



BLM – Battle Mountain District

District Manager's 2017/2018 Year End Report

The Battle Mountain District Office (BMD) manages approximately 10.5 million acres of public land within Eureka, Esmeralda, Lander and Nye Counties. In addition to historic mining and ranching, the BMD supports wildlife, livestock, wild horses & burros and dispersed/developed recreation.

“The BLM is committed to providing efficient, effective and environmentally responsible management of your public lands.” Doug Furtado District Manager.

Introduction – Battle Mountain District 2018 Priorities

The enclosed report contains project updates from each of our major departments, milestones met in 2017 and projections/goals for 2018. Questions regarding anything within this report can be directed to the district Public Affairs Officer, Kyle Hendrix, at (775) 635-4000.

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On behalf of the Battle Mountain District employees, we will continue to seek out the best available tools to manage our public lands effectively and collaboratively with our many partners. Below is a list of the State Director’s 2018 priorities which will guide our work:

- Improve the health and productivity of the land to support the BLM multiple-use mission.
- Cultivate community-based conservation, citizen-centered stewardship, and partnership through consultation, cooperation and communication.
- Pursue excellence in business practices, improve accountability to our stakeholders and deliver enhanced service to our customers.



– Doug Furtado, Battle Mountain District Manager

Minerals Management

Mount Lewis Field Office – Major Project Updates

Barrick Cortez Gold Mines — Barrick recently proposed several changes regarding their ongoing mining operations located about 35 miles southeast of Battle Mountain. As the changes are substantial, the amendment will be analyzed using Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) format/criteria. We are drafting the EIS addressing the proposed changes and adjustments to activities, operations, and ore shipment, including two additional declines that support underground mining activity within the plan boundary of 16,700 acres. It will also cover the company's request to increase the plan boundary to 17,394 acres, expand underground mining, reconfigure facilities, and infiltration galleries. The Project's impacts to Greater Sage-Grouse will be addressed through Barrick's Bank Enabling Agreement, for which an Environmental Assessment is being developed in 2018.

Newmont Greater Phoenix — Newmont Mining has proposed an expansion to their Phoenix Mine, located roughly 12 miles southeast of Battle Mountain. BLM is preparing responses to public comments received in an effort to complete the final EIS for the Greater Phoenix Project.

McEwen Mining Gold Bar — The BLM, Mount Lewis Field Office (MLFO) has completed its analysis of McEwen Mining Inc.'s proposal for Gold Bar Project. The Project will be located approximately 30 miles northwest of Eureka in the Southern Roberts Mountains in Eureka County, Nevada and is

expected to create 120 new jobs. The Record of Decision (ROD) was signed on November 7, 2017 and allows operations to begin at the Gold Bar Site. The Project includes an open pit gold mine with four open pits; mine access roads; waste rock disposal areas; crushing, screening, and agglomeration facilities; a heap leach facility; an adsorption, desorption, and recovery plant.



McEwen Mining vehicles line up to be ready for work just before the Record of Decision for the project was signed on November 7, 2017.

Klondex Gold and Silver Mining Company, Fire Creek Project/Fire Creek Mitigation — While the Fire Creek Mine Project has been authorized, Greater Sage-Grouse mitigation is required and the BLM is currently working with Klondex to prepare an EA based upon applicant-committed environmental protection measures tailored to implement required design

features. Klondex has proposed a riparian enclosure, repairing head cuts, slowing stream flow and improving livestock distribution.

Hard Rock Mineral Small Operator Award — Each year the BLM recognizes operators from around the country through the Reclamation and Sustainable Mineral Development Awards. These awards are all about recognizing development projects that meet the non-fuel mineral needs of the present generation, without compromising the needs of future generations.

BLM was pleased to honor Tertiary Minerals U.S INC. with the Hard Rock Mineral Small Operator Award this year. Tertiary Minerals, nominated by BLM's Mount Lewis Field Office, has conducted a campaign on public lands in Eureka County, Nevada, to explore for Fluorspar, a component used in both chemical and steel manufacturing industries. Their reclamation efforts associated with exploration activities



Geological samples taken from their project in in Eureka County, Nevada.

have left those lands within this Priority Habitat Management Area virtually undisturbed. These areas are not heavily mined and as such, remain full of recreation opportunities to the local community. Despite encountering natural barriers and conflicting multiple use practices, Tertiary Minerals has demonstrated exemplarily reclamation efforts throughout this process, for which it has earned considerable praise from the BLM.

