

# 4.1

## BLM CARSON CITY DISTRICT RMP PLANNING FACT SHEET *Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs)*

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The BLM Carson City District (CCD) is developing the Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the Carson City District planning area. The Carson City RMP will provide detailed information about the current state of resources on public lands within the planning area, and set forth a plan of action for managing those resources for the next twenty or so years under the BLM's multiple use mandate.

**AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN**, commonly referred to as ACECs, are public lands managed by the BLM that require special management objectives to protect special or unique resource values. The resources can be wildlife habitat, scenic areas, or sites of cultural or historical significance. An ACEC can also be an area that is hazardous to humans.

The RMP revision process provides an excellent opportunity for individuals, organized groups or other agencies to bring areas of interest to the attention of BLM to be evaluated for special management objectives.



To qualify as an ACEC, an area must have substantial significance, value, or unique resources. Management prescriptions for ACECs are developed during the RMP process and are tailored to protect the resource value or values that are considered significant in the ACEC.

An ACEC designation does not prevent public access to the area but may restrict or limit the type of uses allowed in order to protect the identified resource. ACECs will frequently have roads or allow other recreational or management activities as long as they are compatible with the management objectives established for the ACEC.

As part of the RMP process, a BLM interdisciplinary team will evaluate potential areas for *relevance* and *importance*. If an area passes this two part evaluation, it will be considered for designation as an ACEC during the RMP development.

***The BLM wants your input...***

*Do you know of any special areas within the Carson City Planning Area that meet the criteria for designation as an ACEC?*



BLM

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***ACEC designations are a tool in the BLM's management suite that can be used to protect Nevada's special places and resources.***

### ***How does an area meet the criteria for relevance and importance?***

The interdisciplinary team will evaluate areas for *relevance*:

- Does the area have a significant historic, cultural, or scenic value?
- Does the area contain special habitat for a critical wildlife resource ?
- Is there a natural process or system present (wetlands, riparian, rare plants)?
- Does an area contain natural hazards (floods, unstable soils, dangerous cliffs, toxic material)?

After assessing the relevance of a potential ACEC, the interdisciplinary team then evaluates *importance*. This generally means that an area or resource is characterized by one or more of the following:

- Has more than locally significant qualities or worth that causes it to stand out from other similar areas or resources.
- Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.
- Has been recognized as warranting protection in order to satisfy national priority concerns or to fulfill the mandates of FLPMA.
- Has qualities which warrant highlighting in order to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.
- Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.



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**CCD Planning Webpage:**  
[http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/carson\\_city\\_field.html](http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/carson_city_field.html)

**Comments can also be mailed  
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