

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared this Proposed Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to provide programmatic and implementable direction for management of BLM-administered public lands within the Ely RMP planning area and to analyze the environmental effects resulting from implementing the alternatives addressed in this Proposed RMP/Final EIS.

Across the country, the first generation of BLM land use plans was prepared in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Within the Ely Field Office, one RMP and one Management Framework Plan (MFP) were prepared in this timeframe. In 1996, management of the Caliente Resource Area was transferred from the Las Vegas Field Office to the Ely Field Office. The Caliente Resource Area also was covered by an MFP. The Approved Ely RMP will remain in effect as long as the management direction contained in the Plan is valid in light of scientific understanding and current management needs. The Plan will be monitored and evaluated every 5 years and updated and amended periodically to maintain its effectiveness as long as practical. When the Plan reaches the end of its effective life, a new plan would be prepared. The life of an RMP is typically about 20 years.

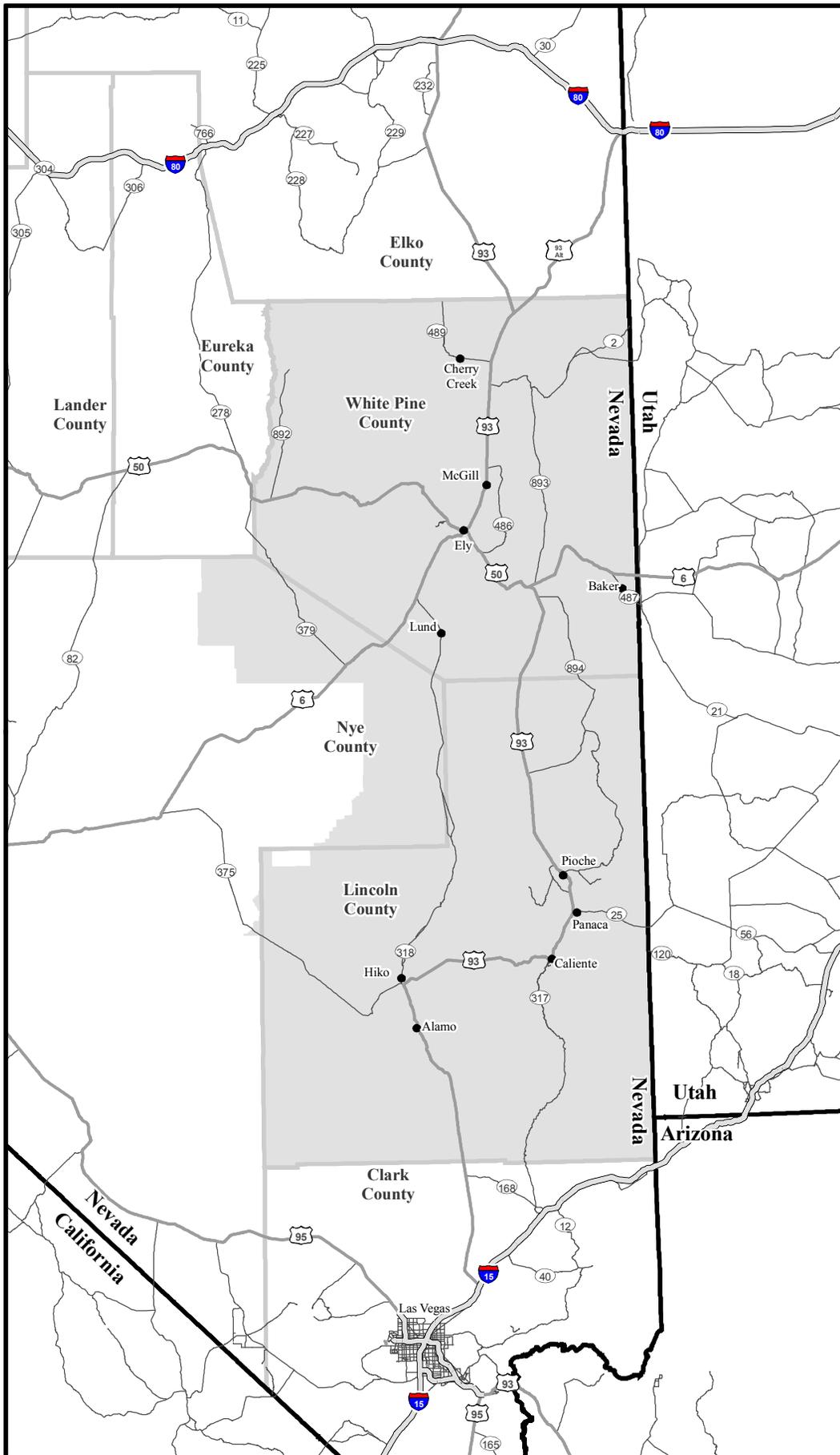
The planning area for the Ely RMP/EIS consists of public and private lands in Lincoln and White Pine counties and a portion of Nye County in east-central Nevada (**Map 1**). The area measures approximately 230 miles (north-south) by 115 miles (east-west). The Ely Field Office manages approximately 11.5 million acres of public lands out of the approximately 13.9 million acres within the boundaries of the planning area. Additional lands within the planning area include those administered by the U.S. Forest Service, Department of Defense, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, National Park Service, various state agencies, and private land (**Map 2**).

Principal communities within or adjacent to the planning area that would be affected by resource management actions contained in the Proposed RMP include (from north to south) Cherry Creek, McGill, Ely, Lund, Baker, Pioche, Panaca, Caliente, Hiko, Alamo, and Mesquite.

