

# **DECISION RECORD**

## **La Madre Mountain Wilderness**

## **Rainbow Mountain Wilderness**

### **Final Wilderness Management Plan and Environmental Assessment**

#### **Compliance**

The *Proposed Action* alternative (Alternative 2) of Environmental Assessment (EA) DOI-BLM-NV-S020-2012-0004-EA, prepared jointly by the Red Rock/Sloan Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Southern Nevada District Office and the USDA Forest Service (FS), Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, Spring Mountains National Recreation Area, is consistent to the extent possible with officially approved plans of other federal, state, local, and tribal governments to the extent those plans are consistent with federal laws and regulations applicable to public lands. The *Proposed Action*, *Alternative Actions* (Alternative 3), and *No Action* (Alternative 1) are in conformance with the goals, objectives, and decisions analyzed within the scope of the BLM's *Record of Decision for the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area Resource Management Plan* (RRCNCA RMP 2005).

#### **Selected Action**

It is my decision to approve and implement the Wilderness Management Plan (WMP) for La Madre Mountain Wilderness and Rainbow Mountain Wilderness, jointly managed by the BLM and FS, as described in the *Proposed Action* of the aforementioned EA. The EA evaluates the impact of implementing the *Proposed Action* and WMP on a variety of resources including fire management, fish and wildlife, invasive non-native plant species, migratory birds, recreation uses, special designations (other than Wilderness), special status animal and plant species, vegetation/soils/watershed resources, and wilderness. The WMP establishes management direction for both the La Madre Mountain Wilderness and Rainbow Mountain Wilderness for a 10-year period.

#### **Compliance with NEPA**

The *Proposed Action* was analyzed in Environmental Assessment DOI-BLM-NV-S020-2012-0004-EA. We have determined, pursuant to 40 CFR 1508.2, that the *Proposed Action*, with design features and mitigation measures described in the Finding of No Significant Impact (incorporated herein), will not have any significant detrimental effects on the human environment, and thus does not require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement.

#### **Public Involvement**

A notice requesting public input was mailed to known interested parties in May 2006. Public scoping workshops were held at Mountain Springs, Blue Diamond, and Las Vegas on May 18, 23, and 30, 2006 respectively, and additional public comment was received through the mail or e-mail during a following 30-day input period. A public comment period for the WMP Preliminary Proposed Action was initiated in May 2007.

The WMP project was reinitiated in 2012. All issues and concerns identified during the 2006-2007 scoping and comment periods and the 2012-2013 scoping were considered during the development of the Proposed Action and range of alternatives described in the EA.

The Draft WMP and EA were available for public review and comment July 8, 2013 through August 23, 2013. Tribal consultation was conducted during the public comment period whereby tribal representatives were notified of the availability of and opportunity to comment on the Draft WMP and EA. Comments were received from the Nevada Department of Wildlife, American Mountain Guides Association, Access Fund, Las Vegas Climber's Liaison Council, and eight private citizens. Public comments and BLM responses are included in the EA. Minor editorial changes were made to the *Proposed Action* in response to comments received.

## **Rationale**

My decision to authorize the *Proposed Action* does not result in any undue or unnecessary environmental degradation. In conformance with the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area Resource Management Plan, implementation of the *Proposed Action* will provide for the long-term protection and enhancement of the untrammeled and undeveloped character of wilderness, and provide for the public purposes of recreational, scenic, scientific, educational, conservation, and historical use of the planning area. The *Proposed Action* promotes the enhancement and maintenance of untrammeled, naturalness, undeveloped, outstanding opportunities for solitude and/or primitive and unconfined recreation, and supplemental/unique values, while also managing other resource uses and values provided for in wilderness legislation.

Actions to restore surface disturbances to a natural condition, designate trails and staging areas, provide a sign plan, manage recreation activity, guide wildlife management, and permit scientific research are addressed. The *Proposed Action* also includes measures to protect cultural resources and supplemental values of the area's unique geology and ecology, in addition to addressing monitoring, public outreach, and environmental education to assist resource protection efforts. Wilderness character would be maintained by requiring subsequent site-specific NEPA and Minimum Requirement Decision Guidelines analysis for additional actions, as necessary. Opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation will be maintained under the *Proposed Action*. Measures to maintain naturalness by preventing the introduction and establishment of noxious and non-native invasive weeds are addressed. Actions to minimize negative impacts from small—scale surface disturbances and impacts on cultural resources are evaluated. Scenic qualities and values of naturalness will be enhanced.

Two additional alternatives were considered, a *No Action* alternative (Alternative 1) and an *Alternative Actions* (Alternative 3). The No Action alternative would have continued existing management conditions under the RRCNCA RMP (2005), the enabling legislation, all existing laws, regulations, and policy, and the Wilderness Act of 1964. The *Alternative Actions* alternative presented the most development and management of the three alternatives, while still maintaining and enhancing resource conditions.

## **Appeal or Protest Opportunities**

This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA), Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 CFR Part 4 and Form 1842-1. In an Amendment to the 2006 Project Agreement between the BLM and the FS, the FS agreed to waive the objection procedures set forth in 36 CFR 219 and, in accordance with FS planning regulation 36 CFR 219.59, adopt the IBLA administrative review and post-decision appeals process as set forth in 43 CFR Part 4 and Form 1842-1. This decision was made because the BLM is the lead agency in this planning process, in addition to ensuring a timely and effective administrative review and appeal period.

If an appeal is taken, your notice of appeal must be filed in this office within 30 days of the decision. The appellant has the burden of showing that the decision appealed from is in error. If you wish to file a petition pursuant to regulation 43 CFR 2801.10 or 43 CFR 2881.10, for a stay of the effectiveness of this decision during the time that your appeal is being reviewed by the IBLA, the petition for a stay must accompany your notice of appeal. A petition for a stay is required to show sufficient justification based on the standards listed below. Copies of the notice of appeal and petition for a stay must also be submitted to each party named in this decision and to the IBLA and the appropriate office of the Solicitor (see 43 CFR 4.413) at the same time the original documents are filed with this office. If you request a stay, you have the burden of proof in demonstrating that a stay should be granted.

### Standards for Obtaining a Stay

Except as otherwise provided for by law or other pertinent regulations, a petition for a stay of a decision pending appeal shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

1. The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied.
2. The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits.
3. The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted, and;
4. Whether the public interest favors granting a stay.

**Authorizing Official**



Timothy Z. Smith  
District Manager  
Southern Nevada District  
Bureau of Land Management

12/17/13  
[Date]

**Contact Person**

For additional information concerning this Finding, contact:

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