

✓ 4/11/79

Map



United States Department of the Interior

IN REPLY REFER

1791
(N-041)

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Ely District Office
Star Route 5, Box 1
Ely, Nevada - 89301

April 11, 1979

Dear Citizen:

Here are copies of two Draft Environmental Assessments prepared by our Ely Office for your comment and review. They both concern requests under the now expired Unintentional Trespass Act (UTA) in Lincoln County.

Congress mandated that all UTA requests be completed by October of this year. We ask that you help us meet this deadline by forwarding any comments to our office before Monday, May 14, 1979.

Address: Bureau of Land Management
Ely District Office
Star Route 5, Box 1
Ely, Nevada 89301

It would be helpful to us if you identify which of the UTA's the comments relate to. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

George W. Cropper
Acting District Manager

*Supply:
land location
distribution
movement pattern
horse location*

Enclosure



Save Energy and You Serve America!

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT RECORD
FOR
FRANK DELMUE UTA (60 acres)

County

Lincoln

Resource Area

Schell R.A.

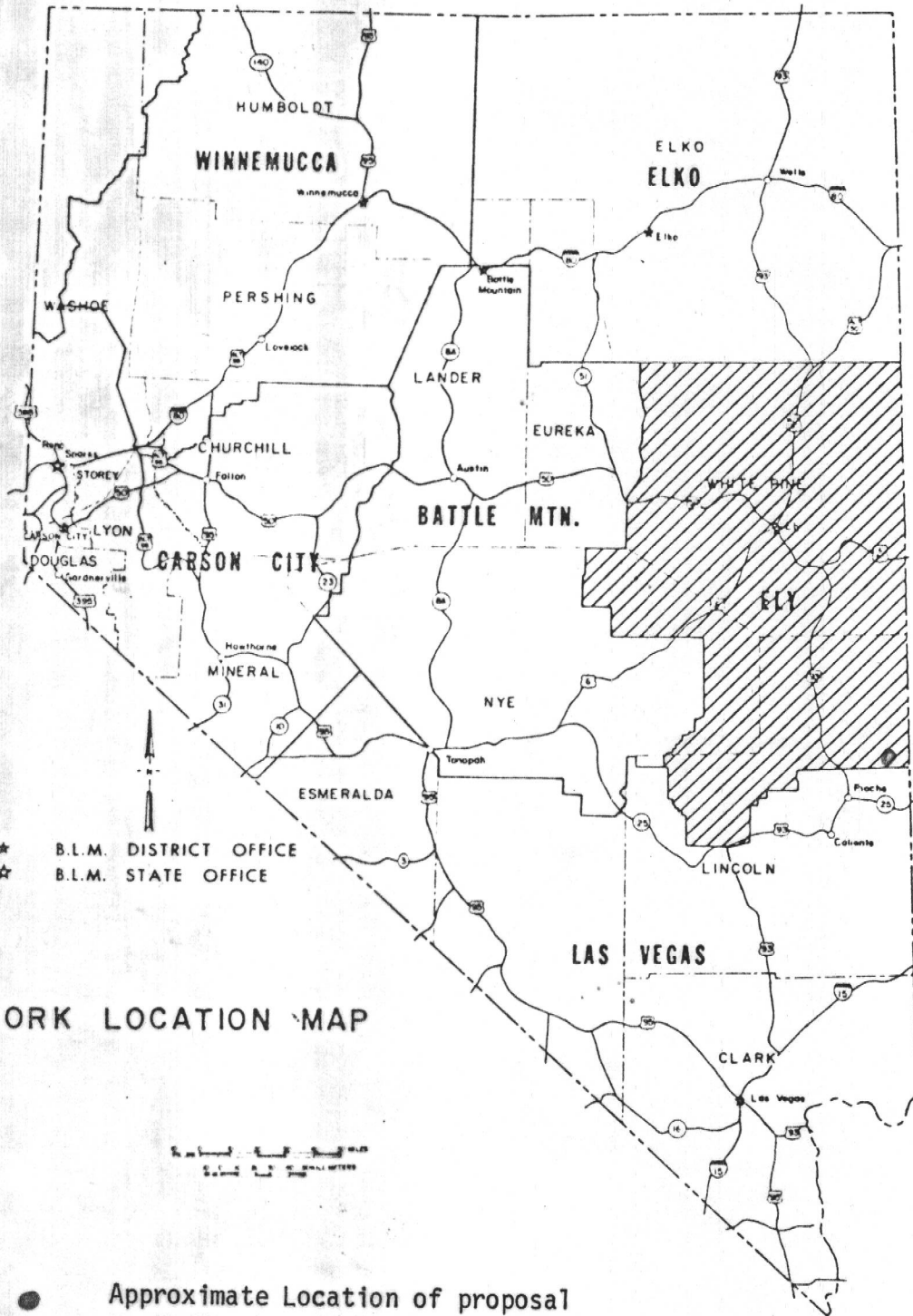
Planning Status

Wilson Creek P.U.
MFP completed
1975

Prepared by:

