

**WHITE PINE COUNTY PUBLIC LAND USERS ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE**

**TUESDAY, October 13, 2020**

**6:00 p.m.**

**White Pine County Library Conference Room  
950 Campton Street, Ely, NV 89301**

**AGENDA**

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Pledge of Allegiance and Introductions**
- III. Public Comment**
- IV. \*Discussion/for Possible Action - Approval of September 8, 2020 Meeting Minutes**
- V. Liaison Report**
- VI. \*Discussion/for Possible Action**
  - A. \*Update/Discussion/for Possible Action – Bureau of Land Management**
  - B. \*Update/Discussion/for Possible Action – U.S. Forest Service**
  - C. \*Update/Discussion/for Possible Action – National Park Service**
  - D. \*Update/Discussion/for Possible Action – Nevada State Parks**
  - E. \*Update/Discussion/for Possible Action – RCI, Jeremy Drew**
- VII. \*Discussion/for Possible Action – Update from CRM on the White Pine County Public Lands Management Plan, OHV Section, County-Wide OHV Policy.**
- VIII. \*Discussion/Action – Updates, Issues Contained in White Pine County’s Public Land Use Policies Including OHV Use, Energy, Minerals, Water, Land Sales, Greater Sage-Grouse, and Wild Horse and Burros.**
- IX. \*Discussion/Action – Committee Vacancies, Resignations, Appointments**
- XI. Next Meeting Time and Date Announcement**
- XII. Public Comment**

## **XII. \*Adjournment**

Asterisks (\*) Denotes possible action items of the White Pine County Public Land Users Advisory Committee

**Public Commentary:** A period devoted to comments by the public, if any, and discussion of those comments. No action may be taken upon a matter raised under this item of the agenda until the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an item upon which action will be taken. (NRS 241.020(2) (c) (3).)

**Public Comment:** Public Comment during the White Pine County Public Land Users Advisory Committee meeting on October 13, 2020 will be for all matters both on and off the agenda and be limited to three minutes per person. Additionally, public comment of three minutes per person will be heard during the individual action items. The Board reserves the right to reduce the time or limit the total time allowed for public comment. The Board may prohibit comment if the content of the comments is willfully disruptive of the meeting by being slanderous, offensive, inflammatory, irrational, or amounting to personal attacks or interfering with the rights of other speakers. Persons are invited to submit comments in writing on the agenda items and/or attend and make comment on the item at the White Pine County Public Land Users Advisory Committee meeting.

**Note:** All times are approximate except for items agendized at a specific time. Action may be taken on all items except where otherwise indicated. Items not scheduled for a specific time may be considered at any time and in any order to promote efficiency. The Board may combine two or more agenda items for consideration and may remove an item from the agenda or delay discussion at any time. Sponsorship of an Agenda Item by a member of the White Pine County Public Land Users Advisory Committee may not signify agreement with the requested action.

**Notice to persons with disabilities:** Members of the public who are disabled and require special assistance or accommodation at the meeting are requested to notify the W.P. County Clerk's Office at 801 Clark Street, Suite #4, Ely, NV 89301 or by calling (775) 293-6509 at least two (2) days in advance.

I, Elanie Calderwood, did on the 7th day of October, 2020 post four (4) notices of the White Pine County Public Land Users Advisory Committee Agenda in the County of White Pine, to-wit: At the White Pine County Library, White Pine County Courthouse, White Pine County Administration Offices, and Ely City Hall. The meeting notice is also posted to the White Pine County website at <http://whitepinecounty.net> and on the State of Nevada Public Notices website at <http://notice.nv.gov>. An additional copy of the Agenda along with supporting material, if any, are on display and available at the front counter of the White Pine County Clerk's Office at 801 Clark Street, Suite #4, Ely, NV 89301.





**WHITE PINE COUNTY PUBLIC LAND USERS ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE**

**TUESDAY, September 8, 2020**

**6:00 p.m.**

**White Pine County Library Conference Room  
950 Campton Street, Ely, NV 89301**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Members Present: Craig Baker, Jacob Carter, Bill Wilson, Danny Reed, Mark Tefft.**

