

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

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**Environmental Assessment DOI-BLM-CA-N070-2010-0003**

**February 11, 2010**

**West Toney Burn Fence**

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Bureau of Land Management  
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# **CHAPTER 1**

## **INTRODUCTION AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION**

### ***INTRODUCTION***

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) proposes to construct 4.2 miles of fence to separate the Back of the House Use Area and the Glenco Spring Use Area in the Coleman 2 Pasture of the Nevada Coleman Allotment. The proposed fence would be located in Washoe County, NV, T.46 N, R.20 E, sections 21, 16, 9, 4. If approved, this fence would be scheduled for construction in 2010. A map of the general area can be viewed as Attachment 1, and a map of the specific fence-line can be viewed as Attachment 3.

In the current pasture rotation, the Glenco Spring Use Area is scheduled for use by 370 cattle from 4/15-7/15 and 100 cattle from 7/16-9/30, or until 60% upland utilization and/or 4-6" stubble height in 2/3 of the riparian is met, whichever comes first. The majority of the livestock are out of the Glenco Spring Use Area by 7/15, and this operator has requested in the past to run slightly higher numbers of cattle for a shorter duration of time. The Back of the House Use Area is scheduled for use by 122 cattle from 6/16-10/15. A map depicting the Use Areas can be viewed as Attachment 2.

The operator has attempted to use a temporary electric fence and herding in order to maintain cattle in the correct location, however this has proven ineffective. The soil is not moist enough to maintain saturation of the ground rod, severely decreasing the charge of the electric fence. Herding was successful in moving the cattle back to their correct use area when they were found at Glenco Spring, however it was not able to alleviate the cattle drift.

### ***NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION***

The need for the proposed action is separation of two use areas that have different timing and duration of grazing use. The purpose is to reduce the livestock use in the Glenco Spring Use area from cattle drifting in from the Back of the House Use Area after 6/16 and to ensure livestock use does not occur in the Back of the House Use Area prior to 6/16. This use area division fence has become necessary, as the cattle have become accustomed to traveling between and utilizing both use areas. This became readily apparent during Barrel Fire monitoring, as one use area was closed due to the burn, and the Back of the House Use Area was opened to grazing. Riparian areas to the west of the proposed fence are receiving grazing impacts throughout the hot season, due to the lack of any effective physical separation between the two use areas. This increased grazing use is expected to result in riparian and upland degradation if continued.

## ***CONFORMANCE WITH BLM LAND USE PLAN(S)***

### **RELATIONSHIPS TO STATUTES, REGULATIONS AND OTHER PLANS**

The proposed action is in conformance with the Proposed Surprise Field Office Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement issued in May 2007 as adopted by the Record of Decision approved in April 2008, and the Rangeland Health Standards and Guidelines for California and Northwest Nevada, Record of Decision of July, 2000 and can be found in the following sections.

#### Section 2.14.4

- Actions would minimize damage to the watershed and its soil, vegetation, air-quality or other resources of the public lands.

#### Section 2.22.2)

- Ensure that sufficient vegetation is retained around springs and other water sources, riparian areas, and wetlands to fulfill the needs of wildlife.
- Remove fencing that is no longer required and replace fencing that is harmful to wildlife. Build all new fencing to wildlife-friendly specifications.

#### **ROD Management Actions**

- Apply restoration treatments to improve hydrologic function and water quality, including bioengineering treatments, improved livestock grazing.
- Implement the *Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Plan for Nevada and Eastern California*, First Edition (2004), including the Vya Conservation Strategy.

The action is also in accordance with 43 CFR 4100 and is consistent with the provisions of the Taylor Grazing Act, Public Rangelands Improvement Act, and Federal Land Policy and Management Act.

#### 43 CFR Subpart 4120.3 – Range Improvements

The proposed action is in conformance with and supports the implementation of the 2004 Grazing EA for the Nevada Coleman Allotment (CA-370-04-02). This EA is incorporated by reference.

### **ISSUES AND SCOPING**

On February 11, 2009, a scoping document was sent to all interested publics, and no comments were received back. During preparation of this EA, the permittees of the Nevada Coleman Allotment were consulted. During intra-office scoping, wildlife (sage grouse) and archaeological concerns were expressed. The fence was modified in order to address those concerns and mitigate the impacts to sage grouse. Additional modifications were implemented in order to alleviate archaeological concerns.

## **CHAPTER 2**

### **DESCRIPTION OF ALTERNATIVES**

#### ***INTRODUCTION***

This EA considers only the Proposed and No Action alternatives. The No Action alternative is considered and analyzed to provide a baseline for comparison of the impacts of the proposed action.

