



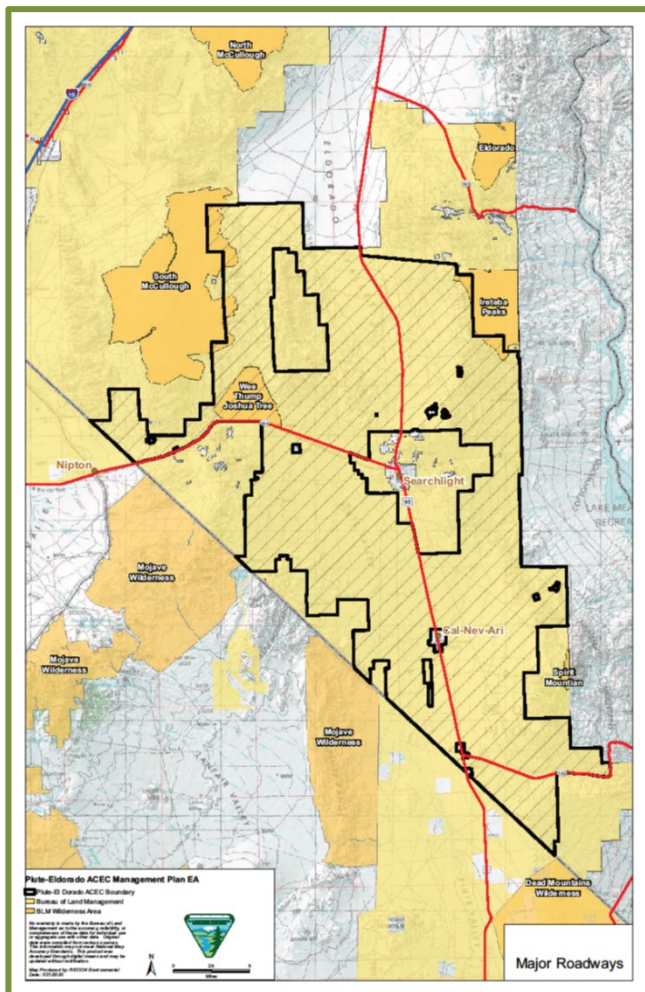
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Piute-Eldorado Valley

Area of Critical Environmental Concern

Management Plan Background

In 1998, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Las Vegas Field Office Resource Management Plan (RMP) designated portions of the Piute and Eldorado valleys as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) as a conservation area to protect and preserve critical habitat for the desert tortoise. Tasked with managing desert tortoise habitat to help recover the species, the RMP limited Special Recreation Permits, curtailed future mineral withdrawals, and limited motorized and mechanized vehicle travel to designated roads and trails.



Virtual Information Forums

Dates and Registration:

June 22, 2021 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm PST

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/150836918083066640>

June 24, 2021 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm PST

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/7735564994621509648>

By phone: Select "Use Telephone" after joining the webinar and call in using the numbers below.

United States: +1 (562) 247-8422

Access Code: 822-504-769

Over two decades later, the Piute-Eldorado ACEC remains one of the few locations where desert tortoise populations are stable. Unfortunately, other conservation issues are growing. The landscape is fragmented by major roads that hinder safe wildlife movement and increases wildlife mortality. Non-native plants have invaded along roads, trails, and utility corridors or where visitors have made their own tracks, degrading native plant communities and increasing the threat of wildland fire.



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Preliminary Draft Management Plan Development



To address these and other conservation issues, the BLM is gathering information and ideas to develop a Piute-Eldorado Valley ACEC Management Plan (Preliminary Draft Management Plan). The Preliminary Draft Management Plan will focus on improving natural resources within the ACEC, including soils, native vegetation, and wildlife habitat. These resources were impacted by solar energy development elsewhere in southern Nevada and fees collected in relation to the aforementioned development will be used to fund the development of the Preliminary Draft Management Plan and conservation projects in the Piute-Eldorado Valley ACEC.

The BLM has initiated a Preliminary Draft Management Plan that includes potential projects within the ACEC. Some of these projects include, but are not limited to, wildlife habitat connectivity across major roads by connecting roadside fencing to culverts so that wildlife can safely pass beneath roads; planting native shrubs and scattering dead shrubs; scattering rocks and sticks to restore vehicle tracks where visitors have driven off the designated roads and trails; and control invasive weeds and reduce wildland fire risks. All potential projects emphasize maintaining and improving the desert tortoise habitat for which the ACEC was designated.

The Piute-Eldorado Valley ACEC is used for a variety of recreational activities including, hiking, hunting, camping, and riding off-highway vehicles. Activities for improving the condition of signs, developing interpretative materials, and providing more public outreach opportunities are included in the Preliminary Draft Management Plan. Projects that improve the scenic quality for recreationists and other visitors to these public lands will also be considered; for example, areas that could be enhanced by removing trash or restoring mining scars.

Actions such as changes to the routes designated in the 1998 RMP, changes to the boundaries of the ACEC, speed limits, mineral extraction, and Special Use Permit limitations will not be included as part of this Preliminary Draft ACEC Management Plan. As they are outside of the scope of this planning effort.





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Public Input Requested

How to Provide Comments

- ❖ Provide comments during one of the virtual information forums.
- ❖ Send written comments by email to: [BLM LV PiuteEldoradoACEC@blm.gov](mailto:BLM_LV_PiuteEldoradoACEC@blm.gov)
- ❖ Send written comments by mail to:
JJ Smith, Piute-Eldorado Valley ACEC
Management Plan,
BLM Las Vegas Field Office
4701 North Torrey Pines Drive
Las Vegas, NV 89130

The BLM is requesting input from the public on management objectives, specific project ideas, priorities, special places, mitigations, or other aspects of the Preliminary Draft Management Plan are welcome. Comments can be submitted during the virtual public forums on June 22 and June 24, 2021 or in writing from June 11 through July 12, 2021. Before including your address, phone number, email, address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask the BLM in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that the BLM will be able to do so.



How to Provide Effective Input

- ❖ Provide additional information, data or analysis which should be considered.
- ❖ Be specific and clearly identify how your input should be incorporated.
- ❖ Identify the physical location associated with your input, as appropriate.
- ❖ Provide constructive solutions and documentation or resources to support your recommendations.