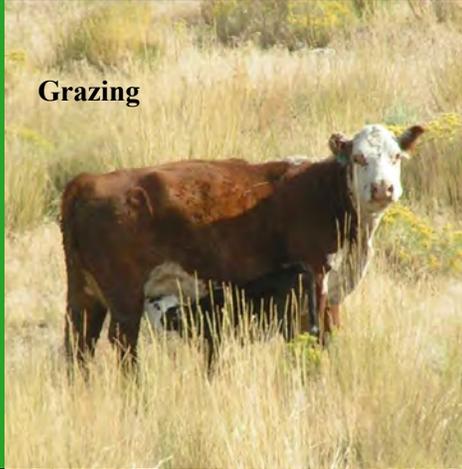


Projects and Planning Schedule

Grazing



Cultural Resources



Largest Gold Producing District



Recreation



2010

Reclamation



Battle Mountain District
Mount Lewis Field Office
Tonopah Field Office

Photo Credits—Inside Cover

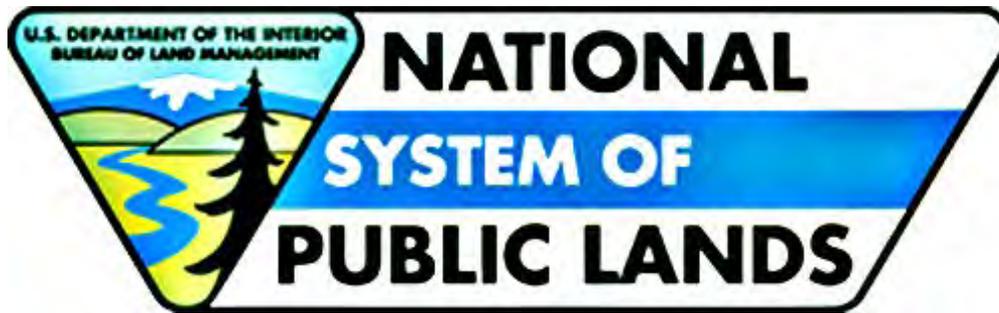


PHOTO CREDITS FRONT COVER

1. Cow on the Range — Casey Johnson, Battle Mountain District
2. Hand Made Basket— Courtesy of the Timbisha Shoshone Tribe, Death Valley
3. Gold Processing — Courtesy of Newmont Mining Corporation
4. Hickison Hiking and Horseback Riding Trails — Schirete Zick, Battle Mountain District
5. Mine Reclamation — Courtesy of Newmont Mining Corporation

BE INVOLVED

Resource management within the BLM is process oriented. In order to influence the decision, you need to be a part of the process. The earlier in the process you become involved, the easier it is for your concerns to be addressed. You can let us know your views and concerns when the analyses are being developed and during formal comment periods.

If you would like more information on any of the projects on the following pages, please contact the designated project coordinator. Unless otherwise required by regulation, please be aware that if you do not participate in the decision making process, or if you do not provide substantive comments or input to the BLM planning process, BLM will not send you a copy of the implementing decision.

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

BATTLE MOUNTAIN DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

The Bureau of Land Management Battle Mountain District Office (BMDO) manages nearly 11 million acres of public lands in Nevada. The BMDO is committed to manage, protect, and improve these lands in a manner that serves the needs of the varied people of Nevada. Management is based upon the principle of multiple use and sustained yield of our district's resources within a framework of environmental responsibility and scientific technology. These resources include recreation, rangelands, timber, minerals, watershed, fish and wildlife habitat, wilderness, air and scenic quality, as well as scientific and cultural values.

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ACRONYMS AND DEFINITIONS

AE — Allotment Evaluation. An evaluation of management actions to determine if resource management objectives and/or standards for rangeland health are being met in grazing allotments.

AUM — Animal Unit Month. The amount of forage needed to sustain one cow, five sheep, or five goats for a month.

APD — Application to Permit Drilling. The permit for subsurface drilling.

AML — Appropriate Management Level. The maximum number of wild horses and/or burros to be managed in a Herd Management Area (HMA). The Population number has been set through evaluation of monitoring data.

CX — Categorical Exclusion. Actions that do not, individually or cumulatively, have a significant effect on the human environment, and do not require an EA or an EIS.

DR — Decision Record. The decision document associated with an EA.

DNA — Document of Land Use Plan Conformance and NEPA Adequacy. A determination, by the BLM, that NEPA documentation previously prepared by the BLM fully covers a proposed action, and no additional analysis is necessary.

EA — Environmental Assessment. A level of environmental analysis for federal actions that do not require an EIS and where there are no significant impacts to the quality of the human environment. The EA analysis may determine significant adverse impacts, requiring the preparation of an EIS. An EA may not be prepared for major Federal actions which require an EIS.

EIS — Environmental Impact Statement. A level of environmental analysis conducted for major Federal actions that significantly affect the quality of the human environment. **DEIS** refers to a draft EIS; **FEIS** refers to a final EIS; and **SEIS** refers to a supplemental EIS.