#### ***PROPOSED ACTION***

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) proposes to allow construction of 4.2 miles of fence to separate the Back of the House Use Area and Glenco Spring Use areas. The proposed fence would be located in Washoe County, NV, T.46 N, R.20 E, sections 21, 16, 9, 4. If approved, these fences would begin construction in 2010. A map of the proposed fence is located in Appendix 1.

This use area division fence is necessary to divide two separate use areas, in order to appropriately manage the grazing allotment. The West Toney Burn Fence would be constructed in accordance with BLM standard specifications for wildlife. The fence would be built with a 3 strand fence design. The portions of the fence that receive the majority of the livestock pressure would be built with the 4 strand design (3 barbed, bottom smooth) specific to BLM standards.

#### Project Design Features

1. The 3-strand barbed wire BLM specifications are 16.5-foot line post spacing. Wire spacing would be 18 inches, 30 inches, and 42 inches up from the ground-
2. The 4-strand barbed wire fence BLM specifications are 16.5-foot line post spacing. Wire spacing would be 18 inches, 24 inches, 30 inches, and 42 inches up from the ground with a smooth bottom wire.
3. In some areas, the fence would also be “marked” with vinyl siding strips to reduce potential sage-grouse collisions. The vinyl strips are approximately 2x3 inches in size and hung about four feet apart in an alternating pattern along the field of the fence.
4. For additional design detail, please see Attachments 4 & 5.

#### Standard Operating Procedures

1. The livestock permittees would be responsible for fence maintenance defined in a cooperative agreement. Prior to final inspection all construction trash and excess debris would be removed from the public lands and disposed of at a site approved by the BLM Contracting Officer Representative or Project Inspector.

2. Fence construction activities would occur after the ground is dry.
3. During the breeding season (1 March to 15 May), construction activities would not begin within 2 miles of the lek until 10 am and would be over before dusk.
4. Vehicles and equipment would be cleaned prior to entry to the site for fence work to prevent or the spread or introduction of weeds.
5. Prior to construction, all trees and large brush would be completely removed and cleared back to 2' on either side of fence line as necessary to maintain proper fence alignment. All rocks used for rock basket construction shall be gathered as follows:
  - A. West Toney Burn Fence: rocks must be gathered on the west side of new fence, to prevent potential impacts to culture resources. This would be discussed and illustrated at the pre-work meeting.

### **Monitoring**

In coordination with the Nevada Department of Wildlife, monitoring of sage-grouse populations would continue. Areas of the fence line closest to the existing sage-grouse lek and known concentration areas would be checked periodically for bird strikes and would have markers added as necessary. The Barrel Wildfire and Toney Burn areas would be monitored periodically to ensure vegetation recovery continues. In addition, the pastures would be monitored for utilization and livestock compliance to ensure that the objectives of the 2004 grazing decision and AMP are met.

### ***NO ACTION***

The No Action Alternative would be to deny the construction of the pasture division fence. With this alternative, the Glenco Spring and Back of the House Use Areas would not be completely separate, and would have continual problems with cattle drifting back and forth between the use areas. This creates difficulties implementing the allotment management plan (AMP) for the Nevada Coleman Allotment, and putting unnecessary pressure on vegetative communities as well as increasing the workload for the livestock operators to keep their cattle in the authorized use area.

### ***ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED, BUT DROPPED FROM FURTHER ANALYSIS***

Other options considered but dismissed included a change in season of use, use of a temporary electric fence and herding. The change in a season of use would not achieve management objectives; due to the Glenco Spring Use Area requiring earlier use (hot season rest) to properly manage public and private riparian use. A temporary electric fence was considered, however the maintenance required was unreasonable, and even under stringent maintenance, it would not be entirely effective. Herding was considered both alone and in conjunction with an electric fence. Herding was dismissed due to the large amount of diligence still resulting in late season cattle use in the Glenco Spring Use area.

No other alternatives were proposed by the public or otherwise considered by BLM.

## **CHAPTER 3**

### **AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT**

#### ***INTRODUCTION AND GENERAL SETTING***

The proposed fenceline would travel through both the Layview-Westbutte-Hapgood (southern 2/3) and Tusune-Hartig soil (northern 1/3) associations. These soil associations are comprised of the following ecological sites: shallow loam 14+”P.Z., loamy 14-16”P.Z., loamy slope 16+”P.Z., steep north slope, south slope 12-16”P.Z. Elevation of the fenceline ranges from 5500 to 6200 feet. The topography includes elements of undulating terrain, as well as steep rocky rims and hillsides.