**Members Absent: Mary Kerner, Dana Johnson**

**Public Present: Jared Bybee, BLM Jeremy Drew, RCI via phone and Elanie Calderwood.**

- I. Call to Order Jacob Carter called the meeting to order @ 6:00 pm**
- II. Pledge of Allegiance and Introductions Danny Reed was introduced as a newly appointed member of the advisory committee.**
- III. Public Comment None were made**
- IV. \*Discussion/for Possible Action - Approval of August 11, 2020 Meeting Minutes Mark Tefft made a motion to approve the August 11, 2020 meeting minutes. Danny Reed seconded the motion. The motion passed**
- V. Liaison Report A commission liaison was not present.**
- VI. \*Discussion/for Possible Action**
  - A. \*Update/Discussion/for Possible Action – Bureau of Land Management Jared Bybee, Ely Associate District Manager provided the committee with a print out of the BLM Ely District update in draft form for September, 2020 which is included in the back-up material. He reported that there is a new District Manager, Robbie McAboy. He asked if anyone had any questions to please contact him or Ms. McAboy. Mr. Bybee’s verbal report was not audible on the recording**
  - B. \*Update/Discussion/for Possible Action – U.S. Forest Service No one was present**
  - C. \*Update/Discussion/for Possible Action – National Park Service No one was present**

- D. **\*Update/Discussion/for Possible Action – Nevada State Parks No one was present**
- E. **\*Update/Discussion/for Possible Action – RCI, Jeremy Drew Jeremy Drew went through his tracking list. In August RCI has put together comments on the Pine-Wah Wah Valley, and have met with NV Energy on their Green Link Transmission Project. In September they are working on the White Pine Pump Storage project, the comment period is open until the end of October, he will be working on a scope of work for initial comments.**
- VII. **\*Discussion/for Possible Action – Update from CRM on the White Pine County Public Lands Management Plan, OHV Section, County-Wide OHV Policy. The next CRM meeting will be December 4, 2020 which will be a conference call. The CRM for the OHV Policy is currently in a sub-committee, there was not an update on this.**
- VIII. **\*Discussion/Action – Updates, Issues Contained in White Pine County’s Public Land Use Policies Including OHV Use, Energy, Minerals, Water, Land Sales, Greater Sage-Grouse, and Wild Horse and Burros.**
- IX. **\*Discussion/Action – Committee Vacancies, Resignations, Appointments The committee is currently full.**
- XI. **Next Meeting Time and Date Announcement The next meeting will be October 13, 2020 @ 6:00 pm**
- XII. **Public Comment None were made**
- XII. **\*Adjournment The meeting was adjourned @ 7:05 pm**

Asterisks (\*) Denotes possible action items of the White Pine County Public Land Users Advisory Committee

## **BASIN AND RANGE NATIONAL MONUMENT**

The BLM will construct four primitive campsites with picnic tables and fire rings and install a vault toilet in the vicinity of Paiute Rocks and Shaman Knob to protect natural and significant cultural resources and enhance the recreational experience and provide for public safety. The Finding of No Significant Impact and final Mount Irish Cultural Resource Protection and Visitor Improvements Project Environmental Assessment are available online at <https://go.usa.gov/xwg5m>.

The BLM manages public lands within the monument in accordance with the 2015 Presidential Proclamation and Ely Resource Management Plan signed in 2008, as amended.

## **ELY RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

The November 2019 Greater Sage-Grouse Plan Approved Resource Management Plan has been placed under a preliminary injunction by the U.S. District Court for Idaho. Therefore, the September 2015 Greater Sage-Grouse Approved Resource Management Plan, which amended the Ely District Resource Management Plan (RMP) signed in 2008, is now in effect.

The BLM has published for public review and comment a draft supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) for management of Greater Sage-Grouse habitat on public lands in Nevada and Northeastern California. The draft SEIS addresses issues identified in the order issued by the U.S. District Court for Idaho, which affects BLM sage-grouse plans in Colorado, Idaho, Oregon, Utah and Wyoming, as well as Nevada/Northeastern California. The BLM has likewise published for public review and comment draft SEIS' for Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado, Utah and Oregon. Both public comment periods concluded April 6, 2020.

## **ENERGY**

### **Electrical Transmission Development –**

TransWest Express Project: The BLM is reviewing the Plan of Development before issuing a Notice to Proceed. The Record of Decision for the TransWest Express Transmission Project was published in the Federal Register in December 2016. The 60-day appeal period closed Feb. 15, 2017. The BLM Wyoming State Office is the project lead. The 730-mile transmission line project will extend from Wyoming, through Colorado and Utah, to southern Nevada through the southeast corner of Lincoln County and deliver up to 3,000 megawatts of electric power generated by wind energy to major load centers, including Las Vegas and San Diego, Calif.

## Bureau of Land Management Ely District Update

Trans Canyon Crosstie Project: 500 KV line from Mona Utah to Robinson substation. The proponent has to submit an application and draft Plan of Development BLM Utah is the lead agency.

### Renewable Energy Development –

Invenergy LLC Solar Project: Invenergy has submitted a revised proposed location for 7,100 acres in the south Tule Desert and met with Caliente Field Office staff to gather additional preliminary resource information and potential issues or values associated with the site. Invenergy is working to schedule a second variance meeting with stakeholders. They have not yet submitted an application or plan of development.

