

The BLM Battle Mountain District Office (BMDO) is revising the Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the BMDO planning area. The BMDO RMP will provide detailed information about the current state of resources on public lands within the planning area, and set forth a plan of action for managing those resources for the next twenty or so years under the BLM's dual mandate of *multiple use* and *sustained yield*.

Forest and Woodland Management

Forest and woodland management of the public domain lands is focused on forest health restoration, reducing the risk of catastrophic wildfire, and forest product sales by commercial green and salvage timber sales as well as personal use permits. In addition to wood permits, the Battle Mountain District issues permits for other products; for example, permits for the collection of wildings, pinyon nuts, and specific seeds.

Potential Issues to be address include:

- How will pinyon/juniper woodlands be managed, including old growth to enhance watersheds, reduce surface erosion, improve water quality, and meet public demands?
- How will pinyon-juniper forest and woodlands be managed to enhance and protect habitat for wildlife, to include Special Status Species?

Forestry and Woodland Habitats

- Single-leaf Pinyon/Utah Juniper
- Curl-leaf Mountain Mahogany
- Limber Pine
- Bristle Cone Pine
- Aspen
- Cottonwood
- Joshua Trees



Special Forest Products

- Fuelwood
 - e.g. pinyon and juniper firewood
- Pine nuts
- Christmas Trees
- Wildings
 - e.g. Joshua trees and creosote
- Juniper Posts
- Seeds
 - e.g. *Stipa* spp. and *Kochia* spp
- Biomass



Aspen

Aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) is a deciduous tree that is the most common tree across North America (Hessyl 2002 and Kay 2001) and is under a decline in the west (Kay 2001, Wall et al. 2001, Hessyl 2002). A unique feature of this tree species is that it predominantly grows vegetatively from ramets rather than seed (Kay 2001, Wall et al. 2001, and Tueller and Breland 2003). Successful aspen seeding is rare; according to Kay (2001) there hasn't been suitable climatic condition for aspen seedling success for thousands of years. Under this thought, individual stands (growing from clonal means) have been in existence for centuries (Kay 2001 and Hessyl 2002). In Nevada, aspen stands provide a distinctive habitat of significant importance to wildlife species (Greenway 1990, Kay 2001, Hessyl 2002, Pojar and Bowden 2004, and Fairhurst and Bechard 2005). Biological diversity is higher in aspen stands than many other habitat types for both wildlife and vegetation. Aspen is important habitat for fawning/calving of mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) and elk (*Cervus canadensis*) (Pojar and Bowden 2004). It is also important for other species, including birds, for example the Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*). In Nevada, Northern Goshawks almost nest exclusively in aspen (Fairhurst and Bechard 2005).

Joshua Tree

Joshua Tree (*Yucca brevifolia*) occurs in the Southern Great Basin – Mojave Transition of the areas of our district. The plant occurs on well drained and skeletal soils and prefers sloping landscape. The trunk of a Joshua tree is made of thousands of small fibers and lacks annual growth rings, making it difficult to determine the tree's age. This tree has a top-heavy branch system, but also has what has been described as a "deep and extensive" root system, with roots possibly reaching up to 11 m (36 ft) away. If it survives the rigors of the desert, it can live for hundreds of years with some specimens surviving up to a thousand years. The tallest trees reach about 15 m tall. New plants can grow from seed, but in some populations, new stems grow from underground rhizomes that spread out around the Joshua tree. This population is increasing in many areas of the southern part of the district.



The BLM wants your input...

- **Do you know of any Special Forest Product areas that concern you, or places you might want to see new fuelwood areas, and if so, where are these areas located?**
- **Do you know of stands of trees that are currently in an unhealthy state and/or need attention, and if so, what is the location?**

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BMDO Planning Webpage:
www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/battle_mountain_field/blm_information/rmp.com

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