The north end of the fenceline is dominated by grasses including; bluebunch wheatgrass, needlegrasses, great basin wildrye and Idaho fescue. Mountain big sagebrush and antelope bitterbrush are among the shrubs found in this area. The southern 2/3 of the fenceline is dominated by grasses including; Idaho fescue, bluebunch wheatgrass, needlegrasses, and bluegrasses (*Poa* species). Mountain big sagebrush and low sagebrush are shrubs found in this area. The area surrounding Glenco Reservoir has a large component of cheatgrass.

Sagebrush communities dominate the vegetation including stands of low and big sagebrush. No pygmy rabbits occur in the general area of the project and habitat along the fenceline is not suitable for burrows. Two BLM sensitive species occur in the vicinity of the project, Greater sage-grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*) and golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*). One active sage-grouse strutting ground or “lek” is known to occur greater than 1 mile from the proposed fenceline. There are no known golden eagle nests within 1 mile of the project. The general area is considered summer or fall/transition habitat for mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus hemionus*) and summer habitat for pronghorn antelope (*Antilocapra americana* spp.). According to data from the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW), California bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis californica*) also occur in the area but use is probably minor based on lack of sightings and terrain directly along the route. Because bighorn are not well adapted to deep snow, most use probably occurs in the spring to fall months. Other common species in the area include: coyote, waterfowl, ground squirrel, black-tailed jackrabbit, cottontail, and bat (*Myotis* sp.).

Inventory for invasive non-native species was conducted in 2007 and 2008 after the Barrel Fire. In 2007 eleven Bull thistle sites totaling 2.7 acres, and 1 Canada thistle site totaling <0.001 acre were identified around the Glenco Reservoir and treated with Tordon. In 2008 six Bull thistle sites totaling 0.03 acres and 1 Bull thistle site totaling <0.001 acre were identified around the Glenco Reservoir and treated with Tordon. No inventory was conducted in 2009. During wildfire vegetation recovery monitoring,

cheatgrass was found in the lands surrounding the Glenco Reservoir at higher densities than other places monitored.

The Glenco Spring system of unfenced private and public lands that feeds the Glenco Reservoir is an intermittent, seasonal spring system that is ordinarily dry by late summer. However it supports riparian vegetation and attracts cattle pressure throughout the year, when cattle are in the Back of the House Use Area or Glenco Spring Use areas.

A search of the BLM cultural resource data base revealed that no cultural resource sites had been previously identified within the proposed project area. However, a number of prehistoric cultural resources had been identified in the vicinity of the project area. The majority of the resources are associated with tool stone procurement and hunting. The project area is also situated within an obsidian source that was frequently exploited by Native Americans. Prehistoric sites are often associated with obsidian cobbles that have been exposed through erosion processes. It was expected that sites such as these would be found within the project area. Portions of the project area had also been burned over during the Barrel Fire of 2005.

A Class III cultural resource inventory was completed for the project. As a result of the inventory three prehistoric archaeological sites were identified and recorded within the Area of Project Effect (APE). The sites are associated with lithic procurement and hunting. No historic resources were identified during the inventory. None of the sites have been evaluated for National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) significance; therefore the Bureau of Land Management assumes that the three sites are eligible to the NRHP. As a result of the identification of the cultural resources, the fence line was adjusted to avoid any direct or indirect impacts to cultural resources.

The east side of the fence includes a recent (2004) prescribed fire (the Toney Burn), and the west side (as well as a portion that overlapped with the Toney Burn) includes area in the approximately 25,000 acre Barrel Fire which burned in 2005. Directly to the west of the proposed fenceline is a large reservoir (Glenco Reservoir), and to the east are several fenced springs with troughs and a stockpond, so water would continue to be available on both sides of the fenceline. A fence was constructed in 2006 to the east of the proposed fenceline (see Attachment 2, Pinnacle Fence) that has portions within 0.6 miles of an active lek.

Currently, livestock have been maintained in each use area with a temporary electric fence and herding. This has not proven to be entirely effective. The season of use defined for each use area includes both an end date, and an end condition (such as: cattle would be removed by October 31, or when utilization of 60% is met). The cattle are removed when either is met, meaning that the cattle can be required to be removed before the end date on the permit. The cattle in the Glenco Spring Use area may be required to be removed early from the area for resource conditions, and the cattle in the Back of the House Use Area find their way readily into the riparian area.

