

Public Meeting Transcript PM1

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PUBLIC MEETING ON THE ELY DRAFT RMP/EIS

COPY

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

OCTOBER 18, 2005

CALIENTE, NEVADA

Reported by: CINDY R. BOWDEN, NV CCR #815
CA CSR #12962

Transcript PM1 Continued

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MEETING OF THE ELY DRAFT RMP/EIS,
taken at 288 Lincoln Street, Caliente, Nevada, on
Tuesday, October 18, 2005, at 6:28 p.m., before Cindy R.
Bowden, Certified Court Reporter, in and for the State
of Nevada.

APPEARANCES:

For the BLM:

GENE DRAIS
JAKE RAJALA

For the ENSR:

RUSS MOORE
DEBBY SEHI
MIKE BAUGHMAN, MODERATOR

Also Present:

BOB WILSON
RORY LAMP
JACK CLIFTON
GEORGE T. (TOMMY) ROWE
RONDA HORNBECK

Transcript PM1 Continued

PUBLIC MEETING ON THE ELY DRAFT RMP/EIS

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October 18, 2005

1 CALIENTE, NEVADA, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2005;

2 6:28 P.M.

3 -oOo-

4 MR. DRAIS: Good evening, Jack and Tommy.

5 I'm glad you're here. I'm Gene Drais, the acting
6 associate field manager for the Union District BLM.
7 We're here tonight for one purpose and one purpose only
8 and that is to hear from the public with the comments
9 concerning the draft resource plan that is out for
10 public review until November 28th.

11 I'd just like to have you -- I'm going to
12 introduce you to the people here. You probably know
13 them all anyway. I'll start with Rick Org (phonetic),
14 field presentation manager of BLM. Jake Rajala,
15 planning environmental coordinator. Chris Hanefeld, our
16 public affairs officer. This is Bruce Flynn, the
17 project manager for the resource management plan. We
18 have our consultants from ENSR, Russ Moore, Debby Sehi.
19 The moderator for tonight is Mike Baughman and Cindy. I
20 don't know Cindy's last name. And we also have Rory
21 Lamp from the Department of Wildlife.

22 With that, Mike, go ahead.

23 MR. BAUGHMAN: Thank you, Gene. Well, we
24 are going to be pretty informal tonight because,
25 obviously, we don't have a lot of folks here this

Transcript PM1 Continued

PUBLIC MEETING ON THE ELY DRAFT RMP/EIS

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1 evening to provide comments to us. This is a chance for
2 members of the public, elected officials, members of the
3 public and others to provide formal comments -- to get
4 those comments on the written record as input to the
5 RMP/EIS process.

6 And this -- it really isn't an intended to
7 be an opportunity to ask questions of the staff. It's
8 really an opportunity to provide comments, to get those
9 on the record so that they might make -- so I guess what
10 I would just recommend -- we have the final RMP and the
11 final EIS. We have one person signed up, it is the
12 Chairman of the Lincoln County Commission, Tommy Rowe.
13 And I guess that, Tommy, we would just encourage you --
14 I guess you did intend to make some formal comments for
15 the record and I would just ask you to go ahead and do
16 that.

17 You could do it sitting if you'd like. You
18 can come up front, wherever you feel comfortable. It is
19 important, though, for Cindy's perspective because we
20 don't have any microphones -- that -- you know, you
21 probably speak slower than I do which I tend to speak
22 too fast. And just so she can hear you.

23 Other than that, Tommy, you've got the floor
24 and we really look forward to hearing from you.

25 MR. ROWE: Okay. I don't have any written

Transcript PM1 Continued

Responses to Comments

1 comments or anything planned. I just wanted to make a
2 couple of statements in regards to my feelings and some
3 of the feelings of a lot of the citizens of Lincoln
4 County.

5 Years ago when they closed off all of our
6 lands, most all of it to wilderness, study areas that
7 kept us out of a lot of areas. Now, these areas -- most
8 of them have been turned into wilderness and so we are
9 out for good for those places. The stress that they're
10 putting on the riparian areas -- we can't go into these
11 areas with -- I believe we're talking about
12 four-wheelers and off-road vehicles, this type of stuff.

13 We've got a lot of territory that's areas of
14 critical habitat for the desert tortoise. They don't
15 want us busting through that stuff on four-wheelers.
16 And from what I understand, we're going to be restricted
17 to the rest of the areas for trails and roads. We won't
18 be able to go cross-country to pick up a deer, to go
19 cross-country looking for a deer or anything else in the
20 small areas that we do have left and I just like to
21 encourage the BLM to give us some leeway there so that
22 the citizens of Lincoln County won't feel that big
23 brother has got a lock on us on everything we do.
24 That's the point that I wanted to get to everybody
25 today.

PM1-1 The Ely Field Office recognizes that off-highway vehicle use is an acceptable use of public land wherever it is compatible with resource management objectives. Areas are designated as "open" for cross country vehicle use where there are no compelling resource protection needs, user conflicts, or public safety issues. No areas managed by the Ely Field Office were determined to meet those criteria. The Ely Field Office is designating a majority of the planning area as "limited" in the Proposed RMP. The "limited" designation would still provide for off-highway vehicle opportunities, including potential new off-highway vehicle trails, while managing for public safety and resource protection needs. The only areas designated as "closed" to off-highway vehicle travel correspond to currently designated wilderness and wilderness study areas. In response to this and similar comments, the management action in Section 2.4.14.1 of the Proposed RMP and Final EIS has been revised to allow the retrieval of big game.

PM1-1

Transcript PM1 Continued

Responses to Comments

1 MR. BAUGHMAN: Thank you, Mr. Commissioner.
2 Does the staff have any questions for Commissioner Rowe
3 to make sure we understand his comments? We really
4 appreciate those. Any questions by staff of the
5 Commissioner?

6 MR. DRAIS: I think I do have a clarifying
7 question. You mentioned riparian areas, did you mean by
8 that -- are you concerned with the riparian areas being
9 used by OHV users?

10 MR. ROWE: No. I'm just concerned about the
11 city which has been fenced off which is good.

12 MR. DRAIS: Okay.

13 MR. ROWE: We don't want to tear them up.
14 If fencing them is the only way you can preserve them,
15 then that's probably going to be what's necessary, but
16 I'm just talking about more land that we're restricted
17 for.

18 MR. DRAIS: I see. You mean, always be
19 users?

20 MR. ROWE: Right.

21 MR. DRAIS: Okay.

22 MR. BAUGHMAN: Okay. Any other questions by
23 BLM staff? Okay. That will conclude our comments from
24 Commissioner Rowe. Thank you, Tommy.

25 MR. DRAIS: And I want to make it clear to

PM1-2 Comment noted.

PM1-2

Transcript PM1 Continued

Responses to Comments

PUBLIC MEETING ON THE ELY DRAFT RMP/EIS

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1 you, you can still send in written comments.
2 MR. ROWE: Sure. Right.
3 MR. DRAIS: And we encourage you to do that.
4 MR. BAUGHMAN: Right.
5 MR. ROWE: If you were going to
6 advertise that you were going to have refreshments, then
7 you would have had a bigger crowd.
8 MR. BAUGHMAN: Jack, let me just check to be
9 sure, would you like to make any comments, offer any
10 comments on the RMP for the record or would you just
11 prefer to do those in writing when you get a chance?
12 MR. CLIFTON: I got to do those in writing.
13 I think that I was on some of the committees to look at
14 the wilderness study areas and it's proved to be quiet
15 or something. It seems to me like we have an awful lot
16 of wilderness areas in this county now. And we had to
17 study areas before and it almost seems like it was
18 overwhelming with the population and the people who
19 would want to use this. This is boat, hunting, RVs and
20 everything which I do understand too about the desert
21 tortoise and how important that is to -- specially to
22 the southern part of the state.
23 And so we're coming to a conclusion now that
24 the wilderness areas are pretty well established now and
25 so I do encourage the management areas to be judiciously

PM1-3 Comment noted.

PM1-3

Transcript PM1 Continued

Responses to Comments

PM1-3

1 done in such a way that everybody be a benefit to it.
2 MR. BAUGHMAN: Okay. Great. Thank you.
3 Any questions by staff of Jack and his comments? Okay.
4 Well, we don't have any other members of the
5 public or elected officials here that I recognize. And
6 so I guess at this point, Gene, I would recommend that
7 we kind of close at least for the time being, the formal
8 part of the hearing so if Commissioner Rowe needs to
9 take off or Jack.

10 We'll probably stick around for a little
11 while in case some other members of the public show up.

12 MR. ROWE: I would like to make one more
13 comment.

14 MR. BAUGHMAN: Okay.

PM1-4

15 MR. ROWE: At the last couple of
16 commissioner meetings, we have had an item on the agenda
17 for -- and this is the wind generators for Mt. Wilson
18 and Table Mountain and the County Commission. It's
19 completely against these wind generators there. These
20 two mountaintops were spared from being wilderness. We
21 fought to get a lot of this stuff out of the wilderness
22 and they just gave up and said we're taking these out of
23 there. And we had no reason why they did this and now
24 they're wanting to put up wind generators up there.

25 We are certainly for alternate means of

PM1-4 Applications received for wind energy development would be subject to NEPA analysis in coordination with local, state, and other federal agencies. Impacts to visual resources and recreation would be analyzed. Please also refer to Appendix F, Section 2, in the Proposed RMP and Final EIS for the BLM Wind Energy Development Program Policies and Best Management Practices published in conjunction with the Record of Decision for BLM's Final Wind Energy Development Programmatic EIS.

Transcript PM1 Continued

PM1-4

1 electrical power, but Table Mountain and Mt. Wilson are
2 not the mountains for that in our area. These are
3 mountains that are with these wind generators. We can
4 clear out all the vegetation on it and we'll put up
5 heavy truckloads, heavy truck routes into the areas and
6 it would be if you would mess up an area that it's
7 critical to the areas that we want for hunting and for
8 our solitude up there without being in the wilderness
9 area.

10 MR. BAUGHMAN: Okay. Thank you. Well, we
11 will table for the time being, the formal part of the
12 meeting. And we'll go off the record if that would be
13 okay and then we'll certainly go around to chat and
14 visit. And we'll see if other members of the public
15 show up here for a little while.

16 So thank you both very much for your
17 comments.

18
19 (Whereupon, the proceedings concluded
20 at 6:37 p.m.)
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Transcript PM1 Continued

CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

1 STATE OF NEVADA)

2) ss:

3 COUNTY OF CLARK)
4

5 I, Cindy R. Bowden, a duly commissioned
6 Notary Public, Clark County, State of Nevada, do hereby
7 certify that I took down in shorthand (Stenotype) all of
8 the proceedings had in the before-entitled matter at the
9 time and place indicated; and that thereafter said
10 shorthand notes were transcribed into typewriting at and
11 under my direction and supervision and the foregoing
12 transcript constitutes a full, true and accurate record
13 of the proceedings had.

14 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand in my
15 office in the County of Clark, State of Nevada, this 2nd
16 day of November, 2005.
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CINDY R. BOWDEN, CCR #815

Public Meeting Transcript PM2

PUBLIC MEETING ON THE ELY DRAFT RMP/EIS

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PUBLIC MEETING ON THE ELY DRAFT RMP/EIS

COPY

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

OCTOBER 19, 2005

MESQUITE, NEVADA

Reported by: CINDY R. BOWDEN, NV CCR #815
CA CSR #12962

Transcript PM2 Continued

PUBLIC MEETING ON THE ELY DRAFT RMP/EIS

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MEETING OF THE ELY DRAFT RMP/EIS,

taken at 150 North Yucca, Mesquite, Nevada, on
Wednesday, October 19, 2005, at 6:16 p.m., before Cindy
R. Bowden, Certified Court Reporter, in and for the
State of Nevada.

APPEARANCES:

For the BLM:

GENE DRAIS
JAKE RAJALA

For the ENSR:

RUSS MOORE
DEBBY SEHI
MIKE BAUGHMAN, MODERATOR

Also Present:

DON CLAY
SHANE LEAVITT
SHIRLEY TAYLOR
JIM OWENS
NANCY HALL
FRED JOHNSON
JAN JOHNSON
ELISE MCALLISTER

Transcript PM2 Continued

1 If you do elect at some point after maybe
2 hearing another person speak or you have already decided
3 that you would like to speak, we would ask you to just
4 fill this card out so that we know -- and particularly
5 for our court reporter who offered the comments and we
6 can make sure that in the administrative record that
7 you're included there. And it also allows for,
8 subsequently, for you to be made aware of documents and
9 things of that nature, because you took the time and
10 expressed an interest in this project to actually share
11 some comments with us on this draft document.

12 As there are some ground rules -- although
13 for a group this small, the ground rules probably --
14 they still apply. But we're not going to belabor them.
15 But, obviously, again, this is a chance for you to
16 provide comments to us. We're not really engaging in
17 any dialogue on the plan at this point. We are not
18 really here to answer any questions. There are some
19 staff here. But during this part while we're on the
20 formal record, it's simply for you to tell us if you
21 have any specific comments or recommendations with
22 regards to this plan, and those will be captured in the
23 public records.

24 I would ask that if you have a cell phone
25 that we turn that off. If we do have a person speaking

Transcript PM2 Continued

1 that we -- you know, respect that person while they are
2 speaking and not interrupt or, you know, throw stuff
3 over at them or clap or that sort of thing. And that's
4 not been a problem at any place we have been.

5 But you know, we would just encourage to
6 respect them. We ask you to speak slowly and clearly
7 because we do have a court reporter and she's very good,
8 by the way. It's remarkable what this lady captures.
9 But nonetheless, we do have to speak fairly slow and
10 clearly. We do not have a PA system, so I encourage you
11 to do that. You can speak from where you are. She is
12 here and I think that works pretty well, Cindy, if they
13 just speak that way.

14 So I think without further ado, we will open
15 the public comment part of this meeting tonight for the
16 record and I will have to indicate to you that at this
17 point, I have one person who has actually signed up to
18 make an -- offer any formal comments for the record.
19 So, again, if any of the others would like to do that,
20 please fill out this card and make sure that I get that
21 and then we'll have you go next.

