

BLM wants public comments

BLM Seeks Public Comment on Ely Resource Management Plan Draft EIS

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) on July 29, 2005, began a 120-day public comment period for the BLM Ely Resource Management Plan Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The comment period will continue through November 28, 2005.

The Resource Management Plan will guide BLM Ely District decisions addressing all BLM activities on approximately 11.4 million acres of agency-administered public lands in Lincoln, Nye and White Pine counties.

The plan will also help to implement the Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Project, a major component of the Great Basin Restoration Initiative. The Great Basin has fallen victim to devastating wildfires and invasion by noxious weeds and non-native annual grasses, e.g., cheatgrass that have gained a foothold partly because of the wildfires. The initiative is a long-term effort to restore the Basin's native plant species and halt the spread of invasive species.

Among activities to be addressed by the Resource Management Plan are livestock grazing, mining, recreation, wild horses and wildlife. The comprehensive long-term plan will also help determine which lands are to be made available for disposal, what lands would be open to fluid mineral leasing, what actions should be taken to achieve healthy ecological conditions and what routes are considered appropriate for Off-Highway Vehicle use.

The BLM is developing the Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement with input from other federal agencies, tribal, state and local governments and the general public. Following is a list of cooperating agencies, or agencies helping the BLM: Duckwater Shoshone Tribe, Ely Shoshone Tribe, Great Basin National Park, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, Lincoln County, Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada Department of Transportation, Nevada Department of Wildlife, White Pine County, Moapa Band of Paiutes and Yomba Shoshone Tribe.

The BLM will in October 2005 conduct six public comment meetings in Nevada to receive public comments on the draft RMP/EIS. Meetings will be held from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. (PST) at the following locations.

CALIENTE: Tuesday, October 18, 2005, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. PDT, Caliente Elementary School Gymnasium, 288 Lincoln Street, Caliente, Nevada

ELY: Monday, October 17, 2005, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. PDT, Bristlecone Convention Center, 150 6th Street, Ely, Nevada

MESQUITE: Wednesday, October 19, 2005, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. PDT, Mesquite Campus, 150 N. Yucca (formerly Virgin Valley Elementary), Mesquite, Nevada

LAS VEGAS: Thursday, October 20, 2005, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. PDT, BLM Las Vegas Field Office, 4701 Torrey Pines Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada

RENO: Monday, October 24, 2005, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. PDT, Airport Plaza Hotel, 1981 Terminal Way, Reno, Nevada

TONOPAH: Tuesday, October 25, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. PDT, Tonopah Convention Center, 301 West Brougner Street, Tonopah, Nevada

BLM websites are currently unavailable. If you would like to obtain a copy of the plan on a CD, please contact Gene Drais, BLM Ely Field Office RMP project manager, at (775) 289-1880, Bureau of Land Management, HC 33 Box 33500, Ely, NV 89301-9408, or elyrmp@blm.gov.

Copies are also available for review at the following public libraries:

Alamo Branch Library, 100 N. 1st St., Alamo, NV 89001; **Caliente Branch Library**, 100 Depot Ave., Caliente, NV 89008; **Lincoln County Public Library**, Main Street, Pioche, NV 89043;

Clark County Public Library, 121 W. 1st North St., Mesquite, NV 89027; **Colorado State University Library**, 1019 Campus Delivery, Fort Collins, CO 80523-1019; **Smoky Valley Community Library**, 73 Hadley Circle, Round Mountain, NV 89045; **Tonopah Public Library**, 167 South Central Street, Tonopah, NV 89049; **White Pine County Library**, 950 Campton Street, Ely, NV 89301.

The plan may also be viewed at the BLM Library – Library Systems; Building 50, Denver Federal Center, Denver, CO 80225; and Government Publications Department, Rivera Library, University of California, 3401 Watkins Drive, Riverside, CA 92521.