



BLM-WINNEMUCCA DISTRICT (WD)
PROGRAM OVERVIEW
Michael Toombs, Acting District Manager
April, 2017 through September, 2017

FLUID MINERALS/ENERGY

Black Rock Field Office (BRFO)

San Emidio: San Emidio has inquired about an expansion of their operation to add an additional power plant. San Emidio has drilled their two observation wells and feels the resource exists. They are doing cultural and wildlife baseline studies for a future plant expansion proposal



Humboldt River Field Office (HRFO)

Blue Mountain: The plant is operating normally and currently producing approximately 40 megawatts. Blue Mountain was purchased by Alta Rock in June of 2015.

New York Canyon: Ormat is doing exploration work in an effort to develop the property.

North Valley: Ormat is conducting baselines in preparation for geothermal exploration and development at this site.

Brady Hot Springs: A proposal has been submitted by Ormat to replace the current operating flash plant with an upgraded plant. The plant is operating normally.

Leach Hot Springs. Ormat reports no additional exploration is anticipated at the site at this time.

Baltazor Hot Springs: Ormat has hired a cultural contractor to do baselines in preparation for geothermal exploration and development at this site.

Geothermal Leasing (WD): One Lease parcel will be put up adjacent to the Desert Peak geothermal facility.

SOLID MINERALS

Black Rock Field Office

Hycroft Mine: Since July 2015, Hycroft suspended mining operations. They still do not plan to restarting mining operations for the near term. The mine has resolved all non-compliance issues with NDEP and the BLM.

Baseline studies are still continuing for their Phase II expansion EIS. One of the separate actions analyzed under the Phase II expansion EIS would involve the taking of a Golden Eagle nesting site and/or territory. The EIS will include necessary NEPA analysis and subsequent Eagle Conservation Plan/take permit(s), developed in conjunction with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The USFWS, BLM, and NDOW are currently coordinating on potential mitigation for the eagle nest and territory.

Humboldt River Field Office

Coeur Rochester Inc. (CRI): CRI has submitted Plan of Operations Amendment 11 (POA 11) and baselines are currently ongoing in preparation for NEPA analysis. POA 11 will be a significant expansion for CRI.

**This is the mine the RAC group toured at their last meeting on the Winnemucca District in June 2016.*



RAC Tour of the Coeur Rochester Mine

Rye Patch Gold: The EA for Lincoln Hill and Wilco is currently being drafted it is expected to be completed mid 2018.

Twin Creeks: Baselines have been completed for the Sage Tails project and the modified Plan of Operations is about to enter NEPA analysis.



Twin Creeks geology in the pit

Florida Canyon Mine: Mining has restarted at the mine and they are loading the new leach pad. A meeting was held with the BLM and NDEP to discuss major expansion expanding the pit below the water table.

Standard Mine: Mine operations are idle at this time but processing of existing heap leach facilities and reclamation will continue for a few years

Lithium Nevada - Kings Valley Lithium Exploration: General communication and coordination has occurred regarding the planned lithium mine, but nothing has been submitted, to date. Notice level exploration work is ongoing.

Lithium Nevada- Kings Valley Clay Mine: Clay mining operations have not begun, to date.

Spring Valley Exploration Project: The property has changed ownership and the new owners are preparing to revive exploration and permitting activities.



Exploration drilling conducted at Spring Valley.

Marigold Mining Company: Operations are continuing at the mine. The BLM received a modification to the Marigold Mine Plan of Operations (called the Mackay Optimization Project) and a notice of intent to prepare an EIS. The Mackay Optimization Project proposes to combine numerous pits into three larger pits and to extend mining operations below the water table. The modification was determined to be complete on September 3, 2016. Review and submittal of baseline reports is almost complete. The groundwater basin that Marigold resides also contains the Lone Tree, Twin Creeks and Turquoise ridge mines, the Valmy power station and the Humboldt River. This has complicated the groundwater modeling and baselines.



Mine shovels and tracks in the Mackay Pit at Marigold Mine. The diesel shovel is on the left and is approximately the same size as the haul trucks. The new electric shovel on the right towers over the haul trucks and can fill them with two buckets. A haul truck is dumping waste on the Northwest Waste Rock Storage Area in the background.

Lone Tree Mine – Brooks Amendment: The Brooks deposit is continuing to be mined. A minor pit expansion was authorized this year and exploration continues adjacent the to pit.

Relief Canyon Mine: The mine is preparing baseline data for a major mine expansion that will take the pit below the water table. The mine has held a meeting with the BLM and NDEP to talk about baseline requirements in the summer of 2017. Another meeting is scheduled for mid fall 2017.

Mineral Materials

The Washoe Co. gravel pit preliminary Environmental Assessment is anticipated to be released for public comment by the first week of November.

Hazardous Materials/Abandoned Mine Lands

A settlement agreement has been reached between BLM, EPA and Barrick to cover the calcine pile at the McDermitt mine. Work covering the pile will be complete by mid 2018.

The Imlay drum site has had the drums removed in September of 2017



*Dry Canyon
Mine producing
magnesium used
in nutritional
supplements
operated by
MIN-AD.*

CULTURAL, LANDS, AND REALTY

Black Rock Field Office

Lands and Realty:

On January 23, 2017, the Black Rock Field Office received a new communication site application proposed to be placed within Union Pacific Railroad's (UPRR) ROW at Trego, directly adjacent to the Black Rock NCA. A letter requesting additional information was sent to the applicant and UPRR. In the summer of 2017, the applicant withdrew their proposal.

On March 1, 2017, the Black Rock Field Office received a new communication site application to construct a site in the Kamma Mountains near Hycroft Mine. We are reviewing their application. The NEPA for this project is anticipated to be completed by the end of October.

