

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

NV-040-06-30

SMITH SPRING RIPARIAN ENCLOSURE FENCE
AND SPRING DEVELOPMENT

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Ely Field Office

Prepared By: John Longinetti
July 2006

I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

This environmental assessment (EA) incorporates by reference and is tiered to the Proposed Egan Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/FEIS), dated December 24, 1983, and the Egan Resource Area Record of Decision (ROD) which was finalized on February 3, 1987. This EA fulfills the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirement for a site-specific analysis. Standards and Guidelines for Grazing Administration were developed by the Nevada Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council and were approved by the Secretary of the Interior on February 12, 1997.

Need for the Proposal

The need for the proposed project is to restore Smith Spring and the adjoining riparian zone to proper functioning condition, protect the spring and riparian area from future livestock trampling and provide livestock and wildlife a clean, suitable water source while respecting the valid water rights of the permittee on Smith Spring. The proposed project is located on the Thirty Mile Spring Allotment in T19N, R62E, S.34 NWNW. The project would assist the Bureau and permittee in meeting the multiple use management objectives established for the Thirty Mile Spring Allotment. The proposed project would also assist the Bureau and permittee in meeting the standards for riparian and wetland sites established by the Nevada Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council (RAC) for the Northeastern Great Basin Area on the Thirty Mile Spring Allotment.

Relationship to Planning

The project is in conformance with the Egan Resource Area Record of Decision (ROD) signed February 3, 1987, and with the goals outlined in the ROD page 3, which states, in part, "...develop and implement range improvements which emphasize greatest return on investment in relationship to resource needs..."

The project is also in conformance with the Proposed Egan Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/FEIS), dated December 24, 1983. The implementation of rangeland improvement projects is listed as a long-term management action (5-20) years on page 20 of the RMP/FEIS.

The project is also consistent with the White Pine County Land Use Plan (May 1998) which states, "The federal government should continue to make the public rangelands economically and realistically available for livestock grazing, along with the other multiple use objectives" (pg. 7).

The project would help meet the District's goal of being consistent with the Northeastern Great Basin RAC Standards and Guidelines for Grazing Administration, approved by the Secretary of the Interior on February 12, 1997. Standard 2 (Riparian and Wetland Sites) states, in part, "...riparian and wetland areas exhibit a properly functioning condition and

achieve state water quality criteria. Natural springs, seeps, and marsh areas are functioning properly when adequate vegetation is present to facilitate water retention, filtering, and release as indicated by plant species and cover appropriate to the site characteristics.”

Issues

An issue identified during scoping concerned the permittee’s private water rights on Smith Spring and having access to water for livestock. Another issue was the responsibility of the BLM to properly manage and/or protect the spring source and adjacent riparian area.

II. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

Proposed Action

The proposed action is for the BLM Ely Field Office (or an authorized contractor) to construct a livestock enclosure fence around the Smith Spring riparian area, install a springbox and/or other collection system at the spring source, and install a pipeline (not to exceed 500 feet as per water right certificate) to a livestock trough outside the fenced riparian zone. This area is located in east-central Nevada in White Pine County within the Thirty Mile Spring Allotment in Smith Valley at T19N, R62E, S.34 NWNW.

The enclosure would be approximately 1 to 2 acres in size. The fence would be a standard Bureau 4-wire fence. It would consist of three strands of barbed wire on top and one strand of smooth wire on the bottom. Wire spacing would be 16”, 6”, 8” and 12” from bottom to top. The fence would be 42” high from ground level to the top wire. White-topped steel posts would be spaced 16’ apart with stays in between. White flagging would be attached to the top wire between posts during construction to alert wildlife and livestock to the existence of the new fence. A gate(s) would be installed to allow access to the spring. The fence would be built to BLM specifications and standard operating procedures as outlined in the District Fenceline Environmental Assessment No. EA-NV-040-5-27. Fence construction may involve the use of pick-up trucks, post-hole diggers attached to tractors or backhoes and other equipment as necessary. The area of ground disturbance resulting from fence construction will be approximately 10 to 15 feet wide.

The springbox and/or collection system, discharge pipe and trough would be designed and installed to standard Bureau specifications for these structures. The discharge pipeline conveying water to the stocktank would be 500 feet in length or less. Spring development could include the use of heavy equipment (i.e. backhoe-loader tractors) as well as pickup trucks.

