



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Elko Field Office

July 2005



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DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR  
BUDGET AND PLANNING DIVISION

# PROJECT AND PLANNING SCHEDULE

3900 East Idaho Street  
Elko, Nevada 89801  
775-753-0200  
<http://www.nv.blm.gov/Elko/nepa.htm>



# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Elko Field Office  
3900 East Idaho Street  
Elko, Nevada 89801  
775-753-0200  
<http://www.nv.blm.gov>



In Reply Refer To:

JUL 25 2005 1790 (NV-010)

Dear Reader:

This *Project and Planning Schedule* is provided as a source of information on the status of environmental reviews and evaluations at the Elko Field Office. It updates the report from February 2005. Proposed actions for which analyses are being completed are listed in this *Schedule* by resource program area, i.e., Land Use Planning, Minerals, Lands, Recreation/Wilderness, Fire Management, Range and Wildlife/Riparian Habitat, Wild Horse Management, Invasive, Non-Native Species. We hope that this information will increase your awareness of BLM activities and your opportunities to discuss these activities with us as they are planned.

In an effort to reduce unnecessary mailings, this document is available for viewing on the web at: [www.nv.blm.gov/Elko](http://www.nv.blm.gov/Elko). BLM is currently experiencing problems with our site, so if you wish to receive a copy, or you wish to be added to or removed from our mailing list, please call Lorrie West at the Elko Field Office at 775-753-0266, or write or stop by the Elko Field Office (see letterhead for address).

*If you wish to participate in the planning and decision making process, you may do so by calling the contact listed for a given action. If your interest is for the management of livestock grazing, your request should be in writing and include:*

- 1) The specific allotment you are interested in by name; and
- 2) The specific type(s) of grazing management actions you are interested in for each allotment.

A listing and map of grazing allotments within the Elko Field Office area of administration is available on request.

Thank you for your interest in our public lands.

Sincerely,

Helen M. Hankins  
Field Manager

**BLM-Elko Field Office**  
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# United States Department of the Interior

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in reply please refer to  
BLM 1700 (11-10)

Dear Reader:

This report and Planning Schedule is provided as a source of information on the status of environmental reviews and evaluations in the BLM Field Office. It contains the report from February 1988. The report contains information on which reviews are being completed or listed in this schedule of reviews program was, i.e., Land Use Planning, Minerals, Lands, and Wildlife. The Department, Bureau and Wildlife/Recreation District, Wild Horse Management, Inventory, Non-Federal Species. We hope that this information will increase your awareness of BLM activities and your opportunities to discuss these activities with us as they are planned.

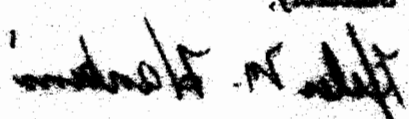
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If you wish to participate in the planning and decision making process, you may do so by calling the contact listed for a given action. If your interest is for the management of a resource, your request should be in writing and include:

- 1) The specific element you are interested in by name; and
- 2) The specific type(s) of planning management actions you are interested in for each element.

A listing and map of planning elements within the BLM Field Office area of administration is available on request.

Thank you for your interest in our public lands.

Sincerely,  
  
Loretta M. Hamilton  
Field Manager

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**Terms and Acronyms**

The following definitions may be useful to you as you read about plans and projects and their status, as listed within various sections of this *Schedule*.

**Allotment Evaluations:** The Elko Field Office completes assessments of grazing allotments to determine if standards and guidelines for rangeland health, established pursuant to grazing regulations, are being met. If not, changes in grazing management and range improvement projects are considered by allotment evaluations that are subject to public review.

**Categorical Exclusion (CX):** A category of actions that have not been found to individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment and for which, therefore, neither an environmental assessment (EA) nor an environmental impact statement (EIS) is required to be prepared for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

**Decision Record (DR):** BLM's decision document that typically is associated with an environmental assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

**DNA (Documentation of Land Use Plan Conformance and NEPA Adequacy Review):** The DNA process replaced BLM's Administrative Determination (AD) in 1999. DNAs are prepared to assist the resource specialist in determining conformance with the appropriate land use plan, and assess whether existing NEPA documents adequately cover new proposals. Reliance on an existing NEPA document is appropriate when: (1) a currently proposed action was previously proposed and analyzed, or is a part of an earlier proposal that was analyzed; (2) resource conditions and circumstances have not changed, and (3) there is no suggestion of a significant new and appropriate alternative. If the DNA concludes that these conditions exist, a new or supplemental environmental analysis (EA or EIS) is not necessary and a decision may be issued.

**Environmental Assessment (EA):** Under NEPA, an EA is used to determine whether or not a proposed action would result in significant impact(s) to the human environment. If not, preparation of an EIS is not required. An EA also serves as a vehicle for interdisciplinary review of a proposed action and identification of measures to mitigate impacts. EAs are sometimes prepared to facilitate preparation of an EIS when one is necessary.

**Environmental Impact Statement (EIS):** A detailed statement that NEPA requires for major Federal actions that significantly affect the quality of the human environment. **DEIS** refers to a draft EIS, and **FEIS** refers to a final EIS.

**FLPMA:** Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1711).

**Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI):** A FONSI is a document prepared by a Federal agency based on review of an EA that briefly presents the reasons why an action will not have a significant effect on the human environment and for which an EIS will, therefore, not be prepared.



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**Land Use Plans, Resource Management Plans (RMPs) and RMP Amendments:** Sections 201 and 202 of FLPMA and regulations at 43 CFR 1600 establish BLM land use planning requirements. Approved land use plans are the basis for every on-the-ground action BLM undertakes. RMPs establish goals and objectives for resource management, measures needed to achieve these goals and objectives, and parameters for using public lands under BLM jurisdiction. The 1987 Elko RMP and 1985 Wells RMP guide management of lands administered by the Elko Field Office. A plan amendment serves to address issues or proposals not considered by an existing RMP.

**Multiple Use Decision (MUD):** In Nevada, an Allotment Evaluation serve as the basis for issuing a MUD. MUDs are based on the attainment of multiple use objectives and standards for rangeland health. Following completion of an Allotment Evaluation, a Proposed MUD (PMUD) is distributed to interested parties, typically with an EA and FONSI , before a Final MUD (FMUD) is issued.

**NEPA:** The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321-4347) is our basic national charter for protection of the environment.

**Notice of Intent (NOI):** A Notice of Intent (to prepare an EIS) is published in the *Federal Register*. Publication of a NOI notifies the public of proposed federal action(s) and usually initiates public scoping (issue identification) for preparation of the EIS.

**Record of Decision (ROD):** The decision document associated with an EIS

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**A. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANS**

**Status:** Two Resource Management Plans (RMPs) cover the area administered by the Elko Field Office, the 1987 Elko RMP and the 1985 Wells RMPs. Both plans were most recently amended for fire management; the approved amendment was signed on September 29, 2004. There are no amendments that have been initiated in 2005. A consolidation and revision of the plans, which will include preparation of an EIS, is scheduled to begin in 2009.

**Contact:** Lorrie West

**B. MINERALS**

**B1. Oil & Gas and Geothermal Leasing (Program Assessment)**

**Type of Action:** District-wide evaluation

**Location:** Elko District

**Description:** Leasing parcels is the initial step in the search for energy resources on public lands. Subsequent actions to leasing parcels are exploration, development and production, which is eventually followed by closure and reclamation of the site. These subsequent actions create surface disturbance, which is analyzed when a lessee submits plans for the action. The Elko Field Office is completing an evaluation of these activities throughout the district, for use in expediting environmental reviews for future lease sales and approvals of exploration and development plans on leased lands.

