

6.1

BLM CARSON CITY DISTRICT RMP PLANNING FACT SHEET *Vegetation*

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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.

VEGETATION AND HEALTHY RANGELANDS

Ecosystems reflect complex sets of interactions between plants, animals, soil, water, air, temperature, topography, fire and humans. Influences exerted on one component affects other components in the system. Vegetation provides many functions within ecosystems. Vegetation stabilizes soils, prevents erosion, uses carbon dioxide, releases oxygen, and increases species diversity. Vegetation also provides habitat and food for animals and products for human use. Many of the BLM's land management policies are directed toward managing for healthy plant communities which support resistant and resilient ecological systems.

To promote healthy rangelands, the Department of Interior organized Resource Advisory Councils (RAC) throughout the State of Nevada to develop Standards and Guidelines. The Sierra Front-Northwestern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council covers the Carson City District.

These councils developed standards and guidelines to ensure the BLM adheres to mandates requiring multiple use management. The following is a list of the Standards by the Sierra Front-Northwestern Great Basin RAC.

1. Soils
2. Riparian/Wetlands
3. Water Quality
4. Plant and Animal Habitat

VEGETATIVE COMMUNITIES

The ecological systems discussed below are those that provide the most important land cover across the CCD planning area. Vegetation can be generally characterized by plant community types (associations). A terrestrial ecological system is defined as a group of plant community types (associations) that tend to co-occur within landscapes with similar ecological processes, substrates, and/or environmental gradients. Based on **LANDFIRE** the key habitats within the planning area can be grouped into 5 ecological systems.

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6.1 -Vegetation



VEGETATIVE COMMUNITIES



Habitat/Veg type	Percent of District	Percent of BLM land	Acres in District	Acres (of BLM land)
Sierra Conifer Forests	1.8%	1.2%	160,661	58,551
Sagebrush	26.7%	30.6%	2,391,557	1,470,832
Intermountain Cold Desert Scrub	32.3%	38.2%	2,894,047	1,832,107
Lower Montane Woodland	10.5%	10.1%	942,758	486,961
Other*	28.7%	19.9%	2,552,457	953,831
Total	100%	100%	8,941,480	4,802,282

*Other includes a large variety of habitat types, including: Mojave mid-elevation mixed desert scrub, Mojave/Sonoran scrub, lower montane chaparral, desert playas & ephemeral pools, water (rivers, streams, lakes, reservoirs), agricultural lands, developed landscapes (including roads), marshes, desert washes, meadows, rock (cliffs, canyons, quarries, gravel, mines), sand dunes, aspen woodlands, grasslands, intermountain conifer forests and woodlands, barren landscapes, invasive grasslands and forb lands.

The BLM would like your input...

- What criteria should be used when prioritizing vegetative treatments?
- What criteria should be established to identify intact/quality vegetative communities of great importance?
- Should annual or ephemeral vegetation areas be designated and how would they be managed?
- How should forage be allocated for multiple use between wildlife, livestock, wild horses and burros?
- What criteria should be used to determine if the allocation of forage to wild horses, wild burros, livestock or wildlife should be increased or decreased?
- Under what conditions, if any, should non-native plants be used in place of native plants for restoration activities?

CCD Planning Webpage:
http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/carson_city_field.html

Comments can also be mailed
 to:
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 comments:
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