22 Without further ado, I would ask that Jim
23 Owens who is with -- he is the owner of Owen Survey
24 Outfit. And, Jim, you're the person who signed up so
25 far. So if you would like to address the group and

Transcript PM2 Continued

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PUBLIC MEETING ON THE ELY DRAFT RMP/EIS

1 basically make sure the court reporter captures your
2 comments with regards to the ERMP, we sure would love to
3 hear what you have to say.

4 MR. OWENS: Sure. I've had the opportunity
5 to go through each of these and I've been in the
6 wilderness areas and the rural areas surveying for
7 Rancher's Mining Company since 1958 throughout the
8 Eastern United States. And during the process, I saw a
9 lot of terrain that was -- how do you put it --
10 desecrated by mining industry and by overgrazing. But
11 that was based off of World War II. That was to obtain
12 the minerals to defend ourselves. And I've seen a few
13 of the streams in Colorado that had to be, oh, purified
14 so to speak by taking the mineral dumps away from the
15 area making parks out of them which is true around the
16 Climax, Colorado area.

17 And I see in our -- getting back to our
18 immediate area here, there's not a part of this area
19 that I haven't driven or walked or surveyed, and a lot
20 of it's pristine, simply because nobody goes in there.
21 There's really no reason for a lot of people to go there
22 because it's hard to get to. When you get there, you're
23 nowhere anywhere. There is nothing to see in most of
24 the places. There's not a lot of wildlife.

25 By wildlife, I mean large wildlife, large

Transcript PM2 Continued

Responses to Comments

1 game, lot of birds, though, lot of birds, lot of
2 rabbits. And there's a lot of natural cover except when
3 the wildfires hit and we've seen the devastation of the
4 wildfires and what they have done to the area. I've
5 been out and driven over most of the wildfire areas and
6 have seen what few animals repopulate those areas
7 because there's no cover for them.

8 And I'd like to address in particular the
9 ACEC areas because of the inherent restrictions they put
10 upon an industry that's so viable for the freedom of
11 this country, and that's the mining industry. I'd like
12 to see the ACEC revisited and all the biominerals for
13 growth in the county in this area and also for our
14 nation be revisited and re-evaluated that are within the
15 ACECs and that are also anticipated within the other 18
16 to 20 other ACECs, because you never know when a lot of
17 these commodities are going to be necessary to defend
18 ourselves. What being used to know with we have
19 tremendous resources that are within this area that are
20 virtually untapped.

21 The reason they're untapped is because years
22 ago they weren't high grade enough to make it
23 economically feasible. Whereas in today's market that's
24 not so. And also the -- you're grazing land -- see that
25 there is a lot of areas that's affected in the grazing

PM2-1 The Nevada BLM designates ACECs to highlight areas where special management attention is needed to protect and prevent irreparable damage to: important historic, cultural, and scenic values; fish or wildlife resources; or other natural systems or processes; or to protect human life and safety from natural hazards. The Proposed RMP proposes the designation of 17 new and 3 existing ACECs for a variety of resources. Approximately 317,800 acres are encompassed with proposed ACECs, about 2.8 percent of the decision area. Please refer to Tables 2.4.27 and 2.4.28 in Section 2.4.22.1 in the Proposed RMP and Final EIS for identification of those ACECs that are closed or proposed for closure to solid leasable, locatable, and mineral materials development. The boundaries of all ACECs proposed in the Proposed RMP were closely reviewed and adjusted to ensure sufficient special management requirements can be met for the relevant and important resources of those areas, while considering other uses of public lands including mineral extraction. Where possible, township and range lines were utilized to more effectively describe legal boundaries.

PM2-1

Transcript PM2 Continued

Responses to Comments

1 to where the cows are no longer on the area but was
2 amazing how many turtles were in the area and how
3 healthy the turtles were because the cows were there,
4 because the turtles eat the cows' droppings. And I see
5 turtles all over the place in the lower areas, but in
6 the upper reaches, at certain elevations, there are no
7 turtles.

8 And there are no turtles where there's been
9 burned and there's no reason for the turtles -- and if
10 there were, there's no reason for the turtles to go back
11 in because they have no vegetation. There's nothing to
12 eat. And actually the -- what I have witnessed, I
13 witnessed many times crows eating turtles. That's your
14 biggest killer of turtles right there. In the entire
15 wild area, there's nothing that kills turtles more than
16 crows and some coyotes too, they get pretty wild, they
17 like turtle meat.

18 But by in large, if you were to -- I know
19 that the staff is small and your staff is small and I
20 know that you have certain guidelines that you're trying
21 to adhere to protect the health, safety, and the welfare
22 of the people that live in the area, but you need to
23 consider your impact for the future, not in my life, but
24 in my grandchildren's life of what they can and can't
25 do.

PM2-2 In response to your comment, the text in Section 2.4.7.5 of the Proposed RMP and Final EIS has been expanded to clarify how the Ely Field Office will manage desert tortoise habitat, including a program to control desert tortoise predators, in coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Nevada Department of Wildlife, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Wildlife Services.

PM2-2

Transcript PM2 Continued

Responses to Comments

PM2-3

1 There's people that need to go out with an
2 ATV to go out and see a pristine area that they can't
3 get to any other way. You can't close off all these
4 areas because there is people that are paraplegics.
5 There are people that can't walk. There are many people
6 that are past 60 years old that would love to go back
7 into these areas. If you close them, they can't go.
8 And all you're going to do is just leave it for people
9 that are robust and can hike. And I think that's just
10 for a few people.

PM2-4

11 And not only that, it's going to be very few
12 and at particular times of the year when it's cool,
13 taking in our drought considerations that we have had in
14 the past that last for years, you can see where these
15 environmental and sensitive grasses and native plants
16 shrivel up and die. And then fall prey to fire. And
17 it's been all over the county. You know all the areas
18 as well as I do as to where there's hundreds and
19 thousands of acres that have burned, and that's been in
20 the last five years. We get nice periods of rain and
21 the grasses get up to three and four feet to where
22 everybody -- gee, isn't this nice and pristine, but
23 everybody gets -- we also have a dry period of a lot of
24 lightning and that triggers the fires and we let them
25 burn.

PM2-3

Please refer to Section 2.4.14.1 of the Proposed RMP and Final EIS for clarification of how comprehensive travel management planning will occur in the Ely RMP planning area. In addition, use of wheelchairs would be permitted within designated wilderness in compliance with federal regulations.

PM2-4

Thank you for your comment concerning the wildfire burn cycle. There seems to be a natural cycle involving wildfires in relationship to moisture. Following years with abundant precipitation, there are generally more fires due to the increase in vegetative production. This cycle becomes unnatural when invasive grasses (e.g. cheatgrass, red brome) are involved. Such grasses result in wildfires occurring over and over again in the same location, which does not allow for the native vegetation species to recover. The watershed analysis process will be one of the ways used to determine which areas have this potential and identify ways to help break the unnatural burn cycle and return affected areas to a more natural fire cycle.

Transcript PM2 Continued

Responses to Comments

PM2-5

1 However, I did notice during this last burn,
2 I noticed there was a whole array of BLM firefighters
3 and contract firefighters out setting backfires out on
4 our roads to protect the other areas which worked. The
5 backfire setting does work and you protect a lot of
6 grasses and that actually in some of the partial areas
7 to where birds are still alive. I mean, where their
8 habitats are still there and there are springs that are
9 still running.

PM2-5 Thank you for your comment.

PM2-6

10 And I have to comment, you did a good job in
11 doing that. But I'd ask for you to do an equally good
12 job for the future to consider our mineral resources for
13 the safety of our nation, for the growth of our
14 community, for the recreational resources for everyone,
15 not just a few that are healthy and viable that can walk
16 the trails, because I can't do at 68 what I could do at
17 38. And I would hate to not be able to go stake a
18 mining claim and have to walk five miles just to get to
19 it when I can drive my ATV to it and not leave a mark,
20 and you wouldn't even know that I was there a month from
21 now. There would be no trail.

PM2-6 Please refer to Response to Comment PM2-3. Mineral resources were an important
 consideration in developing the Proposed RMP.

22 And I think most of us that are brought up
23 in the rural area and have lived in the rural area most
24 of our lives are really cognizant of the need of the
25 wildlife and the planted area and we're

Transcript PM2 Continued

PUBLIC MEETING ON THE ELY DRAFT RMP/EIS

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1 conservationalists by heart. If anyone in my crew
2 throws a gum wrapper out or cigarette butt out, I fire
3 them. It's just that simple. I just don't allow it.
4 We never leave any trash. I don't know of a rancher or
5 a rural person that does. And I know that you get the
6 city people that come up from the metropolitan areas
7 that desecrate the area because they don't know any
8 difference.

9 And I know you're trying to protect us from
10 them, because there just not schooled how to behave.
11 They can't behave in their city, much less the rural
12 area. And so I just ask you to -- before you make your
13 final decision and make your pen to it, will your staff
14 just take into consideration the next hundred years?

15 MR. BAUGHMAN: Thank you, Jim. Let me ask
16 if the BLM staff and anybody else who speaks, we'll ask
17 the same thing.

18 Does the BLM staff have any questions of Jim
19 to clarify his comments or anything of that nature?

20 MR. DRAIS: Yes, I have one. I just want to
21 make sure I understood your comment relative to
22 re-evaluation of the ACEC, were you referring to the
23 three existing ACECs as well as the other 18 proposed?

24 MR. OWENS: Yes.

25 MR. DRAIS: That's what I thought I heard.

Transcript PM2 Continued

Responses to Comments

1 I just wanted to clarify that.

2 MR. BAUGHMAN: Any other staff have any
3 questions of Jim?

4 MR. OWENS: Can I make one more comment
5 about the ACECs.

6 MR. BAUGHMAN: Yes, you may.

7 MR. OWENS: Just quickly, I believe in your
8 study ACECs in -- they were -- as I have seen them drawn
9 on the graphic maps. They were by section and by ease
10 of drafting them on there to get them to fit in a
11 generalized area instead of a spec area.

12 MR. BAUGHMAN: Okay. Good. Well, thank
13 you.

14 If you came in late and hopefully, I think
15 perhaps Debby and Russ we're able to kind of explain to
16 you where we are. But we are at this point, for the
17 record, taking public comments to the Ely draft Resource
18 Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement. If
19 you -- and during this formal part of the presentation,
20 we're not answering any questions and we're not
21 encouraging you to ask any questions. We're just simply
22 taking your comments for the record. But in order for
23 the -- to get it on the record, we would ask if you
24 would fill this card out -- we know who it was that
25 offered the comments and so we've got that on our

PM2-7 Please refer to Response to Comment PM2-1.

PM2-7

Transcript PM2 Continued

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October 19, 2005

PUBLIC MEETING ON THE ELY DRAFT RMP/EIS

1 administrative record.

2 So I would ask at this point, is there
3 anyone else at this point wishing to make a comment to
4 get on the record? And we'll go to the -- we want to
5 take care of those and while the record is opened. And
6 then we'll probably close the record and we'll be here
7 for a little while and see who else shows up.

8 It looks like we have one more person at
9 this point. The comment period on this document is open
10 through November 28th. So you still have plenty of time
11 to provide written comments. There is on the back
12 table, a comment form that you could use for your
13 convenience and leave it in the box in the back if you'd
14 like or you can add more pages or whatever. And there's
15 a self-addressed -- address on the back that you can
16 send this back to.

17 But, again, those comments are -- the
18 comment period is open until November 28th. This is not
19 your last chance. You've got plenty of time to wade
20 through the volumes and read the document and offer some
21 more comments. Russ?

22 MR. MOORE: Mike, you might also mention
23 that they can feel free to comment on this comment form
24 and that doesn't preclude them from commenting further
25 with a separate letter.

Transcript PM2 Continued

Responses to Comments

1 MR. BAUGHMAN: Okay. Thanks, Russ, that's
2 true. Okay. Thank you very much. Well, at this point,
3 I would ask and let me just note as well for the persons
4 who might go on the record. I would ask you to speak
5 clearly and speak relatively slowly that our court
6 reporter can catch them. We don't have a PA system so
7 obviously, speak loudly as well and we'll capture it
8 all.

9 I have two additional persons now that would
10 like to make a statement. One is -- the first one we'll
11 go -- we'll take these in order is Don Clay.

12 MR. CLAY: Yeah, that's me.

13 MR. BAUGHMAN: Okay. Don, why don't you go
14 ahead?

15 MR. CLAY: I haven't read any of this. I
16 just found out tonight because my wife was next door.
17 Go on down and check it out. And I mean, I suppose this
18 is important. I mean, I know nothing about it and I
19 wish there was a promotion, you know, to the community
20 that was better than what was given. Obviously, there
21 is seven of us here and that's pathetic. I mean,
22 there's more you here than us.

23 And there needs to be something done in the
24 future to make this more available to people so they can
25 come and get involved. Because there's really no public

PM2-8 Copies of the Draft RMP and EIS were sent to those persons, organizations, and agencies that indicated they would like to receive one; and copies were also placed in local and regional libraries. The availability of the Draft RMP and EIS was noticed in the Federal Register, and the Newsletter distributed to approximately 3,000 interested parties on the Ely RMP mailing list. Additionally, press releases were sent to local media outlets and advertisements were placed in local newspapers to inform the public of all the public meetings on the Draft RMP and EIS.

PM2-8

Transcript PM2 Continued

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PUBLIC MEETING ON THE ELY DRAFT RMP/EIS

PM2-8

1 input. You know, I don't know what the other meetings
2 were like. I was talking to a gal back there and the
3 fellow back there and they were saying, Yeah, this is
4 normal. I mean, that's ridiculous. I mean, we're
5 spending our tax dollars to have you here and we're
6 wasting it. Just that alone having you here and you
7 wasting your evening here to be a very large degree, not
8 to put down what you said, sir.

9 But it's like there's no input from the
10 public. You know, there are 16,000 people that live
11 here, and I mean, that's ridiculous. And that's just my
12 main thing. It's like if we are going to spend tax
13 dollars doing this and it's an important thing, well,
14 then, we should do it right. If it's not important, we
15 shouldn't do it. You know, I mean, you know, we talk
16 about fires and it burns things up. Well, that's been
17 happening ever since the planet has been here. I mean,
18 why should we stop them? You know, I mean, if we're
19 really going natural, why should we do anything?

