

**To:** Marci Todd[m1todd@blm.gov]; Mike Herder[mherder@blm.gov]  
**Cc:** Raul Morales[rmorales@blm.gov]; jjpalma@blm.gov[jjpalma@blm.gov];  
 dpritchett@blm.gov[dpritchett@blm.gov]; jmaluoto@blm.gov[jmaluoto@blm.gov];  
 cvocelka@blm.gov[cvocelka@blm.gov]; Erick Kurkowski[ekurkowski@blm.gov]; Gayle Marrs-Smith[gmarssm@blm.gov]; Deborah MacNeill[dmacneill@blm.gov]  
**From:** Timothy Smith  
**Sent:** 2017-11-16T17:31:20-05:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Fwd: Revised Communication Plan and Briefing Memorandum for the Revised Draft RMP/EIS - Final  
**Received:** 2017-11-16T17:31:33-05:00  
[ATT00001.htm](#)  
[Routing Slip - SNDO Revised Draft RMP,EIS.pdf](#)  
[Briefing Memorandum - SNDO Revised Draft RMP - Final.docx](#)  
[ATT00002.htm](#)  
[Communication Plan - SNDO Revised Draft RMP - Final.docx](#)  
[ATT00003.htm](#)

Marci and Mike,

This is primarily an FYI to let you know that we are moving forward with the RMP. My intention is to go live on December 1 and then to hold public meetings in mid to late January. These dates also coincide with our CADR contract starting December 1 and our RMP contract starting on January 2. Should you have questions, I am available most of tomorrow, Friday November 17 and Monday - Wednesday next week. A couple of other items for your information, we have coordinated our forward progress with David Pritchett and will continue to coordinate with David through Shonna Dooman. Since I am at the Reno Airport, please consider this email my concurrence on the distribution sheet. Thanks, Tim

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Kurkowski, Erick" <ekurkowski@blm.gov>  
**Date:** November 16, 2017 at 12:23:04 PM PST  
**To:** Timothy Smith <tsmith@blm.gov>  
**Cc:** Gayle Marrs-Smith <gmarrssm@blm.gov>, Shonna Dooman <sdooman@blm.gov>, "Kirk, James (Lee)" <jkirk@blm.gov>, Deborah MacNeill <dmacneill@blm.gov>, Kirsten Cannon <k1cannon@blm.gov>, John Asselin <jasselin@blm.gov>  
**Subject:** Revised Communication Plan and Briefing Memorandum for the Revised Draft RMP/EIS - Final

**Communication Plan**  
**Southern Nevada District, Draft Resource Management Plan Revision**  
**Southern Nevada District Office including Gold Butte National Monument**

**Introduction:**

In 2008, the BLM initiated a revision to the 1998 Las Vegas Resource Management Plan (RMP). A Draft RMP/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was released for public review in October 2014. Following the public comment period, work began on development of the Proposed RMP/Final EIS. While working on the Proposed RMP/Final EIS, new information gathered in response to public comments and concerns from cooperating agencies, as well as rapidly changing issues, contributed to a pause in development and initiated an internal review in July 2016.

The BLM determined that public meetings should be conducted to gather further information in the areas described below and that a Revised Draft RMP/EIS should be developed. The Revised Draft RMP/EIS would incorporate substantive comments received from the initial Draft RMP/EIS and information received from the proposed additional public meetings.

1. **Land Disposals and Groundwater:** Additional data is being collected to inform land disposal alternatives in the Revised Draft RMP/EIS to address concerns regarding the possible adverse effects to groundwater-dependent species such as the endangered Devils Hole pupfish and Moapa Dace from land disposals. For the Nye County portion of the planning area, a revised groundwater model is being prepared by US Geological Survey (Death Valley Regional Flow System, version 3.0), which represents the best available science. The Clark County portion of the planning area is largely covered by other groundwater models approved by the Nevada Division of Water Resources, the agency with jurisdiction over water resources. The governments of Clark and Nye counties have expressed concern that reductions in areas for disposal would limit future urban development opportunities.

2. **Lands with Wilderness Characteristics:** The Draft RMP/EIS identified 21 areas or units (242,214 acres total) that possess wilderness character based upon field work completed during 2010-2011 and largely focused on units that were nominated by public advocacy organizations. Public comments subsequently received on the Draft RMP/EIS indicated that BLM had not completed a wilderness character inventory for the entire planning area per Bureau policy. In response to these substantive public comments, additional inventory field work was conducted to update the inventory for the entire planning area. The Revised Draft RMP/EIS process will analyze whether additional units will be managed for wilderness characteristics.