FLPMA — Federal Land Policy and Management Act. A Federal Act that provides guidelines for the management of our federal lands—enacted in 1976.

FLTFA — The Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act. Commonly called the “Baca Act.” The Act provides for the use of revenues from the sale or exchange of public lands that were identified for disposal under land use plans in effect as of the date of the Act. It became law on July 25, 2000.

FONSI — Finding of No Significant Impact. The FONSI is the finding associated with a Decision Record (DR), when the EA demonstrates the proposal has no significant adverse effects. If adverse impacts are determined to be significant, then an EIS is prepared.

HMA — Herd Management Area. Geographic units within herd areas which are managed for wild horses and burros.

IBLA — Interior Board of Land Appeals. A Board, within the Department of the Interior's Office of Hearings and Appeals, that acts for the Secretary of the Interior in responding to appeals of decisions on the use and disposition of public lands and resources. Because IBLA acts for and on behalf of the Secretary of the Interior, its decisions usually represent the Department's final decision, but are subject to the Secretary's review and to appeal in federal court.

Land Use Plan Amendments - Plan amendments serve to address issues or proposals that are not presently considered or adequately addressed in the existing land use plan.

MUD — Multiple Use Decision. MUDs establish the terms and conditions for grazing permits and leases, as well as establish, or reaffirm Appropriate Management Levels for HMAs. MUDs are based on the attainment of multiple use objectives and standards for rangeland health. In Nevada, an Allotment Evaluation serves as the basis for issuing a MUD. **PMUD** refers to Proposed MUD, which is distributed to interested parties. Typically, PMUD is distributed with an Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). **FMUD** refers to Final MUD.

NEPA — National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. In this Act, Congress declared a national policy to encourage productive and enjoyable harmony between man and his environment. The Act promotes efforts which will prevent or eliminate damage to the environment and biosphere, stimulate the health and welfare of man, and enrich the understanding of the ecological systems and natural resources important to the nation.

All proposed federal actions, that may affect the quality of the human environment, must be reviewed for NEPA compliance. NEPA opens the federal agency decision making processes to involvement and scrutiny by the public, including state and local governments, other concerned organizations and individuals. NEPA procedures ensure that environmental information is available to the public before decisions are made and actions are taken.

NOI — Notice of Intent. A notice, published in the Federal Register, notifying the public of proposed federal action, most commonly used with preparation of an EIS. Publication of an NOI formally begins scoping for an EIS.

ROD — Record of Decision. The decision document associated with an EIS.

R&PP — Recreation and Public Purpose Act. The authorization to lease or convey public lands for recreational and public purposes under specified conditions.

ROW — Right of Way. Authorization to use or occupy public lands pursuant to a right of way grant.

PoO — Plan of Operation. A plan detailing all proposed actions, for exploration and development, submitted to BLM for approval when greater than 5 acres a year will be disturbed.

SRA — Special Recreation Permit. Permit issued to use public lands and waters for recreation, including recreation-related business.

Battle Mountain District Resource Management Plan (RMP) Revision

Location: Parts of Eureka, Lander, Esmeralda and Nye Counties

Description: The District RMP Revision will update and combine the Shoshone-Eureka and Tonopah RMPs into a district-wide RMP and Environmental Impact Statement.

The revision will incorporate existing and new management decisions aligned with the goals and objectives of the District.

The RMP/EIS will be completed in accordance with Bureau regulations and the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act. It will also provide for implementation of the Great Basin Restoration Initiative (GBRI) and the National Fire Plan.

Interested parties will have an opportunity for input into many aspects of the RMP/EIS process. The RMP/EIS will be prepared in close consultation and collaboration with appropriate federal, state, tribal, county, and local agencies.

Status: The RMP/EIS Preparation Plan was completed in April 2009. The revision will continue with the Analysis of Management Situation (AMS) and the Statement of Work (SOW). The SOW is scheduled to be completed in late January/early February 2010.

Contact: Chris Worthington, Battle Mountain District Office

Fascinating Fact about the Battle Mountain District



Picture shows 65 ounces of gold and silver alloy. The biggest nugget weighs 24 alloy ounces (1.6 pounds).

The Battle Mountain District produces 3,420,004 ounces of Gold a year.

It is the largest Gold-producing District in Nevada, which is the fourth largest Gold-producing area in the world.