20 And I'm not saying that's really my
21 viewpoint. But if we are really trying to do something
22 and make it better for people, let's get people
23 involved. And that's all I really have to say on that.

24 MR. BAUGHMAN: Thank you, John [sic].

25 MR. CLAY: Very good. The next person I

Transcript PM2 Continued

Responses to Comments

1 have signed up to speak is Fred Johnson. Good evening,
2 Fred.

3 MR. JOHNSON: Hear, hear, John [sic]. I
4 have an outreach that's just not good enough, and it
5 never has been. I've been going to these meetings for
6 25 years. Okay. Actually, yeah, about 25, maybe a
7 little bit more than that. I am a licensed professional
8 geologist. I work Utah, Nevada, part of California,
9 Arizona and a lot around of the Las Vegas-Mesquite area.
10 I've done this for many, many years. I'm in the
11 industrial minerals business. And all I got to say --
12 I've got a few things to say.

13 But in your areas of critical environmental
14 concern, okay. Your ACECs, that's well and good, but
15 one of the problems with these that I have seen is the
16 migration and the change of your focus in your attitude
17 toward an ACEC over the years. And the government's
18 change in focus has been a change in focus to where the
19 ACECs is treated more and more every time you write a
20 new management plan more and more like a wilderness
21 area, more and more like a way to constrict or try and
22 do anything with resources that are needed for society.

23 I work with resources that our needed for
24 society all the time. These resources are building
25 materials. They are things that everybody uses every

PM2-9 The BLM may only designate ACECs during a land use planning process. In addition, as part of the ACEC regulations, the Ely Field Office may not use an ACEC designation as a substitute for wilderness suitability recommendation. Please refer to Section 2.4.22.1 of the Proposed RMP and Final EIS for clarification of management prescriptions for each ACEC.

PM2-9

Transcript PM2 Continued

PUBLIC MEETING ON THE ELY DRAFT RMP/EIS

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1 day. You brush your teeth. You eat them. You do all
2 kinds of things with them. And if you tie people's
3 hands like you've done in the Las Vegas resource
4 management plan like you left the fish and wildlife
5 service step on that plan so bad that by the time you
6 got the Clark County Bill, the Clark County Bill removed
7 all of the 750,000, almost a million acres, of ACECs
8 from any mineral entry until -- and we were very, very
9 lucky that when Senator Reid put the bill in that we
10 were able to get -- we were able to get a mineral
11 inventory on those.

12 They've just started the mineral inventory.
13 They had four years to do it in. One year for the
14 Secretary of Interior to come back and let us know
15 whether or not those ACECs, the minerals in those ACECs
16 are there or not. All of this was done by legislation.
17 However, the RMP that was put into place was put into
18 place essentially by regulation, by the regulatory
19 system of the Las Vegas District. You're doing the same
20 thing. Now, what this shows -- is this shows that you
21 can do something and then all of a sudden our
22 legislatures can come in and impact that and take what
23 you have done and put into something that we couldn't in
24 a political process that takes it out of your hands.

25 So I suggest you be very, very, very careful

Transcript PM2 Continued

Responses to Comments

1 with implanting new ACECs and new regs and things like
2 that on areas of critical environmental concern. It has
3 in the past that an area of critical environmental
4 concern has been utilized essentially in the aspect on a
5 case-by-case basis -- when you -- something that is into
6 an area of critical environmental concern, there's a
7 need. That need is evaluated on a case-by-case basis by
8 an EA or by whatever is necessary to look at that
9 situation and see whether it can be done or not -- can't
10 be done or whether there is mitigating circumstances.

11 I agree with John [sic] on one thing, we
12 tend to waste one heck of a lot of tax payer dollars,
13 okay. And the EA system needs to be streamlined, I hope
14 -- there's one place where I hope Congress will jump in
15 and essentially streamline this situation a little bit
16 because there's a lot of redundancy. You've got the
17 State asking for the same thing as the BLM. And then
18 the BLM will ask for it two or three times down the road
19 in different management teams' philosophies.

20 So my suggestion is try and streamline this
21 thing a little bit. You can still protect the resources
22 on a case-by-case basis, you know, and the ACECs, they
23 need a little bit more study than just the study of
24 tortoises or just the study of the one thing that's
25 there. You need to look at the ACECs from the

PM2-10 Thank you for your comment. The subject of this comment is beyond the scope of the Ely RMP and does not require further agency response.

PM2-11 The Nevada BLM designates ACECs to highlight areas where special management attention is needed to protect and prevent irreparable damage to: important historic, cultural, and scenic values; fish or wildlife resources; or other natural systems or processes; or to protect human life and safety from natural hazards. The Proposed RMP proposes the designation of 17 new and 3 existing ACECs for a variety of resources. The boundaries of all ACECs proposed in the Proposed RMP were closely reviewed and adjusted to ensure sufficient special management requirements can be met for the relevant and important resources of those areas, while considering other uses of public lands including mineral extraction. Where possible, township and range lines were utilized to more effectively describe legal boundaries.

PM2-10

PM2-11

Transcript PM2 Continued

Responses to Comments

PM2-11

1 standpoint of what is the whole entire unit and what can
2 be done and what can't be done in that area.

3 And as far as I'm concerned, mineral
4 resources are a very, very important aspect of the thing
5 and that should be allowed within ACEC as long as there
6 is mitigating situations so that, you know, the crime
7 thing that ACEC is protected, whether it would be a
8 tortoise or whatever. So be careful with the ACECs
9 because Senator Reid slipped one in in Clark County
10 where he withdrew all those ACECs from mineral entry
11 right in a Senate Conference Committee and nobody knew
12 it happened.

13 And we were able to get at least a mineral
14 inventory out of it and we caught it right at the lab.

PM2-12

15 But please be careful with that. I would suggest
16 mineral inventories in any areas that you are going to
17 essentially restrict the ability of people to get or
18 utilize resources that are there. I highly recommend
19 inventorying those areas for the resources that are
20 there, not just the environmental resources, but the
21 resources that people have to use to keep on the face of
22 the planet. Thanks.

23 MR. BAUGHMAN: Well, thank you, Fred. Let
24 me ask staff if there are any questions of Fred. Very
25 good. Thank you.

PM2-12 Minerals inventories have been completed for all existing wilderness study areas so that Congress can make an informed decision on designations. NEPA regulations direct federal agencies during their preparation of an EIS to reduce the accumulation of extraneous background data [40 CFR 1500.2(b)]. Thus, the Ely Field Office assembled the information that was necessary to formulate management actions and make a reasoned choice among alternatives. Where data that is important in making a decision is incomplete or unavailable, this must be disclosed in the EIS [40 CFR 1502.22]. Please refer to Section 4.1.4 in the Draft and Final RMP/EIS for a discussion of Incomplete and Unavailable Information.

Transcript PM2 Continued

1 And, actually, I guess I failed to ask if
2 any staff had any questions of Don as well when Don gave
3 his comments earlier. I apologize, Don.

4 MR. CLAY: That's okay.

5 MR. BAUGHMAN: Great. Actually, the next
6 person that we have to speak, then, is Shirley Taylor.

7 MS. TAYLOR: This is just in your side's
8 defense. There was a big ad, big whatever in the Desert
9 Valley Times a couple of editions ago saying this
10 meeting was going to be here. So it was definitely
11 there. But one of the -- I'm on their mailing list. A
12 long time ago when I first moved here, I got very
13 interested in the environment a very long time ago. So
14 I've been aware of this meeting for some time. But
15 perhaps one of the distracting things was that it's in
16 Ely. Mesquite is in Clark County for heaven's sake.
17 It's not Ely, blah-blah, blah-blah, blah-blah. So
18 perhaps that also is a detractor, your point about
19 streamlining sort of transcends to all kinds of
20 boundaries. It's not just whatever you're doing in Ely,
21 and strong implications of what's happening in Clark, et
22 cetera, et cetera. But in -- just to come to your
23 defense, there was a big ad in the newspaper.

24 MR. BAUGHMAN: Thank you, Shirley. Any
25 staff have any questions for Shirley to clarify? I

Transcript PM2 Continued

Responses to Comments

1 appreciate that.

2 MR. OWENS: Mike, can I add just one thing?

3 MR. BAUGHMAN: Let me just ask, is there
4 anyone else that has filled out one of these cards or is
5 in the process of filling out one of these cards or
6 anything?

7 This just lets us know who is going to speak
8 on the record and so we can get our court reporter to
9 capture this. Okay. Well, if you are in the process or
10 on the cusp of filling out a card, feel free.

11 Why don't you go ahead, Jim. This is Jim
12 Owens again to embellish his comments.

13 MR. OWENS: Just one quick comment is that
14 we don't yet know our total resources at the time that
15 might come to bear in the future such as water, oil,
16 gas. We don't know that. And as we continue to search
17 for these things in particular, how important they are
18 right now as you can see for the country. It would be a
19 shame to lock up these resources where they couldn't be
20 used.

21 MR. BAUGHMAN: Thank you, Jim. Anyone else
22 at this point? Let me just note that if there is not
23 anyone else at this point that wants to make a comment
24 on the document or the plan. For the record, we will
25 close the record for the time being. And we're going to

PM2-13 Section 2.4.18 describes the closures of lands to mineral entry. Discretionary closures (those not mandated by law as are designated wilderness) total less than one percent the public lands within the Ely RMP decision area. Discretionary closures in southern Lincoln County mainly occur within the three ACECs designated in the 1999 Amendment to the Caliente MFP for the protection of the desert tortoise. These vary by mineral category: leasable, locatable, and mineral materials. Other closures throughout the Ely decision area are designed to protect specific resources for which other protection measures would not be adequate.

PM2-13

Transcript PM2 Continued

PUBLIC MEETING ON THE ELY DRAFT RMP/EIS

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1 be here at least another probably 45 minutes or so
2 because other people may show up or those among you may
3 decide to offer comment or something. So we will
4 definitely be here.

5 So just let me -- just -- before you go, so
6 just be aware that we're going to be here for a little
7 while and so if you have a change of heart or if you
8 want to do something like that, that would be fine.
9 Again, if you didn't know or you missed out, the comment
10 period does close November 28th. So you got plenty of
11 time to prepare written comments and mail those in.
12 This is not your last chance and certainly feel free to
13 do that. So let's see, we'll return to Fred Johnson to
14 offer a few more comments.

15 MR. JOHNSON: I have a comment. It's sort
16 of like not a question, but a comment to John [sic].

17 MR. CLAY: To Don.

18 MR. JOHNSON: I like Don's comment, and from
19 the standpoint that, you know, we only have eight
20 some-odd people, you know, and one of the things I want
21 to mention to him is like he said he hasn't read it yet.
22 I haven't read the whole thing yet. I did a quick
23 perusal of your preferred alternative. And I want to
24 say, Don, that like, you know, you said you don't even
25 know how important it is or even if it's important or

Transcript PM2 Continued

PUBLIC MEETING ON THE ELY DRAFT RMP/EIS

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1 whatever it is. Like I said, I've been to a lot of
2 these. It is important. It accepts the tone for what
3 people can essentially -- how they can do this and how
4 efficient, okay, things can be done, you know, with
5 resources, okay, that actually depends upon the land.

6 And that's what it sets a tone for. It sets
7 a tone for protection of resources in the land, all
8 those protections. And one of the things that I want to
9 say is that the people in Las Vegas don't realize, but
10 the 750,000 acres that's been removed for mineral entry
11 remain totally and completely removed from mineral.
12 Okay. Then all of their supplies for everything that
13 goes on there, for growing cities or for growing
14 whatever are going to have to come from further and
15 further out.

16 What you're talking about in this aspect is
17 you're talking about fueling, essentially helping to
18 fuel the energy crisis even further by essentially
19 making everything come from further out. And who's the
20 person that pays for it? Is it the BLM? Is it the
21 whatever? No. The people that pay for it are the end
22 users. And the end users -- and the country itself pays
23 for it. Because what we'll have to do is continually
24 have to come back to these massive documents like this
25 to constantly be readjusting ourselves. Because the

Transcript PM2 Continued

PUBLIC MEETING ON THE ELY DRAFT RMP/EIS

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1 economics will not support it -- wrong decisions. So
2 that's how important this is. The decisions are very,
3 very important because economics will eventually come
4 back and bite the decisions that are wrong.

5 Of course, these guys will keep getting a
6 job every time they're on. But you know, the thing is
7 that, you know, that's how important it is.

8 MR. CLAY: Sure.

9 MR. JOHNSON: So we got to just remember
10 that. So my suggestion is to go back and tell your
11 friends to get involved in this process and read this
12 thing. It's a pain to go through them. They're very
13 complicated. But if you go through it and determine
14 what's there that is important to you so that you can
15 comment on it.

16 MR. BAUGHMAN: Thank you, Fred. Anybody
17 else care to provide us with a card and go on the record
18 before we close the record for the time being?
19 Actually, we're not doing questions. We're just getting
20 comments on the document into the record. And so like I
21 said, we'll be around for another half hour or 45
22 minutes at least. Well, then, I would recommend at this
23 point, we're going to close the record. So our court
24 reporter will close the record. And we can always
25 reopen a little later if appropriate.

Transcript PM2 Continued

PUBLIC MEETING ON THE ELY DRAFT RMP/EIS

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1 So with that, we'll kind of close this
2 formal part of the meeting and we are going to be here
3 for another half hour or 45 minutes.

4
5 (Whereupon, the proceedings concluded
6 at 6:51 p.m.)
7

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Transcript PM2 Continued

PUBLIC MEETING ON THE ELY DRAFT RMP/EIS

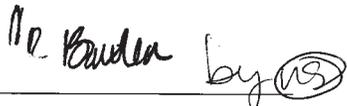
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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

STATE OF NEVADA)
) ss:
COUNTY OF CLARK)

I, Cindy R. Bowden, a duly commissioned Notary Public, Clark County, State of Nevada, do hereby certify that I took down in shorthand (Stenotype) all of the proceedings had in the before-entitled matter at the time and place indicated; and that thereafter said shorthand notes were transcribed into typewriting at and under my direction and supervision and the foregoing transcript constitutes a full, true and accurate record of the proceedings had.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand in my office in the County of Clark, State of Nevada, this 2nd day of November, 2005.


