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**Worksheet**  
**Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**  
**Bureau of Land Management**

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**OFFICE:** Elko District Office

**TRACKING NUMBER:** DOI-BLM-NV-N010-2011-0001-DNA

**CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER:** 3100

**PROPOSED ACTION TITLE/TYPE:** March, 2011 Oil & Gas Lease Sale

**LOCATION/LEGAL DESCRIPTION:** See Attachment 1

**APPLICANT:** This is a BLM initiated action, based on nominations from industry

**A. Description of the Proposed Action and any applicable mitigation measures**

The BLM, Elko District, proposes to have the State Director offer the 3 nominated parcels in the Elko District, totaling approximately 6,314.53 acres for Oil & Gas leasing in a state-wide competitive lease sale in March, 2011. **Attachment 1** is the parcel list containing legal descriptions of the nominated parcels and a general location map of the parcels.. The parcels would be offered subject to leasing stipulations as identified in the attached table (**Attachment 2**). The full text of each stipulation is in **Attachment 3**. More detailed map(s) of the parcels are available upon request to the Elko District. The parcels are within areas covered by the 1987 Elko and 1985 Wells Resource Management Plan (RMP), and all are designated as open to leasing. None of the parcels are in or close to a wilderness study area. The parcel in the Elko RMP planning area is in Pine Valley. Parcels in the Wells RMP planning area are in the Toano Draw.

As noted in **Attachment 2**, none of the parcels require application of the special recreation management area or developed campground stipulations.

- The stipulations for Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Species (OG-010-05-01), and Raptor Nesting Sites (OG-010-05-02) would be attached to all leases.
- Special stipulation applicable to some of the proposed lease parcels are for Sage Grouse (Strutting Grounds, Brood Rearing Areas and Crucial Winter Habitat).
- The stipulation for Cultural Resources/Native American Consultation (OG-010-05-03) also would be attached to all leases. Many of the leases also include notices to advise the potential lessee of the presence of historic roads, trails, structures and/or railroads eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

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## B. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance

|   |                                 |
|---|---------------------------------|
| <b>LUP Name*</b> Wells Resource Management Plan | <b>Date Approved</b> July 1985  |
| <b>LUP Name*</b> Elko Resource Management Plan  | <b>Date Approved</b> March 1987 |

Other document (s): **December 2005 Lease Sale Decision Record, September 20, 2005**

**The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decisions:**

The 1985 Record of Decision (ROD) for the Wells RMP, page 25, provides that, *“The public lands will be managed in a manner which recognizes the Nation’s needs for domestic sources of minerals.”* As a standard operating procedure, the ROD prescribes that, *“Time-of-day and/or time-of-year restrictions will be placed on construction activities associated with leasable and saleable mineral explorations and/or development that are in the immediate vicinity or would cross crucial sage grouse, crucial deer and pronghorn antelope winter habitats, antelope kidding areas, or raptor nesting areas.”*

The 1987 Elko RMP ROD determined lands subject to leasing as follows (Page 35 and Map 13):

- (1) Open – subject to standard leasing stipulations
- (2) Limited – subject to no surface occupancy (Special Recreation Managements Areas and sage grouse strutting grounds)
- (3) Limited – subject to seasonal restrictions.(crucial deer winter range, crucial antelope yearlong habitat and sage grouse brood rearing areas).
- (4) Closed – wilderness and wilderness study areas recommended for designation.

The Minerals Objective is to: *“Maintain public lands open for exploration, development and production of mineral resources while mitigating conflicts with wildlife, wild horses, recreation and wilderness resources.”*

## C. Identify applicable National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents and other related documents that cover the proposed action.

**List by name and date all applicable NEPA documents that cover the proposed action.**

December 2005 Oil and Gas Lease Sale Environmental Assessment (BLM/EK/PL-2005/005). FONSI/DR signed September 20, 2005

Note: The 2005 EA tiers to the environmental impact statements (EISs) for the 1987 Elko Resource Management Plan and the 1985 Wells Resource Management Plan (RMPs).

**List by name and date other documents relevant to the proposed action (e.g., biological assessment, biological opinion, watershed assessment, allotment evaluation, and monitoring report).**

See References for the 2005 EA.

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## D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

- 1. Is the new proposed action a feature of, or essentially similar to, an alternative analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? Is the project within the same analysis area, or if the project location is different, are the geographic and resource conditions sufficiently similar to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? If there are differences, can you explain why they are not substantial?**

### **Documentation of answer and explanation:**

Yes. This action is similar to the action analyzed in the 2005 EA for the Elko District parcels. Geographic and resource conditions of the currently nominated parcels are similar to the parcels analyzed in the EA. There are no unusual situations that affect leasing of the parcels that would not be mitigated by the stipulations indicated by Attachment 2.