Permit Renewals

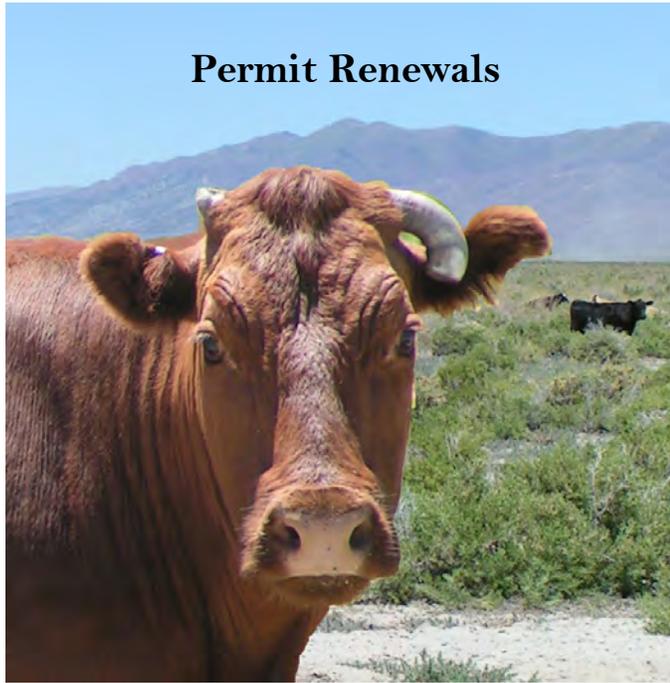


Photo by Jason Spence

Battle Mountain Complex

Location: Battle Mountain Complex: Copper Canyon and North Buffalo Allotments, Lander and Humboldt counties

Description: After the completion of an EA and issuance of a grazing decision, renew permits for Badger/Chiara Ranches, Doby George, LLC, and Ellison Ranching Company.

Status: In progress – A draft EA was issued to the permittees and interested public in November 2008. Comments were received, and the EA is being revised. A decision is expected in early 2010.

Contact: Michele McDaniel, Mount Lewis Field Office

Diamond Complex

Location: Diamond Complex, north of Eureka

Description: After the completion of an EA and issuance of a grazing decision, renew permits for Union Mountain, North Diamond, Three Mile, Black Point, and Diamond Springs Allotments.

Status: Monitoring and inventory data are being collected. The data will be analyzed to help construct a grazing management system that meets BLM and permittee goals. The plan will be analyzed through the NEPA process to determine the effects to the environment. An EA is anticipated to be prepared in 2011.

Contact: Tom Darrington, Mount Lewis Field Office

Argenta Allotment Evaluation

Location: Argenta Allotment south of Battle Mountain, Lander County

Description: The monitoring data, that continues to be collected, will be analyzed to help construct a grazing management plan that meets BLM and permittee goals.

The plan will be analyzed through the NEPA process to determine the effects to the environment. Once the management plan is finalized, new ten-year grazing permits will be issued to permittees.

Status: In progress. An EA will be prepared in 2010, once the data is analyzed.

Contact: Jason Spence, Mount Lewis Field Office

Grazing Permit Underwood Allotment

Location: Underwood Allotment, Lander and Eureka counties

Description: Recognize a new grazing preference, and issue a new 10-year permit to the selected applicant for the Underwood Allotment.

Status: Pending appeal. The EA was completed in November 2009, and was sent to interested public. The Mount Lewis Field Office received an appeal on January 5, 2010.

Contact: Michele McDaniel, Mount Lewis Field Office

Grazing Tonopah

Magruder Allotment Range Improvement Project

Location: Magruder Allotment, Esmeralda County

Description: Reconstruction of the Stateline Spring and Pipeline. The pipeline is approximately three miles.

Status: An EA is in progress. BLM awaits input from the permittee.

Contact: Marc Pointel, Tonopah Field Office

Authorization Renewal

Location: Nye County

Description: Permit renewal for the Smoky, Francisco and Red Bluff Allotments.

Status: To be completed in Fiscal Year 2010.

Contact: Sheryl Post, Marc Pointel or Adam Stephens, Tonopah Field Office

Pasture Re-evaluation

Location: Esmeralda County

Description: Pasture 1 of the Montezuma Allotment will be re-evaluated in accordance with the Montezuma Complex Final Multiple Use Decision.

Status: Evaluation will commence in Fiscal Year 2010.

Contact: Marc Pointel, Tonopah Field Office



Hickison Burro Gather Plan Environmental Assessment



Photo by Shawna Richardson

Location: Lander County

Description: The Mount Lewis Field Office plans to complete an Environmental Assessment for the gather of the Hickison Burro Herd Management Area. The gather would remove excess burros to achieve the established Appropriate Management Levels.

Status: In progress. A scoping letter was issued to the interested public mailing list on October 19, 2009. The preliminary EA is expected to be issued in Spring/Summer 2010.

The gather is tentatively scheduled for summer 2010. An adoption event may be scheduled in conjunction with the gather to allow qualified applicants an opportunity to adopt burros from this herd.