The project is proposed for completion by 2007. The BLM would supply all materials and be responsible for completing construction. Maintenance responsibilities would be

assigned to the permittee. A co-op agreement would be initiated detailing the maintenance responsibilities.

Normal maintenance of fences is defined as the labor and materials needed to keep an existing fence in a condition adequate to prevent livestock movement through, under, or over the fence. At this time maintenance responsibility would consist of:

1. Ensuring that all strands of fence wire between fence posts are tightly stretched and secured to the fence posts by metal clips or staples as appropriate for the type of post.
2. Ensuring that all fence posts are securely in place and that bent, broken, or missing posts and stays are replaced as needed.
3. Ensuring that all wooden stretch panels, corner braces, and gateposts are securely in place and in sound condition. Rotten or broken posts must be replaced as needed.
4. Ensuring that all strands of fence wire and fence spacing wire or wood poles which form the gates are properly stretched and secured. Each gate should have a mechanical latch for secure closure of the gate.
5. Ensuring that the appropriate Bureau standards are maintained.
6. Ensuring that the spacing of all wires is maintained as built to original specifications.

Normal maintenance and upkeep of spring developments and pipelines is defined as the labor and materials needed to keep an existing springs and pipelines in a condition adequate to satisfy the proper distribution and maintenance of livestock. This includes but is not limited to the following:

1. Cleaning the springbox, inlet and overflow pipes, and troughs of debris and moss.
2. Repair broken and split pipe.
3. Ensure proper attachment of bird ladders in stock troughs.
4. Repair or replace trough braces.
5. Repair leaks in stock troughs.
6. Replacing dirt, gravel or rock fill around troughs.
7. Replacing those items above ground which will require replacement due to normal use.

Mitigation

Several proposed mitigating measures from the Programmatic EA are applicable to this proposed action and are as follows:

1. White flagging would be attached to the top wire between white-topped steel posts to alert wildlife and livestock to the existence of the new fence.
2. To protect migratory birds during the nesting period, fence construction would be in accordance with Instruction Memorandum No. 040-2001-02 "Ely District Policy Management Actions for the Conservation of Migratory Birds" dated May 23, 2001 which states "...actions, which may impact migratory birds, are not allowed during the critical nesting period. The critical nesting period is established as May 1 through July 15. Activities may not occur during this period without special authorization, and only after breeding bird surveys have been conducted by the field office wildlife team."
3. To help minimize and/or prevent the spread of invasive and nonnative species (including noxious weeds) the following terms and conditions for construction would include: Wash all of the construction equipment prior to entering the work site in accordance with the Ely District noxious weed prevention schedule and inspect and clean equipment for plant material daily.
4. Avoid cultural resource sites during the survey and design phase. There is some leeway in exactly where the fence is placed. The archaeologists should be involved in the planning and designing phase. If cultural resources may be impacted through fence construction, these impacts can be mitigated in various ways. Consideration should be given to: a) creating a traffic corridor through the site, b) recording and mapping the site, c) surface collection, d) excavation, and/or e) having an archaeologist present during construction.

Monitoring will be conducted in the form of compliance checks during and after construction of the project.

Compliance

The project inspector (PI) or representative from the BLM would make periodic site visits to check on compliance of specifications and progress during the construction phase. Upon completion of the project, a final inspection would be made to ensure construction and installation specifications were met. Periodic compliance checks would be made following project completion by the rangeland management specialist to ensure the project remains in proper functioning condition and good working order.

No Action

The impacts from construction and installation of the fence and spring development as described above would not occur if the project is not implemented. Without the proposed riparian fence and spring development, livestock would continue to have access to the spring and riparian zone resulting in the continuation of the historical use (trampling and heavy use) to the riparian area.

Alternatives

No alternatives to the proposed action are necessary to be analyzed in response to unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.

Alternatives Considered but Eliminated From Detailed Analysis

Herding was considered as an alternative method for achieving management objectives. However, it was eliminated from detailed analysis because the permittee of the Thirty Mile Spring Allotment has attempted to move his cattle off this riparian area before over-use occurs but the cattle have always drifted back soon after each herding event occurred.

Shifting livestock grazing use to other portions of the allotment already occurs. Cattle currently graze many areas of the Thirty Mile Spring Allotment. To restrict or deny cattle from using this entire portion of the allotment just to prevent livestock use on Smith Spring is not a feasible or reasonable solution to the problem. It would result in an effective reduction in the permittee's active use and would not meet the need for the proposal.

