



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANGEMENT

Ely District Office
HC33 Box 33500 (702 N Industrial Way)
Ely, Nevada 89301-9408
http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/ely_field_office.html



In Reply Refer to:

NOPA-NVL00000-12-01

NOTICE OF PROPOSED ACTION **LANDS IN WILDERNESS**

STATE: Nevada

COUNTY: Clark, Lincoln, White Pine

DISTRICT OFFICE: Ely District Office
HC 33 Box 33500
702 North Industrial Way
Ely, Nevada 89301

Southern Nevada District Office
4701 North Torrey Pines Dr.
Las Vegas, Nevada 89130

WILDERNESS AREA: Delamar Mountains, Far South Egans, Meadow Valley Range, Mormon Mountains, Muddy Mountains, Arrow Canyon, and North McCullough

PROPOSED ACTION: Issuance of Authorizations to Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) for Wildlife Water Development Inspection, Maintenance and Repairs within BLM Wilderness areas in Nevada

Background

With the designation of wilderness in Nevada under several legislative acts, the NDOW has annually requested permission to inspect, maintain, and repair wildlife water developments within BLM Districts affected by the legislation (i.e., Ely, Southern Nevada, and Winnemucca). While big game, small game and bird water developments are located within designated wilderness in Nevada, NDOW's requests are primarily directed toward big game wildlife water developments. Each year, after completing public notifications, minimum requirement decision guide (MRDG) analyses and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) examinations such as environmental assessments (EAs),

based on the NDOW requests, BLM Districts have granted such permission with appropriate terms and conditions attached.

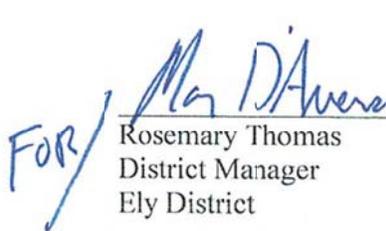
Since the approval of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with NDOW in 2003 (i.e., Supplement No. 9, BLM MOU 6300-NV930-0402 dated December, 2003), the BLM has annually processed requests for inspection, maintenance and repair of wildlife water developments. These requests usually include an appeal for helicopter access. Helicopter access has been approved on a case-by-case basis after careful analysis of each request. Permission for use of a helicopter has been granted in cases where the terrain is too steep, hazardous, or difficult for foot or horseback access or where the distance to the wildlife water development site is too far from a boundary or recognized cherry-stem road.

Description of the Proposed Action

The proposed action is for multiple-water development, multiple-year authorization for inspection, maintenance and repair of wildlife water developments. All NDOW wildlife water developments in wilderness on both the Ely District and Southern Nevada District would be analyzed in one plan. The analysis would answer the question: Is helicopter, foot, horseback, motorized or mechanized vehicle access the “minimum tool” for wildlife water development inspection, maintenance and repair? Furthermore, the analysis would also consider the use of motorized equipment to complete repairs and maintenance. A Minimum Requirements Decision Guide would be completed for each of the 35 water developments within wilderness in these two Districts. This analysis would determine the method of access for each guzzler and comprise the proposed action. Also analyzed will be the “All helicopter access” and “All foot or packstock” alternatives.

