Leasing

Solid Leasable	Acres
Open to Solid Leasable	10,134,100
Closed to Solid Leasable	1,365,900
Total	**11,500,000**
Acres closed outside of designated wilderness/wilderness study areas	212,400

Map 2.5.18-2 shows the location of the leasing stipulations for this alternative.

There are no solid leasable minerals operations to date within the planning area. Most existing withdrawals closed to locatable mineral entry are not closed to solid leasing unless specifically designated. Even so, under Alternative A, those areas closed to locatable minerals likely would not be made available for solid mineral leasing.

There would be approximately 1.4 million acres closed to solid mineral leasing. This includes approximately 1.15 million acres of designated wilderness and wilderness study areas and approximately 212,400 acres outside of designated wilderness/wilderness study areas. **Map 2.5.18-2** shows the location of areas that would be closed to both locatable minerals and solid leasable minerals. See **Table 2.5-18** for the areas that would be closed to solid mineral leasing.

Standard practices and procedures for solid leasable operations under this alternative would be compiled on a site-specific basis from the standard operating procedures for Alternative A that are listed in Appendix M of the Ely Draft RMP/EIS (July 2005).

2.5.18.4 Parameter – Locatable Minerals

Locatable minerals management would be the same as the Proposed RMP except for the following:

Management Actions

There would be approximately 10.1 million acres of federal mineral estate open for development of locatable minerals. Lands currently open for mineral activities would continue to be available.

Table 2.5-17 summarizes the acres of locatable minerals for Alternative A.

Table 2.5-17
Summary of Locatable Minerals

	Acres[1]
Locatable Minerals – Open	10,134,100
Locatable Minerals – Closed	1,365,900
Total	**11,500,000**
Acres closed outside of designated wilderness/wilderness study areas	212,400

[1] Rounded to hundreds.

See **Map 2.5.18-2**.

There would be approximately 1.4 million acres proposed for withdrawal to mineral development. This includes approximately 1.15 million acres that are currently designated as designated wilderness and wilderness study areas and 212,400 acres outside of designated wilderness/wilderness study areas.

Map 2.5.18-2 shows the location of areas that would be proposed for withdrawal to locatable minerals. **Table 2.5-18** lists the areas that would be withdrawn from locatable mineral entry.

Standard operating procedures for locatable mineral operations under this alternative would be compiled from the standard operating procedures list in Appendix M of the Ely Draft RMP/EIS (July 2005).

Table 2.5-18
Areas Proposed for Withdrawal to Solid, Locatable, and Mineral Materials Disposal

Name	Acres*
Ash Springs Proposed Withdrawal	80
Baca disposals in Lincoln County	155
Baca disposals in White Pine County	10,090
Blue Mass Scenic Area	950
Caliente Field Station	2
Cave Valley Cave	40
Cleve Creek	90
Designated Wilderness/Wilderness Study Areas	1,153,500
Disposals in desert tortoise habitat	640
Disposal for Toquop	640
Illipah Reservoir	290
Kane Spring ACEC	57,190
Kirch Wildlife Withdrawal	400
Lincoln County Conservation and Development Act Corridors	113,425
Lincoln County Conservation and Development Act State Park	4,780
Lincoln County Withdrawals	18,240
Murry Spring Watershed	1,260
Pony Springs Fire Station	10
Pygmy Sage Natural Area	165
Rose Guano Cave Natural Area	55
Sacramento Pass Recreation Area	440
Shoshone Ponds Natural Area	1,245
Snake Creek Indian Burial Cave	60
Steptoe Valley Withdrawal	6,275
Swamp Cedar Natural Area	3,300
White Pine County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act Additional Withdrawal	98,135
White Pine County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act Airport Withdrawal	1,535
White Pine County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act Industrial Park Withdrawal	200
Total	**1,473,192**

* Totals differ from summary table due to overlap of closed areas.

2.5.18.5 Parameter – Mineral Materials (Salable Minerals)

Mineral materials management would be the same as the Proposed RMP except for the following:

Management Actions

There would be approximately 10.0 million acres of federal mineral estate open for mineral materials disposal, subject to best management practices and standard operating procedures. Lands currently open for mineral material disposal would continue to be available. Mineral materials pits could not be located closer than 10 miles apart in the old Schell Resource area and would remain unregulated in other areas of the planning area.

There would be approximately 1.5 million acres closed to mineral materials disposal. This includes approximately 1.15 million acres of designated wilderness and wilderness study areas and approximately 391,300 acres outside of designated wilderness/wilderness study areas. **Table 2.5-19** summarizes the acreages open and closed to mineral materials disposal for Alternative A.

Table 2.5-19
Summary of Mineral Materials

	Acres[1]
Mineral Material Open	9,955,200
Mineral Material Closed	1,544,800
Total	**11,500,000**
Acres closed outside of designated wilderness/wilderness study areas	391,300

[1] Rounded to hundreds.

The management of the Kane Springs, Mormon Mesa, and Beaver Dam Slope ACECs would be the same as the Proposed RMP except the seasonal closures would not apply.

Any authorizations through free use permits or federal highway material site rights-of-way will be subject to operating procedures described in the right-of-way management section. BLM must ensure through the review of the plan of operation and development of the mitigation measures that the impacts from the operation do not jeopardize the continued existence of a listed species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of designated critical habitat. The operator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and BLM also must reach concurrence that proposed actions are below the jeopardy or adverse modification threshold. If it is determined through the review of the plan of operation and the use of mitigation measures, that the operation is not below the jeopardy or adverse modification threshold, the project would not go forward. These operating procedures include reclamation requirements that will outline the standards that must be met before the reclamation is released. These standards are subject to change based on the site-specific conditions and consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Map 2.5.18-3 shows the location of areas that would be closed.

Site-specific best management practices for mineral materials sales under this alternative would be compiled from the complete list of best management practices that are shown in Appendix M of the Draft Ely RMP/EIS (July 2005).

2.5.19 Watershed Management

2.5.19.1 Parameter – Allocation of Additional Forage as a Result of Restoration Actions

Management Actions

Prioritization of watershed analyses is the same as described in the Proposed RMP.

Following watershed analysis and assessment of rangeland health, additional forage would be divided 70 percent to livestock and wild horses and 30 percent reserved for wildlife in the Schell Resource Area. In the rest of the planning area, additional forage would be allocated to livestock and wild horses, and reserved for watershed maintenance and wildlife, as appropriate, depending on the objectives of the project.

2.5.20 Fire Management

2.5.20.1 Parameter – Fire Management

Management Actions

The Ely Field Office would continue to implement the current fire management plan, which incorporates the Ely Managed and Prescribed Fire Plan, and which includes areas where fires would be beneficial and where they may have negative effects. The Ely Fire Management Plan would be revised/updated periodically on a fire management unit basis. These revisions would tier to the general fire management actions in this resource management plan, and prescribe the appropriate management response. Currently the plan identifies areas where fires would have negative effects, where fires would be beneficial after vegetation treatments to increase resiliency, and where fires are beneficial. Management actions would continue to include full suppression, suppression of certain areas on the fire, directing fire away from other sensitive areas, and monitoring with no suppression. A combination of all management actions could be used on a fire incident. The plan also identifies conditions and potential locations for wildland fire use and for prescribed fires.

The planning area is classified into general fire management units based on current fuel types, distribution, and amounts (see **Map 2.5.20-1**). Wildland fire is managed in each unit based on general fire management goals. Some areas have constraints, such as fire size, to conserve wildlife habitat features (**Map 2.5.20-1**) (BLM 2000b) and other areas can be managed for wildland fire use (approximately 3.6 million acres). Some areas are full suppression (approximately 726,000 acres in desert tortoise habitat); the majority of the areas are managed with appropriate management responses.

Appropriate management response is applied to all wildland fire incidents occurring in the planning area. The Wildland Fire Management Policy (U.S. Department of the Interior et al. 2001), and more specifically, the Ely Fire Management Plan (BLM 2004a) provides for a full range of responses and for the opportunity

for all wildland fires to be managed for resource benefits. Appropriate management responses are based on land management objectives, relative risk, complexity, and defensibility of fire management boundaries and are continually updated as conditions change.

When selecting an appropriate management response, firefighter and public safety is always the highest concern. Minimum impact suppression tactics are used on all planning area wildland fires in order to incur the least possible impact to the land while achieving fire and resource management objectives. Minimum impact techniques might include using existing roads for fire breaks rather than building new lines or watching dying fires rather than disturbing them during “mop-up” operations. However, mechanized equipment also may be used on fire management actions and deemed as the minimum tool based on safety or values at risk.

2.5.21 Noxious and Invasive Weed Management

2.5.21.1 Parameter – Invasive and Nonnative Plant Species Management

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.5.22 Special Designations

2.5.22.1 Parameter – Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

Management Actions

Retain the three current ACECs managed primarily for the recovery of the desert tortoise for a total of 203,670 acres (see **Map 2.5.22-1**). See the Proposed RMP for management actions and **Table 2.5-20** for specific management prescriptions.

2.5.22.2 Parameter – Back Country Byways

Management Actions

The Mount Wilson Back Country Byway would be retained. No additional Back Country Byways would be designated (see **Map 2.5.22-2**).

2.5.22.3 Parameter – Designated Wilderness

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

Table 2.5-20
Management Prescriptions for Existing ACECs[1]

Beaver Dam Slope (36,800 acres)	
Management Activities	**Management Prescriptions**
Land use authorizations	Limited/Avoidance area[2]
Off-highway vehicle use	Closed/Limited[3]
Visual resource management class	IV
Plant collecting	Limited[4]
Road maintenance	Limited[5]
Leasable minerals	Open
Locatable minerals	Open
Mineral Materials	Closed
Lands disposal	No disposal
Fire management	Limited[6]
Transportation	Limited
Livestock management	Unavailable for livestock grazing
Fuelwood cutting	Not applicable
Renewable energy	Closed[7]
Kane Springs (57,190 acres)	
Management Activities	**Management Prescriptions**
Land use authorizations	Limited/Avoidance[2]/Exclusion area
Off-highway vehicle use	Closed/Limited[3]
Visual resource management class	I, III, IV
Plant collecting	Limited[4]
Road maintenance	Limited[5]
Leasable minerals	Closed
Locatable minerals	Closed
Mineral Materials	Limited[8]
Lands disposal	No disposal
Fire management	Limited[6]
Transportation	Limited
Livestock management	Unavailable for livestock grazing
Fuelwood cutting	Not applicable
Renewable energy	Closed[7]

Table 2.5-20 (Continued)

Mormon Mesa (109,680 acres)	
Management Activities	**Management Prescriptions**
Land use authorizations	Limited/Avoidance[2]/Exclusion area
Off-highway vehicle use	Closed/Limited[3]
Visual resource management class	I, IV
Plant collecting	Limited[4]
Road maintenance	Limited[5]
Leasable minerals	Open/Closed
Locatable minerals	Open/Closed
Mineral Materials	Limited[8]
Lands disposal	No disposal
Fire management	Limited[6]
Transportation	Limited
Livestock management	Unavailable for livestock grazing
Fuelwood cutting	Not applicable
Renewable energy	Closed[7]

[1] Acres within the existing Beaver Dam Slope, Kane Springs, and Mormon Mesa ACECs are those within the planning area.
[2] Avoidance area; granting rights-of-way (surface, subsurface, aerial) within the area should be avoided, but rights-of-way may be granted if there is minimal conflict with identified resource values and impacts can be mitigated.
[3] Off-highway vehicle use would be limited to designated roads and trails. Areas within ACECs designated as wilderness would be closed to off-highway vehicle use.
[4] Plant materials, including common species, may be collected by permit only.
[5] Road maintenance would be limited to the designated roadway; shoulder barrow/ditch construction would be limited to only that necessary to ensure public safety and serviceability of the road.
[6] Limits could be placed on fire management activities.
[7] Closed to renewable energy facilities. Avoidance area for ancillary rights-of-way for access roads, transmission lines, and pipelines.
[8] Closed except for free use permits and federal highway material site rights-of-way on a 1-mile corridor, 0.5 mile each side of road on three designated roads.

2.5.22.4 Parameter – Wilderness Study Areas

Management Actions

The Ely Field Office currently manages the Park Range and Riordan's Well wilderness study areas in Nye County. Portions of the Blue Eagle and Antelope Range wilderness study areas, which are managed by the Battle Mountain Field Office, also overlap with the planning area.

2.5.22.5 Parameter – Other Special Designations

Management Actions

1. Any special designation areas would be managed within released wilderness study areas under their specific management prescriptions. The following special designation areas occur within wilderness study areas: North Creek, Mount Grafton, Goshute Cave, Leviathan Cave, Whipple Cave, and Goshute Canyon. These areas have been designated to preserve their unique recreational, historical, archeological, geological, and natural features. Should the wilderness study areas be released from further consideration of wilderness, these special designation areas would continue to be managed under their special management provisions.

2. Management procedures for the special designation areas that are retained would be the same; these include scenic areas, geologic areas, natural areas, research natural areas, and rockhound areas.

3. No herd management areas are recommended for designation as wild horse ranges.

No existing special designation areas would be changed, and no existing special designation areas would be designated as ACECs.

The following 23 existing special designation areas, totaling 34,495 acres, would be retained under their current designations.

- Scenic Areas: Blue Mass, North Creek, Kious Spring, Mount Grafton, and Weaver Creek.

- Geologic Areas: Goshute Cave, Leviathan Cave, Whipple Cave, and Cave Valley Cave.

- Rockhounding Area: Garnet Hill.

- Natural Areas: Goshute Canyon, Shoshone Ponds, and Swamp Cedar.

- Research Natural Areas: Pygmy Sage and Heusser Bristlecone.

- Archaeological Sites: Snake Creek Indian Burial Cave, Hendry's Creek/Rock Animal Corral, Baker Creek, Baker, Bat Cave Guano Mine, Garrison, White River Petroglyph, and Mount Irish.

The following management procedures would apply to all the above special designation areas.

- Roads – the Ely Field Office would not build new or maintain existing roads unless deemed absolutely necessary for management of natural values. Likewise, the Ely Field Office would not allow the building or maintenance of roads.

- Structures – the Ely Field Office would not build, or allow to be built, any type of structure except 1) those already identified in existing habitat management plans, or 2) those deemed absolutely necessary for management of natural values.

- Range Improvements – Land treatment projects would be prohibited. Other projects that would cause undue soil disturbance also would be prohibited.

- Livestock Grazing – Livestock grazing management would be used as a tool to enhance desirable vegetation composition.

- All personnel would assist the Ely Field Manager by identifying and reporting actions of private individuals or organizations that adversely affect the natural values.

The following 17 areas, totaling 12,705 acres, would be segregated from disposal under the public land laws, including the general mining laws, but not the Recreation and Public Purposes Act or the mineral leasing and material sale laws: Goshute Cave, Leviathan Cave, Goshute Canyon, Blue Mass Canyon, Shoshone Ponds, Bat Cave Guano Mine, Kious Spring, Snake Creek Indian Burial Cave, Hendry's Creek/Rock Animal Corral, Baker Creek, Baker, Garrison, White River Petroglyphs, Whipple Cave, Cave Valley Cave, Heusser Bristlecone, and Pygmy Sage.

The following three areas, totaling 2,490 acres, would be segregated from disposal under the public land laws, but not the general mining laws, the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, or the mineral leasing and material sale laws: Weaver Creek, Garnet Field, and Mount Irish.

No rivers have been identified for wild and scenic designation within the planning area. A full inventory and evaluation has not occurred, however, it is planned for fiscal year 2008. This evaluation could potentially identify rivers or river segments within the Ely Field Office jurisdiction that are eligible for inclusion under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. If appropriate, management actions associated with these locations will be amended to the RMP.

2.6 Alternative B

2.6.1 Overview of Alternative B

Alternative B would emphasize the maintenance of those systems that are functioning and healthy and the restoration of ecological systems and their historic mosaic patterns that have been degraded or altered. The descriptions that follow are arranged by resource or resource use and will only describe the differences from the Proposed RMP.

2.6.2 Air Resources

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.6.3 Water Resources

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.6.4 Soil Resources

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.6.5 Vegetation Resources

2.6.5.1 General Vegetation Management

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.6.5.2 Parameter – Pinyon-Juniper Woodlands

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.6.5.3 Parameter – Aspen

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.6.5.4 Parameter – High Elevation Conifer Species

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.6.5.5 Parameter – Salt Desert Shrub

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.6.5.6 Parameter – Sagebrush (basin big sagebrush, Wyoming big sagebrush, mountain big sagebrush, and black sagebrush)

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.6.5.7 Parameter – Mountain Mahogany

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.6.5.8 Parameter – Mojave Desert Vegetation

Management Actions

Same as Alternative A, except that livestock grazing would be eliminated (for the life of the RMP) on the remainder of the Mojave Desert, and all Mojave Desert vegetation (approximately 850,000 acres) would be protected from deterioration or conversion to annual invasive species by managing uses or applying treatments where appropriate. Appropriate treatments of annual invasive species would be with herbicides, minimal use of prescribed burning to prevent reburn cycle, and re-seeding with native species suitable for tortoise.

Table 2.6-1 and **Table 2.6-2** show the desired range of conditions of creosotebush, bursage, and blackbrush for Alternative B.

Table 2.6-1
Desired Range of Conditions of Creosotebush and Bursage
(Distribution of Phases and States)

Habitat Type	Herbaceous State	Shrub State	Altered State (Annual Invasive and Exotics)	Perennial Nonnative Seeded State
LANDFIRE Classes	A	B	Uncharacteristic	Uncharacteristic
Alternative B[1]	Same as the Proposed RMP	Same as the Proposed RMP	Same as the Proposed RMP	Same as the Proposed RMP

[1] In creosotebush/bursage communities, the herbaceous state and shrub state will correspond respectively to Class A and Class B as given in the LANDFIRE Biophysical Setting Model for Sonora-Mojave creosotebush-white bursage description. Altered states are an uncharacteristic condition not recognized by LANDFIRE Biophysical Settings models but are part of current conditions.

Table 2.6-2
Desired Range of Conditions of Blackbrush (Distribution of Phases and States)

Habitat Type	Herbaceous State	Shrub State	Altered state (annual invasive and exotics)	Perennial Nonnative Seeded State
LANDFIRE Classes	A	B	Uncharacteristic	Uncharacteristic
Alternative B[1]	Same as the Proposed RMP	Same as the Proposed RMP	Same as the Proposed RMP	Same as the Proposed RMP

[1] The herbaceous state and shrub state will correspond respectively to Class A and Class B as given in the LANDFIRE Biophysical Setting Model for Mojave mid-elevation desert scrub. Altered states are an uncharacteristic condition not recognized by LANDFIRE Biophysical Settings models but are part of current conditions.

2.6.5.9 Parameter – Riparian/Wetlands

Desired Range of Conditions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.6.5.10 Parameter – Nonnative Seedings

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.6.6 Fish and Wildlife

2.6.6.1 General Wildlife Habitat Management (Aquatic and Terrestrial)

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.6.6.2 Parameter – Elk, Mule Deer, Pronghorn Antelope, and Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep Habitats

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP except:

Additional forage created through restoration actions would be reserved for watershed maintenance and wildlife, and not allocated to livestock and wild horses.

Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep habitat would be managed in all historic range, occupied and unoccupied. All domestic livestock grazing would be eliminated in all Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep ranges.

2.6.6.3 Parameter – Desert Bighorn Sheep Habitat

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP except desert bighorn sheep habitat would be managed in all historic range, occupied and unoccupied. All domestic livestock grazing would be eliminated in all desert bighorn sheep ranges.

2.6.6.4 Parameter – Migratory Bird Habitat

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.6.6.5 Parameter – Wildlife Water Developments

Management Actions

Water availability would be increased through the restoration of riparian habitats and through proper livestock and wild horse management. No emphasis for artificial wildlife water developments would occur to increase wildlife species numbers or distribution beyond what natural water sources could support. Artificial wildlife water developments would only be used to mitigate loss of natural water sources or loss of wildlife

habitat as a result of other multiple uses. Existing artificial wildlife water developments that do not mitigate for loss of natural water sources would be removed.

2.6.7 Special Status Species

2.6.7.1 Parameter – Special Status Species Habitat

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.6.7.2 Parameter – Great Basin Riparian Habitat

Special Status Species

Pahrump poolfish
White River spinedace
Railroad Valley springfish
Big Spring spinedace
Ute ladies'-tresses

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.6.7.3 Parameter – Mojave Desert and Great Basin Riparian Habitats

Special Status Species

Southwestern willow flycatcher
Western yellow-billed cuckoo
Meadow Valley Wash desert sucker
Meadow Valley Wash speckled dace
Arizona southwestern toad

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP except livestock grazing would be excluded in the Lower Meadow Valley Wash ACEC.

2.6.7.4 Parameter – Mojave Desert Riparian Habitat

Special Status Species

White River springfish
Hiko White River springfish
Pahranagat roundtail chub

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.6.7.5 Parameter – Mojave Desert Scrub Habitat

Special Status Species

Desert tortoise
Banded Gila monster

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP except livestock grazing also would be excluded from critical and non-critical desert tortoise habitat outside the Kane Springs, Mormon Mesa, and Beaver Dam Slope ACECs (see Section 2.6.16, Livestock Grazing).

2.6.7.6 Parameter – Mojave and Great Basin Desert Scrub and Salt Desert Shrub Habitats

Special Status Species

Western burrowing owl
Sunnyside green gentian

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.6.7.7 Parameter – Great Basin Sagebrush Habitat

Special Status Species

Greater sage-grouse
Pygmy rabbit

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.6.8 Wild Horses

2.6.8.1 General Wild Horse Management

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.6.8.2 Parameter – Herd Management Area Establishment

Management Actions

Wild horses would be managed within herd management areas similar to the Proposed RMP with the portions identified for community development under the Proposed RMP retained in herd management area status (mainly Silver King and Eagle herd management areas) around Pioche.

2.6.8.3 Parameter – Population Management

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.6.9 Cultural Resources

2.6.9.1 General Cultural Resources Management

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.6.9.2 Parameter – Cultural Resource Use Allocation: Historic Roads, Trails, Railways, Highways, and Associated Sidings and Stations

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.6.9.3 Parameter – Cultural Resource Use Allocation: Rock Art Sites

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP except no fee sites would be established.

2.6.9.4 Parameter – Cultural Resource Use Allocations: Historic Townsites, Historic Mining Camps, Historic Mining Districts, and Related Historic Buildings and Standing Structures, and Historic Racetracks

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP except all National Register eligible sites with standing structures would be allocated and managed for Conservation Use and no fee sites would be established.

2.6.9.5 Parameter – Cultural Resource Use Allocations: Historic Cemeteries and Isolated Historic Gravesites

Management Actions

All sites would be managed for Conservation Use.

No fee sites would be established.

2.6.9.6 Parameter – Cultural Resource Use Allocations: Ethnic Arboreal Narratives and Graphics, and Bow Stave Trees

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.6.9.7 Parameter – Cultural Resource Use Allocations: Paleoindian Sites

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.6.9.8 Parameter – Cultural Resource Use Allocations: Formative Puebloan Sites

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.6.9.9 Parameter – Cultural Resource Use Allocations: Rockshelter and Cave Sites

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP except no fee sites would be established.

2.6.9.10 Parameter – Cultural Resource Use Allocations: Prehistoric Complex Sites, Campsites, or Specialized Activity Areas

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.6.9.11 Parameter – Cultural Resource Use Allocations: Toolstone Sources or Quarries

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.6.9.12 Parameter – Cultural Resource Use Allocations: Historic Ranching and Livestock Related Historic Sites, Buildings, Standing Structures, and Landscapes

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.6.9.13 Parameter – Cultural Resource Use Allocations: Ethnohistoric Sites, Sacred Sites, Traditional Use Areas, Traditional Cultural Properties

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.6.9.14 Parameter – Cultural Resource Use Allocations: "Other" Sites

"Other" is defined as those sites not falling into any of the above 12 site types.

Management Actions

- Management common to all cultural resource use allocations:
  - Fire potential would be evaluated and fuels would be removed where there is threat of loss.
  - Appropriate signs with information on site etiquette and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 would be posted where evidence of public use exists.
  - Use of site stewards for monitoring would be encouraged.

- Public use:
  - Due to sensitivity of some of these resources, public use on these sites (excluding the agave roasting pits) may be monitored.
- Priorities for Inventory:
  - Potential threats identified in Cultural Resource Project Plans
  - Existing designated sites

Management Actions

All National Register eligible sites would be allocated and managed for Scientific and/or Conservation Use with public use being monitored. Scientific Use would be permitted if it does not destroy features.

All of the agave roasting pits would be allocated to Scientific, Conservation, and/or Public Use.

2.6.10 Paleontological Resources

The BLM has authority to manage and protect paleontological resources under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, NEPA, and various sections of Part 43 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

2.6.10.1 General Paleontological Resource Management

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.6.10.2 Parameter – Trilobite Collecting

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.6.11 Visual Resources

Management Actions

Visual resources would be managed in accordance with the following visual resource management classes (approximate acreages – see **Map 2.6.11-1**).

Class I: 1,158,400 acres
Class II: 2,396,700 acres
Class III: 4,874,200 acres
Class IV: 3,027,300 acres

The visual resource management classes would be implemented for the entire planning area. Management classes would be based on the new inventory classes developed for the planning area.

2.6.12 Lands and Realty

2.6.12.1 Parameter – Retention

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.6.12.2 Parameter – Disposal (Sales, Exchanges, and Recreation and Public Purposes Act)

Management Actions

Only lands in identified areas would be available for potential disposal. Disposal of lands outside of identified areas to resolve unauthorized use of public lands would be considered only when there are no other practical means of resolution.

A total of 90,557 acres are identified to be available for potential disposal under this alternative: 66,379 acres in Lincoln County; 294 acres in Nye County; and 23,884 acres in White Pine County (see **Maps 2.6.12-1**, **2.6.12-2**, **2.6.12-3**, and **2.6.12-4**).

Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, Sections 203 and 209, states that sales are the preferred method of disposal. Because of the benefits of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 land sales, no new applications for Desert Land Entry, Carey Act, or Indian Allotments would be processed unless a need can be shown that prevails over the public benefit of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act.

The area inside the Haypress Allotment would continue under existing management and no disposal would occur. Up to 4,000 acres in White Pine County would be disposed of by direct sale for power plants. Forty acres located at Township 68, Range 57 East, Section 25, Northeast¼Northeast¼, would be sold by direct sale.

Criteria for Disposal Under Alternative B

- Land disposal of parcels containing National Register eligible archaeological resources or historic properties would be allowed when mitigation and/or data recovery has occurred prior to patent.

- Existing Desert Land Entry, Carey Act, and Indian Allotment applications located in designated disposal areas would be carried forward for processing. If the application is cancelled, relinquished, or rejected, the lands could not be applied for again. Any applications for Desert Land Entries, Carey Act,

or Indian Allotments located within designated disposal areas would be rejected if they are located in a closed water basin unless water rights are held.

- Land disposals would be allowed within herd management areas when they would not prohibit free roaming behavior within or between areas inside the herd management area or would not eliminate enough habitat that the herd management area could no longer support a healthy, viable herd.

- Disposals would not occur in areas with high recreation value, unless state and county entities could show an over-riding need or an approved recreation management plan.

2.6.12.3 Parameter – Acquisitions

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.6.12.4 Parameter – Withdrawals

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP except under Alternative B, 90,600 acres of land identified for disposal would be withdrawn from mineral entry.

2.6.12.5 Parameter – Corridors

Management Actions

Rights-of-way for electrical transmission lines greater than 69 kilovolts, all mainline fiber optics facilities, and all pipelines greater than 10 inches in diameter would be encouraged to be located within designated corridors.

Corridors would be managed as follows:

A. Retain a corridor 1,000 feet wide, 500 feet on either side of the centerline of the existing telephone fiber optic lines, beginning within Township 11 South, Range 71 East, Section 20 running easterly to the Arizona state line. This corridor crosses portions of the Beaver Dam Slope ACEC and the management is consistent with the Arizona Strip Field Office.

B. Designate the Falcon to Gonder corridor as 1 mile wide, as an east-west corridor to interconnect with the Ely to Utah state line portion of the Southwest Intertie Project corridor.

C. Designate the Ely to Utah state line portion of the Southwest Intertie Project corridor as 1 mile wide.

D. Designate the approved Southwest Intertie Project corridor as 1 mile wide from the Elko/White Pine County line to the point where it parallels Highway 93 and the Pahranagat Wildlife Refuge at which point it will remain 0.5 mile wide.

E. Maintain the Moapa corridor at 0.5 mile wide.

F. Maintain the corridors designated by the Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation and Development Act as 0.5 mile wide.

G. Designate a new corridor, 1 mile wide, connecting with the corridor designated by the Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation and Development Act. 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 (**Map 2.6.12-5**).

2.6.12.6 Parameter – Communication Sites

Management Actions

New communication sites would be authorized only after existing sites have reached maximum capacity.

2.6.12.7 Parameter – Land Use Authorizations (Rights-of-Way, Permits, Leases, Easements, and Unauthorized Use)

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.6.13 Renewable Energy

2.6.13.1 Parameter – Wind, Solar, and Biomass Energy

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.6.14 Travel Management and Off-highway Vehicle Use

2.6.14.1 Parameter – Transportation Plan

Management Actions

All motorized vehicle traffic would be limited to designated roads and trails except when needed for safety, required for government (federal, state, and local) administrative needs, as authorized on a permit, or otherwise officially approved. All wilderness study areas would be closed to motorized travel.

The Ely Field Office Transportation Plan would be updated through subsequent implementation-level plans. Road and trail data would be collected at the watershed level as part of the watershed analysis. As road and trail data collection is completed, a review team would be established to analyze each route and make recommendations for designations within the specific watershed based on the criteria listed in the Proposed RMP.

Greater emphasis on ecological system restoration would be placed on road and trail designations. Watersheds would be prioritized for road and trail designations based on ecological system restoration needs.

The temporary emergency off-road vehicle limitations for the Duck Creek Basin (see **Map 2.4.14-1**) would be made permanent and incorporated into the transportation plan.

Roads, routes, and trails identified as closed through a collaborative public process would be rehabilitated in their entirety to discourage continued motorized use.