On March 1, 2017, we received an expression of interest letter to purchase public lands in Hualapai Flat. This is in accordance with our Land Use Plan, and we have had initial meetings with the proponent and asked them how they would like to proceed.

Cultural:

The Treatment Plan for the original Phase I Hycroft Mine Expansion project has been completed. The relocation of a small railroad tie cabin to its original location was finished in the summer of 2017.

Hycroft is continuing expansion plans in the area around the existing Plan of Operations boundary and additional archaeological surveys have been completed as part of the planning process. The report for the Phase II expansion has been finalized and a Treatment Plan for the affected sites is in preparation. An additional Treatment Plan for the powerline associated with the mine expansion has already been approved and will be implemented before the powerline is constructed. Depending on the project alternative selected in the environmental review process several prehistoric sites may be excavated and mitigation for visual impacts to the historic Applegate Trail may also be included.

BLM is finishing review of a report on cultural sites damaged by fire suppression activities related to the Poodle Fire in 2016. Out of 40 newly discovered National Register eligible sites, 7 will require further mitigation such as data recovery and more intensive mapping.

The Black Rock Field Office has several cultural resource projects underway. Archaeological survey continues at Soldier Meadows, adding survey coverage to two recent inventories along the southern edge of the ACEC. Excavations occurred at Trego Hot Springs in the spring of 2017. The BLM is awaiting the draft report.

Humboldt River Field Office

Lands and Realty:

ROW grants were renewed and amended for NV Energy's Rochester 24.9 Kv power line and substation and for NV Energy's Oreana Lovelock 120 Kv. A ROW grant was also issued to BLM for their Orovada Fire Station.

A second patent was signed on July 24, 2017, to the City of Winnemucca for their Recreation and Public Purposes (R&PP) Application, for sec. 32, for the construction of a new water treatment facility.

Work on the Pershing County R&PP application and EA for the Unionville Cemetery is in progress. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed January 3, 2017, by the BLM and Pershing County. In addition to the EA, BLM is currently working on the Notice of Realty Action (NORA) documents, as well as the appraisal.

Pine Forest Land Exchange - An appraisal and Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) has been completed on the private portion of the land exchange

We are working our way through eight Desert Land Entry applications. This project is currently paused.

Two BLM Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) meetings have been held for the proposed C-Punch Land Sale, in the Granite Springs Valley. Baseline study needs have been identified and the NEPA kick-off meeting has been scheduled for September 27, 2017.

The Humboldt River Field Office is working in cooperation with the Carson City BLM Office on the Naval Air Station – Fallon EIS, which involves the reservation and withdrawal of 604,744 additional acres of public lands located near the Naval Air Station (NAS) Fallon Ranges, Nevada. The Fallon Range Training Complex (FRTC) is required for military use to support deployment combat training for U.S. Naval Aviation and Naval Special Warfare (NSW) Forces. The Department of the Navy (DON) is requesting to expand the bombing ranges and the Dixie Valley Training Area to meet FRTC requirements. The Winnemucca District Office submitted comments for the PEIS on September 8, 2017, to the Carson city BLM Office for review from the Navy.

GP Joule Solar Project and Access Road. A Preliminary Environmental Assessment has been completed for an access road to service a proposed utility scale photovoltaic facility on adjacent private lands. The PEA has been sent out for public review.

We are in the initial stages of baseline surveys and development of the first couple chapters of the environmental assessment

We are in the initial stages of a modified competitive land sale in Silver State Valley, Humboldt County, NV.

Cultural:

The twelfth annual Lovelock Cave Days was held May 16-18, 2017 and included fourth graders from Humboldt and Pershing County Schools as well as Gerlach as well as a homeschool group. Multiple partners assisted including Nevada Outdoor School, California Trail Interpretive Center, Native American tribal members, local mining companies, and Ducks Unlimited.

Work is underway on an outdoor exhibit focused on prehistoric and historic use of the Humboldt River transportation corridor. The BLM is working with the Southern Nevada Conservancy (SNC), the Humboldt Museum and other partners on this exhibit which will be located behind the Humboldt Museum in Winnemucca overlooking the Humboldt River, the emigrant trail, the railroad, and I-80. The exhibit includes six interpretive panels covered by a shade structure with seating. Opening of the exhibit is scheduled for October 17, 2017. A time capsule was buried beneath the concrete floor of the pavilion and included a sawblade painted by BLM employee Michael Whalen which reflected the theme of the exhibit.

BLM is also partnering with SNC, the Marzen House Museum, NDOT and Rye Patch Gold on another outdoor exhibit at the Marzen House Museum in Lovelock which will focus on the Forty Mile Desert and the California Trail. A large metal sculpture of a wagon and oxen will be installed across from the Marzen House near I-80 and a kiosk with two panels interpreting the California Trail will be installed outside at the Marzen House. The project is almost complete. An opening is planned in October 2017.

The Lovelock Cave Back Country Byway Junior Ranger Activity Book has been updated and is being reprinted. This children's activity book has been a mainstay of Lovelock Cave Days for the last eleven years as well as being used by visiting families. The new guides have been distributed to the Lovelock Chamber of Commerce and the Marzen House Museum. They will also be given to fourth grade classes participating in Lovelock Cave Days.

A number of Class III Section 106 inventories have been completed or are in progress for mining and geothermal operations, Abandoned Mine Lands, Lands and Realty, Fuels and ES&R, Range, and Recreation projects, etc. These include inventories for the Pine Forest Exchange, Marigold Expansion, the Western Lithium project, and the Rye Patch Gold Oreana Project.

Fieldwork for the first phase of the implementation of the cultural resource mitigation plan for Coeur Amendment 10 was completed and analysis of findings is in progress. The second phase, an interpretive sign on the mining camp of Panama to be added to the Rochester Exhibit at the Marzen House Museum in Lovelock is underway.