Contact: Shawna Richardson, Mount Lewis Field Office

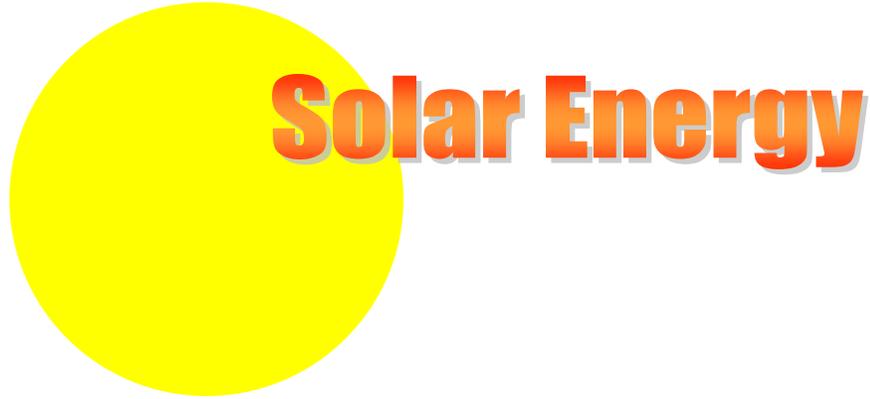
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Reveille Gather

Location: Nye County

Description: Court-mandated wild horse gather on the Reveille Allotment.

Status: To be completed in Fiscal Year 2010.

Contact: Sheryl Post, Tonopah Field Office or Shawna Richardson, Mt. Lewis Field Office



**Tonopah Solar Energy, LLC
Crescent Dunes**

Location: 10 miles north of Tonopah, Nye County

Description: Construction of a Concentrated Solar Power (CSP) tower on 7,680 acres. The plant will produce 180 Mw of power.

Status: Public comment period ended on December 24, 2009. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement is in progress—drafted by a third party. This *fast track* project is projected to be granted by December 31, 2010.

Contact: Wendy Seley, RECO

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**Tonopah Solar Energy, LLC Crescent Dunes
Associated ROW for Transmission**

Location: 10 miles north of Tonopah, Nye County

Description: Request for Right of Way for a 193.94-acre transmission line.

Status: The ROW for the transmission line will be processed with the ROW for the tower plant. This project is projected to be granted by December 31, 2010.

Contact: Wendy Seley, RECO

Wind Energy

GreenWing Energy - Round Mountain Wind Energy Met Towers

Location: Round Mountain, Nye County

Description: An application for 15,680-acre Right of Way to for constructing three Met Towers.

Status: The EA has been posted to the external BMDO website for comment and review in January. The comment period ends on February 22, 2010, and the ROW grant is expected to be issued in mid March 2010.

Contact: Wendy Seley, RECO

Pacific Wind - Oasis Divide Met Tower

Location: Oasis Divide, near Silver Peak, Nye County

Description: An application for 4,280-acre ROW has been submitted for the purposes of Met Towers.

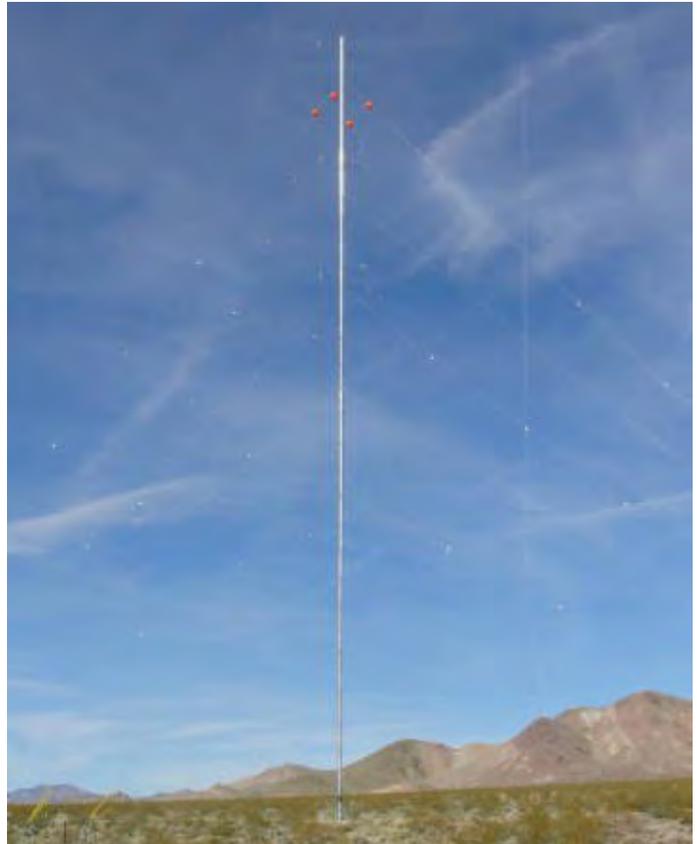
Status: In March 2009, Pacific Wind Development, LLC, submitted an application for an ROW for the installation of a Met Towers. An EA is expected to be submitted at the end January or early February. The ROW grant is expected to be issued in late March 2010.

Contact: Wendy Seley, RECO

Met Tower

Measures potential wind resources near Beatty, Tonopah Field Office.

Photo by Will Coyle





Geothermal

Geothermal Exploration

Photo by
Chuck Carnohan

Ormat: Jersey and Buffalo Valleys

Jersey Valley

Location : 45 miles south of Battle Mountain, Lander and Pershing Counties

Description: This *fast track* project proposes the construction of a 30-megawatt plant.