McGinness Hills Geothermal Expansion Project — The Bureau of Land Management, Mount Lewis Field Office, has completed its analysis of Ormat Inc.'s proposal for an expansion to their McGinness Hills Geothermal Facility. This newest expansion is being referred to as 'Phase III' and will consist of access roads, a pipeline, a power plant, wells and transmission line. Total new disturbance for this expansion is estimated at 42 acres, as the majority of work will be completed on the previously analyzed 'Phase I' and 'Phase II' footprint. The first portion of the McGinness Hills geothermal plant, located roughly 70 miles south of Battle Mountain, was established in July, 2012 and the facilities have been producing clean energy ever since. Once this new expansion becomes operational, the McGinness Hills Geothermal Plant will be the largest geothermal facility on public lands and will be among the top Megawatt producers in the country.



Mount Lewis Field Office major mineral project specific efforts during 2018:

- MLFO will complete the Newmont Greater Phoenix Project Final EIS documents in 2018.
- MLFO will complete the Draft and Final EIS documents and publish the Final Environmental Impact Statement in the Federal Register in 2018 for the Barrick Cortez Deep South Project.
- The MLFO is currently preparing a supplemental EIS for the Eureka Molly Mt. Hope Project that is focused on better addressing NEPA concerns, primarily with air quality.
- There have been public announcements that Prophecy Development Corp. has acquired an older mining operation from American Vanadium. MLFO is preparing to re-boot the NEPA EIS review for this project. Likely, new baseline reporting to include Greater Sage-Grouse will be a starting point. The MLFO estimates having a Notice of Intent published in the *Federal Register* for this project in late fall/early winter of 2018.

Minerals Management

Tonopah Field Office – Major Project Updates

Corvus Gold Nevada Mother Load — The Project is located three miles southeast of Beatty. It is an exploration project of approximately 180 acres. Baseline studies will be determined in the very near future.

Gemfield Resources Ltd. Gemfield Project — Gemfield Resources Ltd. has completed the majority of the required baseline studies for the proposed open pit mine about 1.5 miles north of Goldfield. The Plan of Operations (PoO) has been amended and is currently under review. It is anticipated that the original PoO boundary of 1,918 acres and surface disturbance of 1,098 acres will remain the same. Additional updates to baselines will be provided. The NEPA process will proceed once all updates have been received and accepted.

Mineral Ridge Gold LLC, Mary LC Expansion Satellite Deposit Plan of Operations Amendment — Five miles northwest of Silver Peak, Nevada Mineral Ridge Gold LLC (MRG) proposes a series of changes to their existing Plan of Operations. MRG proposes to expand the heap leach pad and increase the size of the existing process pond capacity. Baseline studies have been completed and an EA is anticipated in the near future.

WK Mining, Hasbrouck Plan of Operations – If permitted, this project will be an open pit gold mine operation to include a waste rock dump and heap leach pad, located two miles south of Tonopah, Nevada. It is proposed that water and power will be transported from the Three Hills mining operation. The proposed plan of operation is under review.

WK Mining, Three Hill Plan Amendment – This project has proposed adding additional disturbance to the southwest of their the current operations.

The BMD mining programs will continue the following efforts in 2018:

- Conducting NEPA analysis by preparing an Environmental Assessment in order to process the annual Oil and Gas Lease Sale. BMD is estimating fall of 2018 to have the EA out for public comment.
- Conducting compliance inspections for Fluid Mineral Projects.
- Process mineral material disposals and conduct mineral material inspections at existing facilities.
- Review exploration Notices and conduct inspections of exploration activity. BLM inspectors conduct routine inspections of reclamation activity and reclaimed sites throughout the year.
- Assess hazardous and non-hazardous materials sites and remediate hazards as necessary.