Pantheon Solar on behalf of Arevia Energy has submitted and has been approved for a ROW application for an 8,000 acre 1000MW 330 Solar Panel array in Jakes Valley. No timeframe for initiation of an EIS

FERC Energy Water Pump Storage Station. Notice of Intent to File License Application. BLM will be commenting.

## FIRE MANAGEMENT

### Wildfires –

The Stewart Canyon Fire, about 14 miles east of Alamo, Nev., is approximately 12,700 acres. The lightning-ignited fire in the Delmar Range is burning to the northeast and away from the Delamar Mountains Wilderness. No private property or structures are threatened. The fire is 11-percent contained. Full containment is expected Sunday, July 26. For additional information, go to <https://go.usa.gov/xfBby>

Great Basin Incident Management Team Five assumed control of the Big Summit Fire on July 17. The 8,461-acre fire is burning in Lincoln County, Nev., and Iron County, Utah. The cause of the fire is unknown. Additional information is available online at <https://go.usa.gov/xfTah>

The Meadow Valley Fire, about 25 miles south of Caliente, Nev., in July burned approximately 59,265 acres of the public lands in and outside the Meadow Valley Range Wilderness. The fire was human caused. For additional information, go to <https://go.usa.gov/xfCdw>

The Twin Fire, about 30 miles west of Caliente, Nev., in July burned approximately 25,110 acres. The cause of the fire is unknown. For additional information, go to <https://go.usa.gov/xwHuM>

The lightning-ignited Miller Fire, about 30 miles northeast of Pioche, Nev., in late June and early July burned approximately 4,519 acres of the public lands. For additional information, go to <https://go.usa.gov/xw6>

## Bureau of Land Management Ely District Update

The Brown Fire, south and east of Lund, Nev., in June burned approximately 8,268 acres. The cause of the fire is unknown. For additional information, go to <https://go.usa.gov/xwAwU>

### Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation –

Gregerson Fire: The BLM in January 2020 aerially seeded approximately 3,000 of the 3,320 acres of public lands burned in the 2019 Gregerson Fire. The ESR plan, completed in summer 2019, also provides for weed treatments/inventory, a livestock grazing closure and treatment effectiveness monitoring. The Gregerson Fire burned mule deer and desert bighorn sheep habitat within the Delamar Mountains Wilderness in Lincoln County, about 20 miles southeast of Alamo.

White Cloud Fire: The BLM in January 2020 aerially seeded 422 of the 428 acres of public lands burned in the 2019 White Cloud Fire. In November, the BLM installed sagebrush seed caches in the burn area. Both treatments are part of the White Cloud Fire Emergency Stabilization and Burned Area Rehabilitation CX (categorical exclusion) completed in October 2019. The CX, which includes a livestock grazing closure, also provides for weed treatments/inventory, and treatment effectiveness monitoring. The BLM is coordinating treatments with the Nevada Department of Wildlife. The White Cloud Fire burned Greater Sage-grouse, mule deer, pronghorn antelope, elk and and sheep habitat in north Spring Valley, approximately 30 miles northeast of Ely.

Goshute Cave Fire: In coordination with the Nevada Department of Wildlife, the BLM in mid-November 2019 planted willows to stabilize streams in Goshute Creek. Hazardous tree felling was completed in late-October 2019. The BLM will also treat for noxious weeds. The Goshute Cave Fire burned general Greater Sage grouse and critical mule deer winter and summer habitat in and outside the Goshute Canyon Wilderness in White Pine and Elko counties, about 55 miles north of Ely.

### Fuels Reduction/Habitat Restoration –

Cave and Lake Valley Watershed Restoration Project: The BLM has completed masticating pinion-juniper as part of the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act-funded Table Mountain Corridor Project. The BLM will hand thin approximately 10 acres of steep slope area in late summer or early fall 2020. The BLM in November 2018 chained pinion-juniper on, and applied seed to approximately 2,130 acres of the public lands located near the Atlanta Road in Lake Valley, south of Ely, Nev. The BLM and Nevada Department of Wildlife in late October 2019 finished hand-thinning pinion-juniper on approximately 2,000 acres of public land in northwest Cave Valley. The BLM in October and early November 2019 chained and seeded approximately 2,200 acres of pinion-juniper in Cave and Lake Valleys. Approximately 2,200 acres remain to be treated. The BLM will begin treating the remaining acreage in October 2020, including chaining and seeding near Gouge Eye (1,550 acres) and Patterson Pass (570 acres). The project goal is to reduce catastrophic wildfire risk and improve Greater Sage-grouse habitat.