Status: The revised Utilization Plan and Plan of Development are near completion.

Contact: Chuck Carnohan, RECO

Buffalo Valley

Location : 25 miles south of Battle Mountain, Lander County

Description: Exploration for geothermal possibilities.

Status: Exploration has been completed. Site reclamation is underway, while future exploration efforts are pending.

Contact: Chuck Carnohan, RECO

Ormat: McGinness Hills

Location: 27 miles north of Austin, Lander County

Description: A *fast track* project of exploration for geothermal possibilities and constructing a 30-megawatt plant.

Status: This project is in advanced exploration with proven thermal resources. The Utilization Plan for construction and associated ROW applications are expected early in 2010 and plant completion is anticipated in 2012.

Contact: Chuck Carnohan, RECO

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Ormat: Smith Creek Exploration

Location: 50 miles west of Austin, Lander County

Description: Exploration for geothermal possibilities.

Status: Preliminary cultural and ecological baseline data were collected. Additional exploration activities are pending.

Contact: Chuck Carnohan, RECO

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Ormat: Rock Hill

Location: 30 miles south of Mina, Esmeralda County

Description: Exploration for geothermal possibilities.

Status: Exploration has been completed and site reclamation underway. Future exploration efforts are pending.

Contact: Chuck Carnohan, RECO

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Ormat: Grass Valley

Location: Cortez, Lander County

Description: Exploration for geothermal possibilities in this location.

Status: Ormat plugged the well associated with this project and reclamation is in progress.

Contact: Chuck Carnohan, RECO

Sierra Geothermal Power Inc.: Silver Peak

Location: Silver Peak, Esmeralda County

Description: Authorization for explorations for Temperature Gradient Holes (TGH) and Seismic studies.

Status: Exploration has been approved, and active exploration is underway. Thermal reserves are evident to support a 15 to 40 megawatt plant. Development plans are expected within the next two years.

Contact: Chuck Carnohan, RECO

Sierra Geothermal Power Inc.: Reese River Valley

Location: 45 miles north of Austin, Lander County

Description: Active exploration is underway. Thermal reserves are evident to support a 25 to 60-megawatt plant.

Status: Authorization for explorations has been approved for Temperature Gradient Holes (TGH) and seismic studies. Development plans are expected within the next five years.

Contact: Chuck Carnohan, RECO

Sierra Geothermal Power Inc.: Alum

Location: 15 miles north of Silver Peak, Esmeralda County

Description: Active exploration for geothermal possibilities is underway. Thermal reserves are evident to support a 30-megawatt plant.

Status: Authorization for explorations has been approved for Temperature Gradient Holes (TGH) and Seismic studies. Development plans are expected within the next two years.

Contact: Chuck Carnohan, RECO

Western Renewable: Devil's Canyon

Location: Carvers, Nye County

Description: Raser Technology plans the start of exploration for a construction of a 10 to 40-megawatt facility.

Status: Conceptual Utilization and Operation Plans have been submitted. The project is pending documentation and processing of the EA.

Contact: Chuck Carnohan, RECO

Western Renewable Power: Trail Canyon

Location: 45 miles south of Austin, Nye County.

Description: Raser Technology plans to start of exploration for a development of a 10 to 20-megawatt facility.

Status: Raser Technology initiated a request for exploration in March 2009 by delivering the Utilization and Operation Plans. The project is pending documentation and processing of the EA.

Contact: Chuck Carnohan, RECO

Silver State Geothermal

Location: Carvers, Nye County

Description: Geothermal exploration.

Status: Had a pre-application meeting with Oski Energy.

Contact: Chuck Carnohan, RECO

Lands and Rights of Way



Photo by Chuck Lane

Location: Approximately 20 miles southwest of Austin, along the western side of Reese River Valley, Lander County

Description: This proposed sale is an open competitive sale of two parcels totaling approximately 878.34 acres.

Status: The competitive sale nomination was accepted for Baca/FLTFA funding in 2006. No comments were received on the Environmental Assessment during the public scoping period, which ended in late November 2009.

An appraisal is scheduled for March of 2010. The sale is tentatively scheduled for mid to late 2010 after a Notice of Realty Action is published in the Federal Register.

Contact: Chuck Lane, Mount Lewis Field Office

Kingston Landfill Recreation and Public Purposes Patent

Location: Lander County

Description: A Proposal to patent 7.5 acres of the existing Kingston landfill for the establishment of a permanent transfer bin facility. The subject lands will be conveyed to Lander County under authority of the Recreation and Public Purposes Act. The remaining 32.5 acres, under lease, will be processed for closure.

Status: The Land Transfer Audit has been completed. A Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) was signed on November 1, 2006. The Mount Lewis Field Office is working with County officials on required documents to facilitate case processing.

Contact: Nancy Lockridge, Mount Lewis Field Office

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Barrick Ruby Hill Direct Land Sale

Location: Eureka County

Description: A proposal to convey by direct sale 150 acres of public land east of the existing Ruby Hill Mine near Eureka, under the authority of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976.

