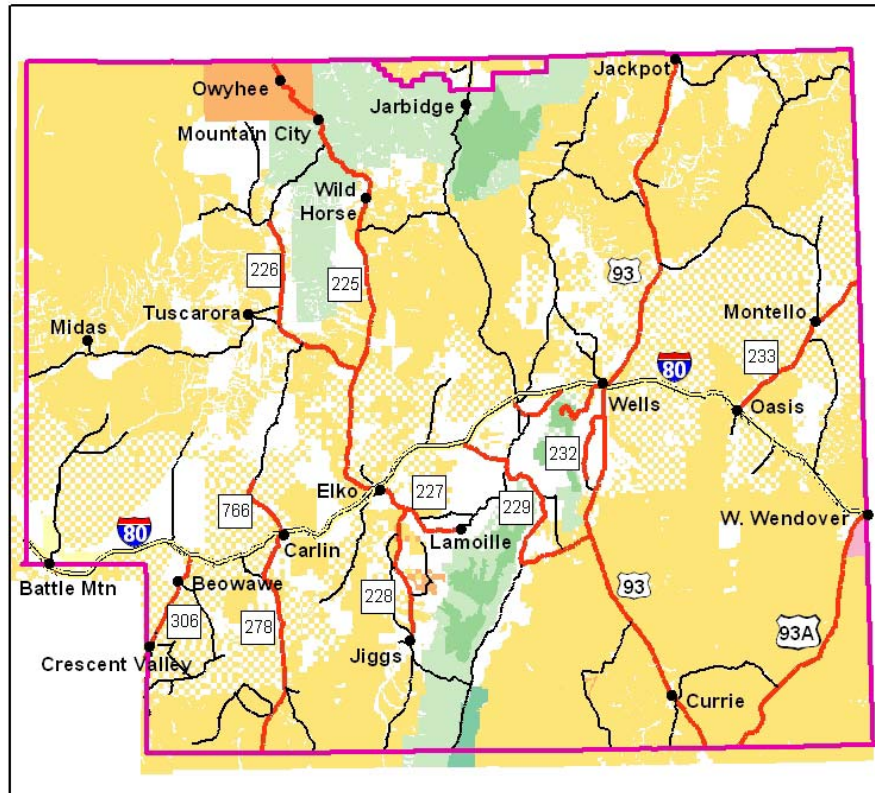


# Project and Planning Schedule



September 2006



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

BLM/EK/GI-06/101+1790



## United States Department of the Interior

### BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Elko Field Office  
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Elko, Nevada 89801  
775-753-0200

<http://www.nv.blm.gov>



September 27, 2006

In Reply Refer To:  
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 January 2006. 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 and Wilderness, Fire Management, Rangeland and Wildlife Habitat Management, Wild Horse Management, and 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/planning](http://www.nv.blm.gov/elko/planning). If you wish to receive a copy, or to be added to or removed from our mailing list, please call Lorrie West at 775-753-0266, or send her an e-mail [lorrie\\_west@nv.blm.gov](mailto:lorrie_west@nv.blm.gov). You may also obtain copies by writing or visiting the Elko Field Office at the above address.

*If you wish to participate in the planning and decision making process, you may do so by calling the contact listed for each specific project. If you wish to be an "interest public" pursuant to Title 43, Code of Federal Regulation 41000.0-5, which address 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.

Thank you for your interest in our public lands.

Sincerely,

/s/

Helen Hankins  
Field Manager

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**BLM-Elko Field Office**  
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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 Assessments and Evaluations:** The Elko Field Office completes assessments and evaluations of grazing allotments to determine if standards for rangeland health, established pursuant to grazing regulations, are being met. If not, changes in grazing management are proposed 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 (Determination of Land Use Plan Conformance and NEPA Adequacy):** The DNA process replaced BLM's Administrative Determination (AD) in 1999. DNAs are prepared to assist BLM 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 review concludes that these conditions exist, a new or supplemental environmental analysis (EA or EIS) is not necessary before the action may be taken.

**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

## **BLM-Elko Field Office** **Project and Planning Schedule**

significant effect on the human environment and for which an EIS will, therefore, not be prepared.

**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 have since been amended, most recently amended for fire management on September 29, 2004. No amendments have been initiated in 2006. 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. 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:** A site-specific analysis of parcels nominated for the December 2005 lease sale was completed as part of a programmatic EA in September 2005. This EA will be referred to as parcels nominated for quarterly lease sales are reviewed for NEPA compliance in 2006.