Work on the Unionville Cemetery R&PP/EA has commenced and a preliminary EA is almost complete. An MOA has been signed with Pershing County. Submission of the Notice of Realty Action is awaiting completion of the appraisal by Pershing County.

Native American consultation on Geothermal leases, wild horse gathers, renewable energy projects, range developments, and other projects has been completed. Ethnographic studies and cultural resource inventories have been completed for the Black Warrior Peak and are under review by SHPO. These studies are being funded by the Pyramid Lake Tribe.

Archeological sites in the Winnemucca Lake area are being revisited and site forms updated.

BLM archeologists worked with the Friends of Nevada Wilderness to further document the California Trail. In addition, from July 10-14th, BLM archaeology staffed work with Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) pilots from the BLM National Aviation Office to complete multiple UAS flights along the California National Historic Trail in the Winnemucca District. Looking for evidence of the trail from the ground can be very difficult using traditional archaeological methods, and UAS technology can provide an extremely accurate bird's-eye view of trail. The high-resolution photometric data collected from these flights will help district archaeologists to more accurately document and study California Trail routes

RECREATION

Black Rock Field Office

Special Recreation Permits (SRPs):

Burning Man

This year marked the 26th anniversary of the Burning Man event on the public lands of the Black Rock Desert playa. The 2017 Burning Man event wrapped up on September 4th with peak population just over 69, 500 paid participants. 92 vending permits were issued. There was one participant death this year. Black Rock City (BRC) LLC “Playa Restoration Crew” began collecting and disposing of debris, aka, Matter Out of Place (MOOP) within the designated Closure Order area. BLM processed a total of 8 on-site vendor SRP’s for this year’s event.



The “Man” before the burn and the Black Rock City skyline.

Hunter/Guide Permits

To date, 17 SRPs to hunter and guide outfitters have been issued. These groups work throughout both field offices. The WD initiated the NEPA process for a district-wide programmatic Hunter and Guide Outfitter SRP to look at increasing the number of permitted outfitters.

Special Events



Black Rock Field Office NPLD 2016 – Desert Dace Day Volunteers

Second Annual Desert Dace Day - On September 30, 2017, BLM, USFWS, Friends of Nevada Wilderness, Friends of Black Rock/High Rock and Nevada Outdoor School will participate in the second annual Desert Dace Day as part of NPLD at the Soldier Meadows ACEC. This project will be putting data loggers in the waterways and clearing debris from the water channels.

Partner Group Activities

Friends of Black Rock High Rock helped to coordinate Black Rock NCA Artist in Residence Program for 2017 and two artists, one a musician and another a painter using pigments from the NCA spent time out in the NCA this summer. Work on a project to publish excerpts from visitor comment journals from Steven's Camp is continuing. The journals have been saved for many years and make fascinating reading. This partnering agency is also starting to work on brochures for the High Rock Canyon Trail / Stevens Camp and an OHV recreation brochure for the NCA.

The Black Rock Field Office has worked with Friends of Nevada Wilderness on a variety of projects for the FY 2017 field season. Projects included: continuing with installation of wilderness boundary markers, wilderness monitoring, and restoration of trespass routes in wilderness areas.

Friends of Nevada Wilderness also assisted the BLM with an Interpretive Camp during the 2017 Burning Man event. Interpretive displays, games, fairy shrimp hatching, and other activities

allowed BLM staff and partners to contact over 7,000 people with information about the NCA and public lands.

Humboldt River Field Office

Commercial Special Recreation Permits

Numerous Outfitters and Guides permits have been processed. On average the Winnemucca District processes about 25 hunter/guide permits per year.

Travel Management Inventories

Over 500 miles of Travel Management inventories have been completed in the Sage Grouse Focal Areas.

Other Activities

With funding assistance from Rotary Club, revision and reprint of the Water Canyon nature trail guide and a new sign for the entrance kiosk have been completed.

In late October, 2016, BLM State engineers conducted an inspection of the two bridges of the Water Canyon Recreation Area Interpretive Trail. The results of the inspection determined an immediate need to remove the first bridge due to safety concerns. This was accomplished within four days. Proposals are under discussion to replace the bridge with one that meets BLM engineers approval, or with a design incorporating a culvert.

Porter Springs. Implementation of the 2007 Porter Springs Recreation Management Plan continued with the installation of a vault toilet. Picnic tables, fire rings, a bathroom, and a liberty fence have been installed. Draft temporary interpretive signs have also been completed and will be installed in the near future. The NEPA requirements have been completed for these actions. In accordance with the plan, vehicles will park outside the fence and walk in camping only will be allowed.



In late June, staff from the Humboldt River Field Office spent a day installing a jack-leg fence around the spring, cleaning up trash and debris, and planning for other projects at the new recreation site, set to open next fall.

Bloody Shins Trail. A successful National Trails Day was held in June 2017 and NPLD Day is planned for Bloody Shins Trail and Water Canyon Recreation Area for October 14, 2017. Trails have been mapped and rehabilitated and the kiosk painted. Installation of a sign with a map of the trails is planned at the entrance as well as more trail work and marking.

WILDERNESS



Lands with Wilderness Characteristics:

Winnemucca District continues reviewing and updating inventories for Lands with Wilderness Characteristics district-wide for projects undergoing NEPA analysis. To date, 63,000 acres have been completed. Field inventories for approximately 645,877 acres have been completed.

Wilderness Management:

Winnemucca District continues to work with private

land owners for the land exchange as identified in the designating legislation.

WILDLIFE, WATER AND VEGETATION

Black Rock Field Office

The Black Rock Field Office, in coordinating with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Great Basin Bird Observatory, and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation initiated a Riparian Rider project to improve Migratory Bird Habitat and improve Lahontan Cutthroat Trout (LCT) streams in the BRFO in 2017. The project is planned to run through 2019.