## ***SUPPLEMENTAL AUTHORITIES OF THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT***

The following supplemental authorities of the human environment are specifically required by statute, regulation, and executive order and must be considered in the Proposed Action and Alternatives. Supplemental Authorities of the Human Environment are those elements that are subject to the requirements specified in statute, regulation, or executive order, and must be considered in all EAs (BLM H-1790-1, Appendix 5). These authorities have either been analyzed in the Environmental Assessment or are not present or not affected by the Proposed Action or Alternatives.

Consideration of Supplemental Authorities	Supplemental Authorities Review		
	N/A or Not Present	Applicable or Present, No Impact	Discussed in EA
Air Quality		✓	
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	✓		
Cultural Resources			✓
Climate Change		✓	
Environmental Justice (E.O. 12898)	✓		
Farm Lands (prime or unique)	✓		
Floodplains	✓		
Native American Religious Concerns		✓	
Invasive, Non-Native Species			✓
Threatened or Endangered Species		✓	
Wastes, Hazardous Substances or Solid Wastes	✓		
Water Quality	✓		
Wetlands/Riparian Zones			✓
Wild and Scenic Rivers (Eligible)	✓		
Wilderness	✓		
<b>Other Elements Considered</b>			
Wild Horses and Burros	✓		
Wildlife			✓
Recreation	✓		
Soils			✓
Vegetation			✓
Livestock Management			✓

All supplemental authorities and other elements are either not present or would not be affected by proposed action or any of the alternatives and will not be discussed further in this EA.

## **CHAPTER 4** **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS**

### ***DIRECT AND INDIRECT IMPACTS***

This section analyzes the impacts of the proposed action and no action alternatives to those resources described in the affected environment section 3, above.

## **CULTURAL RESOURCES:**

**PROPOSED ACTION** – The fence design has been adjusted to insure that there would be no direct or indirect effects to cultural resources. Therefore, there would be no direct or indirect impacts to cultural resources under the proposed action.

**NO ACTION** - There would be no direct or indirect impacts to cultural resources under this alternative.

## **INVASIVE/NON-NATIVE SPECIES:**

**PROPOSED ACTION** – Under the Proposed Action Alternative, the two use areas would be physically divided, allowing them to be utilized at different times without cattle moving freely and utilizing both areas. This controlled use and ability to adhere to the pasture rotation as set forth in the 2004 permit renewal EA and Final Decision would be expected to improve the vigor and reproduction of native perennial species. The improvement in vigor and reproduction should retard the spread of invasive species on the uplands and riparian areas, if enough native perennials are present.

**NO ACTION** - Under the No Action Alternative, the use areas would continue to have no physical separation, and the cattle would continue to move freely between the two use areas. With continued seasonal duration of use in certain high pressure areas, cheatgrass and thistles would be expected to increase. A decline in biodiversity would be expected to result on the uplands and riparian areas.

## **WETLANDS/RIPARIAN ZONES:**

**PROPOSED ACTION** - Under the Proposed Action Alternative, riparian habitat would be expected to improve in Glenco Spring. Currently, livestock pressure is experienced in the riparian area from 4/15-10/15, providing virtually no time for re-growth or recovery of the riparian system. By providing a physical division of these two use areas, Glenco Spring would receive use from 4/15-7/15, with a smaller amount of livestock use potentially until 9/30 (or when 60% upland utilization and/or 4-6” inch riparian stubble height standards are met, whichever occurs first). This livestock use system is expected to provide enough rest to the riparian system to allow for vegetation re-growth and improvement.

Implementation of the proposed action would reduce the drift of livestock from the Back of the House Use Area. This reduction in drift and enforcement of use criteria would allow for attainment of the stubble height standard, without drift cattle utilizing riparian areas after standards have been met. This increase in residual stubble height would provide for decreased erosion and a decrease in bare ground. Hoof action and possible compaction are expected to decrease. In addition, the increase in riparian vegetation is expected to decrease the shearing experienced by hoof action along the riparian system.

**NO ACTION** – Under the No Action Alternative the Glenco Spring riparian system would be expected to degrade through time under this amount and duration of use.

## **WILDLIFE:**

**PROPOSED ACTION** - This project is not expected to have any affect to pygmy rabbit because no sign of pygmy rabbit or their burrows was found during survey and design of this project, and habitat along the fenceline is not suitable for burrows, therefore this species will not be discussed further. The fenceline would not be built over or near water therefore this project would not be expected to directly impact bats or waterfowl, however indirect impacts for bats and waterfowl would include better foraging habitat due to improved riparian area. This action would increase the number of suitable perching sites (rock baskets) for golden eagles and other raptors to hunt from. This is expected to have negligible impacts to rodents and jack rabbits in the area.