2.6.14.2 Parameter – Off-highway Vehicles

Management Actions

Off-highway vehicles would be managed in accordance with the following designations (see **Map 2.4.14-2**).

- Open to cross-country off-highway vehicle use: 0 acres.

- Off-highway vehicle use limited to designated roads and trails: 10,306,500 acres.
  - Approximately 520,000 acres of desert tortoise habitat would be limited to designated roads and trails.

- Closed to off-highway vehicle use: 1,153,500 acres. This acreage reflects designated wilderness and wilderness study areas.
  - The designated closed area includes approximately 380,000 acres of desert tortoise habitat that coincides with the Mormon Mountains Wilderness, the Meadow Valley Range Wilderness, and the Delamar Mountains Wilderness.

2.6.15 Recreation

2.6.15.1 Parameter – Special Recreation Management Areas

Management Actions

Nine new special recreation management areas totaling 2,675,000 acres would be designated (see **Map 2.6.15-1** and **Table 2.6-3**).

Table 2.6-3
Special Recreation Management Areas

Special Recreation Management Areas	Acres	Primary Recreational Values
Chief Mountain	550,000	Motorized recreation
Egan Crest	52,000	Motorized recreation
Pahranagat	362,000	Heritage tourism and motorized recreation
North Delamar	235,000	Non-motorized recreation, equestrian, hiking, and mountain biking
Telegraph	255,000	Non-motorized recreation, equestrian, hiking, and mountain biking
Snake Range	99,000	Non-motorized recreation, equestrian, hiking, and mountain biking
Mount Grafton	506,000	Hunting opportunities
Area 51 off-highway vehicle	242,000	Motorized recreation
Garden Valley	374,000	Scenic values

The Loneliest Highway Special Recreation Management Area would be dropped. Within newly designated management areas, existing recreation sites would be improved, adapted, and expanded to meet growing demands for recreation opportunities. A broad recreation opportunity spectrum would be emphasized, ensuring a balance of recreation experiences. Additional recreation sites would be developed, as appropriate, to proactively manage for tourism and recreation experiences. The Ely Field Office would pursue partnerships with appropriate entities to promote and enhance recreation opportunities in the planning area.

2.6.15.2 Parameter – Special Recreation Permits

Management Actions

Outfitter and guide permits for hunting would be issued through a competitive bid process. Two special recreation permit areas totaling approximately 656,000 acres would be established to maximize opportunities for motorcycle special recreation permit events (see **Map 2.6.15-2**). A maximum of two truck events would be permitted each year on race routes subject to NEPA.

2.6.16 Livestock Grazing

Management Actions

Approximately 7,651,900 acres would be available for livestock grazing consistent with maintaining and restoring watershed function and health subject to modification associated with disposal actions. The remainder of the desert tortoise habitat within the Mojave Desert (approximately 522,010 additional acres) would be unavailable (see **Map 2.6.16-1**).

In addition to the 203,670 acres in the existing ACECs, this alternative would make unavailable an additional 522,010 acres to livestock grazing in the remaining desert tortoise habitat portion of the Mojave Desert and approximately 3,038,100 acres would be unavailable in Rocky Mountain and desert bighorn sheep habitat. Aside from these closures, the alternative also would close to livestock grazing 14,900 acres in four of the new ACECs (see Section 2.6.22), and various areas of potential land disposal as these areas are sold (see Section 2.6.12.2).

Allotments would continue to be monitored and evaluated to determine if they are continuing to meet or are making significant progress toward meeting the standards for rangeland health.

Management of relinquished permits would be handled in a flexible manner to facilitate achievement of watershed goals and rangeland health standards. If the permit for the Tamberlaine Allotment is relinquished, the allotment would be managed for wildlife.

2.6.17 Forest/Woodland and Other Plant Products

2.6.17.1 General Forest/Woodland and Other Plant Product Management

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.6.17.2 Parameter – Fuelwood Collection

Management Actions

Fuelwood collection from both live and dead trees would be allowed for personal and commercial use in designated areas only.

Species allowed for collection would be pinyon, juniper, mountain mahogany, Gambel's oak, aspen, ponderosa pine, white fir, and spruce. Harvesting live trees (except for pinyon and juniper) would be allowed on a case-by-case basis in designated areas.

Fuelwood harvest allowed in a specific area would be implemented to achieve the desired range of conditions identified in Section 2.5.5, Vegetation. Areas where fuelwood harvest would hinder achievement

of the desired range of conditions would be restricted. Areas and species available for fuelwood harvest could be adjusted during the watershed analysis process when site-specific data is available.

2.6.17.3 Parameter – Pinyon Pine Nut Harvesting

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.6.17.4 Parameter – Christmas Tree Harvesting

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.6.17.5 Parameter – Post and Pole Harvesting

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.6.17.6 Parameter – Seed Collection

Management Actions

Commercial use would be allowed on a case-by-case basis.

Hand collection methods would be encouraged, and mechanical collection would be allowed on a limited basis.

2.6.17.7 Parameter – Other Vegetation Product (i.e., wildings, boughs, etc.) Collection

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.6.17.8 Parameter – Biomass Products

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.6.18 Geology and Mineral Extraction

2.6.18.1 Parameter – General Geology and Mineral Management

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.6.18.2 Parameter – Fluid Leasable Minerals

Management Actions

See **Table 2.6-4** for a summary of the distribution of acres for Alternative B. **Map 2.6.18-1** shows the location of the leasing stipulations for this alternative. The desert tortoise lease notice would be the same as the Proposed RMP.

Table 2.6-4
Summary of Fluid Leasing

Open to Fluid Mineral Leasing	**Acres**[1]
Standard Lease Terms and Conditions	1,053,200
Moderate Restrictions	
Programmatic Surface Use/Timing	8,483,600
Standard Surface Use/Timing	429,600
Major Restrictions	
No Surface Occupancy	32,300
Open – Total	9,998,700
Closed to Fluid Mineral Leasing	
Designated Wilderness/Wilderness Study Areas	1,153,500
Discretionary Closure by the Ely Field Office	347,800
Closed – Total	1,501,300
Total	**11,500,000**

[1] Rounded to hundreds.

Open to Leasing
Under Alternative B there would be approximately 1.1 million acres open, subject to standard lease terms and conditions.

Moderate Restrictions – Programmatic Stipulations
Alternative B introduces programmatic stipulations that would apply only if the resource of concern was present at the time of ground disturbing activities. Under this alternative there would be very few areas that would not be subject to a potential programmatic resource stipulations. However, the stipulation language would allow more flexibility in protecting the resource and determining whether resource protection is really necessary. Leases and exploration permits would continue to be issued in those areas open to mineral

leasing subject to the standard lease terms and conditions. Stipulations would be attached to leases to provide broad area programmatic protection of wildlife and wildlife habitat; specifically sage-grouse, bighorn sheep, and ferruginous hawks. Programmatic stipulations also would be in place for special areas of cultural resources. For the wildlife species, the stipulations would require that any area of proposed disturbance be assessed by the Ely Field Office for the presence of that species or its habitat. If the assessment indicates that the species or habitat is not present, or likely to be present, then that wildlife stipulation would not apply. Should the assessment indicate that any of these species or special habitats is likely to occur in the proposed area of disturbance, the operator would be required to abide by the stipulation or further inventory the site. The cultural resource programmatic stipulation allows the lease holder to recognize areas of special or concentrated cultural resources that may require further mitigation.

A total of approximately 8.5 million acres would be open to leasing subject to the programmatic restrictions described above. The lease language for these specific wildlife and cultural stipulations is as follows:

Cultural Stipulation. This lease contains lands which may have cultural sites of exceptional significance or fragility and will require additional measures before surface disturbing activities can occur. Therefore, the lessee may be required to do additional mitigation and/or reclamation on any leasing activities that occur within the areas indicated.

Pony Express Trail and Lincoln Highway Stipulation. Any activity planned within the viewshed of the Pony Express and California National Historic Trails, the Historic Lincoln Highway, National Scenic and Historic Trails, listed National Register Districts, or properties eligible under Criterion a, b, and/or c, must undergo a visual assessment. Appropriate mitigation of visual impacts will be implemented as necessary to keep the setting of the management corridor in as natural condition as possible.

To meet visual management objectives for the Pony Express National Historic Trail/Overland Trail, a Section 106 consultation under the National Historic Preservation Act with the State Historic Preservation Officer for a determination of effect must be completed prior to actual operations. The consultation procedures will follow the Nevada State Protocol between the Nevada BLM and the Nevada State Historic Preservation Officer. The consultation process may involve review by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and development of a Memorandum of Agreement with the State Historic Preservation Officer and Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. These procedures may delay the operation up to 120 additional days above the 60 day timing limitations allowed under Section 6 of the lease instrument. Treatment plans and data recovery also may be required at the expense of the operator prior to approval of operations. Data recovery also may result in additional delays which may exceed 120 days in addition to the Section 106 consultation process.

Wildlife Lease Stipulations. The ferruginous hawk and sage-grouse restrictions would be in effect for the northern three quarters of the planning area and would involve almost 9 million of the 11.5 million acres of public land. The restriction for bighorn sheep would cover about 938,400 acres. Programmatic wildlife stipulations are as follows:

Greater Sage-grouse Restriction – This lease contains lands which may be occupied by greater sage-grouse which have been listed by the State of Nevada and the BLM as a sensitive species. Therefore, no surface disturbance will be allowed within an active greater sage-grouse lek. No surface use will be allowed within 2.0 miles of an active greater sage-grouse lek from midnight until 10 a.m. during the period March 15 through May 15. There may be additional limitations on other seasonal habitats in the future once more data is obtained through telemetry. The determination of activity will be made by a qualified wildlife biologist.

Ferruginous Hawk Restriction – This lease contains lands which may be occupied by ferruginous hawks which have been listed by the State of Nevada and the BLM as a sensitive species. Therefore, ferruginous hawk nest sites will not be disturbed. No surface use will be allowed within 0.5 mile of an occupied ferruginous hawk nest during the period March 1 through June 30 or until the birds have fledged (left) the nest. The determination of activity will be made by a qualified biologist.

Bighorn Sheep Lease Restriction – This lease contains lands which may be occupied by bighorn sheep. No surface use will be allowed within occupied bighorn sheep habitats during the breeding season of August 15 through November 30 and within the lambing season of February 15 to May 31. The determination of sheep activity and their presence will be made by a qualified biologist.

Minor Restrictions – Traditional Surface Use/Timing Stipulations

About 429,600 acres would be open to leasing and subject to minor constraints, primarily surface use and seasonal timing restrictions. For Alternative B, this involves only the desert tortoise habitat. The lease language for the desert tortoise habitat is as follows:

Open to Leasing with Minor Restriction (Timing)
Desert Tortoise Habitat
No surface use is allowed from March 15 to October 15. This stipulation does not apply to operation and maintenance of production facilities.

Open to Leasing with Minor Restriction (Controlled Surface Use)
Desert Tortoise Habitat
Unless otherwise authorized, access to this leasehold, and operations will be limited to the existing roads and trails. A Section 7 consultation would be completed prior to any surface disturbance.

Major Restrictions – No Surface Occupancy

About 32,300 acres would be subject to major restrictions, specifically no surface occupancy, to avoid impacts to certain wildlife, cultural resources, scenic, and natural features. This restriction would allow for directional drilling and production underneath the protected area, but there could be no actual surface disturbance within the protected boundaries. The following areas would have a no surface occupancy restriction:

Ash Springs Cultural Site
Blue Mass Scenic Area
Bristol Wells
Grapevine Canyon
Illipah Reservoir
Osceola and Osceola Ditch ACEC

Chief Mountain Trailheads
Cleve Creek
Delamar
Egan Crest Trailhead
Garrison Archaeology Site – from No Action
Garrison Archaeological Site – Expanded
Rock Animal Corral Archaeological Site ACEC
Rose Guano Bat Cave
Sacramento Pass
Shoshone Ponds Natural Area
Wildlife Protective Withdrawal

Closed to Leasing

A total of approximately 1.4 million acres would be closed to leasing. The current designated wilderness and wilderness study areas account for approximately 1.15 million acres. Closed areas outside of the designated wilderness/wilderness study areas total about 347,800 acres. These areas include the following:

Andies Mine Trilobite Site
Baker Archaeological Site ACEC
Basset Lake
Caliente Withdrawal
Cave Valley Cave Geologic Area
Charcoal Ovens Park
Chisholm Mine Trilobite Site
Cold Creek Reservoir
Condor Canyon ACEC
Comins Recreation Site
Designated Wilderness/Wilderness Study Areas
Goshute Cave Geologic Area
Honeymoon Hill/City of Rocks ACEC
Honor Camp
Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act Corridors
Lincoln County Desert Land Entries
Lincoln County Open Space
Lower Meadow Valley Wash
Kane Springs ACEC
Mount Irish ACEC
Newark Cave
Pescio Cave
Pygmy Sage ACEC
Pygmy Sage Natural Area
Ruby Land Withdrawal
Shooting Gallery ACEC
Shoshone Ponds Natural Area
Snake Creek Indian Burial Cave ACEC
Spring Valley State Park
State Park Expansions
State Prison
Steptoe Valley Wildlife Management Area
Ward Mountain Recreation Area
White Pine County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act Airport
White Pine County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act Industrial Park
White Pine County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act Withdrawals
White River Petroglyph Area
Withdrawals around communities

No geophysical exploration would be allowed in areas closed to leasing or with No Surface Occupancy.

Site-specific terms and conditions for geophysical exploration, and the conditions of approval for permits to drill, would be compiled from the complete list of Standard Terms and Conditions for Alternatives B and C that are shown in Appendix M of the Draft Ely RMP/EIS (July 2005).

2.6.18.3 Parameter – Solid Leasable Minerals

Management Actions

Table 2.6-5 summarizes the distribution of acres for Alternative B.

Table 2.6-5
Summary of Solid Leasing

	Acres[1]
Solid Leasable – Open	9,971,400
Solid Leasable – Closed	1,528,600
Total	**11,500,000**

[1] Rounded to hundreds.

Map 2.6.18-2 shows the location of the leasing stipulations for this alternative.

Alternative B would be similar to the Proposed RMP, with the following exceptions:

- Ward Mining District ACEC would be designated as 11,000 acres.
- Ward Mining District ACEC would be open with stipulations to solid leasable and locatable materials.

2.6.18.4 Parameter – Locatable Minerals

Management Actions

See **Table 2.6-6** for a summary of the distribution of acres for Alternative B.

Table 2.6-6
Summary of Locatable Minerals

	Acres[1]
Locatable Open	9,971,400
Locatable Closed	1,528,600
Total	**11,500,000**
Acres closed outside of designated wilderness/wilderness study areas	375,100

[1] Rounded to hundreds.

Map 2.6.18-2 shows the location of areas closed to locatable mineral development for this alternative.

Alternative B would be similar to the Proposed RMP, with the following exceptions:

- Ward Mining District ACEC would be designated as 11,000 acres.
- Ward Mining District ACEC would be closed to solid leasable and locatable materials.

2.6.18.5 Parameter – Mineral Materials

Management Actions

See **Table 2.6-7** for a summary of the distribution of acres for Alternative B.

Table 2.6-7
Summary of Mineral Materials

	Acres[1]
Mineral Material Open	9,318,600
Mineral Material Closed	2,181,400
Total	**11,500,000**
Acres closed outside of wilderness study areas	1,027,900

[1] Rounded to hundreds.

Map 2.6.18-3 shows the location of areas that would be closed. Total closures would be approximately 434,800 acres greater than under the Proposed RMP.

2.6.19 Watershed Management

2.6.19.1 Parameter – Allocation of Additional Forage as a Result of Restoration Actions

Management Actions

Prioritization of watershed analyses is the same as described in the Proposed RMP.

Following watershed analysis and assessment of rangeland health, additional forage would not be allocated to livestock and wild horses, but reserved for watershed maintenance and wildlife.

2.6.20 Fire Management

2.6.20.1 Parameter – Fire Management

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.6.21 Noxious and Invasive Weed Management

2.6.21.1 Parameter – Invasive and Nonnative Plant Species Management

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.6.22 Special Designations

2.6.22.1 Parameter – Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

Management Actions

Retain the three current ACECs for a total of 203,670 acres. Management prescriptions are the same as presented for Alternative A (see **Table 2.5-20**).

Designate 15 new ACECs totaling an additional 134,350 acres (see **Map 2.6.22-1** and Appendix D). See **Table 2.6-8** for specific management prescriptions.

2.6.22.2 Parameter – Back Country Byways

Management Actions

The Mount Wilson Back Country Byway would be retained. In addition to the existing Back Country Byway, the Silver State Trail would be designated as a Back Country Byway (see **Map 2.6.22-2**).

2.6.22.3 Parameter – Designated Wilderness

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.6.22.4 Parameter – Wilderness Study Areas

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.6.22.5 Parameter – Other Special Designations

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

Table 2.6-8
Management Prescriptions for Proposed ACECs

Baker Archaeological Site – 80 acres designated for the protection of prehistoric architectural sites	
Management Activities	**Management Prescriptions**
Land use authorization	Avoidance area[1]
Off-highway vehicle use	Limited[2]
Visual resource management class	III
Plant collecting	Limited[3]
Road maintenance	Limited[4]
Leasable minerals	Closed
Locatable minerals	Closed
Mineral Materials	Closed
Lands disposal	No disposal
Fire management	Open[5]
Transportation	No new roads
Livestock management	Unavailable
Fuelwood cutting	Not applicable
Renewable energy	Closed[6]
Blue Mass Scenic Area – 950 acres designated for the protection of exceptional scenic qualities	
Management Activities	**Management Prescriptions**
Land use authorization	Valid existing rights would remain in effect
Off-highway vehicle use	Limited[2]
Visual resource management class	I
Plant collecting	Limited[3]
Road maintenance	Limited[4]
Leasable minerals	No surface occupancy/Closed
Locatable minerals	Closed
Mineral Materials	Closed
Lands disposal	No disposal
Fire management	Limited[7]
Transportation	Limited, no new roads
Livestock management	Available[9]
Fuelwood cutting	Closed
Renewable energy	Closed[6]
Condor Canyon – 6,900 acres designated for the protection of the Big Spring spinedace and its designated critical habitat	
Management Activities	**Management Prescriptions**
Land use authorization	No rights-of-way except for federal reservation to manage for ACEC
Off-highway vehicle use	Limited[2]
Visual resource management class	II, III
Plant collecting	Closed
Road maintenance	Limited[4]
Leasable minerals	Open with stipulations[8]
Locatable minerals	Closed
Mineral Materials	Closed
Lands disposal	No disposal
Fire management	Limited[7]
Transportation	No new roads
Livestock management	Available[9]
Fuelwood cutting	Open[5]
Renewable energy	Closed[6]

Table 2.6-8 (Continued)

Hendry's Creek/Rock Animal Corral – 3,300 acres designated for the protection of prehistoric values	
Management Activities	**Management Prescriptions**
Land use authorization	Avoidance area[1]
Off-highway vehicle use	Limited[2]
Visual resource management class	IV
Plant collecting	Limited[3]
Road maintenance	Limited[4]
Leasable minerals	No surface occupancy
Locatable minerals	Closed
Mineral Materials	Closed
Lands disposal	No disposals
Fire management	Open[5]
Transportation	No new roads
Livestock management	Unavailable
Fuelwood cutting	Closed
Renewable energy	Closed[6]
Honeymoon Hill/City of Rocks – 3,900 acres designated for the protection of prehistoric values	
Management Activities	**Management Prescriptions**
Land use authorization	Avoidance area[1]
Off-highway vehicle use	Limited[2]
Visual resource management class	III, IV
Plant collecting	Limited[3]
Road maintenance	Limited[4]
Leasable minerals	Closed
Locatable minerals	Closed
Mineral Materials	Closed
Lands disposal	No disposals
Fire management	Open[5]
Transportation	No new roads
Livestock management	Available[9]
Fuelwood cutting	Open[5]
Renewable energy	Closed[6]
Lower Meadow Valley Wash – 39,000 acres designated for the protection of the southwestern willow flycatcher, western yellow-billed cuckoo, Meadow Valley Wash desert sucker, Meadow Valley Wash speckled dace, and Arizona southwestern toad	
Management Activities	**Management Prescriptions**
Land use authorization	Avoidance area[1]
Off-highway vehicle use	Limited[2]
Visual resource management class	II, III, IV
Plant collecting	Closed
Road maintenance	Limited[4]
Leasable minerals	Open with stipulations[8]
Locatable minerals	Open with stipulations[8]
Mineral Materials	Open with stipulations[8]
Lands disposal	No disposals
Fire management	Limited[7]
Transportation	No new roads
Livestock management	Available[9]
Fuelwood cutting	Closed
Renewable energy	Closed[6]

Table 2.6-8 (Continued)

Mount Irish – 26,200 acres designated for the protection of historic values including historic mine and mill sites and prehistoric values including petroglyphs, lithic scatters, pottery scatters, and pictographs	
Management Activities	**Management Prescriptions**
Land use authorization	Avoidance area[1]; valid existing rights would remain in effect
Off-highway vehicle use	Limited[2]
Visual resource management class	I, II, III
Plant collecting	Limited[3]
Road maintenance	Limited[4]
Leasable minerals	No surface occupancy/Closed
Locatable minerals	Closed
Mineral Materials	Closed
Lands disposal	No disposals
Fire management	Open[5]
Transportation	No new roads
Livestock management	Available[9]
Fuelwood cutting	Open
Renewable energy	Closed[6]
Osceola/Osceola Ditch – 14,600 acres designated for the protection of historic values	
Land use authorization	Avoidance area[1]
Off-highway vehicle use	Limited[2]
Visual resource management class	I, II, III
Plant collecting	Limited[3]
Road maintenance	Limited[4]
Leasable minerals	Open with stipulations[8]
Locatable minerals	Open with stipulations[8]
Mineral Materials	Open with stipulations[8]
Lands disposal	No disposal
Fire management	Open[5]
Transportation	No new roads
Livestock management	Available[5]
Fuelwood cutting	Open
Renewable energy	Closed[6]
Pahroc Rock Art – 3,200 acres designated for the protection of prehistoric values including petroglyphs, rock shelters, and other artifacts	
Management Activities	**Management Prescriptions**
Land use authorization	Avoidance area[1]
Off-highway vehicle use	Limited[2]
Visual resource management class	I, II, III
Plant collecting	Limited[3]
Road maintenance	Limited[4]
Leasable minerals	Open with stipulations[8]
Locatable minerals	Closed
Mineral Materials	Closed
Lands disposal	No disposals
Fire management	Open[5]
Transportation	No new roads
Livestock management	Available[5]
Fuelwood cutting	Open[5]
Renewable energy	Closed[6]

Table 2.6-8 (Continued)

Rose Guano Bat Cave – 40 acres designated for the protection of the Brazilian free-tailed bat, a BLM sensitive species	
Management Activities	**Management Prescriptions**
Land use authorization	Avoidance area[1]
Off-highway vehicle use	Limited[2]
Visual resource management class	II
Plant collecting	Limited[3]
Road maintenance	Limited[4]
Leasable minerals	No surface occupancy
Locatable minerals	Closed
Mineral Materials	Closed
Lands disposal	No disposals
Fire management	Open[5]
Transportation	No new roads
Livestock management	Available[5]
Fuelwood cutting	Open[5]
Renewable energy	Closed[6]
Shooting Gallery – 20,700 acres designated for the protection of prehistoric values including rock art sites, habitation areas, and a game-drive complex	
Management Activities	**Management Prescriptions**
Land use authorization	Avoidance area[1]; valid existing rights would remain in effect
Off-highway vehicle use	Limited[2]
Visual resource management class[8]	II, III
Plant collecting	Limited[3]
Road maintenance	Limited[4]
Leasable minerals	No surface occupancy/Closed
Locatable minerals	Closed
Mineral Materials	Closed
Lands disposal	No disposals
Fire management	Open[5]
Transportation	No new roads
Livestock management	Available[9]
Fuelwood cutting	Open[5]
Renewable energy	Closed[6]
Shoshone Ponds – 1,240 acres designated for the protection of the Pahrump poolfish	
Management Activities	**Management Prescriptions**
Land use authorization	Exclusion area; rights-of-way would not be granted within the area
Off-highway vehicle use	Limited[2]
Visual resource management class	III
Plant collecting	Closed
Road maintenance	Limited[4]
Leasable minerals	No surface occupancy
Locatable minerals	Closed
Mineral materials	Closed
Lands disposal	No disposals
Fire management	Limited[7]
Transportation	Limited
Livestock management	Available[9]
Fuelwood cutting	Closed
Renewable energy	Closed[6]

Table 2.6-8 (Continued)

Snake Creek Indian Burial Cave – 40 acres designated for the protection of zooarchaeology, geology, and archaeology	
Management Activities	**Management Prescriptions**
Land use authorization	Avoidance area[1]
Off-highway vehicle use	Limited[2]
Visual resource management class	III
Plant collecting	Limited[3]
Road maintenance	Limited[4]
Leasable minerals	No surface occupancy
Locatable minerals	Closed
Mineral Materials	Closed
Lands disposal	No disposals
Fire management	Open[5]
Transportation	No new roads
Livestock management	Unavailable
Fuelwood cutting	Not applicable
Renewable energy	Closed[6]
Swamp Cedar – 3,200 acres designated for the protection of rare plant species including Rocky Mountain juniper and the slender thelopody, prehistoric sites, and the site of the Goshute War of 1863	
Management Activities	**Management Prescriptions**
Land use authorization	Valid existing rights would remain in effect
Off-highway vehicle use	Limited[2]
Visual resource management class	III
Plant collecting	Closed
Road maintenance	Limited[4]
Leasable minerals	No surface occupancy
Locatable minerals	Closed
Mineral Materials	Closed
Lands disposal	No disposals
Fire management	Limited[7]
Transportation	Limited
Livestock management	Available[5]
Fuelwood cutting	Closed
Renewable energy	Closed[6]

Table 2.6-8 (Continued)

Ward Mining District – 11,000 acres designated for the protection of historic values including smelters, a mill, and charcoal ovens	
Management Activities	**Management Prescriptions**
Land use authorization	Avoidance area[1]
Off-highway vehicle use	Limited[2]
Visual resource management class	II
Plant collecting	Limited[3]
Road maintenance	Limited[4]
Leasable minerals	Open with stipulations[8]
Locatable minerals	Closed
Mineral Materials	Closed
Lands disposal	No disposals
Fire management	Open[5]
Transportation	No new roads
Livestock management	Unavailable
Fuelwood cutting	Closed
Renewable energy	Closed[6]

[1] Avoidance area; granting rights-of-way (surface, subsurface, aerial) within the area should be avoided, but rights-of-way may be granted if there is minimal conflict with identified resource values and impacts can be mitigated.

[2] Off-highway vehicle use would be limited to designated roads and trails.

[3] Plant materials, including common species, may be collected by permit only.

[4] Road maintenance would be limited to the designated roadway; shoulder barrow/ditch construction would be limited to only that necessary to ensure public safety and serviceability of the road.

[5] The activity is allowed in the area. NEPA compliance and clearances for cultural resources and threatened and endangered species required for some activities. Mineral activity is subject to standard stipulations (where appropriate), NEPA compliance, and application of site-specific controls. Standard terms and conditions of the grazing permits would apply.

[6] Closed to renewable energy facilities. Avoidance area for ancillary rights-of-way for access roads, transmission lines, and pipelines.

[7] Limits could be placed on fire management activities.

[8] Open with special stipulations. Open to mineral development activities subject to controlled surface use, seasonal timing restrictions, and/or restricted or no uses in avoidance areas (e.g., riparian areas, live water, areas with special wildlife or plant features, and sensitive viewsheds).

[9] Livestock grazing would be controlled through terms and conditions on the grazing permit.

2.7 Alternative C

2.7.1 Overview of Alternative C

Alternative C would emphasize commodity production and production of food, fiber, minerals, and services, including provisions for several types of recreation. Under this alternative, constraints on commodity production for the protection of sensitive resources would be the least restrictive possible within the limits defined by law, regulation, and BLM policy, including the Endangered Species Act, cultural resource protection laws, and wetland preservation. The descriptions that follow are arranged by resource or resource use and will only describe the differences from the Proposed RMP.

2.7.2 Air Resources

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.7.3 Water Resources

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.7.4 Soil Resources

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.7.5 Vegetation Resources

2.7.5.1 General Vegetation Management

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.7.5.2 Parameter – Pinyon-Juniper Woodlands

Management Actions

Pinyon-juniper communities would be managed to achieve phases that would provide more products for commercial use (e.g., herbaceous state for grazing). There would be allowance for some areas to occur

outside the desired range of conditions, but management actions would strive to direct those communities toward phases that would maximize production of the most common commercial products (e.g., grazing). As demand for forest/woodland products (e.g., firewood, fence posts, Christmas trees, chipped fuel) increases, management would shift from more herbaceous phase to the immature or mature phase. **Table 2.7-1** reflects an average of phases desired, should the demand for biomass products continue to increase along with current demand for grazing.

Table 2.7-1
Desired Range of Conditions of Pinyon-Juniper (Distribution of Woodland Phases and States)

State and Phase	Herbaceous State	Herbaceous State (Immature Woodland Phase)	Tree State (Mature Woodland Phase)	Tree State (Overmature Woodland Phase)[1]	Altered State
Canopy Description[2]	0 to 10% canopy cover-includes herbaceous, herbaceous-shrub, and sapling phase	11 to 20% canopy cover	21 to 35% canopy cover	>36 to 50% canopy cover	Site dominated by invasive species or weeds
LANDFIRE classes	A and B	C	D and E	E	Uncharacteristic
Alternative C[3]	40% 1,437,360 acres)	35% (1,257,700 acres)	20% (718,700 acres)	<5% (<179,700 acres)	0% (0 acres)

[1] Overmature woodland refers to woodlands exhibiting greater than 35 percent canopy cover. This classification is not the same as "old growth" although the two classifications may coincide in some situations.
[2] Canopy descriptions derived from Natural Resource Conservation Service Ecological Site Descriptions.
[3] This alternative approximates and incorporates the LANDFIRE Biophysical Settings models for Great Basin Pinyon-juniper Woodland. Altered state is an uncharacteristic condition not recognized by LANDFIRE Biophysical Settings models but is part of current conditions.