Lands and Realty – Battle Mountain District

Gold Point Land Sale — Esmeralda County has shown an interest in purchasing the town site of Gold Point, Nevada. The sale of the land is currently under the internal review process. A site visit by the Washington Office team to conduct a validity exam has been conducted. A meeting with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) was conducted and a cultural mitigation plan will be developed. The *Federal Register* Notice is pending.

SandStone LLC, Sandstone Solar Energy Project – SandStone LLC has submitted a proposal for a new solar energy project that, when complete, would be the world’s largest solar + storage facility. The proposal is for up to ten solar power towers that would be located east of Tonopah, Nevada and would encompass approximately 22,000 acres. Each of the ten towers would



This is a computer generated image that is meant to illustrate what the new SandStone solar project might look like when complete.

function as the companies' Crescent Dunes facility does, with solar mirrors collecting energy and diverting it to a tower where it can be converted to steam and stored for up to 10 hours.

SandStone LLC is a US based company dedicated to bringing back American jobs to the manufacturing sector and supporting local job growth. The company estimates that this project will create 40,000 direct, indirect and induced jobs with more than \$100 million per year paid in salaries and operating cost when finished. The BLM Tonopah Field Office is processing the request and moving forward with the permitting process in 2018.

Rangeland Management

Mount Lewis Field Office

Three-Bars Restoration Project —This project focuses on landscape level restoration in the Three-Bars/Roberts Mountain area northwest of Eureka. This area contains high value resources for Greater Sage-Grouse, Lahontan cutthroat trout, mule deer and other wildlife species. This area also boasts largely intact native or perennial plant communities and is at high risk of catastrophic wildfire largely due to pinyon-juniper encroachment. The Battle Mountain District initiated an EIS analyzing numerous restoration and fuels treatments within a 750,000 acre footprint. The Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) as well as Eureka County are cooperating agencies with BLM on this project. The MLFO has already begun to formalize partnerships to leverage funding and support for multi-year implementation of this important project.

Argenta Allotment —In 2015 the BMD, with assistance from the National Riparian Service Team (NRST), worked collaboratively with the permittees of the Argenta Grazing Allotment to implement a court approved settlement agreement. The data from the second year was compiled into a Monitoring Report by the NRST and provided to the public spring of 2017. As provided in the settlement agreement, a Range Improvement EA and final Decision was issued in 2016. These range improvement fences were constructed and exclude livestock grazing from approximately 40 acres of BLM administered land. The fences were built this fall, one of which was a National Public Lands Day Project. The Settlement Agreement is expiring in August of 2018. The final end-of-year monitoring with the settlement group occurred in October 2017 and the final end-of-year meeting was held in November 2017. Currently the final end-of-year report



to the public is being drafted. The State Permit Renewal Team (SPRT) has provided a Draft Rangeland Health Assessment and the MLFO and BMD have provided input and comments. The assessment is expected to be made available early in 2018.

Looking ahead to 2018: Range Land Health Assessments in Sage Grouse Priority

Habitat—Argenta, Battle Mountain Complex Permit (BMC) renewals are being completed by the SPRT. Final field data was collected and compiled in 2017 by the MLFO, SPRT staff, permittees and interested public. This data was primarily a Proper Functioning Conditions (PFC) assessment of the Argenta and BMC. A final decision is expected to be completed by August 2018. Reese River Complex, Santa Fe/Ferguson, North Grass Valley Complex and Cottonwood are being developed on the MLFO 5 year plan which is currently under review following issuance of Instructional Memorandum (IM) 2018-023-025.

Currently the Rangeland Health Assessment (RHA) for these multiple complexes in the MLFO is being developed (this is in accordance with the new sage grouse Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment (ARMPA) prioritization process). The MLFO has also been developing an Allotment Management Plan (AMP) process for modifying grazing permits in high priority areas in a more expedited manner that is consistent with current policies and regulations. This is being done to provide more flexibility to operations while providing more ecologically responsible management practices.

Rangeland - Tonopah Field Office

Beatty Springs — Five springs were approved during 2011 and one of the springs will be under construction in 2018. The USDA provided the designs for the springs and NDOW will be providing a contract for the development. It is anticipated that development will start in fall of 2018.