**Status:** The assessment is nearing completion in July 2005.

**Contact:** Kirk Laird

**B2. Quarterly Elko District Competitive Oil & Gas Lease Sales**

**Type of Action:** Oil & Gas Competitive Lease Sale

**Location:** Elko District

**Description:** Competitive oil and gas lease sales are conducted quarterly, in March, June, September, and December. The proposed parcels to be leased can be found on the Nevada BLM web site ([www.nv.blm.gov](http://www.nv.blm.gov)) 45 days prior to the sale date. The Elko District may or may not have proposed parcels available for leasing on each quarterly sale. Leasing parcels is the initial step in the search for oil and gas. Subsequent actions to leasing parcels are exploration, development, production of oil and gas, and eventual abandonment plugging of wells and reclamation of the site. These subsequent actions create surface disturbance, which is analyzed when a lessee submits plans for the action.

**Status:** Parcels that had been offered for sale in 2001 were re-nominated by industry for leasing in the June 2005 sale. A DNA was completed in April 2005.

**Contact:** Cathie Jensen

**B3. Simplot Non-Competitive Phosphate Lease Sale**

**Type of Action:** Non-Competitive Lease Sale

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**Location:** All of portions of:

T. 28 N., R. 50 E., sections 14 and 24

T. 29 N., R.51 E., sections 20, 30, 32

**Description:** Parcels of public lands are offered to encourage development of phosphate resources. This proposed lease sale is driven by public interest, and would be conducted by non-competitive bidding. Following leasing the parcels could be subject to phosphate exploration, development, production and eventual abandonment of the facilities. Plans for such activities would be subject to environmental review upon submission.

**Status:** Cancelled in May 2005, due to lack of interest.

**Contact:** Jim Lindsay

**B4. Barrick – Storm Underground Mine**

**Type of Action:** Plan of Operations (underground mine)

**Location:** Dee Gold Mine -- about 30 miles northwest of Carlin, Nevada

T.37 N., R. 49 E, sections 27, 34

T. 36 N., R. 49 E., sections 3, 4.

**Description:** Barrick Goldstrike Inc. proposes to conduct underground mining at the Storm Underground Mine, which is located in the pit at the Dee Gold Mine. The proposed facilities would occur on existing surface disturbance for which EAs were previously prepared. Ore would be hauled to the Barrick Goldstrike Mine for processing. Existing facilities at the Dee Gold Mine would be utilized such as the powerline, water well, water storage tank and associated pipeline, access road, the storm decline portal and Dee Gold mine portals. The existing Storm waste rock disposal facility would be utilized for placement of waste rock material, when necessary. Also, Barrick proposes to backfill an area within the existing pit. Ore stockpile and laydown area would be located within the existing pit at the Dee Gold Mine.

**Status:** DNA completed 7/8/2005. FONSI and decision to approve mining plan issued.

**Contact:** Janice Stadelman

**B5. West Pine Valley Exploration Plan**

**Type of Action:** Locatable mineral Exploration Plan of Operations

**Location:** T. 26 N., R. 48 E.

**Description:** This is a locatable mineral exploration project for which a Plan of Operations was submitted by Cortez Gold Mines. The proposed exploration activities would consist of construction of access roads, access to drill sites via two-track trails and overland routes, construction of drill pads and sumps, and drilling exploration evaluation holes. Disturbance would only occur on land necessary for exploration activities (i.e., exploration roads, drill pads, and sumps). This project area encompasses 32,200 acres of which approximately 100 acres is private and the remainder is BLM-administered public lands. Approximately 150 acres of surface disturbance would occur scattered across the 32,200-acre claim block.

**Status:** EA underway

**Contact:** Tom Schmidt

**B6. Emigrant Mine Project EIS**

**Type of Action:** Locatable mineral exploration Plan of Operation

**Location:** About ten miles south of Carlin, Nevada.

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T. 32 N., R. 53 E., portions of sections 24, 26, 34, 36

T. 31 N., R 53 E., portions of sections 1, 2, 3, 11, 12

**Description:** The Newmont Mining Corporation has submitted a Plan of Operations to open the Emigrant Mine. The proposed gold mine would include developing and operating an open pit mine; constructing a waste rock disposal facility, storing mined out areas of the pit with oxide waste; developing an oxide heap leach pad; constructing ancillary facilities; temporarily rerouting intermittent stream and flows in the pit area; and concurrent reclamation. Proposed mining operations would last for approximately 9 years. Approximately 1,172 acres of public land and 260 acres of private land would be disturbed.

**Status:** Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS published in the Federal Register on 5/25/2004. Open house held 6/16/2004, and the public scoping period closed 7/7/2004. BLM is guiding preparation of the EIS by a contractor. The Notice of Availability for the DEIS was published in the Federal Register on 3/25/2005, and the public comment period closed May 24, 2005.

**Contact:** Tom Schmidt

**C. LANDS**

**C1. Hawks Ranch Building Removal and Site Cleanup**

**Type of Action:** Cleanup of environmental liability

**Location:** Elko County,

T. 42 N., R. 60 E., section 19

**Description:** The Hawks Ranch is located in near the confluence of T and Current Creeks with the Marys River, Elko County, Nevada. This 15 acre parcel was acquired in a lands action. The buildings and structures on the site are an environmental liability and BLM intends to remove the buildings and cleanup the site. Most of the work is planned to be completed in the fall 2005.

**Status:** EA completed and FONSI/DR signed 7/22/2005.

**Contact:** Deb McFarlane

**C2. Baca Land Sales 2005**

**Type of Action:** Land disposal

**Location:** Elko and Eureka counties

**Description:** Ten parcels of public land in Elko County, and one parcel in Eureka County, are under consideration for a sale in 2005: The parcels are generally surrounded by private lands, and were designated for disposal by the 1985 Wells or 1987 Elko RMPs. The general areas, number of parcels, and aggregate acreage in each area are:

- a) West Wendover –one parcel of about 320 acres.
- b) Montello, six parcels of about 3,560 acres.
- c) Boulder Creek - 2 parcels of about 120 acres; and
- d) Dunphy - only Eureka County parcel, almost 80 acres
- e) Jackpot – 1 parcel of about 80 acres;

**Status:** EA underway. Sale expected to be held in fall 2005.

**Contact:** Darci Beaupeurt

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**C3. Clover Valley Acquisition**

**Type of Action:** Land acquisition

**Location:** Elko County, Clover Valley/Angel Creek Campground area

**Description:** Pursuing acquisition of environmentally sensitive lands from the private landowner under the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act.

**Status:** Awaiting acceptance of appraisal results.

**Contact:** Cathie Jensen

**C4. Rock Creek Acquisition**

**Type of Action:** Land acquisition

**Location:** Rock Creek, northwest of Midas, NV

**Description:** Pursuing acquisition of environmentally sensitive lands from the private landowner under the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act.

**Status:** Preliminary stage

**Contact:** Cathie Jensen

**C5. IL Ranch Acquisition**

**Type of Action:** Land acquisition

**Location:** North of Tuscarora, Nevada

**Description:** Pursuing acquisition of environmentally sensitive lands from the private landowner under the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act.

**Status:** Waiting for completion of review appraisal.

**Contact:** Cathie Jensen

**C6. Lowell Access (N-77541)**

**Type of Action:** Right-of-way (access road)

**Location:** T. 40 N., R.64 E., Section 22, Lots 10, 11

**Description:** 2,792 ft. long, 30 ft. wide private access road. Surface disturbance would occur.

**Status:** EA being prepared

**Contact:** Darci Beaupeurt

**C7. City of Elko (N-78388)**

**Type of Action:** Recreation & Public Purposes (R&PP)

**Location:** T 34 N, R 56 E, section 18, (Elko County, Nevada)

**Description:** Landfill expansion

**Status:** Preliminary survey

**Contact:** Darci Beaupeurt

**C8. Turner Communications Site Improvements (N-044076)**

**Type of Action:** Right-of-way (communication site)

**Location:** North of Wells NV

T. 38 N., R. 62 W., section 33

**Description:** The Nevada Department of Information Technology proposes to update their existing communications site facility located immediately north of the town of Wells, in Elko County. The original right of way of this 200 ft. x 200 ft. site was granted August 20, 1980. The

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interior of the building would be remodeled and updated from analog to digital to meet current requirements for security to benefit city, county and federal needs. Facilities to be added include a 60-foot high tower, transmission lines and ice bridge between the tower and building, outdoor generator, and back-up power consisting of propane tanks and buried conduit lines.