Scheduling livestock grazing use on the Thirty Mile Spring Allotment during a different time than the permitted season-of-use would not meet the need for the proposal. Without a physical barrier (fence) in place, it is highly probable cattle would still make use of the Smith Spring and the associated riparian area whenever they are grazing within the vicinity of Smith Spring.

III. DESCRIPTION OF THE AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

Range

The Smith Valley portion of the Thirty Mile Spring Allotment is currently permitted for cattle and sheep grazing. A band of sheep will utilize this area between July and September. Approximately 175 cows are trailed to Smith Valley and graze the Piscevich Summit, Toner Spring and Jones Canyon area for the summer. This is in the immediate vicinity of Smith Spring. The herd will remain in Smith Valley until the end of September. The Thirty Mile Spring Allotment has a total permitted use of 8,405 AUMs, all active AUMs. The season-of-use on the allotment is from April 15 to February 28. The current grazing permit is as follows:

THIRTY MILE SPRING ALLOTMENT

Allotment Name and Number	Permittee	Season Of Use	Kind of Stock	Active Use AUMs	Suspended Use AUMs	Total Use AUMs
Thirty Mile Spring (0503)	Gracian Uhalde	4/15/04 to 2/28/05	Sheep and Cattle	8,405 AUMs	0	8,405 AUMs

Vegetation

The Smith Spring project would be built in an upland site where the main vegetation type is a mountain brush plant community. The range site is a gravelly clay 12 -14 inch P.Z. (028BY087NV). The dominant shrub vegetative species include mountain big sagebrush (Artemisia tridentate vaseyana), antelope bitterbrush (Purshia tridentate), and Utah serviceberry (Amelanchier utahensis). A mixture of grasses associated with these range sites are bluebunch wheatgrass (Agropyron spicatum), needlegrass (Stipa spp.), Great Basin wildrye (Elymus cinereus), Sandberg bluegrass (Poa sandbergii) and Indian ricegrass (Oryzopsis hymenoides). Potential vegetation composition is about 55% grass, 15% forbs, and 30% shrubs. The elevation is 7,240 feet at the project area.

Soils

The project area lies within soil mapping unit 1451 Birchcreek-Segura-Chen soil association. These soils occur on side slopes of mountains with slopes ranging from 8% to 50 %. The soils are shallow to moderately deep and are well drained. The surface soil is typically dark in color and high in organic matter. Some soils are modified with high volumes of coarse fragments throughout the soil profile. Available water holding capacity is low to moderate.

Wildlife

Smith Spring is located within Nevada Department of Wildlife Hunt Unit 121. The area provides habitat for both mule deer and elk. Perennial water sources in this area are abundant and can be found on private and public ground. Mule deer are the primary big game animal using the area around Smith Spring. Elk use is evident in the area but to a much lesser degree than deer. Besides these two big game species, the area also provides habitat for coyotes, jackrabbits, cottontail rabbits, sagebrush obligate birds, and other small mammals.

Special Status Species (Federally listed, proposed or candidate Threatened or Endangered Species, and State sensitive species)

Special status species that can be found on the Thirty Mile Allotment include Ferruginous hawks, sage grouse, and pygmy rabbits. There are several documented sage grouse leks (strutting grounds) within the allotment and the allotment is utilized by grouse as

brooding habitat.

Wild Horses

The Smith Spring area of the Thirty Mile Spring Allotment is not located within a wild horse management area (HMA) and no wild horses graze this portion of the allotment.

Recreation

Hunting and off-road vehicle use are the primary recreational activities that occur in the vicinity of Smith Spring.

Wilderness Values

The proposed project area is not located within a wilderness study area (WSA) or an instant sturdy area (ISA). The closest WSA to the project site is the Goshute Canyon WSA located approximately 40 miles to the north. The closest ISA to the project site is the Heusser Mountain Bristlecone Pine ISA located approximately 6 miles to the northeast.

Cultural, Historical, and Paleontological Values

Evidence of past human habitation and activity is present in the immediate area around Smith Spring. The remains of an old building and/or dugout are scattered around the riparian area. Other remnants of past use are present on the site including old fence wire, wooden posts, sections of old pipe, etc.

Social and Economic Values

The site of the proposed project is located in a relatively unpopulated portion of federal range. Therefore, this proposed action would not have any adverse effect on the human health or environment of minority and low-income populations.

Noxious Weeds and Invasive, Non-Native Species

The proposed project has been surveyed for noxious weed occurrence. Whitetop has been mapped at the spring site and in adjacent areas. Scotch thistle and musk thistle are also in the vicinity of the proposed project.