Dave Redmond
Scott Robinson
Walt Cassidy
Larry Jung

Schell R.A. Lands Specialist
Schell R.A. Wildlife Biologist
Ely Staff Archaeologist
Ely Staff Wilderness Coordinator



● Approximate Location of proposal

T3N R70E SEC 29

■ LAND OWNED BY FRANK DELMUE

■ BLM LAND

■ UTA APPLICATION N-5836

5836

Springs

N
G

Valley

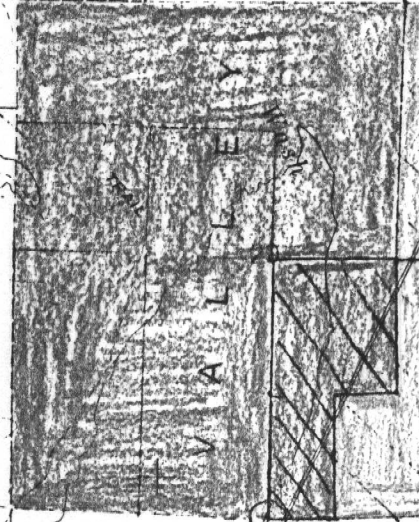
Wildcat

Borrow Pit

White Rock Well

5938 Dam

X6044 Borrow Pits



5997

Spring

Springs

Cem

TRAIL Wash

JEEP 4

TRAIL

JEEP

TRAIL

JEEP

6071

6052 5

6100

6202

X6095

6100

6223

6200

28

6100

X6250

33

6241

6100

X6137

6100

X6192

6100

6

6007



DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

Background and Proposed Action

Frank Delmue has made application to the Bureau of Land Management for 60 acres of land under the Unintentional Trespass Act. The land applied for is in T. 3 N., R. 70 E., Sec. 29, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$.

Frank Delmue owns 400 acres of Section 29 and the BLM manages the other 240 acres. The land lies approximately one mile north of a proposed Spring Valley Park. The valley bottom has a high water table which helps to yield good pasture for grazing cattle. The land to the east and west of Section 29 is managed by BLM and is under a common grazing allotment. The area applied for will now support 8 AUM's.

The land under application has not been put into cultivation nor is the other 400 belonging to Mr. Delmue in cultivation.

Alternatives

1. Offer only part of the subject lands for sale and maintain the rest in Federal ownership is one alternative to the proposed action.
2. Deny the application in full.

DESCRIPTION OF EXISTING ENVIRONMENT

Air - Air quality is excellent in the area. Vehicles traveling on the dirt road would cause dust during the summer. With the proposed Spring Valley Park to the south it is probable that the traffic will increase on the road increasing the amount of dust from the road surface.

Water - A perennial creek flows through the valley. The valley bottom adjacent to the creek has a high water table. The area is subject to sheet flooding during the spring runoff. There is a potential for flash flooding from the washes to the east and west of the valley. Spring Valley has 800,000 acre feet of stored water according to State of Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and Geological Survey.

Geology - The valley bottom is flat and about one-fourth mile wide, then the terrain slopes up to low hills and deep drains with sharp slopes. The geology of the area is young alluvium. According to the Geological Survey Conservation Division the area is valuable for oil and gas. The land is without value for other leasable minerals.

Soils - The soils of the applied for area are of the Poorma and Poorma clay variant series. The Poorma is very poor for grain crops, seed crops, grasses and legumes. Coniferous woody plants

and shrubs do good on this soil. These soil series are poor to construct buildings on and put in sewage systems. The Poorma clay variant is very close to the same conditions that present problems as the Poorma soil type does.

Plants - The vegetation of the area consists of black sagebrush, big sagebrush, cliffrose, Nevada ephedra, galleta, blue groma, sand dropseed bluegrass, needle and thread, juniper and pinon pine. There are no known threatened or endangered species in the applied for area.

Animals - This area is within the Patterson - Eagle Herd Unit, with an estimated 175-200 head of wild horses population for the entire unit. This herd unit is influenced by migration between horses in Las Vegas BLM District and Utah. There are an estimated 25-35 head of wild horses that utilize the area on a yearlong basis.

Several species of wildlife inhabit the proposed action area due to the different habitats available (Appendix 1). The bottomland is flooded during spring runoff thus creating intermittent wetland riparian habitat. This is an important feeding area for herons, egrets, shorebirds and selected songbirds. This area also provides nesting habitat for meadowlarks, blackbirds, and amphibians such as the Red Spotted Toad and Boreal Chorus Frog.

As recorded in the Fairview oil, gas and geothermal EAR, a suspected sage grouse strutting ground occurs at T. 3 N., R. 70 E., Sec. 29. As of this date, no solid data is available to support this supposition. Studies have shown strutting grounds are important. No known threatened/ endangered species inhabit the proposed action area.

Ecological Relationship

The high water table in the valley bottom provides the water to grow a good vegetative cover. This dense growth of vegetation supports rabbits, deer and rodents. The area is also subject to livestock grazing. The stream and small side channels support some forms of aquatic life, insects and frogs that some of the birds and waterfowl feed on. With this good growth of vegetation the wildlife population has a tendency to stay stable, providing the predators of the surrounding area a stable source of food.