3. **Gold Butte National Monument (GBNM):** The GBNM was designated in December 2016. The Revised Draft RMP/EIS will evaluate the objects and values of the GBNM as identified in the Presidential Proclamation and address issues that emerge through public input. Management planning for GBNM will be consistent with the proclamation and will be incorporated into the Revised RMP/EIS and analyzed under the Special Designations section.

4. **Renewable Energy:** The Revised Draft RMP/EIS will incorporate the new Solar and Wind Rule (November 10, 2016) and updated protocols. The Revised Draft RMP/EIS will also revisit viable locations for renewable energy projects based on stakeholder inputs received.

5. **Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC):** The Revised Draft RMP/EIS will reevaluate the designation of ACECs to meet the goal of managing to the lowest level of restriction while still protecting the resources.

6. **Socio-economics:** Socio-economic analysis will be updated to reflect the changes in the alternatives driven by the aforementioned issues.

**Key Messages:**

The BLM released the Draft RMP/EIS and received around 30,000 comment submissions. The BLM welcomes and values the diverse views of the public, and based on information received through these comments, the BLM decided that the Draft RMP/EIS needed to be revised with more input from the public.

The BLM strives to be a good neighbor in the communities we serve. All comments received by the BLM during the first Draft comment period are still valid and BLM will use them to craft alternatives in the Revised Draft RMP/EIS.

The BLM believes partnerships and inclusion are vital to managing sustainable, working public lands. A Revised Draft RMP/EIS will be released to the public that will incorporate the new information that was received during this public input period. A public comment period will occur when the Revised Draft RMP/EIS is released for public review.

**Interested Stakeholder and Public Groups:**

Local Governments:

- City of Boulder City
- City of Henderson
- City of Las Vegas
- City of Mesquite
- City of North Las Vegas
- Clark County

Nye County  
Moapa Valley Water District  
Overton Power District #5  
Virgin River Water District  
Unincorporated Towns in Clark and Nye County

State Agencies:

Nevada Department of Wildlife  
Nevada Division of State Lands  
Nevada Governor's Office of Economic Development  
Nevada Governor's Office of Energy  
Nevada State Historic Preservation Office  
Nevada Division of Water Resources

Federal Representatives and Agencies:

Nevada Congressional Delegation  
National Park Service  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Fish and Wildlife Service  
Forest Service  
Department of Defense  
Department of Energy  
Federal Aviation Administration  
Environmental Protection Agency

Tribal Governments:

Cedar Band, Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah  
Kaibab Paiute Tribe  
Chemehuevi Indian Tribe  
Kanosh Band, Paiute Indian Tribes of Utah  
Colorado River Indian Tribes  
Las Vegas Paiute Tribe  
Fort Mojave Indian Tribe  
Moapa Band of Paiutes  
Hualapai Tribal Council  
Pahrump Paiute Tribe (not a federally recognized tribe)  
Indian Peaks Band, Piute Indian Tribes of Utah  
Timbisha Shoshone Tribe  
Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada

Other:

Mojave Southern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council  
Center for Biological Diversity  
Wilderness Society  
Friends of Gold Butte  
Partners In Conservation  
Outside Las Vegas Foundation  
Friends of Nevada Wilderness  
Defenders of Wildlife  
The Nature Conservancy  
Sierra Club  
Basin and Range Watch  
The Old Spanish Trail Association  
Sierra Club  
BlueRibbon Coalition  
Southern Nevada Home Builders Association

**Outreach Strategy:**

Public outreach strategies will include standard methods, such as distribution of news releases and website posting. The BLM will perform outreach with the following groups:

- Cooperating agencies
- Mojave Southern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council
- Nevada Congressional delegation
- Native American Tribes, bands and individuals
- Local media
- General public

**One Week Prior to Public Input Period:**

- Interested stakeholders will be sent postcards notifying them of the public input period and will be invited to provide input as well as attend public meetings.

**One Day Prior to the Release of the Public Input Period:**

- Contact Nevada Congressional Delegation
- Contact Nye and Clark County Commissioners

**Date of Beginning of Public Input Period:**

- Distribute news release to statewide media and Nevada Congressional Delegation announcing the public input period and public meetings.