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, habitat for sage-grouse, pronghorn antelope, mule deer and big horn as well as small mammals and other species would be improved. Improvements are expected to summer habitats for all species due to the ability to more effectively control the timing and duration of grazing, decreasing the utilization of herbaceous species in the riparian plant communities. Improvements to perennial grasses are also expected from improved grass establishment which in the long term would improve nesting cover for many ground and shrub nesting species such as sage-grouse. Cottontails, which prefer areas of higher grass cover, should also benefit.

The location chosen for the fence was analyzed in relation to the nearest sage-grouse lek as well as sign found on the ground. The proposed fenceline and associated rock jacks were moved away from these sites and are now more than 1 mile from the lek and other sage-grouse concentration areas. Additional mitigation involves adding markers to portions of the fenceline in order to make it more visible to flying birds. These actions are expected to minimize impacts the fence may have on local sage-grouse populations. Short-term negative impacts, such as entanglements, may occur as wildlife becomes acclimated. Some minor long-term negative impacts would occur to big game having to negotiate the fence. The fence would be built to BLM standards for big game which would reduce these negative impacts. The monitoring included in the proposed alternative would allow for early identification of sage grouse impacts and prompt response if impacts are identified.

**NO ACTION** – Under the No Action Alternative, season long use would continue in certain areas. These areas would experience declines in habitat for a number of wildlife species. There would be no negative impacts from sage-

grouse or other wildlife species colliding with the fence or having to learn to negotiate a new fence.

## **SOILS:**

**PROPOSED ACTION** - The Proposed Action Alternative would decrease ground disturbance in areas that are currently receiving season long impacts. Physically dividing use in the Back of the House Use Area and Glenco Spring Use Areas would result in improved soil conditions by allowing increased residual vegetation and litter for soil protection and function. Increased vegetative cover, both litter and standing crop would reduce the potential for soil erosion.

**NO ACTION** - Under the No Action Alternative, cattle would continue to have impacts on the soil in certain areas, which are above the amount analyzed in the 2004 EA. This higher concentration of use, and longer duration of time, contributes to soil disturbance.

## **VEGETATION:**

**PROPOSED ACTION** - Implementation of the Proposed Action would decrease the utilization of herbaceous species on the riparian and upland plant communities previously discussed. This decreased utilization would promote deep rooted native grass seedling establishment and recruitment by allowing each use area to only experience grazing pressure during the time of year, and by the amount of cattle, analyzed in the 2004 EA. As native grasses regain dominance, cheatgrass would be expected to decrease in prevalence.

**NO ACTION** - Under the No Action Alternative, concentrated grazing and browsing on key native plant communities would continue. The deep rooted native perennials in the Back of the House Use Area and Glenco Spring Use Areas would continue to be exposed to utilization during the entire growing season. During Barrel Fire monitoring, it was noted that the burned areas surrounding Glenco Reservoir contained high amounts of cheatgrass when compared to other areas involved in the Barrel Fire. Continued season long use would slow/impede the vegetative improvement seen within these use areas.

## **LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT:**

**PROPOSED ACTION** - Construction of the proposed fence would allow the permittees to utilize the allotment according to the 2004 permit renewal EA. In the current pasture rotation, the Glenco Spring area is to be used for 370 cattle from 4/15-7/15 and 100 cattle from 7/16-9/30, or until 60% upland utilization and/or 4-6" stubble height in 2/3 of the riparian is met, whichever comes first. The majority of the livestock are out of the Glenco Spring Use area by 7/15. The majority of the livestock are out of the Glenco Spring Use Area by 7/15, and this operator has requested in the past to run slightly higher numbers of cattle for a shorter duration of time. The Back of the House Use Area is scheduled for use by

122 cattle from 6/16-10/15. Pasture movements would require work from the permittee, however maintaining cattle in the Glenco Spring and Back of the House Use Areas would no longer require daily vigilance from the livestock operator.

**NO ACTION** - Impacts of the No Action alternative would include unauthorized use by two permittees, due to drift between two separately managed pastures. Allotment management would be difficult and pasture rest would be impossible to achieve.