Section 29 has been identified as containing a sage grouse strutting ground. No study has been made to determine the population of the flock nor its value. The area has been grazed for a number of years and the effect that the grazing has on the sage grouse is not known.

Human Values

The State of Nevada (due to the large amount of land in the state that is owned by the Federal government) would like to see some of this land

placed into private ownership. Frank Delmue owns 400 acres in this section. The sixty acres he has applied for would add good grazing land to his operation.

A Cultural Resource Clearance was conducted on 12/21/78 for the applied area. The proposed action will have no conflict with cultural resources. For further information consult Cultural Report No. 4-284(P) in Ely District central files.

Lincoln County has a master plan which is administered by the Lincoln County Commissioners. However, this plan only addresses itself to the settled areas of the country; consequently, the subject parcel is not covered.

As a result of E.O. 11990, BLM's policy is now to avoid long and short-term adverse impacts associated with the destruction, loss or degradation of wetland riparian areas.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED ACTION

If the proposed action is taken, one could expect very specific impacts upon the present existing environment to occur.

Because P.L. 90-516 is an agricultural entry relief act, it is reasonable to believe that if the parcel is disposed of, it will be developed into agricultural land. This means the land could be leveled and cleared of all native vegetation to make way for agricultural crops. Approximately one half of the applied-for-land is wet due to the high water table in the valley. This land would have to be drained and ditches would have to be dug to provide flood irrigation and drainage. During the period of preparation of the soil the amount of silt may increase in the creek.

Agricultural crop production usually requires fertilizer and pesticides. It is possible that these chemicals will find their way into the creek and be carried down into the proposed park area. The sage grouse chicks diet is composed of insects. If pesticides are used, the food source for these chicks would be reduced drastically. The plowing and planting of this land may cause a drop in sage grouse populations.

Disposal of the parcel can cause a change in land use. A change in land use has the potential to degenerate the VRM class.

The BLM will lose control over this land for multiple use management. There will be a loss of 8 AUMs from the common allotment.

Disposal of the parcel will put the land on the tax roles of the County and State.

This land base of a ranch determines the amount that can be borrowed from lending institutions. This is a definite positive impact to the rancher.

The area has the potential of flash flooding during heavy rains. The valley bottom will flood during the spring melt runoff. As noted in Washington Information Memorandum No. 76-208, low value crops or pasture lands need minimum flood plain protection. With this guidance taken into consideration, the potential flood hazard is not considered a limiting factor.

If the land were plowed and a crop planted the cultivated land would have to have a fence around it. The wild horses that roam the area stay in the higher country during the daytime. At night they might come down to drink at the creek or springs. It is unlikely that they would bother the cropland. Deer might present more of a problem because they can crawl through the fence to get to the crop.

A positive impact would be that if crops were grown on the land like alfalfa the rancher could feed his cows on the crop allowing the cows to stay off the Federal range longer.

The land exchange from public land to private could be detrimental to wildlife species. The private landowner could either overgraze it with livestock or drain it for agriculture. Both potential land uses would reduce the area's productivity for nongame wildlife.

Diversity of native vegetative food resources and protective cover for some local wildlife species could be eliminated. Wildlife use would probably drop from several species to a few select species.

The potential use of pesticides would reduce the amount of insect production. Because the diet of sage grouse chicks is primarily composed of insects, the birds' population could be expected to decrease. This is a serious impact considering the decline of sage grouse numbers in the Wilson Creek Unit and our lack of knowledge of all strutting ground locations.

Fertilizer could find its way into the creek and cause another form of impact. Fertilizer in streams creates algae blooms which choke streams and use up the oxygen supply needed by aquatic life, including fish. If the fertilizer would find its way to the reservoir the algae growth in the reservoir would increase.

The applied for area is within an area that is less than five thousand acres and does not meet wilderness criteria. The area to the west is private land and the area to the east has been cleared by wilderness.

The plowing and planting of a crop will compromise the aesthetics of the area. The visual resource will definitely change due to the cultivation of the applied for land.

Any new fencing around the proposed cultivated area will have a slight effect on the wild horses. The horses usually come into the valley bottom at night. If they are chased they may run into the new fence.

If the land is cultivated fugitive dust will increase. The time of high incidents of dust in the air would be during preparation for seed and harvesting the crop.

A positive impact would be in the State of Nevada where the BLM manages 84 percent of the land that some of this land might be returned to private ownership.

Any recreation opportunity would be lost to the public that would be associated with the perennial stream. This is the only area where the stream flows across public land. The BLM would lose any opportunity it had to manage this portion of the stream for recreation.

Possible Mitigating or Enhancing Measures for the Action

If the proposed action is taken, the land will go into private ownership and the BLM will lose management potential for 60 acres of public land.

There is no way BLM can mitigate the potential change of wildlife habitat, potential wilderness areas, degeneration of VRM class and recreation resource.

