



Did you know?

- Significance is defined as effects of sufficient context (i.e., society, region, interests, locality) and intensity (i.e., severity of the effect) that an Environmental Impact Statement is required;
- Public outreach methods include: media releases; newsletters; website updates; letters; public meetings; NEPA registers; email notifications and in specific cases, Federal Register Notices;
- The public may submit comments regarding a project to a federal agency at any time during the NEPA process, however, they are encouraged to submit comments during the designated commenting periods as they will help facilitate the analysis process;
- When receiving public comments BLM is mandated under NEPA to consider substantive comments. Substantive comments are those that provide constructive feedback regarding the project. Substantive comments do the following:
 - o Suggest the analysis is flawed;
 - o Challenge the accuracy, adequacy, methodology, or assumptions of the information presented or analysis;
 - o Present new information relevant to the analysis;
 - o Present reasonable alternatives (including mitigation); and
 - o Seek clarification.
- Land use plan decisions are made according to the procedures in the BLM's planning regulations in 43 CFR 1600 and the implementing regulations for NEPA in 40 CFR 1500-1508.

Fast facts —

The BLM - Winnemucca District encompasses 11,099,758 acres located throughout portions of north-west Nevada. The District manages 74.6 percent of these lands, or 8,276,113 acres. The Winnemucca District BLM offers many opportunities for enjoyment. The District includes the longest intact segments of the historic emigrant trails to California and Oregon in the western U.S. The Black Rock High Rock Region of northwestern Nevada features wagon ruts, historic inscriptions and a wilderness landscape largely unchanged since the days of the pioneers.

BLM continues to improve the health and productivity of the land to support the BLM multiple use mission. Much of this is accomplished through partnerships and many volunteers.

Our mission is to sustain the health, diversity and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

For more information visit: www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/wfo.html

Contact: District Manager Gene Seidlitz gseidlitz@nv.blm.gov (775) 623-1500

Visit: 5100 East Winnemucca Boulevard Winnemucca, NV 89445-2921

NEPA: Informing the public and decision makers

Special to the Sun

WINNEMUCCA — Are you wondering how that mine or geothermal facility came to be? What about water guzzlers and hiking and biking trails? Why those cows are grazing on the range? Why powerlines are where they are? To answer this, you need to know a bit about the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

All of these activities, and more, are allowed and permitted on public lands. All require a level of NEPA compliance and the public plays an important role.

NEPA applies to all federal agencies and requires that they, and the public, be informed of environmental impacts that could be the result of a project and encourages environmentally responsible decision-making. NEPA mandates that all actions are considered from various disciplines (eg. biological, cultural, social). The "public" under NEPA refers to agencies, governments, and organizations, as well as the general public. Although procedural versus protection in nature, NEPA is the strongest tool our nation has for addressing environmental concerns.

Under NEPA there are various levels of evaluation (see chart). Primarily due to needed data collection and coordination among staff and the public at large, the NEPA process can be quite time and cost intensive.

The BLM's Winnemucca District has implemented the use of an on-line delivery method to the public for all levels of NEPA documents. This on-line program is an interactive database that allows the user to search for NEPA documents based on various search terms. Documents are available to the public for a limited period of time.

Keep an eye on our webpage (<http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/wfo.html>) for current projects and comment periods so that you can get involved. You can "have a voice" in how specific activities are implemented on your public lands.

Types of NEPA documents



Environmental Assessment (EA)

Discloses sufficient evidence and analysis for determining the significance of effects from a proposed action.



Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

Prepared by a federal agency when a proposed action is expected to have significant environmental effects.



Categorical Exclusions (CX)

Categories of actions that federal agencies have determined do not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment, and therefore neither an EA or EIS is required.



Determinations of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)

DNAs are documentation that relied upon prior NEPA analyses to support an informed BLM decision.

BLM land use planning

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) directs the BLM to develop, maintain, and revise land use plans for the purpose of managing public lands. BLM regulations require them to be developed through the NEPA process. They guide BLM's decision making through the use of goals and objectives contained within the plan for how resources are to be managed or allocated on public lands.

Currently, the Winnemucca District is completing a new land use plan called the Winnemucca District Resource Management Plan (RMP). The Winnemucca District RMP will replace out-dated plans and guide management for 7.2 million acres within the District. The remaining portion of the district, approximately 1.2 million acres, is guided by the Black Rock Desert – High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area and Associated Wilderness, and Other Contiguous Lands in Nevada RMP.

The Draft Winnemucca District RMP was intensely reviewed at the district, state, and Washington Office levels and the document was made available for public comments from June 25 through Oct. 25, 2010.

Public comments were carefully reviewed and considered in the development of the proposed RMP, which is expected to be released in the fall of 2013. A Record of Decision for the RMP is expected to be issued in 2014. For more information please visit the Winnemucca District's RMP website: http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/wfo/blm_information/rmp.html.