**Status:** EA completed. Right of way grant issued 6/10/2005.

**Contact:** Darci Beaupeurt

**C9. Spruce Mountain Power Line ROW (Wells Rural Electric, N-065204)**

**Type of Action:** Right-of-way (power line)

**Location:** Highway 93 south of Wells, and west to Spruce Mountain

**Description:** The Wells Rural Electric Company is applying for a right-of-way to construct a single phase power line, in response to a request by the State of Nevada Department of Information Technology (DoIT). This power line would service the DoIT's communications facility on top of Spruce Mountain. The power line route is from the nearest suitable power line at County Road 229 northeast to Highway 93, and then southeast along Highway 93 to the turnoff for Spruce Mountain. From that point, it follows an existing road west, to the top of Spruce Mountain. The total length is approximately 23 miles.

**Status:** Application will be withdrawn. DoIT has indicated they will use solar power instead.

**Contact:** Cathie Jensen

**C10. Legarza Road Amendment**

**Type of Action:** Right-of-way (road and water diversion)

**Location:** Spring Creek

**Description:** Access road and water diversion

**Status:** Pending

**Contact:** Marvin Urban

**C11. Tuscarora Buried Telephone Cable (N-33412)**

**Type of Action:** Right-of-way (utility)

**Location:** West of Tuscarora

**Description:** Authorize existing buried telephone cables

**Status:** Pending

**Contact:** Marvin Urban

**C12. Wells Rural Electric ROW (Nev-004430)**

**Type of Action:** Right-of-way (utility)

**Location:** Emigrant Summit

**Description:** Amend power line right-of-way

**Status:** Pending

**Contact:** Marvin Urban

**C13. Elko County Recreation Area (N-78306)**

**Type of Action:** Recreation & Public Purposes Act lease

**Location:** T.34 N., R. 55 E., section 29

**Description:** Elko County has submitted an application to use about 240 acres of public land for

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recreational purposes. The site would be used for development of recreational facilities for motorcycles, BMX bikes and other motorized and non-motorized vehicles.

**Status:** Elko County has withdrawn application and reapplied at a new location.

**Contact:** Cathie Jensen

**C14. Elko County/Ryndon Recreation Park (N-78530)**

**Type of Action:** Recreation & Public Purposes Act lease

**Location:** Ryndon

T.35 N., R. 57 E., section 6 (8.90 acres)

**Description:** Elko County has submitted an application to use 8.9 acres of public land for development of recreational facilities. Development may include baseball, softball, soccer and football fields, a children's park, outdoor picnic area and other outdoor uses.

**Status:** Preliminary, EA not yet initiated

**Contact:** Marvin Urban

**C15. Elko County/Ryndon Community Fire Station (N-78529)**

**Type of Action:** Recreation & Public Purposes Act lease

**Location:** Ryndon, Nevada

T.35 N., R. 57 E., section 6

**Description:** Elko County has submitted an application to use about 1 acre of public land for a Nevada Division of Forestry fire station, to provide fire protection for the Ryndon RV Park.

**Status:** Preliminary, EA not yet initiated

**Contact:** Marvin Urban

**C16. Randy Croasmun Access Road & Water Line (N-78486 & N-078485)**

**Type of Action:** Right-of-way (access road & utility line)

**Location:** T. 34 N., R. 69 E., sections 6 and 7

**Description:** BLM has received an application for use of public land for a one-mile long access road and water line to private property.

**Status:** EA is in progress

**Contact:** Cathie Jensen

**D. RECREATION AND WILDERNESS**

**D1. Rock Spring Rehabilitation Plan**

**Type of Action:** Wilderness Study Area - restoration

**Location:** Bluebell WSA, Rock Spring

**Description:** The proposal is to modify a spring development for long-term use within the WSA while also restoring vegetation to the area. Issues involved are wild horses, historic and cultural, wilderness characteristics, and wildlife.

**Status:** Preliminary design phase. Analysis for a proposed rehabilitation plan is scheduled to begin in spring 2005. Analysis for a proposed rehabilitation plan is scheduled to begin in spring

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2005, for completion of the rehabilitation in September 2005.

**Contact:** Tamara Hawthorne

**D2. Regional EA for Permitting Competitive Recreational Vehicle Events**

**Type of Action:** Special Recreation Permits (motorcycle, OHV, mountain bike race events)

**Location:** Elko District lands south of Interstate 80 and east of Highway 93 (southeast of Wells)

**Description:** Analysis for competitive motorcycle, off highway vehicle and mountain bike race events that occur on previously used race routes.

**Status:** Staff time and funding dependant project.

**Contact:** Tamara Hawthorne

**D3. Programmatic EA for Commercial Outfitting and Guiding Permits**

**Type of Action:** Special Recreation Permits (outfitting and guiding)

**Location:** District-wide

**Description:** Programmatic analysis for commercial special use recreation permits for outfitting and guiding on public lands administered by the Elko Field Office.

**Status:** Staff time and funding dependant project.

**Contact:** Tamara Hawthorne

**D4. Utah Desert Foxes Off Road Motorcycle Race**

**Type of Action:** Special Recreation Permit

**Location:** South of Wendover, NV

**Description:** A single day motorcycle race event held in the summer that historically occurs on previously used race routes.

**Status:** Event is not proposed to take place in 2005.

**Contact:** Tamara Hawthorne

**D5. Bonneville Off Road Racing Enthusiasts (B.O.R.E.) Jackpot 100 Race**

**Type of Action:** Special Recreation Permit

**Location:** East and north of Jackpot, NV and extending into Idaho

**Description:** A 100-mile competitive buggy race for all types of off highway vehicles (race buggies, modified Volkswagens, Jeeps, pickups, and 4x4 vehicles). This annual race is normally held on the weekend closest to July 4<sup>th</sup>, and follows previously used race routes in Nevada and Idaho.

**Status:** EA and permit for this event is administered by the Idaho BLM, Burley Field Office.

July 4, 2005 race approved and held.

**Contact:** Tamara Hawthorne

**D6. 2005 Elko Hummer Roundup**

**Type of Action:** Special Recreation Permit

**Location:** Elko, NV vicinity

**Description:** A multi-day trail driving, skills and gathering for Hummer owners and dealers from across the United States is planned for September 27 - October 1, 2005. Participants will be educated on technical driving, safety, and OHV etiquette daily. The event will be staged daily out of Elko, and a variety of tours with up to 25 vehicles allowed per tour and each led by a



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guide will be offered. A maximum of 400 vehicles would be allowed in the inaugural event. The routes will range from completely paved routes with some graded dirt roads, to completely graded dirt road and two-track routes. A technical skill development course near Elko would be included with the permit. The proposed event includes lands administered by the BLM, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and roads administered and maintained by Elko County.