Priority treatments would occur in areas in the overmature phase. The most common tools used to meet the desired range of conditions would include mechanical methods (e.g., chipping, chaining, sawing, mowing, mulching). Treatment methods would emphasize the use of commercial activities (e.g., grazing, selling biomass, etc.) to achieve the desired range of conditions. If demand, feasibility, and access are limited and would prevent efficient mechanical treatments, prescribed fire or chemical treatment would be implemented. Land uses would be managed, or treatments applied, to maintain areas that are currently meeting desired conditions.

Any seeding necessary for restoration or rehabilitation purposes would be implemented using appropriate mixes of desired species adapted to the site. Seed mixes would be determined on a site-specific basis dependent on the probability of successful establishment. Preference would be to use species that would compete with annual invasive species and provide sustainable products.

2.7.5.3 Parameter – Aspen

Management Actions

Aspen sites would be managed to achieve phases (see **Table 2.7-2**) that support commodity production (e.g., livestock forage, poles, and firewood). The Immature Woodland Phase would produce the best poles

and herbaceous component for commodity uses. Regeneration of aspen in areas of suitable site potential would be protected by use restrictions or other protection measures such as allowing grazing and aspen harvest to occur outside the growing season. Specific protection measures would be selected and applied on a site-specific basis. Harvest quantities of both the herbaceous understory and tree overstory would be restricted to levels that would maintain or increase aspen within the planning area. Uses would only be allowed in areas where sustainable production exists.

Table 2.7-2
Desired Range of Conditions of Aspen (Distribution of Phases and States)

State and Phase	Herbaceous State (Herbaceous, and Herbaceous-Shrub and Sapling Phase)	Herbaceous State (Immature Woodland Phase)	Tree State (Mature Woodland Phase)	Tree State (Overmature Woodland Phase)
Canopy Cover[1]	0 to 15% tree canopy cover	16 to 29% tree canopy cover.	30 to 45% tree canopy cover	45% or greater tree canopy cover (includes conifer dominated)
LANDFIRE classes	A	B	C and D	D and E
Alternative C[2]	15% (1,050 acres)	55% (3,850 acres)	30% (2,100 acres)	<1% (<70 acres)

[1] Canopy cover determined from Natural Resource Conservation Service Ecological Site Descriptions.
[2] This alternative approximates and incorporates the LANDFIRE Biophysical Setting Models for Rocky Mountain aspen forest and Inter-mountain Basin aspen-mixed conifer forest and woodland. Description of LANDFIRE CLASSES can be found at www.landfire.gov.

Priority treatment areas and commonly used tools would be the same as identified for the Proposed RMP.

Any seeding necessary for restoration or rehabilitation purposes would be implemented using appropriate mixes of desired species adapted to the site. Seed mixes would be determined on a site-specific basis dependent on the probability of successful establishment. Preference would be to use native or nonnative species that are adapted to the site, capable of competing with annual invasive species, and able to provide sustainable products for multiple uses.

2.7.5.4 Parameter – High Elevation Conifer Species

Management Actions

In accessible sites, high elevation conifers would be managed for commodity products (e.g., biomass, timber, grazing). The majority of the accessible sites would be managed toward the mature or herbaceous phases as shown in **Table 2.7-3**. Inaccessible sites would be managed for other phases listed in **Table 2.7-3**.

Table 2.7-3
Desired Range of Conditions of High Elevation Conifer (Distribution of States and Phases)

State and Phase	Herbaceous State, (Herbaceous, and Herbaceous/Sapling Phase)	Herbaceous State (Immature Phase)	Tree State (Mature Phase)	Tree State (Overmature Phase)[1]
Canopy Cover[2]	0 to 15% canopy Cover	16 to 31% canopy cover	31 to 40% canopy cover	41 to 60% canopy cover
LANDFIRE classes	A	B	C	C
Alternative C[3]	45% (25,200 acres)	35% (19,600 acres)	20% (11,200 acres)	<1% (<560 acres)

[1] Overmature high elevation conifer refers to stands with canopy cover exceeding 40 percent. This classification is not the same as "old growth," although the two classifications may coincide in some situations.
[2] Canopy cover derived from Natural Resource Conservation Service Ecological Site Descriptions.
[3] This alternative approximates and incorporates the LANDFIRE Biophysical Setting Models for Inter-Mountain white fir limber-bristlecone pine woodland (47,000 acres).

Treatments would concentrate in areas where canopy cover has increased beyond 40 percent (Overmature Phase). Most common tools for treatment would consist of mechanical methods in accessible areas and fire in inaccessible areas. Herbicides also would be a common tool, especially in areas where invasive species occur. Treatment methods would emphasize use of commercial activities (e.g., grazing, selling biomass, etc.) to achieve desired range of conditions.

Desired range of conditions for ponderosa pine is the same as the Proposed RMP.

2.7.5.5 Parameter – Salt Desert Shrub

Management Actions

Management would strive to achieve the desired range of conditions shown in **Table 2.7-4**. The overall goal of this alternative would be to emphasize herbaceous production in plant and animal community health at the landscape level. Management priority would be to enhance commodity production including forage for livestock and habitat requirements for game species, especially habitat required for special status and/or threatened and endangered species as mandated. Management would be to maintain diverse mosaics and connectivity of saltbush between geographic areas at mid and fine scales (watershed and allotment/project).

The annual invasive/exotic state would be a high priority for active rehabilitation using adapted perennial species which would lead to future restoration opportunities. Objectives for rehabilitation would be to stabilize soil surfaces to reduce erosion, minimize establishment of annual invasive species, and provide additional forage for livestock. This also would necessitate the use of temporary fencing and the area would be unavailable to livestock in the short-term (approximately 2 years).

Table 2.7-4
Desired Range of Conditions of Salt Desert Shrub (Distribution of Phases and States)

Habitat Type	Herbaceous State	Shrub State	Altered State Annual Invasive/Exotic State	Altered State Perennial Nonnative Seeded
LANDFIRE classes	A	B and C	Uncharacteristic	Uncharacteristic
Alternative C[1]	32% (390,700 acres)	50% (610,500 acres)	0% (0 acres)	18% (219,800 acres)

[1] This alternative approximates and incorporates the LANDFIRE Biophysical Setting Models for Inter-Mountain Basins mixed salt desert shrub and Inter-Mountain Basins greasewood flat. Altered state (invasive species/weeds) is an uncharacteristic condition not recognized by LANDFIRE Biophysical Setting Models but is part of current conditions.

Any seeding necessary for restoration or rehabilitation purposes would be implemented using appropriate mixes of desired species adapted to the site. Seed mixes would be determined on a site-specific basis dependent on the probability of successful establishment. Preference would be to use native and adapted species that can compete with annual invasive species.

The most common tools to be used would include mechanical and herbicide treatments. Fire would not be considered a useful tool to use in this vegetation type and other management actions (e.g., change in seasonal use or kind and class of livestock) would be emphasized as a means of treatment in these vegetation communities except in the annual invasive/exotic states where this is not effective.

2.7.5.6 Parameter – Sagebrush (basin big sagebrush, Wyoming big sagebrush, mountain big sagebrush, and black sagebrush)

Management Actions

Management would focus on achieving high productivity of commodity values while maintaining and enhancing ecological health and resilience. Under this alternative, emphasis would be on establishment and maintenance of the herbaceous state or seedings to increase forage production.

The preferred tools for reducing sagebrush cover would be mechanical in lower elevations and prescribed burning in higher elevations. Seeding would be used where the understory is not sufficient for re-establishment.

Treatments would be applied where necessary to attain the distribution of vegetation states shown in **Table 2.7-5** over the long term. Common tools for treatment would include herbicides, mechanical methods, and prescribed fire.

Table 2.7-5
Desired Range of Conditions of Sagebrush (Distribution of Phases and States)

State/Phase Name	Total Herbaceous State (Early, Mid, and Late Phases)[1]	Total Shrub State	Total Tree State	Altered State Annual/Perennial Invasive	Altered State Nonnative Perennial Seeded
LANDFIRE classes	A, B, and C	D	E	Uncharacteristic	Uncharacteristic
Alternative C[2]	45% (2,528,800 acres)	5% (281,000 acres)	0% (0 acres)	0% (0 acres)	50% (2,809,800 acres)

[1] Sagebrush in the mid-late phase of the herbaceous state is desired for wildlife habitat.
[2] This alternative approximates and incorporates the LANDFIRE Biophysical Setting Models for Great Basin xeric mixed sagebrush and Inter-Mountain Basin big sagebrush. Altered states (annual/perennial invasive and nonnative perennial seeded) are an uncharacteristic condition not recognized by LANDFIRE Biophysical Setting Models but are part of current conditions.

The overall goal of this alternative would be to maximize sustainable commodity production within the plant community at the mid scale (watershed level) and fine scale (allotment/project), while providing habitat requirements of game species and special status and/or threatened and endangered species as mandated. Thus, the alternative would emphasize herbaceous production in healthy plant communities at the landscape level. To achieve the desired range of conditions, management would include a variety of methods to increase or decrease sagebrush overstory.

Any seeding necessary for restoration or rehabilitation purposes would be implemented using appropriate mixes of desired species adapted to the site. Seed mixes would be determined on a site-specific basis dependent on the probability of successful establishment. Herbicides would be the preferred tool for controlling invasive and noxious weeds. Preference would be to use native species that would compete with annual invasive species.

2.7.5.7 Parameter – Mountain Mahogany

Management Actions

Mountain mahogany sites would be managed to achieve the phases with the greatest potential for commodity production (e.g., herbaceous state for livestock and big game forage). Management actions would maintain or direct mountain mahogany sites toward the ecological phases listed in **Table 2.7-6**. Wildlife habitat needs would receive the highest priority consideration in designated critical habitat areas only. The overall goal of this alternative would be to emphasize commodity production in accessible areas, while maintaining vegetation resiliency at the watershed scale.

Areas with diminishing understory (i.e., shrub/tree-like dominant state) and the presence of invasive species would be priority areas for treatment. The most common tools to be used to treat sites would include prescribed fire, mechanical (e.g., woodcutting), herbicides, and cultural (e.g., livestock grazing) methods. Herbicides would be a common treatment option, especially in areas where invasive species are present or have a high probability of becoming established. Emphasis would be placed on use of commercial activities (e.g., grazing and woodcutting) to achieve the desired range of conditions.

Table 2.7-6
Desired Range of Conditions of Mountain Mahogany (Distribution of Phases and States)

State and Phase	Herbaceous State (Herbaceous Phase)	Shrub State (Shrub/ Herbaceous Phase)	Shrub State (Shrub Phase)	Shrub/Tree-like State (No Understory Phase)[1]
Canopy Cover[2] LANDFIRE classes	0-15% mahogany canopy cover A and C	15-25% mahogany canopy cover (desired mix of herbaceous and shrub species in understory) B	30-45% mahogany canopy cover (approaching threshold with no understory) D	45-60% mahogany cover (shrub/tree-like and tree dominant) E
Alternative C[3]	65% (29,900 acres)	20% (9,200 acres)	15% (6,900 acres)	<1% (<460 acres)

[1] Refers to savanna sites.
[2] Canopy cover determined from Natural Resource Conservation Service Ecological Site Descriptions.
[3] This alternative approximates and incorporates the LANDFIRE Biophysical Setting Models for Inter-Mountain Basins Mountain Mahogany woodland and shrubland.

Any seeding necessary for restoration or rehabilitation would be implemented using appropriate mixes of desired species adapted to the site. Seed mixes would be determined on a site-specific basis dependent on the probability of successful establishment. Preference would be to use native species that are adapted to the site, capable of competing with annual invasive species, and capable of providing sustainable products for multiple uses.

2.7.5.8 Parameter – Mojave Desert Vegetation

Management Actions

Management would strive to achieve the desired range of conditions as listed above with an emphasis on herbaceous species that would provide watershed protection and commodity values (e.g., forage for livestock within those areas remaining open to livestock grazing). Protection and treatment would be the same as Alternative B. Appropriate treatments of annual invasive species would be with herbicides, use of prescribed burning to prevent reburn cycle, and re-seeding with native species suitable for tortoise.

The Alternative C rows of **Table 2.7-7** indicate that approximately 54,825 acres or 15 percent of the area occupied by the creosotebush/bursage type would be treated to remove or control annual invasive species, and the remaining 85 percent of the acreage primarily would be maintained to achieve the desired range of conditions identified for Alternative C. Areas currently in the herbaceous state would be intensively managed to facilitate conversion to the shrub state.

The Alternative C rows of **Table 2.7-8** indicate that approximately 38,250 acres or 10 percent of the area occupied by the blackbrush type would be treated to remove or control annual invasive species, and the remaining 90 percent of the acreage primarily would be maintained to achieve the desired range of conditions identified for Alternative C. Areas currently in the herbaceous state would be intensively managed to facilitate conversion to the shrub state.

Table 2.7-7
Desired Range of Conditions of Creosotebush and Bursage
(Distribution of Phases and States)

Habitat Type	Herbaceous State	Shrub State	Altered State (Annual Invasive and Exotics)	Perennial Nonnative Seeded State
LANDFIRE Classes	A	B	Uncharacteristic	Uncharacteristic
Alternative C[1]	15% (54,825 acres)	70% (255,850 acres)	0% (0 acres)	15% (54,825 acres)

[1] In creosotebush/bursage communities, the herbaceous state and shrub state will correspond respectively to Class A and Class B as given in the LANDFIRE Biophysical Setting Model for Sonora-Mojave creosotebush-white bursage description. Altered states are an uncharacteristic condition not recognized by LANDFIRE Biophysical Settings models but are part of current conditions.

Table 2.7-8
Desired Range of Conditions of Blackbrush (Distribution of Phases and States)

Habitat Type	Herbaceous State	Shrub State	Altered State (annual invasive and exotics)	Perennial Nonnative Seeded State
LANDFIRE Classes	A	B	Uncharacteristic	Uncharacteristic
Alternative C	15% (57,375 acres)	75% (286,875 acres)	0% (0 acres)	10% (38,250 acres)

[1] The herbaceous state and shrub state will correspond respectively to Class A and Class B as given in the LANDFIRE Biophysical Setting Model for Mojave mid-elevation desert scrub. Altered states are an uncharacteristic condition not recognized by LANDFIRE Biophysical Settings models but are part of current conditions.

2.7.5.9 Parameter – Riparian/Wetlands

Desired Range of Conditions

The Ely Field Office is directed to follow the appropriate rangeland health standards, which in the case of the Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council, states, “Riparian and wetland areas exhibit a properly functioning condition and achieve state water quality criteria.” In addition to achieving riparian proper functioning condition, composition, structure, and cover of riparian vegetation would occur within potential of the site. Ground cover and species composition would be appropriate to the site. Riparian areas with free-flowing water (i.e., undeveloped springs) that are non-functional or functioning at risk would show improving trends toward proper functioning condition. Factors that prevent proper functioning condition have been addressed and mitigated, whenever possible. Restoration or maintenance of riparian areas would be a management priority applicable to all alternatives.

Management Actions

Management would focus on maintaining or restoring plant community structure and composition of desired species of grasses, forbs, and shrubs on all riparian habitats within site potential while providing for commodity production. This management would require vegetation structure and diversity commensurate with the site potential, thereby restoring plant and animal communities that are reliant on these riparian areas and providing for proper canopy and uneven-aged stands of key woody plants. Habitats would be maintained or improved and commodity production activities would be provided for in this context. The use of herbicides and changing the season of use could be among the tools used.

2.7.5.10 Parameter – Nonnative Seedings

Management Actions

In this alternative, the majority of the area would be managed in the herbaceous state to provide high forage productivity. Canopy cover of sagebrush allowed for seedings would be 0 to 5 percent.

Management actions would maintain or direct nonnative seedings toward the phases and states listed in **Table 2.7-9**.

Table 2.7-9
Desired Range of Conditions of Seedings (Distribution of Phases and States)

Habitat Type	Herbaceous State	Shrub State	Tree State	Altered State (Annual Invasive)
Alternative C	85% (229,000 acres)	15% (40,400 acres)	0% (0 acres)	0% (0 acres)

2.7.6 Fish and Wildlife

2.7.6.1 General Wildlife Habitat Management (Aquatic and Terrestrial)

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP except:

Priority species would be those game species that offer the greatest recreational opportunities and economic stimulus to local economies.

Restoration would focus on converting healthy shrub and woodland communities to a mostly herbaceous state or an altered nonnative perennial seeded state.

2.7.6.2 Parameter – Elk, Mule Deer, Pronghorn Antelope, and Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep Habitats

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP except:

No timing restrictions within priority habitats would be implemented.

Restoration projects would not focus on priority wildlife habitats or other seasonal habitats.

Maintenance and restoration of sagebrush communities would emphasize the early phase of the herbaceous state.

Additional forage created through restoration projects would be allocated to livestock, but also would provide some forage for wildlife and wild horses (inside herd management areas).

Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep habitat would be managed in all occupied ranges, including Mount Grafton.

2.7.6.3 Parameter – Desert Bighorn Sheep Habitat

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.7.6.4 Parameter – Migratory Bird Habitat

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.7.6.5 Parameter – Wildlife Water Developments

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP except the only criteria that will be used for artificial water developments would be to expand suitable habitats and increase the number and distribution of economically significant wildlife populations to provide increased recreational opportunities. Artificial wildlife water developments would be maximized under Alternative C.

2.7.7 Special Status Species

2.7.7.1 Parameter – Special Status Species Habitat

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP except:

Special status species management would address an immediate need or habitat niche for the maintenance, mitigation, or restoration of a single special status species. Special status species management would be implemented on a case-by-case basis predominately at the fine scale (i.e., allotment, project, portion of a watershed), and occasionally at the planning area level.

Only ferruginous hawks, and no other raptors, would receive protection as a result of a timing limitation and no surface occupancy stipulation on mineral leases.

Restoration actions for bats would be emphasized only in areas where no conflicts with commodity objectives occur.

The Ely Cave Management Plan would be updated to minimize and mitigate impacts to bat roosts from caving, as needed.

2.7.7.2 Parameter – Great Basin Riparian Habitat

Special Status Species

Pahrump poolfish
White River spinedace
Railroad Valley springfish
Big Spring spinedace
Ute ladies'-tresses

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP with the exception of the following actions.

The current fence around Shoshone Ponds would be maintained, but not expanded. The uplands would not be managed to prevent excessive siltation into the ponds. Additional ponds would not be developed.

Condor Canyon would be managed as a multiple-use area, with managed recreational development in addition to managing for the Big Spring spinedace.

Management for the Ute ladies'-tresses would occur only if the species is documented in the planning area through some other activity.

2.7.7.3 Parameter – Mojave Desert and Great Basin Riparian Habitats

Special Status Species

Southwestern willow flycatcher
Western yellow-billed cuckoo
Meadow Valley Wash desert sucker
Meadow Valley Wash speckled dace
Arizona southwestern toad

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.7.7.4 Parameter – Mojave Desert Riparian Habitat

Special Status Species

White River springfish
Hiko White River springfish
Pahranagat roundtail chub

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.7.7.5 Parameter – Mojave Desert Scrub Habitat

Special Status Species

Desert tortoise
Banded Gila monster

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP except active season for desert tortoise would be from March 15 to October 15.

2.7.7.6 Parameter – Mojave and Great Basin Desert Scrub and Salt Desert Shrub Habitats

Special Status Species

Western burrowing owl
Sunnyside green gentian

Management Actions

Same as Alternative A.

2.7.7.7 Parameter – Great Basin Sagebrush Habitat

Special Status Species

Greater sage-grouse
Pygmy rabbit

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP with the exception of the following actions.

Sagebrush habitat restoration would be emphasized in areas that have the greatest potential to provide additional livestock forage, while stabilizing greater sage-grouse populations.

Greater sage-grouse leks would not receive protection from a no surface occupancy stipulation on mineral leases, only protection from a timing limitation.

2.7.8 Wild Horses

2.7.8.1 General Wild Horse Management

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.7.8.2 Parameter – Herd Management Area Establishment

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.7.8.3 Parameter – Population Management

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.7.9 Cultural Resources

2.7.9.1 General Cultural Resources Management

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.7.9.2 Parameter – Cultural Resource Use Allocation: Historic Roads, Trails, Railways, Highways, and Associated Sidings and Stations

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP except fee sites would be established for all properties allocated and managed for Public Use.

2.7.9.3 Parameter – Cultural Resource Use Allocation: Rock Art Sites

Management Actions

All National Register eligible rock art sites with no evidence of public use would be allocated and managed for Conservation Use and development of interpretative sites would be continued with priority placed on maintaining and improving existing interpretative facilities.

National Register eligible rock art sites managed for Public Use would be established as fee sites. American Indians would be exempt from fees only when visiting rock art sites for religious practices.

2.7.9.4 Parameter – Cultural Resource Use Allocations: Historic Townsites, Historic Mining Camps, Historic Mining Districts, and Related Historic Buildings and Standing Structures, and Historic Racetracks

Management Actions

All National Register eligible sites with standing structures or evidence of vandalism would be allocated and managed for Public Use and all other National Register eligible sites would be allocated and managed for Scientific and/or Conservation Use.

Fee sites would be established at Public Use sites as appropriate.

2.7.9.5 Parameter – Cultural Resource Use Allocations: Historic Cemeteries and Isolated Historic Gravesites

Management Actions

All sites would be allocated and managed for Public Use.

Fee sites would be established at Public Use sites as appropriate.

2.7.9.6 Parameter – Cultural Resource Use Allocations: Ethnic Arboreal Narratives and Graphics, and Bow Stave Trees

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.7.9.7 Parameter – Cultural Resource Use Allocations: Paleoindian Sites

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.7.9.8 Parameter – Cultural Resource Use Allocations: Formative Puebloan Sites

Management Actions

All National Register eligible sites would be allocated and managed for Scientific, Conservation, and/or Public Use.

Fee sites would be established at Public Use sites as appropriate.

2.7.9.9 Parameter – Cultural Resource Use Allocations: Rockshelter and Cave Sites

Management Actions

All National Register eligible sites would be allocated and managed for Scientific, Conservation, and/or Public Use.

No more than one fee site per watershed would be established for sites managed for Public Use.

2.7.9.10 Parameter – Cultural Resource Use Allocations: Prehistoric Complex Sites, Campsites, or Specialized Activity Areas

Management Actions

Seventy percent of the National Register eligible sites would be allocated and managed for Conservation and/or Scientific Use and up to 30 percent of the sites per watershed would be allocated and managed for Experimental Use.

2.7.9.11 Parameter – Cultural Resource Use Allocations: Toolstone Sources or Quarries

Management Actions

All National Register eligible obsidian toolstone sources/quarries would be allocated and managed for Scientific and/or Conservation Use; 70 percent of all other National Register eligible material sources/quarries would be allocated and managed for Scientific and/or Conservation Use; and up to 30 percent of all other National Register eligible material sources/quarries per watershed would be allocated and managed for Experimental Use.

2.7.9.12 Parameter – Cultural Resource Use Allocations: Historic Ranching and Livestock Related Historic Sites, Buildings, Standing Structures, and Landscapes

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.7.9.13 Parameter – Cultural Resource Use Allocations: Ethnohistoric Sites, Sacred Sites, Traditional Use Areas, Traditional Cultural Properties

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.7.9.14 Parameter – Cultural Resource Use Allocations: “Other” Sites

“Other” is defined as those sites not falling into any of the above 12 site types.

Management Actions

- Management common to all cultural resource use allocations:
  - Fire potential would be evaluated and fuels would be removed where there is threat is loss.
  - Appropriate signs with information on site etiquette and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 would be posted where evidence of public use exists.
  - Use of site stewards for monitoring would be encouraged.
- Public use:
  - Due to sensitivity of some of these resources, public use on these sites (excluding the agave roasting pits) may be monitored.
- Priorities for Inventory:
  - Potential threats identified in Cultural Resource Project Plans
  - Existing designated sites

Management Actions

All National Register eligible sites would be allocated and managed for Scientific and/or Conservation Use with public use being monitored. Scientific Use would be permitted if it does not destroy features.

All of the agave roasting pits would be allocated to Scientific, Conservation, and/or Public Use.

2.7.10 Paleontological Resources

The BLM has authority to manage and protect paleontological resources under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, NEPA, and various sections of Part 43 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

2.7.10.1 General Paleontological Resource Management

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.7.10.2 Parameter – Trilobite Collecting

Management Actions

A fee-based registration system would be established.

2.7.11 Visual Resources

Management Actions

Visual resources would be managed in accordance with the following visual resource management classes (approximate acreages – see **Map 2.7.11-1**).

Class I: 1,158,400 acres
Class II: 2,421,500 acres
Class III: 5,020,500 acres
Class IV: 2,856,200 acres

The visual resource management inventory classes would be implemented for the entire planning area. Management classes would be based on the new inventory classes developed for the planning area.

2.7.12 Lands and Realty

2.7.12.1 Parameter – Retention

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.7.12.2 Parameter – Disposal (Sales, Exchanges, and Recreation and Public Purposes Act)

Management Actions

Land disposal would be balanced with restoration while emphasizing commercial and economic development. Areas identified for potential disposal that lie adjacent to communities would have less emphasis placed on landscape restoration and protection, and more emphasis placed on environmentally responsible community and economic development.

A total of 295,181 acres are identified to be available for potential disposal under this alternative: 203,121 acres in Lincoln County; 3,891 acres in Nye County; and 88,169 acres in White Pine County (see **Maps 2.7.12-1**, **2.7.12-2**, **2.7.12-3**, and **2.7.12-4**). Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, Sections 203 and 209, state that sales are the preferred method of disposal.

The amount of acreage identified in Lincoln County for this alternative is greater than what is currently allowed under the Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act.

Approximately 7,843 acres in the Haypress Allotment would be disposed of if Congressional direction is provided in the future. Pending disposal, the Haypress Allotment would be removed from administration of the Taylor Grazing Act and the Ely Field Office would enter into an administrative agreement with an

appropriate non-profit organization for the purpose of managing the area for the benefit of wild horses that cannot be adopted through the BLM adoption program.

Criteria for Disposal Under Alternative C

- Disposal of lands that are difficult to manage and are not suitable for management by another federal department or agency would be allowed.

- Land disposals would be allowed within herd management areas when the disposal would not prohibit free roaming behavior within or between areas inside the herd management area or eliminate enough habitat that the herd management area can no longer support a healthy viable herd.

- Lands would be disposed of when disposal would serve important public objectives, including but not limited to: a) community expansion or economic development; b) disposal could not be achieved prudently feasibly on land other than public lands; and c) disposal outweighs other public objectives or values.

- Land disposal of parcels containing National Register eligible archaeological resources or historic properties would be allowed when mitigation and/or data recovery has occurred prior to patent.

- New applications for Carey Act, Desert Land Entries, and Indian Allotments only would be accepted in areas designated for disposal.

2.7.12.3 Parameter – Acquisitions

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.7.12.4 Parameter – Withdrawals

Management Actions

The Ely Field Office would recommend for withdrawal 295,200 acres of land identified for potential disposal from mineral entry.

2.7.12.5 Parameter – Corridors

Management Actions

Rights-of-way for electrical transmission lines greater than 69 kilovolts, all mainline fiber optics facilities, and all pipelines greater than 10 inches in diameter would be encouraged to be located within designated corridors.

Corridors would be managed as follows:

A. Retain a corridor 1,000 feet wide, 500 feet on either side of the centerline of the existing telephone fiber optic lines, beginning within Township 11 South, Range 71 East, Section 20 running easterly to the Arizona state line. This corridor crosses portions of the Beaver Dam Slope ACEC and the management is consistent with the Arizona Strip Field Office.

B. Designate the Falcon to Gonder corridor as 3 miles wide, as an east west corridor to interconnect with the Ely to Utah state line portion of the Southwest Intertie Project corridor.

C. Designate the Ely to Utah state line portion of the Southwest Intertie Project corridor as 3 miles wide.

D. Designate the approved Southwest Intertie Project corridor as 3 miles wide from the Elko/White Pine County line to the point where it parallels Highway 93 and the Pahranagat Wildlife Refuge at which point it will become 0.5 mile wide.

E. Maintain the Moapa corridor at 0.5 mile wide.

F. Maintain the corridors designated by the Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation and Development Act as 0.5 mile wide.

G. Designate a new corridor, 3 miles wide, connecting with the corridor designated by the Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation and Development Act. 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 White Pine-Elko County line, northeast of Lages Junction on Highway 93A (**Map 2.7.12-5**).

2.7.12.6 Parameter – Communication Sites

Management Actions

Communication site locations that support community and economic development would be authorized.

2.7.12.7 Parameter – Land Use Authorizations (Rights-of-Way, Permits, Leases, Easements, and Unauthorized Use)

Management Actions

Land use authorizations would be processed to facilitate community and economic development. ACECs would be avoidance or exclusion areas (see Section 2.5.22).

2.7.13 Renewable Energy

2.7.13.1 Parameter – Wind, Solar, and Biomass Energy

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.7.14 Travel Management and Off-highway Vehicle Use

2.7.14.1 Parameter – Transportation Plan

Management Actions

The Ely Field Office Transportation Plan would be updated through subsequent implementation-level plans. Road and trail data would be collected at the watershed level as part of the watershed analysis. As road and trail data collection is completed, a review team would be established to analyze each route and make recommendations for designations within the specific watershed based on the criteria listed in the Proposed RMP.

Road and trail designations would emphasize designations for specific administrative needs, recreation opportunities, and tourism. (Other criteria would be added as new issues develop in different watersheds over time.)

The temporary emergency off-road vehicle limitations for the Duck Creek Basin (see **Map 2.4.14-1**) would be made permanent and incorporated into the transportation plan.

Roads, routes, and trails identified as closed through a collaborative public process would be rehabilitated in their entirety to discourage continued motorized use.

2.7.14.2 Parameter – Off-highway Vehicles

Management Actions

Off-highway vehicles would be managed in accordance with the following designations (see **Map 2.7.14-1**):

- Open to cross-country off-highway vehicle use: 32,000 acres in dry lake beds.
- Off-highway vehicle use limited to designated roads and trails: 10,355,300 acres.
- Closed to off-highway vehicle use: 1,072,700 acres. This acreage reflects designated wilderness.