**Contact:** Cathie Jensen

**B2. 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 being prepared by a contractor.

**Contact:** Tom Schmidt

**B3. 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. Completion of the EIS has since been delayed pending results of studies to help determine potential water quality impacts.

**Contact:** Tom Schmidt

**B4. Maverick Springs Exploration Project**

**Type of Action:** Minerals Exploration

**Location:** Elko & Ely District

T. 26 N., R. 59 E., sections 9, 10, 11,14,15,16

**Description:** Vista Nevada Corporation has conducted exploration under a Notice at their Maverick Springs property for 3 years (2002 through 2004). Their work has progressed to the point that they need to work under a Plan of Operations because their exploration activities have expanded to the point that future work will exceed the 5 acre limit of a Notice. Vista is proposing a 25-hole drilling program using a track mounted reverse circulation drill rig. No grading or dirt work will be required; disturbance will be caused by cross country travel. Disturbance for access roads will average approximately 12 to 14 feet wide. Each drill site will require an area approximately 30 feet wide by 40 feet long. Between 2002 and 2004 Vista disturbed 4.79 acres, and 2.81 acres are proposed to be disturbed in 2006 resulting in a proposed total disturbance 7.60 acres.

**Status:** An EA was released for public review on January 20, 2006. The EA was finalized with issuance of a FONSI and decision on May 4, 2006.

**Contact:** Deb McFarlane

**B5. 2006 Non-Competitive Geothermal Lease Sale**

**Type of Action:** Geothermal lease

**Location:** Crescent Valley (3 parcels), Tuscarora-Bootstrap Mine (3); Wells (4)

**Description:** BLM is proposing to offer geothermal leases on 10 parcels of land, comprising about 10,700 acres, in northeastern Nevada within the area administered by the Elko Field Office. The parcels have been nominated by industry, and would be offered in a noncompetitive lease sale.

**Status:** EA completed and FONSI signed 7/14/2006.

**Contact:** Jim Lindsay

**BLM-Elko Field Office**  
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**C. LANDS**

**C1. 2006 Baca Land Sale**

**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 2006: 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 completed and FONSI signed 2/10/2006. Sale (auction) completed on September 26, 2006, at the Elko Field Office.

**Contact:** Darci Beaupeurt

**C2. Rock Creek Acquisition**

**Type of Action:** Land acquisition

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

**Description:** BLM is considering a proposal to acquire of environmentally sensitive lands from the private landowner under the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act.

**Status:** Preliminary stage

**Contact:** Cathie Jensen

**C3. City of Elko Landfill Expansion**

**Type of Action:** Recreation & Public Purposes lease (N-78388)

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

**Description:** Landfill expansion

**Status:** On hold by City of Elko.

**Contact:** Darci Beaupeurt

**C4. Beehive Telephone Co Inc, Utility Authorization**

**Type of Action:** Right-of-Way (N79715); Trespass Resolution

**Location:** Pilot Peak Valley, southeast of Montello

**Description:** Beehive Telephone Company is requesting a utility right-of-way easement for underground supplemental optic fiber telephone lines to serve residences in the Pilot Peak Valley area southeast of Montello, Nevada. The easement would run for approximately 7 miles, in conjunction with a portion of the Elko County road right-of-way (NVN-52499) as well as a portion of the Raft River Electric right-of-way NVN-

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41038. The surface disturbance would consist of a maximum of 8 feet in width with a burial depth of approximately 3 feet (6.79 acres).

**Status:** EA initiated July 2006.

**Contact:** Darci Beaupeurt

**C5. Elko County/Ryndon Recreation Park and Community Fire Station**

**Type of Action:** Recreation & Public Purposes Act lease (N-78530)

**Location:** Ryndon

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

**Description:** Elko County has submitted an application to use about 8.9 acres of public land for development of recreational facilities, including baseball, softball, soccer and football fields, a children's park, outdoor picnic area and other outdoor uses. Another acre of public land is proposed for a Nevada Division of Forestry fire station.

**Status:** EA being prepared

**Contact:** Marvin Urban

**C6. West Wendover City Center Lease**

**Type of Action:** Recreation & Public Purposes Act lease (NVN-79079)

**Location:** City of West Wendover

T. 33 N., R. 70 E., portions of sections 8, 9 and 16

**Description:** The City of West Wendover, Nevada submitted an application to lease four parcels comprising 124.67 acres within the city limits and adjacent to existing structures, business, and roads. West Wendover plans to develop the acreage for recreation and public purposes, including a city hall, convention center, health facility, parks and recreation facility, and parking.