## Bureau of Land Management Ely District Update

Combs Creek: The BLM in winter 2020-2021 plans to masticate pinion-juniper on 100 acres of the public lands in south Butte Valley, northwest of Ely, Nev. The BLM finished masticating 200 acres in September 2019. The BLM, with assistance from the Great Basin Institute and Nevada Conservation Corps, has so far hand thinned or masticated trees on about 5,700 acres of the public lands. Masticated acreage was seeded with assistance from the Nevada Department of Wildlife, which provided Heritage Fund Program dollars through the White Pine County Wildlife Advisory Board. When the multi-year project is complete, the BLM will have selectively thinned pinion-juniper on up to 7,000 acres of the public lands to improve Greater Sage-grouse habitat.

Douglas Canyon Habitat Improvement Project: The BLM in May 2019 completed NEPA documentation and a decision to complete approximately 3,000 acres of mastication and hand thinning near Douglas Canyon, approximately 30 miles south of Ely, Nev. . A petition for stay and appeal of the decision was filed with the Interior Board of Land Appeals by Wildlands Defense in July 2020. Work on the project may or may not begin in winter 2020, depending on the ruling of the petition for stay. The project is a collaborative effort by the BLM, Nevada Department of Wildlife, and private landowners in Douglas Canyon. The goal of the project is to improve habitat for wildlife while reducing the threat of catastrophic fire.

Duck Creek Basin Fuels Reduction and Habitat Improvement Project: Pinyon-juniper mastication and hand thinning are scheduled to begin in fall 2020. When complete, the project will improve Greater Sage-grouse habitat and create fuels breaks within the urban interface in Duck Creek Basin, northeast of Ely, Nev. It will compliment already-completed work on neighboring Forest Service land and private property. The BLM issued the final decision on Aug. 23, 2019.

Egan and Johnson Basins Restoration Project: The BLM in January 2020 finished hand thinning and masticating pinion-juniper in Egan and Johnson basins, about five miles west of Cherry Creek, Nev. Aerial seeding of the masticated areas was also completed in January 2020. In August 2020, the BLM and Nevada Department of Wildlife will hand thin pinion-juniper over approximately 1,093 acres of the Nine-mile chaining completed in 1998. The multi-year project aims to treat up to 24,375 acres of an 84,675-acre project area to reduce catastrophic wildfire risk and improve Greater Sage-grouse habitat through the use of manual and mechanical tree thinning, invasive plant and noxious weed treatments, and prescribed fire use.

Kern Mountain Restoration Project: The BLM in December 2019 burned slash piles of pinyon-juniper in the Kern Mountains, about 80 miles northeast of Ely. The BLM and Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) in fall 2019 thinned pinion-juniper on approximately 1,000 acres of the project area. NDOW and BLM in fall 2020 will begin masticating pinion-juniper on approximately 400 acres and hand thinning on approximately 2,000 acres in the Kern Mountain area. Project goals are to reduce fuel loading and improve vegetation understory and big game habitat. The project has received Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) funding.

## Bureau of Land Management Ely District Update

Long and Ruby Valley Watershed Restoration Project: The Interior Board of Land Appeals has dismissed the petition for stay filed by Wildlands Defense. The BLM issued the final decision in April 2020. Work is scheduled to begin in 2021.

Mill Creek Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Mastication: The BLM issued a Decision and Determination of NEPA Adequacy in August 2019. Implementation is planned for winter 2020. The project allows for the mastication and seeding of up to 330 acres near Mill Creek, approximately eight miles northwest of Baker, Nev. Project goals are to reduce the threat of a wildfire spreading from public to private land or vice versa.

Newark and Huntington Watershed Restoration Project: The BLM in late 2020 will hand thin pinion-juniper on 1,200 acres of the public lands near Buck Mountain, about 70 miles northwest of Ely, Nev. The BLM, in cooperation with the Nevada Department of Wildlife, in 2018 selectively hand thinned pinion-juniper on approximately 7,800 acres in southern Newark Valley. The Bald Mountain Restoration Project, completed in 2018 and which thinned trees on an additional 1,600 acres, is part of the Newark and Huntington Watershed Restoration Project.

Overland Pass Habitat Restoration Project: The BLM and Nevada Department of Wildlife in September 2019 finished hand thinning pinion-juniper on approximately 4,700 acres of in the Ruby Valley and Overland Pass areas, 80 miles northwest of Ely, Nev. The BLM in winter 2020 expects to treat approximately 400 acres through mastication and seeding in areas of dense pinion-juniper. The treatments are part of the Overland Pass Habitat Improvement Project, which is a collaborative restoration project between the BLM, Nevada Department of Wildlife and Forest Service.

Range Fire: The BLM has so far seeded 100 acres of the public lands burned in the 2012 Range Fire, east of Ely, Nev. The BLM in fall 2017 established green strips in the burn area to help reduce the potential severity of a repeat fire in the original footprint. The BLM in fall-winter 2020 will continue to work toward establishing perennial, fire resistant species within the green strips. The work could include the prescribed burning of cheatgrass and herbicides treatments.