2.7.15 Recreation

2.7.15.1 Parameter – Special Recreation Management Areas

Management Actions

Nine new special recreation management areas (**Table 2.7-10** and **Map 2.7.15-1**) would be designated, and the Loneliest Highway Special Recreation Management Area would be retained, for a total of 2,555,000 acres. The Loneliest Highway Special Recreation Management Area is not shown on this map due to the scattered nature of its recreation sites. A total of five areas, within the Chief Mountain, Egan Crest, Pancake Range, and Area 51 special recreation management areas, would emphasize motorized recreation (off-highway vehicle emphasis areas). These areas total 1,104,000 acres (see **Map 2.7.15-1**).

Additional emphasis would be placed on increasing tourism opportunities and partnerships with the gateway communities in White Pine and Lincoln counties. A more developed recreation experience would be emphasized.

2.7.15.2 Parameter – Special Recreation Permits

Management Actions

No limitations would be placed on outfitter and guide permits for hunting. Four special recreation permit areas totaling approximately 1.33 million acres would be established to maximize opportunities for motorcycle special recreation permit events (see **Map 2.4.15-2**). A maximum of eight truck events would be permitted each year. Twelve routes would be established for all truck events.

Table 2.7-10
Special Recreation Management Areas

Special Recreation Management Areas	Acres	Primary Recreational Values
Chief Mountain	550,000	Motorized recreation
Egan Crest	52,000	Motorized recreation
Pahranagat	362,000	Heritage tourism and motorized recreation
North Delamar	235,000	Non-motorized recreation, equestrian, hiking, and mountain biking
Telegraph	249,000	Non-motorized recreation, equestrian, hiking, and mountain biking
Snake Range	99,000	Non-motorized recreation, equestrian, hiking, and mountain biking
Mount Grafton	506,000	Hunting opportunities
Area 51 off-highway vehicle	349,000	Motorized recreation
Loneliest Highway	Approximately 750,000	Rural motorized and non-motorized opportunities
Pancake Range	153,422	Motorized recreation
Garden Valley	--	Scenic values

2.7.16 Livestock Grazing

Management Actions

Approximately 11,240,600 acres would be available for livestock grazing subject to modification associated with disposal actions. Areas unavailable for grazing under this alternative include 203,670 acres associated with the three existing ACECs and 6,400 acres associated with three new ACECs (see Section 2.5.22). The Tamberlaine Allotment would be used as forage reserves if the permit is relinquished.

Where appropriate, livestock grazing would be used as a tool to achieve the desired range of conditions for vegetation.

Allotments would continue to be monitored and evaluated to determine if they are continuing to meet or are making progress toward meeting the standards for rangeland health.

Management relative to livestock in bighorn sheep ranges would be the same as Alternative A for both Rocky Mountain and desert bighorn sheep.

Management of relinquished permits would be handled in a flexible manner to create forage reserves for research or temporary use by permittees who are displaced for any reason. Management of relinquished permits would consider if the allotment is meeting rangeland health standards and if grazing use would ensure significant progress toward achievement of the standards (e.g., are riparian areas and uplands in good condition? Are there weed concerns? Are there threatened and endangered species concerns? Are there other land use concerns, such as demand on the forage for wild horses/burros or wildlife?). The Tamberlaine Allotment would be managed as a forage reserve if the permit is relinquished.

2.7.17 Forest/Woodland and Other Plant Products

2.7.17.1 General Forest/Woodland and Other Plant Product Management

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.7.17.2 Parameter – Fuelwood Collection

Management Actions

Same as Alternative A except additional species allowed for collection would be Gambel's oak, aspen, white fir, ponderosa pine, and spruce.

2.7.17.3 Parameter – Pinyon Pine Nut Harvesting

Management Actions

Same as Alternative A except mechanical harvesting is allowed.

2.7.17.4 Parameter – Christmas Tree Harvesting

Management Actions

Pinyon, juniper, spruce, and white fir would be available for personal and commercial use throughout the planning area.

2.7.17.5 Parameter – Post and Pole Harvesting

Management Actions

Pinyon, juniper, aspen, fir, and spruce would be available for personal and commercial use throughout the planning area. Emphasis for tree harvest would be placed on areas identified for land disposal, if harvest would meet objectives for the tract of land.

2.7.17.6 Parameter – Seed Collection

Management Actions

Commercial use would be allowed on a case-by-case basis.

Hand collection methods would be encouraged, and mechanical collection would be allowed on a limited basis.

2.7.17.7 Parameter – Other Vegetation Product (i.e., wildings, boughs, etc.) Collection

Management Actions

Commercial use would be allowed throughout the planning area.

Collection methods would be limited to those with the least surface disturbing activities.

2.7.17.8 Parameter – Biomass Products

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.7.18 Geology and Mineral Extraction

2.7.18.1 General Geology and Mineral Management

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.7.18.2 Parameter – Fluid Leasable Minerals

Management Actions

See **Table 2.7-11** for a summary of the distribution of acres for Alternative C. **Map 2.7.18-1** shows the location of the leasing stipulations for this alternative. Lease notices would be utilized for cultural, historical, and desert tortoise areas (see **Map 2.7-18-1**).

Open to Leasing

A total of approximately 3.6 million acres would be open to leasing subject to standard lease terms and conditions.

Table 2.7-11
Summary of Fluid Leasing

	Acres[1]
Open to Fluid Mineral Leasing	
Standard Lease Terms and Conditions	3,489,200
Minor Restrictions	
Programmatic Surface Use/Timing	682,900
Standard Surface Use/Timing	5,597,100
Major Restrictions	
No Surface Occupancy	27,300
Open – Total	9,796,500
Closed to Fluid Mineral Leasing	
Designated Wilderness/Wilderness Study Areas	1,153,500
Discretionary Closure by the Ely Field Office	550,000
Closed – Total	1,703,500
Total	**11,500,000**

[1] Rounded to hundreds.

Minor Restrictions – Programmatic Stipulations

Alternative C would stay with the more traditional surface use and geographically limited timing stipulations for wildlife. There would be no programmatic restrictions for wildlife or their habitats. Approximately 682,900 acres would be subject to the programmatic cultural stipulations as described in Alternative B.

There is considerable overlap between the programmatic cultural stipulations and the other resource surface use/timing restrictions described below.

Minor Restrictions – Traditional Surface Use/Timing Stipulations
About 5.60 million acres would be open to leasing and subject to minor constraints, primarily surface use and seasonal timing restrictions. This involves the same approximately 446,000 acres of desert tortoise habitat as described in Alternative B as well as the traditional timing restrictions for wildlife and their habitat, specifically greater sage-grouse, ferruginous hawks, and bighorn sheep. These wildlife species were listed as programmatic stipulations in Alternative B. For Alternative C, the restriction would be required for these areas indicated unless the lessee applied for an exception. Some recreation sites also have surface use restrictions in Alternative C rather than the closed or no surface occupancy designation of Alternative B. The lease language for these traditional surface use/timing restrictions are as follows:

Open to Leasing with Minor Restrictions (Timing)

Desert Tortoise Habitat Stipulation
No surface use is allowed from March 15 to October 15. This stipulation does not apply to operation and maintenance of production facilities.

Greater Sage-grouse Stipulation – No surface disturbance would be allowed within an active greater sage-grouse lek. No surface use would be allowed within 2.0 miles of an active greater sage-grouse lek from midnight until 10 a.m. during the period March 1 through May 15.

Ferruginous Hawk Stipulation – Ferruginous hawk nest sites would not be disturbed. No surface use would be allowed within 0.5 mile of an occupied ferruginous hawk nest during the period March 1 through June 30 or until the birds have fledged (left) the nest.

Bighorn Sheep Stipulation – No surface use would be allowed within occupied bighorn sheep habitats during the breeding season of August 15 through November 30 and within the lambing season of February 15 to May 31.

Open to Leasing with Minor Restriction (Controlled Surface Use)

Desert Tortoise Habitat Stipulation
Unless otherwise authorized, access to this leasehold, and operations would be limited to the existing roads and trails.

Recreation Resource Stipulation – No surface or underground disturbance is allowed to occur within 100 yards (horizontally or vertically) of identified important cave resources or developed recreation sites to:

- Protecting important cave resources, including bat habitat;
- Maintaining the natural setting of these scenic and recreation use areas;

- Preserving the resource upon which the recreation is based; and
- Allowing visitors to experience recreation opportunities without conflicts from mineral exploration and development.

Major Restrictions – No Surface Occupancy

About 27,300 acres would be subject to major restrictions, specifically no surface occupancy, to avoid impacts to certain wildlife, cultural resources, scenic resources, and natural features. This restriction would allow for directional drilling and production underneath the protected area, but there could be no actual surface disturbance within the protected boundaries.

The following areas would have a no surface occupancy restriction:

Rose Guano Bat Cave ACEC
Bristol Wells
Delamar
Garrison Archeology Site
Kirch Wildlife Withdrawal
Osceola and Osceola Ditch ACEC

Closed to Leasing

A total of approximately 1.7 million acres would be closed to leasing. The current designated wilderness and wilderness study areas account for approximately 1.15 million acres. Closed areas outside of the designated wilderness/wilderness study areas total about 550,000 acres. These areas include the following:

Andies Mine Trilobite Site
Baker Archaeological Site ACEC
Basset Lake
Caliente Field Station
Cave Valley Cave Geologic Area
Chisolm Mine Trilobite Site
Cold Creek Reservoir Recreation Area
Condor Canyon ACEC
Comins Lake Recreation Area
Corridors
Desert Land Entries
Designated Wilderness/ Wilderness Study Areas
Haypress Allotment
Honeymoon Hill/City of Rocks ACEC
Honor Camp
Lands identified for potential disposal in Lincoln and White Pine counties
Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act Corridors
Lower Meadow Valley Wash ACEC
Mount Irish ACEC
Newark Cave
Open Space Conveyances
Pygmy Sage ACEC
Shooting Gallery ACEC
Shooting Range
Shoshone Ponds ACEC
Snake Creek Indian Burial Cave ACEC
Spring Valley State Park
State Park Expansion
State Prison
Steptoe Valley Wildlife Management Area
Toquop Power Project
Ward Mining District ACEC
Ward Recreation Site
White Pine County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act Airport
White Pine Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act Industrial Park
White Pine County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act Additional Withdrawal
White River Petroglyph Area
Withdrawals around communities

Geophysical exploration would be considered in areas closed to leasing or with no surface occupancy and/or timing restrictions, based on impacts identified in site-specific analysis.

Site-specific standard operating procedures for geophysical exploration, and the conditions of approval for permits to drill, would be compiled from the complete list of standard operating procedures for Alternative C that are shown in Appendix M of the Ely Draft RMP/EIS (July 2005).

2.7.18.3 Parameter – Solid Leasable Minerals

Management Actions

See **Table 2.7-12** for a summary of the distribution of acres for Alternative C.

Table 2.7-12
Summary of Solid Leasing

	Acres[1]
Solid Leasable – Open	9,777,500
Solid Leasable – Closed	1,722,500
Total	**11,500,000**
Acres closed outside of designated wilderness/wilderness study areas	569,000

[1] Rounded to hundreds.

Map 2.7.18-2 shows the location of the leasing stipulations for this alternative.

There would be approximately 9.8 million acres of federal mineral estate open for solid mineral leasing, subject to best management practices and standard operating procedures.

A total of approximately 1.7 million acres would be closed to solid mineral leasing. This includes the approximately 1.15 million acres of designated wilderness and wilderness study areas and an additional 569,000 acres outside of designated wilderness/wilderness study areas. Alternative C actually has fewer resource acres withdrawn as compared to Alternative B, even though there are more total acres withdrawn. This is due to the increased acres of community land withdrawals in this alternative. **Map 2.7.18-2** shows the location of areas that would be closed to both locatable and solid leasable minerals for this alternative. See Alternative C (Locatable Minerals) for a list of the areas that would be closed.

Standard practices and procedures for solid leasable operations under these alternatives would be compiled on a site-specific basis from the complete list of standard operating procedures for Alternative C that are shown in Appendix M of the Ely Draft RMP/EIS (July 2005).

2.7.18.4 Parameter – Locatable Minerals

Management Actions

See **Table 2.7-13** for a summary of the distribution of acres for Alternative C.

Table 2.7-13
Summary of Locatable Minerals

	Acres[1]
Locatable Open	9,777,500
Locatable Closed	1,722,500
Total	**11,500,000**
Acres closed outside of designated wilderness/wilderness study areas	569,000

[1] Rounded to hundreds.

There would be approximately 9.8 million acres of federal mineral estate open for locatable mineral development, subject to the prevention of unnecessary or undue degradation of public lands.

A total of approximately 1.7 million acres would be proposed for withdrawal to locatable mineral entry. This includes approximately 1.15 million acres of designated wilderness and wilderness study areas and an additional 569,000 acres outside of designated wilderness/wilderness study areas. Alternative C actually has fewer resource areas withdrawn as compared to Alternative B, even though there are more total acres withdrawn. This is due to the increased acres of community lands withdrawals in this alternative. **Map 2.7.18-2** shows the location of areas that would be proposed for withdrawal to locatable minerals for this alternative. The following locations would be proposed for withdrawal for Alternative C:

Andies Mine Trilobite Site
Antelope Wall
Baker Archaeological Site ACEC
Basset Lake
Black Point
Blue Mass Scenic Area ACEC
Caliente Withdrawal
Cave Valley Cave Geologic Area
Chief Mountain Trailheads
Chisolm Mine Trilobite Site
Cleve Creek
Cold Creek Reservoir Recreation Area
Condor Canyon ACEC
Corridors
Comins Lake Recreation Area
Mount Irish ACEC
Newark Cave
Pahroc Rock Art ACEC
Pescio Cave
Pony Springs Withdrawal
Protective Withdrawals
Pygmy Sage ACEC
R&PP Lands
Rose Guano Bat Cave ACEC
Ruby Marsh Withdrawal
Sacramento Pass
Shooting Gallery ACEC
Shooting Range
Shoshone Ponds ACEC
Snake Creek Indian Burial Cave ACEC

Desert Land Entries – Lincoln County
Designated Wilderness/Wilderness Study Areas
Egan Crest Trailhead
Garrison Archaeology Site
Grapevine Canyon
Haypress Allotment
Hendry's Creek/Rock Animal Corral ACEC
Heusser Bristlecone ACEC
Honeymoon Hill/City of Rocks ACEC
Honor Camp
Illipah Reservoir
Kane Springs ACEC
Lands identified for potential disposal in Lincoln and White Pine counties
Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act Corridors
Lower Meadow Valley Wash ACEC
Spring Valley State Park
State Park Expansion
State Prison
Steptoe Valley Wildlife Management Area
Swamp Cedar ACEC
Toquop Power Plant
Ward Mining District ACEC
Ward Recreation Site
White Pine County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act Airport
White Pine County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act Industrial Park
White Pine County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act Withdrawals
White River Petroglyph Site
Withdrawals around communities

Site-specific standard operating procedures for locatable mineral operations under this alternative would be compiled from the complete list of standard operating procedures for Alternative C that are shown in Appendix M of the Ely Draft RMP/EIS (July 2005).

2.7.18.5 Parameter – Mineral Materials

Management Actions

See **Table 2.7-14** for a summary of the distribution of acres for Alternative C.

Table 2.7-14
Summary of Mineral Materials

	Acres[1]
Mineral Material Open	9,256,900
Mineral Material Closed	2,243,100
Total	**11,500,000**
Acres closed outside of designated wilderness/wilderness study areas	1,089,600

[1] Rounded to hundreds.

There would be approximately 9.3 million acres of federal mineral estate open for mineral materials disposal, subject to best management practices and standard operating procedures. In this alternative there would be more recreation sites that would be open to mineral materials disposals.

There would be approximately 2.2 million acres that would be closed to mineral materials disposal. This includes approximately 1.1 million acres of designated wilderness and wilderness study areas and 1.1 million acres outside of designated wilderness/wilderness study areas. **Map 2.7.18-3** shows the location of areas that would be closed. The following locations would be closed to mineral material disposal:

Alamo (Pahranagat Rock Art)
Andies Mine Trilobite Site
Antelope Wall
Ash Springs Cultural Site
Baker Archaeological Site ACEC
Basset Lake
Bennet Springs
Black Canyon Petroglyphs
Black Point
Blue Mass ACEC
Bristol Wells
Caliente Withdrawal
Carbonari District
Cave Valley Cave Geologic Area
Chief Mountain Trailhead
Chisolm Mine Trilobite Site
Christmas Wash
Cleve Creek
Cold Creek Reservoir Recreation Area
Condor Canyon ACEC
Corridors
Crystal Wash (Pahranagat)
Comins Lake Recreation Area
Daub Site (Upper Meadow)
Delamar
Desert Land Entries
Designated Wilderness/Wilderness Study Areas
Egan Crest Trailhead
Frenchy Lake (Pahranagat)
Garrison Archaeology Site
Garnett Hill ACEC
Grapevine Canyon
Haypress Allotment
Hell's Half Acre (Pahranagat)
Heusser Bristlecone ACEC
Hendry's Creek/Rock Animal Corral ACEC
Honeymoon Hill/City of Rocks ACEC
Honor Camp
Lower Meadow Valley Wash ACEC
Mahoney Canyon Quarry
Mormon Mountains ACEC
Mount Irish ACEC
Newark Cave
Open Space Conveyances
Osceola and Osceola Ditch ACEC
Pahroc Rock Art ACEC
Panaca Summit/Modena Obsidian Site
Park Range Aboriginal Site
Mariah Site (Pahranagat)
Pescio Cave
Pony Express Trail
Pony Springs Withdrawal
Pygmy Sage ACEC
Rainbow Canyon
Reed Cabin Summit
Rose Guano Bat Cave ACEC
Rose Valley
Sacramento Pass
Sand Dune Site
Sawmill Canyon
Shooting Gallery ACEC
Shooting Range
Shoshone Ponds ACEC
Six Mile Flat and Hiko
Snake Creek Indian Burial Cave ACEC
State Prison
State Park Expansion
Steptoe Valley Wildlife Management Area
Sunshine Locality National Register District
Swamp Cedar ACEC
Tempiute Obsidian Source
Toquop Power Plant
Tri-County Paleo Site
Tunnel Canyon
Ward Mining District ACEC
Ward Recreation Site

Illipah Reservoir
Jake's Valley Paleo Shoreline
Kane Springs ACEC
Lands identified for potential disposal in Lincoln and White Pine counties
Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act Corridors
Lincoln Highway
White Pine County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act Airport
White Pine County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act Industrial Park
White Pine County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act Withdrawals
White River Petroglyph Site
Withdrawals around communities

Site-specific standard operating procedures for operations under this alternative would be selected from the list of standard operating procedures for Alternative C shown in Appendix M of the Ely Draft RMP/EIS (July 2005).

2.7.19 Watershed Management

2.7.19.1 Parameter – Allocation of Additional Forage as a Result of Restoration Actions

Management Actions

Prioritization of watershed analyses is the same as described in the Proposed RMP.

Following watershed analysis and assessment of rangeland health, additional forage would be allocated to livestock but also would provide some forage for wildlife and wild horses (inside herd management areas).

2.7.20 Fire Management

2.7.20.1 Parameter – Fire Management

Management Actions

Where and to the extent possible, all wildland fires would be suppressed and fire would be used in limited situations as a management tool for vegetation treatments.

2.7.21 Noxious and Invasive Weed Management

2.7.21.1 Parameter – Invasive and Nonnative Plant Species Management

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.7.22 Special Designations

2.7.22.1 Parameter – Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

Management Actions

Retain the three current ACECs for a total of 203,670 acres. Management prescriptions are the same as presented for Alternative A (see **Table 2.5-20**).

Designate 17 new ACECs totaling an additional 129,720 acres (see **Map 2.7.22-1** and Appendix D). See **Table 2.7-15** for specific management prescriptions.

The Garnet Hill ACEC and the Pygmy Sage ACEC would be designated in addition to those 15 areas designated in Alternative B to provide the necessary management and protection of these resources under the land use plan decisions found in this commodity driven alternative.

2.7.22.2 Parameter – Back Country Byways

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.7.22.3 Parameter – Designated Wilderness

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.7.22.4 Parameter – Wilderness Study Areas

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

Table 2.7-15
Management Prescriptions for Proposed ACECs

Baker Archaeological Site – 80 acres designated for the protection of prehistoric architectural sites	
Management Activities	**Management Prescriptions**
Land use authorization	Avoidance area[1]
Off-highway vehicle use	Limited[2]
Visual resource management class	III
Plant collecting	Limited[3]
Road maintenance	Limited[4]
Leasable minerals	Closed
Locatable minerals	Closed
Mineral Materials	Closed
Lands disposal	No disposal
Fire management	Open[5]
Transportation	No new roads
Livestock management	Unavailable
Fuelwood cutting	Not applicable
Renewable energy	Closed[6]
Blue Mass Scenic Area – 950 acres designated for the protection of exceptional scenic qualities	
Management Activities	**Management Prescriptions**
Land use authorization	Valid existing rights would remain in effect
Off-highway vehicle use	Limited[2]
Visual resource management class	I
Plant collecting	Limited[3]
Road maintenance	Limited[4]
Leasable minerals	No surface occupancy/Closed
Locatable minerals	Closed
Mineral Materials	Closed
Lands disposal	No disposal
Fire management	Limited[7]
Transportation	Limited, no new roads
Livestock management	Available[5]
Fuelwood cutting	Limited
Renewable energy	Closed[6]
Condor Canyon – 6,900 acres designated for the protection of the Big Spring spinedace and its designated critical habitat	
Management Activities	**Management Prescriptions**
Land use authorization	No rights-of-way except for federal reservation to manage for ACEC
Off-highway vehicle use	Limited[2]
Visual resource management class	II, III
Plant collecting	Closed
Road maintenance	Limited[4]
Leasable minerals	Open with stipulations[8]
Locatable minerals	Closed
Mineral materials	Closed
Lands disposal	No disposal
Fire management	Limited[7]
Transportation	No new roads
Livestock management	Available[9]
Fuelwood cutting	Open[5]
Renewable energy	Closed[6]

Table 2.7-15 (Continued)

Garnet Hill – 1,210 acres designated for the protection of a nationally-known rock hound area famous for dark red garnets	
Management Activities	**Management Prescriptions**
Land use authorization	Avoidance area[1]
Off-highway vehicle use	Limited[2]
Visual resource management class	II
Plant collecting	Open
Road maintenance	Limited[4]
Leasable minerals	Open
Locatable minerals	Open
Mineral Materials	Open
Lands disposal	No disposals
Fire management	Open[5]
Transportation	No applicable
Livestock management	Available[5]
Fuelwood cutting	Open[5]
Renewable energy	Closed[6]
Hendry's Creek/Rock Animal Corral – 3,300 acres designated for the protection of prehistoric values	
Management Activities	**Management Prescriptions**
Land use authorization	Avoidance area[1]
Off-highway vehicle use	Limited[2]
Visual resource management class	IV
Plant collecting	Limited[3]
Road maintenance	Limited[4]
Leasable minerals	No surface occupancy
Locatable minerals	Closed
Mineral Materials	Closed
Lands disposal	No disposal
Fire management	Open[5]
Transportation	No new roads
Livestock management	Unavailable
Fuelwood cutting	Closed
Renewable energy	Closed[6]
Honeymoon Hill/City of Rocks – 5,900 acres designated for the protection of prehistoric values	
Management Activities	**Management Prescriptions**
Land use authorization	Avoidance area[1]
Off-highway vehicle use	Limited[2]
Visual resource management class	III, IV
Plant collecting	Limited[3]
Road maintenance	Limited[4]
Leasable minerals	Closed
Locatable minerals	Closed
Mineral Materials	Closed
Lands disposal	No disposals
Fire management	Open[5]
Transportation	No new roads
Livestock management	Available[5]
Fuelwood cutting	Open[5]
Renewable energy	Closed[6]

Table 2.7-15 (Continued)

Lower Meadow Valley Wash – 39,000 acres designated for the protection of the southwestern willow flycatcher, western yellow-billed cuckoo, Meadow Valley Wash desert sucker, Meadow Valley Wash speckled dace, and Arizona southwestern toad	
Management Activities	**Management Prescriptions**
Land use authorization	Avoidance area[1]
Off-highway vehicle use	Closed
Visual resource management class	II, III, IV
Plant collecting	Closed
Road maintenance	Limited[4]
Leasable minerals	Closed
Locatable minerals	Closed
Mineral Materials	Closed
Lands disposal	No disposals
Fire management	Limited[7]
Transportation	No new roads
Livestock management	Available[9]
Fuelwood cutting	Closed
Renewable energy	Closed[6]
Mount Irish – 26,200 acres designated for the protection of historic values including historic mine and mill sites and prehistoric values including petroglyphs, lithic scatters, pottery scatters, and pictographs	
Management Activities	**Management Prescriptions**
Land use authorization	Avoidance area[1]; valid existing rights would remain in effect
Off-highway vehicle use	Limited[2]
Visual resource management class	I, II, III
Plant collecting	Limited[3]
Road maintenance	Limited[4]
Leasable minerals	No surface occupancy/Closed
Locatable minerals	Closed
Mineral Materials	Closed
Lands disposal	No disposals
Fire management	Open[5]
Transportation	No new roads
Livestock management	Available[9]
Fuelwood cutting	Open
Renewable energy	Closed[6]
Osceola/Osceola Ditch – 14,600 acres for the protection of historic values	
Land use authorization	Avoidance area[1]
Off-highway vehicle use	Limited[2]
Visual resource management class	I, II, III
Plant collecting	Limited[3]
Road maintenance	Limited[4]
Leasable minerals	Open with stipulations[8]
Locatable minerals	Open with stipulations[8]
Mineral Materials	Open with stipulations[8]
Lands disposal	No disposal
Fire management	Open[5]
Transportation	No new roads
Livestock management	Available[9]
Fuelwood cutting	Open
Renewable energy	Closed[6]

Table 2.7-15 (Continued)

Pahroc Rock Art – 3,200 acres designated for the protection of prehistoric values including petroglyphs, rock shelters, and other artifacts	
Management Activities	**Management Prescriptions**
Land use authorization	Avoidance area[1]
Off-highway vehicle use	Limited[2]
Visual resource management class	I, II, III
Plant collecting	Limited[3]
Road maintenance	Limited[4]
Leasable minerals	Open with stipulations[8]
Locatable minerals	Closed
Mineral Materials	Closed
Lands disposal	No disposals
Fire management	Open[5]
Transportation	No new roads
Livestock management	Available[9]
Fuelwood cutting	Open[5]
Renewable energy	Closed[6]
Pygmy Sage – 160 acres designated for the preservation of an example of the pygmy sage ecological system	
Management Activities	**Management Prescriptions**
Land use authorization	Valid existing rights would remain in effect
Off-highway vehicle use	Limited[2]
Visual resource management class	III
Plant collecting	Closed
Road maintenance	Limited[4]
Leasable minerals	Closed
Locatable minerals	Closed
Mineral Materials	Closed
Lands disposal	No disposals
Fire management	Limited[7]
Transportation	Limited
Livestock management	Available[9]
Fuelwood cutting	Closed
Renewable energy	Closed[6]
Rose Guano Bat Cave – 40 acres designated for the protection of the Brazilian free-tailed bat, a BLM sensitive species	
Management Activities	**Management Prescriptions**
Land use authorization	Avoidance area[1]
Off-highway vehicle use	Limited[2]
Visual resource management class	II
Plant collecting	Limited[3]
Road maintenance	Limited[4]
Leasable minerals	No surface occupancy
Locatable minerals	Closed
Mineral Materials	Closed
Lands disposal	No disposals
Fire management	Open[5]
Transportation	No new roads
Livestock management	Available[9]
Fuelwood cutting	Open[5]
Renewable energy	Closed[6]

Table 2.7-15 (Continued)

Shooting Gallery – 20,700 acres designated for the protection of prehistoric values including rock art sites, habitation areas, and a game-drive complex	
Management Activities	**Management Prescriptions**
Land use authorization	Avoidance area[1]; valid existing rights would remain in effect
Off-highway vehicle use	Limited[2]
Visual resource management class	II, III
Plant collecting	Limited[3]
Road maintenance	Limited[4]
Leasable minerals	No surface occupancy/Closed
Locatable minerals	Closed
Mineral Materials	Closed
Lands disposal	No disposals
Fire management	Open[5]
Transportation	No new roads
Livestock management	Available[9]
Fuelwood cutting	Open[5]
Renewable energy	Closed[6]
Shoshone Ponds – 1,240 acres designated for the protection of the Pahrump poolfish	
Management Activities	**Management Prescriptions**
Land use authorization	Exclusion area; rights-of-way would not be granted within the area
Off-highway vehicle use	Limited[2]
Visual resource management class	III
Plant collecting	Closed
Road maintenance	Limited[4]
Leasable minerals	No surface occupancy
Locatable minerals	Closed
Mineral Materials	Closed
Lands disposal	No disposals
Fire management	Limited[7]
Transportation	Limited
Livestock management	Available[9]
Fuelwood cutting	Closed
Renewable energy	Closed[6]
Snake Creek Indian Burial Cave – 40 acres designated for the protection of zooarchaeology, geology, and archaeology	
Management Activities	**Management Prescriptions**
Land use authorization	Avoidance area[1]
Off-highway vehicle use	Limited[2]
Visual resource management class	III
Plant collecting	Limited[3]
Road maintenance	Limited[4]
Leasable minerals	No surface occupancy
Locatable minerals	Closed
Mineral Materials	Closed
Lands disposal	No disposals
Fire management	Open[5]
Transportation	No new roads
Livestock management	Unavailable
Fuelwood cutting	Not applicable
Renewable energy	Closed[6]

Table 2.7-15 (Continued)

Swamp Cedar – 3,200 acres designated for the protection of rare plant species including Rocky Mountain juniper and the slender thelopody, prehistoric sites, and the site of the Goshute War of 1863	
Management Activities	**Management Prescriptions**
Land use authorization	Valid existing rights would remain in effect
Off-highway vehicle use	Limited[2]
Visual resource management class	III
Plant collecting	Closed
Road maintenance	Limited[4]
Leasable minerals	Open with stipulations[8]
Locatable minerals	Closed
Mineral Materials	Closed
Lands disposal	No disposals
Fire management	Limited[7]
Transportation	Limited
Livestock management	Available[9]
Fuelwood cutting	Closed
Renewable energy	Closed[6]
Ward Mining District – 3,000 acres designated for protection of historic values	
Management Activities	**Management Prescriptions**
Land use authorization	Exclusion area; rights-of-way would not be granted within the area
Off-highway vehicle use	Limited[2]
Visual resource management class	II
Plant collecting	Limited[3]
Road maintenance	Limited[4]
Leasable minerals	Closed
Locatable minerals	Closed
Mineral Materials	Closed
Lands disposal	No disposals
Fire management	Open[5]
Transportation	No new roads
Livestock management	Unavailable
Fuelwood cutting	Closed
Renewable energy	Closed[6]

[1] Avoidance area; granting rights-of-way (surface, subsurface, aerial) within the area should be avoided, but rights-of-way may be granted if there is minimal conflict with identified resource values and impacts can be mitigated.