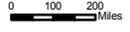
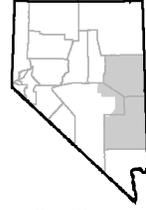
The Proposed RMP was prepared using BLM's planning regulations and guidance issued under the authority of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976. A Final EIS is included in this document to meet the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementing NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulation 1500-1508), and requirements of BLM's NEPA Handbook 1790-1 and Land Use Planning Handbook H-1601-1.

Purpose of and Need for Action

This RMP/EIS is being prepared to provide the Ely Field Office with a comprehensive framework for managing lands in the planning area under the jurisdiction of the BLM. Implementation-level planning and

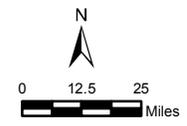


Regional View



Legend

- Cities and towns
- Interstate
- U.S. highway
- Roads
- County boundary
- State boundary
- Planning area



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Ely RMP/EIS

Map 1

Planning Area for the Ely RMP

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site-specific projects would then be completed in conformance with the broad provisions of the RMP. The RMP is needed to provide a land use plan consistent with current law, regulation, and policy.

Section 102 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act presents the overall policy for planning the use of resources that occur on BLM-administered lands. The BLM is required to prepare land use plans that serve as the basis for all activities that occur on BLM-administered lands. "The national interest will be best realized if the public lands and their resources are periodically and systematically inventoried and their present and future use is projected through a land use planning process coordinated with other Federal and State planning efforts." Section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act requires that "the Secretary shall, with public involvement ... develop, maintain, and when appropriate, revise land use plans."

The need for the action is to consolidate, update, and establish appropriate goals, objectives, management actions, priorities, and procedures, within a multiple-use management context, for all BLM public land resource programs administered by the Ely Field Office. This action is needed to update resource management direction to allow Ely Field Office managers to meet nationwide BLM goals and objectives and for their actions to be consistent with current BLM policy. The new RMP also is needed to facilitate implementation of the

Great Basin Restoration Initiative, a regional initiative to implement actions to maintain or improve ecological health at the landscape scale.

The Proposed RMP would direct the Ely Field Office in resource management activities including leasing minerals such as oil and gas; construction of electrical transmission lines, pipelines, and roads; grazing management; recreation and outfitting; preserving and restoring wildlife habitat; selling or exchanging lands for the benefit of local communities; military use of the planning area; and conducting other activities that require land use planning decisions. To address these management responsibilities, the Ely Field Office planning effort emphasizes a collaborative approach where local, state, federal, and Tribal governments; the public; local user groups; and industry work with the Ely Field Office to identify appropriate multiple uses of the public lands.

RMP Management Focus

The restoration and maintenance of healthy ecological systems within watersheds is a focus for the future management of the Ely RMP planning area. Healthy ecological systems are geographically diverse and change over time. They are compatible with soil potential and are resilient to disturbance.

Resources and resource uses will be managed to restore or maintain ecological health. Certain resource management changes and active treatments may need to be implemented, in portions of watersheds, to accomplish this objective. Adaptive management will be pursued to avoid deteriorating conditions favoring invasive plants and catastrophic fires. Any projects will be implemented so as to result in a mosaic of vegetation within a watershed.

In the long term, natural disturbance (such as drought or fire) will occur and fewer treatments will be needed to maintain ecological health. The result will be a variety of vegetation phases within a watershed, which will provide diverse, healthy conditions for future generations.

Alternatives Analyzed in Detail

The basic goal of developing alternatives was to prepare different combinations of management direction that would address issues and resolve conflicts among resources and resource uses. In addition to addressing issues, alternatives must meet the purpose and need stated for the RMP, must not be remote or speculative, and must be technically and economically practical or feasible. Each alternative is a complete land use plan that provides a framework for multiple use management of the full spectrum of resources, resource uses, and resource programs within the planning area. Under all alternatives, the Ely Field Office would manage the public lands in accordance with all applicable laws, regulations, and BLM policy and guidance, and to meet the Resource Advisory Council standards for rangeland health. However, as noted below, Alternative D is not consistent with all existing laws, regulations, and policies.

Overviews of each of the five alternatives considered in detail can be found in Chapter 2.0 of this Proposed RMP/Final EIS. A complete description of the management actions contained in each alternative also can be found in their respective sections of Chapter 2.0.

Briefly, each alternative can be characterized as follows:

- The first alternative is the Proposed RMP, which was presented as Alternative E in the Draft RMP/EIS. The Proposed RMP contains the management direction that the Ely Field Office proposes to implement to manage the resources and programs in the Ely RMP decision area. The Proposed RMP would 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 would be accomplished within the limits of an ecological system's ability to sustainably provide these products and services within the constraints of various laws and regulations.
- Alternative A is the continuation of existing management in the Ely RMP decision area, also called the "No Action Alternative" under NEPA regulations. This alternative would continue present management practices based on existing land use plans and other management decision documents. Direction contained in existing laws, regulation, and policy also would continue to be implemented. 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.
- Alternative B would emphasize the maintenance of those ecological systems that are functioning and healthy and the restoration of ecological systems that have been degraded or altered. 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 most other alternatives, and in some cases and some areas, uses would be excluded to protect sensitive resources.

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- 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. In this alternative, constraints to protect sensitive resources would tend to be implemented in specified geographic areas rather than across the entire Ely RMP planning area.
- 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. This alternative would allow no commodity production and would include management actions necessary to maintain or enhance resources and protect life and property.