**Status:** Categorically excluded from preparation of an EA. Decision expected by August 2005.

**Contact:** Steve Dondero

**D7. Recreation Trails 2004**

**Type of Action:** Designation/development of 4-wheel drive touring routes

**Location:** Vicinity of Wells, NV

**Description:** The project was originally initiated through the Elko Conventions and Visitors Authority (ECVA) with a proposal for designation and development of a Off-Highway Vehicle Trail (OHV) Trail in the Spruce Mountain area, south of Wells. BLM has considered several alternatives, and is analyzing alternatives within the Spruce Mountain area and an additional alternative in the Hanks Creek/Marys River area, northeast of Wells. Trails would follow existing graded and two-track vehicle routes, and be marked with Carsonite signs to allow visitors to easily follow the designated routes. Interpretive signs are also proposed, to assist the visitor in enjoying and understanding the rich history of the area. The project would be completed as a cooperative effort among the BLM, ECVA, City of Wells and OHV user groups.

**Status:** EA completed and decision to develop trails in the Spruce Mountain area was issued in January 2005. A decision on Hanks Creek/Marys River alternative was deferred. The Spruce Mountain decision was appealed, and discussions are underway to resolve issues with appellants.

**Contact:** Steve Dondero

**D8. Hamilton/Bullion Recreation Trails**

**Type of Action:** Designation/development of touring routes and mountain bike trails.

**Location:** South of Elko to South Fork State Park, NV.

**Description:** Project initiated through the Elko Conventions and Visitors Authority (ECVA). Proposal is for designation and development of an Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Trail and Mountain Bike routes. The route will be for licensed vehicles only on established BLM and county roads.

**Status:** Preliminary evaluation of proposal, to identify road ownership and easements.

Timeframe for analysis and decision not estimated at this time.

**Contact:** Tamara Hawthorne

**D9. Flying Pig Ranch Guided Tours**

**Type of Action:** Special Recreation Permit, Commercial.

**Location:** Along portions of the California Trail.

**Description:** Mule drawn wagon ride interpreting the California Trail.

**Status:** EA completed and permit issued in March 2005. Public tours will begin in spring of 2006.

**Contact:** Tamara Hawthorne

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**D10. Intermountain Guide Service Guided Tours**

**Type of Action:** Special Recreation Permit, Commercial.

**Location:** North of Wendover, NV. Leppy Hills area.

**Description:** OHV and horseback guided tours along with Mountain bike rentals. Proposed routes are all established roads.

**Status:** EA completed and permit issued in March 2005. Tours are occurring on the Nevada side, but are not yet authorized on the Utah side of Leppy Hills.

**Contact:** Tamara Hawthorne

**D11. California Trails Interpretive Waysides**

**Type of Action:** Interpretive site developments

**Location:** Many locations in northeastern Nevada

**Description:** This is related to development of the California National Historic Trails Interpretive Center, which is currently being constructed near Elko, Nevada. In accordance with an interpretive plan for the historic trails in settling the west, the development of approximately 20 wayside sites associated with its use as emigrants traveled through Nevada is currently proposed. Proposed sites have been chosen in coordination with the Nevada State Historic Preservation Officer. Development of each site would include parking areas and interpretive signs, and some sites also include trails. Future development is subject to the availability of funds. Some sites would require agreements with funding partners and/or private landowners.

**Status:** An EA is scheduled for completion in 2005

**Contact:** David Jamiel or Tamara Hawthorne

**E. FIRE MANAGEMENT**

**E1. Burned Area Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation (BAER) Plans**

**Type of Action:** Fire Emergency Stabilization and Restoration projects

**Location:** Wherever wildlife occurs on Elko District lands

**Description:** Plans for the emergency stabilization and/or rehabilitation of burned areas are prepared under a tight time frame following a wildfire in accordance with national fire plan procedures. Plans tier to the "Normal Fire Rehabilitation Plan" EA, which was prepared in 2000, to propose specific treatments for a burned area. Proposed treatments may include seeding, fencing, dozer line rehabilitation, monitoring, road repair, horse gathers, cultural surveys, noxious weed control, tree and shrub planting, and erosion and sediment control structures.

**Status:** Plans are underway for fires that have occurred in July 2005.

**Contact:** Tom Warren

**E2. Owyhee Vegetation Treatment – Star Ridge Fuel Break Project**

**Type of Action:** Hazardous fuels reduction and wildlife habitat improvement project

**Location:** Owyhee Allotment

**Description:** BLM proposes to construct a fuel break to reduce hazardous fuel loadings,

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improve upland forage for livestock and improve wildlife habitat diversity within the Star Ridge pasture of the Owyhee Allotment. Dense sagebrush canopy would be mowed and crushed to change structural diversity of fuels. The fuel break would be 90 to 200 feet wide and extend about 25 miles near an existing road and pipeline corridor. The area treated would total less than 1,000 acres. Treatment would begin in summer 2005, and be completed by spring 2006.

**Status:** Final design nearing completion, for issuance of a decision by July 15, 2005.

**Contact:** Ky Kinkade

**E3. Mendive Fuel Break**

**Type of Action:** Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Fuels Reduction

**Location:** Along Mountain City Highway (SR 225)

T. 35 N., R. 54 E., Section 34.

**Description:** A hazardous fuels reduction project is proposed in cooperation with Nevada Division of Forestry on public lands along Mountain City Highway (SR 225) to prevent or reduce the potential for large scale burns within mature sagebrush adjacent to a private residential area. The private landowner adjacent to the public lands would complete the work. Treatment would consist of using a pipe harrow or similar device to reduce fuels on approximately 15 acres of public lands.

**Status:** Planning underway for implementation in 2006.

**Contact:** Tom Reid

**E4. Smith Creek Community WUI Projects**

**Type of Action:** Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) fuels reduction

**Location:** Within the Smith Creek community, north and east of Jiggs, NV

T. 30 N., R. 56-57 E.

**Description:** Hazardous fuels reduction projects would be completed on mostly private lands in the Smith Creek community, in accordance with a fire protection plan to be developed in collaboration with interested parties. The US Forest Service and Nevada Division of Forestry are the lead agencies for this project, and other potential cooperators include the Smith Creek community, Jiggs Volunteer Fire Department, Nevada Fire Safe Council and BLM.

**Status:** The Forest Service has deferred planning until 2007.

**Contact:** Tom Reid

**E5. Larkspur Seeding Treatment**

**Type of Action:** Hazardous fuel reduction

**Location:** O'Neil Basin in NE Elko County; includes the East and West Buckhorn allotments

**Description:** The purpose of this project is to reduce the threat of catastrophic wildfire, improve wildlife habitat and increase forage for livestock. In 1956, an area of 2,662 acres was seeded with crested wheatgrass and bulbous bluegrass. In cooperation with grazing permittees, the BLM proposes to reduce shrub loading by mastication. The project has been designed in cooperation with the Nevada Department of Wildlife to incorporate measures to conserve sage grouse and sagebrush ecosystems.

**Status:** Planning completed and decision issued 6/14/05, for implementation in summer 2005.

**Contact:** Dylan Rader

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**E6. Red Springs Greenstrip**

**Type of Action:** Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) fuels reduction

**Location:** 4 miles southwest of Lucky Nugget subdivisions 1 and 2, near the Twin Bridges area. (Crane Springs and El Jiggs allotments)

**Description:** The purpose of this project is to protect communities at risk under the National Fire Plan -- the Lucky Nugget subdivision 1 and 2 and homes in the vicinity of Twin Bridges. The project is to construct a 500-foot wide greenstrip by reducing mechanically and hand-thinning and seeding with fire resistant grasses. An existing dozer line from the 1990 Dido complex fire would be treated. About 480 acres would be mechanically treated, and 20 acres would be thinned by hand.