CINDY R. BOWDEN, CCR #815

Public Meeting Transcript PM3

PUBLIC MEETING ON THE ELY DRAFT RMP/EIS

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PUBLIC MEETING ON THE ELY DRAFT RMP/EIS

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

OCTOBER 20, 2005

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

COPY

Reported by: CINDY R. BOWDEN, NV CCR #815
CA CSR #12962

Transcript PM3 Continued

PUBLIC MEETING ON THE ELY DRAFT RMP/EIS

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MEETING OF THE ELY DRAFT RMP/EIS,
taken at 4701 North Torrey Pines Drive, Las Vegas,
Nevada, on Thursday, October 20, 2005, at 6:10 p.m.,
before Cindy R. Bowden, Certified Court Reporter, in and
for the State of Nevada.

APPEARANCES:

For the BLM:

GENE DRAIS
JAKE RAJALA

For the ENSR:

RUSS MOORE
DEBBY SEHI
MIKE BAUGHMAN, MODERATOR

Also Present:

KEN FREEMAN
BILL VASCONI
MIKE MOORE
JERROLD JONES
ANTHONY LIVRERI
JOSHUA HAYDEN
JOHN HUTCHINGS
SAMANTHA WELCH
DAVID DUNN
TERRY KOZLOWSKI
KIM LEAVER
SUSAN ROBERTS
M. WILLS
KARYN SCHIERBERL
B. SCHIERBERL
ROGER SCHUFELD
JARED GUNNERSON
BOB MAIDD
MICHAEL ALBRECHT

Transcript PM3 Continued

1 LAS VEGAS, NEVADA, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2005;

2 6:10 P.M.

3 -oOo-

4
5 MR. DRAIS: My name is Gene Drais. I'm the
6 acting association field manager for the Bureau of Land
7 Management in Ely. It is my pleasure to welcome you
8 here to our public meeting tonight. I'd like to
9 introduce the persons that our involved to hear your
10 public comments tonight. There is -- our doorman out
11 back there is Jake Rajala, he is the planning and
12 environmental coordinator for the Ely field office.

13 The -- our cooperating agencies are
14 represented tonight is the two guys from Nellis Air
15 Force Base. Roger Schufeld, Jim Campe, nice to have you
16 here. The contractor who is preparing this document for
17 us are represented by Russ Moore and his partner Debby
18 Sehi and a subcontractor for them who is going to
19 facilitate the meeting tonight is Mike Baughman. And
20 our court recorder is Cindy, and we're glad to have her
21 with us.

22 The purpose of tonight's meeting is very
23 simple and it is really one purpose and one purpose only
24 and that is to hear from you, the public, regarding the
25 draft resource management plan for the Ely District.

Transcript PM3 Continued

1 And so with that short introduction, I will turn the
2 time over to Mike Baughman.

3 MR. BAUGHMAN: Thanks, Gene. We are --
4 again, really the purpose of tonight and we can't really
5 stress that enough is that we are on the record. This
6 is going to be taking basically verbatim in terms of
7 your comments to the RMP. And so for many of you, you
8 haven't had a chance to look at it. You just looked at
9 the summary, and you perhaps perused the alternatives.

10 Hopefully, for those of you -- for those of
11 you -- we'd have a handful of folks that have not. For
12 those of you that have had a chance to maybe get some
13 ideas. If you haven't, feel free to continue to look at
14 it. If you do decide to make a statement, we'll put
15 that on the record. But what we'll do is when we get
16 going here, we will basically ask for those folks --
17 we'll take them in the order that they filled out their
18 card. We will ask them to -- just where you are to
19 offer some comments, your comments on the RMP and the
20 EIS.

21 We will ask you to speak, you know, fairly
22 slowly and fairly loudly so that the court reporter will
23 get that. And we'll get that on the record so that the
24 BLM will have a very explicit understanding of what your
25 comment was or comments. The BLM will then consider

Transcript PM3 Continued

PUBLIC MEETING ON THE ELY DRAFT RMP/EIS

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1 those when they are working on the final RMP and the
2 final EIS.

3 This is not your last opportunity to provide
4 input on this document. This is an opportunity to
5 provide input in a public setting with the court
6 reporter here, spares you perhaps if you don't elect to
7 provide written comments, spares you the need to do
8 that. But you do have the opportunity to provide us
9 with written comments as well. Many of you picked up
10 this comment form. You can certainly fill this out
11 tonight if you'd like. There is a box there on the
12 table. You can drop it in the box.

13 Alternatively, you can fill it out, four or
14 five pages, 100 pages, whatever works for you. And you
15 can mail it in to the BLM or you could just disregard
16 and just put together a set of written comments. Those
17 written comments are due on November 28th. So you've
18 got about five weeks or so left -- four or five weeks to
19 actually prepare written comments. And so you may
20 elect, you know, based upon what you are learning
21 tonight and what you are reading into -- to forego going
22 on the record tonight and simply prepare some comments.

23 We are really not here to answer questions
24 during this time when we're on the record. We are
25 certainly not here to debate the plan on the record. We

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Transcript PM3 Continued

PUBLIC MEETING ON THE ELY DRAFT RMP/EIS

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1 want to hear from you. We want to capture what you say
2 on this record. So that is our specific purpose
3 tonight. Some of the items here around the room that
4 you might take a look at as you get a chance.

5 We have a list over here of the cooperating
6 agencies. I think they're also highlighted in the
7 document you have in front of you. And we have had --
8 this is the fourth meeting we've held. We were in Ely
9 on Monday night. We were in Caliente on Tuesday. We
10 were in Mesquite last night. Tonight we're here. We're
11 going to be in Reno on Monday night. And then Tonopah
12 on Tuesday night. So if you have -- you know
13 acquaintances interested in that nature in the northern
14 part of the state, folks that you know that use the
15 resource area and they're in Reno, and you think that
16 they ought to be at the meeting, certainly let them know
17 that there is a meeting on Monday night or Tonopah on
18 Tuesday.

19 We have had cooperating agencies
20 participating at these different meetings and Don has
21 been participating in the Nevada Division of Wildlife at
22 the previous meetings and there's Gene and Tom. We have
23 got Nellis here tonight. There are maps of the resource
24 area. Again, those maps are in your handout. If you're
25 not familiar with the Ely District, it extends from the

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Las Vegas, Nevada

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Transcript PM3 Continued

1 upper county line to the Elko County line, all of White
2 Pine County all the way down to the Southern Lincoln
3 County line up to Elko County line, a little bit of Nye
4 County on the westside, but basically, all of White Pine
5 and Lincoln Counties. And so it's a large area with a
6 very, very large area with a very diverse set of
7 resources and a very diverse set of land -- land uses.

8 This little handout right here -- this gives
9 you an idea of what the process is. You might want to
10 take a look at that when you get a chance. But
11 basically, we are at this point right here where we are
12 taking input that the draft is out. There are copies
13 over here for you to take home, CDs. We're looking for
14 input. The BLM will then consider all of the input they
15 receive both in terms of the comments that go on the
16 record, any written comments that we get that people
17 turn in or any letters that you provide us of comments
18 by the November 28th deadline.

19 All of those comments will be taken into
20 consideration and then BLM will then revise the document
21 accordingly and as appropriate. And they will issue a
22 proposed revised document. And that document will then
23 be out and there will be a 30-day protest period in a
24 field period, another opportunity to provide input on
25 the document that there will not be public meetings at

Transcript PM3 Continued

1 that point. But there certainly will be an opportunity
2 to provide additional input of guidance to the BLM on
3 the document.

4 After all that process, then they issue
5 what's called a record of decision. And there could be
6 as a result of this process over time many records of
7 decisions issued trying to implement this 20-year-long
8 range plan. But certainly that record of decisions of
9 to what is typically done to implement the various
10 elements of the plan. And to select the proposed
11 alternatives and things of that nature. And then they
12 just go into implementation and monitor and evaluate and
13 maintain. Those of you that are users of the public
14 lands, understand the process that once BLM has
15 something in place, then they manage their lands.

16 And if you got out there for different
17 recreational purposes or mining or your interest in
18 wildlife, you've dealt with them. You know that they
19 are implementing over time. This plan will set them up
20 for the next 20 years or so.

21 I would ask as we go on the record and we
22 are on the record as we actually take your comments.
23 First of all, I would ask folks that if you got a cell
24 phone, I'd have to ask you to put it on vibrate or turn
25 the thing off. It's just -- you know, a little hard for

Transcript PM3 Continued

PUBLIC MEETING ON THE ELY DRAFT RMP/EIS

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1 her to try to keep track of a cell phone ringing and a
2 comment at the same time.

3 Also, you know, there's very much the
4 possibility that someone's comments may offend you. You
5 may wholeheartedly disagree with what somebody says. We
6 would ask you to reserve yourself as best you can. Hang
7 on to that chair and not interrupt or say anything.
8 Again, so the court reporter can understand what they're
9 saying.

10 We have been trying to -- we have suggested
11 that we would limit the time that people speak up to
12 three to five minutes. I can tell you at this point, we
13 have -- I only have three cards. And if you do intend
14 to speak, again, I would ask you to just put your name
15 and information on this card, so that we've got it for
16 the record. And particularly for the court reporter, so
17 we can match follow-up comments with who you are.

18 Also, make sure that as this goes forward,
19 make sure that you are in the loop to make sure that you
20 get notified that you get follow-up documents and the
21 Bureau wants to make sure that you do get that
22 information because you took the time to participate.
23 But if you do want to make comments on the record,
24 please fill one of these out so that we know who that
25 person is.

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1 I can tell you right now we have three of
2 them. So I do not intend to limit you to three to five
3 minutes. We are going to let you make your comments.
4 You know, if it gets to be a considerable time later and
5 I get the sense that folks are getting a little bit
6 impatient, I may ask you to kind of wrap it up and maybe
7 submit the rest in writing.

8 But here we're pretty flexible in that
9 regard. So you use your judgment as well. Again, we're
10 not really going to answer questions here. This could
11 go fairly quickly. This is not a formal presentation on
12 the document itself. You've got some information there.
13 When we conclude this public comment part of this thing
14 and we go off the record, we're going to be here for a
15 while and we have done this in the other meetings as
16 well, because members of the public may come in a little
17 later and we kind of cycle them through the process.

18 If you'd like to make comments, we reopen
19 the record, and let you give us your comments. We will
20 be here. We'd love to chat with you and find out who
21 you are. We've engaged the public and chatting like
22 that in the past couple of nights. And we have also
23 found that members of the audience ending up engaging in
24 each other's conversation which is quite useful as well.

25 So we will be here for probably, I guess, an

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1 hour after this thing concludes off the record. I guess
2 with that, I would recommend that we go ahead and start.

3 Yes, Gene?

4 MR. DRAIS: I just wanted to make it real
5 clear that people can make comments publicly tonight and
6 turn in comments later if they choose to. They don't
7 have to do both. I just wanted to make sure that you do
8 have that option. You can do both if you choose to.

9 MR. BAUGHMAN: Absolutely. Yeah, that's a
10 good point. This isn't your only opportunity. Okay.

11 Well, without further ado, I would recommend
12 that we go forward. She is more than ready. We -- the
13 first person that I have that signed up is a gentleman
14 by the name of John Hutchings. And I would just
15 encourage you if you'd like -- if you want to come up
16 front, that's fine but you're welcome to do it right
17 from where you sit. Again, I would just ask you to be
18 clear and fairly loud so that the court reporter can
19 hear. And, John, you've got the floor.

20 MR. HUTCHINGS: Thank you. Am I supposed to
21 identify myself? A couple of comments probably mostly
22 about the process in which the determination of how the
23 Federal agency is going to conduct their operations and
24 how they're going to manage their resources is somewhat
25 disturbing to me. And probably because I am a native

Transcript PM3 Continued

Responses to Comments

1 Nevadan, and I was born in Lincoln County, and I
2 professionally worked in White Pine County, and through
3 the process over the past 35 years, what basically I'm a
4 little offended by is that even though I recognize that
5 the Federal Agency, your task is to manage the resources
6 for all of the people. Essentially, what we are talking
7 about is the majority of the people that utilize the
8 resources literally live in Nevada.

9 But yet those people are probably the least
10 people that are considered in what happens to the
11 resources on the public plan. To be quite honest with
12 you, the five families that run livestock in the
13 wilderness and resource allotment have more of an impact
14 on 95 percent of the management area of 23 in its
15 allocation for elk resources than any of the people that
16 literally occupy this building. And yet probably five
17 to six months of the year, we would have anywhere
18 between 100 to 150 people publicly using that resource
19 area.

20 And what I don't understand is why, first of
21 all, you don't ask for public comment about what kind of
22 activities the public would like to see on the
23 resources, the resource area and then ask yourself the
24 question: Do you have the management capability of
25 being able to manage the resources on what the people

PM3-1 Please refer to Section 1.6 in the Draft RMP and EIS and Proposed RMP and Final EIS for a discussion of the issues and concerns that were raised by the public during scoping for the Ely RMP.

PM3-1

Transcript PM3 Continued

Responses to Comments

PM3-1

1 wish to see? For example, we do a real good job of
2 managing livestock industry in the management resource
3 area, but we don't do an awful lot as far as providing
4 recreational opportunities and facilities that wish to
5 go camping or recreating in the BLM. An example of that
6 is the closure of several camping areas in Eagle Valley

PM3-2

7 Canyon just north of Ursine where I personally can
8 attest that for the past 60 years, you could go and camp
9 there, but all of sudden this summer, the Bureau of Land
10 Management decided to block those camping areas.

11 Why? Why did they do that? I don't
12 understand that. I don't understand why with the
13 limited number of areas that there are areas for people
14 to recreate and the recreational area was closed down.

PM3-3

15 Why is it necessary for us to consider the number of
16 livestock animals being grazed in the Wilton Allotment
17 area as it impacts the elk allotment plan in Lincoln
18 County? Why can't we just let the -- do whatever they
19 are going to do and manage numbers on the basis of
20 whether it literally impacts the resources.