Once the land would be transferred to private ownership there would be no way that the air quality could be mitigated.

The soil Conservation Service has identified the soil in the area as not good for agricultural crops in their soil survey of Meadow Valley. If the crop that is planted fails this would leave open ground that would erode. The sediment from this erosion could end up in Eagle Valley Reservoir. It would take time for this soil to go back to native vegetation.

Residual Impacts of the Proposed Action

There will be a loss of wildlife and livestock habitat management potential. The management of potential wilderness areas, visual resources, and certain recreation resources will be on a smaller scale.

If any archaeological resources are located on the subject lands but are not identified and excavated, the loss of these from public use will be residual impact.

A decrease in water quality, by the addition of agricultural chemicals in Spring Valley would will be a residual impact.

The Nevada State Parks at present manages the Eagle Valley Reservoir Recreational Area and the 7-L Ranch. The Eagle Valley Reservoir Recreational Area has been developed for intensive recreation use. The 7-L Ranch has not been developed yet but information from Nevada State Parks indicates that they plan to develop it. This development could increase the amount of visitor days for the area. This increase use may increase vandalism on surrounding private and public land including the proposed UTA.

If the applied for land is planted with a commercial crop and the crop fails due to the adverse condition of the soil, as indicated by the soil survey done by the Soil Conservation Service it is possible that the topsoil will be eroded away. With the topsoil gone, it will take time for vegetation to grow on the soil. During this period the soil will continue to erode and the sediment will probably make its way into the Eagle Valley Reservoir.

ANALYSIS OF ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1 - Modify application to sell only part of the applied for land - The impacts associated with the first alternative to the proposed action will be the same as those associated with the proposed action. The extent of the impacts will be proportional to the amount of land retained by the U.S.

Alternative 2 - Denying the entire application - The land would remain under the common grazing allotment. This would mean that 8 AUM's would remain in the allotment. Sage grouse would benefit because the land would not be disturbed for agriculture crops. Recreational and further development opportunities would remain open for further work.

Possible Mitigating Measures of the Alternative

Alternative 1 - The mitigating measures associated with this alternative, are the same as those for the proposed action. The amount of land (if any) sold by the U.S. will determine to what extent the measure will be needed.

Alternative 2 - No mitigating measures are foreseen as being needed for the second alternative to the proposed action.

Residual Impacts of Alternatives

The residual impacts of the first alternative to the proposed action, is the same as those of the proposed action. The extent of the residual impacts will be directly proportional to the amount of land sold (if any) by the U.S.

Relationship Between Short-Term Use and Long-Term Productivity

With the first alternative to the proposed action one should also see an increase in long-term productivity. The increase in productivity should be directly proportional to the amount of land sold by the U.S.

There will be a decrease in the productivity of the nonconservative uses of subject land. Visual resources proposed wilderness areas and other recreational activities will no longer be available on the subject lands. This decrease cannot be quantified at this time, but it is recognized and considered in this assessment.

Irreversible and/or Irretrievable Commitment of Resource

The loss of 60 acres of land from Federal ownership and BLM administration is an irreversible and irretrievable commitment of resource except for minerals which are retained by the Federal Government.

INTENSITY OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Mr. Frank Delmue is interested in purchasing the land to add to the land base of his ranch.

The Department of Taxation is interested in seeing the applied for land transferred in to private ownership so the property could be placed on the tax roles.

APPENDIX

The following is a list of representative animals inhabiting the subject parcel.

MAMMALS

Black-tailed jackrabbits
Cottontails
Deer Mouse
Voles
Coyote
Skunks
Mule Deer

BIRDS

Herons
Egrets
Red-tailed Hawk
Golden Eagle
Sage Grouse
Rails
Shorebirds
Mourning Dove
Common Raven
Long-billed Marsh Wren
Robin
Yellow Warbler
Yellowthroat
Western Meadowlark
Blackbirds
White-crowned Sparrow
Song Sparrow

AMPHIBIANS

Red Spotted Toad
Boreal Chorus Frog
Canyon Tree Frog

REPTILES

Long-nosed Leopard Lizard
Great Basin Fence Lizard
N. Sagebrush Lizard
N. Side Blotched Lizard
Desert Side Blotched Lizard
N. Desert Horned Lizard
Great Basin Whiptail
Desert Striped Whipsnakes
Great Basin Gopher Snake
Western Long-nosed Snake
Wandering Garter Snake
Desert Night Snake
Great Basin Rattlesnake