## **CUMULATIVE IMPACTS**

Cumulative impacts are the “incremental impacts of a proposal when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, regardless of which agency or person undertakes them” (40 Code of Federal Regulations 1508.7)

Of the affected resources analyzed in this section, livestock grazing, upland vegetation, riparian vegetation, and wildlife habitat would be the focus of the cumulative analysis. Other affected resources are not specifically analyzed in this Chapter because the potential cumulative impacts are directly related to livestock grazing management and their cumulative impacts on vegetation (habitat) quantity and quality.

The Nevada Coleman Allotment has roughly 47 miles of allotment boundary fence dividing the allotment from other allotments. There is roughly 22.5 miles of fence already surrounding this pasture (about 3 miles of this is pasture boundary fence, the other 19.5 miles is allotment boundary fence). This project would add an additional 4.1 miles of fence to the existing 7.2 miles within 2 miles of the active sage grouse lek. There would be no additional fence constructed within the 0.6 mile buffer around the active lek recommended within the Greater Sage Grouse Conservation Plan for Nevada and Eastern California – First Edition – Vya P.M.U. (N.D.O.W., 2004).

### **Past and Present Actions**

Livestock grazing has had a long history in the region dating back to the late 1800's. Today, it remains the dominant use in the cumulative impact assessment area. To implement provisions of the Taylor Grazing Act and the Nevada Coleman Allotment Management Plan, a mixture of range improvements projects were constructed on the allotment. The projects include fences, cattleguards, wells, spring developments, and reservoirs.

Throughout its history, ranching has remained a dispersed activity characterized by localized areas of more intensive use. Impacts of past actions include generally over-utilization of forage resources that resulted in a decrease in the composition and production of native bunchgrass, and the loss of riparian vegetation. Deep rooted native grasses have experienced localized over-utilized, resulting in a vegetation shift to shallow rooted grasses. In addition, non-native vegetation has become prevalent in the areas experiencing deep rooted grass loss and vegetation shifts.

Riparian areas have experienced reduced flows in certain areas throughout grazing areas, due in part to water developments re-routing existing water. Many riparian areas have experienced a decrease in presence of stabilizing vegetation species. This decrease in stabilizing species, in addition to concentrated grazing, result in a greater amount of hoof shearing and bare ground. Accelerated erosion would result from the greater amounts of bare ground and the decrease in stabilizing vegetation.

Wildlife habitat has experienced declines in many areas, due to the vegetation shifts and decreases in cover and residual stubble heights. There are increases in perch sites created through the development of fences and other structures that are taller than the surrounding vegetation. Some migratory routes have been disturbed and sometimes rerouted due to fencelines.

### **Reasonable Foreseeable Future Actions**

If monitoring provides information that fencing is having negative impacts on the sage grouse, the Pinnacle Fence may require reflective tape or fence removal. Grazing would continue as currently permitted for the duration of the permit life, however different pasture management would be considered in the next NEPA review if conditions warrant.

### **Cumulative Impacts of Past, Present and Reasonably Foreseeable Actions**

#### **Alternative 1 - Proposed Action**

The cumulative effect on livestock management of the proposed action together with past, present and reasonably foreseeable future actions would include more operator convenience resulting from effective physical barriers. Livestock compliance with the AMP would be achievable.

The cumulative effect on upland vegetation of the proposed action together with past, present and reasonably foreseeable future actions would be an increase in the seedling establishment and recruitment of deep rooted native perennial grasses throughout the area. The increase of these grasses would retard growth and spread of non-native and invasive vegetation, such as cheatgrass.

The cumulative effect on riparian vegetation of the proposed action together with past, present and reasonably foreseeable future actions would be an increase in residual stubble heights. This would promote vegetation seedling establishment and recruitment. In the long term this would be expected to create decreases in the amount of bare ground. Rates of erosion would slow, and hoof shearing would be decreased.

Improvements in upland and riparian vegetation communities would be expected to translate directly into improvements in many wildlife habitats. Any migratory routes that have been affected by past actions would not be expected to receive any additional impact through the proposed action, due in part to the 3 wire design along the majority of the fenceline, as well as the placement of the fenceline.

The possibility of removal of the Pinnacle Fence would necessitate adjustments to the pasture use on the east of that fenceline.

**Alternative 2 - No Action**

Cumulative effects of continuing present management would include continued levels of concentrated grazing and browsing on key native plant communities. The deep rooted native perennials in the Back of the House Use Area and Glenco Spring Use Areas would continue experiencing utilization during the entire growing season, negatively impacting these species. These areas would experience declines in habitat for a number of wildlife species. There would be no negative impacts from sage-grouse or other wildlife species colliding with the fence or having to learn to negotiate a new fence.