- 2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the new proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values?**

### **Documentation of answer and explanation:**

Yes. The analysis of impacts for the Proposed Action in the 2005 EA considered current information on natural, cultural, social and economic resources with respect to leasing activities. One of the alternatives analyzed in the 2005 EA was to defer consideration of nominated parcels for a future sale, pending further study needed before the Elko District could determine measures to best mitigate potential impacts to these resources however, there were no issues requiring deferment of parcels in this offering.

- 3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances (such as, rangeland health standard assessment, recent endangered species listings, updated lists of BLM-sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that new information and new circumstances would not substantially change the analysis of the new proposed action?**

### **Documentation of answer and explanation:**

Yes. Issues and stipulations were identified using the same method used for the 2005 oil & gas leasing EA. Elko District specialists screened the nominated parcels using data available from our Geographic Information System (GIS) in combination with reports and current information available from other agencies and sources, such as the Nevada Department of Wildlife. This includes consideration of the most recent list of sensitive species. There are no new circumstances or unusual conditions or concerns for the parcels in the Elko District proposed to be offered in the lease sale that would change the analysis and conclusions for the currently proposed leasing action.

- 4. Are the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects that would result from implementation of the new proposed action similar (both quantitatively and qualitatively) to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document?**

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**Documentation of answer and explanation:**

Yes. Resource concerns and impacts are substantially the same as those addressed in the 2005 EA, and would be mitigated by the lease stipulations as identified for the new proposed action. The 2005 EA included a reasonably foreseeable development scenario that anticipates expected disturbance and impacts from leasing activities. The analysis continues to apply to the impacts of leasing activities for periodic lease sales.

**5. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current proposed action?**

**Documentation of answer and explanation:**

Yes. Preparation of the EISs for the 1985 Wells RMP and 1987 Elko RMP included full participation of the public and a Governor's consistency review. The 2005 EA was prepared based on scoping and review from the public, other agencies and tribes. Coordination with tribes and the Nevada Department of Wildlife on leasing activities is ongoing.

**E. Persons/Agencies/BLM Staff Consulted**

| <b>NAME</b>    | <b>TITLE</b>                         | <b>AGENCY REPRESENTED</b> |
|----------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Allen Mariluch | Project Lead                         | BLM                       |
| Mark Dean      | Hydrologist                          | BLM                       |
| Tim Murphy     | Archaeologist                        | BLM                       |
| Nycole Burton  | Wildlife Biologist                   | BLM                       |
| Kirk Laird     | Planning & Environmental Coordinator | BLM                       |

**Note: Refer to the EA for a complete list of the team members participating in the preparation of the existing environmental analysis or planning documents.**

**Conclusion**

**Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of the NEPA.**

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**Planning & Environmental Coordinator**

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**Manager, Elko District**

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**Date**

**Note: The signed Conclusion on this worksheet is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal decision process and does not constitute an appealable decision. However, the lease, permit, or other authorization based on this DNA is subject to protest or appeal under 43 CFR Part 4 and the program-specific regulations.**

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## **March 2011 Oil & Gas Lease Sale**