The Soldier Meadows Working Group (SMWG), including the BRFO, HRFO, USFWS, NDOW, and NNHP, are in the early stages of developing a Soldier Meadows ACEC EIS to address the recovery possibilities for the Desert Dace (listed threatened fish species).

In addition to the ongoing work with other agencies and partners on improving T&E habitat, the staff also support other multiple use projects, such as mining projects, grazing permit renewals, right of ways, and geothermal projects.

Humboldt River Field Office

The primary workload of the staff continues to be providing input into use authorizations, grazing permit renewals, mining notices, right of ways, mine expansion proposals, geothermal projects and drought monitoring.



BLM, in collaboration with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, NDOW, and a Permittee, is working to improve T&E habitat within the Montana Mountains. The T&E habitat includes three Lahontan cutthroat trout streams, along with habitat for sage-grouse and pygmy rabbits.

BLM has completed Section 7 consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on the Programmatic Normal Year

Fire Rehabilitation and District-Wide Vegetation Management Plan. The consultaion was for the

proposed project's effects to the threatened Lahontan cutthroat trout and the threatened desert dace and its designated critical habitat in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended.

During the summer field season, we will continue to deploy thermographs and collect Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) data on riparian areas in allotments scheduled for Rangeland Health Assessments.

The Field Office is working with NDOW on the development of an Elk Herd Management Area, the first in Humboldt County. The planning board, establish for the program, includes agencies, county representatives, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and interested ranchers.

BLM SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES

Greater Sagegrouse

Mortalities and injuries associated with rangeland fence collisions threaten Greater Sagegrouse populations. Approximately 200 miles of fence line has been identified within sagegrouse habitat. To reduce this threat, a fence marking project was initiated. Since the project's inception, 72 miles of fence marking has been completed. In coordination with the BLM Wildland firefighters, the district was able to complete over 60 miles of fence line in 2016. The majority of fence marking has been targeted within Montana Mountain range located within the Lone Willow PMU. This area is a Sagebrush Focal Area (SFA) having the highest quality habitat for sagegrouse within the state of Nevada.



Photo of a marked fence in Water Canyon showing placement of markers.

WILD HORSES AND BURROS



Staff is currently working on Environmental Assessments for the Blue Wing, East Pershing, and Smoke Creek Complexes. These EAs will analyze the impacts of gathering, treating with fertility control, and/or removing wild horses and burros.

Blue Wing Complex EA: HMAs within the Blue Wing Complex include the Lava Beds, Kamma Mountains, Blue Wing Mountains, Seven Troughs, and Shawave, as well as four HAs: Antelope, Selenite, Truckee, and Trinity. The final EA was set to be released for public review on 10 September 2017.

East Pershing Complex EA: The East Pershing Complex includes three HMAs (Augusta Mountains, North Stillwater Range, and Tobin Range) and four HAs (Augusta Mountains, East Range, Humboldt, and Sonoma Range). On 12 June 2017, the preliminary EA was released for public comment.

Smoke Creek Complex EA: The HMAs within the Smoke Creek Complex are the Fox and Lake and Buffalo Hills HMAs. Comment period closes for the preliminary EA on 10 September 2017.

Black Rock Field Office

HMA's within the Black Rock Field Office are being monitored for forage and water availability and wild horse and burro animal health. Forage, water, and wild horse and burro conditions are continually monitored through the year to insure availability of water and forage for the wild horses and burros, along with maintaining a healthy body condition. Snow and flooding conditions are also being monitored to ensure proper health of the animals and land.

Humboldt River Field Office

Inquiries are being made to begin using fertility control as a principal means to reduce numbers of wild horses and burros. Efforts have begun to outreach to the public for volunteers to assist with fertility control projects. Two BPSS proposals have been submitted for funding to begin long-term PZP darting projects in FY17 and FY18.

During November-December 2016, the HRFO along with the Elko District Tuscarora Field Office conducted a large scale gather of the Owyhee Complex including the Owyhee, Rock Creek, Little Owyhee, and Snowstorms Mountains HMA's. During the operation 1,832 wild horses were gathered, 1,412 were removed and shipped to Palomino Valley Center near Reno, 199 mares were treated with PZP-22 a twenty-two month contraception then released back to the respective HMA's they were captured from, along with 203 older stallions.

Aerial surveys for the Owyhee Complex are being conducted September 11-15, 2017. Aerial surveys for the Blue Wing and East Pershing complexes planned for winter of FY 2018.

RANGE

Black Rock Field Office / Humboldt River Field Office

Range staff spent the summer months monitoring grazing allotments in accordance to allotment management plans for both pre and post livestock use. Permittee involvement in the monitoring process is always welcomed as it gives the permittee the opportunity to see how we collect the data as well as allow the permittee to make any adjustments, if needed, to their livestock management based upon the data collected from the allotments. Some livestock permittees have continue to voluntarily reduce their livestock numbers or implement other temporary changes as necessary based on vegetation or water concerns the range staff or operators may have.



Staff members attended MIM (Multiple Indicators Monitoring) training that was held on the Winnemucca District the week of Aug. 8th. This will help staff better able them to monitor riparian areas throughout the District.

Black Rock Field Office

BRFO staff are still working on the Assessments for the Soldier Meadows, Buffalo Hills, Coyote, and Leadville Allotments. Additional data for sage-grouse requirements (Habitat Assessment Framework-HAF) will need to be collected on existing LHA sites on these allotments this spring and summer to be incorporated into the Assessments for these allotments. The Evaluations and NEPA will proceed forward after the Assessment is completed.

Winter help (career seasonal fire staff) have been assisting the Range Specialist with inspecting range improvements on the BRFO allotments. The data that is collected is input into the Range Improvement files and used to update the Corporate GIS layers as well as the RIPS database to help ensure on the ground accuracy and that existing project are accounted for.