Public Involvement and Comment on the Draft RMP/EIS

On July 29, 2005, a Notice of Availability was published in the Federal Register (70[145]:43902-43903) announcing the availability of the Draft Ely District RMP/EIS for public review and comment. This began a 120-day comment period that ended on November 28, 2005.

As described in Section 5.5 of the Draft RMP/EIS, copies of the Draft were sent to over 600 agencies, organizations, and individuals. A total of 650 comment letters on the Draft RMP/EIS were received via U.S. mail and email. These included 81 unique letters and 569 form letters. **Table ES-1** summarizes the type of entity that submitted comments. A complete list of commenters can be found in Appendix I.

Table ES-1
Comment Letters Received on the Draft RMP/EIS

Federal Agency	6
State Agency	6
Local Government	4
Tribal	1
Non Governmental Organization	20
Business	16
Individual	28
Form Letter	569

Each comment letter was assigned a unique number and then reviewed by BLM.

Appendix I contains copies of the main body of the comment letters with individual comments contained in each letter bracketed and numbered. Copies of attachments to those letters are not included in Appendix I; these attachments also were reviewed and are included in the Administrative Record.

Verbal comments also were received at the public meetings that were held on the Draft RMP/EIS. These meetings are discussed further in the following section. Transcripts of the meetings are also included in Appendix I, along with responses to the verbal comments that were contained in the statements made at the meetings.

Public meetings on the Draft RMP/EIS were held in October, 2005 in six locations in Nevada. **Table ES-2** provides the meeting locations, dates, and attendance.

Table ES-2
Public Meeting Locations, Dates, and Attendance

City, State	Location	Date	Attendance
Ely, Nevada	Bristlecone Convention Center	October 17, 2005	3
Caliente, Nevada	Caliente Elementary School Gymnasium	October 18, 2005	3
Mesquite, Nevada	Mesquite Campus Library	October 19, 2005	8
Las Vegas, Nevada	BLM Las Vegas Field Office	October 20, 2005	18
Reno, Nevada	Airport Plaza Hotel	October 24, 2005	6
Tonopah, Nevada	Tonopah Convention Center	October 25, 2005	0
Total			38

Principal Areas of Public Concern

Several areas of public concern were revealed in the comments received on the Draft RMP/EIS. Some of these concerns involve differences in opinion about the most appropriate use of a given resource or management action for a given program. Such concerns involving various components of the Ely RMP/EIS were not unexpected, and the Ely Field Office has responded to all concerns expressed in Appendix I of the Proposed RMP/Final EIS. However, given the multiple use mandate that BLM operates under, it is usually impossible to resolve all controversy to the satisfaction of all parties. In the Proposed RMP, the Ely Field Office has selected management actions that best meet the needs of all users of the public lands in the Ely RMP decision area, within the requirements and restrictions imposed by existing laws, regulations, and policies. Principal areas of public concern and BLM's proposed resolutions are as follows:

- **Vegetation Treatment** – In 1999, the Great Basin Restoration Initiative was introduced as an umbrella for a number of projects and actions underway to enhance the condition of public lands in the Great Basin, including the planning area. The objective of the Great Basin Restoration Initiative is a long-term, landscape-scale improvement in ecological health. The Ely RMP would provide direction to the Ely Field Office staff for implementation of the Great Basin Restoration Initiative within the decision area. The

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specific project in eastern Nevada is the Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Project. Vegetation treatments outlined in the Proposed RMP are designed on the basis of currently available scientific knowledge to modify vegetation communities in a manner to enhance ecological health and resilience. However, any vegetation manipulation involves certain risks that variables of weather, wildland fire, or other unpredicted circumstances may prevent immediate achievement of the desired results. Throughout most of the planning area, one of the more substantial risks is that unsuccessful treatments could accelerate the spread of invasive or noxious weed species, thereby contributing to further deterioration rather than restoration of ecological health. For these reasons, several commenters were opposed to any type of active treatment of vegetation.

- **Wildlife Management** – Numerous reviewers of the Draft RMP/EIS expressed their belief that the Ely Field Office had not adequately emphasized the management of habitat for elk, bighorn sheep, and various other wildlife species of interest. Changes incorporated in the Proposed RMP and Final EIS attempt to resolve various aspects of this issue by identifying priority species and priority habitats as points of management emphasis. Additional wildlife habitat management decisions have been incorporated into the wildlife section.
- **Special Status Species** – The Proposed RMP would provide for the protection of special status species. The debate over threatened and endangered species is not unique to the Ely RMP planning area. Some believe that these species are not being given adequate emphasis, while others believe that restrictions on resource uses for the protection of special status species is unreasonable. The Ely Field Office would continue to manage habitat for special status species in accordance with the requirements of the Endangered Species Act and other applicable regulations and policies. The objectives are to prevent adverse effects to listed species and their habitats and to prevent additional species from being listed as threatened or endangered.
- **Wild Horses** – The Proposed RMP focuses wild horse herd management on six herd management areas covering approximately 3.7 million acres that are capable of sustaining viable, thriving, natural populations, even in drought conditions. This approach involves combining some existing herd management areas that are not individually capable of sustaining herds and eliminating some others that are neither capable of sustaining herds nor located where they can be part of an effective combination. This management change necessitates removal of wild horses in those herd management areas or portions of areas covering approximately 1.7 million acres, including herd management areas in the Mojave Desert, where habitat conditions are not sufficient to sustain healthy populations. Although any reduction in herd management areas and wild horse populations is opposed by some members of the public, the Ely Field Office has determined that consolidation and reduction of herd management areas with corresponding adjustment in the appropriate management level is the best way to ensure the long-term survival and maintenance of healthy wild horse herds within the planning area.
- **Visual Resources** – The Proposed RMP would designate an increased acreage within the planning area as Visual Resource Management Class II and III areas as opposed to their current Class IV designation. Commenters were both supportive of and opposed to these designations, due to perceived protection of sensitive visual resources and impediment of future development, respectively. The Ely Field Office has determined that the Proposed RMP appropriately classifies visual resources based on

existing conditions, and future proposals would be evaluated for potential impacts to visual resources and mitigation that could be required to achieve visual resource management class objectives.