**Status:** EA completed in July 2006.

**Contact:** Kirk Laird

**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:** Plan design and analysis is continuing in 2006.

**Contact:** Tamara Hawthorne

**D2. B.O.R.E. 2006 Wendover Race**

**Type of Action:** Special Recreation Permit (SRP-NV-015-06-02)

**Location:** South of Wendover, along east side of the Goshute and Toano Mtn. Ranges.

**Description** – George Cain of Bonneville Offroad Racing Enthusiasts proposes an OHV race in May and September of 2006. Participants, approximately 25 vehicles, drive

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modified buggys or trucks on a designated route completing 4 laps totaling 240 miles. The race begins at the Red Garter Inn of Wendover, UT and ends at a previously used staging area off of Alt. Hwy. 93.

Previously B.O.R.E. had a 5 year permit to run races on the same routes for the next five years, expiring in 2009. This year BORE proposes routes that have not been previously raced on. The new routes are existing 2-tracks.

**Status:** EA completed and FONSI signed 4/5/06.

**Contact:** Tamara Hawthorne

**D3. 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 would 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 not estimated at this time.

**Contact:** Tamara Hawthorne

**D4. 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 was proposed in coordination with the Nevada State Historic Preservation Officer. Future development is subject to the availability of funds. Some sites would require agreements with funding partners and/or private landowners.

**Status:** A proposal for an independent group to install signs at sites throughout the Elko District is being considered in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer.

**Contact:** Allen Mariluch

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**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. Monitoring is typically completed over a 3-year period.

**Status:** Emergency stabilization and/or rehabilitation plans are underway for the numerous wildfires that occurred in summer 2006 under a tight timeframe. In September, EAs for the Taylor, Basco and Winters were posted on the Elko Field Office website at [www.nv.blm.gov/elko/planning](http://www.nv.blm.gov/elko/planning).

**Contact:** Tom Warren

**E2. 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 2007.

**Contact:** Tom Reid

**E3. Elko Colony Greenstrip**

**Type of Action:** Hazardous fuel reduction, wildland-urban interface

**Location:** Elko Colony

T. 34 N., R. 55E., section 3

**Description:** In partnership with the Elko Band of the Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Nevada Division of Forestry and City of Elko, construct and maintain a greenstrip on BLM administered lands north of the Elko Colony.

**Status:** Agreement signed 8/7/2006.

**Contact:** Tom Reid

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**F. GRAZING PERMIT RENEWALS AND RANGELAND HEALTH ASSESSMENTS AND EVALUATIONS**

**F1. Allotment Assessments, Evaluations and Grazing Permit Renewals**

*In accordance with Field Office priorities for renewing grazing permits, assessments and evaluations are completed to determine if standards and guidelines for rangeland health in northeastern Nevada are being met. If not, actions are proposed and analyzed and a decision is issued. The following assessments and evaluations are underway:*

<b>Assessment or 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. The FMUD was appealed. The administrative law judge granted a stay (suspension of the decision), and a hearing was completed in March-April 2005. The judge remanded (returned) the decision back to BLM on March 1, 2006, for additional NEPA analysis.	Carol Evans Donna Jewell
<b>2. 25 Allotment (AMP revision)</b>	An Allotment Management Plan (AMP) was written for the 25 Allotment in 1971 and revised in 1978. Proposals for new fences, fire prevention seedings, wildlife habitat improvement projects, and new fences constructed since the 1978 AMP revision need to be considered through an AMP revision process. This AMP revision has been tentatively scheduled to begin in 2007 and be completed in 2008, as part of the process for renewing the grazing permit for this allotment.	Donna Jewell
<b>3. Hubbard Vineyard</b>	Evaluation issued in 1997. Additional data was collected 2005. Further analysis of the data is planned in 2006, followed by further consultation with the public regarding alternative grazing management actions. An EA will then be completed, and issuance of a decision on proposed actions is scheduled for late 2006 or early 2007.	Jeff Moore
<b>4. Cottonwood Allotment Re-evaluation</b>	Evaluation was issued in July 2003. PMUD and EA was issued in February 2006, and the FMUD in March 2006. There were no appeals, so the decision is now in effect.	Jeff Moore
<b>5. Frost Creek Allotment Re-evaluation</b>	PMUD issued August 6, 2002. The FMUD is now planned to be issued in conjunction with fully processing renewal of the grazing permit for this allotment between 2007 to 2009.	Justin Rodgers