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT RECORD
FOR
HAROLD HAMMOND - UNINTENTIONAL TRESPASS APPLICATION

County

Lincoln County

Resource Area

Schell Resource Area

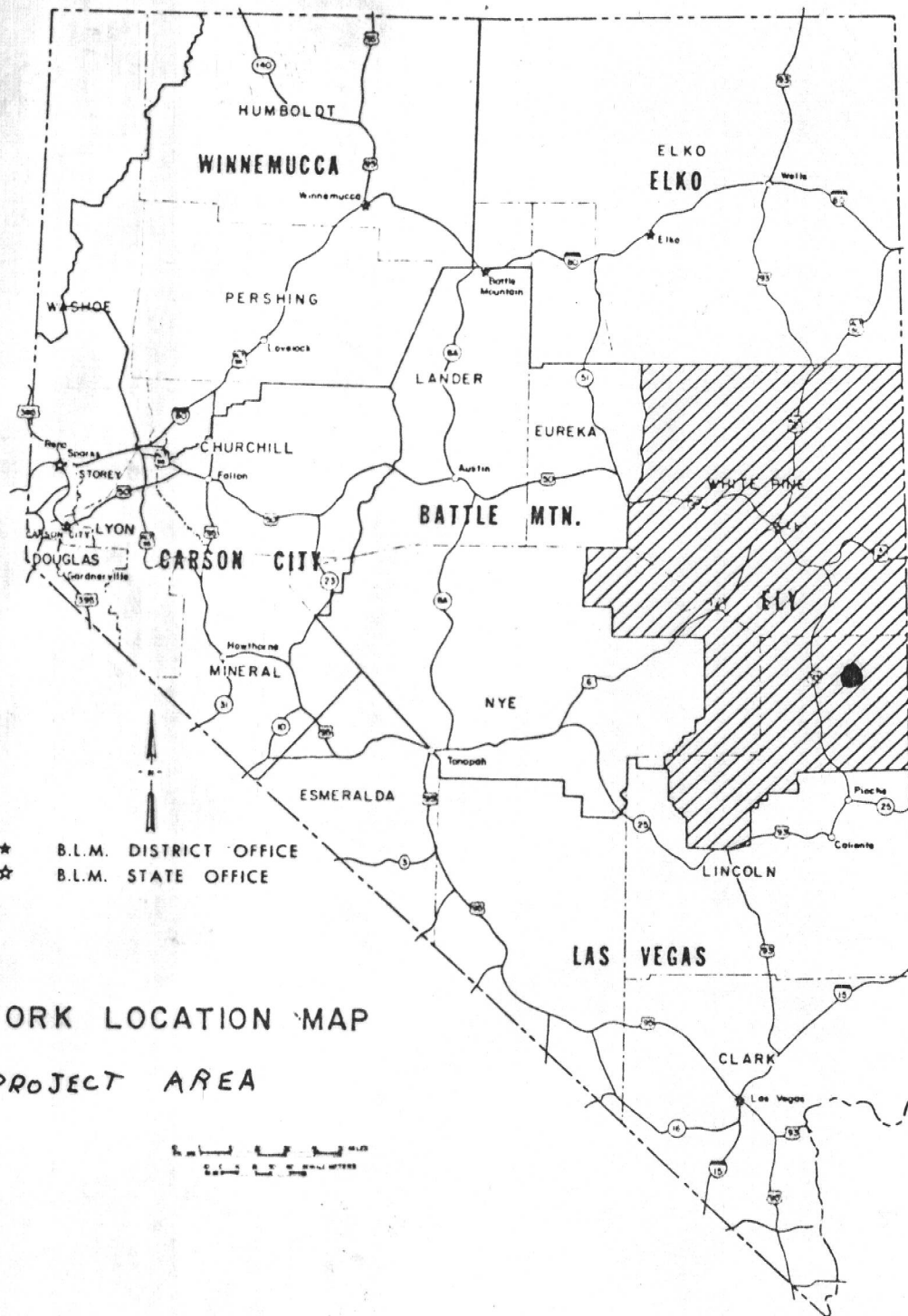
Planning Status

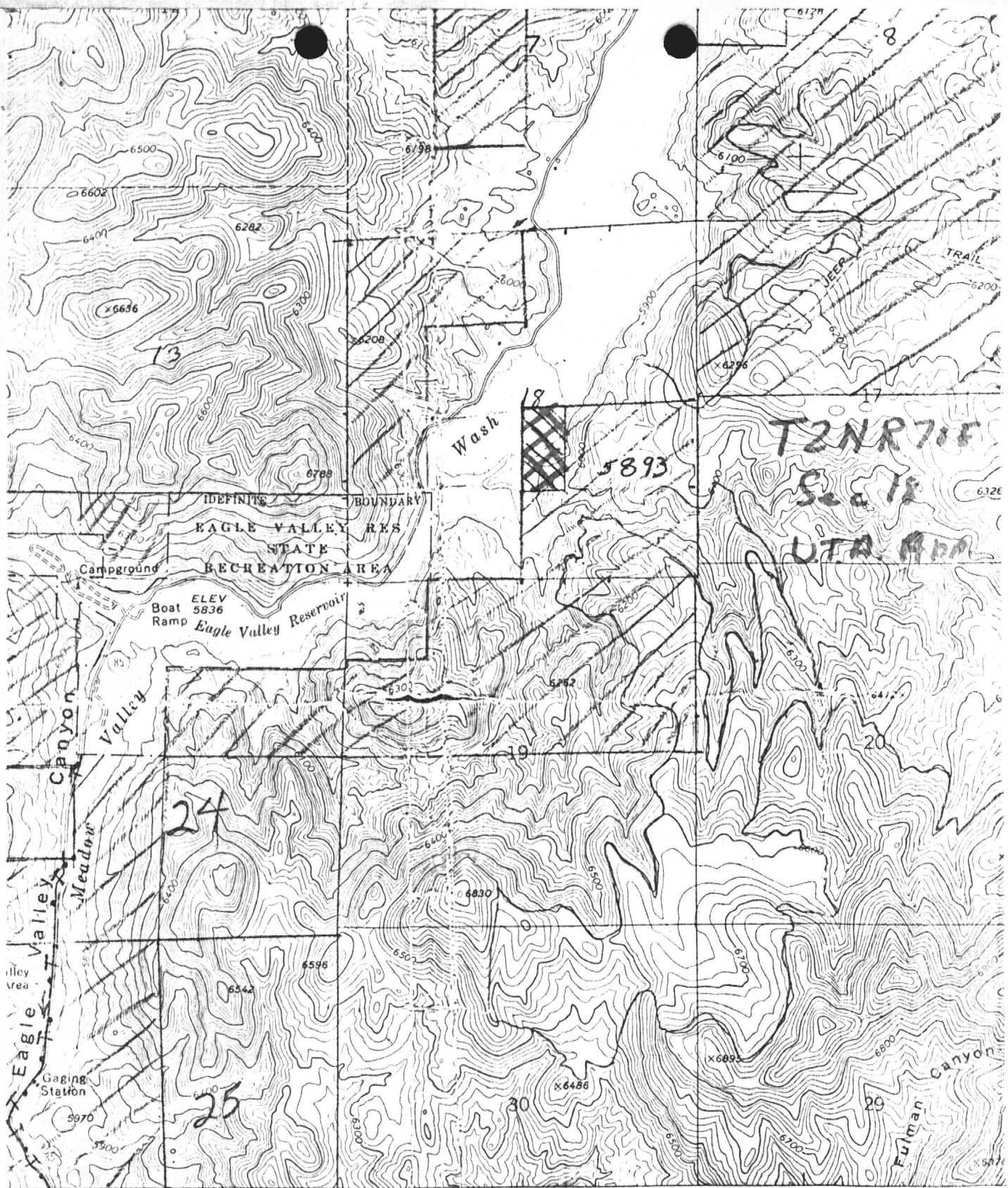
Wilson Creek
MFP completed
1975

Team Members

Dave Redmond
Larry Jung
Walt Cassidy
Scott Robinson
Rod Hardy

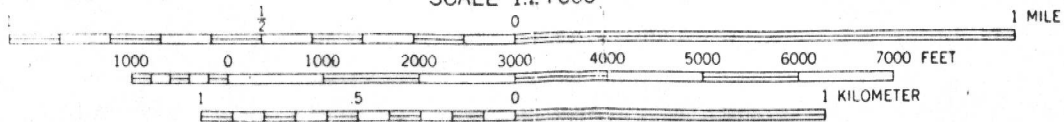
Schell Realty Specialist
District Wilderness Cordinator
District Archaeologist
Schell Wildlife Biologist
District T&E Coordinator
Schell Range Conservationist





URSINE 15 MI R 69 E URSINE R 70 E 748 10' 749
 3159 1 NW

SCALE 1:24000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
 NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929



BACKGROUND AND PROPOSED ACTION

Mr. Harold Hammond has filed an application (N-5893) with the BLM under the Unintentional Trespass Act for 20 acres of public land. The 20 acres is adjacent to 80 acres that are owned by Mr. Hammond. The applied for parcel is located in T. 2 N., R. 70 E., Sec. 18, W $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$. The parcel lies at the south end of Spring Valley. The valley bottom has a high water table with a perennial stream that flows south into Eagle Valley Reservoir. There are many springs and seeps in the valley.

At present Mr. Hammond is not cultivating any of his adjacent land nor the applied for parcel. He presently is using the land to graze cows during the spring. Mr. Hammond has entered into a contract to sell his land to David Witts of Texas for the purpose of subdivision. The Nevada State Parks have expressed interest in the land but recently asked that the BLM take no further action on their Recreation and Public Purpose Application.

Alternatives

1. Amend the application in order to decrease the total acreage as related to the UTA needs.
2. Deny the application leaving the land in government ownership.

DESCRIPTION OF EXISTING ENVIRONMENT

Air - The air quality is excellent in the valley. The only pollution would be from automobiles and from the 27 residents that live at Ursine, Nevada.

On days that there is peak use of the park hydrocarbon pollution from automobiles increases.

Water - The valley has many springs and seeps. These springs and seeps discharge into Spring Creek, which is a perennial stream. According to the Geological Survey, Spring Valley has 800,000 acre-feet of stored water. The water quality is very good.

Geology - The geology consists of old and young alluvium in the valley bottom. The sidehills are volcanic rock undifferentiated with limestone, dolomite and Dunderberg shale.