**Status:** Discussions underway with new landowner, for implementation in 2006.

**Contact:** Tom Reid

**F. ALLOTMENT EVALUATIONS AND MULTIPLE USE DECISIONS**

*Allotment Evaluations are completed and Multiple Use Decisions are issued based on allotment-specific assessments of actions needed to achieve standards and guidelines for rangeland health in northeastern Nevada and field office priorities. The following evaluations are underway:*

<b>Allotment Evaluation</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Contact</b>
<b>1. Rock Creek Complex Allotments:</b> Spanish Ranch Squaw Valley	Evaluation issued in 1996, PMUD in October 2003, and the FMUD on June 30, 2004. It was appealed. In September, the administrative law judge granted a stay of the decision and scheduled a hearing. The hearing was completed in March-April 2005. Following submittal of the post-hearing briefs, the judge will render a decision.	Carol Evans Tyson Gripp
<b>2. 25 Allotment (AMP revision)</b>	An Allotment Management Plan (AMP) was written for the 25 Allotment in 1971 and revised in 1978. New fences, wildfires, seedings, and proposals for wildlife habitat improvement projects need to be considered through the AMP revision process. Preparation of an EA will begin following the collection of data during summer 2005.	Donna Nyrehn
<b>3. Hubbard Vineyard</b>	Evaluation issued in 1997. Additional data collection and analysis will delay completion of PMUD and EA until summer/fall 2005	Jeff Moore
<b>4. Cottonwood Allotment Re-evaluation</b>	Evaluation was issued in July 2003. PMUD and EA are now scheduled to be issued in summer 2005.	Jeff Moore
<b>5. Frost Creek Allotment Re-evaluation</b>	PMUD issued August 6, 2002. FMUD to be issued late summer/fall 2005.	Justin Rodgers

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<b>Allotment Evaluation</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Contact</b>
<b>6. Marys River Complex</b> <u>Allotments:</u> Deeth .....Pole Creek Antelope Basin Anderson Creek Hot Creek Stormy	Evaluation issued for public comment in November 2003. Collection and analysis of additional data and consideration of management option will delay issuance of the PMUD and EA until fall/winter 2005. The FMUD is scheduled to be completed in 2005-2006, following consultation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service.	Wendy Fuell Karl Scheetz Pat Coffin
<b>7. Lindsay Creek Allotment</b>	Standards and guidelines assessment issued in September 2002. A proposed livestock grazing management plan will be drafted for public comment in 2005/06.	Justin Rodgers
<b>8. N. Diamond Complex</b> <u>Allotments:</u> Red Rock Browne	Evaluation issued for public comment in May 1997 was followed by Livestock Use Agreements in June. Collection and evaluation of monitoring data for wild horse management levels underway. Wildfires burned these allotments in 1999, resulting in temporary closures to grazing and extended monitoring. In 2005/06, the BLM intends to finalize the evaluation and issue a MUD.	Bryan Fuell

**G. RANGE AND WILDLIFE/RIPARIAN HABITAT PROJECTS**

**G1. Dairy Valley Division Fence**

**Type of Action:** Range Improvements (fence)

**Location:** Dairy Valley Allotment

T. 43 N., R. 70 E.

**Description:** The construction of this fence would create a large spring use riparian pasture within the Dairy Valley Allotment. The fence would be approximately 11 miles long. This fence would allow for the implementation of management actions that would improve riparian and bitterbrush plant communities. The fence was proposed in the 1989 Dairy Valley, Gamble and HD Allotment Management Plan.

**Status:** Preliminary design, for preparation of an EA

**Contact:** Tyson Gripp

**G2. Devils Pass Spring Development and Enclosure**

**Type of Action:** Range Improvement (riparian habitat/fence)

**Location:** Salmon River Allotment

T. 45 N., R. 66 E.

**Description:** This project has been modified from the previously proposed "TJ Spring

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Exclosures” project. It consists of constructing one exclosure, of approximately 200 acres in total area, and developing one spring within the exclosure and piping water to a trough in the immediate vicinity outside of the exclosure. The BLM would construct this project and the permittee would have maintenance responsibility. The exclosure would allow for the implementation of management actions that would improve riparian condition and protect existing water sources from livestock impacts.

**Status:** EA in progress

**Contact:** Tyson Gripp

**G3. Fourmile Butte Pasture Well, Pipeline and Riparian Fence**

**Type of Action:** Range improvement (water well, pipeline, riparian protection fence)

**Location:** Owyhee Allotment

T. 43 N., R. 49 E., section 3 SW¼SE¼ (proposed well location)

T. 43 N., R. 49 E., Sec 10, 11, 12 (portion of proposed pipeline)

T. 43 N., R. 50 E., Sec. 6 (portion of riparian fence)

T. 44 N., R. 49 E., Sec 25, 35, 36 (portion of riparian fence; portion of pipeline)

T. 44 N., R. 50 E., Sec 31 (portion of riparian fence)

**Description:** A well would be drilled on public lands within the Lower Fourmile Pasture of the Owyhee Allotment. A storage tank, pipeline and troughs would be associated with this well to distribute the water in the pasture. Approximately 4 miles of 3-strand fence would be constructed to eliminate livestock grazing from the public land portion of the South Fork Owyhee River where it transects this pasture. This project was outlined in the Owyhee Final Multiple Use Decision dated April 19, 2002. The proposed project is intended to improve riparian and upland habitat along the South Fork of the Owyhee River by increasing livestock distribution in the upland areas of the pasture while excluding livestock from the river bottom.

**Status:** Initial project feasibility studies completed. Public scoping input solicited in April 2005. EA to be completed in fall 2005.

**Contact:** Kathy McKinstry

**G4. Red Cow Pasture Fence**

**Type of Action:** Range improvement (fence)

**Location:** Spanish Ranch Allotment

T. 40 N., R. 49 E., section 1

T. 41 N., R. 50 E., sections. 5, 9, 16, 20, 21, 29, 32, 33

T. 42 N., R. 50 E., sections. 19, 20, 29, 30, 32

**Description:** This project would consist of the construction of 11 miles of fence to manage livestock movement and provide scheduled rest periods for improvement of Red Cow Creek. Construction of this pasture fence is needed to allow for achievement of riparian and fisheries objectives identified in the Spanish Ranch Final Multiple Use Decision (FMUD) issued June 30, 2004. This area supports redband trout (*Amachrynm petin*) and sage grouse, both BLM sensitive species. In addition, Red Cow Creek is identified as a high priority stream in the Elko RMP.

**Status:** Project on hold as an appeal and stay of the FMUD is litigated.

**Contact:** Kathy McKinstry

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**G5. Black Mountain Division Fence**

**Type of Action:** Range improvement (fence)

**Location:** 25 Allotment

T. 35 N., R. 48 E., sections 17, 18

T. 35 N., R. 47 E., sections. 13, 18

**Description:** Approximately 3 miles of 3-strand fence would be constructed to divide the Black Mountain and Sheep Creek Areas. This fence is necessary to provide proper control and management of livestock to enhance and improve riparian conditions along Rock Creek. A grazing system will be developed and implemented as outlined in the Amended Allotment Management Plan to be developed for the 25 Allotment.

**Status:** Preliminary survey and design and cultural inventory are planned for summer 2005. EA would be completed in late summer/fall 2005.

**Contact:** Donna Nyrehn

**G6. Welches Spring Re-Development**

**Type of Action:** Range improvement (spring re-development)

**Location:** T Lazy S Allotment

Sec. 4, T. 34 N., R. 50 E.

**Description:** This spring has been developed in the past. Under this proposal it would be re-developed with a new headbox and trough. The source would be fenced/or protected to protect the water source, maintain water at the source for wildlife, and enhance the riparian resources. This spring is an important water source in the Welches Seeding Pasture. Use of this pasture allows more management options in native pastures. A more reliable water source would allow better use of the seeding pasture and more deferment or earlier use in native pastures.

**Status:** Preliminary survey and design and cultural inventory to be completed spring 2005. EA to be prepared summer 2005.