South Ely Green strips: The BLM completed the project, which consisted of mowing sagebrush and seeding fire resistant species along roads and private property near Madison and Minnesota Avenues, south of Ely, in September 2019. The BLM treated approximately 40 acres to create fuels breaks to aid in fire suppression and protect private property.

South Steptoe Valley Watershed Restoration Project: The BLM in October-November 2019 initiated a prescribed burn in the Robber's Roost area of the Mt. Grafton Wilderness, burning 520 acres total. The BLM will continue the Mt. Grafton prescribed burn later this fall. The BLM this winter expects to burn wood piles on approximately 80 acres near Monument Spring and Sawmill Canyon. Mastication and hand-thinning on approximately 3,000 acres near Cattle Camp Wash, Lone Pine Draw, Monument Canyon and west of Comins Lake was completed in February 2020. The project that reduces fuel loading in the wildland urban interface is part of the South Steptoe Valley Watershed

## Bureau of Land Management Ely District Update

Restoration Project that when complete will have treated up to 54,000 acres of the 200,000-plus acre watershed. The project goal is to restore watershed health and improve wildlife habitat and reduce catastrophic wildfire risk.

Tule Desert Fuels Breaks: Project implementation will begin in fall 2020. The project goal is to protect desert tortoise habitat by establishing fuel breaks that would slow or stop a fire or provide anchor points for fire suppression forces to stop fire spread. The Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act-funded project is designed to minimize the amount of desert tortoise habitat burned in the Mojave Desert area.

Ward Mountain Restoration Project: The BLM and Forest Service expect to begin implementation of pinyon-juniper hand thinning and cut/pile/burning of fir in late fall 2020. The BLM issued the Decision Record and Finding of No Significant Impact in February 2019 following a decision issued by the Forest Service. The agencies are working with the Ely Shoshone Tribe to restore vegetative health and improve wildlife habitat, and reduce catastrophic wildfire risk on Ward Mountain, adjacent to Ely, Nev., through use of manual and mechanical treatments, and prescribed fire. When complete, the 10-year project will have treated approximately 42,670 acres of the 100,000-acre project area. Portions of the project have received Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act funding.

### Commercial pine nut auction –

The BLM on Tuesday, Aug. 11, sold at auction to commercial harvesters a total of 66,000 pounds of pine nuts in seven pine nut units located within the BLM Battle Mountain and Ely districts. No Elko units were bid on.

## LANDS & REALTY

Lincoln County Public Land Sales: The BLM Ely District, Caliente Field Office is proposing to offer through a competitive sale six parcels, totaling approximately 168 acres, of public lands in Lincoln County, Nev. All parcels are located within five miles of the following communities: two parcels near Alamo, one parcel near Panaca, and one parcel near Rachel. The BLM approved the sale of these parcels in September 2019 and the Notice of Realty Action was expected to publish in the Federal Register this summer with a sale that was anticipated in August 2020. The sale is currently on hold.

Lincoln County Water District ROWs: The BLM Ely District, Caliente Field Office is working with Lincoln County Water District and Vidler Water Co. to process a Right-of-Way amendment and new ROWs to develop the Lincoln County Lands Act (LCLA) main trunk-line pipeline and delivery water lines to deliver groundwater to the LCLA disposal lands and Mesquite Nev., per the LCLA EIS/ROD (2010).

## MINERALS

### Active Mining Plans –

Robinson Mine: The 30-day public scoping period on an environmental impact statement (EIS) analyzing a proposal to expand the Robinson Copper Mine, about seven miles west of Ely, Nev., concluded Monday, June 29, 2020.

Robinson Nevada Mining Company (RNMC) is proposing to amend the Robinson Project Plan of Operations authorized by the 1994 Record of Decision for the Final Environmental Impact Statement (for the Robinson Project). The amendment would authorize KGHM Robinson to extend the mine life to 2028 through authorization of the following actions: resume mining in the Liberty Pit, construct the new King Waste Rock Dump south of the Liberty and Ruth Pits, and expand storage capacity at the Giroux Wash Tailings Storage Facility. The EIS will analyze an alternative to resume waste rock placement on the North Tripp Waste Rock Dump, requiring North Tripp Waste Rock Dump expansion.

The proposed activities would result in a total increase of approximately 1,227 acres of surface disturbance within the Project Area Boundary for a new end of mine life total surface disturbance of 10,115 acres. The proposed increase would comprise 246 acres of new disturbance on private land and 981 acres of new disturbance located on public lands.

The BLM has cooperating agency Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with the White Pine County Board of Commissioners, NDOW, Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources – Sagebrush Ecosystem Technical Team, and the EPA.