- **Land Disposal** – The Proposed RMP would provide for the disposal of approximately 75,600 acres of BLM-administered land to state, local, and private entities. Given the very limited amount of private land within the boundaries of the Ely RMP planning area, many believe that land disposal is critical to the future economic viability of Lincoln and White Pine counties. Others believe that there should be no net loss of public lands within the planning area. Land disposal in Lincoln and White Pine counties is provided for in recent federal legislation.
- **Off-highway Vehicle Use** – The Proposed RMP would limit off-highway vehicle travel on approximately 10.3 million acres of the decision area to designated roads and trails. Approximately 1.1 million acres of wilderness, wilderness study areas, and some ACECs would be closed to off-highway vehicle use. A considerable number of commenters believe that the decision area should remain open to cross-country off-highway vehicle use, while a smaller number believe that such use should be eliminated entirely. The change in off-highway vehicle use management direction for the Ely Field Office is consistent with BLM policy throughout the western U.S. The Ely Field Office would establish an interdisciplinary review team to update the Ely Field Office Transportation Plan. The transportation planning process would include public scoping meetings and comment.
- **Special Recreation Management Areas** – The Proposed RMP would establish five special recreation management areas that would be managed for a variety of recreation opportunities. Area-specific management plans for recreational use would be developed. By establishing these management areas, the Proposed RMP would provide for managed opportunities for recreation in the planning area.
- **Off-highway Vehicle Race Events** – The Proposed RMP would designate four special recreation permit areas for competitive motorcycle events and four routes for competitive truck events, under event-specific permits from the Ely Field Office. Some commenters believe that race events on public lands are inappropriate, while others want more areas open to racing. Off-highway vehicle race events have taken place in the Ely RMP planning area for a number of years. The Ely Field Office has determined that restricting these events to designated areas and race courses accommodates the public needs for both motorized recreation and resource protection.
- **Livestock Grazing** – The Proposed RMP would continue livestock grazing on approximately 11.2 million acres of the planning area under current policies and allotment evaluation procedures. Some members of the public oppose livestock grazing on public lands and would like to see livestock grazing reduced or totally eliminated from numerous areas. Such proposals commonly are opposed by those members of the public whose livelihood is dependent on such uses. The Proposed RMP includes constraints on grazing Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs). These actions are considered necessary by the Ely Field Office for protection of a variety of sensitive resources within some of the ACECs.
- **Oil and Gas Leasing** – The Proposed RMP would increase the area available for oil and gas leasing compared to current management. National policy encourages energy development on public lands,

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while many groups and individuals are opposed to such development. While a majority of the Ely RMP decision area would be open to leasing, the analysis conducted by the Ely Field Office indicates that only a small area overall would be disturbed for exploration and development. These activities would be permitted on a project-specific basis. Thus, the Proposed RMP would be consistent with national policy but also would protect other resources from oil and gas development.

- Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) – The Proposed RMP would designate 20 (3 existing and 17 new) ACECs, including 317,790 acres or approximately 2.8 percent of the planning area. Some commenters believe that no new ACECs should be designated, while others believe that several additional ACECs beyond what the Ely Field Office has proposed (especially for biological resources) should be designated. Consistent with existing ACEC regulations, the Ely Field Office has proposed to designate those areas as ACECs that require special management actions.
- Wilderness – Congress has recently designated 1,064,040 acres of wilderness and released approximately 302,744 acres of wilderness study areas through the Lincoln County and White Pine County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Acts (2004 and 2006, respectively). Some commenters believe that additional wilderness study areas need to be identified and additional wilderness needs to be designated. While the BLM no longer identifies wilderness study areas through land use planning, the Ely Field Office would continue to manage wilderness study areas under current BLM policy until action is taken by Congress.

Major Impact Conclusions

Detailed descriptions of the environmental consequences that the management actions contained in the five alternatives would have on each resource program can be found in Chapter 4.0 of this Proposed RMP/Final EIS. A comparison of environmental impact conclusions by alternative is presented in **Table 4.1-1**. Also included in Chapter 4.0 are discussions of cumulative impacts (Section 4.28) and unavoidable adverse impacts (Section 4.31).

Table ES-3 presents the major impact conclusions for the Proposed RMP.

Decisions to be Made

The Proposed RMP/Final EIS has been distributed to the public. There will be a 30-day protest period, followed by resolution of any protests. The resolution of protests may result in modification of the Proposed RMP before it is finalized and approved. Section 7 consultation also is being conducted with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on the Proposed RMP. The Biological Opinion from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service may result in modifications of decisions or new terms and conditions. Any such modifications will be documented in a Notice of Significant Change or in the Record of Decision that will accompany the Approved RMP. Once approved, the management actions contained in the Ely RMP can be implemented.