**Contact:** Donna Nyrehn

**G7. Boulder Well Pipeline**

**Type of Action:** Range Improvement (pipeline with several troughs)

**Location:** 25 Allotment

T. 36 N., R. 48 E., sections 14, 15, 19, 20, 21

**Description:** A pipeline is proposed starting at the Boulder Well and extending into the Six Mile Pasture from the Boulder Field. This will help distribute livestock and provide water for wildlife in accordance with the 25 Allotment Management Plan. A third party easement would be required, as the pipeline crosses private property not owned by the permittee.

**Status:** Initial stage of survey and design

**Contact:** Donna Nyrehn

**G8. Midas Division Fence**

**Type of Action:** Range improvement (fence)

**Location:** Squaw Valley Allotment

T. 38 N., R. 46 E., section 5

**Description:** Approximately 1 mile of 4-strand fence would be constructed to divide the Indian Springs and Frazer Creek Pastures. This fence is necessary to provide proper control and

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management of livestock to implement the grazing system outlined in the June 2004 Final Multiple Use Decision for the Squaw Valley and Spanish Ranch Allotments.

**Status:** Preliminary survey and design and cultural inventory have been completed. EA on hold as an appeal and stay on the FMUD is litigated.

**Contact:** Donna Nyrehn

**G9. Guard Corral Extension Fence**

**Type of Action:** Range improvement (fence)

**Location:** Squaw Valley Allotment

T. 37 N., R. 44 E., sections 12 and 14

**Description:** Approximately 0.9 miles of 4-strand fence would be constructed to divide the Indian Springs and Horseshoe Pastures. This fence is necessary to provide proper control and management of livestock to implement the grazing system outlined in the June 2004 Final Multiple Use Decision for the Squaw Valley and Spanish Ranch Allotments.

**Status:** Preliminary survey and design and cultural inventory have been completed. EA on hold as an appeal and stay on the FMUD is litigated.

**Contact:** Donna Nyrehn

**G10. Winters Creek/Mahogany Fence Reconstruction**

**Type of Action:** Range improvement (fence)

**Location:** Spanish Ranch Allotment

T. 41 N., R. 48 E. and T. 41 N., R. 49 E.

**Description:** Approximately 14 miles of 4-strand fence would be reconstructed to divide the Winters Creek, Burner Hills, and Fourmile/Red Cow Pastures. This fence is necessary to provide proper control and management of livestock to implement the grazing system outlined in the June 2004 Final Multiple Use Decision for the Squaw Valley and Spanish Ranch Allotments.

**Status:** EA and reconstruction on hold as an appeal and stay on the FMUD is litigated.

**Contact:** Donna Nyrehn

**G11. East Squaw Creek Riparian Enhancement and Management Projects**

**Type of Action:** Range Improvements

**Location:** East Big Springs Allotment; east side of the Pequop Range, north of I-80

**Description:** Many range improvement were outlined in the 2002 Big Springs Allotment FMUD, BLM is proceeding with plans toward implementation for the following projects in the North Pequops pasture, as part of a 2005 Big Springs Allotment Projects package.

**A. Upper Squaw Creek Riparian Pasture Fence** - Construct a fence along about 1.5 miles of the middle fork of East Squaw Creek to create the Upper Squaw Creek Riparian Pasture, extending upstream (east) from the existing East Squaw Creek Field Fence. This would require at least 3 miles of fencing, and cattleguards would also be installed where necessary. The new pasture would be rested from grazing by livestock until the stream has achieved proper functioning condition. Once achieved, the permittee would meet with BLM each year to plan any grazing of the pasture. Protection of the riparian area is BLM's highest priority in 2005.

**B. East Squaw Creek Field Fence** - Modify the existing fence around the Squaw Creek Ranch to BLM standards. BLM has scheduled the reconstruction in 2005, if funding allows. Two options are being considered: (1) Reconstruct approximately 7 miles of existing fence



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around the Squaw Creek Ranch to BLM standards and install cattle guards where necessary; or (2) Remove portions of this existing fence and construct shorter sections of new fence, which would reduce the size of this field.

**C. Big Springs Division Fence** - To prevent livestock drift, construct about 3.5 miles of boundary fence between the East and West Big Springs Allotments within the North Pequop Mountain Pasture. The fence would run from Interstate 80 at Pequop Summit north to Rocky Point. A short gap fence in the canyon immediately north of Rocky Point would also be constructed.

**Status:** Public scoping input solicited in April 2005. EA being prepared. Construction proposed in 2005-06.

**Contact:** Jeff Moore

**G12. Browne Pipeline/Extension**

**Type of Action:** Range Improvement (pipeline)

**Location:** Browne Allotment

T. 26 N., R. 55 E., sections 6, 7

T. 27 N., R. 55 E., sections 30, 31

**Description:** The proposed action is to construct a pipeline that would originate on public land at the Browne Well. Surface disturbance as a result of construction would depend upon the method of installing the pipeline. If ripping or trenching is used, the width of disturbance would be from 30 to 40 ft. overall; if a backhoe is used, the width of disturbance would be from 40-50 ft. In both cases the depth of disturbance would be from 2-4 ft. Black polyethylene pipe would be used and 400/500gallon troughs would be placed approximately every mile along the pipeline route for a total of 2 or 3 troughs. This project was recommended in the Diamond Complex Evaluation as a tool to improve distribution of livestock.

**Status:** Initial project identification

**Contact:** Justin Rodgers

**G13. Forest Pipeline Reconstruction and Extension**

**Type of Action:** Range Improvement (pipeline)

**Location:** Willow Creek Pockets Allotment

T. 30 N., R. 57 E. section 18 NE¼

**Description:** Reconstruct and extend the Forest Pipeline in the Upper Field of the Willow Creek Pockets Allotment. The pipeline originates on private land, and the landowner would reconstruct the private land portion from the water source (Forest Spring) to the public land boundary (less than ¼ mile). The BLM, in cooperation with private landowner, would reconstruct and extend the portion that is on public land (approximately 3.5 miles).

**Status:** Initial project identification

**Contact:** Justin Rodgers

**G14. Sorensen Pipeline Project**

**Type of Action:** Range improvement

**Location:** Spruce Allotment

**Description:** The permittee for the Spruce Allotment is proposing a multi year project to install approximately 90+ miles of pipeline to provide water where the permittee currently hauls water

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for livestock. This project is proposed to improve livestock distribution in the upland areas of the Spruce Allotment.

**Status:** Preliminary design; waiting for re-submittal of proposal from proponent. EA would be prepared by a third party consultant.

**Contact:** Bruce Thompson

**G15. Buckhorn Allotment Spring Enclosures**

**Type of Action:** Range Improvement (Spring enclosures)

**Location:** Buckhorn Allotment

**Description:** Eight spring enclosures were identified for development in the Buckhorn Allotment FMUD, the O'Neil/Salmon Falls Habitat Management Plan, and the Wells RMP to enhance the springs and associated riparian habitat.

**Status:** Initial project identification and layout

**Contact:** Bruce Thompson

**G16. Wilson Creek Pasture Fence**

**Type of Action:** Range Improvement (fence)

**Location:** East Buckhorn Allotment

T. 46 N., R. 62 E., sections 6, 7, 8

**Description:** Construction of approximately 2 1/2 miles of fence in the East Buckhorn Allotment to facilitate livestock grazing. The proposed project was identified in the 1995 Buckhorn FMUD.

**Status:** Survey, design and analysis to be completed in 2005.

**Contact:** Bruce Thompson

**G17. Odgers Spring Complex North Fork Enclosure**

**Type of Action:** Range Improvement (fence)

**Location:** Odgers Allotment

T. 27 N., R. 62 E., section 17

**Description:** Construct an enclosure around the spring complex. This project is outlined in the Maverick/Medicine Complex FMUD.