Documents, maps and additional meeting information is available at <https://go.usa.gov/xvYad>. BLM suggests you use a supported browser, e.g. Google Chrome, Microsoft Edge or Firefox.

Kinross Bald Mountain Mine: The proponent is proposing to expand, modify and eliminate select authorized mine components and develop new disturbance in eight primary mine areas located at the NOA. An additional mine area is subject to modification to mainly accommodate proposed concurrent reclamation activities, including pit backfill. The Juniper Project will consist of disturbance development, modification, reclassification, realignment, elimination, concurrent reclamation activities, and a sequencing and backfill schedule for the Poker Flats Pit. These actions will result in an increase to the life-of-mine disturbance of about 4,192 acres or an increase from 10,782 acres to approximately 14,974 acres within the NOA Plan boundary.

Mackie/Tenacity Perlite Mines: Active mining and processing of perlite is ongoing. The BLM is reviewing the mine plan of operations merging two plans into one for the Tenacity and Mackie Mines. The BLM Caliente Field Office will begin an environmental

## Bureau of Land Management Ely District Update

assessment to process the mining plan of operations after the new CFO geologist is onboarded.

Gold Rock Mine: The BLM is working with the Nevada Department of Wildlife and mine owner Fiore Gold on a Greater Sage-Grouse mitigation plan. The BLM Ely District, Bristlecone Field Manager issued the Record of Decision for then-GRP Gold Rock, LLC's Gold Rock Mine Project on Sept. 21, 2018. The Notice of Availability of the Gold Rock Mine Project Final Environmental Impact Statement was published in the Federal Register on July 27, 2018.

Gold Fever Mine: The BLM Ely District, Bristlecone Field Office seeks public comment on the pending final bond release of the Gold Fever Mine, case file NVN-093122. A Plan of Operations for exploration was initially submitted and approved by the BLM in 2015. All the placer mine and facilities are located on federal lands administered by the BLM. Gold Fever is near Osceola, about 40 miles east of Ely, Nevada. The 30-day public comment period concludes **Monday, Sept. 7, 2020.**

A financial guarantee for \$6,702 is currently in place with the BLM and is scheduled for full release. As part of the Federal Regulations for financial guarantee release, the public has 30 days to comment before the financial guarantee release procedures may begin. Unless provided substantive evidence that would cause us to reconsider, the Bristlecone Field Office expects to initiate release of the financial guarantee on or after September 7, 2020. For more information, including how to provide comment, go to <https://go.usa.gov/xfdeh>

### Abandoned Mine Lands -

Preliminary work is underway to remove mine tailings from three sites in Lincoln County, i.e., Antelope Canyon near Caliente, and Hollingshead mill site and North NV 320 outside Pioche. The repository will be on BLM-managed lands north of the upper Caselton Highway. The project is expected to be underway in September 2020.

The BLM Ely District, Caliente Field Office has processed a categorical exclusion to close 44 mine hazards in the Pioche area.

### Oil & Gas –

December 2020 Oil & Gas Lease Sale: The BLM is proposing to offer nine parcels, totaling approximately 14,086 acres, in its Dec. 8, 2020, oil and gas lease sale. The parcels are in Nye County, Nev. The 30-day comment period on the lease sale environmental assessment ends August 19. Submit comments in writing to the BLM Ely District Office, 702 North Industrial Way, Ely, NV 89301 or fax them to Concetta Brown at (775) 289-1910. The environmental documents, lists, and maps of the parcels and attached stipulations are online at <https://go.usa.gov/xfBeF>.

## Bureau of Land Management Ely District Update

September 2020 Oil & Gas Lease Sale: BLM Nevada conducted an oil and gas lease sale on Sept. 8, 2020. 11 parcels sold for 88K dollars parcels in Ely District are in Nye County in Railroad valley.

February-March Oil & Gas Lease Sales: BLM Nevada has postponed analysis and public comment for parcels within the Ely District in response to the U.S. District Court, District of Idaho Preliminary Injunction in W. Watersheds Project V. BLM (No. 1:16-cv-00083-BLW).

Applications for Permit to Drill: The BLM Ely District in April 2020 issued a decision for the Western Oil Exploration APD Scott Federal #25-1 and #35-1 Oil Wells. The site-specific EA analyzes potential impacts that could result from a Western Oil Exploration Company proposal to drill two exploration oil wells on a valid existing lease on public lands in Newark Valley, about 40 miles west of Ely, Nev. Western Watersheds has requested a State Director Review of the Decision in relation to conformance with the 2015 Northeastern California-Nevada Greater Sage Grouse ARMPA. Drilling operations are currently on hold.

### **RANGELAND MANAGEMENT**

Wilson Creek Term Permit Renewal: Thehas Decsiion was finalized on September 4<sup>th</sup> issuing 10 grazing decisionsstarting the 30 day appeal period begins upon reci A separate decision will be issued for the vegetative treatments..