### **Attachment 1**

Parcel List with legal descriptions

General Parcel Location Map

### **Attachment 2**

Table 1 – Lease Stipulations per Parcel

### **Attachment 3**

Elko District Lease Stipulations

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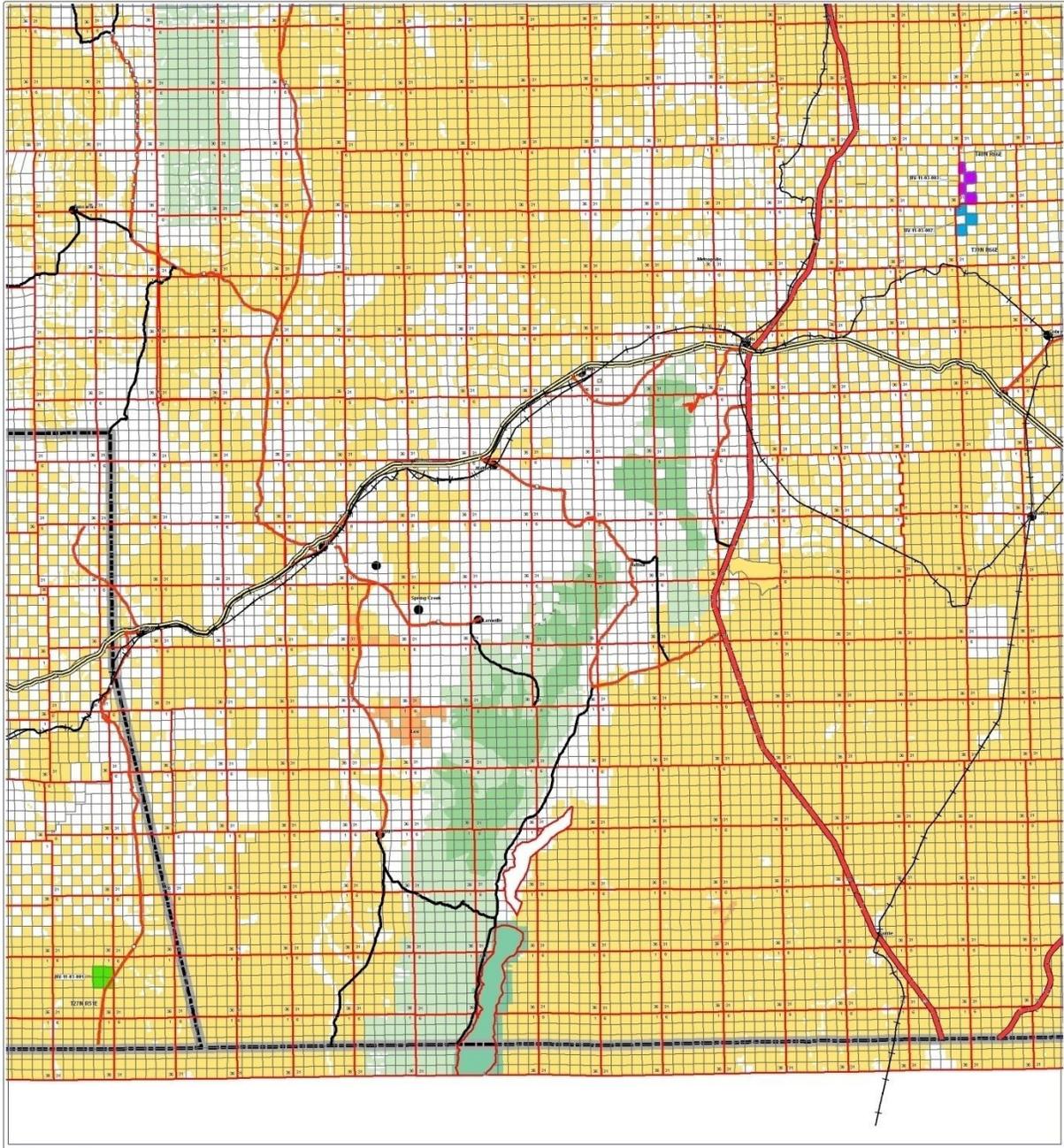
# **Attachment 1**

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NV-11-03-001      2391.820 Acres  
T.0270N, R.0510E, 21 MDM, NV  
Sec. 011 ALL;  
    012 ALL;  
    013 LOTS 1-4;  
    013 W2;  
    014 ALL;  
Eureka County  
Elko DO  
Formerly Lease No.

NV-11-03-002      1905.320 Acres  
T.0390N, R.0660E, 21 MDM, NV  
Sec. 006 LOTS 1,2,6-15;  
    006 S2NE,E2SW;  
    008 ALL;  
    018 LOTS 1-4;  
    018 E2,E2W2;  
Elko County  
Elko DO  
Formerly Lease No.

NV-11-03-003      2017.390 Acres  
T.0400N, R.0660E, 21 MDM, NV  
Sec. 018 LOTS 5-16;  
    020 ALL;  
    030 LOTS 5-16;  
    032 ALL;  
Elko County  
Elko DO  
Formerly Lease No.