IV. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

Proposed Action

There would be no impacts to the following resources classified as “mandatory items”: floodplains, wilderness values, ACEC’s, wild and scenic rivers, prime or unique farmlands, environmental justice, water quality (drinking/ground), Native American religious concerns, and wastes hazardous wastes.

The following resources have received additional site specific impact analysis:

Range and Riparian

The enclosure fence would prevent livestock from accessing the spring and riparian zone. This would eliminate livestock overgrazing the riparian vegetation and trampling the spring. The fence would assist in meeting the standards for riparian and wetland sites established by the Nevada Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council by returning the spring area to proper functioning condition. There would be some short-term impacts to the vegetation at and adjacent to the site due to fence construction and pipeline installation associated with the spring development. Also, there will be impacts to the vegetation immediately around the area where the livestock trough is placed.

Soils

Implementing the proposed action would reduce the potential for soil erosion in the riparian area with an increase in vegetative cover due to the exclusion of livestock. Soil compaction around the spring source

The impacts to soils would be minimal from implementing the proposed action. The grazing permit is for a small number of cattle. Grazing would not be concentrated in any one location, but would be distributed. By deferring cattle use until June each year, the sensitive silt valley bottom soils would be less disturbed and compacted, leading to less wind or water erosion. The more stable soils on the piedmont benches (gravelly loams) are less susceptible than the valley bottom silts and would not be compacted, eroded, or trampled. Soils would maintain structure, water holding capacity, and percolation characteristics. Increased forage production and an improved ground cover would result in less soil erosion and better soil/water relations.

Wildlife

The potential exists for deer and elk to become entangled by the fence and become injured. However, since the enclosure fence would be constructed to big game habitat standards, impacts to wildlife would be minimized and these animals should be able to safely negotiate the fence in most circumstances. Also, two to three wildlife crossing panels will be installed in the fence to facilitate wildlife movement. Wildlife would have access to water at the new trough site when livestock are using this portion of the allotment as well as at the spring source.

Special Status Species and Migratory Birds

Migratory birds also use this area. No impacts are anticipated to these species since fence construction would be in accordance with Instruction Memorandum No. 040-2001-02 "Ely District Policy Management Actions for the Conservation of Migratory Birds" dated May 23, 2001.

Special status species and migratory birds would generally not be affected by the

proposed project since the enclosure fence would be built to wildlife standards and other mitigating factors would be incorporated into the construction of the project (see Mitigation). Any sage grouse, pygmy rabbits and Ferruginous hawks present in the area would likely benefit from protecting the spring and riparian area from livestock use by increasing herbaceous vegetative production and cover. No special status plants are located in the project area, thus special status plants would not be affected by the proposal.

Visual Resource Management (VRM)

There would be minimal short-term impacts to the visual resources as a result of fence construction and pipeline/springbox installation activities. Visual Resource impact of the fence is minimal but long term. These impacts are identified in the Programmatic EA and are well within acceptable levels. The project area has not been given a visual class zone designation. However, once the district's new resource management plan (RMP) is finalized, this area should be rated a Class III visual class zone. In Class III, management activities may attract attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer.

Social and Economic Values

Construction of the fence and installation of the spring development and pipeline would primarily impact the permittee grazing livestock on the allotment. The proposed project would facilitate meeting riparian objectives established for the allotment by denying livestock access to the spring and riparian area thereby preventing livestock from trampling the spring and overgrazing the riparian vegetation. It would also reduce costs related to herding and supervision checks by the permittee and Bureau personnel.

Cultural, Historical, and Paleontological Values

A Class III cultural resources inventory for the project area will be completed prior to the initiation of construction activity.

Solid Wastes

All refuse, waste, and additional construction material (wire, posts, strays, pipe, etc...) will be cleaned up and removed from the project site upon project completion.

Air Quality

Vehicle and/or machinery activity during construction would cause some soil disturbance resulting in an increase in dust in the immediate vicinity of the project area. The impact should be minimal and temporary.

Invasive, Non-native Species (including Noxious Weeds)

Whitetop has become established in the Smith Spring riparian area. Also, Scotch thistle and musk thistle are in the vicinity. The Risk Factor for spread of noxious weeds is moderate at the present time. To help minimize and/or prevent the spread of invasive and nonnative species (including noxious weeds) the following terms and conditions for construction would include: Wash all of the construction equipment prior to entering the work site and after all work is completed in accordance with the Ely District noxious weed prevention schedule. The disturbed area would be monitored on a regular basis for noxious or invasive weeds or nonnative species.