**Status:** Preliminary stage of survey and design

**Contact:** Bruce Thompson

**G18. Twin Springs Seeding Fence Extension**

**Type of Action:** Range Improvement (fence)

**Location:** Currie Allotment

T. 28 N., R. 63 E., section 10

**Description:** Fence extension for the Twin Springs Seeding. This project is outlined in the Maverick/Medicine FMUD.

**Status:** Preliminary stage of survey and design

**Contact:** Bruce Thompson

**G19. Curtis Springs Allotment Boundary Fence**

**Type of Action:** Range Improvement (fence)

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**Location:** Curtis Springs

T. 31N, R. 62E, section 6, 7, and 18

T. 32N, R. 61 E., section 36

**Description:** Fence the eastern boundary to prevent livestock drift into the Spruce Allotment

**Status:** Preliminary stage of survey and design

**Contact:** Bruce Thompson

**G20. Dry Canyon Spring Exclosure**

**Type of Action:** Range Improvement (fence)

**Location:** Currie Allotment

T. 26 N., R. 63 E., section 18

**Description:** Construct an exclosure around the spring complex. This project is outlined in the Maverick/Medicine Complex FMUD.

**Status:** Preliminary stage of survey and design

**Contact:** Bruce Thompson

**G21. Spring Gulch Spring Exclosure and Trough**

**Type of Action:** Range Improvement (fence)

**Location:** UT/NV North Allotment

T. 32 N., R. 68 E., NW ¼ section 26

**Description:** Construct an exclosure around spring and install a new trough. This project is outlined in the Sheep Allotment Complex FMUD.

**Status:** Preliminary stage of survey and design

**Contact:** Bruce Thompson and Wendy Fuell

**G22. Dead Cedar Spring Exclosure and Trough**

**Type of Action:** Range Improvement (fence)

**Location:** Lead Hills Allotment

T. 29 N., R. 69 E., section 5

**Description:** Construct an exclosure around spring and install a new trough.

**Status:** Preliminary stage of survey and design

**Contact:** Bruce Thompson

**G23. Number One Spring Development**

**Type of Action:** Range Improvement (pipeline)

**Location:** Thomas Creek and Safford Canyon Allotments

T. 30 N., R. 50 E., section 2

**Description:** Reconstruct an existing spring and pipeline. The pipeline would be approximately 0.25 miles and there would be two troughs supplying water to the Thomas Creek Native Pasture and the Safford Canyon Seeding. The project was identified in the Thomas Creek Allotment FMUD, February 1995. The proposed spring development would involve fencing the spring.

**Status:** Survey, design and analysis deferred in 2005

**Contact:** Janice Willard

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**G24. South Buckhorn Division and Boundary Fences**

**Type of Action:** Range improvement (3 fences)

**Location:** South Buckhorn Allotment, located approximately 60 miles south of Carlin, NV.

T. 26 N., R. 49 E.

T. 27 N., R. 48 E. and R, 49 E.

T. 28 N., R. 51 E

T. 29 N., R. 50 E.

**Description:** These fences would eliminate historic drift of livestock between adjudicated use areas within the South Buckhorn Allotment and the adjacent Argenta Allotment. The combined length of the fences would be an approximately 20 miles.

**Status:** Initial survey and design

**Contact:** Janice Willard

**G25. Willow Tree Spring Exclosure and Development**

**Type of Action:** Range Improvement (spring development)

**Location:** Deeth Allotment;

T. 38 N., R. 59 E., section 5

**Description:** This project would consist of constructing an exclosure (approximately 1 mile of fence) and developing a spring. The spring development would include a pipeline and troughs to supply water to the middle section of the Steer Field in the Deeth Allotment. Developing this spring would not only protect the existing riparian area, but would also provide water to improve livestock distribution in this field.

**Status:** This project is in the early discussion phase to determine feasibility, location of the project on the ground and water rights issues.

**Contact:** Wendy Fuell

**G26. Antelope-Stud and Stag Mt./Deeth Fences**

**Type of Action:** Range Improvement (fence)

**Location:** Antelope Basin and Deeth Allotments

T. 41 N., R. 59 E.

T. 42 N., R. 58 E. and 59 E.

**Description:** The following two projects are proposed to reduce drift of livestock and improve aquatic and/or riparian habitat conditions in the allotments.

1. The Antelope-Stud Drift Fence involves constructing approximately 3.5 miles of fence between the Antelope Basin Allotment and South Stud Creek Field of the Deeth Allotment. This fence would eliminate livestock drift between the two allotments and aid in addressing potential future management. For the past several years, a rotation system has been implemented between the North and South Stud Creek Fields of the Deeth Allotment to address riparian issues on a portion of the Bruneau River and Stud Creek. However, with the drift problem continuing, the South Stud Creek Field has continued to receive some use throughout the season. The Antelope Basin Allotment consists of one pasture and has no grazing system. The permittee has voluntarily reduced use to improve overall conditions, but drift continues to be an issue.
2. The Stag Mt./Deeth Fence, also referred to as the Connors Gap fence, proposes constructing one small section of gap fence and extending the sides on an existing fence to prevent livestock drift between the Stag Mountain and Connors Basin pasture of the Deeth Allotment. This project

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would enhance LCT habitat and would result in less than 0.5 miles of new fence.

**Status:** Cultural survey completed. EA prepared and FONSI with decision signed 7/20/2005.

**Contact:** Wendy Fuell

**G27. Wagon Springs Aspen Exclosure and Spring Development**

**Type of Action:** Habitat Restoration

**Location:** Beaver Creek Allotment

**Description:** A spring would be developed and protected with construction of a combination of wood and rail fence exclosure. The development would consist of 2 water troughs.

**Status:** Preliminary survey and design.

**Contact:** Nycole Burton

**G28. T Lazy S Sage Grouse Habitat Improvements**

**Type of Action:** Habitat Restoration

**Location:** T Lazy S Allotment

**Description:** Mechanical or chemical manipulation of about 200 acres of Newmont mitigation lands within the T Lazy S Allotment to improve sage grouse habitat, as identified in the EIS for the South Operations Area Plan Amendment.

**Status:** Preliminary survey and design

**Contact:** Nycole Burton

**G29. Stampede Ranch Wildlife Fence Modifications**

**Type of Action:** Range Improvement (fencing)

**Location:** Maggie Creek Allotment

**Description:** Removing and replacing a mesh-wire fence with a three strand wire to reduce wildlife endangerment problems, as identified in the EIS for the Newmont Mining Corporation South Operations Area Plan Amendment.

**Status:** Preliminary survey and design – on hold in 2005

**Contact:** Nycole Burton

**G30. Barrick 15 Spring Improvements**

**Type of Action:** Habitat Restoration

**Location:** Squaw Valley Allotment and other areas

**Description:** Restore up to 15 spring riparian sites, by constructing a fence exclosure or other means as deemed appropriate. Restoration is identified as part of the Barrick Goldstrike Mines, Inc. mitigation commitments in the 2003 Betze Project Supplemental EIS.

**Status:** Preliminary survey and design

**Contact:** Nycole Burton and Carol Evans

**G31. Springsnail Relocation Study**

**Type of Action:** Research

**Location:** Squaw Valley Allotment and other existing/potential springsnail habitats

**Description:** Desert Research Institute, in cooperation with the BLM, Nevada Department of Wildlife and Barrick Goldstrike Mines, Inc., plans to evaluate the feasibility of relocating springsnails from springs potentially impacted by mine dewatering. This study is related to

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analyses from the 2003 Betze Project Supplemental EIS Mitigation Plan.