Status: Preparation of the required environmental documents and supportive studies is underway. Tentative completion date for the sale is late 2010.

Contact: Chuck Lane, Mount Lewis Field Office

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State of Nevada, Department of Transportation

Location: Galena Canyon, Lander County

Description: The State of Nevada, Department of Transportation, proposes a 40 acre expansion of an existing mineral materials site near Galena Canyon. The materials will be used for the construction and maintenance of highways SR-305, IR-80 and other State maintained roads near Battle Mountain.

Status: The EA is ready for public comment after which the ROW can be issued.

Contact: Nancy Lockridge, Mount Lewis Field Office

Minerals



The District's Minerals Photo Courtesy of Dr. Marcus K. Johnston, Chief Geologist, Victoria Resources U.S.



Photo Courtesy of Dr. Marcus K. Johnston

Round Mountain Gold Corporation (RMGC) Round Mountain and Gold Hill Mines

Location: 60 miles north of Tonopah, Nye County

Description: Open pit gold mine with cyanide heap leach pads and a milling facility that employs gravity separation, cyanide tank leaching and flotation for gold recovery.

Background: In June 2006, RMGC submitted an amendment to their Plan of Operations for an expansion of the Round Mountain mine and for a satellite mining operation at Gold Hill, five miles north of the Round Mountain mine.

The expansion would increase the size of the open pit at Round Mountain and add a new mine pit at Gold Hill. New leach pads would be constructed at both locations. Two additional cells would be added to the tailings impoundment at Round Mountain. Mining would be extended from the year 2010 approximately 2023.

Status: The public comment period for the Round Mountain Gold Mine Expansion DEIS ended on September 14, 2009. Comments have been reviewed and responses have been prepared for inclusion in the FEIS. The FEIS will be completed by the first quarter of 2010, and available for public review upon publication of the Notice of Availability in the *Federal Register*.

Contact: George Deverse, Tonopah Field Office

A.U. Mines, Inc. – Manhattan Gulch Mine

Location: 35 miles north of Tonopah, Nye County

Description: A 553 acre alluvial placer gold mine, including a 295 acre area to be mined, and a 258 acre processing area.

Background: In April 2009, AU Mines, Inc., submitted a Plan of Operations to develop a placer mine in Manhattan Gulch, two miles west of Manhattan. Most of the area proposed for mining was previously mined between 1938 and 1946. Recovery of gold would be accomplished with mechanical and physical gravity separation processes. No cyanide or other chemicals would be used to recover gold.

AU Mines proposes to operate the Manhattan Gulch mine 24 hours a day, 270-300 days a year. There would be a planned seasonal closure of the operation during winter months when weather conditions are unfavorable to the wet recovery processes.

Status: The EA is nearing completion. Possible impacts to the local groundwater table may affect the release date for public comment.

Contact: George Deverse, Tonopah Field Office

Newmont Mining Corporation Phoenix Copper Project

Location: 25 miles south of Battle Mountain, Lander County

Description: Open pit copper mining, heap leach and milling. Low grade ore would be leached with sulfuric acid and copper would be produced in a solution extraction electrowinning plant. The operation would occur simultaneously with the ongoing gold and silver production that began in November 2003.

Status: An SEIS is being prepared to analyze an Amended Plan of Operations for copper beneficiation. A Record of Decision for the SEIS and Plan of Operations approval is expected in November 2010.

Contact: Jon Sherve, Mount Lewis Field Office

Nye County – Mineral Material Pit

Location: Four miles south of Beatty, Nye County

Description: A proposed gravel pit located on a 40 acre parcel, approximately 1 mile west of U.S. Highway 95.

Background: In December 2009, the Nye County Road Department submitted a Mine Plan to develop a gravel pit, crushing and screening plant, and stockpile area in Amargosa Valley.

Status: Development of an EA will begin in January 2010.

Contact: Duane Bays, Tonopah Field Office

BH Minerals Lookout Mountain Exploration

Location: Approximately 15 miles southwest Eureka, Eureka County

Description: Plan Level Gold Exploration.

Status: An EA is being completed for a Plan of Operations. The Plan calls for extensive exploration in and around a former open pit gold mine. A Decision and Plan of Operations Approval is expected in May 2010.

Contact: Larry Turner, Mount Lewis Field Office



Eureka Moly LLC Mount Hope Molybdenum Mine

Location: Approximately 20 miles northwest of Eureka, Eureka County

Description: Open pit molybdenum mining and milling. The Plan would allow Eureka Moly LLC to develop a large scale open pit mine with a 55 year mine life. Once fully operational, it is projected to produce ten percent of the world molybdenum supply.



Photo Courtesy of Newmont Mining Corporation

Status: A Record of Decision for an EIS and Plan of Operations approval is expected in January 2011.