Spring /Stream Fencing — The BLM worked with local permittees and partners who have water rights around nine spring sources within the Tonopah Field Office that are being heavily impacted by wild horses and burros. This stream fencing project will protect spring heads while allowing water to be available for use of wildlife and livestock. This will help these areas recover while still providing water to wildlife. One project was completed in February near the town of Goldfield in Nye County. The project has shown great progress. Funding is expected to acquire materials in 2017 and remaining projects will be started at the appropriate time as to not negatively affect the horses or burros.

Looking ahead to 2018: Range Land Health Assessments in Sage Grouse Priority Habitat

— Francisco, Smoky, Ralston, Stone Cabin, Reveille and Monitor allotments are having RHAs developed within the TFO 5 year plan which is currently under review following issuance if IM 2018-023-025. Smoky and Francisco RHAs are expected to be completed in FY 2018. A high priority is being placed on collecting data for the assessment of the Reveille and Monitor Allotments which currently are unallocated to any livestock permittee.

Battle Mountain District Partnerships

Public Land Use Advisory Council (PLUAC) — The PLUAC is a Lander County based committee whose members are passionate about public land uses and work to ensure Lander County is abreast of new initiatives, policy changes and other external factors that might affect public lands in the county. BLM Battle Mountain District participates in monthly meetings with the PLUAC and provides agency updates regarding project progress, new DOI directives and a number of other issues that might affect Lander County. This partnership can also involve coordination on project execution/planning that has been incredibly beneficial to the BLM.

Eureka County Natural Resources Advisory Commission (NRAC) — The NRAC is a Eureka County based commission whose goals closely mirror the PLUAC; the Battle Mountain District also provides monthly agency updates to the NRAC. The ability to partner with Eureka County through this group has been incredibly valuable to the BLM and the District is excited to continue building this partnership and working with Eureka County on several projects in 2018.

Frontier Community Coalition — Frontier Community Coalition (FCC) is a non-profit organization dedicated to reducing substance abuse in Humboldt, Lander and Pershing County by creating a place where family, peers, and the community support every person and where everyone can receive all that he or she needs to be safe, healthy, substance free, educated and a contributing member of the community. The Coalition serves as an incredible opportunity for different groups to share ideas, provide each other assistance and work to make these areas better. The Battle Mountain District joined this group two years ago and has benefited greatly from having close coordination with entities such as; Lander County Community Health, Lander County Kids Club, Battle Mountain Schools, the Chamber of Commerce and many others.



Other Groups BMD partners with on a regular basis—

The Southern Nye County Conservation District
The Tonopah Conservation District
The Diamond Valley Weed District
Nevada Department of Wildlife
Nevada Department of Transportation
Cooperative Fire Protection: Lander, Eureka and Nye Counties
Memorandums of Understanding, Firefighting: Barrick & Newmont Mining
Nevada Area Council – Boy Scouts of America
Tribal Governments: Battle Mountain Band, Duckwater, Yomba and Timbi-Sha
Lander County Family Resource Center
Barrick BEA Working Group
Roberts Mountain Allotment Working Group

Trick or Treat for Business is a Battle Mountain community event hosted by the Chamber of Commerce. 2017 marked the BMD's second year participating and we look forward handing out treats next year!

Wild Horse and Burro Program

Inventory and Resource Flights — In 2017, the TFO and MLFO completed two large inventory projects. In cooperation with the USFS, all Herd Management Areas (HMAs) and Wild Horse Territories (WHTs) in the District between US Highway 50 and State Highway 6 were inventoried during the March and April months. This effort included eleven days of flight to complete inventories of eight BLM managed HMAs and eight USFS WHTs. The second project involved coordination with the Las Vegas District and the Nellis Testing and Training Range in May and June 2017. This part of the process included three BLM HMAs administered by the TFO and inventory of the Nevada Wild Horse Range completed by the LVD. This also involved substantial acreage of land outside of the NWHR or HMAs on NTTR and DOE lands. The BMD also completed resource flights on two additional HMAs. Approximately 6,200 miles of flight were accrued to complete these flights which spanned over 4.3 million acres.