Cumulative Impacts

According to the BLM handbook *Guidelines for Assessing and Documenting Cumulative Impacts* (BLM 1994), cumulative analysis is limited to those issues and resource values identified during scoping that are of major importance. An issue identified during scoping concerned the permittee's private water rights on Smith Spring and having access to water for livestock as well as the responsibility of the BLM to properly manage and/or protect the spring source and adjacent riparian area.

Livestock Management and Private Water Rights

Past Actions

A State of Nevada Certificate of Appropriation of water was issued on Smith Spring in August 1923 to Arthur Smith for livestock watering purposes. This water certificate was eventually purchased by John Uhalde and Company, the current grazing permittee on the Thirty Mile Spring Allotment where Smith Spring is located. Livestock continue to utilize the spring as a water source while grazing in the upper Smith Valley portion on the Thirty Mile Spring Allotment.

Domestic livestock has historically grazed the area in the immediate vicinity of the proposed project since the earliest settlement period in the late 1800's. Sheep and cattle utilized this area prior to the establishment of the U.S. Grazing Service and the passage of the Taylor Grazing Act in 1934. It was not until the creation of the BLM by Congress in 1946 that specific grazing allotments were established and forage adjudications and allocations were set. Later, allotment specific management objectives were established for upland and riparian sites with respect to livestock management on the federal lands. Standards and Guidelines for Grazing Administration were developed by the Nevada Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council (RAC) and were approved by the Secretary of the Interior on February 12, 1997. Specific standards for riparian and wetland sites were established by the RAC at this time.

Present Actions

Smith Spring is being used by livestock in conjunction with John Uhalde and Company's grazing operation on the Thirty Mile Spring Allotment. Allowing livestock access to Smith Spring enables the permittee to make "beneficial use" thereby protecting his water right. However, monitoring data shows Smith Spring and the adjoining riparian area have received heavy use over many years. Currently, the spring does not meet standards set by the Nevada Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council for the Northeastern Great Basin Area for riparian and wetland sites.

Current grazing regulations require appropriate actions be taken no later than the start of the next grazing year to ensure significant progress is being made to achieve management objectives with respect to riparian areas and wetlands. The proposed fence enclosure and spring development and pipeline project would assist the Bureau and permittee in meeting these riparian standards and objectives. Since the livestock would still have access to the water through the pipeline system, it would enable the permittee to continue to make beneficial use and thereby protect his water right.

Reasonably Foreseeable Future Actions

It can be reasonably anticipated that livestock will continue to graze the Thirty Mile Spring Allotment in the vicinity of Smith Spring for the foreseeable future. No other projects or activities (grazing or non-grazing) are currently planned or anticipated within the immediate vicinity of the proposed project.

Conclusion-Cumulative Effects

Proposed Action

The proposed action will restore Smith Spring and the adjoining riparian zone to proper functioning condition, protect the spring and riparian area from future livestock trampling and provide livestock and wildlife a clean, suitable water source while respecting the valid water rights of the permittee on Smith Spring. The project would assist the Bureau and permittee in meeting the multiple use management objectives established for the Thirty Mile Spring Allotment. The proposed project would also assist the Bureau and permittee in meeting the standards for riparian and wetland sites established by the Nevada Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council for the Northeastern Great Basin Area on the Thirty Mile Spring Allotment.

Proposed Mitigation

Appropriate mitigation has been included as part of the Proposed Action. No additional mitigation is proposed as a result of the impact analysis.

Suggested Monitoring

Appropriate monitoring has been included as part of the Proposed Action. No additional monitoring is proposed as a result of the impact analysis.

V. CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

Intensity of Public Interest

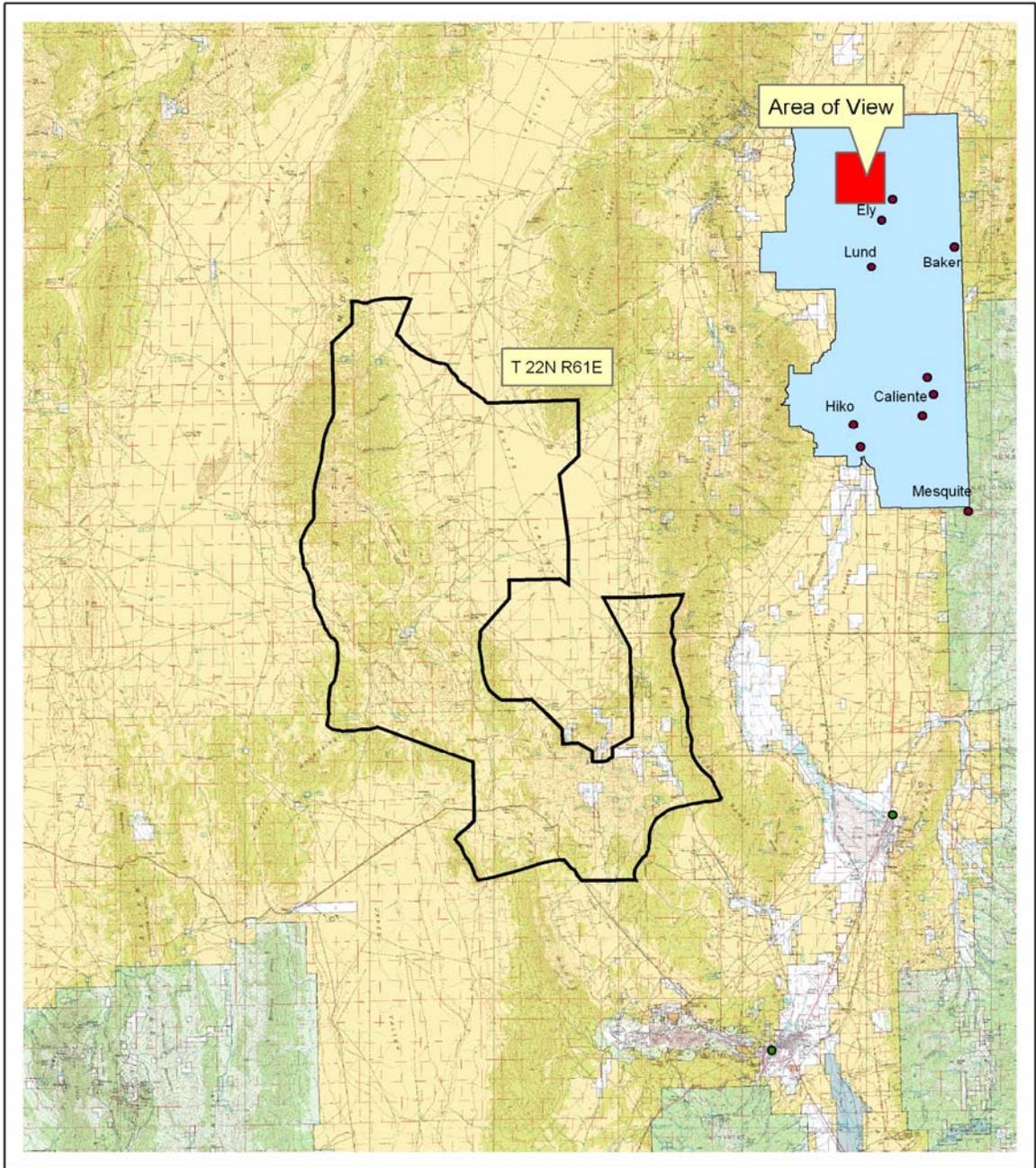
There is a general public interest in the proper management of public lands. John Uhalde and Company (permittee) has a high degree of interest in this particular project. The proposed project was posted on the Ely Field Office's web page on April 4, 2006 for public scoping. No comments were received. The proposed action will restore Smith Spring and the adjoining riparian zone to proper functioning condition, protect the spring and riparian area from future livestock trampling and provide livestock and wildlife a clean, suitable water source while respecting the valid water rights of the permittee on Smith Spring.