The majority of grazing bills for the allotments that the BRFO administers have been issued, only those that begin grazing in April or May remain.

The BRFO completed the Happy Creek Cattleguard CX. Sometime later this year BLM will install two cattleguards along the Happy Creek/Bottle Creek Allotment boundary fence where there have been continual issues with gates being left open and livestock trespass on a closed pasture, which also contains an LCT Recovery stream.

BRFO range and wildlife staff have attended multiple meetings with NDOW and Local Area Working Groups on potential projects to improve sage-grouse habitat and the riparian rider project.

Humboldt River Field Office

Beginning in January of 2017 one new Rangeland Management Specialist has joined the range team and filled behind a specialist that left for Idaho. The new specialist is quickly coming up to speed with all of the activities happening within the field office. Also the Supervisory Rangeland Management Specialist position that has been vacant for some time has not yet been filled on a permanent basis. The position continues to be filled in the acting role.

Staff also continues to focus on the Montana Mountains specifically in the Jordan Meadow allotment at the headwaters of Crowley Creek, Washburn Creek and Riser Creek, which are Lahontan Cutthroat Trout occupied streams. The grazing permittee along with Nevada Department of Wildlife, US Fish and Wildlife and the BLM are continuing discussions on how to balance livestock use while working to protect the sensitive LCT and Sage Grouse habitat on the allotment. In addition the staff is gearing up to help the state permit renewal team tackle a 21-allotment grazing permit renewal EA. While the state team is not expected to be on the district until 2019, GBI crews are being hired this season and out years as funding allows to assist with the massive amount of riparian and upland data that is needed for this project. March

1 marks the beginning of the 2017 grazing season. With the good winter that has occurred the outlook is good and staff is busy working with operators and processing applications and bills.

ESR, NOXIOUS WEEDS, AND FORESTRY

ESR

Extreme fire activity has kept the ESR team busy throughout the 2017 fire season. The ESR team monitored treatment success and recovery of 12 fires from previous years while planning Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation activities on the following 13 new fires:

Twin Buttes- The Twin Buttes Fire burned 562 acres in the Kumiva Valley. Burned Area Rehabilitation (BAR) treatments planned for the area include ground seeding 200 acres with native grasses and shrubs, closing the burned area to livestock grazing, and continued monitoring.

Poker Brown- The Poker Brown Fire burned 15,537 acres in the Trinity Range. Planned BAR treatments include drill seeding 500 acres with native perennial grasses and shrubs, closing the area to livestock grazing, and continued monitoring.

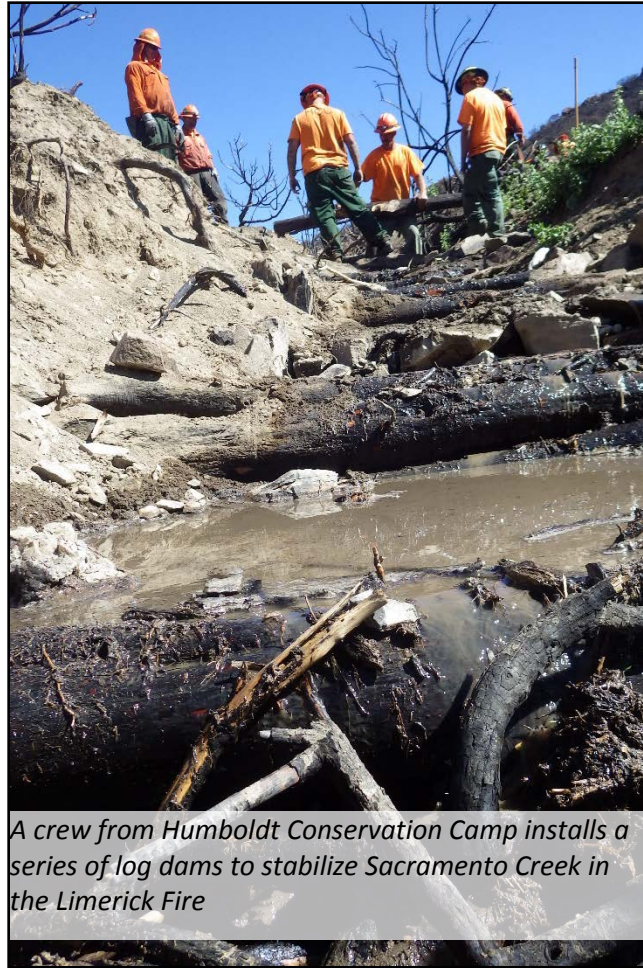
Poleline- The Poleline Fire burned 38 acres in Paradise Valley, including 0.6 miles of fence preventing livestock from entering SR 290. The fence will be repaired as an Emergency Stabilization (ES) treatment.

Truckee- The Truckee Fire burned 98,960 acres in the Truckee Range. Due to patchy burn intensity and few values at risk, noxious weed treatments are the only planned BAR treatments.

Limbo- The Limbo Fire burned 1,883 acres in the Poito Valley. Planned BAR treatments include drill seeding 500 acres with native grasses and shrubs, installing temporary fence to protect seeding treatments, treating noxious weeds, closure to livestock grazing, and continued monitoring.

Limerick- The Limerick Fire burned 14,592 acres in the Humboldt Range. Planned ES activities are ground seeding 40 acres and aerial seeding 55 acres along riparian areas, installing in-stream structures to stabilize 3 miles of streambed in Sacramento Creek, riparian staking 3 miles with willow cuttings, installing 1.5 miles of temporary fence to protect seeding treatments, closure to livestock grazing, and continued monitoring. Planned BAR activities include aerially seeding 2,700 acres with sagebrush, planting 40 acres with sagebrush seedlings, treating noxious weeds, and continued monitoring.

