



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Ely Field Office

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http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/ely_field_office.html



In Reply Refer to:
9214 (NV-044)

Dear Interested Party:

The Ely Field Office is beginning the planning stages and scoping period to conduct a habitat improvement and fuels reduction project in Smith Valley. An environmental assessment (EA) will be prepared to analyze treatment alternatives for the proposed project area which was identified during the Smith Valley Watershed Analysis in 2005. Our records indicate that you are an interested party for projects to be implemented in the proposed area.

Treatments would be implemented to reduce pinyon and juniper establishment on sagebrush ecological sites along the west side of Smith Valley (see enclosed map). The proposed location is not located within a wild horse herd management area (HMA). The proposed location is located within Georgetown Ranch and Heusser Mountain allotments. The tentative start date for the proposed project would be during the fall of 2008. The main goals of the project are to improve habitat for wildlife, restore or improve sagebrush ecological sites and reduce fuel accumulations and continuity within the project area.

The following are long-term goals identified for the project area:

- Reduce pinyon and juniper establishment on sagebrush ecological sites in order to improve the overall vegetative composition within the ecological site potential and improve the health, vigor and production of perennial grass, forb and shrub species
- Improve the available habitat for neighboring sage grouse, pronghorn antelope, mule deer and elk populations
- Reduce the risk of large, uncontrolled wild fires by reducing fuel loading and continuity within the Smith Valley Watershed and meet Fire Regime Condition Class (FRCC) 1
- Restore the historic disturbance regime within the project area

Proposed treatments or actions to achieve project goals have not been finalized. Possible treatments that have been suggested by BLM staff specialists include chemical treatments, mechanical treatments or prescribed fire, or a combination thereof.

Please contact Jeff Fenton, Fire Planner by Friday, April 18, 2008 if: (1) you would like to submit comments on the goals and objectives of this project or to suggest alternatives and treatment options; (2) you would like to remain on the mailing list to review EA documents; or (3) you would be interested in discussing this project in a public meeting. A public meeting

could be scheduled depending on the amount of interest expressed during the scoping period. Contacts can be made by telephone at (775) 289-1800 or at the address listed on the letterhead.

Sincerely,

Tye Petersen
Fire Management Officer

Enclosure: Map of Proposed Project Area

State of Nevada

Map 1 - Smith Valley Proposed Treatment Area

Proposed Treatment Area (1,318 Acres)

Scale: 1:18,000
February 2008
Ely Field Office
Jeff Fenton

Township 18 North, Range 62 East
Sections 23, 26, 27, 34, 35, 36
MDM, NAD 83
White Pine County, NV

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.