Land use plan decisions, which are made on a broad (programmatic) scale, guide subsequent site-specific implementation decisions. Specific projects for any given resource, resource use, or resource program that

are not analyzed in this Proposed RMP/Final EIS would be detailed in future activity plans or site-specific proposals, and additional NEPA analysis and documentation would be conducted as needed.

Summary of Major Changes from the Preferred Alternative to the Proposed Plan

In response to public comments and input from Cooperating Agencies, the following major changes were made to the Proposed RMP and Final EIS compared to the Preferred Alternative in the Draft RMP/EIS.

The Proposed RMP/EIS has been revised in format and expanded in content to clarify a number of proposed management actions. The format in Chapter 2.0 and the organization of the corresponding analyses in Chapter 4.0 have been modified to simplify the tracking and comparison of individual management actions among alternatives. Proposed management actions in Chapter 2.0 have been specifically numbered and definitively stated for ease of understanding. In several resource programs, the management actions replaced text that was relatively generic and ambiguous. Similarly, the goals and objectives of various resource programs were clarified relative to applicable regulations and standards.

Throughout the document, revisions were incorporated to comply with guidance of the 2005 BLM Land Use Planning Handbook which became available concurrent with the earlier Draft RMP/EIS. This guidance included increased use of quantitative data in both management actions and impact analyses. It also included addition of some management actions in resource programs that were lightly treated in the Draft RMP/EIS (e.g., air resources and water resources). In other areas, changes occurred to render the proposed management actions more compatible between resource programs (e.g., designated corridors and priority wildlife habitat). The proposed minerals management program was revised to more accurately reflect the current BLM policy and guidance that had changed since initial document preparation. The livestock grazing section was expanded to clarify the status of allotments meeting or making progress towards the standards and those not yet evaluated.

A number of changes occurred based on comments received from the public review of the Draft RMP/EIS. As an example, three additional ACECs (Baking Powder Flat, Schlessers Pincushion, and White River Valley) were added under the Proposed RMP to address protection of special status plant species. Similarly, additional discussions were added to address a greater variety of special status species potentially affected by the management plan. Proposed management related to outfitters and guides in the planning area was modified to address public concerns. Management actions related to various wildlife habitats and domestic livestock in bighorn sheep habitat were clarified to address a variety of public and agency concerns related to the Draft RMP/EIS. Watershed priorities were modified due to fire and floods in 2004/2005.

The recent passage of the White Pine County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act of 2006 also triggered a variety of text revisions to address the changes in land status brought about by this important piece of legislation. Thus, changes occurred in land tenure, proposed land disposals, wilderness acreages, wilderness study areas, ACECs, grazing allotments, mineral closures, and other categories. Three ACECs (Highland Range, Mount Grafton, and Goshute Canyon) were deleted from the Proposed RMP because

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they were designated wilderness by Congress in the White Pine County land bill. Boundary adjustment occurred on seven of the other ACECs in the draft.

Maps were revised to present modified management actions, incorporate new information regarding the planning area, and improve readability for the public.

**Table ES-3
Major Impact Conclusions for the Proposed RMP**

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.	
Proposed RMP	Under the Proposed RMP, as watershed analyses are completed and projects are implemented to meet or maintain rangeland health standards, fire management would expand as a tool in vegetation management to approximately 8.9 million acres. In the long term, this approach likely would result in more small fires and fewer major fires producing fewer emissions in the planning area compared to recent historic (last 30 years) levels. Short-term impacts could include larger and more frequent fires plus increased fugitive dust from recreational events impacting air quality. Mitigation measures would be applied where appropriate to help maintain air quality. In the long term, the Proposed RMP would meet the goal of the air resources program and maintain compliance with federal and state air quality standards.
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.	
Proposed RMP	Water resource conditions would be improved on a long-term basis as individual watersheds are analyzed and treated. During the short term, localized decreases of water quality may occur immediately following treatments. The potential for these effects would be minimized by the use of best management practices during the treatment process. Increases in water availability (mainly springflows and baseflows) may occur in local areas conducive to groundwater recharge and discharge. This alternative provides a suitable management framework to achieve the goals of the water resources program, including proper functioning condition of wetlands and riparian areas, and achievement of state water quality standards.
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.	
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.	
Proposed RMP	Over the short term, the Proposed RMP would be expected to increase the risk of soil erosion and temporary loss of productivity on freshly treated areas. Implementation of best management practices, including restoration monitoring, would minimize these risks. Long-term reductions in erosion rates and increases in soil quality would be expected with successful widespread vegetation restoration and weed management. The Proposed RMP would achieve the stated goals for the soils program, including the Resource Advisory Council Standards.