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<b>Assessment or 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 in 2006. The FMUD is scheduled to be completed in 2006/2007, following consideration of areas burned in summer 2006 and consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.	Wendy Fuell Karl Scheetz Pat Coffin
<b>7. Permit Renewals</b> <u>Allotments:</u> Lindsay Creek Mexican Field Barnes Seeding Cotant Hylton Pearl Creek Kennedy Seeding Metropolis	A standards and guidelines assessment was issued in September 2002. A final determination and scoping and consultation with the interested public for changes in livestock management will be issued in the late summer/fall of 2006. Public input following scoping will be considered during the process of renewing the grazing permit for this allotment. Following evaluation and analysis of livestock grazing and alternatives to current grazing management, a grazing decision will be issued.	Donna Jewell
<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 and interim wild horse management levels. Wildfires burned these allotments in 1999, resulting in temporary closures to grazing which delayed the collection of additional monitoring data to determine the wild horse appropriate management level and livestock active use. In 2006, the BLM intends to finalize the evaluation and issue a MUD.	Bryan Fuell
<b>9. Permit Renewals</b> <u>Allotments:</u> Ruby 1-3	A standards and guidelines assessment was issued in September 2002. A final determination and scoping and consultation with the interested public for changes in livestock management will be issued in the late summer/fall of 2006. Public input following scoping will be considered during the process of renewing the grazing permit for this allotment. Following evaluation and analysis of livestock grazing and alternatives to current grazing management, a grazing decision will be issued.	Kathy McKinstry

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<b>Assessment or Evaluation</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Contact</b>
<b>10. Permit Renewals</b> <u>Allotments:</u> Ruby 4-8 Bennett Field FFR W&C/Ruby 9	A standards and guidelines assessment will be issued in the summer 2006. A determination and scoping and consultation with the interested public for proposed changes in livestock management will be in the late summer/fall of 2006 as part of renewing the grazing permit for the allotments. Following evaluation and analysis of livestock grazing and alternatives to current grazing management, a grazing decision will be issued.	Kathy McKinstry

**F2. Sheep Complex, Big Springs & Owyhee Grazing Allotments Sensitive Bird Species EIS**

**Type of Action:** Livestock grazing management (Court-ordered EIS)

**Location:** Big Springs and Sheep Complex allotments in southeast portion of Elko County, and Owyhee Allotment in northwest portion of Elko County

**Description:** The BLM is preparing this EIS to comply with an order issued by the U.S. District Judge, District of Nevada, on August 18, 2004 (CV-N-03-197-HDM(VPC)). The order followed a hearing on a complaint filed by Western Watershed Project and the Committee for the High Desert against three final multiple use decisions. The order is to prepare the EIS with respect to burrowing owls, raptors and sage grouse on the Sheep Complex and the Owyhee Allotment, and sage grouse on the Big Springs Allotment. BLM will evaluate the impact of livestock grazing to the extent applicable to these sensitive bird species and considering springs, seeps, riparian areas and upland habitat.

**Status:** Notice of intent to prepare the EIS and initiate scoping published 12/8/2004. Open house held at the Elko Field Office on 1/6/05, and the public comment period ended 1/21/2005. Draft EIS distributed 12/5/2005, and public comment period ended 1/25/2006. The Final EIS, with proposed grazing decisions (modifications to the three final multiple use decisions), was issued 5/31/2006. Issuance of the Record of Decision and final grazing decisions will follow consideration of comments/protests received on the Final EIS and proposed grazing decisions.

**Contact:** Bryan Fuell

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

**G1. 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

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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 feasibility studies completed. Scoping input solicited in April 2005. Analysis included in the Sensitive Bird Species EIS for the Sheep Complex, Big Springs and Owyhee Grazing Allotments (see F2).

**Contact:** Kathy McKinstry

**G2 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 cancelled.

**Contact:** Kathy McKinstry

**G3. 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 Jewell

**G4. 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.

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**Description:** This spring has been developed in the past. Under the proposal made by the livestock grazing permittee, the spring would be re-developed with a new headbox and trough. The source would be fenced/or protected to protect the water source, maintain available 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:** Public scoping planned in spring of 2007, for preparation of an EA in summer or fall 2007.

**Contact:** Donna Jewell

**G5. 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:** Preliminary design and scoping for an EA to be initiated in fall-2007. EA would be completed in late summer/fall 2008.

**Contact:** Donna Jewell

**G6. 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 was proposed in the Proposed and Final Multiple Use Decision issued in June 2004. However, the multiple use decision was reversed by an Administrative Law Judge's ruling. Scoping and consultation with the interested public for changes in livestock management will be conducted in spring and summer 2007. Public input following scoping will be considered during the process of renewing the grazing permit for this allotment. Following evaluation and analysis of livestock grazing and alternatives to current grazing management, a grazing decision would be issued in winter 2007-2008.