[2] Off-highway vehicle use would be limited to designated roads and trails.

[3] Plant materials, including common species, may be collected by permit only.

[4] Road maintenance would be limited to the designated roadway; shoulder barrow/ditch construction would be limited to only that necessary to ensure public safety and serviceability of the road.

[5] The activity is allowed in the area. NEPA compliance and clearances for cultural resources and threatened and endangered species required for some activities. Mineral activity is subject to standard stipulations (where appropriate), NEPA compliance, and application of site-specific controls. Standard terms and conditions of the grazing permits would apply.

[6] Closed to renewable energy facilities. Avoidance area for ancillary rights-of-way for access roads, transmission lines, and pipelines.

[7] Limits could be placed on fire management activities.

[8] Open with special stipulations. Open to mineral development activities subject to controlled surface use, seasonal timing restrictions, and/or restricted or no uses in avoidance areas (e.g., riparian areas, live water, areas with special wildlife or plant features, and sensitive viewsheds).

[9] Livestock grazing would be controlled through terms and conditions on the grazing permit.

2.7.22.5 Parameter – Other Special Designations

Management Actions

1. Any special designation areas would be managed within released wilderness study areas under their specific management prescriptions. The following special designation areas occur within wilderness study areas: North Creek, Mount Grafton, Goshute Cave, Leviathan Cave, Whipple Cave, and Goshute Canyon. These areas have been designated to preserve their unique recreational, historical, archeological, geological, and natural features. Should the wilderness study areas be released from further consideration of wilderness, these special designation areas would continue to be managed under their special management provisions.

2. Management procedures for the special designation areas that are retained would be the same; these include scenic areas, geologic areas, natural areas, research natural areas, and rockhound areas.

3. No herd management areas are recommended for designation as wild horse ranges.

The following two special designations, totaling 600 acres would be retained:

- Archaeological Sites – Garrison, White River Petroglyph

The following management procedures would apply to all the above special designation areas.

- Roads – the Ely Field Office would not build new or maintain existing roads unless deemed absolutely necessary for management of natural values. Likewise, the Ely Field Office would not allow the building or maintenance of roads.

- Structures – the Ely Field Office would not build, or allow to be built, any type of structure except: 1) those already identified in existing habitat management plans or 2) those deemed absolutely necessary for management of natural values.

The following 10 special designation areas would be designated as ACECs:

- Scenic Areas – Blue Mass
- Rockhounding Area – Garnet Hill
- Natural Areas – Shoshone Ponds, Swamp Cedar
- Research Natural Areas – Pygmy Sage
- Archaeological Sites – Bat Cave Guano Mine, Snake Creek Indian Burial Cave, Baker, Hendry's Creek/Rock Animal Corral, Mount Irish

These areas total 31,900 acres. An additional 3,140 acres near Hendry's Creek/Rock Animal Corral and an additional 25,560 acres near Mount Irish also would be included as part of those ACECs, respectively.

The following seven special designation areas, totaling 1,995 acres, would be dropped:

- Scenic Areas – Kious Spring, Weaver Creek
- Geologic Areas – Goshute Cave, Leviathan Cave, Cave Valley Cave, Whipple Cave
- Archaeological Sites – Baker Creek

The following 7 areas, totaling 9,400 acres, would be segregated from disposal under the public land laws, including the general mining laws but not the Recreation and Public Purposes Act or the mineral leasing and material sale laws: Leviathan Cave, Goshute Canyon, Baker Creek, Garrison, White River Petroglyphs, Whipple Cave, and Cave Valley Cave.

The following area, totaling 1,210 acres, would be segregated from disposal under the public land laws, but not the general mining laws, the Recreation and Public Purposes Act or the mineral leasing and material sale laws: Garnet Hill.

No rivers have been identified for wild and scenic designation within the planning area. A full inventory and evaluation has not occurred, however, it is planned for fiscal year 2008. This evaluation could potentially identify rivers or river segments within the Ely Field Office jurisdiction that are eligible for inclusion under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. If appropriate, management actions associated with these locations will be amended to the RMP.

2.8 Alternative D

2.8.1 Overview of Alternative D

Alternative D would exclude all permitted, discretionary uses of the public lands including livestock grazing, mineral sale or leasing, lands and realty actions (such as disposals, leases, rights-of-way), recreation uses requiring permits, etc. Some components of Alternative D could be implemented through the discretionary authority of the Ely Field Manager or the Nevada State Director, while others would require action by the Secretary of the Interior or new legislation by Congress. Where appropriate, management actions that would not be consistent with existing legislation or policies have been noted in text. This alternative was included in response to scoping comments for the RMP, which requested the elimination of certain uses of the public lands in the RMP planning area. It sets a baseline for the comparison of impacts from management actions included in other alternatives and allows for the analysis of a range of management actions in the EIS. The descriptions that follow are arranged by resource or resource use and will only describe the differences from the Proposed RMP.

2.8.2 Air Resources

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.8.3 Water Resources

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.8.4 Soil Resources

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.8.5 Vegetation Resources

2.8.5.1 General Vegetation Management

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.8.5.2 Parameter – Pinyon-Juniper Woodlands

Management Actions

Natural processes would be allowed to occur within pinyon-juniper woodlands. The desired range of conditions for pinyon-juniper woodlands (see **Table 2.8-1**) would be primarily defined by natural processes. Management actions primarily would be passive in nature (i.e., not including mechanical, herbicides, or prescribed fire). Most discretionary land uses would be eliminated to prevent further establishment and spread of invasive and nonnative species.

Table 2.8-1
Desired Range of Conditions of Pinyon-Juniper (Distribution of Woodland Phases and States)

State and Phase	Herbaceous State	Herbaceous State (Immature Woodland Phase)	Tree State (Mature Woodland Phase)	Tree State (Overmature Woodland Phase)[1]	Altered State
Canopy Description[2]	0 to 10% canopy cover-includes herbaceous, herbaceous-shrub, and sapling phase	11 to 20% canopy cover	21 to 35% canopy cover	>36 to 50% canopy cover	Site dominated by invasive species or weeds
LANDFIRE classes	A and B	C	D and E	E	Uncharacteristic
Alternative D[3]	30% (1,078,000 acres)	25% (898,400 acres)	15% (539,000 acres)	30% (1,078,000 acres)	0% (0 acres)

[1] Overmature woodland refers to woodlands exhibiting greater than 35 percent canopy cover. This classification is not the same as "old growth" although the two classifications may coincide in some situations.
[2] Canopy descriptions derived from Natural Resource Conservation Service Ecological Site Descriptions.
[3] This alternative approximates and incorporates the LANDFIRE Biophysical Settings models for Great Basin Pinyon-juniper Woodland. Altered state is an uncharacteristic condition not recognized by LANDFIRE Biophysical Settings models but is part of current conditions.

Treatment priorities would focus on areas where invasive and nonnative species occur. Common tools to be used would include elimination or restriction of various uses and limited application of herbicides other than sulfonylurea herbicides, other acetolactate synthesis inhibiting herbicides, and herbicides with adverse effects on aquatic species. Natural disturbances (e.g., wildland fire) would be rehabilitated to prevent establishment of invasive species.

Only native species would be used for any seeding activities.

2.8.5.3 Parameter – Aspen

Management Actions

Natural processes would be allowed to occur within aspen communities. The desired range of conditions (see **Table 2.8-2**) would be defined by natural processes with minimal influence from management and resource uses. Most discretionary land uses would be eliminated to prevent further establishment and

spread of invasive and nonnative species. Aspen communities would be protected from grazing and further establishment or expansion of invasive species.

Table 2.8-2
Desired Range of Conditions of Aspen (Distribution of Phases and States)

State and Phase	Herbaceous State (Herbaceous, and Herbaceous-Shrub and Sapling Phase)	Herbaceous State (Immature Woodland Phase)	Tree State (Mature Woodland Phase)	Tree State (Overmature Woodland Phase)
Canopy Cover[1]	0 to 15% tree canopy cover	16 to 29% tree canopy cover.	30 to 45% tree canopy cover	45% or greater tree canopy cover (includes conifer dominated)
LANDFIRE classes	A	B	C and D	D and E
Alternative D[2]	5% (350 acres)	10% (700 acres)	40% (2,800 acres)	45% (3,150 acres)

[1] Canopy cover determined from Natural Resource Conservation Service Ecological Site Descriptions.
[2] This alternative approximates and incorporates the LANDFIRE Biophysical Setting Models for Rocky Mountain aspen forest and Inter-mountain Basin aspen-mixed conifer forest and woodland. Description of LANDFIRE CLASSES can be found at www.landfire.gov.

Priority treatment areas would be in aspen sites where invasive and nonnative species are present. Common tools to be used would include elimination or restriction of various uses and application of herbicides other than sulfonylurea herbicides, other acetolactate synthesis inhibiting herbicides, and herbicides with adverse effects on aquatic species to remove invasive species. Natural disturbances (e.g., wildland fire) would be allowed, but the site would be rehabilitated to prevent establishment of invasive species.

Only native species would be used for any seeding activities determined necessary to compete with invasive plants.

2.8.5.4 Parameter – High Elevation Conifer Species

Management Actions

Natural processes would be allowed to occur within high elevation conifer sites. The desired range of conditions (see **Table 2.8-3**) would be defined by natural processes with minimal influence from management and resource uses. Management actions within high elevation conifer areas would include elimination of invasive and nonnative species where they currently occur. Land uses would be managed to prevent further establishment and spread of invasive and nonnative species.

Priority treatment would be in areas where invasive and nonnative species are present. Common tools to be used would include elimination or restriction of various resource uses and application of herbicides other than sulfonylurea herbicides, other acetolactate synthesis inhibiting herbicides, and herbicides with adverse

effects on aquatic species. Natural disturbances (e.g., wildland fire) would be rehabilitated to prevent establishment of invasive species.

Table 2.8-3
Desired Range of Conditions of High Elevation Conifer (Distribution of States and Phases)

State and Phase	Herbaceous State, (Herbaceous, and Herbaceous/Sapling Phase)	Herbaceous State (Immature Phase)	Tree State (Mature Phase)	Tree State (Overmature Phase)[1]
Canopy Cover[2]	0 to 15% canopy Cover	16 to 31% canopy cover	31 to 40% canopy cover	41 to 60% canopy cover
LANDFIRE classes	A	B	C	C
Alternative D[3]	25% (14,000 acres)	25% (14,000 acres)	15% (8,400 acres)	35% (19,600 acres)

[1] Overmature high elevation conifer refers to stands with canopy cover exceeding 40 percent. This classification is not the same as "old growth," although the two classifications may coincide in some situations.
[2] Canopy cover derived from Natural Resource Conservation Service Ecological Site Descriptions.
[3] This alternative approximates and incorporates the LANDFIRE Biophysical Setting Models for Inter-Mountain white fir limber-bristlecone pine woodland.

Desired range of conditions for ponderosa pine are the same as the Proposed RMP.

2.8.5.5 Parameter – Salt Desert Shrub

Management Actions

Management would strive to protect existing native salt desert shrub communities and to prevent invasions of exotic species. As indicated in **Table 2.8-4**, management activities in this alternative would focus on treating areas dominated by invasive species in the understory.

Table 2.8-4
Desired Range of Conditions of Salt Desert Shrub (Distribution of Phases and States)

Habitat Type	Herbaceous State	Shrub State	Altered State Annual Invasive/Exotic State	Altered State Perennial Nonnative Seeded
LANDFIRE classes	A	B and C	Uncharacteristic	Uncharacteristic
Alternative D[1]	18% (219,800 acres)	64% (781,400 acres)	0% (0 acres)	18% (219,800 acres)

[1] This alternative approximates and incorporates the LANDFIRE Biophysical Setting Models for Inter-Mountain Basins mixed salt desert shrub and Inter-Mountain Basins greasewood flat. Altered state (invasive species/weeds) is an uncharacteristic condition not recognized by LANDFIRE Biophysical Setting Models but is part of current conditions.

Herbicide use would be restricted to avoid use of sulfonylurea herbicides, other acetolactate synthesis inhibiting herbicides, and herbicides with adverse effects on aquatic species.

2.8.5.6 Parameter – Sagebrush (basin big sagebrush, Wyoming big sagebrush, mountain big sagebrush, and black sagebrush)

Management Actions

Management emphasis would be on protecting existing native sagebrush communities and preventing invasions of annual exotic species. Sagebrush communities would be allowed to function as naturally as possible with minimal influence from management or resource uses. Sagebrush areas that have been seeded with nonnative understory species (e.g., crested wheatgrass) would be returned to native species (see **Table 2.8-5**).

Table 2.8-5
Desired Range of Conditions of Sagebrush (Distribution of Phases and States)

State/Phase Name	Total Herbaceous State (Early, Mid, and Late Phases)[1]	Total Shrub State	Total Tree State	Altered State Annual/Perennial Invasive	Altered State Nonnative Perennial Seeded
LANDFIRE classes	A, B, and C	D	E	Uncharacteristic	Uncharacteristic
Alternative D[2]	17% (955,300 acres)	40% (2,247,800 acres)	43% (2,416,400 acres)	0% (0 acres)	0% (0 acres)

[1] Sagebrush in the mid-late phase of the herbaceous state is desired for wildlife habitat.
[2] This alternative approximates and incorporates the LANDFIRE Biophysical Setting Models for Great Basin xeric mixed sagebrush and Inter-Mountain Basin big sagebrush. Altered states (annual/perennial invasive and nonnative perennial seeded) are an uncharacteristic condition not recognized by LANDFIRE Biophysical Setting Models but are part of current conditions.

Areas with good perennial understory or that are near the limits of the desired range of conditions would be maintained by applying treatments. Wild fires would occur in this alternative and burned areas would be stabilized and rehabilitated to reduce invasive and noxious weed infestations. Invasive and noxious weed areas would receive chemical treatments to reduce or eliminate the threat of spreading. The overall goal of this alternative would be to reestablish native vegetation within the plant community at the mid scale (watershed level). Herbicides to reduce or eliminate annual invasive and noxious weeds would not include sulfonylurea herbicides, other acetolactate synthesis inhibiting herbicides, and herbicides with adverse effects on aquatic species.

2.8.5.7 Parameter – Mountain Mahogany

Management Actions

Natural processes would be allowed to occur within mountain mahogany communities. Desired range of conditions would be defined by natural processes with minimal influence from management (**Table 2.8-6**). Management actions and treatments in mountain mahogany sites would include elimination of existing invasive and nonnative species. Mountain mahogany communities would be protected to prevent further establishment or expansion of invasive species.

Table 2.8-6
Desired Range of Conditions of Mountain Mahogany (Distribution of Phases and States)

State and Phase	Herbaceous State (Herbaceous Phase)	Shrub State (Shrub/ Herbaceous Phase)	Shrub State (Shrub Phase)	Shrub/Tree-like State (No Understory Phase)[1]
Canopy Cover[2]	0-15% mahogany canopy cover	15-25% mahogany canopy cover (desired mix of herbaceous and shrub species in understory)	30-45% mahogany canopy cover (approaching threshold with no understory)	45-60% mahogany cover (shrub/tree-like and tree dominant)
LANDFIRE classes	A and C	B	D	E
Alternative D[3]	40% (18,400 acres)	20% (9,200 acres)	10% (4,600 acres)	30% (13,800 acres)

[1] Refers to savanna sites.
[2] Canopy cover determined from Natural Resource Conservation Service Ecological Site Descriptions.
[3] This alternative approximates and incorporates the LANDFIRE Biophysical Setting Models for Inter-Mountain Basins Mountain Mahogany woodland and shrubland.

Priority treatment areas would be in mahogany sites where invasive and nonnative species are present. Common tools would include application of herbicides other than sulfonylurea herbicides, other acetolactate synthesis inhibiting herbicides, and herbicides with adverse effects on aquatic species. Natural disturbances (e.g., wildland fire) would be allowed, but the disturbed area would be rehabilitated to prevent establishment of invasive species.

Only native species would be used for any seeding activities.

2.8.5.8 Parameter – Mojave Desert Vegetation

Management Actions

Mojave Desert communities would be allowed to function as naturally as possible. All livestock grazing and discretionary uses would be eliminated and all Mojave Desert vegetation (approximately 850,000 acres) would be protected from deterioration or conversion to annual invasive species by applying treatments where appropriate. Sulfonylurea herbicides, other acetolactate synthesis inhibiting herbicides, and herbicides with adverse effects on aquatic species would not be used.

Under this Alternative, approximately 54,825 acres or 15 percent of the area occupied by the creosotebush/bursage type would be treated to remove or control annual invasive species, and the remaining 85 percent of the acreage primarily would be maintained to achieve the (see **Table 2.8-7**). Areas currently in the herbaceous state would be intensively managed to facilitate conversion to the shrub state.

Table 2.8-7
Desired Range of Conditions of Creosotebush and Bursage
(Distribution of Phases and States)

Habitat Type	Herbaceous State	Shrub State	Altered State (Annual Invasive and Exotics)	Perennial Nonnative Seeded State
LANDFIRE Classes	A	B	Uncharacteristic	Uncharacteristic
Alternative D[1]	42% (153,510 acres)	43% (157,165 acres)	0% (0 acres)	15% (54,825 acres)

[1] In creosotebush/bursage communities, the herbaceous state and shrub state will correspond respectively to Class A and Class B as given in the LANDFIRE Biophysical Setting Model for Sonora-Mojave creosotebush-white bursage description. Altered states are an uncharacteristic condition not recognized by LANDFIRE Biophysical Settings models but are part of current conditions.

Under this Alternative, approximately 38,250 acres (10 percent) of the area occupied by the blackbrush type would be treated to remove or control annual invasive species, and the remaining 90 percent of the acreage primarily would be maintained (see **Table 2.8-8**). Areas currently in the herbaceous state would be intensively managed to facilitate conversion to the shrub state.

Table 2.8-8
Desired Range of Conditions of Blackbrush (Distribution of Phases and States)

Habitat Type	Herbaceous State	Shrub State	Altered state (annual invasive and exotics)	Perennial Nonnative Seeded State
LANDFIRE Classes	A	B	Uncharacteristic	Uncharacteristic
Alternative D[1]	60% (229,500 acres)	30% (114,750 acres)	0% (0 acres)	10% (38,250 acres)

[1] The herbaceous state and shrub state will correspond respectively to Class A and Class B as given in the LANDFIRE Biophysical Setting Model for Mojave mid-elevation desert scrub. Altered states are an uncharacteristic condition not recognized by LANDFIRE Biophysical Settings models but are part of current conditions.

2.8.5.9 Parameter – Riparian/Wetlands

Desired Range of Conditions

The Ely Field Office is directed to follow the appropriate rangeland health standards, which in the case of the Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council, states, “Riparian and wetland areas exhibit a properly functioning condition and achieve state water quality criteria.” In addition to achieving riparian proper functioning condition, composition, structure, and cover of riparian vegetation would occur within potential of the site. Ground cover and species composition would be appropriate to the site. Riparian areas with free-flowing water (i.e., undeveloped springs) that are non-functional or functioning at risk would show improving trends toward proper functioning condition. Factors that prevent proper functioning condition have

been addressed and mitigated, whenever possible. Restoration or maintenance of riparian areas would be a management priority applicable to all alternatives.

Management Actions

Riparian conservation areas would be identified and managed to prohibit land-disturbing activities in those areas. Resource uses would be removed in all riparian areas, and natural processes would be allowed to occur as nearly as possible. Treatments of riparian areas would be prioritized toward those that have invasive or exotic species. In-stream channel manipulations would be avoided. Treatments would be the same as Alternative A, except that herbicide use would not include sulfonylurea herbicides, other acetolactate synthesis-inhibiting herbicides, and herbicides with adverse effects on aquatic species.

2.8.5.10 Parameter – Nonnative Seedings

Management Actions

Nonnative seedings would be restored to the original native plant community. The sagebrush canopy cover would not be changed.

The desired range of conditions for phases and states is described in **Table 2.8-9**.

Table 2.8-9
Desired Range of Conditions of Seedings (Distribution of Phases and States)

Habitat Type	Herbaceous State	Shrub State	Tree State	Altered State (Annual Invasive)
Alternative D	25% (67,400 acres)	55% (148,200 acres)	20% (53,900 acres)	0% (0 acres)

Treatment emphasis would be to restore native vegetation in all areas seeded with introduced species. Herbicide use would not include sulfonylurea herbicides, other acetolactate synthesis inhibiting herbicides, and herbicides with adverse effects on aquatic species.

2.8.6 Fish and Wildlife

2.8.6.1 General Wildlife Habitat Management (Aquatic and Terrestrial)

Management Actions

Wildlife habitat management would emphasize a passive and indirect management approach to restoration for both game and nongame species through the exclusion of permitted uses and discretionary commodity uses of public lands.

Natural process would restore degraded habitats. Active management would occur where state water quality criteria standards are not being met or where non-functioning conditions persist. Any active habitat management would emphasize restoration of direct, human-induced alterations to the natural environment and protection of large, core areas of existing intact habitats.

2.8.6.2 Parameter – Elk, Mule Deer, Pronghorn Antelope, and Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep Habitats

Management Actions

Big game species habitats would not be actively managed to increase numbers or distribution, beyond what natural habitats and water sources would support.

Conservation actions for all wildlife habitats would be emphasized primarily through the exclusion of permitted uses and discretionary commodity uses of public lands. Habitat restoration would be emphasized secondarily where human-induced alterations have modified the natural environment.

Forage from existing livestock permits and additional forage resulting from restoration actions would be reserved for watershed maintenance and wildlife and/or allocated to wild horses within herd management areas. Outside herd management areas, the forage would be reserved for watershed maintenance and wildlife.

2.8.6.3 Parameter – Desert Bighorn Sheep Habitat

Management Actions

Conservation actions for desert bighorn sheep habitat would emphasize the exclusion of permitted uses and discretionary commodity uses of public lands.

Passive management would be emphasized over active management. Active habitat restoration for desert bighorn sheep habitat would be emphasized only in areas affected by wildland fires or where invasive species dominate.

2.8.6.4 Parameter – Migratory Bird Habitat

Management Actions

Conservation actions for migratory bird habitat would emphasize the exclusion of permitted uses and discretionary commodity uses of public lands. Thus, management of migratory birds and their habitats primarily would be passive.

Natural processes would be allowed to function and dictate the mosaics of wildlife habitats on a landscape scale. Restoration would occur only where human-induced alterations have modified the natural environment.

2.8.6.5 Parameter – Wildlife Water Developments

Management Actions

Removal of permitted uses from public lands would be the primary emphasis to provide reliable sources of water to wildlife. No emphasis for artificial wildlife water developments would occur to increase wildlife species numbers or distribution beyond what natural water sources could support. Artificial wildlife water developments would only be used to mitigate loss of natural waters sources or loss of wildlife habitat as a result of other multiple uses. Existing artificial wildlife water developments that do not mitigate for loss of natural water sources would be removed.

2.8.7 Special Status Species

2.8.7.1 Parameter – Special Status Species Habitat

Management Actions

Special status species management would emphasize a passive and indirect management approach through the exclusion of permitted uses and discretionary commodity uses of public lands. Natural process would be allowed to restore degraded habitats and determine future habitat conditions. Any active habitat management would emphasize restoration of direct human-induced alterations to the natural environment and protection of large, core areas of existing intact habitats. This alternative would not be consistent with BLM policies and legislation relative to special status species management.

2.8.7.2 Parameter – Great Basin Riparian Habitat

Special Status Species

Pahrump poolfish
White River spinedace
Railroad Valley springfish
Big Spring spinedace
Ute ladies'-tresses

Management Actions

Management of public lands around Shoshone Ponds and in Condor Canyon would occur through the exclusion of permitted uses and discretionary commodity uses. The fence at Shoshone Ponds would be re-built to the original footprint and designed solely to restrict human access into the area. Natural processes would be allowed to function and dictate the mosaics of wildlife habitats within Condor Canyon.

Management for Ute ladies'-tresses would be the same as the Proposed RMP.

2.8.7.3 Parameter – Mojave Desert and Great Basin Riparian Habitats

Special Status Species

Southwestern willow flycatcher
Western yellow-billed cuckoo
Meadow Valley Wash desert sucker
Meadow Valley Wash speckled dace
Arizona southwestern toad

Management Actions

Management of the Lower Meadow Valley Wash would emphasize the exclusion of permitted uses and discretionary commodity uses of public lands and restoration of natural hydrology. Wildlife habitat primarily would be managed through natural processes except for treatment of noxious/invasive plant species.

2.8.7.4 Parameter – Mojave Desert Riparian Habitat

Special Status Species

White River springfish
Hiko White River springfish
Pahranagat roundtail chub

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.8.7.5 Parameter – Mojave Desert Scrub Habitat

Special Status Species

Desert tortoise
Banded Gila monster

Management Actions

Management of Mojave Desert scrub habitat would emphasize the exclusion of permitted uses and discretionary commodity uses. The Kane Springs, Mormon Mesa, and Beaver Dam Slope ACECs would not be needed for the protection of desert tortoise, and the special designation would be removed from those areas. Natural processes would be allowed to function.

2.8.7.6 Parameter – Mojave and Great Basin Desert Scrub and Salt Desert Shrub Habitats

Special Status Species

Western burrowing owl
Sunnyside green gentian

Management Actions

Western burrowing owl habitat and sunnyside green gentian habitat primarily would be managed passively through the exclusion of permitted uses and discretionary commodity uses of public lands.

2.8.7.7 Parameter – Great Basin Sagebrush Habitat

Special Status Species

Greater sage-grouse
Pygmy rabbit

Management Actions

Sagebrush habitat management would emphasize a passive and indirect management approach through the exclusion of all permitted uses and discretionary commodity uses of public lands.

Habitat assessment protocol would focus solely on performing inventories and identifying areas where direct human-induced alterations to the natural environment have altered the vegetation state. Restoration of sagebrush habitats would be on a very small scale, and would be prioritized in areas with nonnative or invasive species and areas burned by wildland fires.

2.8.8 Wild Horses

2.8.8.1 General Wild Horse Management

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.8.8.2 Parameter – Herd Management Area Establishment

Management Actions

Wild horses would be managed within the same twenty-four herd management areas covering approximately 5.46 million acres as in Alternative A. No population limits would be established within these herd management areas. This alternative would not be consistent with the policies and laws relative to wild horse management.

2.8.8.3 Parameter – Population Management

Management Actions

Populations of wild horses within herd management areas would be unmanaged. Wild horses outside the herd management areas would be removed from public lands. This alternative would not be consistent with the policies and laws relative to wild horse management.

2.8.9 Cultural Resources

2.8.9.1 General Cultural Resources Management

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.8.9.2 Parameter – Cultural Resource Use Allocation: Historic Roads, Trails, Railways, Highways, and Associated Sidings and Stations

Management Actions

Same as Alternative B except the Ely Field Office would allocate and manage 100 percent of the National Register eligible historic roads, trails, railways, highways, and associated sidings and stations for Conservation Use.

2.8.9.3 Parameter – Cultural Resource Use Allocation: Rock Art Sites

Management Actions

All National Register eligible rock art sites with evidence of existing public use would be allocated and managed for Public Use.

No fee sites would be established.

2.8.9.4 Parameter – Cultural Resource Use Allocations: Historic Townsites, Historic Mining Camps, Historic Mining Districts, and Related Historic Buildings and Standing Structures, and Historic Racetracks

Management Actions

All National Register eligible sites would be allocated and managed for Conservation Use.

No fee sites would be established.

2.8.9.5 Parameter – Cultural Resource Use Allocations: Historic Cemeteries and Isolated Historic Gravesites

Management Actions

Same as Alternative B.

2.8.9.6 Parameter – Cultural Resource Use Allocations: Ethnic Arboreal Narratives and Graphics, and Bow Stave Trees

Management Actions

All National Register eligible sites would be allocated and managed for Conservation Use.

2.8.9.7 Parameter – Cultural Resource Use Allocations: Paleoindian Sites

For the purposes of this RMP, the term Paleoindian would be defined as follows: "Paleoindian or Pre-Archaic has been attributed to include both fluted and stemmed complexes as well as being reserved for complexes containing fluted points and extinct megafauna. The term Paleoindian would be used here to denote archeological sites and artifact assemblages dating between 12,000 to 8,000 years Before Present, which include fluted or stemmed points, and possibly crescents. Under this broad Paleoindian umbrella there are several local traditions and possible variants that may represent different peoples using the land in different ways. This includes Clovis, Folsom, Western Pluvial Lakes Tradition, and Stemmed Complex." (Sherve 2001).

Management Actions

All National Register eligible sites would be allocated and managed for Conservation Use.

2.8.9.8 Parameter – Cultural Resource Use Allocations: Formative Puebloan Sites

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP except no fee sites would be established.

2.8.9.9 Parameter – Cultural Resource Use Allocations: Rockshelter and Cave Sites

Management Actions

All National Register eligible sites would be allocated and managed for Conservation Use while maintaining existing Public Use sites.

No fee sites would be established.

2.8.9.10 Parameter – Cultural Resource Use Allocations: Prehistoric Complex Sites, Campsites, or Specialized Activity Areas

Management Actions

All National Register eligible sites would be allocated and managed for Scientific and/or Conservation Use.

2.8.9.11 Parameter – Cultural Resource Use Allocations: Toolstone Sources or Quarries

Management Actions

All National Register eligible toolstone sources/quarries would be allocated and managed for Conservation and/or Scientific Use.

2.8.9.12 Parameter – Cultural Resource Use Allocations: Historic Ranching and Livestock Related Historic Sites, Buildings, Standing Structures, and Landscapes

Management Actions

Up to one site per watershed would be allocated and managed for Public Use. All of the National Register eligible sites would be allocated and managed for Conservation Use.