Record of Persons, Group and Agencies Contacted

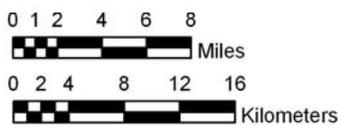
Gracian Uhalde, (permittee)
Curt Baughman, Nevada Division of Wildlife
Steve Foree, Nevada Division of Wildlife
John McLain, Resource Concepts, Inc.
Betsy Macfarlan, Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition
Lincoln County Commissioners
Katie Fite, Western Watershed Project
Laurel Marshall, Interested party
Nevada State Clearinghouse

Internal District Review

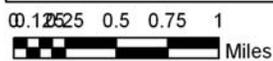
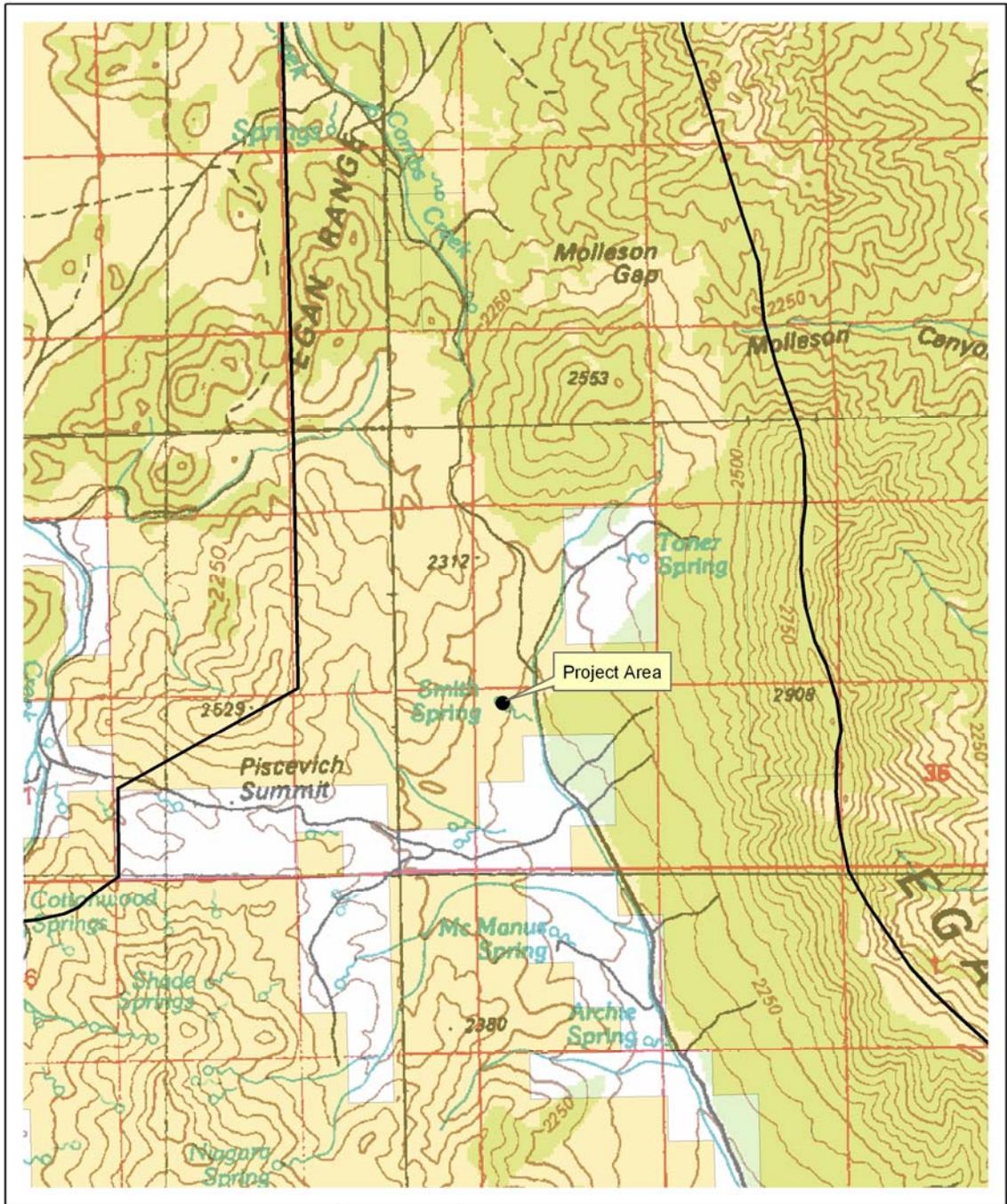
John Longinetti	Range; Invasive, Non-Native Species
Brad Pendley	Wildlife; Riparian/Wetlands; Special Status Plants and Animals; Migratory Birds
Lisa Gilbert	Cultural Resources
Steve Leslie	Wilderness Values
Larry Martin	Operations
Bruce Winslow	Recreation and Visual Resources
Carolyn Sherve-Bybee	Environmental Coordinator
Elvis Wall	Tribal Coordination



30 Mile Spring



NO WARRANTY IS MADE BY THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT AS TO THE ACCURACY, RELIABILITY, OR COMPLETENESS OF THESE DATA FOR INDIVIDUAL USE OR AGGREGATE USE WITH OTHER DATA.