**INFORMATION/BRIEFING MEMORANDUM  
FOR THE ACTING NEVADA STATE DIRECTOR**

**DATE:** November 16, 2017

**FROM:** Timothy Z. Smith, Southern Nevada District Manager

**SUBJECT:** Revised Draft Resource Management Plan covering the Southern Nevada District Planning Area, including Gold Butte National Monument

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide a status update for re-initiating the Southern Nevada District Office's Resource Management Plan (RMP) Revision planning process for the Las Vegas and Pahrump Field Offices.

**KEY FACTS**

**Jobs:** Allowable allocations such as mineral and renewable energy development, lands and realty actions (disposals), and recreation and visitor services arising out of the land use planning process may affect numerous jobs in the region, especially through providing certainty for business decisions and local government planning.

**Stakeholder Positions:** State, city and local governments will be affected by management decisions identified through the land planning process as it relates to economic development. The Departments of Air Force and Navy have raised concerns with some of the allowable allocations and associated impacts to their missions. Some stakeholders have raised concerns with some of the allowable allocations and their possible effects to the environment.

**Public Lands Affected:** Approximately 3 million acres located in Clark County and the southern portion of Nye County.

**BACKGROUND**

In 2008, the BLM initiated a revision to the 1998 Las Vegas Resource Management Plan (RMP). A Draft RMP/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was released for public review in October 2014. Following the public comment period, work began on development of the Proposed RMP/Final EIS. While working on the Proposed RMP/Final EIS, new information gathered in response to public comments and concerns from cooperating agencies, as well as rapidly changing issues, contributed to a pause in development and initiated an internal review in July 2016.

The BLM determined that public meetings should be conducted to gather further information in the areas described below and that a Revised Draft RMP/EIS should be developed. The Revised Draft RMP/EIS would incorporate substantive comments received from the initial Draft RMP/EIS and information received from the proposed additional public meetings. The known focus areas for the Revised Draft RMP/EIS include:

- Renewable energy
- Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)
- Lands with wilderness characteristics,
- Land tenure adjustments (i.e., land disposals)
- Gold Butte National Monument (GBNM)
- Socio-economics

#### **DISCUSSION**

The BLM has hired a contractor to assist with the development of the Revised Draft RMP/EIS. The contractor will start January 2, 2018. The public input period is planned for December 1, 2017 to February 2, 2018. Public meetings are proposed to be held in January 2018.

#### **NEXT STEPS**

- |                              |                    |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| • Cooperating Agency Meeting | December 14, 2017  |
| • RMP Contractor Start Date  | January 2, 2018    |
| • Public Meetings            | January 9-18, 2018 |

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

- None

Form 1220-1  
(July 1994)

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
**CLEARANCE SHEET**

- ☐ Manual Release  
☐ Handbook  
☐ Instruction Memorandum  
☐ Information Bulletin  
☐ Regulation  
☐ Other

**Instructions to originating office.** Attach to copies of documents being submitted for clearance. List all reviewing officials by office code and office title. For Bureauwide Directives, list (873) - Directives and Information Services both before and after signing official.

**Brief Description of Issuance** (include Subject-Code Number and Heading):

1610 (LLNVS00000)

Briefing Memorandum and Communication Plan – SNDO Revised Draft RMP/EIS

| SURNAME ROUTING (Begin with Originator) |         |          | NON/CON-<br>CURRENCE | COMMENTS |
|---|---------|----------|----------------------|----------|
| TO                                      | INITIAL | DATE     |                      |          |
| Lee Kirk, Acting GBNM Manager           | LK      | 11/15/17 |                      |          |
| Nicollee Gaddis-Wyatt, P&EC             | NG      | 11/15/17 |                      |          |
| Shonna Dooman, AFM-Resources            | SD      | 11/15/17 |                      |          |
| Gayle Marrs-Smith, Vegas FM             | Gms     | 11/15/17 |                      |          |
| Deborah MacNeill, Pahrump FM            | DM      | 11/15/17 |                      |          |
| Erick Kurkowski, ADM                    | EK      | 11/16/17 |                      |          |
| Tim Smith, DM                           |         |          |                      |          |
| David Pritchett, P&EC                   |         |          |                      |          |
| Jonathan Palma, Acting BrChief, NV-933  |         |          |                      |          |
| Raul Morales, DSD-930                   |         |          |                      |          |
| Mike Herder, Acting ASD                 |         |          |                      |          |
| Marci L. Todd, Acting SD                |         |          |                      |          |