21 Why do we sit there and say, We need to keep
22 them here because we have a livestock operator out there
23 that has 40,000 AUMs? Why isn't it possible to ask the
24 question, is it possible that 40,000 AUMs of elk may be
25 important to the people than whether we have 40,000 AUMs

PM3-2

The Ely Field Office closed the casual use areas mentioned in your comment to camping to reduce overall use, minimize overcrowding during heavy use periods, and create a more safe and sanitary condition.

PM3-3

Livestock and wildlife are multiple uses of the public lands. Rangeland health will continue to be monitored, assessed, and evaluated to determine impacts to habitat and forage and to determine if the standards for rangeland health are being achieved. Adjustments to livestock management or stocking levels, and improvement of wildlife habitat, are actions that may be appropriate in certain situations. Evaluation of grazing use relative to the achievement of the standards for rangeland health are conducted during the term permit renewal process, during watershed analysis, and during grazing use monitoring.

Transcript PM3 Continued

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PM3-3L

1 of livestock grazing. But that is the sideboards that
2 we are placed on the Elk Management Plan without public
3 comment. So the way I see the way we are doing the
4 resource inventory here is we are doing it in an
5 about-face manner? And I'm just wondering why we do it
6 that way?

7 MR. BAUGHMAN: Very good. Thank you, John.
8 Let me just also note that -- and I forgot to mention
9 this before we started. But after each person offers
10 their comments, we will ask staff, the BLM staff if they
11 have any questions on the comments or just in case you
12 know they didn't understand exactly what a point was or
13 something. So while we're not asking you to ask us
14 questions, we might ask you questions, John. So I'll
15 ask each person.

16 So does any of the staff have any questions
17 for John just to clarify or make sure you understand his
18 comments?

19 MR. DRAIS: I don't.

20 MR. BAUGHMAN: Everything seemed pretty
21 clear? Okay. Very good. Thank you, John. The next
22 person that I have is -- I am going to take these in the
23 order that I received them. So the next one is Michael
24 Wills.

25 MR. WILLS: I'm still not ready. I'm not

Transcript PM3 Continued

Responses to Comments

1 done reading. I'm sorry.

2 MR. BAUGHMAN: That's okay, Michael. But

3 you do have to take a copy -- can we get the booby prize

4 for Michael. Let's go to Ken, Ken Foreman if Ken is

5 available. Did I pronounce that right?

6 MR. FREEMAN: Freeman.

7 MR. BAUGHMAN: Freeman, I'm sorry, Ken, Ken

8 Freeman.

9 MR. WILLS: Who gets the booby prize back

10 now?

11 MR. FREEMAN: I can say that I'm extremely

12 disappointed with what I have read with this man. It

13 doesn't seem to take in most of the users of the

14 District in the southern part which is actually OHV

15 users which is probably your majority end users in that

16 area. It seems like that each plan has something that

17 OHV users are not going to stall because it could

18 effect anything that they're going to do in that area.

19 Our group SNORE does have a competitive event in the

20 Caliente area which is their largest event.

21 Most of these towns are very, very

22 distressed in their income and their economic stability.

23 Our event brings in close to \$100,000 for a three-day

24 weekend to that town. And it's basically their biggest

25 event that they have all year long. I know that MRAN is

PM3-4 Please refer to Section 2.4.15.1 in the Proposed RMP and Final EIS for a discussion of recreation management, including opportunities for motorized recreation on public land managed by the Ely Field Office. The Ely Field Office recognizes that off-highway vehicle use is an acceptable use of public land wherever it is compatible with resource management objectives.

PM3-5 Thank you for expressing your concerns. As described in Section 2.4.15.2 of the Proposed RMP and Final EIS, competitive OHV events would continue to be allowed.

PM3-4

PM3-5

Transcript PM3 Continued

Responses to Comments

PM3-5 1 here represented tonight. They do bring in a lot of
2 money to these towns and it just seems to me like if
3 we're going limit these events or even disallow these
4 events, it's going to be an economic hardship to these
5 communities.

PM3-6 6 It's -- also with the Las Vegas District
7 basically trying to run OHV out of this district with
8 their imposing fees that are astronomical that the club
9 can't basically afford to put on an event now and
10 basically has been told by the Las Vegas District that
11 we should be looking to go to the Ely District.

PM3-7 12 And then we get hit with this. We basically
13 have nowhere to go. I was very disappointed to see that
14 there wasn't a division in here to try to expand the
15 Silver State Trail that leads to nowhere. That has no
16 -- it's actually benefiting nobody in the state now
17 because it has not stopped in the towns that need the
18 help. I cannot -- I cannot imagine them not with this
19 plan not expanding on that trail trying to bring more of
20 an economic impact to these towns in Ely.

PM3-8 21 I can't see -- another thing that totally
22 amazes me is there isn't an OHV park in this plan. You
23 know that -- in this -- little by little the government
24 land is being sold off, and if it's not designated for
25 something, we're got going to get it. I would like to

PM3-6 Please refer to Response to Comment PM3-4.

PM3-7 The location of the Silver State Trail was designated in the Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act of 2004. The Ely Field Office is currently developing an implementation management plan for that trail. The Proposed RMP also identifies the Chief Mountain special recreation management area at the southern end of the Silver State Trail that could provide motorized recreation opportunities. During site-specific transportation planning, the Ely Field Office will hold public scoping meetings to address completeness of the route inventory and public issues, concerns, and access needs.

PM3-8 Please refer to Section 2.4.14 in the Proposed RMP and Final EIS for a discussion of transportation planning and off-highway vehicle use, which includes areas where the recreational use of off-highway vehicles would be allowed. No OHV parks have been included in the Proposed RMP

Transcript PM3 Continued

Responses to Comments

1 see that in there. There is a lot of economic or a lot
2 of things that need to be into this. It didn't seem
3 like that our -- that the OHV and recreational group was
4 not looked at in the facet that we were looking at --
5 that the groups we're looking at, it seemed like we were
6 the stepchild that will give them a little of this, and
7 this one, this plan, or a little of this and this plan.

8 But as a whole I'm very disappointed with
9 the way this turns out. It seems like they missed --
10 the major users were missed and that I think you will
11 find out that if you talk to the towns that are affected
12 by this plan, the small towns, that they're going to
13 tell you that the recreational user is the OHV user and
14 that's where the majority is going to use this and they
15 basically have been forgotten in this plan. And that's
16 all I have.

17 MR. BAUGHMAN: Okay. Thank you, Ken.
18 Again, I'll ask the staff, the BLM staff, does any of
19 the staff have a question for Ken?

20 MR. DRAIS: Yes. I just have a clarifying
21 question. You said you were disappointed in the
22 different plans. You mean the different alternatives?

23 MR. FREEMAN: Correct.

24 MR. DRAIS: I just wanted to clarify that.
25 Thank you very much for your time.

PM3-9 Please refer to Section 2.4.15.1 in the Draft RMP and EIS and Proposed RMP and Final EIS for a discussion of areas that would be available for OHV recreation. Also as discussed in Section 5.1.5, all three counties that fall within the Ely RMP planning area were represented as formal cooperating agencies on the Ely RMP.

PM3-9

Transcript PM3 Continued

Responses to Comments

1 MR. BAUGHMAN: Okay. We will next go to
2 Bill Vasconi is the next person that I have.

3 MR. VASCONI: Bill Vasconi, I am president
4 of the Fraternity of the Desert Bighorn. We work a lot
5 with the International Park and we work a lot with the
6 NDOW National Systems. And we are partners with NDOW
7 and U.S. Fish and Wildlife. In a lot of cases, we're
8 now looking to BLM to give us a hand with management of
9 these -- our resources, whether it be wildlife, whether
10 it be restoration of the forests. You know we've got so
11 many wilderness areas coming into effect across the
12 state.

13 Boy, I can sympathize with Lincoln and White
14 Pine. Again, Lincoln County, you've got a population of
15 4,800 people. And the only area in there that was left
16 out of the wilderness was Table Top. And by God they
17 want to put wind generators on top of it. That the
18 restriction on the land use is becoming a really heavy
19 topic and there is a lot of the folks, not only live in
20 those areas, but our land users such as myself. And
21 economically he wants us to come through this area. He
22 wants us to buy our gas. He wants us to fix our tires.
23 He wants us to eat there. He wants us to stay there.

24 But you can't take the land away from us.
25 You can't leave us with no access to the lands. And a

PM3-10 The Ely Field Office recognizes that off-highway vehicle use is an acceptable use of public land wherever it is compatible with resource management objectives. Areas are designated as "open" for cross country vehicle use where there are no compelling resource protection needs, user conflicts, or public safety issues. No areas managed by the Ely Field Office were determined to meet those criteria. The Ely Field Office is designating a majority of the planning area as "limited" in the Proposed RMP. The "limited" designation would still provide for off-highway vehicle opportunities, including potential new off-highway vehicle trails, while managing for public safety and resource protection needs. The only areas designated as "closed" to off-highway vehicle travel correspond to currently designated wilderness and wilderness study areas.

PM3-10

Transcript PM3 Continued

Responses to Comments

PM3-10

1 lot of your alternatives tells how much of that land is
2 going to be available for public use? Or how much of it
3 is going to be available for off-road vehicles such as
4 ATVs, et cetera. We realize that there ought to be
5 regulations and restrictions on ATVs, but don't take
6 that land away from us as far as being accessible to us.

7 Now, I do appreciate that the fact that
8 you're going in and you are using restoration means like
9 in Sample A that I just read. There's some 10,000 acres
10 a year that's going to be restored which I assume you're
11 going to go in there and try to do something with
12 everything from salt feeders, constant weeds, et cetera.
13 A lot of them you're not going to be able to defeat.

PM3-11

14 Cheap grass is going to be around from now
15 on for those of you who only buy cheap grass because
16 it's in your boots when you walk through the mud. It's
17 on your tires of your vehicle and the critters from one
18 area to another. And it don't have any elevation or
19 limitations.

PM3-12

20 Cheap grass is here to stay, but there's
21 other things like salt feeders, et cetera, that can be
22 controlled and they are around Eagle Valley right now.
23 There's only about a dozen trees but they put out a
24 million seeds a year. So you ought to do something with
25 those damn 12 trees. I thought about it.

PM3-11 Cheatgrass invasion has been identified as an altered state that needs to be reduced or eliminated. The Ely Field Office is currently inventorying and treating for noxious weeds and will use this data as part of the watershed analysis process. Watershed analysis has and will continue to consider cheatgrass as part of the evaluation process. As part of watershed analysis, implementation strategies will be developed to deal with weeds and vectors of weed infestation.

PM3-12 Thank you for your comment. The noxious and invasive species that you have mentioned in your comment are being actively treated on public lands. However, the trees you mention are not on BLM-administered land. Private landowners can organize themselves into Coordinated Weed Management Areas (CWMA) that are eligible for grants to treat noxious weeds. The Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition has assisted many landowners in developing CWMAs around the State and helping them apply for grants.

Transcript PM3 Continued

Responses to Comments

PM3-13

1 But the bottom line on all of it is, those
2 of us that work with wildlife, irregardless of what
3 consideration you are giving in your plans, a lot of us
4 folks work with elk. We work with antelopes. In
5 particular, I work with desert bighorn sheep. And there
6 are landing areas, camping areas. There are seasonable
7 green up areas. There are areas that are recreational
8 useful habitats. See, some kind of limitation during
9 those seasons that these critters need access to that
10 land.

PM3-14

11 But the bottom line on all of it, you know,
12 BLM is awful important to us right now. And you're
13 important to us because we can still talk to you. When
14 you get a wilderness area signed, it's tough, guys. We
15 have got 115 water projects for desert bighorn sheep and
16 other wildlife right here in Southern Nevada, and a lot
17 of them are in wilderness areas. And the restrictions
18 on maintaining those projects are simply unreal. And
19 even though I'm talking about desert bighorn sheep, we
20 started with 1,200 sheep in Southern Nevada. We've got
21 over 5,000, right around 5,500 and it's through the
22 efforts of people here in these rooms that we have done
23 that.

24 We're doing the same thing with elk and
25 antelope. I would ask that BLM to really register a

PM3-13 Please refer to Section 2.4.6 and Appendix F in the Proposed RMP and Final EIS for timing restrictions on uses and activities within wildlife habitat.

PM3-14 Thank you for expressing your concerns. Management within designated wilderness is directed by existing BLM regulations.

Transcript PM3 Continued

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1 listening ear to some of these folks who live out in
2 these rural areas, because economically and recreational
3 wise and land use wise, it's hurting those of us who
4 live in Clark County. And with a population of 1.8
5 million people, 50 percent of them have been here less
6 than ten years. They want to go some place away from
7 the crime, the traffic, whatever, and the closest place
8 to go is Lincoln, White Pine County. So I would lend an
9 ear to those folks from those areas. That's all I have
10 got unless you got a question. I do have an
11 announcement if I can make one. May I make an
12 announcement?

13 MR. BAUGHMAN: Absolutely.

14 MR. VASCONI: I don't know if you noticed it
15 in the papers for those of you that live down here,
16 we're moving sheep from the River Mountains which sits
17 right between Henderson and Boulder City. And some of
18 those sheep coming out of a place called Hemingway Park
19 which you might be familiar with. If somebody comes to
20 town, you come out there and take pictures of them.
21 Monday night we drove those sheep to approximately -- 50
22 of them up into the hills in River Mountain and there
23 was a quite a lightning storm so most of them stayed
24 away.

25 Well, yesterday four come down. Today 16

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1 come down. So tomorrow night at 5:00 o'clock, if you
2 got a flashlight and a jug of water, we'd like to drive
3 those sheep back up on the side of that hill and get
4 them out over the river rock, because Saturday we're
5 capturing 25 to 30 sheep. And then Sunday we are going
6 to transport those sheep to the Virgin Mountains up by
7 Mesquite and release them out of a water development
8 project we have up there. This is also in conjunction
9 with Nevada Department of Wildlife. Anybody interested
10 see me before the evening's end. And you're more than
11 welcome to come to the capture. And you're more than
12 welcome to the release. If you have never ridden in a
13 helicopter, this is a good chance to get one.