The topography of the UTA is flat on the north end sloping up to the east and south. The south end has a low ridge which extends from the east slope out to the creek.

Soils - The Soil Conservation Service have indicated in their soil study of Lincoln County that the area of the UTA is comprised of two soil series. The Itca soil series is located to the east and on the southern part of the parcel. The Bicondoa soil series is found on the low areas. The Itca soil is rated by SCS as very

poor for grains and seed crops. The Bicondoa soil is rated very poor for grain and seed crops and fair for rangeland. The Bicondoa soil series rates good to fair for wildlife habitat while the Itca soil series is fair to very poor.

These soil series were also rated poor for the construction of any structures or the installation of any sewage systems.

Plants - The proposed area contains black sage, big sagebrush, Galleta grass and Indian ricegrass are found on the valley floor and up some of the side drainages. There are no known threatened or endangered plant species in the area of the application.

Animals

Several species of wildlife inhabit the proposed action area because of the variety of habitats (Appendix 1). The most important habitat is the wetland riparian on the site. Any and all birds such as grebes, waterfowl, waders, shorebirds, and selected songbirds may use this area at various times during the year. Osprey and Bald Eagles may appear here on occasion. However, neither nest here. The Bald Eagle is classified as endangered by U.S.D.I.

(Waterfowl habitat is scarce in Nevada, comprising 0.27 percent of the surface area of Nevada (Walstrom 1973, BLM 1977). This should not be considered as an insignificant amount of habitat, but rather as a tiny amount of the most productive wildlife habitat in the State.)

No other threatened or endangered species are known to inhabit the area. The riparian habitat is considered crucial to the species which inhabit the area.

The applied for area is within the Patterson-Eagle Wild Horse Herd Unit, with an estimated 175-200 head of wild horses population for the entire unit. This herd unit is influenced by migration between horses in the Las Vegas BLM District and Utah. There are an estimated 25-35 head of wild horses that utilize the area on a yearlong basis.

Ecological Relationship

The large amount of water that comes from the springs and seeps is the key to the ecological relationships of the area. The area produces a good growth of grass for rabbits, deer and rodents. The water supports aquatic life that some of the birds and waterfowl feed on. The good vegetation in the valley keeps the population of rabbits and rodents stable, providing good hunting for the predators in the surrounding hills.

Human Values

In the State of Nevada the Federal Government controls 87 percent of the State and 99 percent of Lincoln County. The State government and local governments would like to see more public lands transferred into private ownership.

A preliminary Cultural Resource Report was done on the site. Refer to Cultural Resource Report No. 4-284(P). A more detailed assessment will be done when the snow clears this spring (1979) and those findings will be added to the assessment. The applied for area is adjacent to the Mount Wilson Archaeological District which is considered a very significant area.

The BLM's policy on wetlands is to avoid long and short-term adverse impacts associated with destruction, loss and degradation of wetland riparian areas. Conservation groups and certain sections of the public view the destruction of wetland habitat as poor management.

The Geological Survey has identified the valley bottom of Spring Valley as being part of the Spring Creek flood plain.

All public lands included in the proposed transfer have been inventoried as part of the I.P.P. study for possible wilderness study area designation. The lands in the proposed transfer were recommended as not qualifying for further inventory nor as wilderness study areas and public meetings on this recommendation were held in November 1978 (in Las Vegas, Ely and Caliente).

A proposed wilderness study area is located about 4 miles northwest of Eagle Valley Reservoir within the Parsnip Peak Roadless Unit (NV-040-206). There would be no apparent adverse impact on the proposed wilderness study and from the proposed transfer.

The area is somewhat scenic now, however, if it is cultivated the visual resource will be lowered.

Statewide waterfowl data projections show a steady increase in hunters, hunter days, and harvest through 1990 with a subsequent decline, reflecting loss of key habitat, through 2020. Data for Lincoln County follows this similar trend (Walstrom 1973).

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF PROPOSED ACTION

Because P.L. 90-516 is an agricultural entry relief act, it is reasonable to believe that if the parcel is disposed of, it will be developed into agriculture land. This will entail clearing the land of the native vegetation replacing it with some form of agricultural crop.

Due to the wet condition of the soil it is possible that during the preparation of the soil that some erosion will take place.

It is common in most agricultural pursuits to use fertilizer and pesticides. Pesticides could find their way into the food chain and cause harm to the wildlife. Fertilizers have caused algae blooms in stream and reservoirs which deprive fish of oxygen. If both the pesticides and the fertilizers find their way into the Eagle Valley Reservoir it may cause harm to the fish that live in the reservoir. Since this reservoir provides recreation to the public, the public might become very ardent and concerned over the problem.

It is very probable that in the future Nevada State Parks will continue their plans to develop Spring Valley Park by applying for land from the BLM and condemning the private land. If this takes place and if the UTA is sold to the private land owner the Nevada tax payers will be paying for this land. The BLM might find that the public resents the fact of the sale and then the State buying the land when the land could have been transferred to the State with little cost to the taxpayer.