**Legend**

tvprng\_dist region.tvprng

og\_sale\_03\_11

Parcel\_ID

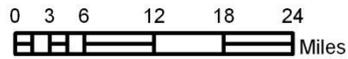
NV-11-03-001

NV-11-03-002

NV-11-03-003

Data published in:  
North American Datum 1983 (NAD83)  
UTM coordinate, Zone 11, meters

\*NO WARRANTY IS MADE BY THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT AS TO THE ACCURACY, RELIABILITY, OR COMPLETENESS OF THESE DATA FOR INDIVIDUAL USE OR AGGREGATE USE WITH OTHER DATA.\*



1:800,000



**ELKO DISTRICT OFFICE  
OIL and GAS Lease Sale  
March 2011**

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
ELKO DISTRICT OFFICE



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## **Attachment 2**

| Table 1A - March 2011 Oil & Gas Lease Sale Elko District Parcel Stipulations |  |              |                    |                   |                              |                       |                  |                   |                              |                              |                   |                          |                               |
|--|--|--------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Elko Stip No.  | 010-05-01  | 010-05-02    | 010-05-03          | 010-05-04         | 010-05-05                    | 010-05-06             | 010-05-07        | 010-05-08         | 010-05-09                    | 010-05-10                    | 010-05-11         | 010-05-13                |                               |
| PARCEL   | T/E & Sensitive Species  | Raptor Nests | Cultural Resources | Crucial Mule Deer | Crucial Antelope Winter Area | Antelope Kidding Area | Sage Grouse Leks | Sage Grouse Brood | Sage Grouse Crucial Corridor | I-80 Low Visibility Corridor | Special Rec. Mgmt | National Historic Trails |                               |
| Acres  |  |              |                    |                   |                              |                       |                  |                   |                              |                              |                   | Notes                    |                               |
| NV-11-03-001   | X  | X            | X                  |                   |                              |                       |                  | X                 |                              |                              |                   |                          | Spotted Frogs, Burrowing Owls |
| NV-11-03-002   | X  | X            | X                  |                   |                              |                       |                  | X                 | X                            |                              |                   |                          | Mule deer intermediate        |
| NV-11-03-003   | X  | X            | X                  |                   |                              |                       | X (1)            |                   | X                            |                              |                   |                          | Mule deer intermediate        |
| <b>Total Acres</b>   |  |              |                    |                   |                              |                       |                  |                   |                              |                              |                   |                          |                               |
|  | <b>NOTES ELKO DISTRICT ADVISORY TO POTENTIAL LESSEE</b>  |              |                    |                   |                              |                       |                  |                   |                              |                              |                   |                          |                               |
| <b>A</b>   | Historic roads or trails eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places may be present. Impact mitigation may require substantial buffers to protect viewshed of trail.  |              |                    |                   |                              |                       |                  |                   |                              |                              |                   |                          |                               |
| <b>B</b>   | Historic Structures eligible for the National Register of Historic Places may be present. Impact mitigation may require substantial buffers.   |              |                    |                   |                              |                       |                  |                   |                              |                              |                   |                          |                               |
| <b>C</b>   | Historic Railroads eligible for the National Register of Historic Places may be present. Impact mitigation may require substantial buffers.  |              |                    |                   |                              |                       |                  |                   |                              |                              |                   |                          |                               |
| <b>D</b>   | The parcel has a high potential for containing important cultural resources. Development of mitigation measures may delay timeliness of permit approvals and restrict surface occupancy.   |              |                    |                   |                              |                       |                  |                   |                              |                              |                   |                          |                               |
| <b>F</b>   | The proposed parcel intersects the 100 year floodplain. Special restrictions may apply to protect floodplain function.   |              |                    |                   |                              |                       |                  |                   |                              |                              |                   |                          |                               |
| <b>G</b>   | High priority stream habitat (Elko RMP) or stream habitat (Wells RMP) exists within the proposed parcel. Special restrictions may apply to protect habitat   |              |                    |                   |                              |                       |                  |                   |                              |                              |                   |                          |                               |
| <b>H</b>   | The proposed parcel intersects a water resource for which water quality standards apply. Special restrictions may apply to protect water quality.  |              |                    |                   |                              |                       |                  |                   |                              |                              |                   |                          |                               |
| <b>I</b>   | The proposed parcel intersects a source water protection zone. Special restrictions may apply to protect drinking water  |              |                    |                   |                              |                       |                  |                   |                              |                              |                   |                          |                               |
| <b>J</b>   | The parcel occurs in crucial mule deer summer range.   |              |                    |                   |                              |                       |                  |                   |                              |                              |                   |                          |                               |
| <b>N</b>   | Big Horn Sheep may occur   |              |                    |                   |                              |                       |                  |                   |                              |                              |                   |                          |                               |
| <b>O</b>   | Sensitive bat species may occur  |              |                    |                   |                              |                       |                  |                   |                              |                              |                   |                          |                               |
| <b>P</b>   | Class II VRM. Management activities may be seen but should not attract the attention of the casual observer. Any changes must repeat the basic elements of form, line, color, and texture found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape  |              |                    |                   |                              |                       |                  |                   |                              |                              |                   |                          |                               |
| <b>Q</b>   | Class III objective is to partially retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be moderate. Management activities may attract attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes should repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the landscape. So changes caused by management activities may be evident and begin to attract attention, but these changes should remain subordinate to the existing landscape. |              |                    |                   |                              |                       |                  |                   |                              |                              |                   |                          |                               |