**Status:** Preliminary survey and design and cultural inventory have been completed. Public scoping is planned for summer 2007, and preparation of an EA in late fall 2007. A grazing decision would be issued in winter 2007-2008.

**Contact:** Donna Jewell

**G7. 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.

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**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 was proposed in the Proposed and Final Multiple Use Decision issued in June 2004.

However, the multiple use decision was reversed by an Administrative Law Judge's ruling. Scoping and consultation with the interested public for changes in livestock management will be conducted in spring and summer 2007. Public input following scoping will be considered during the process of renewing the grazing permit for this allotment. Following evaluation and analysis of livestock grazing and alternatives to current grazing management, a grazing decision would be issued in winter 2007-2008.

**Status:** Preliminary survey and design and cultural inventory have been completed. Public scoping and preparation of the EA is planned in late fall 2007. A grazing decision would be issued in the winter 2007-2008.

**Contact:** Donna Jewell

**G8. East Squaw Creek Riparian 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. The highest priorities for completion are:

**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.

**B. East Squaw Creek Field Fence** - Modify the existing fence around the Squaw Creek Ranch to BLM standards. Two options are being considered: (1) Reconstruct approximately 7 miles of existing fence 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 conducted April-May 2005. Further consideration of these projects is included in the Sensitive Bird Species EIS for the Sheep Complex, Big Springs and Owyhee Grazing Allotments (see F2).

**Contact:** Jeff Moore

**G9. 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

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**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

**G10. Sorensen Pipeline Project**

**Type of Action:** Range improvement

**Location:** Spruce Allotment

**Description:** The permittee for the Spruce Allotment currently hauls water for livestock. They are proposing to install approximately 90 miles of pipeline to provide water and improve livestock distribution in the upland areas of the allotment.

**Status:** Proposal returned to proponent for re-submittal with a preliminary EA.

**Contact:** Bruce Thompson

**G11. Willow Tree Spring Enclosure 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 enclosure (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

**G12. Wagon Springs Aspen Enclosure 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 enclosure. The development would consist of 2 water troughs.

**Status:** Preliminary survey and design.

**Contact:** Nycole Burton

**G13. 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.

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**Status:** Preliminary survey and design  
**Contact:** Nycole Burton

**G14. 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 enclosure 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

**G15. 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:** Project on hold pending completion of the Emigrant Mine EIS (see B3).

**Contact:** Carol Evans

**G16. Dixie Creek Fish Barrier**

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

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

**Description:** Construct a barrier on privately-owned land in the lower reaches of Dixie Creek to prevent non-native 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:** Survey and design in progress. Construction tentatively planned for fall of 2007.

**Contact:** Carol Evans

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**H. WILD HORSE MANAGEMENT**

**H1. Winters Fire Emergency Wild Horse Gather**

**Type of Action:** Emergency

**Location:** Northwestern portion of Elko County, near Midas  
T. 29 N., R. 65 E., section 25

**Description:** The Elko and Winnemucca Field Offices will be conducting an emergency wild horse gather on lands affected by the Winters Fire. The fire started on July 25, 2006 and burned approximately 240,000 acres, which encompasses about 207,200 acres of public lands administered by the BLM and 32,800 acres of private land. The Winters Fire burned within portions of the following HMAs: Rock Creek, Little Humboldt, Owyhee, Little Owyhee, and Snowstorm Mountains. Approximately 450 wild horses would be gathered. Of these, about 100 wild horses would be transported to unburned portions of the Herd Management Areas (HMAs) and released. The remainder would be transported to BLM facilities for placement into the Adopt A Horse Program.

**Status:** This project was included in an EA for the Winter Fire Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Plan, which was completed in August 2006.

**Contact:** Bryan Fuell

**I. INVASIVE, NONNATIVE SPECIES**

**I1. 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:** Treatment being considered in an EA as part of the 2006 Suzie Fire emergency stabilization plan.

**Contact:** Mark Coca

**I2. Tabor Creek Campground Weed Treatment**

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

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

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

**Status:** Project deferred until further notice, due to summer 2006 wildfires workload.

**Contact:** Mark Coca

**I3. Domestic Goat Trials Weed Treatment**

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

**Location:** Maggie Creek drainage and Lower Mitchell Creek drainage

**Description:** Biological treatment of Scotch thistle, leafy spurge infestation using domestic goats as a treatment regime.

**Status:** Project deferred until further notice, due to summer 2006 wildfires workload.

**Contact:** Mark Coca