2.8.9.13 Parameter – Cultural Resource Use Allocations: Ethnohistoric Sites, Sacred Sites, Traditional Use Areas, Traditional Cultural Properties

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.8.9.14 Parameter – Cultural Resource Use Allocations: "Other" Sites

"Other" is defined as those sites not falling into any of the above 12 site types.

Management Actions

- Management common to all cultural resource use allocations:
  - Fire potential would be evaluated and fuels would be removed where there is threat is loss.
  - Appropriate signs with information on site etiquette and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 would be posted where evidence of public use exists.
  - Use of site stewards for monitoring would be encouraged.
- Public use:
  - Due to sensitivity of some of these resources, public use on these sites (excluding the agave roasting pits) may be monitored.
- Priorities for Inventory:
  - Potential threats identified in Cultural Resource Project Plans
  - Existing designated sites

Management Actions

All National Register eligible sites would be allocated and managed for Scientific and/or Conservation Use with public use being monitored. Scientific Use would be permitted if it does not destroy features.

All of the agave roasting pits would be allocated to Scientific, Conservation, and/or Public Use.

2.8.10 Paleontological Resources

The BLM has authority to manage and protect paleontological resources under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, NEPA, and various sections of Part 43 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

2.8.10.1 General Paleontological Resource Management

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.8.10.2 Parameter – Trilobite Collecting

Management Actions

All trilobite locations would be closed to collecting.

2.8.11 Visual Resources

Management Actions

Visual resources would be managed in accordance with the following visual resource management classes (see **Map 2.8.11-1**).

Class I: 1,153,500 acres
Class II: 10,303,100 acres
Class III: 0 acres
Class IV: 0 acres

The entire planning area would be designated as Visual Resource Management Class I or II. Class I would be limited to designated wilderness and wilderness study areas. The remainder of the planning area would be designated as Class II.

2.8.12 Lands and Realty

2.8.12.1 Parameter – Retention

Management Actions

There would be no net loss of public lands in the planning area.

2.8.12.2 Parameter – Disposal (Sales, Exchanges, and Recreation and Public Purposes Act)

Management Actions

A total of 12,393 acres are identified to be available for potential disposal under this alternative: 1,435 acres in Lincoln County; 0 acres in Nye County; and 10,958 acres in White Pine County. This alternative would not be consistent with congressional direction relative to land disposal in Lincoln and White Pine counties.

No net loss of public land would be allowed under this alternative. However, legislative disposals would be implemented as mandated, but administrative disposals would not occur until sufficient “replacement lands” could be acquired to achieve no net loss of public land. Disposals may not be completed unless the same amount of acreage is acquired. No withdrawals would be implemented on subsequent specific disposal actions. Unauthorized use of public lands would be resolved.

See **Maps 2.8.12-1**, **2.8.12-2**, **2.8.12-3**, and **2.8.12-4**.

Criteria for Disposal Under Alternative D

- Disposals may occur when adjacent to communities or private property.
- Disposals may occur when capital investments have been made on public land and the Ely Field Office would benefit by allowing the developments and capital improvements to be changed to private ownership.
- Disposals may occur to facilitate implementation of resource goals and objectives as outlined in the RMP except 15,000 acres for Lincoln County identified by the Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act for open space parks.
- Disposals would occur to implement specific actions outlined in the White Pine County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act as identified in Management Action LR-13.
- Administrative disposals would not occur until sufficient "replacement lands" could be acquired to achieve no net loss of public land.
- New applications for Carey Act, Desert Land Entries, and Indian Allotments would be processed on a case-by-case basis.

2.8.12.3 Parameter – Acquisitions

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.8.12.4 Parameter – Withdrawals

Management Actions

The Ely Field Office would recommend for withdrawal 12,390 acres of land identified for potential disposal from mineral entry.

Requests by other federal agencies for new withdrawals, withdrawal relinquishments, or modifications would be considered on a case-by-case basis.

2.8.12.5 Parameter – Corridors

Management Actions

No additional corridors would be designated.

2.8.12.6 Parameter – Communication Sites

Management Actions

The suitability of all existing/pending communication sites would be analyzed.

2.8.12.7 Parameter – Land Use Authorizations (Rights-of-Way, Permits, Leases, Easements, and Unauthorized Use)

Management Actions

There would be no new land use authorizations. No land use authorization avoidance or exclusion areas would be necessary. This alternative would not be consistent with BLM policy and legislation for land use authorizations.

2.8.13 Renewable Energy

2.8.13.1 Parameter – Wind, Solar, and Biomass Energy

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP except no applications would be approved.

2.8.14 Travel Management and Off-highway Vehicle Use

2.8.14.1 Parameter – Transportation Plan

Management Actions

All motorized vehicle travel would be limited to designated roads and trails. Road and trail designations would be limited to mechanically maintained roads. The transportation plan would consist of currently mechanically maintained roads and trails. Unmaintained roads would be rehabilitated to discourage continued motorized use.

2.8.14.2 Parameter – Off-highway Vehicles

Management Actions

Off-highway vehicles would be limited to maintained roads and trails (see **Map 2.8.14-1** for planning area transportation map).

- Open to cross-country off-highway vehicle use: 0 acres.
- Off-highway vehicle use limited to maintained roads and trails: approximately 400,000 acres.
- Closed to off-highway vehicle use: 11,100,000 acres.

2.8.15 Recreation

2.8.15.1 Parameter – Special Recreation Management Areas

Management Actions

No special recreation management areas would be managed and existing developed sites would be eliminated.

2.8.15.2 Parameter – Special Recreation Permits

Management Actions

No outfitter and guide permits for hunting would be issued. No areas would be identified for off-highway vehicle emphasis areas. No motorcycle events would be permitted. No truck events would be permitted.

2.8.16 Livestock Grazing

Management Actions

All livestock grazing would be eliminated within the decision area. Since such action is not consistent with existing regulations and policies, implementation of this alternative would require that the Ely Field Office request exemption from existing regulations and policies pursuant to the Taylor Grazing Act, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, and other applicable laws.

2.8.17 Forest/Woodland and Other Plant Products

2.8.17.1 General Forest/Woodland and Other Plant Product Management

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.8.17.2 Parameter – Fuelwood Collection

Management Actions

No fuelwood collection.

2.8.17.3 Parameter – Pinyon Pine Nut Harvesting

Management Actions

Hand collection of pinyon pine nuts for personal use would be allowed. Commercial use would not be allowed within the planning area.

2.8.17.4 Parameter – Christmas Tree Harvesting

Management Actions

No Christmas tree harvesting would be allowed.

2.8.17.5 Parameter – Post and Pole Harvesting

Management Actions

No post and pole harvesting would be allowed.

2.8.17.6 Parameter – Seed Collection

Management Actions

Commercial use would be allowed on a case-by-case basis.

Hand collection methods would be encouraged, and mechanical collection would be allowed on a limited basis.

2.8.17.7 Parameter – Other Vegetation Product (i.e., wildings, boughs, etc.) Collection

Management Actions

Collection would not be allowed.

2.8.17.8 Parameter – Biomass Products

Management Actions

No biomass harvest would be allowed.

2.8.18 Geology and Mineral Extraction

2.8.18.1 General Geology and Mineral Management

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.8.18.2 Parameter – Fluid Leasable Minerals

As depicted in **Table 2.8-10**, Alternative D would exclude all new discretionary uses of the public lands including mineral leasing. Therefore, under this alternative the entire planning area would be closed to mineral leasing. Except for honoring existing leases, new leases and new exploration would not occur. This alternative would not be consistent with BLM policies, legislation, and the President's Energy Policy.

Table 2.8-10
Summary of Fluid Leasing

Open to Fluid Mineral Leasing	**Acres[1]**
Standard Lease Terms and Conditions	**0**
Minor Restrictions	
Programmatic Surface Use/Timing	0
Standard Surface Use/Timing	0
Major Restrictions	
No Surface Occupancy	0
Open – Total	0
Closed to Fluid Mineral Leasing	
Designated Wilderness/Wilderness Study Areas	1,153,500
Discretionary Closure by the Ely Field Office	10,346,500
Closed – Total	11,500,000
Total	**11,500,000**

[1] Rounded to hundreds.

2.8.18.3 Parameter – Solid Leasable Minerals

Management Actions

Alternative D would exclude all new discretionary uses of the public lands including mineral leasing. Therefore, under this alternative the entire planning area would be closed to solid mineral leasing. Except for honoring existing leases, new leases and new exploration would not occur. Currently there are no active solid mineral leases on the planning area.

See **Table 2.8-11** for a summary of the distribution acres for Alternative D.

Table 2.8-11
Summary of Solid Leasing Acres

	Acres
Solid Leasable Open	0
Solid Leasable Closed	11,500,000
Total	**11,500,000**

2.8.18.4 Parameter – Locatable Minerals

Management Actions

See **Table 2.8-12** for a summary of the distribution of acres for Alternative D.

Table 2.8-12
Summary of Locatable Minerals

	Acres[1]
Locatable Open	5,178,600
Locatable Closed	6,321,400
Total	**11,500,000**
Acres closed outside of designated wilderness/wilderness study areas	5,167,900

[1] Rounded to hundreds.

Map 2.8.18-1 shows the location of areas that would be proposed for withdrawal to locatable minerals for Alternative D.

There would be approximately 5.3 million acres of federal mineral estate open for locatable mineral development, subject to the prevention of unnecessary or undue degradation of public lands, and stringent

reclamation requirements including all native seeds and the elimination of all exotic species and noxious weeds.

There would be approximately 6.2 million acres proposed for withdrawal to locatable mineral entry. All special designated areas and sensitive habitat from all the alternatives would be proposed for withdrawal to locatable entry. The withdrawn areas include approximately 1.2 million acres of designated wilderness and wilderness study areas, approximately 5.1 million acres of greater sage-grouse habitat, and about 200,000 acres of cultural and recreational areas outside of these areas. The withdrawn cultural and recreational areas include all special designation areas from the Proposed RMP and Alternatives A, B, and C and all proposed ACECs from Alternative C.

This alternative would not be consistent with policies and legislation (1872 Mining Law).

Site-specific standard operating procedures for locatable mineral operations under this alternative would be compiled from the complete list of standard operating procedures for Alternative D as well as selections from Alternatives B and C that are shown in Appendix M of the Ely Draft RMP/EIS (July 2005).

2.8.18.5 Parameter – Mineral Materials

Management Actions

As shown in **Table 2.8-13**, Alternative D would exclude all new discretionary uses of the public lands including mineral disposals. Therefore, under this alternative the entire planning area would be closed to mineral material sales and disposals. Except for honoring existing contracts, new mineral disposals would not occur. This alternative may be considered extreme and impossible to implement due to legal constraints and the great demand for gravel.

Table 2.8-13
Summary of Mineral Materials

	Acres
Mineral Materials – Open	0
Mineral Materials – Closed	11,500,000
Total	**11,500,000**
Acres closed outside of designated wilderness/wilderness study areas	10,346,500

2.8.19 Watershed Management

2.8.19.1 Parameter – Allocation of Additional Forage as a Result of Restoration Actions

Management Actions

Prioritization of watershed analyses is the same as described in the Proposed RMP.

After Standards for Rangeland Health have been met at the watershed level, additional forage would be reserved for watershed maintenance and wildlife and allocated to wild horses within herd management area. Outside herd management areas, the forage would be reserved for watershed maintenance and wildlife. No forage would be allocated to livestock.

2.8.20 Fire Management

2.8.20.1 Parameter – Fire Management

Management Actions

A new fire management plan would be developed with emphasis on no suppression of wildland fires except for human-caused and those that threaten life and/or property. Thus, fires resulting from natural ignition sources would be monitored and allowed to burn with minimal suppression activity until they are extinguished by natural events (e.g., precipitation) or by reaching existing barriers (e.g., roads, ridge tops, water bodies, and major changes in vegetation type). Because this alternative involves very limited vegetation treatments to restore resilience to the vegetation communities, prescribed fire would not be used as a major tool for vegetation management.

2.8.21 Noxious and Invasive Weed Management

2.8.21.1 Parameter – Invasive and Nonnative Plant Species Management

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP except sulfonylurea herbicides and other acetolactate synthesis-inhibiting herbicides would not be allowed. Herbicides with documented adverse effects on fish, amphibians, and other aquatic species (e.g., atrazine) would not be allowed.

2.8.22 Special Designations

2.8.22.1 Parameter – Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

Management Actions

Designate no new ACECs and remove ACEC designation from the three existing ACECs.

2.8.22.2 Parameter – Back Country Byways

Management Actions

Same as Alternative A.

2.8.22.3 Parameter – Designated Wilderness

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.8.22.4 Parameter – Wilderness Study Areas

Management Actions

Same as the Proposed RMP.

2.8.22.5 Parameter – Other Special Designations

Management Actions

All of the 23 special designations would be dropped and none would be withdrawn from disposal.

2.9 Summary of Management by Alternative

Table 2.9-1 presents a summary of the management for each alternative being analyzed in this RMP/EIS. The summary table is first organized by resource program and then subdivided by management goal and management parameters. The management actions that address each parameter are then presented. Various tools and techniques (presented in Appendix G), best management practices (presented in Appendix F), and standard terms and conditions for mineral leasing (Appendix M of the Ely Draft RMP/EIS [July 2005]), and standard operating procedures for lands and realty actions (Appendix N of the Ely Draft RMP/EIS [July 2005]) also are important components of the management of resources by the Ely Field Office. Lastly, the management actions that have been selected by the Ely Field Office to comprise the Proposed RMP also are presented in **Table 2.9-1**.

Table 2.9-1
Summary Comparison of Alternatives

Proposed RMP	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
PHYSICAL AND BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES				
AIR RESOURCES				
Goal – Meet all applicable local, state, and tribal constraints, and National Ambient Air Quality Standards under the Clean Air Act (as amended), and prevent significant deterioration of air quality (defined as violation of air quality regulations) within the Ely planning area from all direct and authorized actions.				
Develop burn plans and coordinate with the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection and the Department of Defense prior to planning/ implementing prescribed burn treatments. Coordinate with the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection prior to planning prescribed fires and other air quality related actions. Authorize activities with potential adverse effects on Class I or Class II classification of public lands within or adjacent to the planning area on a case-by-case basis.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.
WATER RESOURCES				
Goal – The quality of water resource on public lands administered by the Ely Field Office will be suitable for the appropriate beneficial uses and will meet approved federal, state, tribal, and local requirements, guidelines, and objectives. The quantity of water on public lands administered by the Ely Field Office will be suitable to meet public land management purposes. **Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council Standard. Riparian and wetland areas exhibit a properly functioning condition and achieve state water quality criteria.**				
Comply with applicable laws, Resource Advisory Council standards and guidelines, best management practices, and mitigation measures to ensure authorized activities on public lands do not degrade water quality. Cooperate with the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection to reduce non-point source water pollution. Recognize community wellhead protection areas and authorize only activities that do not have potential for degrading groundwater quality. Control or restrict land uses and utilize appropriate treatments to promote desired vegetation conditions.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.

Table 2.9-1 (Continued)

Proposed RMP	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
SOIL RESOURCES				
Goal – Maintain or improve long-term soil quality. **Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council Standard. Upland soils exhibit infiltration and permeability rates that are appropriate to soil type, climate, and landform.** **Great Basin Resource Advisory Council Standard. Watershed soils and stream banks should have adequate stability to resist accelerated erosion, maintain soil productivity, and sustain the hydrologic cycle.**				
Establish desirable plant communities, maintain existing desirable vegetation ground cover composition consistent with the ecological site characteristics, and sustain other ground cover including biotic soil crusts and litter to increase or maintain surface soil stability and nutrient cycling. Prepare sites for reclamation by salvaging and stockpiling topsoil and seeding stock piles left for more than one growing season. Re-contour disturbance areas prior to re-vegetation. Rip all compacted portions and establish an adequate seed bed. Protect soils from high compaction during surface disturbing activities on a case-by-case basis.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.
VEGETATION RESOURCES				
Goal – 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. **Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council Standard. Habitats – Exhibit a healthy, productive and diverse population of native and/or desirable plant species, appropriate to the site characteristics, to provide suitable feed, water, cover, and living space for animal species and maintain ecological processes; habitat conditions meet the life cycle requirements of threatened and endangered species.** **Great Basin Resource Advisory Council Standard. Habitats and watersheds should sustain a level of biodiversity appropriate for the area and conducive to appropriate uses. Habitats of special status species should be able to sustain viable populations of those species.**				
General Vegetation Management				
Emphasize integrated treatment areas that have the best potential to maintain desired conditions or respond and return to the desired range of conditions and mosaic upon the landscape.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.
Develop specific management objectives through the watershed analysis process, incorporating direction from activity plans.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.

Table 2.9-1 (Continued)

Proposed RMP	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
Adhere to the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (Section 102 (e)) to develop a process to identify and protect old-growth characteristics or their equivalent.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.
Design management to achieve plant composition within the desired range of conditions for vegetation communities, and emphasize plant and animal community health at the mid scale (watershed level).	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.
Focus restoration of undesirable conditions initially on those sites that have not crossed vegetation transitional thresholds.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.
Emphasize the conservation and maintenance of healthy, resilient, and functional vegetation communities before restoration of other sites.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.
Determine seed mixes on a site-specific basis dependent on the probability of successful establishment. Use native and adapted species that compete with annual invasive species or meet other objectives.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.
Parameter – Pinyon-juniper Woodland				
Manage pinyon-juniper communities proactively to attain desired vegetation states capable of providing essential wildlife habitat.	Continue case-by-case management to reduce the amount of over-mature woodlands or woodlands near the threshold of mature/over-mature.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Pinyon-juniper communities would be managed to achieve phases that would provide more products for commercial use.	Natural processes would be allowed to occur within pinyon-juniper woodlands and most discretionary land uses would be eliminated.

Table 2.9-1 (Continued)

Proposed RMP	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
Implement actions to achieve the following distribution of states and phases: Herbaceous state (10%); Herbaceous state - immature woodland phase (20%); Tree state - mature woodland phase (65%); Tree state - overmature woodland phase (5%); Altered state (0%).	Implement actions to achieve the following distribution of states and phases: Herbaceous state (10%); Herbaceous state - immature woodland phase (10%); Tree state - mature woodland phase (30%); Tree state - overmature woodland phase (50%); Altered state (0%).	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Implement actions to achieve the following distribution of states and phases: Herbaceous state (40%); Herbaceous state - immature woodland phase (35%); Tree state - mature woodland phase (20%); Tree state - overmature woodland phase (<5%); Altered state (0%).	Passively treat and manage pinyon-juniper communities to achieve the following distribution of states and phases: Herbaceous state (30%); Herbaceous state - immature woodland phase (25%); Tree state - mature woodland phase (15%); Tree state - overmature woodland phase (30%); Altered state (0%).
Parameter – Aspen				
Manage aspen communities to improve resiliency by increasing regeneration and diversifying the age and structure of vegetation classes.	Manage select aspen communities to increase regeneration of aspen trees and understory species.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Manage to achieve phases that support commodity production.	Natural processes would be allowed to occur and management primarily would be passive. Most discretionary land uses would be eliminated.
Implement actions to achieve the following distribution of states and phases: Herbaceous state - herbaceous, herbaceous-shrub, and sapling (14%); Herbaceous state - immature woodland phase (40%); Tree state - mature woodland phase (45%); Tree state - overmature woodland phase (<1%).	Implement actions to achieve the following distribution of states and phases: Herbaceous state - herbaceous, herbaceous-shrub, and sapling (10%); Herbaceous state - immature woodland phase (10%); Tree state - mature woodland phase (35%); Tree state - overmature woodland phase (45%).	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Implement actions to achieve the following distribution of states and phases: Herbaceous state - herbaceous, herbaceous-shrub, and sapling (15%); Herbaceous state - immature woodland phase (55%); Tree state - mature woodland phase (30%); Tree state - overmature woodland phase (<1%).	Passively treat and manage aspen communities to achieve the following distribution of states and phases: Herbaceous state - herbaceous, herbaceous-shrub, and sapling (5%); Herbaceous state - immature woodland phase (10%); Tree state - mature woodland phase (40%); Tree state - overmature woodland phase (45%).
Parameter – High Elevation Conifer Species (White Fir, Ponderosa Pine, Limber Pine, Bristlecone Pine, Engelmann Spruce, etc.)				
Focus management actions on preventative rather than remedial treatments before sites cross thresholds to undesirable phases.	Management actions would focus on the introduction of fire through the management of wildland fire or prescribed fire.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Accessible sites would be managed for commodity products.	Passive management would allow natural processes to occur.

Table 2.9-1 (Continued)

Proposed RMP	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
Implement actions to achieve the following distribution of states and phases: Herbaceous state – herbaceous, herbaceous/sapling phase (20%); Herbaceous state – immature phase (20%); Tree state – mature phase (50%); Tree state – overmature phase (10%).	Implement actions to achieve the following distribution of states and phases: Herbaceous state – herbaceous, herbaceous/sapling phase (5%); Herbaceous state – immature phase (5%); Tree state – mature phase (50%); Tree state – overmature phase (40%).	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Implement actions to achieve the following distribution of states and phases: Herbaceous state – herbaceous, herbaceous/sapling phase (45%); Herbaceous state – immature phase (35%); Tree state – mature phase (20%); Tree state – overmature phase (<1%).	Passively treat and manage high elevation conifer communities to achieve the following distribution of states and phases: Herbaceous state – herbaceous, herbaceous/sapling phase (25%); Herbaceous state – immature phase (25%); Tree state – mature phase (15%); Tree state – overmature phase (35%).
Ponderosa Pine only: Herbaceous state – herbaceous and herbaceous/sapling phase (10%); Tree state – saplings and survivors (20%) Tree state – mature phase (60%) Tree state – overmature phase (10%).	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.
Parameter – Salt Desert Shrub (Shadscale, Winterfat, Four-Wing Salt Bush, etc.)				
Manage to achieve plant composition within the desired range of conditions to increase or decrease shrubs and perennial herbaceous composition and restore areas invaded by exotic species.	Treat and restore select habitat sites that have been invaded by exotic species at the watershed level.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Manage to increase forage production for commodity use and maintain diverse mosaics and connectivity between geographic areas to provide required habitat for game species, especially special status and threatened and endangered species.	Passively manage existing native salt desert shrub communities and actively treat invasions of exotic species.
Implement actions to achieve the following distribution of states and phases: Herbaceous state (5%); Shrub state (77%); Altered state – annual invasive/exotic state (0%); Altered state – perennial nonnative seeded (18%).	Manage salt desert shrub communities to achieve the following distribution of states and phases: Herbaceous state (18%); Shrub state (64%); Altered state – annual invasive/exotic state (0%); Altered state – perennial nonnative seeded (18%).	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Implement actions to achieve the following distribution of states and phases: Herbaceous state (32%); Shrub state (50%); Altered state – annual invasive/exotic state (0%); Altered state – perennial nonnative seeded (18%).	Same as Alternative A.

Table 2.9-1 (Continued)

Proposed RMP	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
Parameter – Sagebrush (basin big sagebrush, Wyoming big sagebrush, mountain big sagebrush, and black sagebrush)				
Manage to achieve plant composition within the desired range of conditions to increase or decrease sagebrush overstory for specific habitat objectives.	Treat areas where pinyon-juniper is encroaching into sagebrush sites. Maintain plant communities in the herbaceous and shrub states. Increase the use of fire and increase seeding following fire.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Manage to achieve high productivity of commodity values while maintaining and enhancing ecological health and resilience.	Allow sagebrush communities to function as naturally as possible with minimal influence from management or resource uses. Return sagebrush areas that have been seeded with nonnative species to native species.
Implement actions to achieve the following distribution of states and phases: Herbaceous state (85%); Shrub state (5%); Tree state (5%); Altered state – annual/perennial invasive (0%); Altered state – nonnative perennial seeded (5%).	Implement actions to achieve the following distribution of states and phases: Herbaceous state (35%); Shrub state (55%); Tree state (2%); Altered state – annual/perennial invasive (0%); Altered state – nonnative perennial seeded (8%).	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Implement actions to achieve the following distribution of states and phases: Herbaceous state (45%); Shrub state (5%); Tree state (0%); Altered state – annual/perennial invasive (0%); Altered state – nonnative perennial seeded (50%).	Emphasize passive treatments and manage sagebrush communities to achieve the following distribution of states and phases: Herbaceous state (17%); Shrub state (40%); Tree state (43%); Altered state – annual/perennial invasive (0%); Altered state – nonnative perennial seeded (0%).
Parameter – Mountain Mahogany				
Manage proactively to maintain or enhance diversity, mosaics, and connectivity of the surrounding sagebrush communities and satisfy wildlife habitat requirements.	Manage in the same way as the associated or surrounding sagebrush communities.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Manage to achieve the phases with the greatest potential for commodity production. Emphasize wildlife habitat needs in designated critical habitat areas only.	Allow natural processes to occur. Limit land uses and treat areas where invasive and nonnative species are present.
Implement actions to achieve the following distribution of states and phases: Herbaceous state – herbaceous phase (20%); Shrub state – shrub/herbaceous phase (20%); Shrub state – shrub phase (15%); Shrub/tree-like state – no understory phase (45%).	Implement actions to achieve the following distribution of states and phases: Herbaceous state – herbaceous phase (10%); Shrub state – shrub/herbaceous phase (10%); Shrub state – shrub phase (40%); Shrub/tree-like state – no understory phase (40%).	Same as the Proposed RMP	Implement actions to achieve the following distribution of states and phases: Herbaceous state – herbaceous phase (65%); Shrub state – shrub/herbaceous phase (20%); Shrub state – shrub phase (15%); Shrub/tree-like state – no understory phase (<1%).	Passively treat and manage mountain mahogany communities to achieve the following distribution of states and phases: Herbaceous state – herbaceous phase (40%); Shrub state – shrub/herbaceous phase (20%); Shrub state – shrub phase (10%); Shrub/tree-like state – no understory phase (30%).

Table 2.9-1 (Continued)

Proposed RMP	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
Parameter – Mojave Desert Vegetation				
Implement actions to achieve the following distribution of states and phases: Herbaceous state (15%); Shrub state (70%); Altered state – annual invasive and exotics (0%); Perennial nonnative seeded state (15%).	Manage creosotebush/bursage communities to achieve the following distribution of states and phases: Herbaceous state (42%); Shrub state (43%); Altered state – annual invasive and exotics (0%); Perennial nonnative seeded state (15%).	Same as Alternative A except livestock grazing would be eliminated on the remainder of the Mojave Desert.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Emphasize passive treatments and manage creosotebush/bursage communities to achieve the following distribution of states and phases: Herbaceous state (42%); Shrub state (43%); Altered state – annual invasive and exotics (0%); Perennial nonnative seeded state (15%).
Implement actions to achieve the following distribution of states and phases: Herbaceous state (15%); Shrub state (75%); Altered state – annual invasive and exotics (0%); Perennial nonnative seeded state (10%).	Manage blackbrush communities to achieve the following distribution of states and phases: Herbaceous state (60%); Shrub state (30%); Altered state – annual invasive and exotics (0%); Perennial nonnative seeded state (10%).	Treat with herbicides and minimal prescribed burning.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Emphasize passive treatments and manage blackbrush communities to achieve the following distribution of states and phases: Herbaceous state (60%); Shrub state (30%); Altered state – annual invasive and exotics (0%); Perennial nonnative seeded state (10%).
Parameter – Riparian/Wetlands				
Manage and protect vegetation so that stable water flow and bank stability are maintained. Focus management actions on activities that protect, maintain, and restore riparian habitat.	Manage uses to achieve or make progress toward proper functioning condition.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Maintain or restore plant community structure and composition of desired species of grasses, sedges, forbs, and shrubs on riparian habitats where possible and as appropriate to site potential while providing for commodity production.	Manage riparian areas and allow natural processes to occur as nearly as possible. Treat riparian areas that have invasive or exotic species.
Parameter – Nonnative Seedings				
Manage nonnative seedings to achieve the desired range of conditions. Actively treat approximately 30% of the total area with excessive tree, shrub, and invasive species composition and maintain the remainder (70%) in the existing desired state.	Maintain or improve the composition of understory species for multiple use objectives. Prescribed fire is the preferred treatment method.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Allow the majority of the area to remain in the herbaceous and shrub states.	Restore nonnative seedings to the original native plant community.

Table 2.9-1 (Continued)

Proposed RMP	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
Implement actions to achieve the following distribution of states and phases: Herbaceous state (65%); Shrub state (25%); Tree state (10%); Altered state – annual invasive (0%).	Implement actions to achieve the following distribution of states and phases: Herbaceous state (25%); Shrub state (66%); Tree state (9%); Altered state – annual invasive (0%).	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Implement actions to achieve the following distribution of states and phases: Herbaceous state (85%); Shrub state (15%); Tree state (0%); Altered state – annual invasive (0%).	Proactively treat and manage nonnative seedings to achieve the following distribution of states and phases: Herbaceous state (25%); Shrub state (55%); Tree state (20%); Altered state – annual invasive (0%).
FISH AND WILDLIFE				
Goal – Provide habitat for wildlife (i.e., forage, water, cover, and space) and fisheries that is of sufficient quality and quantity to support productive and diverse wildlife and fish populations, in a manner consistent with the principles of multi-use management, and to sustain the ecological, economic, and social values necessary for all species. **Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council Standard. Habitats exhibit a healthy, productive and diverse population of native and/or desirable plant species, appropriate to the site characteristics, to provide suitable feed, water, cover and living space for animal species and maintain ecological processes. Habitat conditions meet the life cycle requirements of threatened and endangered species.** **Mojave/Southern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council Standard. Habitats and watersheds should sustain a level of biodiversity appropriate for the area and conducive to appropriate uses. Habitats of special status species should be able to sustain viable populations of those species.**				
Parameter – General Wildlife Habitat Management (Aquatic and Terrestrial)				
Management actions will emphasize habitats for priority species, and conservation and maintenance of healthy, resilient, and functional vegetation communities before restoration of other sites. Release wildlife within the planning area in conformance with the memorandum of understanding between the BLM and Nevada Department of Wildlife. Consider U.S. Fish and Wildlife conservation plan objectives when managing habitat adjacent to a national wildlife refuge. Mitigate loss of priority habitats with restoration of 2 acres of comparable habitat for every 1 acre of lost habitat; determined on a project-by-project basis.	Same as the Proposed RMP except priority wildlife species and habitat would not be designated and the 2:1 acreage mitigation goal would not be a management action. Streams in the historic Schell Resource Area would be retained in public ownership pending environmental assessments. Habitat management would be prepared for selected streams and riparian use restrictions would be implemented on a case-by-case basis.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Perform wildlife habitat management for game species that offer the greatest recreational opportunities and economic stimulus to local economies.	Emphasize a passive and indirect management approach to wildlife habitat management restoration for both game and nongame species through the exclusion of discretionary uses of public lands. Active management would occur only when state water quality criteria are not being met.