14 MR. BAUGHMAN: Thank you, Bill.

15 MR. VASCONI: Thank you for the time.

16 MR. BAUGHMAN: Any questions by the BLM
17 staff of Bill for his comments, on his comments?

18 MR. WILSON: I have a question of the BLM
19 staff.

20 MR. BAUGHMAN: Actually, we can't take those
21 while we're on this record. I ask you not to -- so I
22 apologize for that, but we just -- we kind of need to
23 stay on the record with these comments. We're going to
24 go next to Anthony Livreri. Anthony, are you ready?

25 MR. LIVRERI: Yeah.

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Responses to Comments

1 MR. BAUGHMAN: Okay. Great.
2 MR. LIVRERI: I'll wing it.
3 MR. BAUGHMAN: Okay. Thank you.
4 MR. LIVRERI: Anthony Livreri. I was born
5 and raised in Lincoln County. I live in Clark County
6 now. But anyways, first I'd like to say that all
7 existing roads, trails, race courses, and washes need to
8 remain open for OHV use in the 11.4 million acres that
9 this RMP will manage. These roads and trails are a
10 necessity for quality OHV recreation. Closing these
11 trails would severely impact the OHV community in a
12 negative way. One -- I forgot his name. If we can't
13 have races, that costs the county and those towns money.
14 So that's something for the BLM to think about. This
15 also creates fewer opportunities to recreate and explore
16 new areas, but forces people into one concentrated area
17 -- the way they used to make their plans and that
18 creates an unsafe situation because you got too many
19 people on OHVs going in all different directions.
20 And I feel when they do that they're
21 responsible for injuries personally for forcing people
22 to be in that situation. Given the fact that no new
23 roads or trails are being established for use in these
24 areas, the implementation of the Silver State Trail
25 systems, evading existing race courses. Like I said,

PM3-15

PM3-16

PM3-17

PM3-15 Thank you for your suggestion. The BLM designates areas as "closed" if a closure to all vehicular use is necessary to protect resources, ensure visitor safety, or reduce use conflicts. The BLM designates areas as "limited" where it must restrict off-highway vehicle use in order to meet specific resource management objectives. These limitations may include: restricting the number or types of vehicles; limiting the time or season of use; permitted or licensed use only; limiting use to existing roads and trails; and limiting use to designated roads and trails. The BLM may place other limitations, as necessary, to protect resources, particularly in areas that motorized off-highway vehicle use enthusiasts use intensely or where they participate in competitive events. The limited designation across 90% of the Ely RMP decision area is consistent with BLM policy.

PM3-16 The Proposed RMP includes four geographic areas where motorcycle special recreation permit events have historically been held. These areas would allow for continuing opportunities for motorized special recreation permit events and race course rest and rotation to occur.

PM3-17 Please refer to Section 2.4.15.1 in the Proposed RMP and Final EIS for a discussion of how recreation resources would be managed by the Ely Field Office. A majority of the decision area would be managed as an Extensive Recreation Management Area for primitive undeveloped recreational opportunities. The Ely Field Office recognizes that off-highway vehicle use is an acceptable use of public land wherever it is compatible with resource management objectives. However, no single-focus OHV emphasis areas have been identified as a recreation designation.

Transcript PM3 Continued

Responses to Comments

PM3-18

1 its detrimental to the off-road racing community to lose
2 any more trails. You can't tie your race courses
3 together or anything with the plan. That's not --
4 that's not right or fair in my opinion and with the
5 creation of 14 wilderness areas in Lincoln County --
6 well, a lot of roads and things. Me and my family when
7 I was a kid used to go in when I was a kid, you can't go
8 into like North Power Rock. I used to run a trapline
9 with my dad. You can't do nothing there no more thanks
10 to their wilderness area that was not needed in my
11 opinion.

PM3-19

12 So -- and they put them on every mountain
13 range like this guy said except Table Top. So all we
14 get left is a plat there. I'd like to thank you for
15 that. Third, there needs to be a system in place to
16 replace the existing trails, roads, and race courses to
17 get closed. For example, every mile a trail road or a
18 race course that's closed, there needs to be a new mile
19 or race course reestablished. That's the only way this
20 process could be fair. You can't take roads away and
21 not replace them. That's not right.

22 And I like to just say, the BLM works for
23 the public. They answer to me and every tax payer in
24 this country. And they ought to consider the way we all
25 feel and what each one of us want to use and I don't

PM3-18 Please refer to Response to Comment PM3-16.

PM3-19 The Ely Field Office is required to establish a process for completing a defined travel management network. Please refer to Section 2.4.14.1 of the Proposed RMP and Final EIS for clarification of how comprehensive travel management planning will occur in the Ely RMP planning area.

Transcript PM3 Continued

Responses to Comments

1 think they do most of the time. And then when I read
2 through the plan, right now all 11.4 million acres are
3 open.

4 And then the new plan, no acres are open
5 anymore for use. You're stuck with designated trails.
6 How they can take away 11.4 million acres? It used to
7 be completely open for us. And now they say none of it.
8 They should at least designate -- I'm saying three or
9 four million acres for OHV use, recreational areas.
10 They made more than that in wilderness areas. So it
11 would be fair. We need an OHV park. They never think
12 of that. And the only other thing I'd like to say --
13 let me find it.

14 I honestly can say that none of these new
15 wilderness areas were ever damaged by an OHV. I've
16 ridden in all areas of that county and everything was
17 fine. The only damage I remember seeing was caused by
18 fires or springs trampled by wild horses or the wild
19 horses eat all the grass and nothing else happens.
20 That's the damage I remember seeing. I don't ever
21 remember seeing any other damage up there. It's not a
22 lot of people that recreate up there and I go to the
23 meetings and I hear about all of these thousands of
24 people -- I go out in the mountains, and I never seen
25 anyone. Where are these thousands of people that you

PM3-20 Please refer to Response to Comment PM3-15.

PM3-21 Comment noted. All existing roads and trails will remain open until site-specific travel management plans have been completed with public input.

PM3-20

PM3-21

Transcript PM3 Continued

Responses to Comments

1 keep talking about? It's ridiculous. I don't see them.
2 And I'm up there all the time. I go up there probably
3 24 weekends a year or more, and I never see anything out
4 there but me.

PM3-22

5 I just question how they come up with these
6 plans, their EIS studies. I don't know. And my last
7 comment -- in closing I want to say, I can only hope
8 that the BLM will respect the rights of the people and
9 the tax payers' directory and not create policies based
10 on incomplete scientific discovery or cater to
11 environmental groups, just like OHV users, meaning or
12 whatever else is used. And that's it. That's all.

PM3-23

13 MR. BAUGHMAN: Thank you, Anthony. Staff
14 have any questions for Anthony? No, on staff. Okay.
15 Great. Thanks again, Anthony. The next person that I
16 have that has filled out a card and wishing to put
17 comments into the public record is Mike Wilson.

18 MR. WILSON: Everything that I have heard so
19 far tonight is all kind of ringing true with me. I'm
20 one of the few people of my age that was born and raised
21 right here in Vegas, living in Clark County ever since I
22 was a young boy. I've done nothing but hunt, off-road
23 use, and camp with my family. And I have taken those
24 uses and continue with my current family. And here in
25 Clark County, we're systematically getting chopped away

PM3-24

PM3-22 The management actions that are presented in the Proposed RMP were developed through consideration of the planning criteria presented in Section 1.5 of the Draft RMP and EIS and Proposed RMP and Final EIS, public scoping comments presented in Section 1.6, BLM policy especially as presented in the Land Use Planning Handbook, and the professional judgment of the staff in the Ely Field Office.

PM3-23 Please refer to Section 1.5.1 in the Draft RMP and EIS and Proposed RMP and Final EIS for a discussion of the general planning criteria used in developing the Proposed RMP. The BLM disagrees that the proposed management actions cater to special interests.

PM3-24 Please refer to Section 2.4.15.1 in the Proposed RMP and Final EIS for a discussion of how recreation resources would be managed by the Ely Field Office. A majority of the decision area would be managed as an Extensive Recreation Management Area for primitive undeveloped recreational opportunities. The Ely Field Office recognizes that off-highway vehicle use is an acceptable use of public land wherever it is compatible with resource management objectives. However, no single-focus OHV emphasis areas have been identified as a recreation designation.

Transcript PM3 Continued

Responses to Comments

PM3-24

1 from areas we can use. Now, we have all the dust
2 containment area in the valley. We can't use that. We
3 can't use the area outside of Boulder City.
4 We can't -- now there's propositions out
5 there to shut areas off -- out at Sloan. So now we're
6 forced into the northern counties, and now these
7 northern counties are systematically starting to get
8 shut down. And I haven't had got a chance to go through
9 everything in here, but that's Alternative B -- well,
10 just the beginning of it. Like Zack said, I don't see
11 any emphasis for the people that actually use the land.
12 And if you shut off land, well, there's no use to
13 anybody except for the people driving by it on the
14 highway.

PM3-25

15 I still want places to take my family
16 camping, the area next to Eagle Valley. I too used to
17 stay there, the areas which I hunt. This would directly
18 impact resources or abilities to get into those areas.
19 Me and my family, we also desert race. We go out and
20 enjoy these race courses. The areas in which we race in
21 are very, very low impact. Ninety percent of our
22 courses are in sand washes. The next rank, you don't
23 even realize that there was a race there outside of
24 maybe where they set up for the pits. And that's always
25 been a special use area anyway that has been used over

PM3-25 The Proposed RMP includes four geographic areas where motorcycle special recreation permit events have historically been held. These areas would allow for continuing opportunities for motorized special recreation permit events and race course rest and rotation to occur.

Transcript PM3 Continued

Responses to Comments

PM3-25

1 over and over again, not only by off-road racers but
2 people that go out there and like to camp in the outside
3 settings.

PM3-26

4 You know, I got 500 directions going all at
5 once inside my head after reading this. And I know this
6 isn't a time for questions but I have to keep asking,
7 it's like where is this coming from? Who made it up?
8 Why did they make it up? And what information did they
9 get to come up with all this? And why the need for the
10 change? That wasn't needed 20 years ago or five years
11 ago. Why all of a sudden make this so necessary without
12 -- you know -- doing small pieces at a time? They are
13 attacking a very large section of land. You know, 11.4
14 million acres is huge.

15 I would just like, you know, for you to know
16 for people such as myself -- I use this land for many
17 different uses, through different times of the year, not
18 only -- just like me and my family, but with other
19 friends and family. And I just hate to see it all
20 disappear. I've already seen this valley go away. And
21 thank God I'm in a job -- here in about eight years, I
22 might not have to stay here anymore.

23 MR. BAUGHMAN: Thank you, Mike. Again, BLM
24 staff, do you have any questions for Michael on his
25 comments for the record? Okay.

PM3-26 The management actions that are presented in the Proposed RMP were developed through consideration of the planning criteria presented in Section 1.5 of the Draft RMP and EIS and Proposed RMP and Final EIS, public scoping comments presented in Section 1.6, BLM policy especially as presented in the Land Use Planning Handbook, and the professional judgment of the staff in the Ely Field Office.

Transcript PM3 Continued

1 Are there any folks who have come tonight
2 who would like to provide comments for the record while
3 we've got the record open? Anybody else? If you do
4 decide or if you would -- after having heard other folks
5 speak, if you would like to, we would just ask you to
6 fill out this card so that we know who you are and make
7 sure that we get that right in the record itself.

8 And that also helps to assure that you,
9 again, that you do receive materials and having signed
10 it, and it helps in that regard as well. So please be
11 sure and do all that. Okay. The next person then is
12 David Dunn.

13 MR. DUNN: I'm originally from Colorado, but
14 part of the reason I moved to Las Vegas was in Colorado,
15 we used to do all the things that Mr. Wills has talked
16 about. We used to camp. We used to ride, have all
17 kinds of fun using the land. And it's slowly just got
18 taken away from us, because there was big money that
19 came in. And now there's a wilderness area that I can
20 safely say, I haven't been in 20 years because I --
21 frankly, I don't think anybody that the seriously rich
22 has been in that area, because it's all closed off.

23 I don't like to see that. I might disagree
24 with some of you that something, yes, needs to be done.
25 I think the order is the nature of the universe. But I

Transcript PM3 Continued

Responses to Comments

PM3-27

1 think it has to be taken in point, and it also has to be
2 taken in who benefits the most. The economic impact to
3 me is huge with these outlying counties and these towns.
4 We had a race earlier in Pioche, and it was a huge
5 turnout. The town loved it. It brought a lot of impact
6 into town. The club I belong to actually had a race up
7 in Caliente as well, and it had a huge economic impact
8 in that town. I also hunt. I also fish.

9 I think -- I haven't really kept track. But
10 if I had to keep track this summer, I would say I was up
11 in White Pine and Lincoln County probably half the
12 weekends this summer. And I have a son, and I have a
13 daughter, and I have a wife and we enjoy it, each time
14 that we spend together. We also do things that I teach
15 my kids to police the camp and do other things, that
16 we're trying to do our part.

17 I think, yes, there is alternatives that we
18 need to use. But in all these alternatives that I read
19 in the book, I don't see one that would benefit the
20 best. I don't claim to be a scholar. I don't claim to
21 be a genius. But I think that if we all put our heads
22 together, we can definitely come up with a plan that
23 benefitted -- I think we can take care of the wildlife.
24 Also, I think we can take care of the OHV areas. And
25 one continues -- if you cut that economic impact off of

PM3-27 Thank your for comment. The text in Section 3.23 of the Proposed RMP and Final EIS has been revised to expand the list of recreation and tourism activities that occur in the Ely RMP planning area. The economic contributions of all such activities is recognized collectively in both Sections 3.23 and 4.23. However, individual assessments are beyond the scope of the analysis. The revisions do not affect the basic impact conclusions presented in the Draft RMP and EIS.

Transcript PM3 Continued

Responses to Comments

1 those towns, it's going to be a severe impact on them.

