



United States Department of the Interior

Bureau of Land Management

Nevada State Office
P.O. Box 12000 (1340 Financial Blvd.)
Reno, Nevada 89520-0006
<http://www.nv.blm.gov/>

In Reply Refer To:
1610 (NV-910/CA-910)

Dear Reader:

This document includes the Record of Decision (ROD) and the approved Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area (NCA) and Associated Wilderness, and Other Contiguous Lands in Nevada. The ROD approves the BLM's decisions included in the RMP for managing 1.2 million acres of public land in Humboldt, Pershing and Washoe Counties, Nevada. For ease of use, the Record of Decision, Resource Management Plan and associated Appendices are combined in one bound volume, and all maps referenced in the text are located directly following the sections in which they are first referenced.

The approved RMP is the result of an extensive collaborative effort among Tribal, State and local governments, other federal agencies, organizations, members of the public, and two Resource Advisory Councils through a joint Resource Advisory Council NCA Subgroup. Significant changes to the approved RMP can only be made through a plan amendment process including full public notification and involvement, in accordance with BLM regulations 43 CFR 1610.5-5.

Eight protests were received following publication of the Final Environmental Impact Statement/Proposed RMP (FEIS/PRMP). As a result of these protests several small changes were made in the format and wording of the RMP to better explain some issues and two technical corrections were made that affect small portions of the planning area. One change removed the requirement for "no surface occupancy" for geothermal energy development on the 15,000-acre South Playa and the second changed two small playa lakebeds from designation as "Open" to OHV use to "Limited" to designated motorized trails.

The FEIS/PRMP State of Nevada Governor's Consistency Review included consistency issues raised by two agencies. The Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) expressed concern that the PRMP was not consistent with previously developed BLM wildlife habitat management plans and existing and proposed NDOW species management plans. BLM reviewed all the plans in question and determined that there were no inconsistency issues. The Nevada Department of State Parks raised a consistency concern regarding ADA compliance at present and future BLM facilities within the NCA. BLM also determined that this was not a RMP consistency issue. It should also be noted that in December 2003 BLM and NDOW signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) related to management of wildlife populations, habitats and facilities in BLM designated wilderness areas in Nevada. The RMP incorporates and is consistent the provisions of this MOU.

The ROD is BLM's commitment to the public that the public lands in the planning area will be managed in accordance with the approved RMP. The ROD meets the requirements of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) at 43 U.S.C. §§1701-1785 and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) at 40 CFR 1505.2. In accordance with BLM regulations at 43 CFR 1610.5-1(b), since no significant changes have been made in the Proposed RMP, the RMP described in this Record of Decision in its entirety is not appealable.

However, three decisions included in the RMP are implementation actions that are now subject to appeal. Two of these implementation actions deal with Transportation: 1.) Designation of roads and motorized trails open to motorized use; and 2.) Designation of routes closed to motorized use. The third deals with Wilderness and Wildlife Management: Maintenance of existing water sources for wildlife. More information on these implementation actions and the procedures for appealing them are in the ROD at Attachment 1, Implementation Decisions.

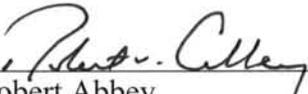
Whether or not a decision or action is appealable, members of the public are always encouraged to express their views and to participate during implementation of the decisions included in the RMP. For additional information on how to participate, please contact:

NCA Manager
Bureau of Land Management
5100 E Winnemucca Blvd
Winnemucca NV 89445-2921
(775) 623-1500
wfoweb@nv.blm.gov (Subject: "Attn NCA Manager")

Please be aware that the planning process does not end with the ROD. One of the requirements of BLM planning is a review process to determine whether approved plans are still current and meeting desired objectives. This RMP shall be reviewed for adequacy at minimum intervals of five years. As a result of the review process this plan may be updated. For changes that are not significant, updating can be accomplished through simple maintenance. However, as mentioned earlier, when significant changes are needed, the RMP must be updated through a formal plan amendment process that includes opportunities for public involvement, comment and appeal.

We look forward to working with all interested governments, agencies, organizations, and members of the public in implementing this challenging plan for the future management of one our nation's special places.

Sincerely,



Robert Abbey
Director, Nevada State Office
Bureau of Land Management



Mike Pool
Director, California State Office
Bureau of Land Management