Table 2.9-1 (Continued)

Proposed RMP	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
Parameter – Elk, Mule Deer, Pronghorn Antelope, and Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep Habitat				
In coordination with the Nevada Department of Wildlife update priority habitats, restricting activities where appropriate from April 15 through June 30 in crucial summer range and from November 1 through March 31 in crucial winter range habitat. Prioritize and initially focus restoration activities on priority habitats. Manage elk habitat by implementing appropriate actions from county elk management plans. Manage Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep habitat in the Snake Range and in unoccupied ranges when domestic sheep grazing no longer occurs.	Habitat management plans would be prepared and implemented to support reasonable numbers of big game species. Timing limits would be implemented as appropriate. County elk plans would direct elk habitat management. Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep habitat would be managed in all occupied ranges. The needs of nongame species would not be factored heavily into habitat management actions.	Same as the Proposed RMP except additional forage would be reserved for watershed maintenance and wildlife. Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep would be managed in all historic range and domestic livestock grazing would be eliminated in all Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep ranges.	Same as the Proposed RMP except no timing limits in priority habitat and restoration focus would not be on priority/seasonal habitats. The early phase of the herbaceous state would be emphasized and additional forage would be allocated to livestock, wildlife, and wild horses. Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep would be managed in all occupied ranges. Big game species habitats would be managed to support increased game species numbers, densities, and distributions. The needs of nongame species would minimally be factored into habitat management actions. Elk habitats would be managed to create a predominantly early phase of the herbaceous state. Mule deer and antelope habitats would be actively managed where no direct conflicts with livestock or commodity oriented objectives occur. No management emphasis would be developed or implemented to prioritize efforts toward any seasonal big game habitats.	Big game species habitats would not be actively managed to increase distribution or density beyond what natural habitats and water sources would support. Conservation actions for all wildlife habitats primarily would emphasize the exclusion of permitted uses of public lands. Habitat restoration would be emphasized secondarily where human-induced alterations have modified the natural environment.

Table 2.9-1 (Continued)

Proposed RMP	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
Parameter – Desert Bighorn Sheep Habitat				
Manage desert bighorn sheep habitat in all occupied ranges. When changes to BLM grazing permits are being considered in other portions of historic ranges, manage domestic sheep and goats in accordance with current BLM policies. Where appropriate, restrict permitted activities within occupied habitat from March 1 through May 31 and from July 1 through August 31. Consider managing habitat in unoccupied ranged if/when domestic sheep grazing no longer occurs.	Habitat management plans would be prepared and implemented to support reasonable numbers of desert bighorn sheep. When changes to BLM grazing permits are being considered, domestic sheep and goats would be managed in accordance with current BLM policies for management of domestic sheep and goats in bighorn sheep habitat.	Same as the Proposed RMP except desert bighorn sheep habitat would be managed in all historic ranges. Domestic livestock (sheep and cattle) grazing would be eliminated in all desert bighorn sheep ranges and migration routes.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Conservation actions for desert bighorn sheep habitat would emphasize the exclusion of discretionary use of public lands. Management would primarily be passive.
Parameter – Migratory Bird Habitat (including sagebrush-obligate species)				
Identify habitat needs for species of concern so that actions can be directed to achieve desired supporting vegetation conditions. Consult BLM Nevada Migratory Bird Best Management Practices for the Sagebrush Biome and conduct breeding bird surveys in conjunction with consulting agencies to document population status and trends. Limit the take of migratory birds through implementation of BLM policies for the conservation of migratory birds.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Conservation actions for migratory bird habitat would emphasize the exclusion of discretionary uses of public lands. Management actions would be primarily passive.

Table 2.9-1 (Continued)

Proposed RMP	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
Parameter – Wildlife Water Developments				
Increase water availability through restoration of natural water sources and proper livestock and wild horse management. Identify areas where water is limited and suitable habitat exists in consultation with the Nevada Department of Wildlife and the public; use specified criteria to identify artificial wildlife water developments in these areas.	Same as the Proposed RMP except wildlife water developments would be evaluated based on Nevada Department of Wildlife water development criteria.	Water availability would be increased through riparian area restoration and proper management of livestock and wild horses. No emphasis to artificial water developments would occur to increase wildlife species distribution or density beyond what natural water source availability and location could support. Water developments would be used primarily to mitigate multiple-use impacts to wildlife species from loss of habitat or reduction of natural waters source availability. Water developments would be evaluated based on BLM water development criteria.	Same as the Proposed RMP except artificial water developments would be maximized to expand suitable habitats and increase the distribution and density of economically significant wildlife populations to provide increased recreational opportunities. Artificial water developments would be maximized.	Removal of permitted uses from public lands would be the primary emphasis to provide reliable sources of water to wildlife. No emphasis to artificial water developments would occur to increase wildlife species distribution or density beyond what natural water source availability and location could support. Artificial water developments would be used primarily to mitigate multiple-use impacts to wildlife species from loss of habitat or reduction of natural waters source availability.
SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES				
Goal – Manage public lands to conserve, maintain, and restore special status species populations and their habitats; support the recovery of federally listed threatened and endangered species; and preclude the need to list additional species.				
Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council Standard. Habitats exhibit a healthy, productive and diverse population of native and/or desirable plant species, appropriate to the site characteristics, to provide suitable feed, water, cover, and living space for animal species and maintain ecological processes. Habitat conditions meet the life cycle requirements of threatened and endangered species. Riparian and wetland areas exhibit a properly functioning condition and achieve state water quality criteria.				
Great Basin Resource Advisory Council Standard. Habitats and watersheds should sustain a level of biodiversity appropriate for the area and conducive to appropriate uses. Habitats of special status species should be able to sustain viable populations of those species. Watersheds should possess the necessary ecological components to achieve state water quality criteria, maintain ecological processes, and sustain appropriate uses. Riparian and wetlands vegetation should have structural and species diversity characteristic of the stage of stream channel succession to provide forage and cover, capture sediment and capture, retain, and safely release water (watershed function).				

Table 2.9-1 (Continued)

Proposed RMP	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
Parameter – Special Status Species Habitat				
Prioritize conservation, maintenance, and restoration needs based on order of species importance. Develop and implement interagency recovery implementation teams to develop management actions for the recovery of listed species. Implement an inventory and monitoring program. Do not conduct noxious and invasive weed control within 0.5 mile of nesting and brood areas during the corresponding seasons, and where appropriate, restrict permitted activities from May 1 through July 15. Manage Bonneville cutthroat trout habitat using strategies identified in the BLM conservation agreement and strategy.	Same as the Proposed RMP except ferruginous hawks and several BLM sensitive species would be protected by mineral lease restrictions. Special status species habitat management would address an immediate need or habitat niche for the maintenance, mitigation, and restoration of a single special status species.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP except only ferruginous hawks would be protected by mineral lease restrictions.	Special status species habitat management would emphasize a passive and indirect management approach through the exclusion of discretionary uses of public lands.
Manage bat habitat by actions identified in the Revised Nevada Bat Conservation Plan. Important roosting and foraging habitats for bats will be identified outside of the watershed analysis process and proactive measures will be implemented to conserve, protect, and restore these habitats. Consider the needs of obligate bat species in vegetation restoration. Perform springsnail surveys prior to spring source development. Mitigate loss of priority habitats with restoration of 2 acres of comparable habitat for every 1 acre of lost habitat; determined on a project-by-project basis.	Bat habitat would be managed by actions identified in the Ely Cave Management Plan on a case-by-case basis.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP, except restoration actions for bat habitat would be emphasized only in areas were no conflicts with commodity objectives occur.	Same as Alternative A.

Table 2.9-1 (Continued)

Proposed RMP	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
Parameter – Great Basin Riparian Habitats Special Status Species Included in RMP U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Section 7 Consultation Pahrump poolfish White River spinedace Railroad Valley springfish Big Spring spinedace Ute ladies'-tresses orchid				
Expand the fenced area around Shoshone Pond to exclude both human and livestock access. Manage the uplands to protect the aquatic environments from excessive upland siltation and run-off. Manage public lands adjacent to designated critical habitat for White River spinedace, Railroad Valley springfish, and Big Spring spinedace in accordance with applicable recovery plans. Manage public lands adjacent to designated critical habitat for the White River spinedace and designated critical habitat for the Railroad Valley springfish on public lands adjacent to the Duckwater Indian Reservation in accordance with the White River Spinedace Recovery Plan and the Railroad Valley Springfish Recovery Plan.	Same as the Proposed RMP except Railroad Valley springfish within the Egan Resource Area would receive protection from mineral lease restrictions.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP except the current fence around Shoshone Ponds would be maintained, not expanded, and no upland management would occur. Condor Canyon would be managed as a multiple-use area.	The Shoshone Pond fence would be re-built to the original footprint and designed solely to restrict human access into the area.
BLM will survey and monitor federal lands for Ute ladies'-tresses, based on the availability and assistance of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife identification of potential areas and habitats for the species. Conservation and recovery actions will be implemented on any discovered occurrences.	Ute ladies'-tresses would be managed only if the species is documented in the planning area through some other activity.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Ute ladies'-tresses would be managed only if the species is documented in the planning area through some other activity.	Same as Alternative B.

Table 2.9-1 (Continued)

Proposed RMP	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
Parameter – Mojave Desert and Great Basin Riparian Habitats Special Status Species Included in RMP U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Section 7 Consultation Southwestern willow flycatcher Western yellow-billed cuckoo Meadow Valley Wash desert sucker Meadow Valley Wash speckled dace Arizona southwestern toad				
Implement actions and strategies identified in the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher Recovery Plan and limit livestock grazing in the Lower Meadow Valley Wash ACEC in accordance with the site-specific ACEC plan.	Same as the Proposed RMP except livestock grazing would not be limited.	Same as the Proposed RMP except livestock grazing would be excluded from the Lower Meadow Valley Wash ACEC.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	The Lower Meadow Valley Wash ACEC would not be designated. Management would emphasize the exclusion of discretionary uses of public lands and restoration of natural hydrology.
Parameter – Mojave Desert Riparian Habitats (see Section 2.4.7.4) Special Status Species Included in RMP U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Section 7 Consultation White River springfish Hiko White River springfish Pahranagat roundtail chub				
Manage and continue to implement mitigation and monitoring of White River springfish habitat at Ash Springs following strategies identified in the Recovery Plan for the Aquatic and Riparian Species of Pahranagat Valley and the Ash Springs Coordinated Management Plan, as well as U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service informal consultation. Public lands adjacent to designated critical habitat will be managed in accordance with the Recovery Plan for the Aquatic and Riparian Species of Pahranagat Valley.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.

Table 2.9-1 (Continued)

Proposed RMP	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
Parameter – Mojave Desert Scrub Habitats Special Status Species Included in RMP U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Section 7 Consultation Desert tortoise Banded Gila monster				
Manage habitat for the protection of desert tortoise in accordance with the Desert Tortoise Recovery Plan. Coordinate population inventories and monitoring with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Nevada Department of Wildlife. Control predator populations and install tortoise-proof fencing and crossing culverts at critical locations. Restrict permitted activities, where appropriate, from March 1 through October 31. Implement appropriate fencing and on-site monitoring and management by qualified personnel as necessary within desert tortoise ACECs.	Same as the Proposed RMP except the active season for desert tortoise would be from March 15 to October 15.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP except the active season for desert tortoise would be from March 15 to October 15.	Natural processes would be allowed to function and dictate the mosaics of special status species habitats within the Mojave Desert and other habitats managed by the Ely Field Office.
Parameter – Mojave Desert and Great Basin Desert Scrub and Salt Desert Shrub Habitats Special Status Species Included in RMP U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Section 7 Consultation Western burrowing owl Sunnyside green gentian				
Conduct systematic breeding surveys (in cooperation with the Nevada Department of Wildlife and other appropriate agencies). Use data gathered in the surveys will be used in the watershed analysis process to determine management direction for western burrowing owl breeding locations and potential habitats. Inventory and monitor Sunnyside green gentian populations in White River Valley.	Western burrowing owl habitat and Sunnyside green gentian would be managed as issues arise on a case-by-case basis.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as Alternative A.	Western burrowing owl habitats would be primarily managed passively, through the exclusion of discretionary uses of public lands.

Table 2.9-1 (Continued)

Proposed RMP	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
Parameter – Great Basin Sagebrush Habitat Special Status Species Included in RMP U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Section 7 Consultation Greater sage-grouse Pygmy rabbit				
Take a balanced, multiple species approach to greater sage-grouse habitat management using greater sage-grouse habitat needs as a model for management in sagebrush communities. Consider sagebrush obligate BLM sensitive species in site-specific analysis.	Same as the Proposed RMP except habitat maintenance would adhere to the BLM National Sage Grouse Conservation strategy.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP except that sagebrush habitat restoration would be emphasized in areas that have the greatest potential to provide additional livestock forage, while stabilizing greater sage-grouse populations.	No BLM Sensitive Species goals would be of a higher profile or prioritized over other BLM sensitive species goals.
Until more specific mid-scale greater sage-grouse habitat assessments or watershed analyses are performed, initiate greater sage-grouse habitat management actions through confirmation and revision of the priority projects identified in local greater sage-grouse conservation plans. Guidance provided in the BLM National Sage Grouse Habitat Conservation Strategy, will guide habitat management revisions to the local plans. Outside of designated corridors, do not construct above-ground or underground facilities or new roads within 0.25 mile of sage grouse leks without an exception from the BLM authorized officer.	Sagebrush habitat restoration would concentrate on those encroached by pinyon or juniper.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Greater sage-grouse leks would not receive protection from a no surface occupancy stipulation on mineral leases; only from timing limitations.	Passive management would be emphasized over active management through the exclusion of all permitted commodity uses of public lands.
Normally complete a coordinated and systematic large-scale approach to assess greater sage-grouse habitat conditions throughout the planning area in sagebrush communities in conjunction with the watershed analysis process – some of these assessments could be performed outside of the watershed analysis processes. Implement management actions for greater sage-grouse through the actions identified in mid-scale habitat assessments and watershed analysis.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP, except the habitat assessment protocol would focus solely on performing inventories and identifying areas where direct human-induced alterations to the natural environment have altered the vegetation state.

Table 2.9-1 (Continued)

Proposed RMP	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
Maintain intact and quality sagebrush habitat. Prioritize habitat maintenance actions from the BLM National Sage Grouse Conservation Strategy to: 1) Maintain large areas of high quality sagebrush that currently are occupied by greater sage-grouse; 2) Maintain habitats that connect seasonal sagebrush habitats in occupied source habitats; and 3) Maintain habitats that connect seasonal sagebrush habitats in occupied isolated habitats.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Habitat maintenance would be limited to sagebrush habitats with adequate perennial understory or those habitats that are near the limits of the desired range of conditions. Greater sage-grouse habitat maintenance would primarily be managed passively and indirectly through the exclusion of permitted commodity uses of all public lands.
Manage allowable uses to maintain quality greater sage-grouse habitats through implementation of best management practices.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	No allowable use restrictions would be needed to maintain greater sage-grouse habitats. Greater sage-grouse habitat would be primarily managed passively and indirectly through the exclusion of permitted commodity uses of all public lands.
Implement a proactive and large scale management approach to restore lost, degraded, or fragmented sagebrush habitats and increase the range of conditions of greater sage-grouse habitat to increase greater sage-grouse populations. Prioritize habitat restoration actions from the BLM National Sage Grouse Conservation Strategy to: 1) Reconnect large patches of high quality seasonal habitats, which greater sage-grouse currently occupy; 2) Enlarge sagebrush habitat in areas greater sage-grouse currently occupy; 3) Reconnect stronghold/source habitats currently occupied by greater sage-grouse with isolated habitats currently occupied by greater sage-grouse; 4) Re-connect currently occupied and isolated habitats; 5) Restore potential sagebrush habitats that currently are not occupied by greater sage-grouse.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Restoration of sagebrush habitats would be on a very small scale and would be prioritized in areas high in nonnative or invasive species and areas burned by wildland fire.

Table 2.9-1 (Continued)

Proposed RMP	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
Develop allowable use restrictions in greater sage-grouse habitats undergoing restoration, on a case-by-case basis, as dictated by monitoring.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	No allowable use restrictions would be needed. Greater sage-grouse habitat would primarily be managed passively and indirectly through the exclusion of permitted commodity uses of all public lands.
WILD HORSES				
Goal – Maintain and manage healthy, self-sustaining wild horse herds 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. **Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council Standard. Healthy wild horse and burro populations exhibit characteristics of healthy, productive, and diverse population. Age structure and sex ratios are appropriate to maintain the long-term viability of the population as a distinct group. Herd management areas are able to provide suitable feed, water, cover and living space for wild horses and burros and maintain historic patterns of habitat use.** **Mojave/Southern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council Standard. Wild horses and burros within herd management areas should be managed for herd viability and sustainability. Herd management areas should be managed to maintain a healthy ecological balance among wild horse and/or burro populations, wildlife, livestock, and vegetation.**				
Parameter – General Wild Horse Management				
Coordinate wild horse management with other federal and state jurisdictions and resource management areas. Prohibit domestic horse grazing within wild horse herd management areas. Prohibit construction of new permanent fences that prevent wild horses from roaming within herd management areas and remove existing fences that restrict movement within herd management areas.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as Proposed RMP.
Parameter – Herd Management Area Establishment				
Manage wild horses within 6 herd management areas covering approximately 3.7 million acres. Remove herd management area status for areas that do not provide sufficient habitat resources to sustain healthy populations.	Manage wild horses within 24 herd management areas covering approximately 5.4 million acres.	Same as the Proposed RMP except parcels around Pioche that are identified for community development under the Proposed RMP would be retained in herd management area status.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as Alternative A except no population limits would be established within herd management areas.

Table 2.9-1 (Continued)

Proposed RMP	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
Parameter – Population Management				
Manage populations within ranges of appropriate management levels based on available habitat and projected recruitment rates in conjunction with the watershed analysis process. Gather wild horses as necessary to prevent reentry and herd establishment in desert tortoise habitat.	Manage populations within existing appropriate management levels or ranges. Gather when necessary to approximately 40 percent below appropriate management level number to allow population growth before the next gather cycle.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Do not limit or manage populations within herd management areas. Remove wild horses outside the herd management areas from public lands.
CULTURAL RESOURCES				
Goal – Identify, preserve, and protect significant cultural resources and ensure that they are available for appropriate uses by present and future generations (Federal Land Policy and Management Act, Sections 103(c), 201(a) and (c); National Historic Preservation Act, Section 110(a); Archaeological Resources Protection Act, Section 14(a)). Seek to reduce imminent threats and resolve potential conflicts from natural or human-caused deterioration, or potential conflict with other resource uses (Federal Land Policy and Management Act, Section 103(c), National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106, 110(a)(2)) by ensuring that all authorizations for land use and resource use will comply with the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106.				
Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council Standard. Land use plan will recognize cultural resources within the context of multiple use.				
Parameter – General Cultural Resources Management				
Prioritize inventories to identify sites eligible to the National Register. Allocate and manage cultural resources, recorded or not, for Scientific, Conservation, and Public Use.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.
Parameter – Cultural Resource Use Allocation – Historic Roads, Trails, Railways, Highways, and Associated Sidings and Stations				
Allocate and manage all of the National Register eligible resources for Scientific, Conservation, and Public Use. Establish fee sites at Public Use sites as appropriate.	Manage for future Cultural Resource Use Allocations. No fee sites would be established.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP except that fee sites would be established for all properties allocated and managed for Public Use.	Same as Alternative B except allocate and manage all of the National Register eligible resources for Conservation Use.
Parameter – Cultural Resource Use Allocation – Rock Art Sites				
Allocate and manage all of the National Register eligible rock art sites for Scientific, Conservation, and Public Use. Fee sites will be established at Public Use rock art sites as appropriate. Native Americans are exempt from fees only when visiting rock art sites for religious practices.	Manage for future Cultural Resource Use Allocations. No established fee sites.	Same as the Proposed RMP except no fee sites would be established.	Allocate and manage all of the National Register eligible rock art sites for Conservation Use. Establish National Register eligible rock art sites managed for Public Use as fee sites. Native Americans would be exempt from fees only when visiting rock art sites for religious practices.	Allocate and manage all of the National Register eligible rock art sites with evidence of existing public use to Public Use. No fee sites would be established.

Table 2.9-1 (Continued)

Proposed RMP	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
Parameter – Cultural Resource Use Allocation – Historic Townsites, Historic Mining Camps, Historic Mining Districts, and related Historic Buildings and Historic Standing Structures, and Historic Racetracks				
Allocate and manage all of the National Register eligible sites with evidence of unauthorized excavation, for Conservation and/or Scientific Use in order to perform data recovery where future protection is not feasible.	Manage for future Cultural Resource Use Allocations.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Allocate and manage all of the National Register eligible sites with standing structures or evidence of vandalism to Public Use. Allocate and manage all other National Register eligible sites for Scientific and/or Conservation Use.	Allocate and manage all of the National Register eligible sites for Conservation Use.
Allocate and manage all of the National Register eligible sites with standing structures for Conservation and/or Public Use. Fee sites will be established at Public Use sites as appropriate.	No established fee sites.	Allocate and manage all of the National Register eligible sites with standing structures for Conservation Use. No fee sites would be established.	Fee sites would be established at Public Use sites as appropriate.	No fee sites would be established.
Parameter – Cultural Resource Use Allocation – Historic Cemeteries and Isolated Historic Gravesites				
Allocate and manage all of the sites for Conservation and/or Public Use. Fee sites will be established at Public Use sites as appropriate.	Manage for future Cultural Resource Use Allocations. No established fee sites.	Allocate and manage all of the sites for Conservation Use. No fee sites would be established.	Allocate and manage all of the sites for Public Use. Fee sites would be established at Public Use sites as appropriate.	Same as Alternative B.
Parameter – Cultural Resource Use Allocation – Ethnic Arboreal Narratives and Graphics and Bow Stave Trees				
Allocate and manage all of the National Register eligible sites for Scientific Use while promoting public access.	Manage for future Cultural Resource Use Allocations.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Allocate and manage all of the National Register eligible sites for Conservation Use.
Parameter – Cultural Resource Use Allocation – Paleoindian Sites				
Allocate and manage all of the National Register eligible sites for Scientific and/or Conservation Use.	Manage for future Cultural Resource Use Allocations.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Allocate and manage all of the National Register eligible sites for Conservation Use.
Parameter – Cultural Resource Use Allocation – Formative Puebloan Sites				
Allocate and manage all of the National Register eligible sites for Conservation, Scientific, and Public Use. Fee sites will be established at Public Use sites as appropriate.	Manage for future Cultural Resource Use Allocations. No established fee sites.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Allocate and manage all of the National Register eligible sites for Scientific, Conservation, and Public Use. Fee sites would be established at Public Use sites as appropriate.	Same as the Proposed RMP except no fee sites would be established.

Table 2.9-1 (Continued)

Proposed RMP	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
Parameter – Cultural Resource Use Allocation – Rockshelter and Cave Sites				
Allocate and manage all of the National Register eligible sites for Conservation, Scientific, and Public Use. Fee sites will be established at Public Use sites as appropriate.	Manage for future Cultural Resource Use Allocations. No established fee sites.	Same as the Proposed RMP except no fee sites would be established.	Allocate and manage all of the National Register eligible sites to Conservation, Scientific, and Public Use. No more than one fee site per watershed would be established for sites managed for Public Use.	Allocate and manage all of the National Register eligible sites for Conservation Use while maintaining existing Public Use sites. No fee sites would be established.
Parameter – Cultural Resource Use Allocation – Prehistoric Complex Sites, Campsites, or Specialized Activity Areas				
Allocate and manage 90% of the National Register eligible sites for Scientific and Conservation Use.	Manage for future Cultural Resource Use Allocations.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Allocate and manage 70% of the National Register eligible sites for Scientific and Conservation Use.	Allocate and manage all of the National Register eligible sites for Scientific and Conservation Use.
Allocate and manage up to 10% of the National Register eligible sites per watershed for Experimental Use.			Allocate and manage up to 30% of the National Register eligible sites per watershed for Experimental Use.	
Parameter – Cultural Resource Use Allocation – Toolstone Sources or Quarries				
Allocate and manage all of the National Register eligible obsidian toolstone sources/quarries for Scientific and Conservation Use.	Manage for future Cultural Resource Use Allocations.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Allocate and manage all of the National Register eligible obsidian toolstone sources/quarries for Scientific and Conservation Use.	Allocate and manage all of the National Register eligible toolstone sources/quarries for Scientific and Conservation Use.
Allocate and manage 90% of all other National Register eligible material sources/quarries for Scientific and Conservation Use. Allocate and manage up to 10% of all other National Register eligible material sources/quarries for Experimental Use.			Allocate and manage 70% of all other National Register eligible material sources/quarries for Scientific and Conservation Use. Allocate and manage up to 30% of all other National Register eligible material sources/quarries for Experimental Use.	
Parameter – Cultural Resource Use Allocation – Historic Ranching and Livestock-related Historic Sites, Buildings, Standing Structures, and Landscapes				
Allocate and manage all of the National Register eligible sites for Scientific and Public Use. Manage and allocate sites for Public Use on a watershed basis.	Manage for future Cultural Resource Use Allocations.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Up to one site per watershed would be allocated and managed for Public Use. Allocate and manage all of the National Register eligible sites for Conservation Use.

Table 2.9-1 (Continued)

Proposed RMP	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
Parameter – Cultural Resource Use Allocation – Ethnohistoric Sites, Sacred Sites, Traditional Use Areas, Traditional Cultural Properties				
Allocate and manage all of the National Register eligible sites for Conservation Use. Allocate and manage all of the identified Traditional Cultural Properties for Traditional Use. Allocate and manage all identified Sacred Sites or Traditional Use Areas for Conservation Use.	Manage for future Cultural Resource Use Allocations.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.
Parameter – Cultural Resource Use Allocation – "Other" Sites				
Allocate and manage all of the National Register eligible sites for Scientific and Conservation Use with public use being monitored. Permit Scientific Use if it does not destroy features. Allocate and manage all of the agave roasting pits for Scientific, Conservation, and Public Use.	Manage for future Cultural Resource Use Allocations.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Allocate and manage all of the National Register eligible sites for Conservation Use with public use being monitored.
PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES				
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.				
Parameter – General Paleontological Resource Management				
Allocate and manage all vertebrate sites for Scientific Use. Allocate and manage all invertebrate and paleobotanical sites for Public and Scientific Use. Change the use allocation without a plan amendment if another use is evident or proposed.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.
Parameter – Trilobite Collecting				
Establish a no-fee-based registration system. Prioritize inventory based on a) predicted threats, b) existing sites, and c) lands identified for disposal.	No registration system in place for trilobite collecting.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Establish a fee-based registration system.	Close trilobite locations to collecting.

Table 2.9-1 (Continued)

Proposed RMP	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
VISUAL RESOURCES				
Goal – Manage public land actions and activities in a manner consistent with the Ely Field Office visual resource management class objectives.				
Parameter – Visual Resource Management				
Manage designated wilderness, wilderness study areas, and some special designation areas for scenic qualities under Visual Resource Management Class I objectives.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.
Manage wilderness study areas released by Congress at the baseline visual resource inventory class.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.
Manage the Pony Express National Historic Trail corridor under Visual Resource Management Class II objectives.	The Pony Express National Historic Trail corridor is not designated.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.
Manage visual resources in accordance with the following visual resource management classes.	Manage visual resources in accordance with the following visual resource management classes.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Manage visual resources in accordance with the following visual resource management classes.	Manage visual resources in accordance with the following visual resource management classes.
Class I: 1,154,500 acres Class II: 2,396,700 acres Class III: 4,874,200 acres Class IV: 3,031,200 acres	Class I: 1,450,900 acres Class II: 283,700 acres Class III: 678,700 acres Class IV: 5,466,300 acres No visual resource management class: 3,577,000 acres	Class I: 1,158,400 acres Class II: 2,396,700 acres Class III: 4,874,200 acres Class IV: 3,027,300 acres	Class I: 1,158,400 acres Class II: 2,421,500 acres Class III: 5,020,500 acres Class IV: 2,856,200 acres	Class I: 1,153,500 acres Class II: 10,303,100 acres Class III: 0 acres Class IV: 0 acres
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 administration and improve resource management. Make public lands that promote community development available for disposal. Meet public, local, state, and federal agency needs for use authorizations such as rights-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.				
Parameter – Retention of Public Lands				
Retain designated critical habitat for federally listed threatened or endangered species.	Retain big game habitat, upland game habitat, and/or wild horse herd management areas.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	No net loss of public lands in the planning area.

Table 2.9-1 (Continued)

Proposed RMP	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
Retain lands within ACECs and portions of the National Trails System including the corridors of both the Pony Express National Historic Trail and the California National Historic Trail. Retain lands containing resources qualifying as National Natural Landmarks, lands containing springs or creeks with fisheries, lands with high recreation value, and acquired land.				
Parameter – Disposal of Public Lands				
Dispose of not more than 57,039 acres in Lincoln County in accordance with the Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act. Dispose of not more than 18,543 acres in White Pine County in accordance with the White Pine County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act (see disposal criteria outlined in Section 2.4.12.2). Dispose of lands outside identified areas as a means of resolution, if needed, to resolve unauthorized use of public land. Maintain access to recreation areas. Consider land exchanges unless the intent is to transfer acquired lands out of public ownership or control (except Bankhead Jones Act lands).	Dispose of lands, identified for disposal case-by-case, under existing authorizations. Dispose of lands outside designated big game and upland game habitat, and wild horse herd management areas on a case-by-case basis. Lincoln County – 3,580 acres Nye County – 3,893 acres White Pine County – 24,438 acres	Dispose of lands in identified areas. No disposal of designated critical habitat for threatened and endangered species, and sensitive species. Lincoln County – 66,379 acres Nye County – 294 acres White Pine County – 23.884 acres	Land disposal would be balanced with restoration while emphasizing commercial and economic development. Lincoln County – 203,121 acres Nye County – 3,891 acres White Pine County – 88,169 acres	Dispose of lands as follows: Lincoln County – 1,435 acres Nye County – 0 acres White Pine County – 10,958 acres No net loss of public lands in the planning area.
Parameter – Acquisitions				
Acquire land on a case-by-case basis. Encourage local governments and private individuals to acquire options on or enter into non-binding agreements to purchase environmentally-sensitive private lands or rights to private lands within ACECs, wilderness study areas, or designated wilderness that could potentially be exchanged for public lands outside of ACECs.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.