Rangeland Monitoring/Term Permit Renewals: The Ely District in 2019/2020 expects to issue grazing decisions for the following allotments: Wilson Creek, South Hiko-Six Mile, Lewis allotments, and Uvada and Black Hills. The BLM will separate vegetation treatment options from the Cottonwood Allotment (Bob Lewis TPR) EA with a separate decision issued.

The Ely District, Bristlecone Field Office is performing rangeland health evaluations on the following allotments: Sacramento Pass, Stephens Creek, Indian George, Connors Summit, Willow Springs, Chin Creek, North Steptoe, North Steptoe Trail, Becky Creek, Whiteman Creek, Second Creek, Becky Springs, Sampson Creek, Tippet Pass, Antelope Valley, White Rock, Little White Rock, Chimney Rock, Lake Area, Fox Mountain, Timber Mountain and Cave Valley Ranch.

Monitoring planned for 2020 is based on priority permit renewals submitted to the State Office as part of NV-IM-2019-013 (Priorities, Reporting, and Program Direction). The two biggest priorities are for the allotments associated with Need More Sheep and SNWA's northern allotments.

NRCS funded projects are continuing in the Clover Creek watershed allotments with pinion-juniper treatments, water improvements and fences.

Outcome Based Grazing Demo Project: John Uhalde and Company is one of eleven outcome-based grazing demonstration projects, nationwide. The sheep-cow operation

## Bureau of Land Management Ely District Update

spans 13 allotments on nearly a half-million acres of public land administered by the Ely District's Bristlecone Field Office and Basin and Range National Monument. The preliminary environmental assessment for the permit is scheduled to be released for public comment in calendar year 2020.

### RECREATION & TRAVEL MANAGEMENT PLANNING

To apply for the 2021 Truck/Buggy/OHV event slots, download and complete the SRP application available at <https://go.usa.gov/xf58t> and return to the BLM Caliente Field Office, PO Box 237, 1400 South Front Street Caliente, NV 89008 Attn: Elizabeth Domina or fax it to Domina at 775-726-8111. Due to COVID 19, applications will not be accepted in-person at the Caliente Field Office, 1400 South Front Street, in Caliente.

Ash Springs Recreation Site: The Ely District on Aug. 26, 2019 received the U.S. Fish and Wildlife's (FWS) Biological Opinion (BO). The BLM conducted formal consultation with the FWS for the endangered White River Springfish, in conformance with the Endangered Species Act. The BLM will review the BO and, if necessary, will amend the Little Ash Springs Recreation Site's environmental assessment (EA). The Little Ash Springs Recreation Site is located alongside U.S. Highway 93, about 100 miles north of Las Vegas.

#### Lincoln County Partners Multi-Purpose, Non-Motorized Trail System:

- Phase I – Construction of the Barnes Canyon Trail Head is complete and in use. Thirteen miles of new hiking and mountain biking trails on public lands are finished and available for use. Neighboring Kershaw Ryan State Park has finished 10 of its 13 miles and the City of Caliente has completed a bike park and three-mile network of flow trails. Trail work completed by the BLM in spring 2019 enhances access to public lands and improves recreational opportunities in Lincoln County, Nev. Funding for the BLM portion of Phase I was provided through Round 15 of the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA).
- Phase II – Construction on Phase II began in summer 2019 and includes a 10-mile connector trail linking Barnes Canyon to Kershaw-Ryan State Park and the 21.5-mile Ella Mountain Trail. SNPLMA Round 16 provided funding for the environmental assessment, planning, and construction of the hiking and mountain biking trails.
- Phase III – The BLM Ely District Caliente Field Office in summer 2020 initiated Phase III (Highland Peak). The BLM will conduct a public review period for site-specific trail locations. Phase III is funded through a SNPLMA Round 17 appropriation award. The field office proposed a change of scope to Phase III to reduce the project to meet the funding allocation amount.

## Bureau of Land Management Ely District Update

The trails system is a partnership between the City of Caliente, Lincoln County, Nevada Division of State Parks, BLM Ely District, and the non-profit organizations American Conservation Experience and International Mountain Biking Association.

### ROADS

East Jakes Valley Road # 4003 was graded; however, the road will required re-grading following the substation maintenance.

### SPECIAL LEGISLATION

Lincoln County Archaeological Initiative (LCAI) –

Round 12 Proposals: The BLM Nevada State Director approved approximately \$1 million from the Lincoln County Land Act special account to fund the top Round 12 projects. The contracts/agreements were awarded in spring 2020.

Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) –

On May 22, 2019, U.S. Secretary of the Interior David L. Bernhardt announced the commitment of more than \$106.8 million to support 47 public lands projects throughout Nevada and California side of the Lake Tahoe Basin. These projects, which encompass a broad range of recreation improvements, wildlife habitat conservation, and hazardous fuels reduction and wildfire prevention projects, were nominated and are funded through the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) Round 17. This spring the Ely District initiated implementation on eight of these projects in Lincoln and White Pine counties to provide new recreation opportunities, wildlife habitat conservation, and eastern Nevada landscape restoration. Details regarding each project are at <https://snplma.blm.gov/snplma/home.do>

SNPLMA Round 18 nominations are underway. is .

### WATERSHED ANALYSIS

The Ely District continues to develop and implement watershed-level planning to identify high priority habitat improvement projects for Greater Sage-grouse and other wildlife species, hazardous fuels reduction projects, and other actions needed to improve public land health. The district has completed the watershed analysis process for 27 of 61 priority watersheds. The district has completed implementation plans for nine watersheds. The district is currently conducting watershed planning for Long Valley / Ruby Marshes and Butte Valley.

### WILD HORSE PROGRAM

Jakes Wash HA Emergency Wild Horse Gather: The BLM Ely District, Bristlecone Field Office gathered and removed 68 wild horses due to a lack of water. Numerous wild horses have perished in Jakes Valley during the summer

## Bureau of Land Management Ely District Update

Triple B/Maverick-Medicine HMA Emergency Wild Horse Gather: The BLM Ely District, Bristlecone Field Office on August 20 concluded the 2020 Triple B and Maverick-Medicine Herd Management Areas (HMAs) emergency wild horse gather. The BLM gathered and removed 390 wild horses from in and around the HMAs located in Elko and White Pine counties, Nev. The gather was necessary due to a lack of water and declining health of the wild horses. Gather operations were conducted using the water and bait trap method. The BLM transported wild horses removed from the range to the Palomino Valley Center Wild Horse and Burro Corrals, in Sparks, Nev., to be readied for the BLM's wild horse and burro Adoption and Sale Program. Additional gather information is available on the BLM website at <https://go.usa.gov/xfJVy>

Diamond Gather: The BLM Ely, Battle Mountain and Elko are scheduled to begin the Diamond complex gather on September 10 and last approximately a month. 1165 wild horses are identified for removal. AML is 183-210

Moriah HA Wild Horse Gather Plan Environmental Assessment: The BLM Ely District, Bristlecone Field Office is reviewing comments received during the 30-day public review and comment period. The comment period on the preliminary 10-year gather plan concluded Friday, July 24. The preliminary environmental assessment addresses potential environmental consequences associated with excess wild horses within and outside the Moriah Herd Area in White Pine County, Nev. Download the preliminary EA at <https://go.usa.gov/xw7Bd>.

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*Chris Hanefeld, BLM Ely District public affairs specialist, last updated this report on . Contact Chris at (775) 289-1842 or [chanefel@blm.gov](mailto:chanefel@blm.gov) for more information on these and other projects/programs in the District.*

**White Pine County Natural Resource and Public Land Issues Tracking List  
For Resource Concepts, Inc. Project #20-125:  
As of August 10, 2020**

**June:**

- Robinson Mine Expansion, Scoping
  - **Comments submitted on 6/25/2020**

**July:**

- BLM, Nevada State Office, Targeted Grazing Environmental Assessment
  - **Comments submitted on 7/8/2020**
- USFS Moriah Herd Area Wild Horse Gather Plan Environmental Assessment
  - **Comments submitted on 7/22/2020**

**August:**

- Pine-Wah Wah Valleys Pipeline Project, Scoping Comment Period
  - **Comments due on 8/14/2020, Virtual Scoping Meeting on 8/5/2020**
- NDWR Hearing on Proposed Designation of Long Valley and Newark Valley Hydrographic Basins 8/12/2020
  - **Delayed Until October, see attached letter**
- NV Energy Green Link Transmission Project
  - **Initial Meeting with County on 8/25/2020**

**Future Items:**

- USFS Greater Sage-grouse Objection Period, Still Pending (Timeline TBD)
- DOI Grazing Regulation Updates (Timeline TBD)
- NDWR Hearing on Proposed Designation of Long Valley and Newark Valley Hydrographic Basins (Delayed until October: date, time and location TBD)

**Upcoming Meetings:**

- Public Land Use Advisory Council: **2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each Month @ 6 pm (August 11)**
- Water Advisory Council: **3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each Month @ 6 pm (August 18)**
- NV Legislative Committee on Public Lands: **Aug. 11, Locations TBD (Virtual)**
- NACO Public Lands and Natural Resources Committee: **Aug. 27 @ 3 pm, Carson City**
- White Pine County CRM: **September 4, 2020 (Subject to Change)**