Barrett Springs- The Barrett Springs fire burned 3,295 acres in the Ten Mile Hills. Planned BAR treatments include broadcast seeding and cultipacking 350 acres with native grasses and shrubs, closure to livestock grazing, and continued monitoring.



A crew from Humboldt Conservation Camp installs a series of log dams to stabilize Sacramento Creek in the Limerick Fire

MM155- The MM155 Fire burned 22,361 acres in the East Range. As an ES treatment, 4,250 acres will be treated with pre-emergent herbicide to prevent germination of Medusahead rye, a Category B noxious weed, and prepare the site for follow-up drill seeding. Planned BAR treatments include drill seeding 4,250 acres after herbicide pre-treatment, aerially seeding 1,500 acres with sagebrush, installing 6 miles of temporary fence to protect seeding treatments, livestock grazing closure, and continued monitoring.

Grass Valley- The Grass Valley Fire burned 10,544 acres in the Sonoma Mountain Range. Early detection and rapid response weed treatments will be conducted as ES treatments. Planned BAR treatments include aerial herbicide application on 1,000 acres as a seedbed prep and follow-up drill seeding, installation of temporary fencing to protect the seeding treatment, closure to grazing, and continued monitoring.

Hot Springs- The Hot Springs Fire burned 1,222 acres in the Hot Springs Range. Planned BAR treatments include drill seeding 300 acres with native grasses and shrubs, constructing temporary

fence to protect the seeding treatment, closure to grazing, noxious weeds treatments, and continued monitoring.

Dry Hill- The Dry Hill Fire burned 2,001 acres in the Dry Hills. Planned BAR treatments include aerially seeding 1,130 acres with sagebrush, constructing temporary fence to protect seeding treatment, closure to grazing, noxious weed treatments, and continued monitoring.

Leonard Creek- The Leonard Creek Fire burned 3,549 acres in the Pine Forest Range. Planned ES treatments will install in-stream structures to protect streambed integrity in New York Canyon. Planned BAR treatments include aerially seeding 1,500 acres, planting 500 acres with sagebrush seedlings, noxious weed treatments, closure to grazing, and continued monitoring.

Toulon- The Toulon Fire burned 2,268 acres in the Trinity Range. Planned BAR treatments include aerially seeding 400 acres with sagebrush, closure to grazing, and continued monitoring.

Mahogany- The Mahogany Fire burned 5,121 acres in the Pine Forest Range. Planned ES treatments will install in-stream structures to protect streambed integrity in Antelope Creek. Planned BAR treatments include broadcast seeding and cultipacking 250 acres with native grasses and shrubs, aerially seeding 1,000 acres with native shrubs and grasses, planting 100 acres with curl-leaf mountain mahogany, noxious weed treatments, closure to livestock grazing, and continued monitoring.

NOXIOUS WEEDS



The Calavera meadow, once dominated by Canada thistle and tall whitetop, is being restored to a native state

The Noxious Weeds program has been focusing on restoring high-value areas by chemical treatments followed up by seeding native plants and continued weed treatments. A pilot project is underway in Paradise Valley to replace Medusahead rye with native perennial grasses. Also the Calavera Meadow in the Montana Mountains is being restored by treating weed infestations and seeding locally collected seed.

Field-going staff have been instrumental in reporting new

noxious weed infestations to be mapped and treated. Throughout the district more than 100,000 acres has been surveyed, treated, or monitored for noxious weeds.

FORESTRY

Although sparse on the Winnemucca District, conifer trees attracted quite a bit of interest this summer. The Pine Forest contains one of the few healthy whitebark pine populations unimpacted by white pine blister rust. The Winnemucca District Forestry program was diligent in considering and ultimately rejecting a commercial permit application to collect cones from these sensitive trees. Also a researcher from the University of Nevada Las Vegas visited the district vouchering conifer species in areas where they have previously been unreported.

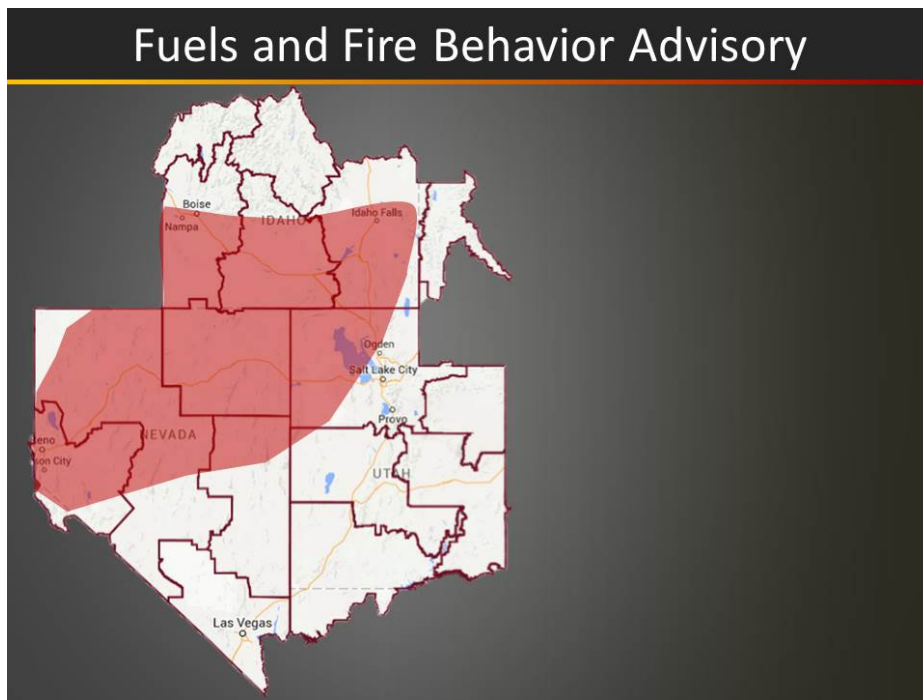


The Pine Forest holds some of the Winnemucca District's most valuable forestry resources

Also, with assistance from Support Services(Front Desk) two large commercial and one small scientific seed collection permits were issued and entered into the national database.