PM3-28

2 Two, it's also going to be a severe impact
3 on our deserts because one of the other clubs that I
4 belong to, The Dunes and Trails of ATV, we just had a
5 huge project up in Lincoln County. And they're in the
6 process now of making grades and cattle grades and
7 donating to the BLM. They're trying to make an impact
8 here. They're trying to make their presence known, and
9 they're trying to stay in the right side, I guess, of
10 the BLM to do what it does to make it happen.

PM3-29

11 But I think the BLM needs to understand that
12 we are getting OHV oriented and that we are outdoors
13 oriented, and we're getting organized. We are organized
14 now. We are trying to find that medium that will help
15 us to accomplish this, but I don't see it in these
16 plans. I'm just a little -- without going into too many
17 particulars that have already been mentioned, the racing
18 structure really isn't going to work unless we really
19 put some more thought into it. It's a huge part of our
20 life here in Southern Nevada.

21 I mean, there is many, many people that use
22 that as a family time. They use that as a personal
23 time, and it's, you know, I have been involved since
24 I've been here. I'm very impressed. I'm very impressed
25 of the people involved in it, and they're trying their

PM3-28 Thank you for expressing your concern. The Ely Field Office appreciates the hard work and commitment of organizations like the Dunes and Trails ATV club and will continue to work with them on cooperative projects to enhance motorized recreational opportunities as has been the case on the Silver State Trail and the Chief Mountain and Egan Crest special recreation management areas.

PM3-29 Please refer to Section 2.4.15.1 in the Proposed RMP and Final EIS for a discussion of how recreation resources would be managed by the Ely Field Office. A majority of the decision area would be managed as an Extensive Recreation Management Area for primitive undeveloped recreational opportunities. The Ely Field Office recognizes that off-highway vehicle use is an acceptable use of public land wherever it is compatible with resource management objectives. However, no single-focus OHV emphasis areas have been identified as a recreation designation.

Transcript PM3 Continued

PUBLIC MEETING ON THE ELY DRAFT RMP/EIS

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1 best to make an impact and to keep the environment clean
2 and to do the best that we can. But I think if we
3 overlook that, I think that it's going to be a serious
4 mistake for the future and our families' future also.
5 That's all I have to say.

6 MR. BAUGHMAN: Okay. Thank you, David. Any
7 questions of BLM staff of David, of his comments for the
8 record? Well, great. Thanks again, David. All right.
9 Well, I do not have anyone else who is signed up to make
10 formal comments on the record while we have the hearing
11 record open.

12 Let me just ask again if at this time
13 there's anybody who doesn't want to make a comment
14 tonight for the record. Because if not, what I'm going
15 to propose is that what we are going to do is we are
16 actually going to close the record. We will be here --
17 we will probably be here for another hour or so. If
18 folks come in, you know, in and decide they want to go
19 on the record, we will reopen the record. If you are
20 still here and decide that you want to -- and in
21 hindsight go on the record, we will go back on the
22 record. Or if you want to embellish your comments, we
23 will also capture that. So that's where we are going to
24 go here in just a couple of minutes, so give that some
25 thought. I believe Mr. Vasconi perhaps would like to

Transcript PM3 Continued

Responses to Comments

1 embellish his comments.

2 MR. VASCONI: Bill, is close enough.

3 MR. BAUGHMAN: Okay, Bill.

4 MR. VASCONI: I usually answer to both of
5 them. Something that was said and I'd like to maybe
6 emphasize a little bit. You know, when we did the
7 wilderness study tonight, anticipated in some of your
8 studies or whatever you want to call them up in Lincoln
9 County. But when you got into the meetings, folks that
10 were there were well represented and they had all of our
11 tax figures together irregardless of what environmental
12 group they come out of.

13 And it was mentioned here earlier about our
14 washes. You know, we tried awful hard in those
15 wilderness meetings to establish the fact that whether
16 you follow the way -- a charity stem, a trailhead, et
17 cetera. Those washes as you well know in Lincoln County
18 stage pressures in the Metal Valley Wash in the washes
19 that come down. Those washes change every couple of
20 years. You can't tell if it is soil going through them
21 anyway. Mother nature takes care of that.

22 That is a viable access into the areas that
23 we could still go and they shouldn't be ignored by BLM.
24 That those are areas that you can traverse and mother
25 nature takes care of the changing. And the other one

PM3-30 Not all dry washes would be suitable for OHV use; however, some may be designated as trails when transportation plans are prepared for a watershed or group of watersheds. The public will be invited to participate in the transportation planning process.

PM3-30

Transcript PM3 Continued

Responses to Comments

PM3-31

1 I'd like to mention on the record because I see it here
2 in the BLM paperwork, and some of the folks in White
3 Pine County and especially your recent Nevada
4 landscaping group. A lot of us see -- let me read it
5 because I might not remember what I -- The use of
6 controlled burn fires as a restoration tool is a viable
7 solution to habitat improvement.

8 And, again, I will go to Lincoln County and
9 White Pine, you know, along White Rock. You can walk
10 along White Rock for miles, and there is not a blade of
11 grass. There is not a shrub or a browse for any critter
12 to eat. It's all juniper pinion. And a fire is a
13 habitat improvement. It's not a bad subject. It may be
14 with the environmentalists. You don't want to see a
15 tree burn down. But as far as range improvement for
16 wildlife and for grazing fire, a fire is a viable
17 solution. I'd like that on the record.

18 MR. BAUGHMAN: Thank you, Bill. Any
19 clarifying questions from staff?

20 MR. DRAIS: Yes, I have one question about
21 fire. You have talked about prescribed fire, would you
22 feel the same about natural fire?

23 MR. VASCONI: First of all, on natural
24 fires, the first -- the first thing people want to do,
25 there's no property involved, blah, blah, blah. Mostly

PM3-31 Thank you for expressing your concerns. Prescribed and managed fires are included in Appendix H of the Proposed RMP and Final EIS as tools that could be used by the Ely Field Office.

Transcript PM3 Continued

Responses to Comments

1 critters are going to get the hell out of the way. But
2 people will say, let's get up there and put that fire
3 out, right? Especially, in juniper pinion areas.

4 And, you know, the Indian nations didn't
5 have 9-1-1 to call and turn in a fire. They naturally
6 let it burn out. And that's one reason a lot of the
7 areas around Ely -- if you look at pictures that are
8 100 years old, those were Savannahs. Those were
9 grasslands. When that juniper pinion comes down the
10 side of that mountain, they destroy all of the natural
11 habitat. I don't care if it's stage pressure or
12 anything else that you need by wild critters or to
13 domestic stock. That's gone. The water from that soil
14 is gone. Eventually, those native plants are gone.

15 The answer to your question if there was --
16 if there was a fire that was not detrimental, I would
17 say, yes, there's no reason not to let that fire
18 continue. Yes, I know you have got to go back in and
19 consider reseeding, but the juniper pinion are gone and
20 at least you have something to reseed, because you can't
21 reseed a juniper pinion.

22 MR. DRAIS: So what I'm hearing you say is
23 that you would agree that both prescribed fires and
24 managed natural fires would be appropriate tools.

25 MR. VASCONI: Yes, I do, most definitely.

PM3-32 Please refer to Response to Comment PM3-31.

PM3-32

Transcript PM3 Continued

PUBLIC MEETING ON THE ELY DRAFT RMP/EIS

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1 MR. BAUGHMAN: Thank you. Okay. Anybody
2 else care to make a statement for the record at this
3 time? Okay. We are going to be here. I'd say for
4 probably another hour, 45 minutes to an hour at least.
5 And if everybody is gone, quite honestly, then we're
6 gone. But we're going to stick around for a while.
7 We've done that at the other meetings.

8 And so if you change your mind and you want
9 us to go back on the record, we'll certainly do that. I
10 encourage you to meet some of your fellows -- commentators
11 are here if you haven't talked to them before and find
12 out what they had on their mind. We will be here and so
13 we look forward to meeting, visiting you and getting to
14 know you a little better as well. With that, we are
15 going to close the record for the time being, and we'll
16 reopen as necessary. Thank you very much.

17 (A short recess took place off the record.)

18 MR. BAUGHMAN: Okay. We're going to go back
19 on the record if we could. We have Michael Albrecht.

20 MR. ALBRECHT: Yes.

21 MR. BAUGHMAN: Michael Albrecht, and he's
22 with The Dunes and Trails ATV Club and would like to
23 offer some comments for the public record. Go ahead,
24 Michael.

25 MR. ALBRECHT: Okay. Thank you very much.

Transcript PM3 Continued

Responses to Comments

PM3-33

1 I am concerned as a recreationalist, that motorized
2 access to public lands remains available. The
3 Alternative C would seem to provide for the maximal
4 opportunities for recreation.

PM3-34

5 My primary concern would be the inventory of
6 roads and trails and allowing for a new or modified
7 trail opportunities in the future. Reduction of areas
8 designated as open -- possibly removed opportunities to
9 revise little used or previously abandoned trails.

PM3-35

10 Alternative C would also positively impact, would
11 positively impact local economic conditions much the
12 same way the Piute Trail helped the Southern Central,
13 South Central Utah.

14 MR. BAUGHMAN: Thank you, Michael.

15 MR. ALBRECHT: Thank you.

16 Does any of the staff have any questions of
17 Michael regarding his comments?

18 MR. DRAIS: No. Just thank you.

19 MR. BAUGHMAN: Great. Okay. With that,
20 we'll close the record. Thanks, Michael.

21 MR. ALBRECHT: Thank you.

22

23 (Whereupon, the proceedings concluded

24 at 6:49 p.m.)

25

PM3-33 Thank you for expressing your concerns. Opportunities for motorized recreation will remain under the Proposed RMP.

PM3-34 Please refer to Response to Comment PM3-30 for a discussion of the transportation planning process and opportunities for public participation.

PM3-35 Comment noted.

Transcript PM3 Continued

PUBLIC MEETING ON THE ELY DRAFT RMP/EIS

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

STATE OF NEVADA)

) ss:

COUNTY OF CLARK)

I, Cindy R. Bowden, a duly commissioned Notary Public, Clark County, State of Nevada, do hereby certify that I took down in shorthand (Stenotype) all of the proceedings had in the before-entitled matter at the time and place indicated; and that thereafter said shorthand notes were transcribed into typewriting at and under my direction and supervision and the foregoing transcript constitutes a full, true and accurate record of the proceedings had.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand in my office in the County of Clark, State of Nevada, this 4th day of November, 2005.



By e.h.

CINDY R. BOWDEN, CCR #815

Public Meeting Transcript PM4

PUBLIC MEETING ON THE ELY DRAFT RMP/EIS

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PUBLIC MEETING ON THE ELY DRAFT RMP/EIS

COPY

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

OCTOBER 24, 2005

RENO, NEVADA

Reported by: CINDY R. BOWDEN, NV CCR #815
CA CSR #12962

Transcript PM4 Continued

PUBLIC MEETING ON THE ELY DRAFT RMP/EIS

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MEETING OF THE ELY DRAFT RMP/EIS,
taken at 1981 Terminal Way, Reno, Nevada, on Monday,
October 24, 2005, at 6:17 p.m., before Cindy R. Bowden,
Certified Court Reporter, in and for the State of
Nevada.

APPEARANCES:

For the BLM:

GENE DRAIS
JAKE RAJALA

For the ENSR:

RUSS MOORE
DEBBY SEHI
MIKE BAUGHMAN, MODERATOR

Also Present:

TINA NAPPE
ALANAH WOODY
PETER C. FRENCH
MARY SILL
SUSAN LISAGOR
STEVE KRAMER

Transcript PM4 Continued

PUBLIC MEETING ON THE ELY DRAFT RMP/EIS

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October 24, 2005

1 RENO, NEVADA, MONDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2005;
2 6:17 P.M.
3 -oOo-
4 MR. DRAIS: I'd like to welcome you to the
5 public meeting that we have tonight. My name is Gene
6 Drais. I'm the acting associate field for the union
7 field office, BLM. We are glad you're here. We
8 certainly expected more folks tonight. Tell your
9 friends, compadres that you -- that the public comment
10 period is open until November 28th. It is a big
11 document. I wouldn't wait too long to start perusing
12 it.
13 It does take a little while. And as Mike
14 Baughman will tell you later we are accepting comments
15 tonight verbally, tonight in writing. You can send your
16 comments via e-mail. All of those options are available
17 up through November 28th. I'd like to introduce the
18 persons that are here representing the first Development
19 of Bureau of Land Management. Jake Rajala, the planning
20 environmental coordinator. Chris Hanefeld, our public
21 information officer for the district. The project
22 manager for this project now is Bruce Flynn.
23 We have representatives from our contractor,
24 Intertech International out of Fort Collins, Colorado.
25 Russ Moore in the back and Debby Sehi, and our court

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Transcript PM4 Continued

PUBLIC MEETING ON THE ELY DRAFT RMP/EIS

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1 recorder is Cindy, and the person who will be
2 facilitating tonight's meeting is also subcontractor of
3 ENSR and that is Mike Baughman. And I'll turn the time
4 over to Mike.
5 Oh, I'm sorry, we have a cooperating agency.
6 I'm sorry. I apologize. One cooperating agency here
7 represented with Rory Lamp. He's with The Department of
8 Wildlife. And Roy's been great -- he's been by far and
9 way the most participative of all the cooperating
10 agencies. He is with The Department of Wildlife. So
11 Mike, go ahead.
12 MR. BAUGHMAN: Thank you, Gene. And, again,
13 my name is Mike Baughman. I'm with Intertech Services
14 Corporation in Carson City, and our firm is a
15 subcontractor to ENSR. It is a very limited role
16 primarily dealing with public involvement and scoping
17 meetings and those meetings on the draft and things of
18 that nature.
19 We are here tonight to get anyone's comments
20 that they care to offer verbally on the public record.
21 We have a court reporter, and she is taking down your
22 comments verbatim. They will be part of the
23 administrative records that BLM will consider those
24 comments when they work on the final resource management
25 plan and environmental impact statement. And so we

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Transcript PM4 Continued

PUBLIC MEETING ON THE ELY DRAFT RMP/EIS

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1 would encourage if you are interested tonight in
2 providing comments verbally for the record, we'll give
3 you that opportunity.