Contact: Stephen Drummond, Mount Lewis Field Office

Mount Lewis Field Office Community Programmatic Gravel Permit

Location: North half of the Battle Mountain District, Lander and Eureka counties

Description: A mineral material gravel pit permit for the public will encompass the boundary of the Mount Lewis Field Office.

Status: The Mount Lewis Field Office is preparing an EA for the Programmatic Permit. This is planned to resolve non-compliant issues such as trespass by creating Community Pits for use by the public.

Contact: Cory Gardner, Mount Lewis Field Office

Baker Hughes Drilling Fluids Argenta Mine

Location: Approximately 15 miles east of Battle Mountain, Lander County

Description: Open pit barite mining and milling. A Plan of Operations was submitted for an open pit barite mining and milling. Baker Hughes is proposing to expand the existing barite mining operations. Barite is a mineral used to make slurry to remove cuttings and stabilize the walls of holes drilled for oil and natural gas production.

The proposed expansion would increase the current disturbance by 233.4 acres. Presently, the mine stretches over 444.6 acres, which includes 76.6 acres of public land and 368.0 acres of private land. The expansion will include 67.8 acres of public land and 165.6 acres of private land.

Status: An EA is being completed for a Plan of Operations. A Decision and Plan of Operations Approval is expected in June 2010.

Contact: Casey Strickland, Mount Lewis Field Office



Photo BY Tom Darrington

Pinyon-Juniper Reduction

Location: Bald Mountain and Sulphur Springs Range, Lander and Eureka Counties

Description: These projects will address and help to reverse juniper encroachment into important wildlife habitats. Up to 1,000 acres of high value wildlife habitat may be treated near Bald Mountain, which is the northern extremity of the Toiyabe Mountains.

Status: An EA is currently being developed. Prime mule deer bitterbrush habitat will be treated in the Sulphur Springs Range in 2010.

Contact: Duane Crimmins, Mount Lewis Field Office

Rehabilitation.

Location: Beatty Springs Complex, Esmeralda County

Description: The Beatty Spring Complex Rehabilitation Project is designed to provide adequate habitat for the Amargosa toad, and provide water sources for burros.

Status: An EA and project may commence in Fiscal Year 2010.

Contact: Devin Englestead, Tonopah Field Office

Bald Mountain Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Project

Location: 30 miles south of Crescent Valley, within the Carico Lake grazing allotment

Description: The proposed project would thin pinyon pine and juniper trees on up to 3,000 acres. The primary purpose of this project is to enhance habitat for wildlife, particularly habitat for the greater sage-grouse, whose numbers have declined in recent decades in Nevada as elsewhere. Livestock and wild horses would also benefit from the proposed project.

The thinning of pinyon and juniper trees in the project area would be accomplished by on-foot crews, using chainsaws. Felled trees would remain in place and harvest of downed trees by the public would be encouraged.

This project will be undertaken through the Bootstraps program, a collaborative endeavor of the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension and the BLM. The program is designed to accomplish natural resource projects on public lands while teaching job skills and responsibility to young adults.

Between 12 and 15 young adults, along with a job coach, will be employed on the project from May through October during at least one but possibly two seasons.

Status: An EA for the project will be mailed to the interested public in January 2010. Project implementation could be begin as early as May 2010 if a FONSI is reached and a decision signed.

Contact: Duane Crimmins, Mount Lewis Field Office



Cut and Carry

Last year, Bootstrap crew members cut salt cedar to enhance riparian habitat for wildlife. Salt cedar is a State of Nevada listed noxious weed that prevents native vegetation from establishing.

Photo by Lou Gross



Photo by Schirete Zick

Hickison Recreation Trails Offer Hikes with Amazing Scenery

Location: 23 miles east of Austin, on Highway 50

Description: Development of trails which provide 12 1/2 miles of hiking and horseback riding paradise. Phase I, completed in the summer 2009, is comprised of three loops. Loop 1 offers a moderate hike of 4.4 miles. Loop 2 is the easiest with 2.3 miles. Loop 3 is the longest with 5.6 miles.

Future plans will expand the trail to connect with the historic Pony Express Trail, and will eventually be expanded to about 50 miles.

The trails provide solitude - no buzzing power lines and no humming of distant traffic. It winds through classic high desert, with magnificent rock columns rising from the desert floor to provide a home for eagles. A short distance, and the scenery changes. Here the evergreens provide a cool, and lush environment.

An Interesting Slice of History

The Hickison Summit is a natural pass between two low buttes. At first, the site was called Hickerson Summit because its proximity to the Hickerson ranch. Later, the name Hickison became prevalent.

Prior to 1930, the summit was informally known as "Ford's Defeat." One of the local residents used his team of horses to pull Ford Model-T automobiles up the steep grade when these automobiles couldn't make it up the hill.

Continued next page

The resident earned himself a few dollars and the pass earned a most descriptive name. Hickison is well known for its petroglyphs.

Status: Planned improvements to the trail include a camp loop road, day use parking area, upgraded campsite, horse camp, a trail head parking area and a water system. The trail was built to meet the increasing needs of recreation use, while taking into account multiple-resource management within these areas.