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# **Attachment 3**

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## **March 2011 Oil & Gas Lease Sale Elko District Lease Stipulations**

### **LEASE STIPULATION OG-010-05-01: Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Species**

The lease area may now or hereafter contain plants, animals, or their habitats determined to be threatened, endangered, or other special status species. BLM may recommend modifications to exploration and development proposals to further its conservation and management objective to avoid BLM-approved activity that will contribute to a need to list such a species or their habitat. BLM may require modifications to or disapprove proposed activity that is likely to result in jeopardy to the continued existence of a proposed or listed threatened or endangered species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of a designated or proposed critical habitat. BLM will not approve any ground-disturbing activity that may affect any such species or critical habitat until it complete its obligations under applicable requirements of the Endangered Species Act as amended, 16 USC&1531 et seq., including completion of any required procedure for conference or consultation.

Authority: BLM Washington Office Instruction Memorandum 2002-174; Endangered Species Act

### **LEASE STIPULATION OG-010-05-02: Raptor Nesting Sites**

This lease may contain lands with active raptor nesting sites. These lands are subject to seasonal protection from disturbance to avoid displacement and mortality of raptor young. Restrictions apply up to a 0.5 mile radius around the active nesting sites of the following species during the period described. The entire Elko District may provide suitable nesting for one or more of the species listed below.

- A. Golden Eagles and Great Horned Owls during the period 1/1-6/30, inclusive.
- B. Long-eared Owls during the period 2/1-5/15, inclusive.
- C. Prairie Falcons during the period 3/1-6/30, inclusive.
- D. Ferruginous Hawks, Northern Harriers and Barn Owls during the period 3/1-7/31, inclusive.
- E. Goshawk and Sharp-shinned Hawks during the period 3/15-7/15, inclusive.
- F. Cooper's Hawks, Kestrels, and Burrowing Owls during the period 4/1-6/30, inclusive.
- G. Red-tailed and Swainson's Hawk during the period 4/1-7/15, inclusive.
- H. Short-eared Owls during the period 2/1-6/15, inclusive.

Authority/Supporting Documentation: Wells RMP ROD (p. 25); Elko RMP ROD (p. 25), Birds of the Great Basin, 1985; State Director Decision: Horse Canyon Decision, 2005;

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**LEASE STIPULATION OG-010-05-03: Cultural Resources**

This lease may be found to contain historic properties and/or resources protected under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), American Indian Religious Freedom Act, Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, E.O. 13007, or other statutes and executive orders. The BLM will not approve any ground disturbing activities that may affect any such properties or resources until it completes its obligations under applicable requirements of the NHPA and other authorities. The BLM may require modification to exploration or development proposals to protect such properties, or disapprove any activity that is likely to result in adverse effects that cannot be successfully avoided, minimized or mitigated.

Authority: BLM Washington Office Instruction Memorandum 2005-03

**LEASE STIPULATION OG-010-05-04: Mule Deer Crucial Winter Range**

This lease contains lands which have been identified as mule deer crucial winter range (BLM EA 2005/030, September 2005). These lands are subject to seasonal protection from disturbance to avoid displacement and mortality to animals during the winter. Seasonal restrictions from disturbance in mule deer crucial winter ranges apply during the period 11/15-3/16, inclusive.

Authority/Supporting Documentation: Wells RMP ROD (p. 10); Elko RMP ROD (pg. 3); Field Guide to Mammals (1976)

**LEASE STIPULATION OG-010-05-05: Pronghorn Antelope Crucial Winter Range**

This lease contains lands which have been identified as pronghorn antelope crucial winter range. These lands are subject to seasonal protection from disturbance to avoid displacement and mortality to animals during the winter. Seasonal restrictions from disturbance in pronghorn antelope crucial winter ranges apply during the period 11/15-3/16, inclusive.