Table ES-3 (Continued)

VEGETATION RESOURCES	
<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	
Proposed RMP	<p>The Proposed RMP would generally reduce dominance by woody species and increase the diversity of vegetation communities over the long term, providing vegetation communities with structure, multiple-aged shrubs, forbs, and perennial grasses. This would result in greater productivity, improved wildlife habitat, and improved natural functions and watershed stability. Livestock grazing management could be used to maintain vegetation communities which currently meet the desired range of conditions and allow improvement of remaining vegetation communities to the desired range of conditions over the short and long term. It also would increase the return of plant litter to the soil and protect soils from accelerated erosion. Long term vigor and health of vegetation communities with maintenance of soil stability as well as energy, nutrient, and water cycling, would be maintained across the landscape through the use of numerous tools. This alternative would achieve the program goal.</p>
FISH AND WILDLIFE	
<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	
Proposed RMP	<p>Aquatic habitat management would include habitat enhancement for existing aquatic species. Vegetation treatments could result in increased short-term impacts from erosion and sedimentation immediately after treatment. These impacts would be minimized through implementation of management actions that would provide mitigation during the treatment process. Changes in grazing management in riparian areas and restoration of vegetation resilience in nearby riparian and upland areas would improve habitat conditions over the long term. By implementing the various management actions associated with the wildlife and fisheries management direction and mitigation actions associated with other programs, the goal and objective for fisheries would be achieved.</p> <p>There would be a loss of wildlife habitat on less than 5 percent of the planning area. Direct loss of habitat would occur as a result of land disposals and construction activities associated with energy production and mineral development. Indirect losses would occur through fragmentation of habitat and avoidance of areas adjacent to project sites during construction and operation activities. Mitigation of discretionary permitted activities that would result in losses of aquatic habitat and priority wildlife habitat would occur by improving 2 acres of comparable habitat for every 1 acre disturbed as determined on a project-by-project basis.</p> <p>The quality of wildlife habitat, both aquatic and terrestrial, on the remaining 95 percent of the planning area would improve as a result of wildlife habitat management, wild horse management, livestock grazing management, off-highway vehicle management, vegetation management, watershed management, fire management, and noxious and invasive weed management.</p> <p>Over the long term, the Proposed RMP would achieve the goal for the fish and wildlife management program. Because of the time required to implement the necessary vegetation treatments and other management actions, achievement of the goal for the entire area in the short term may not occur in the first few years. Site-specific locations may achieve the goals sooner due to the prioritization of treatments.</p>

Table ES-3 (Continued)

SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES	
<p>Goal – Manage public land 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.</p> <p>Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council Standard.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. <p>Mojave/Southern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council Standard.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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). 	
<p>Proposed RMP</p>	<p>Sensitive fish and invertebrate species would be managed through evaluations of their overall habitat conditions. Numerous resource uses could affect sensitive aquatic habitat as a result of sedimentation, vegetation removal, or habitat alteration. Changes in grazing management and restoration efforts in riparian areas could improve habitat conditions in the long-term, particularly in Lower Meadow Valley Wash ACEC and Condor Canyon ACEC. Vegetation management could result in greater short-term impacts through erosion and sedimentation as a result of increased treatment areas. On a long-term basis, the restoration of vegetation resilience in riparian areas and the surrounding uplands would improve habitat conditions for sensitive fish and invertebrate species. By implementing the various management actions associated with the special status species management direction and mitigation actions associated with other programs, the goals and objectives for special status aquatic species would be achieved.</p> <p>Special status wildlife species would be specifically assessed, based on species-specific desired future conditions, and compared to overall habitat conditions and identification of causal factors for declines. On a watershed level, restoration activities would result in higher quality forage, increased cover and vegetation structure, and increased habitat quality for special status species. On a landscape level, restoration activities to achieve appropriate ranges of vegetation conditions would improve special status species habitats by reducing habitat degradation and fragmentation, and promoting ecological health and resiliency. The Proposed RMP would achieve the program goal for special status wildlife species.</p> <p>A detailed analysis of potential impacts to special status plants would be completed in conjunction with each watershed and habitat analysis. As part of the best management practices, potential mitigation measures and monitoring would be developed on a site-specific basis. Three new ACECs would be established primarily for the protection of special status plants. The establishment of these ACECs and the land use restrictions associated with them may offer additional protection where special status plants occur in these areas. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed RMP would result in additional protection for special status plants and achieve the program goal relative to such species.</p>

Table ES-3 (Continued)

WILD HORSES	
<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	
Proposed RMP	Wild horses would be managed where healthy populations can be maintained over the long-term. Wild horse populations would be brought into balance with the available habitat resources needed to sustain healthy populations and prevent damage to the environment and surrounding resources. The Proposed RMP would achieve the goal for the wild horse management program.
CULTURAL RESOURCES	
<p>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)).</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council Standard. Land use plan will recognize cultural resources within the context of multiple use.</p>	
Proposed RMP	There would be a higher level of protection of cultural resources through use allocations, with 100 percent of the sites determined eligible to the National Register of Historic Places allocated and managed for Conservation, Scientific, and Public Use, and the designation of 8 new ACECs. There also would be more protection of cultural/archaeological resources than current management due to the decrease in lands open to off-highway vehicle use, wild horses, and livestock grazing. The level of protection from impacts associated with fire management and recreation activities would be greater than current management. The Proposed RMP would meet the goals for the cultural resources program, including the Resource Advisory Council Standards.
PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES	
<p>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.</p>	
Proposed RMP	Paleontological resources would be protected under the Proposed RMP, because they would be allocated and managed for Scientific, Conservation, and/or Public Use. An increase in the number of acres withdrawn from mineral entry and a decrease in lands open to off-highway vehicle use would reduce impacts to paleontological resources. The no-fee registration system would increase the protection of known trilobite localities by tracking the amount of use and associated impacts. The Proposed RMP would meet the goal for the paleontology program.
VISUAL RESOURCES	
<p>Goal – Manage public land actions and activities in a manner consistent with Ely Field Office visual resource management class objectives.</p>	
Proposed RMP	Management prescriptions under the Proposed RMP would classify approximately 1.1 million acres as Visual Resource Management Class I and 2.4 million acres as Visual Resource Management Class II. Having classifications for all lands within the decision area would allow for a more comprehensive framework for preserving and mitigating impacts to visual resources. Maximizing the use of prescribed fire and wildland fire use would create short-term visual impacts that would diminish in the long term after treatments are completed. The Proposed RMP would meet the goal for the visual resources program.