Table 2.9-1 (Continued)

Proposed RMP	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
Parameter – Withdrawal of Public Land				
All Entry: Withdraw from surface and mineral entry, lands with sensitive or high resource values. Consider requests by other federal agencies for new withdrawals, withdrawal relinquishments, or modifications on a case-by-case basis.	Consider requests for new withdrawals, withdrawal relinquishments, or modifications on a case-by-case basis.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	No new withdrawals will be designated.	Consider requests by other federal agencies for new withdrawals, withdrawal relinquishments, or modifications on a case-by-case basis.
Mineral Entry Only: Withdraw 75,600 acres of land identified for potential disposal.	Mineral Entry Only: Withdraw 11,525 acres of land identified for potential disposal.	Mineral Entry Only: Withdraw from mineral entry, 90,500 acres of land identified for potential disposal.	Mineral Entry Only: Withdraw from mineral entry, 295,180 acres of land identified for potential disposal.	Mineral Entry Only: Withdraw 12,390 acres of land identified for potential disposal.
Parameter – Corridors				
Manage corridors in the RMP planning area as follows (see **Map 2.4.12-5**):	No new utility corridors would be designated. All rights-of-way would be encouraged to locate within existing designated corridors (**Map 2.5.12-5**). Manage existing corridors as follows:	Encourage rights-of-way for electrical transmission lines greater than 69 kilovolts, all mainline fiber optics facilities, and all pipelines greater than 10 inches in diameter to be located within designated corridors. Manage corridors as follows:	Encourage rights-of-way for electrical transmission lines greater than 69 kilovolts, all mainline fiber optics facilities, and all pipelines greater than 10 inches in diameter to be located within designated corridors. Manage corridors as follows:	No additional corridors would be designated.
Retain a corridor 1,000 feet wide, 500 feet on either side of the centerline of the existing telephone fiber optic lines, beginning within Township 11 South, Range 71 East, Section 30 running easterly to the Arizona state line.	Maintain a corridor 1,000 feet wide, 500 feet on either side of the centerline of the existing telephone fiber optic lines, beginning within Township 11 South, Range 71 East, Section 20 running easterly to the Arizona state line.	Retain a corridor 1,000 feet wide, 500 feet on either side of the centerline of the existing telephone fiber optic lines, beginning within Township 11 South, Range 71 East, Section 20 running easterly to the Arizona state line.	Retain a corridor 1,000 feet wide, 500 feet on either side of the centerline of the existing telephone fiber optic lines, beginning within Township 11 South, Range 71 East, Section 20 running easterly to the Arizona state line.	
Retain the Falcon to Gonder corridor, 0.5 mile wide, as an east-west corridor to interconnect with the Ely to Utah state line portion of the Southwest Intertie Project corridor.	Maintain the Falcon to Gonder corridor as 0.5 mile wide, as an east-west corridor to interconnect with the Ely to Utah state line portion of the Southwest Intertie Project corridor.	Designate the Falcon to Gonder corridor as 1 mile wide, as an east-west corridor to interconnect with the Ely to Utah state line portion of the Southwest Intertie Project corridor.	Designate the Falcon to Gonder corridor as 3 miles wide, as an east-west corridor to interconnect with the Ely to Utah state line portion of the Southwest Intertie Project corridor.	

Table 2.9-1 (Continued)

Proposed RMP	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
Retain the Ely to Utah State Line portion of the Southwest Intertie Project corridor as 0.5 mile wide. Designate the approved Southwest Intertie Project corridor as 0.75 mile wide from the Elko/White Pine County line to the point where it parallels Highway 93 and the Pahranagat Wildlife Refuge at which point it will be 0.5 mile wide to the Clark County line.	Maintain the Ely to Utah state line portion of the Southwest Intertie Project corridor as 0.5 mile wide. Maintain the approved Southwest Intertie Project corridor as 0.5 mile wide from the Elko/White Pine County line to the point where it parallels Highway 93 and the Pahranagat Wildlife Refuge. At that point, change orientation so that the centerline defining that corridor is 50 feet from the eastern edge of the corridor.	Designate the approved Southwest Intertie Project corridor as 1 mile wide from the Elko/White Pine County line to the point where it parallels Highway 93 and the Pahranagat Wildlife Refuge. At that point, change orientation so that the centerline defining that corridor is 50 feet from the eastern edge of the corridor.	Designate the Ely to Utah state line portion of the Southwest Intertie Project corridor as 3 miles wide. Designate the approved Southwest Intertie Project corridor as 3 miles wide from the Elko/White Pine County line to the point where it parallels Highway 93 and the Pahranagat Wildlife Refuge at which point it will become 0.5 mile wide.	
Maintain the Moapa corridor at 0.5 mile wide. Maintain the corridors designated by the Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation and Development Act as 0.5 mile wide.	Maintain the Moapa corridor at 0.5 mile wide. Maintain the corridors designated by the Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act as 0.5 mile wide.	Maintain the Moapa corridor at 0.5 mile wide. Maintain the corridors designated by the Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation and Development Act as 0.5 mile wide.	Maintain the Moapa corridor at 0.5 mile wide. Maintain the corridors designated by the Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation and Development Act as 0.5 mile wide.	
Designate a new corridor, 0.5 mile wide, connecting with the corridor designated by the Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act. This corridor will begin near the Atlanta Mine where the Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act corridor ends and will trend in a northerly direction along the west side of Spring Valley, ending at the Southwest Intertie Project corridor.		Designate a new corridor, 1-mile wide, connecting with the corridor designated by the Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation and Development Act. 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 (**Map 2.6.12-5**).	Designate a new corridor, 3 miles wide, connecting with the corridor designated by the Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation and Development Act. 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 White Pine-Elko County line, northeast of Lages Junction on Highway 93A (**Map 2.7.12-5**).	

Table 2.9-1 (Continued)

Proposed RMP	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
Parameter – Communication Sites				
Communication site locations will support community and economic development with emphasis on co-location of sites. Establish avoidance and exclusion areas.	Authorize new communication sites on a case-by-case basis.	Create new communication sites after existing sites are at maximum capacity.	Provide communication site locations that support community and economic development.	Establish specific limited communication site areas based on minimal impacts to public lands.
Parameter – Land Use Authorizations (Rights-of-way, Permits, Leases, and Easements)				
Issue land use authorizations on a case-by-case basis. Where feasible, locate and consolidate new land use authorizations within or adjacent to existing authorizations. ACECs will be avoidance or exclusion areas.	Issue land use authorizations on a case-by-case basis. Desert tortoise ACECs would be avoidance or exclusion areas.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Process land use authorizations to facilitate community and economic development. ACECs would be avoidance or exclusion areas.	No new land use authorizations.
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.				
Parameter – Wind, Solar, and Biomass Energy				
Consider applications for renewable energy development on a case-by-case basis. Establish avoidance and exclusion areas. Increase use of biomass from BLM lands.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP except no applications would be approved.
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. Work closely with local, state, tribal, and other affected parties and other resource users to address off-highway vehicle management including land use and route designations, and monitoring and adaptive management strategies such as applying the Limits of Acceptable Change process.				
Parameter – Transportation Plan				
Close designated wilderness and wilderness study areas to motorized and mechanized travel. Incorporate the Duck Creek Basin designations into the transportation plan. Limit all vehicular traffic to existing roads and trails, exceptions apply.	Outside desert tortoise habitat, road and trail designation would be on a case-by-case basis.	All motorized vehicle traffic would be limited to designated roads and trails. Wilderness study areas would be closed to motorized traffic. Designate roads and trails to emphasize landscape restoration.	Designate roads and trails to emphasize specific administrative needs, recreation opportunities, and tourism.	All motorized vehicle travel would be limited to designated roads and trails. Road and trail designations would be limited to mechanically maintained roads.
Parameter – Off-highway Vehicles				
Manage off-highway vehicles in accordance with the following designations.	Manage off-highway vehicles in accordance with the following designations.	Manage off-highway vehicles in accordance with the following designations.	Manage off-highway vehicles in accordance with the following designations.	Off-highway vehicles will be limited to maintained roads and trails.

Table 2.9-1 (Continued)

Proposed RMP	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
0 acres – open to cross-country off-highway vehicle use.	9,798,300 acres – open to cross-country off-highway vehicle use.	0 acres – open to cross-country off-highway vehicle use.	32,000 acres in dry lake beds – open to cross-country off-highway vehicle use.	0 acres – open to cross-country off-highway vehicle use.
10,306,500 acres – limited to designated roads and trails.	589,000 acres – limited to designated roads and trails (wilderness study areas and the Desert Tortoise Amendment area).	Same as the Proposed RMP.	10,355,300 acres – limited to designated roads and trails.	Approximately 400,000 acres – limited to designated roads and trails.
1,153,500 acres – closed to off-highway vehicle use (designated wilderness and wilderness study areas).	1,072,700 acres – closed to off-highway vehicle use.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	1,072,700 acres – closed to off-highway vehicle use.	11,100,000 acres – closed to off-highway vehicle use.
RECREATION				
Goal – Provide quality settings for developed and undeveloped recreation experiences and opportunities while protecting resources. Conduct an assessment of current and future off-highway vehicle demand, and plan for and balance the demand for this use with other multiple uses/users. Develop sustainable off-highway vehicle use areas to meet current and future demands, especially for urban interface areas.				
Parameter – Special Recreation Management Areas				
Manage 1,202,000 acres as five special recreation management areas.	Manage an estimated 550,000 acres as one special recreation management area.	Manage 2,675,000 acres as nine special recreation management areas.	Manage 2,555,000 acres as nine special recreation management areas.	No special recreation management areas would be managed and existing developed sites would be eliminated.
Emphasis will be to promote recreation across a wide spectrum of opportunities, both developed and undeveloped.	Emphasis would be on maintaining existing developed facilities.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Emphasis would be focused on additional developed recreation sites.	There would be no special recreation management areas.
Three of the five special recreation management areas will be managed to accommodate motorized recreation.	No recreation management areas with an emphasis on off-highway vehicle use of designated roads and trails.	Recreation management on approximately 844,000 acres would emphasize off-highway vehicle use of designated roads and trails.	Recreation management on approximately 1,104,000 acres would emphasize off-highway vehicle use of designated roads and trails.	Same as Alternative A.
Parameter – Special Recreation Permits				
Limit outfitter and guide permits for the first 3 years following plan implementation. Monitor use for 3 years to establish permit numbers for geographic areas. After the monitoring period, issue permits with special stipulations and conditions to protect resources and reduce user conflicts.	No limitations on outfitter and guide permits for hunting.	Issue outfitter and guide permits for hunting through a competitive bid process with no limits on the number of permits offered.	Same as Alternative A.	No outfitter and guide permits for hunting would be issued.

Table 2.9-1 (Continued)

Proposed RMP	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
Desert tortoise ACECs will be protected by limiting or closing habitat to all types of non-speed, off-highway vehicle events from March 1 to June 15 and September 1 to October 31, and closing to all high-speed, competitive events, including horse endurance rides. An off-highway vehicle monitoring plan will be developed to assess impacts to desert tortoise habitat within ACECs.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	No competitive events would be permitted.
Establish four special recreation permit areas totaling approximately 1.33 million acres to maximize opportunities for motorcycle special recreation permit events.	Limit motorcycle events to 12 races on routes subject to NEPA analysis.	Establish two special recreation permit areas totaling approximately 656,000 acres to maximize opportunities for motorcycle special recreation permit events.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	No motorcycle events would be permitted.
A maximum of two truck events will be permitted each year on four routes established for all truck events. Non-competitive off-highway vehicle events permitted on case-by-case basis. Restrict special recreation permits in desert tortoise ACECs.	Close desert tortoise ACECs to all organized off-highway vehicle events from March 15 to June 15 and August 31 to October 15. The maximum number of events allowed in desert tortoise ACECs would be larger than under the Proposed RMP.	Same as Alternative A.	A maximum of eight truck events would be permitted each year on twelve routes established for all truck events.	No truck events would be permitted.

Table 2.9-1 (Continued)

Proposed RMP	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
LIVESTOCK GRAZING				
Goal – Manage livestock grazing on public lands to provide for a level of livestock grazing consistent with multiple use, sustained yield, and watershed function and health. **Northeastern Great Basin Area Standards. Upland soils exhibit infiltration and permeability rates that are appropriate to soil type, climate and land form. Riparian and wetland areas exhibit a properly functioning condition and achieve state water quality criteria. Habitats exhibit a healthy, productive, and diverse population of native and/or desirable plant species, appropriate to the site characteristics, to provide suitable feed, water, cover and living space for animal species and maintain ecological processes. Habitat conditions meet the life cycle requirements of threatened and endangered species.** **Mojave/Southern Great Basin Area Standards. Watershed soils and stream banks should have adequate stability to resist accelerated erosion, maintain soil productivity, and sustain the hydrologic cycle. Watershed should possess the necessary ecological components to achieve state water quality criteria, maintain ecological processes, and sustain appropriate uses. Riparian and wetlands vegetation should have structural and species diversity characteristic of the stage of stream channel succession in order to provide forage and cover, capture sediment, and capture, retain, and safely release water (watershed function). Habitats and watersheds should sustain a level of biodiversity appropriate for the area and conducive to appropriate uses. Habitats of special species should be able to sustain viable populations of those species.**				
Approximately 11,246,900 acres will be available for livestock grazing consistent with maintaining and restoring watershed function and health and subject to modification associated with disposal actions. Future modifications also could occur based upon monitoring of tortoise habitat.	Approximately 11,247,000 acres would be available for livestock grazing.	Approximately 7,651,900 acres would be available for livestock grazing consistent with maintaining and restoring watershed function and health subject to modification associated with disposal actions.	Approximately 11,240,600 acres would be available for livestock grazing subject to modification associated with disposal actions. The Tamberlaine Allotment would be used as forage reserves if the permit is relinquished.	No acres available for livestock grazing due to the elimination of livestock grazing throughout the planning area.
The total area unavailable for livestock grazing is 253,100 acres.	The total area unavailable for livestock grazing is 253,000 acres.	The total area unavailable for livestock grazing is 3,848,100 acres.	The total area unavailable for livestock grazing is 259,400 acres.	The entire planning area (11.5 million acres) is unavailable to livestock grazing.
Continue to monitor and evaluate livestock grazing allotments.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	No livestock grazing.
When changes to BLM grazing permits are being considered in Rocky Mountain desert bighorn sheep occupied habitat, manage domestic sheep and goats in accordance with current BLM policies.	Domestic sheep and goats would continue to be managed in accordance with current BLM policies for management of domestic sheep and goats in bighorn sheep habitat when proposed changes to BLM grazing permits are being considered.	Domestic livestock (sheep and cattle) grazing would be unavailable in all Rocky Mountain and desert bighorn sheep habitat.	Same as Alternative A.	No livestock grazing.

Table 2.9-1 (Continued)

Proposed RMP	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
FOREST/WOODLAND AND OTHER PLANT PRODUCTS				
Goal – Provide opportunities for traditional and non-traditional uses of vegetation products on a sustainable, multiple-use basis.				
Parameter – General Forest/Woodland and Other Plant Product Management				
Do not allow the harvest of bristlecone pine, limber pine, swamp cedar, or rare, unique or unusual trees and shrubs. Authorize the salvage of desert vegetation based on NEPA analysis. Authorize harvest of desert vegetation for educational or scientific research purposes.	Harvest is restricted to specified areas.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.
Parameter – Fuelwood Collection				
Allow collection of fuelwood for personal (pinyon-juniper/mountain mahogany) and commercial use (pinyon-juniper) throughout the planning area except in closed areas. Allow harvest/collection of other tree species on a case-by-case basis.	Same as the Proposed RMP except tree species are limited to those specified and commercial permits would be issued where appropriate.	Allow fuelwood collection for personal and commercial use in designated areas only; harvesting of live trees allowed on a case-by-case basis in designated areas.	Same as Alternative A except additional species allowed for collection are Gambel's Oak, aspen, white fir, ponderosa pine, and spruce.	No fuelwood collection.
Parameter – Pinyon Pine Nut Harvesting				
Free personal use of pine nuts across the planning area. Commercial use is allowed in designated areas to the highest bidder after consultation with American Indian tribes.	Free personal use of up to 25 pounds across the planning area. Commercial use is allowed in designated areas to the highest bidder. Mechanical harvesters are not allowed.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as Alternative A except mechanical harvesting is allowed.	Only personal use, including American Indians, would be allowed. No commercial use.
Parameter – Christmas Tree Harvesting				
Pinyon, juniper, and white fir will be available for personal use across the planning area except in closed areas. Allow commercial use of pinyon and juniper across the planning area. White fir could be available for commercial use in some areas.	Pinyon and juniper are available for personal and commercial use across the planning area except in designated areas. Commercial permits would be issued as appropriate.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Pinyon, juniper, spruce, and white fir would be available for personal and commercial use across the planning area.	No Christmas tree harvesting allowed.
Parameter – Post and Pole Harvesting				
Pinyon and juniper will be available for personal and commercial use across the planning area except in closed areas. Use of aspen, fir, and spruce will be allowed on a case-by-case basis if health of stand is improved.	Pinyon and juniper are available for personal and commercial use in non-restricted areas across the planning area. Commercial harvest locations would be designated at the time of sale.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Pinyon, juniper, aspen, fir, and spruce would be available for personal and commercial use across the planning area. Emphasize areas identified for land disposal.	No post and pole harvest allowed.

Table 2.9-1 (Continued)

Proposed RMP	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
Parameter – Seed Collection				
Commercial use (hand collection and limited mechanical collection) allowed on a case-by-case basis limited to no more than 50 percent of the annual seed crop. Allow harvest of special status plant seeds only as specified.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Commercial use (hand collection and limited mechanical collection) allowed except in restoration areas.	Same as Alternative B. Hand and mechanical collection methods would be allowed.	No commercial use allowed. Hand collection allowed for personal use.
Parameter – Other Vegetation Product Collection (e.g., wildings, boughs, etc.)				
Personal and commercial use allowed on a case-by-case basis. Limit collection methods to least disruptive.	Non-commercial sale of wildings and petrified wood subject to limits. Other product sold on a case-by-case basis.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Commercial use allowed across the planning area.	Collection not allowed.
Parameter – Biomass Products				
Allow biomass harvest when tree removal is planned if harvest meets project objectives.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	No biomass harvest allowed.
GEOLOGY AND MINERAL EXTRACTION				
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. Allow development of solid leasable and locatable minerals in a manner to prevent unnecessary or undue degradation. Allow development of mineral materials in a manner that will prevent unnecessary or undue degradation, meet public demand, and minimize adverse impacts to other resource values.				
Parameter – General Geology and Mineral Management				
Manage in accordance with desert tortoise habitat protection, including restrictions allowing exploration only on existing roads and trails, containment of cuttings and drilling fluids and limitations on exploration methods within desert tortoise habitat. Remuneration fees to be set and indexed for inflation.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP in those few circumstances in which any mineral development is allowed within desert tortoise habitat under this alternative.
Parameter – Fluid Leasable Minerals				
6,073,400 acres – open to leasing under standard lease terms and conditions.	2,715,200 acres – open to leasing under standard lease terms and conditions.	1,053,200 acres – open to leasing under standard lease terms and conditions.	3,489,200 acres – open to leasing under standard terms and conditions.	0 acres – open to leasing.

Table 2.9-1 (Continued)

Proposed RMP	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
		8,483,600 acres – open to leasing, subject to programmatic stipulations for greater sage-grouse, ferruginous hawk, bighorn sheep, and cultural/ archaeological resources. For wildlife stipulations, BLM would determine on a site specific basis whether or not stipulations would apply. Applicant provides for site specific survey if required. Large areas subject to potential stipulations.	682,900 acres – open to leasing, subject to programmatic surface use/timing restrictions.	
3,728,200 acres – open to leasing subject to moderate restrictions. Specific area timing and surface use stipulations (desert tortoise habitat) will apply.	1,188,100 acres – open to leasing subject to moderate restrictions. Specific area timing and surface use stipulations would apply.	429,600 acres – open to leasing subject to moderate restrictions. Specific area timing and surface use stipulations (desert tortoise habitat) would apply.	5,597,100 acres – open to leasing, subject to moderate restrictions. Specific area surface use and timing restrictions would apply unless lessee applies to BLM for exception. More defined areas subject to stipulations.	0 acres – open to leasing, subject to moderate restrictions.
233,600 acres – open to leasing subject to major restrictions (No Surface Occupancy). 1,464,800 acres – closed to leasing.	46,000 acres – open to leasing subject to major restrictions (No Surface Occupancy). 591,700 acres – closed to leasing.	32,300 acres – open to leasing subject to major restrictions (No Surface Occupancy). 1,501,300 acres – closed to leasing.	27,300 acres – open to leasing subject to major restrictions (No Surface Occupancy). 1,703,500 acres – closed to leasing.	0 acres – open to leasing subject to major restrictions (No Surface Occupancy). 11,500,000 acres – closed to leasing.
Evaluate oil and gas geophysical exploration on a case-by-case basis. Apply special management direction for leasing within desert tortoise habitat.	Evaluate oil and gas geophysical exploration on a case-by-case basis.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Consider geophysical exploration in areas closed to leasing or with No Surface Occupancy and/or timing restrictions, based on impacts identified in site specific analysis.	Seismic and geophysical exploration activities would only be allowed in non sensitive areas.
Parameter – Solid Leasable Minerals				
9,852,000 acres – open to solid mineral leasing. 1,648,000 acres – closed to solid mineral leasing.	10,134,100 acres – open to solid mineral leasing. 1,365,900 acres – closed to mineral entry.	9,971,400 acres – open to solid mineral leasing. 1,528,600 acres – closed to solid mineral leasing.	9,777,500 acres – open to solid mineral leasing. 1,722,500 acres – closed to solid mineral leasing.	0 acres – open to solid mineral leasing. 11,500,000 acres – closed to solid mineral leasing.

Table 2.9-1 (Continued)

Proposed RMP	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
Parameter – Locatable Minerals				
9,852,000 acres – open to locatable mineral entry. 1,648,000 acres – closed to locatable mineral entry – includes designated wilderness and wilderness study areas.	10,134,100 acres – open to locatable mineral entry. 1,365,900 acres – closed to locatable mineral entry.	9,971,400 acres – open to locatable mineral entry. 1,528,600 acres – closed to locatable mineral entry.	9,777,500 acres – open to locatable mineral entry. 1,722,500 acres – closed to locatable mineral entry.	5,178,600 acres – open to locatable mineral entry. 6,321,400 acres – closed to locatable mineral entry.
Parameter – Mineral Materials				
9,857,700 acres – open to mineral materials disposal subject to discretionary closures in resource sensitive areas. 1,642,300 acres – closed to mineral materials disposal.	9,955,200 acres – open for mineral materials disposal subject to discretionary closures in resource sensitive areas. 1,544,800 acres – closed to mineral materials disposal.	9,318,600 acres – open for mineral materials disposal subject to discretionary closures in resource sensitive areas. 2,181,400 acres – closed to mineral materials disposal.	9,256,900 acres – open for mineral materials disposal subject to discretionary closures in resource sensitive areas. 2,243,100 acres – closed to mineral materials disposal.	0 acres – open to mineral materials disposal subject to discretionary closures in resource sensitive areas. 11,500,000 acres – closed to mineral materials disposal.
Maintain adequate spacing between pits. Apply special management actions within desert tortoise habitat.	The desert tortoise ACECs are closed to mineral materials disposal except a corridor on select roads. Mineral materials pit spacing varies within the planning area.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Mineral materials pits would be appropriately spaced as determined by the authorized officer.	Sales would be allowed only from existing pits.

Table 2.9-1 (Continued)

Proposed RMP	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
WATERSHED MANAGEMENT				
Goal – Manage watersheds to achieve and maintain resource functions and conditions required for healthy lands and sustainable uses. **Mojave/Southern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council Standards. Watershed soils and stream banks should have adequate stability to resist accelerated erosion, maintain soil productivity, and sustain the hydrologic cycle. Watersheds should possess the necessary ecological components to achieve state water quality criteria, maintain ecological processes, and sustain appropriate uses. Riparian and wetlands vegetation should have structural and species diversity characteristic of the stage of stream channel succession in order to provide forage and cover; capture sediment; and capture, retain, and safely release water (watershed function). Habitats and watersheds should sustain a level of biodiversity appropriate for the area and conducive to appropriate uses. Habitats of special status species should be able to sustain viable populations of those species.** **Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council Standards. Upland soils exhibit infiltration and permeability rates that are appropriate to soil type, climate, and land form. Riparian and wetland areas exhibit a properly functioning condition and achieve state water quality criteria. Habitats exhibit a healthy, productive, and diverse population of native and/or desirable plant species, appropriate to the site characteristics; to provide suitable feed, water, cover, and living space for animal species; and maintain ecological processes. Habitat conditions meet the life cycle requirements of threatened and endangered species. Land use plans will recognize cultural resources within the context of multiple use.**				
Perform watershed analysis initially on the 41 high priority watersheds followed by the 20 low priority watersheds. After Standards for Rangeland Health have been met at the watershed level, use a balanced approach to allocate additional forage for watershed maintenance, livestock, and wild horses or reserve for wildlife.	Same as the Proposed RMP except allocate additional forage to livestock and wild horses (70 percent) and reserve for wildlife in Schell Resource Area (30 percent). Allocate additional forage proportionately among all users in remainder of the planning area.	Same as the Proposed RMP except allocate additional forage for watershed maintenance and wildlife after Standards for Rangeland Health have been met at the watershed level.	Prioritization of watershed analysis is the same as the Proposed RMP. Allocate additional forage for livestock after Standards for Rangeland Health have been met at the watershed level.	Prioritization of watershed analysis is the same as the Proposed RMP. After Standards for Rangeland Health have been met at the watershed level, allocate additional forage for watershed maintenance, wildlife, and wild horses within herd management areas and reserve for watershed maintenance and wildlife outside herd management areas.

Table 2.9-1 (Continued)

Proposed RMP	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
FIRE MANAGEMENT				
Goal – Provide an appropriate management response to all wildland fires, with emphasis on firefighter and public safety, consistent with overall management objectives. Return fire to its natural role in the ecological system and implement fuels treatments, where applicable, to aid in returning fire to the ecological system. Establish a community education program that includes fuels reduction within the wildland urban interface to create fire-safe communities.				
Implement and update the Ely Fire Management Plan, as needed. Tier the Ely Fire Management Plan to the general fire management actions in this RMP. Use Fire Regime Condition Class methods along with resource objectives to determine fire response. Wildland fire use could be available on approximately 8.9 million acres. Protect desert tortoise habitat.	Implement the current fire management plan, which incorporates the Ely Managed and Prescribed Fire Plan. Approximately 3.6 million acres would be available for wildland fire use.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Suppress all wildland fires. Use prescribed fire in limited situations as a management tool for vegetation restoration.	Develop a new fire management plan with emphasis on no suppression of wildland fires unless they are human-caused or threaten life and/or property.
NOXIOUS AND INVASIVE WEED MANAGEMENT				
Goal – Prevent the introduction and spread of noxious and invasive weeds. Control or eradicate existing populations.				
Use integrated pest management to treat weed infestations. Develop weed management plans that address weed vectors and minimize the movement of weeds on public lands. Remove cut weeds from manual weed control. Specify weed-free materials for reclamation/stabilization activities. Clean vehicles and clean/quarantine animals prior to use on public lands. Conduct weed surveys prior to project approval. Control weeds in compliance with BLM policy.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP except herbicide restrictions apply.
SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS				
Goal – Evaluate areas of interest for special designation and appropriately manage those areas that meet necessary requirements.				
Parameter – Areas of Critical Environmental Concern				
Retain the three current ACECs, totaling 203,670 acres. Designate 17 new ACECs totaling 114,270 acres (see Appendix D).	Retain the three current ACECs, totaling 203,670 acres (see Appendix D).	Retain the three current ACECs, totaling 203,670 acres. Designate 15 new ACECs totaling 134,350 acres (see Appendix D).	Retain the three current ACECs, totaling 203,670 acres. Designate 17 new ACECs totaling 129,720 acres (see Appendix D).	Designate no new ACECs and remove ACEC designation from the three existing ACECs.
Parameter – Back Country Byways				
Retain the Mount Wilson Back Country Byway. In addition, designate the Rainbow Canyon and the Silver State Trail as back country byways.	Designate no additional back country byways.	Designate the Silver State Trail Back Country Byway.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as Alternative A.

Table 2.9-1 (Continued)

Proposed RMP	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
Parameter – Designated Wilderness				
Manage 22 designated wilderness areas in accordance with existing Acts and Regulations.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.
Parameter – Wilderness Study Areas				
Manage wilderness study areas under the Interim Management Policy for Lands Under Wilderness Review until such time as Congress makes a determination regarding wilderness designations.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.
Parameter – Other Special Designations				
Retain 2 special designation areas totaling 1,710 acres.	Retain 23 special designation areas totaling 34,495 acres.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Retain 2 special designation areas totaling 600 acres.	None of the special designation areas would be retained.
Drop 9 areas from special designation totaling 2,275 acres.	No existing special designation areas would be changed.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Drop 7 areas from special designation totaling 1,995 acres.	None of the special designation areas would be retained.
Designate 8 special designation areas as ACECs.	No existing special designation areas would be designated as ACECs.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Ten special designation areas, totaling 31,900 acres, would be designated as ACECs. An additional 28,700 acres associated with Mount Irish and Hendry's Creek/Rock Animal Corral also would be designated as part of these ACECs.	Same as Alternative A.