2017 Reveille Wild Horse Gather: Wild horses are led into the opening of the trap before being sorted and treated with fertility control.

Wild Horse Gathers – From January 30 through February 3, 2017, the Battle Mountain District conducted a gather of the Reveille HMA. A total of 151 wild horses were captured via helicopter drive trapping: 81 shipped to BLM facilities in Ridgecrest, California, 2 euthanized due to pre-existing health problems, and 68 released, including 30 mares treated with the fertility control formulation PZP-22. Of these 30 mares, 24 had been previously treated, providing an opportunity to continue and bolster a fertility control program. All treated mares were



This photo was taken from the air in the spring of 2017 during one of the Mount Lewis Wild Horse and Burro inventory flights.

photographed and documented in preparation for the possibility of PZP-22 field darting in the future. In February of 2017 Ben Masters published a piece on fertility control as a method of wild horse population suppression that was picked up by National Geographic. To view the full story visit <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/adventure/features/environment/wild-horses-part-three/>

Wild Horse & Burro: Looking ahead in 2018 —

Inventory Flights – will be completed for HMAs located in Lander, Eureka, Nye and Esmeralda County and will total 12-14 HMAs.

The MLFO is currently working on a wild horse Herd Management Area Plan (HMAP) for the South Shoshone HMA in Lander County and the Roberts Complex in Eureka County. The HMAPs will also include Environmental Assessments for future gather and removal operations and population growth suppression programs including such tools as fertility control vaccine. Monitoring will be completed on these and other HMAs to support the HMAPs.

In 2018, the BMD will continue to submit priority areas for wild horse and burro gathers in order to achieve Appropriate Management Levels and implement fertility control measures. Getting the major trouble areas under control continues to be a priority for the BMD's Wild Horse and Burro Program.

The BMD has no gathers, fertility control darting projects or adoption events currently approved for FY18.

Forestry, Fuels, and Fire Programs

Forestry — The Battle Mountain Forestry program sells permits for cord wood, pine boughs, biomass, seed collection, pine nuts, Christmas trees, and wildings at the commercial and personal use levels. The District is the only District in the state of Nevada to sell Joshua trees and cacti.

Rehabilitation — When fires over 300 acres occur within Battle Mountain District managed lands, an Interdisciplinary team is assembled to determine if post fire emergency stabilization and rehabilitation treatments (ESR) are needed. If needed, the team identifies the best methods available to help recover the burned area. A suite of treatments are typically encouraged in order to prevent excess erosion, stabilize culturally and historically significant features, and reestablish vegetation. Many times these treatments include the seeding and planting of species native to the site, or those able to outcompete noxious and invasive weeds.

Fuels — The District accomplishes hazardous fuels treatments in both the Urban interface and Wildland environments. Treatments are intended to modify the fire behavior of a future fire by manipulating the combustible materials in a manner that will reduce flame lengths or the speed that a fire propagates. These treatments are not typically designed to stop a fire by themselves, but rather are meant to provide firefighters with strategic locations to be able to safely engage a fire. These treatments may include planting species that maintain greenness longer than native and invasive species, removing fuels that create crown fire potentials, mowing surface fuels, and

using integrated pest management practices to remove highly flammable invasive annual grasses such as cheatgrass. Urban interface and wildland fuels treatments are monitored regularly to ensure their effectiveness through maintenance.

Major Fuel Management/Conservation Environmental Documents —

Programmatic Roadside Fuel Break EA—The BMD recently signed a decision for a programmatic EA for implementing roadside fuels breaks in priority areas across the District. Implementation would be done in cooperation with the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT), counties and private land owners as appropriate. A meeting has already been scheduled between BLM, NDOT, counties and tribes to solidify the best approach to implementation.

Sagebrush Ecosystem Management EA —This programmatic EA is currently in the development stage with a public draft expected by March of 2018. Completing the EA in 2018 will be one of the many priorities held by the MLFO. Key goals of this project include; decreasing the severity and intensity of future wildland fires by reducing the hazardous fuel loads; sustaining and improving sagebrush plant communities; increasing the availability of native seed collection for rehabilitation projects; and managing Phase 1 and targeted Phase II pinyon-juniper stands in sage-grouse habitat. This project is District wide and includes portions of Lander, Eureka, Nye and Esmeralda Counties.