Under the No Action Alternative, the use areas would continue to have no effective physical separation, and the cattle would continue to move freely between the two use areas. With continued seasonal duration of use in certain high pressure areas a decline in biodiversity would be seen, and cheatgrass and thistles are expected to increase.

**Monitoring**

All monitoring is contained in the Proposed Action, and no additional monitoring is recommended.

**CHAPTER 5**  
**PERSONS, GROUPS, AND AGENCIES CONSULTED**

***BLM Preparers***

List of BLM Preparers

Penni Borghi; Archaeologist	Elias Flores; Wildlife/Fisheries Biologist
Steve Surian; Supervisory Rangeland Management Specialist	Kathryn Dyer; Rangeland Management Specialist

# Attachment 1. Project location

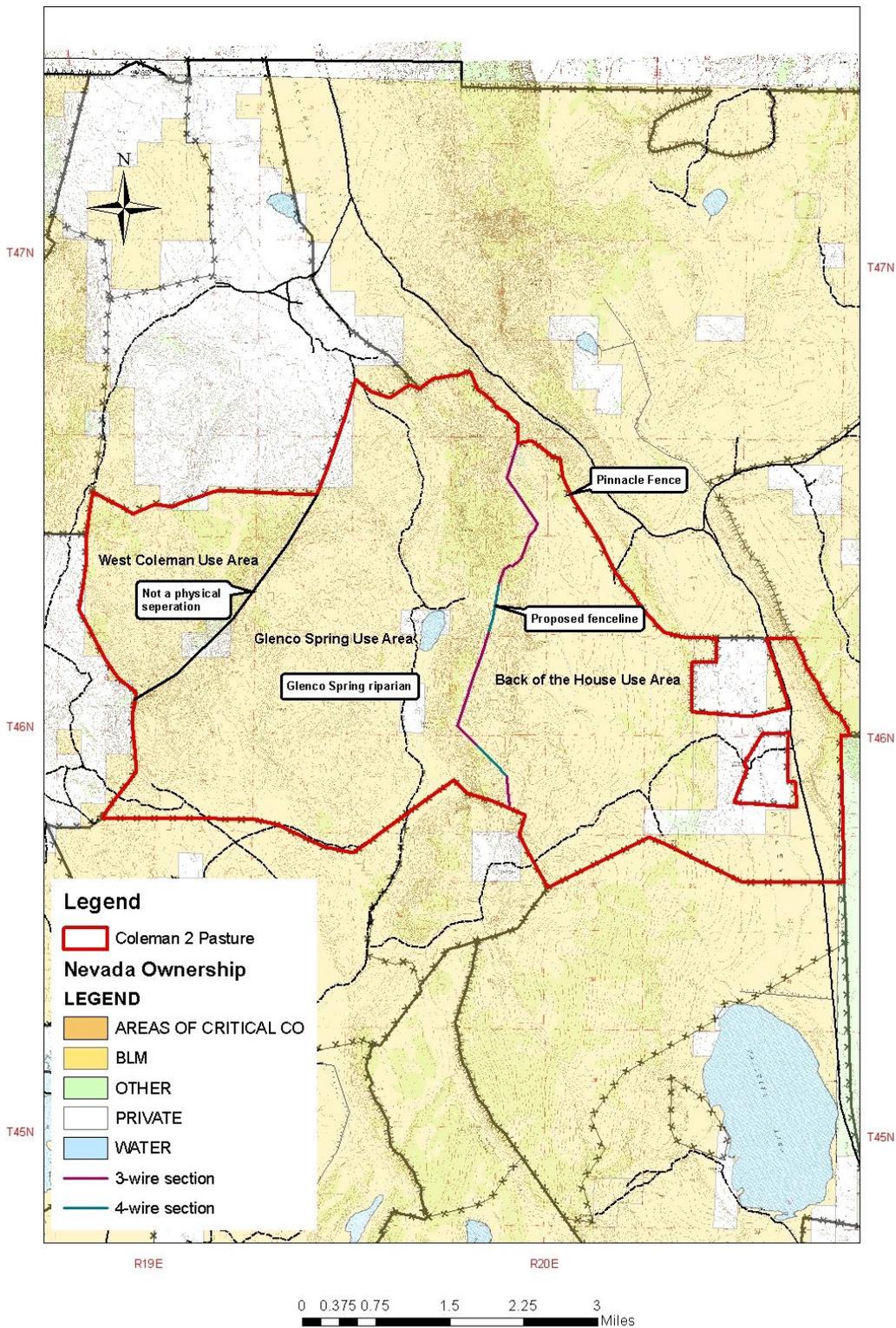


**West Toney Burn Fence  
Project Location**



scale 1:250,000  
12/3/09  
for internal use only

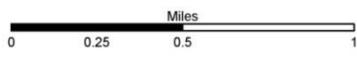
**Attachment 2: The 3 use areas in the Coleman 2 Pasture**