Public Comment

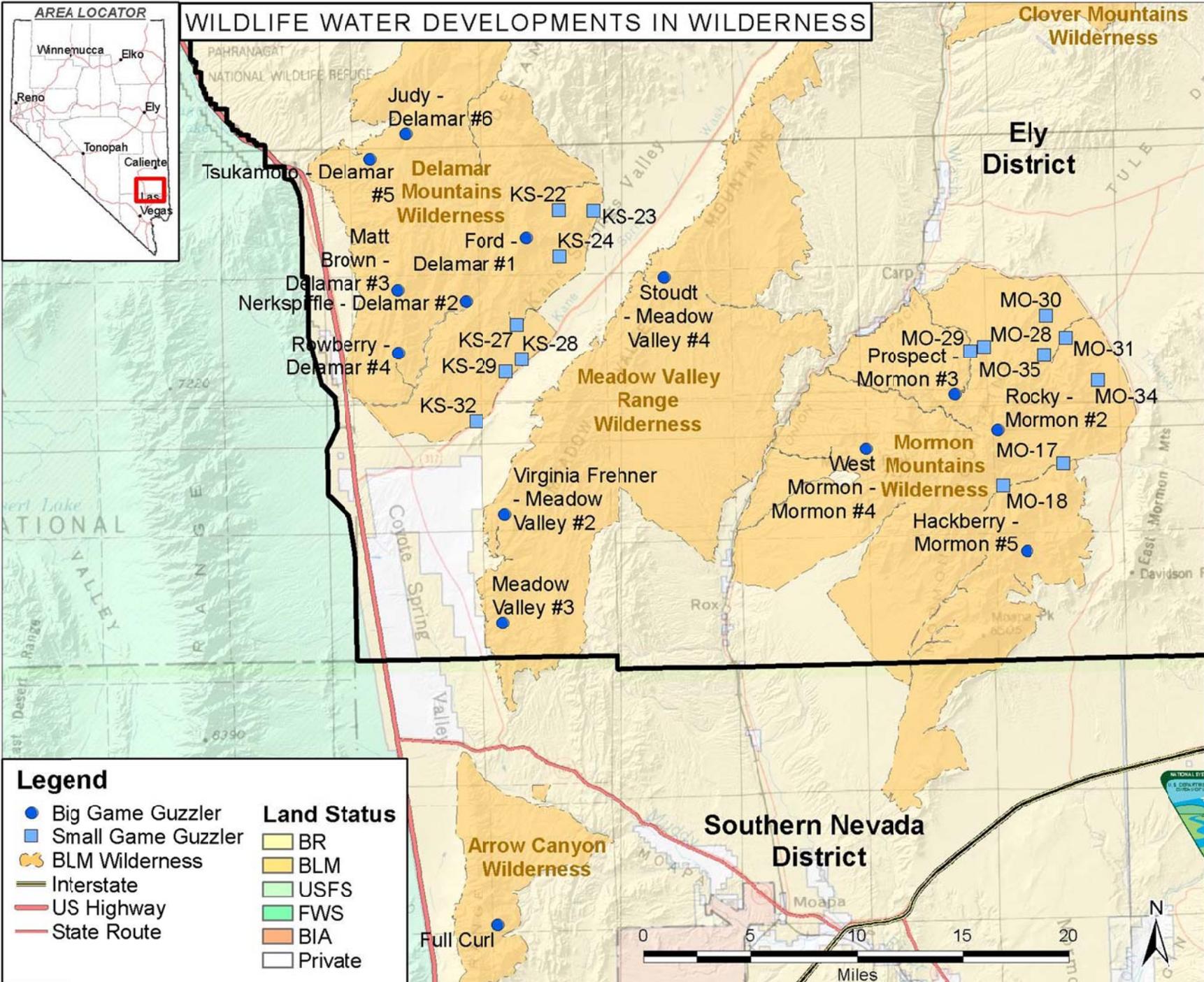
The Ely and Southern Nevada District are collaboratively preparing single, consolidated programmatic Environmental Assessment. All comments are to be sent directly to the District Manager for consideration and use in evaluating and processing the proposed actions at the address above before the end of the comment period of November 25, 2011.

 FOR/ _____ Rosemary Thomas District Manager Ely District	 for _____ Mary Jo Rugwell District Manager Southern Nevada District
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Attachment: Map of wildlife water developments in wilderness on the Ely and Southern Nevada Districts



WILDLIFE WATER DEVELOPMENTS IN WILDERNESS



Legend

● Big Game Guzzler	Land Status
■ Small Game Guzzler	BR
🦌 BLM Wilderness	BLM
— Interstate	USFS
— US Highway	FWS
— State Route	BIA
	Private



Southern Nevada District & Ely District Office

BLM