Boone Creek EA — This project is intended to reduce fire hazards and improve habitat on the western slopes of Mt. Callaghan in Lander County. The project proposes to treat up to 30,000 acres of public lands through the creation of fuel breaks, improving timber stand health by removing diseased trees, improving aspen stands through removal of conifer encroachment and riparian health improvements. This project was put on hold while policy was being clarified and refined but is now progressing once again. A decision for this EA is expected by fall of 2018.

Other Projects —The Final EIS for the 3 Bars project was issued in October 2016. This project has a suite of restoration treatments, with an emphasis on Greater Sage-Grouse. The Record of Decision is awaiting approvals from our Washington Office.

Barrick Bank Enabling Agreement — The MLFO will be working with Barrick Mining and agency partners to develop/implement mitigation projects to offset future mining impacts in the Cortez Mining District. These mitigation projects stand to play a major role in the larger effort of GRSG conservation and many will likely start to take shape in 2018.

Gold Bar Mitigation Plan — The BMD will be working collaboratively with McEwen Mining and other partners to complete planning on the mitigation plan for the Gold Bar Mining project.



Forestry, Fuels, and Fire by the Numbers in 2017

Forestry

- 402 vegetative (fuel wood) permits sold,
- 753 tons of biomass utilized,
- One commercial woodcutting permit sold for 20 cords, and
- Five commercial native seed collection permits processed for 19,500 lbs.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) (4,988 acres treated)

- 2,221 acres of biological (targeted grazing) acres on the Austin Project,
- 1,140 acres of cheatgrass herbicide treatments on the Austin Project
- 25 acres of piles chipped in the Eureka project
- 16 acres of piles burned and 84 acres of cutting and piling on the Ione project (will be maintenance only after remaining piles are burned)
- 22 acres of piles burned in Lida (now maintenance only)
- 20 acres of cheatgrass mowing in Battle Mtn WUI
- 633 acres of fuel break maintenance mowing and 633 acres of seeding in Yomba
- 194 acres of lop and scatter thinning around Eureka
- 4,500 acres of WUI treatments monitored

Non-Wildland Urban Interface (9,106 acres treated)

- 160 acres of Mastication in Sulphur Springs
- 3,493 acres of lop and scatter thinning in Toiyabe West project
- 1,251 and 1,881 acres of cooperative lop and scatter thinning work with NDOW in Italian Creek and Eagle Butte
- 400 acres of cheatgrass herbicide treatments on Hwy 278 as part of Sulphur Springs
- 1,534 acres of lop and scatter thinning in Sulphur Springs
- 387 acres of Mastication for fuel breaks in Seven Mile
- and 4,500 acres of non-WUI projects monitored.

Rehabilitation

- 3,835 acres aeri ally seeded on the Carico Fire.
- 558 acres of drill seeding on the Carico Fire, and
- Noxious weed agreement established for ESR weed treatments and treatment effectiveness monitoring is ongoing for the Elephant, Cowboy 2, Willow Creek, Carico and Goat Peak fires.



- ESR plans created for the Mill Creek, Raven, and Phoenix fires.

Mitigation/Education/Prevention

- Battle Mountain Parade of Lights;
- Battle Mountain Schools Fire Education; Esmeralda County Schools Fire Education;
- Eureka County Fair; Eureka Schools Fire Education;
- Battle Mountain Prevention Week; Nevada Wildfire Awareness Month;
- Goldfield Days Parade and Booth;
- Kingston Community Day; Nye County Schools Fire Education; Round Mtn Fire Education.