Smith Spring Project

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RISK ASSESSMENT FOR NOXIOUS WEEDS

On May 17, 2006, a Noxious Weed Risk Assessment was completed for the Smith Spring Enclosure Fence and Spring Development project. The project is located within the Ely Bureau of Land Management Field Office Area, in the Thirty Mile Spring Allotment, in White Pine County, Nevada. The legal location of the proposed project is:

T19N, R62E, Sec. 34, NWNW.

A field reconnaissance of the project site was conducted of May 17, 2006. The Ely Field Office weed survey data was also reviewed for the presence of noxious weeds. The project area is within a BLM weed surveyed area.

Factor 1 assesses the likelihood of noxious weed species spreading to the project area.

For this project, the factor rates as Moderate (4) at the present time. This means that noxious weed species are located immediately adjacent to or within the project area. Project activities are likely to result in some areas becoming infested with noxious weed species even when preventative management actions are followed. Noxious weeds were identified at the site and/or in the project vicinity include whitetop, scotch thistle and musk thistle.

None (0)	Noxious weed species not located within or adjacent to the project area. Project activity is not likely to result in the establishment of noxious weed species in the project area.
Low (1-3)	Noxious weed species present in areas <u>adjacent to but not within the project area. Project activities can be implemented and prevent the spread of noxious weeds into the project area.</u>
Moderate (4-7)	Noxious weed species <u>located immediately adjacent to or within the project area. Project activities are likely to result in some areas becoming infested with noxious weed species even when preventative management actions are followed.</u> Control measures are essential to prevent the spread of noxious weeds within the project area.
High (8-10)	<u>Heavy infestations of noxious weeds are located within or immediately adjacent to the project area. Project activities, even with preventative management actions, are likely to result in the establishment and spread of noxious weeds</u> on disturbed sites throughout much of the project area.

Factor 2 assesses the consequences of noxious weed establishment in the project area.

For this project, the factor rates as Moderate (4). This means that there are possible adverse effects on the site and possible expansion of infestation within the project area. Cumulative effects on native plant communities are likely, but limited.

Low (1-3)	No cumulative effects expected.
Moderate (4-7)	Possible adverse effects on the site and possible expansion of infestation within the project area. Cumulative effects on native plant communities are likely, but limited.

High (8-10) Obvious adverse effects within the project area and probable expansion of noxious weed infestations to areas outside the project area. Adverse cumulative effects on native plant communities are probable.

The Risk Rating is obtained by multiplying Factor 1 by Factor 2.

For this project, the Risk Rating is Moderate (16). This means that preventative management measures need to be initiated for the proposed project to reduce the risk of introduction or spread of noxious weeds into the area. Therefore, the following terms and conditions for construction would include: Wash all of the construction equipment prior to entering the work site in accordance with the Ely District noxious weed prevention schedule and inspect and clean equipment for plant material daily. The disturbed area would be monitored on a regular basis for noxious or invasive weeds or nonnative species.

None (0) Proceed as planned.

Low (1-10) Proceed as planned. Initiate control treatment on noxious weed populations that get established in the area.

Moderate (11-49) Develop preventative management measures for the proposed project to reduce the risk of introduction or spread of noxious weeds into the area. Preventative management measures could include modifying the project to include seeding the area to occupy disturbed sites with desirable species, encouraging project advocate to watch for and report or eradicate any small weed patches in their project area, incorporating weed detection into project compliance inspection activities, encouraging the advocate to attend weed identification workshops when offered, washing vehicles prior to entering project areas, and other actions as appropriate. Monitor the area for at least 3 consecutive years and provide for control of newly established populations of noxious weeds and follow-up treatment for previously treated infestations.

High (50-100) Project must be modified to reduce risk level though preventative management measures, including seeding with desirable species to occupy disturbed sites and controlling existing infestations of noxious weeds prior to project activity, washing all work vehicles before entering the site and at regular intervals throughout the project, requiring project advocate to watch for, report, and eradicate any small weed patches in their project area, incorporating weed detection into project compliance inspection activities, encouraging the advocate to attend weed identification workshops when offered equipment. Project must provide at least 5 consecutive years of monitoring and follow up weed treatment, for previously treated infestations.

Reviewed by: _____

Date: _____