FIRE

The Fire Danger across the Winnemucca District was Extreme for the majority of the summer. Winnemucca District entered Fire Restrictions on July 13, 2017 and remains in effect. Abundant moisture over the winter of 2016/2017 produced record grass crops and prolific fine fuels that exacerbated the fire conditions. Prolonged periods of heat coupled with little precipitation and plentiful lightning over the summer months combined for above average fire occurrence, activity and acres burned.



Suppression crews, aircraft and overhead were bolstered throughout the fire season by out-of-area resources to keep pace with the fire workload this year. A Mobilization Center was set up at Grass Valley School and remained in place for approximately 6 weeks to support the region during the increased fire activity. Up to 3 Task Forces were brought in to the area comprising of an additional 15 engines, 3 Dozers, 3 Water Tenders and various overhead, support and supervision.

Nevada's first Rural Fire Protection Association (RFPA) – Wildfire Support Group under the leadership of Mel Hummel was a big success this year in Humboldt County and contributed to the overall successful (although extremely busy) fire season. Their training, organization, local knowledge and close coordination with the BLM and NDF was noted as extremely beneficial to increasing the overall capacity to battle wildfires in Humboldt County.

The Winnemucca District renewed 5-year Cooperative Fire Protection Agreements and Operating Plans with all VFDs and Counties prior to the fire season. Despite the overwhelming success of the 24-hr mutual aid period, several Cost Share Agreements were necessary for fires exceeding the mutual aid period or when Assistance by Hire resources were used on wildfires burning multiple jurisdictions. These involved every county within the Winnemucca District.

Operations/Aviation/Dispatch (Staffing during 2017 Fire Season)

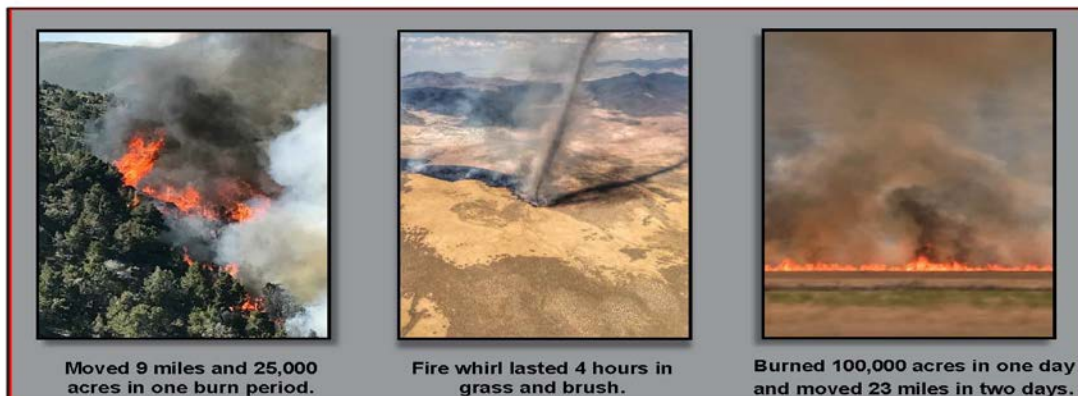
- 11 Fire Engines staffed at Winnemucca, McDermitt, Lovelock, and Gerlach stations.
 - Additional 1-5 Engines during step-up periods (Severity / preposition)
- 1 BLM-FS Service First Interagency Fire Engine staffed in Paradise Valley.
- 1 NDF Engine staffed at the Humboldt Camp.
- 3 Fire Dozers staffed in Winnemucca
 - 1 additional severity Dozer

- 2 Water Tenders staffed, 1 in Winnemucca and 1 in McDermitt.
 - Additional WT on Severity
- 1 6,500 gal. water trailer w/ transport – 2 Heliwells utilized
- 2017 Aircraft: 2-6 Single Engine Air tankers (SEATs) in Winnemucca. 1-2 SEATs in McDermitt, 1-3 helicopters in Winnemucca, 1 Air Attack, 1 Jumpship with up to 13 smokejumpers.
- The CNIDC Center Manager position was filled this summer, 2 Assistant Center Manager positions remain vacant.(BLM and FS positions). CNIDC dispatches for Battle Mountain and Winnemucca Districts- BLM, NDF Engine 5162 (located at Humboldt Camp), Santa Rosa and Austin-Tonopah Ranger Districts FS, and Northwestern Western Nevada BIA jurisdictions.
- The Fire Management Officer position remained vacant throughout the year and was managed through detail opportunities by the AFMOs.

2017 Fire Season Stats To-Date:

- Winnemucca District fire resources has responded to 118 fires for a total of 291,244 acres.
 - The 5 year average is 82 fires for 97,266 acres and the 10 year average is 75 fires for 72,239 acres
- Lightning fires: 66 for 138,148 ac
- Human-caused Fires: 52 for 153,097 ac
- Miles of Dozer Line: 350

GREAT BASIN EXTREME FIRE BEHAVIOR INFORMATION



The extraordinary grass fuel loading in Central and Northern Nevada, Northern and Western Utah, and Southern Idaho is continuous and very dry.

- ✓ As of the 1st of August, fires have burned more than two and half times the 10-year average in the Great Basin
- ✓ Fires are spreading rapidly. They can move faster than equipment can. **Ensure safety zones are adequate and available.**
- ✓ Fires are readily igniting through spotting. **Roads, rocky areas, and river bottoms i.e., natural barriers, may not stop fire spread.**
- ✓ Fires are burning with great intensity and have shown increasing resistance to control. **Watch your back.**
- ✓ Burn period is lasting longer (14 to 16 hours). **Fires are active later into the night and earlier in the morning.**
- ✓ Personnel observed fire burning in fuel types that typically do not burn, for example, desert scrub brush.