Operations

- 95% IA success rate for Battle Mountain District
- Staffed 6 Engines, 2 Dozers, 1 Fuels Crew, 1 WTs, 3 BCs at 2 stations through the season.
- Utilized Heli-wells on district, and supported multiple other districts within Nevada.
- Lightning Fires: 16 for 2,395 acres
- Human Fires: 22 for 777 acres
- Sage grouse acres burned: 416 ac Core/PPH, 182 ac Priority/PGH and 904 ac of General Habitat
- All Incidents in 2017 were managed at the Type 3 level or below. One Great Basin Type 3 Incident Management Team was utilized on the Raven Fire.
- Much Higher Occurrence of Human Starts from historical averages
- Supported multiple incidents from Elko District that were geographically closer to Battle Mountain

Aviation

- Battle Mountain Air Tanker Base open full service June 5th through October 5th and supported 92 fires
- Total Gallons Retardant Pumped at BAM: 1,255,851
- Total Missions from BAM:
 - 826 SEAT Sorties • 235 Large Air Tankers



Special Events/Outreach in 2017

- Sixth Grade Environmental Day at Mill Creek
- Seventh and Eighth Grade Environmental Day
- Eureka County Fair & Fire Education
- National Public Lands Day (in Battle Mountain)
- Fire Safety Event with Te Moak Tribe
- Classroom presentations (throughout the year)
- Goldfield Days Parade
- Kingston Community Day
- Nye County Schools Fire Education
- Rhyolite Public Walking Tours
- Fire Career Day – BMHS
- Tonopah Home School Adventures

Special Events- Some Highlights from 2017

National Public Lands Day — The Battle Mountain District conducted a riparian improvement project in observation of the 24th annual celebration of National Public Lands Day which is the nation's largest volunteer effort for public lands! On September 29, members of the Battle Mountain community and Tomera Ranches worked with Bureau of Land Management staff from the Mount Lewis Field Office to complete this year's National Public Lands Day volunteer project. The event took place at Ferris Creek, located on the Argenta grazing allotment just south of Crescent Valley, and focused on the construction of a jack-rail fence around an important riparian area which provides habitat for Greater Sage-Grouse, Mule deer, chukar and a myriad of other wildlife species.



Group photo from this year's National Public Lands Day event at Ferris Creek on the Argenta grazing allotment.

The group of nearly 30 people gathered in the morning and worked to separate the fencing materials, haul the different components to their respective locations along the waterway and link everything together to create a protective fence that will aid the restoration of the area over time.

While the literal heavy lifting took place, MFLO Wildlife Biologist Dave Davis took the younger participants to some existing fencing nearby to install sage grouse markers. The reflective markers are designed to reduce the number of collisions by sage-grouse as the birds attempt to navigate through the fence lines. Overall the Ferris Creek habitat improvement event was a huge success and the MLFO would like to thank all those who participated in this meaningful conservation effort.

Rhyolite Public Walking Tours — The Tonopah Field Office hosted two sets of walking tours for the historic Rhyolite mining ghost town located just outside the town of Beatty. The walking tours were hosted by two BLM archaeologists who covered the history of this mining ghost



BLM archeologist Jonah Blustain starts off the first of a series of Rhyolite Walking Tours.

town, the buildings and sites left behind and the steps the BLM is taking to actively manage this important cultural resource. They were well attended events and the TFO intends to continue offering these tours in 2018 so keep your eyes peeled for announcement in your local paper!

Tonopah Homeschool Adventures — Through some incredible local partnerships the TFO was able to establish a new education program in 2017 that involves local homeschool families in the Tonopah area. BLM specialist hosted two ‘Tonopah Homeschool Adventures’ this year that

focused on geology and archeology and featured both classroom and field trip portions.

The first teaching session was held on April 5 and the subjects covered were Leave No Trace, Tread Lightly and the Earth and Rock Types. A total of eight children along with four parents and younger siblings came to the session held in the conference room of the Tonopah Field Office. The children received a free junior ranger packet to be completed and returned for a junior ranger badge. Upon viewing a short presentation, many different rocks were shown to demonstrate the variety and types of rocks on the Earth.



BLM geologist Melissa Jennings out in the field for Homeschool Adventures teaching students about different rocks of the Earth.

The second teaching session was held on April 12th and the session was taught in the field. The class met a short distance from TFO and kids were taught about types of fossils, Paleontological Resources Preservation (OPLA-PRP), and fossil collection. The fossils collected were gastropods, a common aquatic fossil found in the local geology and abundant in the area. This new partnership was hugely successful and the TFO staff are excited to host more of these Adventures in 2018.