Table ES-3 (Continued)

LANDS AND REALTY	
<p>Goal – Manage public lands in a manner that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	
Proposed RMP	<p>Approximately 75,600 acres would be available for possible disposal and would be withdrawn from mineral entry. Having these areas identified would facilitate the disposal of BLM-administered lands for community development. Designated critical habitat for federally listed threatened and endangered species, cultural resources, mineral exploration and development, watershed restoration, and special designation areas could preclude the disposal of certain parcels and land use authorizations. The Proposed RMP would allow a higher degree of flexibility in land use authorizations by identifying the new 0.5-mile-wide Spring Valley corridor. Encouraging co-location of land use authorizations would reduce or localize impacts to other resources. Approximately 1,403,500 acres would be identified as avoidance or exclusion areas. The Proposed RMP would meet the goals for the lands and realty program.</p>
RENEWABLE ENERGY	
<p>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.</p>	
Proposed RMP	<p>The primary impact of the Proposed RMP would be to facilitate the development of renewable energy resources. Surface disturbance for an assumed wind energy development scenario could total 4,000 acres, about 0.03 percent of the decision area. Wind and solar power developments would have to be compatible with the management prescriptions for other resources and would be evaluated on a project-specific basis. Biomass development would be based on the acreage of vegetation treatment needed to restore healthy vegetation communities. The Proposed RMP would meet the goal for the renewable energy program.</p>
TRAVEL MANAGEMENT AND OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE USE	
<p>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.</p>	
Proposed RMP	<p>The elimination of areas open to cross-country vehicle travel would reduce motorized access to parts of the planning area not served by existing or designated roads and trails in the short and long term. Completing road and trail designations in site-specific travel management plans would improve motorized access and road and trail conditions over the long term. The Proposed RMP would meet the goal for the travel management and off-highway vehicle use program.</p>
RECREATION	
<p>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.</p>	
Proposed RMP	<p>The Proposed RMP would constitute a comprehensive program that addresses the trend of increasing recreational use as well as provides the opportunity to develop management strategies for anticipated future conditions. Five special recreation management areas totaling approximately 1.2 million acres (10 percent of the decision area) would be designated. Elimination of areas designated as open to cross-country off-highway vehicle use would reduce off-highway motorized recreational opportunities. However, these transportation restrictions also would provide an increased opportunity for seclusion and primitive recreational experiences. A sufficient number of routes would be designated to accommodate motorcycle and truck competitive events. The Proposed RMP would meet the goal for the recreation program.</p>

Table ES-3 (Continued)

LIVESTOCK GRAZING	
<p>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.</p> <p>Northeastern Great Basin Area Standards.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>Mojave-Southern Great Basin Area Standards.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	
Proposed RMP	<p>Approximately 11.3 million acres would remain available for grazing following closures on all or portions of five ACECs. Approximately 424,602 animal unit months on 8.4 million acres would be authorized on grazing allotments that have been determined to be meeting or progressing toward achievement of standards for rangeland health. Approximately 120,665 animal unit months on 3.2 million acres would be authorized on grazing allotments pending their evaluation for meeting rangeland health standards. The total acreage available for grazing is subject to change based on approximately 75,600 acres identified for potential sale. Although portions of these lands may continue to be grazed after they are sold, they would no longer be administered as part of the BLM livestock grazing program. Vegetation treatments and protection of freshly seeded areas also could temporarily affect grazing on substantial areas during the treatment process, but it is expected that increased forage production on previously treated areas would offset temporary reductions in those allotments. The Proposed RMP would achieve the stated goal for this program.</p>
FOREST/WOODLAND AND OTHER PLANT PRODUCTS	
<p>Goal – Provide opportunities for traditional and non-traditional uses of vegetation products on a sustainable, multiple-use basis.</p>	
Proposed RMP	<p>The Proposed RMP would expand the number of species permitted for use as fuelwood, posts and poles, and Christmas trees, providing a greater opportunity for personal and commercial use and greater flexibility in the management of these woodland communities. The increased availability is not likely to affect the overall resource supply for any of the species involved. Availability of woodland biomass products would continue to exceed demand on both short and long term basis. Green biomass availability would be replaced with dead wood during treatments, but overall product availability would remain relatively constant. Christmas tree availability would likely be reduced as treatments are implemented in more productive sagebrush ecological sites. Pine nut production would be reduced during the short term after treatments, but should maintain or exceed current production rates in the long term as woodland sites are restored and become resilient. Forest/woodland and other plant product availability would be affected in high priority watershed areas prior to other watersheds. The harvest of forest/woodland products would continue to have minimal effects on the woodland communities involved. The management actions of the Proposed RMP would achieve the goal for this program.</p>

Table ES-3 (Continued)

