



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

CARSON CITY DISTRICT

Environmental Assessment

Proposed Carson Interagency Fire Facility

PROPOSED PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Bureau of Land Management Carson City District, Sierra Front Field Office (BLM) is proposing construction of a new interagency fire facility. The new construction would provide office and support buildings for BLM wildland fire fighting resources and seasonal housing for both the BLM and Humboldt Toiyabe National Forest Carson Ranger District (USFS). The purpose of the proposed fire facility is to enhance federal fire fighting capacity locally, regionally and nationally. Having this facility available would aid in the recruitment and retention of highly qualified individuals. The proposed site is located on 15 acres of BLM managed public land east of the corner of South Edmonds Drive and Koontz Lane in Carson City, Nevada. Upon completion of the project, the facility would provide seasonal housing for BLM and USFS employees and operational centers for both a type one interagency hotshot crew and the BLM's Carson City initial attack wildland firefighting resources. The BLM is preparing an environmental assessment (EA) to assess the direct, indirect, residual, and cumulative impacts of the proposed project.

This information sheet serves to inform the public and to invite you to submit any comments you have regarding the implementation of the proposed project.

The BLM proposes to construct a new fire facility. The facility would be constructed to existing approved BLM fire station plans and specifications. Construction would include the hotshot operations center, garage, crew quarters for two crews and a parking area. Additional support structures would include a flammable storage building, security fencing and lighting. Future construction would include an initial attack operation center, garage and parking area.

General landscaping would be xeriscape with locally available shrubs and trees. A small lawn area may be included. Trees would be arranged to provide filtered shielding for neighbors to the North and South. The site would be landscaped to create and maintain the following: 1) a pleasant living area, 2) provide visual screening and sound barriers for adjacent residential development, and 3) prevent dust generation. The entrance to the facility would be located on the existing dirt portion of Koontz Lane, on the north side of the building site and would be paved up to the entrance. Utility connection points are located adjacent to the property. Connection to city and private utilities would be in accordance to specifications set by the city engineering department. It is anticipated that the facility would be utilized primarily during the fire season which generally runs from April through November of each year. Typical daily operations would be from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm. All outdoor light fixtures would be

constructed in such a manner that no light would be emitted above the horizontal plane of the fixture (full cutoff shielded lighting). To minimize sky glow, glare and light pollution, corner security floodlights would be photocell operated compact florescent lights (CFLs).

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Independent of the facility construction Carson City is proposing the construction and maintenance of a storm water sedimentation basin at the northeast corner of the intersection of Valley View Drive and South Edmonds Drive on BLM managed public land. The proposed sedimentation basin would help to capture sediment and debris, and would also help reduce the severity of the peak flow rate during storm events. The storm water sedimentation basin would provide for added public safety for vehicles traveling on Edmonds Drive and would help to minimize City maintenance efforts in the future.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Federal, State, and local agencies and other organizations or individuals who may be interested in or affected by a BLM decision to issue the right-of-way grants for the proposed project are invited and encouraged to participate in the scoping process and to provide written comments on issues to be addressed in the EA. The proposed action will be discussed at the Carson City Planning Commission meeting on February 25, 2009. The public scoping period for public comment is open until the close of business on March 11, 2009.

Please submit your comments in writing for the Carson Interagency Fire Facility EA by March 11, 2009.

Comments may be sent by mail, e-mail, or fax to:

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