



United States Department of the Interior



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Dear Interested Public:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Winnemucca District (WD), Black Rock Field Office (BRFO) has completed the Black Rock Desert – High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area Wilderness Management Plan Environmental Assessment (EA), DOI-BLM-NV-W030-2011-0001-EA. The EA analyzed the impacts associated with the Wilderness Management Plan (Plan) and possible alternatives. The comprehensive NEPA analysis provided for public participation through a public scoping period, a 30 day review of the draft Plan and Preliminary EA, and public meetings. Local Tribes, state agencies, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service were also consulted.

The ten wilderness areas included in the Plan were established by the Black Rock Desert – High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-554 Dec. 21, 2000). The Act provided special designation to nearly 1.2 million acres of public land in northwestern Nevada, establishing an 800,000 acre National Conservation Area (NCA) and designating just over 750,000 acres as wilderness. About 380,000 acres of the wilderness is within the NCA. The NCA Resource Management Plan (RMP) was completed in 2004 and called for the completion of a wilderness management plan to help with specific implementation of RMP decisions such as recreation and grazing.

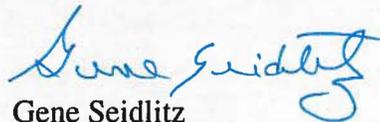
The draft Plan and preliminary EA were made available to the public for review April 25, 2011 through June 1, 2011. Interested parties from the wilderness mailing list including permittees, outfitters and guides, and conservation organizations were notified by letter dated May 9, 2011 of the public review period and public meetings. Public meetings were held in Winnemucca, Lovelock, Gerlach, and Reno, NV the week of May 23, 2011.

Management under the WMP will be generally similar to management since wilderness designation. The overall strategy for managing the wilderness areas is to achieve desired wilderness conditions through protecting, preserving, and restoring ecological function and natural appearances of the wilderness landscape with the minimum amount of management, interference, or manipulation necessary. Management actions that would continue include: reclamation of closed routes; noxious weed control; authorization of guides; primitive recreation; and emergency stabilization and rehabilitation after wildfires. Additional actions proposed by the plan include: initiating comprehensive inventories of historical, cultural, and paleontological

sites and restoration of aspen and cottonwood stands where they were eliminated by human activity. Access to and maintenance of authorized range developments would continue to be addressed in Grazing Permits, as required under the Congressional Grazing Guidelines.

Copies of the Final Wilderness Management Plan, Final EA, Finding of No Significant Impact, and Decision Record are available for viewing and upon request from the BLM Winnemucca District Office, 5100 East Winnemucca Boulevard, Winnemucca, Nevada 89445-2921, during regular business hours 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except for federal holidays, and posted online at http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/wfo/blm_information/nepa0.html. For more information, please contact Gerald Dixon, BLM Black Rock Field Office Manager, at (775) 623-1500.

Sincerely,



Gene Seidlitz
District Manager
Winnemucca District