4 You were told when you came in and I'll just
5 remind you. If you do care to offer those verbal
6 comments tonight, we would ask you to just fill out one
7 of these brief cards so that we have got it for the
8 record. And it also lets me know who to -- invite to
9 make those comments. We will take the person's comments
10 in the order that they are provided. As Gene indicated,
11 in addition, you can obviously provide your comments in
12 writing. The comment period ends November 28th.

13 There is a green form back there on the
14 table that's got the address of BLM on the back. You
15 can certainly use this form to write down your comments
16 tonight. If you care not to go on the record, you can
17 drop them in a box there. You can mail them in.
18 Alternatively, you can take this -- get the address off
19 of this if you'd like and write or type out -- and if
20 there are a number of pages and any comments that you
21 like, and just send those into the BLM.

22 There are some resource materials around the
23 room. You can certainly take advantage of those after
24 the meeting. Perhaps after this formal part of this
25 hearing closes, there is a map of the field or the Ely

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Transcript PM4 Continued

PUBLIC MEETING ON THE ELY DRAFT RMP/EIS

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1 District over here which you can look at. There is also
2 the RMP process which is laid out in this particular
3 diagram right here.

4 We are right here holding public meetings on
5 the draft RMP and EIS. It's a 120-day review period and
6 that BLM will take that input to revise the document and
7 then we will issue a proposed resource management plan
8 and final EIS. And sometime in the summer of 2006,
9 there will be a 30-day comment period associated with
10 that, and you can also issue -- you can also lodge a
11 protest with the BLM regarding that proposed plan.

12 There are some bulletins that go out from
13 time to time updating folks on the progress. If you're
14 not on the mailing list to get those bulletins and would
15 like to get on the mailing list, again, let the staff
16 know in the back and fill out one of the cards and so we
17 got that information.

18 We currently have one person scheduled to
19 provide oral comments. There is a whole laundry list of
20 proposed rules over there. You can take a look at those
21 at your leisure. Those really come into play if we had
22 a room full of folks and we're trying to get through a
23 room full of folks.

24 For tonight's meeting, generally disregard
25 those rules with the exception of a couple. One is, is

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1 we're here to hear from you and get your comments.
2 We're not here to answer questions while we're on the
3 record. So if there are questions, we would ask you to
4 reserve those. When we're on the record, just simply
5 tell us what you think about the RMP. Give us your
6 comments, whatever.

7 We would ask that you not interrupt if
8 somebody else is speaking and my pet peeve is if you did
9 bring a cell phone tonight, this is not Las Vegas. I
10 would ask you to turn it off. If you been to a meeting
11 in Las Vegas, they answer them. They talk during the
12 meetings, all that kind of stuff. As far as I'm
13 concerned, totally unacceptable. In Northern Nevada, we
14 just don't do it that way.

15 So if you got a cell phone, I'd ask you to
16 turn it off or turn it on -- you know -- vibrate or
17 whatever. I guess beyond that, the formal part of this
18 may go fairly quickly unless we get anybody else wanting
19 to sign up. The staff -- we will be here for probably,
20 I guess another hour at least and we'll just hang
21 around. We have found from time to time folks have kind
22 of straggled in, and we will reopen the record if they
23 decide they want to offer comments at that time.

24 Or if any of you decide after having been
25 here for a little while, maybe talked around with your

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1 staff or something that you want to go on the record, we
2 will reopen the record. Cindy will capture your
3 comments, and then we'll close the record after that.

4 So without any further ado, I would propose
5 that we start. And are you ready, Cindy?

6 THE COURT REPORTER: Hmm-hmm.

7 MR. BAUGHMAN: She is good. She is always
8 ready. So here we go. The first person that signed up
9 is Marjorie Sill. And Marjorie, I would simply ask that
10 you can -- you can comment from wherever you're
11 comfortable.

12 MS. SILL: Well, no, I can stand.

13 MR. BAUGHMAN: Okay. It's just most
14 important that you talk loudly which I can tell you do.

15 MS. SILL: I have a very loud voice.

16 MR. BAUGHMAN: Good.

17 MS. SILL: So lots of training in drama and
18 speech, and I taught high school for 30 years, so
19 anybody who taught high school for 30 years knows how to
20 talk loud. Thank you all for being here.

21 I feel embarrassed making oral comments
22 because I must admit that due to circumstances I have
23 not read that document which is huge. I have seen some
24 of the preliminary drafts of the document and I have
25 talked to people who have read the document.

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Transcript PM4 Continued

Responses to Comments

1 Now, I care a lot about the Ely District. I
2 mean, this is a marvelous BLM District, probably the
3 most important one in the state. Well, maybe, the
4 Winnemucca District is important to -- but that's -- the
5 Ely District is the largest district and the things that
6 I care about the most are, first of all, the watershed,
7 and I think that that is an extremely important thing to
8 address is the care of the watershed. I know that they
9 have a lot of fires down in the southern part of the
10 district, and they are going to be -- have to be --
11 there's going to have to be some work done, so that you
12 do not have invasive species moving in and really
13 ruining what we have.

PM4-1

14 I also think the very, very important thing,
15 of course, is the water and I don't think this EIS
16 addresses the water question as I understand. I think
17 another very important thing is the wildlife and
18 magnificent wildlife in the Ely District, magnificent
19 cultural values and I would like to speak particularly
20 to some things that I think needs to be much better
21 controlled, and that is OHV use and ORV of -- well, if
22 you go in to the Ely Districts, you noticed random of --
23 well, I wouldn't even call them trails, intrusions into
24 the watershed going up to cultural resources.

PM4-2

PM4-3

PM4-4

25 And I hear from my archaeologist friend,

PM4-1 The Ely Field Office is currently assessing watersheds and monitoring emergency rehabilitation treatment in the Meadow Valley Wash. These analyses will also address invasive species composition in the major ecological sites of the watershed. Invasive species that dominate communities are considered altered states of state and transition models. Watershed analysis has and will continue to consider invasive species as part of the evaluation and implementation processes.

PM4-2 Please refer to Sections 2.4.3, 3.3, and 4.3 in the Proposed RMP and Final EIS for a discussion of water resources.

PM4-3 Please refer to Sections 2.4.6, 3.6, and 4.6 in the Proposed RMP and Final EIS for a discussion of wildlife resources.

PM4-4 In response to your comment, text has been added to Section 2.4.14 of the Proposed RMP and Final EIS to address OHV use near cultural resources.

Transcript PM4 Continued

Responses to Comments

PM4-4

1 although, I fear for my archaeologist friends that the
2 worse effect on cultural resources particularly on
3 petroglyphs, things like that is caused people coming up
4 very close to them in ORVs and destroying them and
5 taking them away, whatever.

PM4-5

6 And that is something that really concerns
7 me because that is our Nevada heritage and that is
8 extremely important. So what I would like to see is the
9 control of ORV use. That doesn't mean that you have to
10 stop it. I mean that all ORVs should be confined to
11 designated routes or roads and that everything be looked
12 at very, very carefully to see if there are intrusions
13 into areas that shouldn't happen at all.

PM4-6

14 And I think that this is -- the probably --
15 the ORV use is the most destructive or being an issue as
16 I should say because I drive an ORV vehicle. I mean, I
17 drive a 4Runner, so I'm not talking about legitimate use
18 of ORVs. I'm talking about the use of -- by people who
19 I guess are ignorant of what they can do or what they
20 can't do, or in some cases, I don't think they care.
21 And if they don't care we have to care and that includes
22 -- certainly, the BLM has to care about how the vehicles
23 are used.
24 So I think you need to put much more
25 emphasis on the control of vehicle use of -- I think

PM4-5

In response to this and similar comments, the text in Section 2.4.14.1 of the Proposed RMP and Final EIS has been revised to clarify how comprehensive travel management planning will occur in the Ely RMP planning area.

PM4-6

Please refer to Response to Comment PM4-5.

Transcript PM4 Continued

Responses to Comments

PM4-6 1 that you will have to work with the local law
2 enforcement agencies because that -- they are probably
3 responsible for citations and things like that.

PM4-7 4 I don't know how many rangers the BLM has in
5 the Ely District, but if it's like the districts I know
6 here, you have a very inadequate number to cover the
7 problems that you have. So I would like to see much
8 more emphasis on the control of illegitimate off-road
9 vehicle use. And that will help wildlife. That will
10 help cultural resources. That will certainly help the
11 problems of erosion on the watersheds. And I think if
12 you would address that problem, you're going to address
13 many of the problems that you have in that district.

14 Thank you. And I plan to submit much more
15 detailed written comments. And I'm sorry I'm so
16 ill-prepared but I didn't want to let our charming court
17 reporter have something to take down.

18 MR. BAUGHMAN: Thank you very much,
19 Marjorie. Let me ask -- and I forgot to mention when we
20 started, after each person gives their formal comments
21 for the record, I will ask that the BLM staff, if they
22 have any questions of the speakers just to make sure
23 that they don't go away -- a misunderstanding or
24 something like that.

25 So I'll ask the staff if they have any

PM4-7 Thank you for your comment. The subject of this comment is beyond the scope of the Ely RMP. The hiring of staff in the Ely Field Office is based on funding authorized by Congress. However, the Ely Field Office agrees with the need for adequate enforcement of regulations.

Transcript PM4 Continued

Responses to Comments

1 questions of Marjorie with regard to her specific
2 comments.

3 MR. DRAIS: I guess I do have a clarifying
4 question.

5 MS. SILL: Yes, Gene.

6 MR. DRAIS: Are you mainly concerned about
7 the OHV use -- are you concerned about the OHV use both
8 on trails and off trails?

9 MS. SILL: I'm concerned about them on
10 trails. If there are too many trails going from one
11 location to another location --

12 MR. DRAIS: Right.

13 MS. SILL: -- or if the trails go too close
14 to satisfy petroglyphs, otherwise I'm concerned about
15 them off the trail. I'm concerned about them being on a
16 legitimate trail like the trail in Lincoln County and
17 then going off that trail. And that is -- I think we
18 need a much better education effort with people. There
19 are some people, unfortunately, who did get to serve
20 right to do anything. And, of course, we all know it
21 isn't we can't do anything we want to. And I just feel
22 that if we need to emphasize what I see as the big
23 problem in this district and other districts of the BLM
24 of Nevada.

25 MR. DRAIS: Thank you for your concerns

PM4-8 Please refer to Response to Comment PM4-5.

PM4-8

Transcript PM4 Continued

Responses to Comments

1 about Boulder City. That's what I thought you said.

2 MS. SILL: Right.

3 MR. BAUGHMAN: Thank you, Marjorie. Okay.

4 The next person that we have signed up to speak is Tina
5 Nappe.

6 MS. NAPPE: Thank you. I, too,
7 unfortunately may have had that box full of documents
8 sitting in my house gathering dust for a while. But I
9 would like to address today is something you probably --
10 maybe not even be important for the record. But about
11 two years ago, I was part of the Efferson Workshop Group
12 that met for about a year and a half. And we did a
13 number of tours, and I am kind of interested to see
14 whether any of that information or that process as
15 absorbed by the BLM staff and others who had
16 participated in -- had an impact on the development of
17 the EIS.

18 There were a number of issues that came up
19 out of that and one of them was protection of aspen
20 groves. Some concerned potentially -- eventually about
21 elk or deer, a livestock excursion of pines, I think in
22 the aspen groves. That basically the protection of
23 aspens. There was some concern about protection of
24 White Stage or having it become healthier. Again, the
25 off-highway vehicle use was a certain amount of concern

PM4-9 In response to your comment, the text of Section 2.4.5.3 of the Proposed RMP and Final EIS has been revised. Grazing will not be used as a tool for aspen management. The Efroymsen process was useful for identification of current land management issues. In addition, participants in the process identified types of management actions and approaches to address the issues.

PM4-9

Transcript PM4 Continued

PM4-9

1 as it would affect the population.

2 But primarily at this point, and the person
3 who spent some time in this process, I'm kind of
4 interested to see whether it was -- after looking at
5 this, whether it was a process that was useful in any
6 way and developing an ecological approach, particularly
7 to the issues that the Bureau of Land Management is
8 addressing. Thank you.

9 MR. BAUGHMAN: Any questions of the staff of
10 Tina? Great. Thank you, Tina. Any questions of the
11 staff of Tina? No comments. Very good. Thanks again.
12 Okay.

13 Is there anyone else who would like to make
14 comments for the public record while we have the record
15 open? As I mentioned earlier if you would, we would ask
16 you to fill out this card.

17 If not, what I'm going to suggest is we will
18 close the record, the staff will be around here I'd say
19 for probably -- probably an hour. And if any of you
20 change your mind or if other people come in, just let
21 one of us know that you would like to offer comments on
22 the record. We will reopen the record and Cindy will
23 capture your comments and then they will be available
24 for consideration.

25 Again, I would remind you that if you'd

Transcript PM4 Continued

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1 rather just simply provide written comments, there are
2 forms in the back. You can fill it out, leave it here
3 tonight or mail it in or send us a letter. Those
4 comments, again, are due November 28th.

5 One more time, is there anybody at this
6 point that would like to make comments for the record?

7 If not, I think we'll go ahead and close the
8 record now and we'll be around -- maybe chat with some
9 of you and certainly you can chat amongst yourselves and
10 thank you for coming tonight. Thank you.

11
12 (Whereupon, the proceedings concluded
13 at 6:36 p.m.)
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25

Transcript PM4 Continued

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1 CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER
2 STATE OF NEVADA)
3) ss:
4 COUNTY OF CLARK)
5

6 I, Cindy R. Bowden, a duly commissioned
7 Notary Public, Clark County, State of Nevada, do hereby
8 certify that I took down in shorthand (Stenotype) all of
9 the proceedings had in the before-entitled matter at the
10 time and place indicated; and that thereafter said
11 shorthand notes were transcribed into typewriting at and
12 under my direction and supervision and the foregoing
13 transcript constitutes a full, true and accurate record
14 of the proceedings had.

15 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand in my
16 office in the County of Clark, State of Nevada, this 4th
17 day of November, 2005.
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

C.R. Bowden ^{by R.B.}

CINDY R. BOWDEN, CCR #815