The impacts on wild horses would be related to how many fences would be built to protect the crop land.

Flash flooding is a possibility for the wide drainages. Spring Valley bottomland will flood during the spring and heavy rainfall.

The BLM will lose the land from under its multiple use plan to an exclusive use by the private land owner, subject only to State and local laws.

The Soil Conservation Service in the Meadow Valley Soil Survey stated the soils were not good for agricultural crops. If the applied for land is planted with a crop and the crop fails the soil would be subjected to erosion. The topsoil might be completely eroded away leaving either rock or mineral soil. It would take many years before any vegetation would grow on the area.

Possible Mitigating or Enhancing Measures for Action

If the proposed action is taken, the land will go into private ownership and the BLM will lose management potential for 20 acres of public land.

There is no way the BLM can mitigate the potential change of wildlife habitat, roadless area, degenerations of VRM class and recreation resources.

Residual Impacts of the Proposed Action

The residual impacts of the proposed action will be the permanent loss of BLM management potential from 20 acres of public land, as noted above.

There will be a loss of wildlife and livestock habitat management potential. The management of visual resources and certain recreation resource will be on a smaller scale.

A decrease in water quality by the addition of agricultural chemicals into Spring Valley Wash will be a residual impact.

If Nevada State Park decide to reopen their Recreation and Public Purpose Application and seek condemnation of private land, tax dollars will be spent to repurchase public land.

If the applied for area is planted in an agricultural crop and it fails, the soil could erode. If the erosion is bad it will take a long time before the soil will recover so vegetation will grow on it.

ANALYSIS OF ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1 - Decrease Acreage

The impacts associated with this alternative to the proposed action will be the same as those associated with the proposed action. The extent of the impacts will be proportional to the amount of land returned by the U.S.

Alternative 2 - Do nothing - Deny the application

Denying the application would mean that any cows of Mr. Hammonds that graze on the 20 acres would come under the Bureau's range regulation or they would be in trespass. Negative impacts would be that the land would not be transferred to private ownership and be put on the tax roles. Mr. Hammond would not be able to add the applied for land to his base property.

If Nevada State Park Recreation and Public Purpose Application does go through the public land could be transferred directly to N.S.P.

Possible Mitigating Measures

Alternative 1 -

Any reduction of land would be based on the fact that the terrain of the land was unsuitable for cultivation. All mitigating measures would stay the same.

Alternative 2 -

By not selling the applied for land the environmental impacts on the wildlife would not take place.

Residual Impacts of Alternatives

Alternative 1 -

Residual impacts would be less under this alternative. Reduction of the applied for land would mean less agricultural chemicals would probably be used. Less land would be transferred from public to private meaning, more land would be left under BLM management.

Alternative 2 - Doesn't apply.

Relationship Between Short-Term Use and Long-Term Productivity

Short-term use of the land would relate to the destruction of the natural vegetation cover and the effect this would have on the wildlife. The agricultural chemicals used would effect the long-term productivity of the water in relation to the wildlife and the plant life along the banks of the stream.

In the short-term the effect on Nevada State Parks Recreation and Public Purpose Application would be involved with the condemnation of the private land. In the long-term if the land were cultivated it would take time to get the land back to its natural state so the visual resource would be the highest it could possibly be.

Irreversible and/or Irretrievable Commitment of Resources

The mineral rights will remain under BLM management. The land will no longer be under the management of the BLM.

INTENSITY OF PUBLIC INTEREST

The area that the UTA is located in has caused a large amount of public concern. Nevada State Park had made application for 2,800 acres of land in Spring Valley adjacent to land they already own. The Nevada State Park had planned to condemn the private land within their proposed boundary. The idea of condemnation rallied the local public against the Nevada State Parks. For an unknown reason the Nevada State Parks have pulled back their application for the land. It is assumed that the sale of the land under the UTA application would meet favorably with the local public.

APPENDIX No. 1

The following is a list of representative animals inhabiting the subject area.

MAMMALS

Black-tailed Jackrabbit
Cottontails
Rock Squirrel
Deer Mouse
Desert Woodrat
Coyote
Skunks
Mountain Lion
Bobcat
Mule Deer

BIRDS

Grebes
Herons
Egrets
Waterfowl
Golden Eagle
Bald Eagle
Osprey
Sage Grouse
Shorebirds
Mourning Dove
Hummingbirds
Common Flicker
Empidonax Flycatchers

SWALLOWS

Common Raven
Pinyon Jay
Mountain Chickadee
Long-billed Marsh Wren
Robin
Yellow-rumped Warbler
Townsend's Warbler
Yellowthroat
Western Meadowlark
Blackbirds
Lazuli Bunting
Dark-eyed Junco
Song Sparrow

AMPHIBIANS

Red Spotted Toad
Boreal Chorus Frog
Canyon Tree Frog
Leopard Frog

REPTILES

Collard Lizard
Great Basin Fence Lizard
Wandering Garter Snake
Great Basin Rattlesnake