Contact: Todd Neville, Mount Lewis Field Office

Shoshone OHV Trails System

Location: Approximately 24 miles south of Battle Mountain, east of State Route 305, Lander County

Description: The Shoshone Range OHV Trail System will offer full day riding opportunities. The project is divided into three phases.

Status: Construction of Phase 1 trails will begin in the Spring of 2010, and will continue through the summer. OHV-use effects on wildlife, livestock, riparian, and wild horses will be monitored for two years or longer. The results of the monitoring will determine whether the field office will continue with phase 2 and 3.

Contact: Todd Neville, Mount Lewis Field Office

3-Bars Ecosystem and Landscape Restoration Project EIS

Location: Northern Eureka County

Description: This project encompasses approximately 750,000 acres of public lands. Its purpose is to dramatically improve the health of, and reduce the risks to the 3-Bars Ecosystem. This project is a major Federal action and requires the preparation of an EIS. The EIS development will begin this fiscal year (2010), and is tentatively set for completion within 26 months. Implementation activities could occur as early as mid-late Fiscal Year 2012.

Background:

A primary element of “Healthy Landscapes” is addressing the increasing threats to the shrub-steppe landscape. This scenic area faces imminent loss of sagebrush, bitterbrush and mountain mahogany habitats, which are critical for sage-grouse, pigmy rabbits, mule deer and a long list of other wildlife species.

Also at-risk are riparian wetlands critical for the preservation and restoration of threatened Lahontan Cutthroat Trout and many other riparian-dependant species. The project focuses on restoration at the landscape level.

Status: A Federal Register Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS has been published January 25, 2010, starting a 30-day public comment period. Public Scoping meetings are scheduled for Battle Mountain, February 22, and Eureka, February 23. The preliminary DEIS is planned to be completed by the end of the year.

Contact: Donovan Walker, Battle Mountain District Office

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**Gillman Springs Wildland-urban Interface Project
EA – Fire Defense System**

Location: Southern Lander County

Description: The purpose of the Gillman Springs Fire Defense System is to protect life, property and resources associated with the community of Gillman Springs. The project encompasses approximately 700 acres of public lands. An EA will be developed under the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA) authorities, and a Decision Record is expected to be issues by the end of Fiscal Year 2010 or 2011.

Status: Baseline studies and summaries are concluding. Public scoping is anticipated to begin in Spring of 2010.

Contact: Chad Lewis, Battle Mountain District Office

Providing Community Protection by Removing Hazardous Fuels

Crescent Valley Wildland-urban Interface Project – Fire Defense System

Location: Crescent Valley, Lander County

Description: 491 acres of chemical treatment (Plateau), and 344 acres of mechanical treatment (mowing).

Status: Planned to be implemented in 2010.

Contact: Chad Lewis, Battle Mountain District Office

Eureka Wildland-Urban Interface Project – Fire Defense System

Location: Eureka, Eureka County

Description: 30 acres of prescribed fire (pile burning) .

Status: Planned to be implemented in 2010.

Contact: Chad Lewis, Battle Mountain District Office

Ione Wildland-urban Interface Project – Fire Defense System

Location: Ione, Nye County

Description: 130 acres of mechanical fuels reduction (PJ mastication/thinning).

Status: planned to be implemented in 2010.

Contact: Chad Lewis, Battle Mountain District Office

Lida Wildland-urban Interface Project – Fire Defense System

Location: Lida, Esmeralda County

Description: 92 acres of mechanical fuels reduction (PJ mastication/thinning).

Status: Planned to be implemented in 2010.

Contact: Chad Lewis, Battle Mountain District Office

Manhattan Wildland-urban Interface Project – Fire Defense System

Location: Manhattan – Nye County

Description: 19 acres of mechanical fuels reduction (PJ thinning) and 35 acres of prescribed fire (pile burning).

Status: Planned to be implemented in 2010.

Contact: Chad Lewis, Battle Mountain District Office

N.W. Diamond Valley Wildland-urban Interface Project – Fire Defense System

Location: Diamond Valley, Eureka County

Description: 1,287 acres of mechanical treatment (maintenance -mowing).

Status: Planned to be implemented in 2010.

Contact: Chad Lewis, Battle Mountain District Office

Yomba Wildland-urban Interface Project – Fire Defense System

Location: Yomba, Nye County

Description: 996 acres of mechanical treatment (maintenance -mowing).

Status: Planned to be implemented in 2010.

Contact: Chad Lewis, Battle Mountain District Office

Seven Mile Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project

Location: Nye County, NV – near Segura Ranch

Description: 7,840 acres using prescribed fire (mosaic broadcast burn).

Status: Treatment of is planned for 2010.

Contact: Chad Lewis, Battle Mountain District Office





Photo by Bob Hassmiller

Restoring Fish Creek

The Warwood family helps Eagle Boy Scout, Derek Tanner, with his project, planting yellow willows in Fish Creek in the Carico Lake Allotment.

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