Recreation – Highlights From 2017

Vegas to Reno Off Road Race — This event represents the longest off-road race held in the United States and the Battle Mountain District played an important role in this year's event to include analysis of the course, pre-monitoring, and post-monitoring. Competitors included a dusty mix of cars, trucks, motorcycles, and UTV's vying for their place in this 650 mile desert race.

North American Eagle Land Speed Project — The Bureau of Land Management, Mount Lewis Field Office, has completed its analysis of a Special Recreation Permit, submitted by North American Eagle, Inc., which requests a permit to conduct land speed record attempts on the alkali flat of Diamond Valley, Eureka, Nevada, using a vehicle equipped with a jet engine. The NAE team will be attempting to beat the current land speed record of 763mph in 2018 but will also be conducting scientific tests and data collection to be used in the development of high speed technologies.



A photo of the North American Eagle team vehicle that hopes to break the land speed record in 2018. Good luck American Eagle!

Wild Nevada, Elko/Battle Mountain PBS Special — In the spring of 2017, the BMD worked with members of the Wild Nevada TV series, a PBS production that focuses on educating people about the amazing places to visit/recreate in Nevada. This year the show produced 13 episodes, with an extended segment in Episode 3 dedicated to showcasing the incredible town of Battle Mountain and the nearby BLM managed Shoshone Off Highway Vehicle Trail System. The full episode, that also features the California Interpretive Trail Center, can be viewed online at <http://www.knpb.org/wildnevada/s4-episodes/>.

Letter of Agreements for Education issued in 2017:

Boy Scouts of America Mill Creek Campout
BYU Idaho Geology Field Trip
Jet Propulsion Lab Field Research

Special Recreation Permits issued in 2017:

Zero One Odysseys OHV tours
Best In the Desert (BITD) Vegas to Reno OHV race
Lucas Oils SRP Film Permit: Vegas to Reno
Beatty VFW SRP Breakfast Permit: Vegas to Reno
Beatty VFW Poker Run
Best In the Desert (BITD) Tonopah 250 OHV race
Lucas Oils SRP Film Permit: Tonopah 250
Tinker Classic Mountain Bike Race
Sunny Acres Sailing Sipping and Soaring Society (SASSASS) Wind Sailing Regatta
Southern Nevada Off Road Race Enthusiasts (SNORE) 250 OHV Race
Rebelle Rally women's off-road navigation rally raid
Best in the Desert Pahrump Nugget 250
Wild Nevada Elko/Battle Mountain PBS Special

Battle Mountain District Recreation – 2018

Mill Creek Campground, Restoration Plans —

This year a human caused fire burned through Mill Creek Campground, destroying structures and features in addition to the surrounding vegetation. The fire started on Wednesday June 28, 2017, and was contained on July 1, 2017. It burned 479 acres within the Battle Mountain District, of which 249 acres were on private land and 230 acres on public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management. Before the fire was contained, the



Aerial view of the Mill Creek Campground after the fire had been contained.

entire campground burned resulting in extensive damage to recreation resources including structures, campsites, and valuable stream stabilizing vegetation. The southernmost portion of the fire engulfed 6.3 acres of an area designated for Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) recreation use in the Shoshone OHV Trail System.

In 2018 the Battle Mountain District will be working to restore and potentially expand the Mill Creek Campground. Restoration efforts will involve several different elements including; stabilizing creek banks, reseeding the burned area, invasive and noxious weed treatments, monitoring, riparian improvements, facility construction/installation and revegetation. The campground will be closed to the public while the area is being made safe again and restored for recreational use. The BMD's goal for 2018 is to complete the campground restoration and have the area reopened to the public in August.

New Special Recreation Permits Anticipated for 2018:

Bicycle Adventures Rhyolite

Riding Tours Rhyolite

Backroads Rhyolite

Wildland Trekking Rhyolite

Classic Diamond Outfitters and Guide



Riders enjoy the Copper Basin Bike Trails located just outside Battle Mountain, Nevada.