Acres Burned by County:

Churchill: 54,844.15

Humboldt: 45,704.19

Lyon: 182.29

Pershing: 122,289.63

Washoe: 68,224.19

Acres Burned by Land Status:

BIA: 1,723

BLM: 203,974

BOR: 3,363

FS: 3,424

PVT: 78,761

Acres Burned by GRSG Category:

GHMA: 25,496.072

Non-habitat: 118,679.792

OHMA: 55,609.498

PHMA: 9,299.638

HTF Santa Rosa RD:

1 lightning-caused incident for 3,631.42 acres

GRSG

- PHMA: 3,631.42

Fuels Management

A total of 22,800 acres of hazardous fuels treatments that occurred during 2017 in the Winnemucca District. This includes maintenance of existing projects and initial treatment for multi-year projects.

Highway Fuel Breaks: Existing highway fuel breaks along Highways 95, 290, 140, and 400 will be disked between May and August of 2017, depending upon spring moisture, within the highway right of way to stop or slow fire originating along the roadways. The fuels breaks were highly successful in 2017, with 5 of the 7 fires that impacted the fuels being halted from further spread.

Montana Mountains/Lone Willow PMU Project: Multiple projects were performed by the fuels/fire staff to support habitat restoration in the Montana Mountains area. This includes approximately 2,000 acres of sagebrush seedling planting in previously burned areas. The seedling were a combination of approximately 200,000 seedling grown at a federal nursery and 50,000 seedling obtained for the Sagebrush in Prisons Project, where state prisons grow seedlings to plant for conservation purposes. Additional project include 2,500 acres of areas previously treated with herbicide to control invasive speices being replanted with perennial plants. This also helps reduce fire potential by eliminating or reducing the invasive annuals in the area. Additionally, approximately 9,000 acres were treated in to control invasive annuals, and will reseeded the following fall. Also, approximately 800 acres of fuels breaks received maintenance treatments.

Paradise WUI Green strips: Approximately 300 acres of fuel breaks in the Paradise Valley Area were maintained with a mowing and herbicide treatment, along with an additional 3,000 acres of chemical treatment targeting invasive annuals on previously burned areas. The treatments protect the community of Paradise Valley, priority sage grouse and LCT habitat in the area, and reduce invasive species in the valley. there are an additional 600 acres of maintenance by mowing and chemical treatment planned for fall of 2017.

Unionville WUI Fuels Treatment: This mechanical treatment is identified in the Unionville Community Wildfire Protection Plan and is maintained every year. The 12-acre fuelbreak protects the community of Unionville, and was completed in June 2017.

Little Owyhee Roadway Fuelbreaks: These fuelbreaks are part of a larger planned comprehensive fuelbreak system that includes four BLM districts (Winnemucca, Elko, Vale, and Boise) across Nevada, Idaho, and Oregon. The project will be completed in phases with concurrent invasive annuals treatment and re-seeding if necessary. To date 3,500 acres have been treated by mowing, with followup treatment of invasive annuals. The project will be expanded in once NEPA anlysis is completed, with projected implementation in 2019.

An additional project in this area is work on the old Quinn-Odell fire scar from 1996. Rehabilitation efforts on this fire were only marginally effective and so the process of rehabilitating this area and reducing invasive species to help reduce fire is underway. Approximately 2,000 acres were treated in fall 2016, and will be reseeded and planted with seedlings in October 2017.

Santa Rosa Fuel Break Maintenace: This fuel beak runs from Paradise Hill to McDermitt along the western toe-slope of the Santa Rosa Mountains. This maintenance included 1,000 acres of mowing and 1,000 acres of herbicide treatment.

A large undertaking for the fall of 2017 will be the repair and seeding of dozer lines installed during the fire season. This will reduce potential erosion and provide for more rapid recovery. Currently there is over 560 miles of known dozer line that needs to be repaired from the fire season.

Also underway is the initial steps for planning in the Black Range/Pine Forest Range for fuels and restoration activities. There is currently a contract that has been awarded for NEPA to be completed.

The Programmatic Vegetation Management Plan for the Winnemucca District was released for public comment in July 2015, from which multiple comments were received. Comments were addressed and a Biological Assessment for formal consultation with the USFWS is completed. In late December 2016, a Biological Opinion was received which concludes formal consultation. The decision will be issued in fall of 2017 following coordination on Greater sage-grouse plan compliance. This comprehensive plan analyzes the breadth of tools available to manipulate and manage vegetation district wide for Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation, weed treatment, forest management, habitat restoration, and hazardous fuels projects.

(Left) Highway Fuel Breaks (Hwy 290 shown here) are maintained early summer and have proven effective time and time again to keep fires small until resources can arrive on scene.



(Right) Highway 290 Fire, approximately 3/4 ac. held by BLM fuel break. June 30, 2015 near Paradise Valley, NV.

Mitigation/Education/Prevention

Sixteen community events were completed across the Winnemucca District, plus additional fire prevention and education events targeted at local schools. These include events such as Lovelock Frontier Days, the Ecology Fair, the Tri-County Fair and others that spread awareness of the importance of defensible space, human-caused fires on the district and how to prevent them, fire ecology, and fire safety principles. There were also three separate Fire Prevention Teams organized by Nevada BLM that spent significant time within the district spreading fire prevention messages

The Winnemucca District Fire program participates in many community events and programs throughout the year, bringing awareness of human-caused fires to the people of the community.

Fire Trespass

The Winnemucca District performs a fire investigation on all human caused fires. From these investigation there are currently 17 cases pending settlement. There are currently 11 additional cases from 2017 that are pending review to go forward for collection.