**Status:** Study initiated in summer 2005

**Contact:** Nycole Burton and Carol Evans

**G32. North Fork Humboldt River Fence**

**Type of Action:** Stream and Riparian Habitat Improvement

**Location:** Devil's Gate Allotment

T. 39 N., R. 57 E. and 58 E.

T. 40 N., R. 57 E. and 58 E.

**Description:** This project would consist of constructing water developments and approximately 8 miles of fence, for the purpose of restoring and protecting up to 8 miles of the North Fork of the Humboldt River as well as spring habitat within the Devil's Gate Allotment. The fencing would limit timing and intensity of livestock grazing on the River. Water developments, in the form of spring developments, pipelines and a stock pond are proposed to provide alternate sources of water for livestock.

**Status:** Scoping letter sent 3/18/05. EA scheduled for completion in August 2005.

**Contact:** Carol Evans

**G33. Trout Unlimited Lahontan Cutthroat Trout Watershed Studies**

**Type of Action:** Research

**Location:** Maggie and Willow Creek basins, northern Elko County

**Description:** Two cooperative fisheries research studies are underway in the Maggie and Willow Creek basins. as part of a cooperative project involving the Elko Field Office, Trout Unlimited, Newmont Mining Company, and Barrick Goldstrike Mines, Inc. Both the Maggie and Willow Creek drainages support Lahontan cutthroat trout, a federally listed species. Genetics, population dynamics, movement patterns and habitat quality will be evaluated as part of the research program.

**Status:** Baseline data has been collected and additional research is planned over the next three to five years, depending on funding.

**Contact:** Carol Evans

**G34. Emigrant Spring Fencing Project**

**Type of Action:** Riparian habitat fencing

**Location:** Drainage west of Emigrant Springs in the vicinity of the proposed Emigrant Mine

T 32N, R53E, - Section 28 NE, Section 27 SWNW, and Section 27 NESE.

**Description:** Fencing is proposed for three springs for the purpose of improving riparian habitat conditions. Potential for development of a trough and pipeline system for livestock water will be evaluated as part of the proposal.

**Status:** Initial survey and design planned for 2005

**Contact:** Carol Evans

**G35. Dixie Creek Fish Barrier**

**Type of Action:** Habitat/Fisheries Restoration

**Location:** River Allotment, Lower Dixie Creek

**Description:** Construct a barrier in the lower reaches of Dixie Creek to prevent non-native

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salmonids from the South Fork of the Humboldt River from accessing the native Lahontan cutthroat trout (LCT) population in the upper reaches of Dixie Creek. LCT are listed as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act.

**Status:** Preliminary survey and design in summer 2005.

**Contact:** Carol Evans

**G36. Northwest Sheep Creek Seeding**

**Type of Action:** Fuels Treatment and Habitat Restoration (big game winter range)

**Location:** 25 Allotment approximately one to three miles east of the Izzenhood Ranch and approximately 18 to 20 miles north of Battle Mountain, NV.

**Description:** The NW Sheep Creek Seeding includes the proposal to rehabilitate approximately 600-800 acres of public lands on the west side of the Sheep Creek Range that has been affected by wildfire and man's activities and is presently dominated by exotic annual vegetation. Separate fuel break seeding and wildlife browse seeding efforts are proposed. Glamis Dee Gold Company and Barrick Goldstrike Mines, Inc. would provide challenge funds to mitigate the effects on big game herds affected by their respective mining operations. These funds would be matched by Federal funds and additional funds from conservation groups would be sought. The proposed action area is in the public-private alternating land section (checkerboard) pattern. To complement the public lands seeding efforts, Nevada Department of Wildlife plans to rehabilitate portions of fire-affected private lands sections through permission of landowners.

**Status:** Categorically excluded. Implementation began in spring 2005.

**Contact:** Ken Wilkinson

**G37. Linka-Modarelli Aspen Protection Fences**

**Type of Action:** Habitat Restoration

**Location:** South Buckhorn Allotment

**Description:** Metal pipe fence would be used to protect up to five degraded aspen stands on the Linka Creek drainage and the Modarelli Mine area.

**Status:** On-site visits occurred in fall 2003 and 2004. Initial design flagged on Linka Creek sites, for tentative implementation in 2005.

**Contact:** Ken Wilkinson

**G38. Lee Canyon Cottonwood Protection Fence**

**Type of Action:** Habitat Restoration

**Location:** Pine Mountain Allotment

**Description:** Metal pipe fence would be used to protect the lower portion of a degraded narrowleaf cottonwood stand on the Lee Canyon drainage in the Pinon Range.

**Status:** Final survey completed. Implementation tentative in 2005.

**Contact:** Ken Wilkinson

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**H. WILD HORSE MANAGEMENT**

**H1. Deer Spring Enclosure and Development**

**Type of Action:** Range Improvement (spring development)

**Location:** Spruce Allotment/Antelope Valley Wild Horse Herd Management Area

T. 29 N., R. 65 E., section 25

**Description:** This project would consist of constructing a small enclosure around an existing spring development and installing a pipeline to take the water approximately 450 feet to a trough. The spring source would be protected while providing reliable water for wild horses, wildlife and livestock. This proposed project was outlined in the Spruce/Valley Mountain FMUD, approved in January 1998, as well as the Wells RMP Wild Horse Amendment, approved August 1992.

**Status:** Survey, design and analysis planned for 2005.

**Contact:** Bryan Fuell

**H2. Buck and Bald Complex Wild Horse Gather**

**Type of Action:** Wild Horse Removal

**Location:** Herd Management Areas in White Pine and Elko counties, approximately 30 miles northwest of Ely, Nevada.

**Description:** The Ely and Elko Field Offices are planning to conduct a wild horse gather beginning mid-July of 2005 to remove excess wild horses and prevent deterioration of the range within an area collectively referred to as the Buck and Bald Complex, which includes the Buck and Bald Herd Management Area (HMA), Butte HMA, Maverick-Medicine HMA, and the Cherry Creek HMA. The Complex also contains the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest Cherry Springs Wild Horse Territory. Past capture, census, and distribution data collected indicate inter-movement among the horses of these herds.

**Status:** Public notification and scoping letters were sent to interested persons, groups, and agencies on May 24, 2005. EA prepared and decision issued in July 13, 2005. The gather is expected to be completed in August 2005.

**Contact:** Bryan Fuell

**I. INVASIVE, NONNATIVE SPECIES**

**I1. Owyhee Allotment Weed Treatment**

**Type of Action:** Range Improvement (vegetation treatment)

**Location:** Owyhee Allotment

**Description:** Chemically or manually treat various noxious weeds in the Owyhee Allotment within a 3-year timeframe.

**Status:** EA preparation and implementation deferred until 2006.

**Contact:** Mark Coca



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**I2. Northeast Elko Conservation District Weed Treatment**

**Type of Action:** Range Improvement (vegetation treatment)

**Location:** Public lands within the Northeast Elko Conservation District

**Description:** Chemically or manually treat various noxious weeds within the boundary of the Northeast Elko Conservation District within a 3-year timeframe.

**Status:** EA preparation and implementation deferred until 2006.

**Contact:** Mark Coca

**I3. Dry Gulch Seeding**

**Type of Action:** Range Improvement (vegetation treatment)

**Location:** Public lands within the Maggie Creek/Suzie Creek drainages

**Description:** Drill seeding of desired grasses to compete against cheatgrass invasion and Scotch thistle infestation within the Maggie Creek Weed Treatment project.

**Status:** EA underway for project implementation in fall 2005.

**Contact:** Mark Coca

**I4. Tabor Creek Campground Weed Treatment**

**Type of Action:** Range Improvement (vegetation treatment)

**Location:** Public lands within the Tabor Creek Campground

**Description:** Herbicide treatment of Canada thistle infestation throughout the Tabor Creek Campground.

**Status:** EA underway for treatment in summer 2005.

**Contact:** Mark Coca