Authority/Supporting Documentation: Wells RMP ROD (p. 25); Elko RMP ROD (p. 3); Field Guide to Mammals (1976)

**LEASE STIPULATION OG-010-05-06: Pronghorn Antelope Kidding Areas**

This lease contains lands which have been identified as pronghorn antelope kidding areas. These lands are subject to seasonal protection from disturbance to avoid displacement and mortality to animals during kidding season. Seasonal restrictions from disturbance in pronghorn antelope kidding areas apply during the period 5/1-6/30, inclusive.

Authority/Supporting Documentation: Elko RMP (pg. 2-6), ROD, Field Guide to Mammals (1976)

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**LEASE STIPULATION OG-010-05-07: Sage Grouse Strutting Ground (Leks)**

This lease contains lands which have been identified as sage grouse strutting grounds (leks) that are subject to seasonal protection from disturbance. No Surface Occupancy is permitted within 0.5 miles, or other, lesser, appropriate distance based on site-specific conditions, of sage grouse leks.

Authority/Supporting Documentation: Wells RMP ROD (p. 10); Elko RMP ROD (p. 35); Management Guidelines for Sage Grouse and Sagebrush Ecosystems in Nevada, 2000; State Director Decision: Horse Canyon Decision, 2005

**LEASE STIPULATION OG-010-05-08: Sage Grouse Brood Rearing Areas**

This lease contains lands which have been identified as sage grouse brood rearing areas that are subject to seasonal protection from disturbance. Seasonal restrictions from disturbance in sage grouse brood rearing areas apply within 0.5 miles or other appropriate distance based on site-specific conditions from 5/15 to 8/15, inclusive. This restriction does not apply to operating facilities.

Authority/Supporting Documentation: Wells RMP ROD (p. 25); Elko RMP ROD (p. 3 and 36) Management Guidelines for Sage Grouse and Sagebrush Ecosystems in Nevada, 2000, State Director Decision: Horse Canyon Decision, 2005

**LEASE STIPULATION OG-010-05-09: Sage Grouse Crucial Winter Habitat**

This lease contains lands which have been identified as sage grouse crucial winter habitat that are subject to seasonal protection from disturbance. Seasonal restrictions from disturbance in sage grouse crucial winter habitat apply during the period November 1 to March 15. This stipulation does not apply to operating facilities.

Authority/Supporting Documentation: Wells RMP ROD (p. 22 and 25); Elko RMP ROD; Management Guidelines for Sage Grouse and Sagebrush Ecosystems in Nevada, 2000;

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**LEASE STIPULATION OG-010-05-10: I-80 “Low Visibility Corridor”**

This parcel includes lands within the I-80 Visual Corridor. Visual impacts are to be minimized within 1.5 miles on either side of Interstate 80. Within this three-mile wide Low Visibility Corridor, the objective is for management actions not to be evident in the characteristic landscape. Management objectives for Class II VRM areas will be used as a guideline when evaluating projects within the Low Visibility Corridor. The Class II VRM objective is to retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be low. Management activities may be seen but should not attract the attention of the casual observer. Any changes must repeat the basic elements of form, line, color, and texture found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.

Authority: Wells RMP ROD (p. 3); Elko RMP ROD (p. 1); Elko Field Office IM NV-2004-013)

**LEASE STIPULATION OG-010-05-11: Special Recreation Management Areas**

This parcel includes lands within a Special Recreation Management Area (South Fork Canyon SRMA, Wild Horse SRMA, Wilson Reservoir SRMA, South Fork Owyhee River SRMA, Zunino/Jiggs SRMA, or proposed Salmon Falls Creek SRMA) that are within ½ mile of the high water line. No surface occupancy is allowed within ½ mile of the high water line.

Authority: Wells RMP ROD (p. 25); Elko RMP ROD (p. 3)

**LEASE STIPULATION OG-010-05-12: Tabor Creek Campground**

This parcel includes lands within the Tabor Creek Campground area. No surface occupancy is allowed on lands within the designated boundaries of Tabor Creek Campground: T41N R61E, S1/2 Section 16, S1/2SE1/4 Section 16, E1/2 Section 20, Section 21, NW1/4 Section 28, Section 29.

Authority: Wells RMP ROD (p. 25)

**LEASE STIPULATION OG-010-05-13: Congressionally Designated Historic Trails**

This parcel includes lands within one mile of the center of Congressionally designated historic trails. Fluid mineral leasing activities within one mile of the center of Congressionally designated historic trails may be limited or modified to protect the historical and scenic values of the trails.

Authority: Nevada BLM Instruction Memorandums 2004-004 and 2004-006

**LEASE STIPULATION NSO-010-64: No Surface Occupancy**

This stipulation restricts surface occupancy in defined portions of the leased parcels.