# Attachment 3. West Toney Burn Fence



## West Toney Burn Fence



scale 1:18,000  
12/3/09  
for internal use only

**Attachment 4:**

WORK DATA SHEET  
for  
SECTION 02824 - WIRE FENCES AND GATES

Fence type: Barbed Wire Fence, 3-Wire Standard

Type of top wire: Barbed

Type of intermediate wire: Barbed

Type of bottom wire: Barbed

Wire locations/dimensions in inches (spacing)

Standard  
3-Wire Spacing

D: 6"

C: 12"

B: 10"

A: 20"

Line post spacing (L): 16 ft 6 inches

Type of Stays: 24" smooth galvanized 9-ga wire

Stay spacing (l): 8 ft 3 inches

Length of steel posts (H<sub>1</sub>): 7 ft 0 inches

Depth of steel posts in ground (h<sub>1</sub>): 3 ft 0 inches

Length of steel T-posts (H<sub>2</sub>): 5 ft 6 inches

Depth of steel T-posts in ground (h<sub>2</sub>): 1 ft 6 inches

**Attachment 5:**

WORK DATA SHEET  
for  
SECTION 02824 - WIRE FENCES AND GATES

Fence type: Barbed Wire Fences, 4-Wire Standard

Type of top wire: Barbed

Type of intermediate wires: Barbed

Type of bottom wire: Smooth

Wire locations/dimensions in inches (spacing):

Standard  
4-Wire Spacing

E: Varies

D: 12"

C: 6"

B: 6"

A: 18"

Line post spacing (L): 16 ft 6 inches

Type of Stays: 30" smooth galvanized 9-ga wire

Stay spacing (l): 8 ft 3 inches

Length of steel posts (H<sub>1</sub>): 7 ft 0 inches

Depth of steel posts in ground (h<sub>1</sub>): 3 ft 0 inches

Length of steel T-posts (H<sub>2</sub>): 5 ft 6 inches

Depth of steel T-posts in ground (h<sub>2</sub>): 1 ft 6 inches

**United States Department of Interior**

**Bureau of Land Management  
Surprise Field Office  
Interdisciplinary Team Review Record**

**AD/CX/EA Name and Number:** West Toney Burn Fence DOI-BLM-CA-N070-2010-0003

**Proposed Action:** The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) proposes to allow construction of 4.2 miles of fence to separate the Toney Burn and Glenco Spring use areas. The proposed fence would be located in Washoe County, NV, T.46 N, R.20 E, sections 21, 16, 9, 4.

**Date Submitted for Comments:** 12/15/09

**Complete Review:**

**Project Leader(s):** Kathryn Dyer

Resource	Specialist	Initials	Date	Review Comments
Air Quality	Kathryn Dyer			
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	Penni Borghi			
Cultural Resources	Penni Borghi			
Environmental Justice	Penni Borghi			
Farmlands (Prime or Unique)	Kathryn Dyer			
Floodplains	Kathryn Dyer			
Invasive, Non-native Species	Kathryn Dyer			
Native American Religious Concerns	Penni Borghi			
Threatened, Endangered or Candidate Species	Elias Flores			
Wastes (hazardous or solid)	Ken Collum			
Water Quality (drinking/ground)	Kathryn Dyer			
Wetlands/Riparian Zones	Elias Flores			
Wild and Scenic Rivers	Kathryn Dyer			
WSA/Wilderness	Penni Borghi			
Rangeland Health Standards and Guidelines	Steve Surian			
Livestock Grazing	Kathryn Dyer			
Woodland / Forestry	Garth Jeffers			

<b>Resource</b>	<b>Specialist</b>	<b>Initials</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Review Comments</b>
Vegetation including Special Status plant species	Kathryn Dyer			
Fish and Wildlife including Special Status Species	Elias Flores			
Soils	Kathryn Dyer			
Recreation	Penni Borghi			
Visual Resources	Penni Borghi			
Geology / Mineral Resources	Ken Collum			
Paleontology	Penni Borghi			
Lands / Access	Ken Collum			
Fuels / Fire Management	Garth Jeffers			
Socio-economics	Kathryn Dyer			
Wild Horses	Steve Surian			
NCA	Roger Farschon			
other				