GEOLOGY AND MINERAL EXTRACTION	
<p>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 would prevent unnecessary or undue degradation, meet public demand, and minimize adverse impacts to other resource values.</p>	
Proposed RMP	<p>The majority of the decision area would be open to fluid mineral exploration and development. The areas proposed for closure to leasing or those with no surface occupancy restrictions that are outside of wilderness, yet within high to moderate potential is less than 5 percent of the decision area. Therefore, the proposed management would allow for the exploration and development of oil and gas while protecting important resource values.</p> <p>The decision area has a low potential for the occurrence of solid leasable mineral resources, so the closure of the lands described would likely have little impact on the exploration and development of solid leasable minerals.</p> <p>Less than 5 percent of the decision area would involve discretionary closures to locatable minerals within high to medium potential. This small percentage of withdrawn areas is not expected to have a major impact on the recovery of locatable minerals. Therefore, the Proposed RMP would allow for the exploration and development of locatable minerals while protecting important resource values.</p> <p>Because mineral material occurrences are so common and widespread, there should be little impact to the availability of these deposits despite the proposed closures and areas where discretionary closures are likely. It is expected that there would be sufficient resources available to meet local, regional, and national needs, while providing for the protection of other resources and uses.</p>
WATERSHED MANAGEMENT	
<p>Goal – Manage watersheds to achieve and maintain resource functions and conditions required for healthy lands and sustainable uses.</p>	
<p>Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council Standards.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>Mojave/Southern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council Standards.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 wetland 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. 	
Proposed RMP	<p>The Proposed RMP watershed management actions, in combination with the associated vegetation treatment programs, generally would reduce dominance by woody species; increase the diversity of vegetation communities over the long term; and provide structure with multiple-aged shrubs, forbs and perennial grasses. This would result in greater productivity, improved watershed function, and increased stability. It also would increase the amount of plant litter returned to the soil and protect soils from accelerated erosion. Long term vigor and health of vegetation communities, which includes maintenance of soil stability as well as energy, nutrient, and water cycling, would be maintained and improved across the landscape except at small localized areas of soil disturbing activities. Thus, the Proposed RMP management actions of this and related programs would achieve the program goal for watershed management.</p>

Table ES-3 (Continued)

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.	
Proposed RMP	Implementation of the Proposed RMP would result in a major increase in the use of fire throughout the watersheds in the planning area. Fire use and prescribed fire would be implemented year-round in the treatment of vegetation communities and watersheds to achieve the desired range of conditions for vegetation, watersheds, and other resource programs (e.g., livestock grazing, wild horses, soils, etc.). An increase in application of other tools (e.g., herbicides) also may be necessary to meet management goals prior to expanding the use of fire.
NOXIOUS AND INVASIVE WEED MANAGEMENT	
Goal – To reduce the introduction of, and the areal extent of noxious and invasive weed populations and the spread of these populations	
Proposed RMP	The Proposed RMP would involve a substantial increase in vegetation treatments resulting in a temporary increase in the risk of weed invasion and expansion in the areas disturbed by treatments, but a long-term reduction in the vulnerability of these same areas. Additional constraints on off-highway vehicle use throughout the planning area and formalization of weed management actions related to construction and development activities would substantially reduce weed dispersal associated with these activities. However, with the increase in use of off-highway vehicles in designated special recreation management areas and special recreation permit areas, the potential spread of weeds will increase. Monitoring measures will be implemented to ensure containment of any outbreak. Therefore, this alternative would reduce the rate of spread of noxious and invasive weeds on a long-term basis and meet the program goal.
SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS	
Goal – Evaluate areas of interest for special designation and appropriately manage those areas that meet necessary requirements.	
Proposed RMP	Approximately 317,800 acres would be designated as three existing and 17 new ACECs. Management prescriptions would protect the relevant and important values in these ACECs. Opportunities for scenic drives would be created through the designation of one existing and two new back country byways, though there may be some decrease in solitude in these areas. The Proposed RMP would meet the goal for the special designations program.
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS	
Goal – No program-specific goals have been identified for economic and social conditions or health and safety.	
Economic Conditions	
Proposed RMP	The Proposed RMP would result in slight, long-term enhancements of the local economy, e.g., 255 to 260 jobs, across the planning area due to the added restoration funding, stewardship contracting, increased woodland commodity production, and developed and organized recreation. Ranch income would be adversely impacted over the short term, but would increase over the long term. Annual payments in lieu of taxes to Lincoln County would increase slightly and to White Pine County would decrease in the short term, but both would increase in the long term due to land disposal and development. RMP-related impacts on local fiscal conditions would be minimal and long term relative to local budgets.
Social Conditions	
Proposed RMP	The Proposed RMP would result in regional population increases of 510 to 560 residents during restoration, with corresponding positive long-term effects on local housing markets. The gains would be relatively more concentrated around Ely. Additional social benefits may be realized from stewardship contracting, the fuels management/wildland fire risk reduction, and potential for developed recreation associated with possible land disposal. This alternative may hold relatively less appeal for those desiring maximum emphasis on resource protection and rangeland health restoration. Additionally, long-term population growth facilitated by land disposal could result in fundamental, long-term changes in social conditions across the area.
AMERICAN INDIAN ISSUES	
No specific impacts are compared. See Section 4.25 to identify specific issues and the sections in which they are addressed.	

Table ES-3 (Continued)

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE	
Goal – Continue efforts to avoid, to the extent practicable, inequitable distributions of adverse environment impacts that may arise based on race, ethnicity, or income.	
Proposed RMP	No significant, adverse, or disproportionately high environmental or health effects to minority or low-income populations were identified in conjunction with the resource programs, objectives, or management actions associated with the Proposed RMP.
HEALTH AND SAFETY	
Goal – The goal of the health and safety program is to ensure that management actions are protective of life and property.	
Proposed RMP	There would be a decrease of risk to public health and safety because of the decreased wildland fire risk. The Proposed RMP would meet the goal for the health and safety program.