

In The Matter Of:
State of Nevada - Bureau of Land Management
Open Meeting

Thursday
March 19, 2015

Capitol Reporters
208 N. Curry Street

Carson City, Nevada 89703

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STATE OF NEVADA

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT OPEN MEETING

CHURCHILL COUNTY COMMISSION CHAMBERS

155 NORTH TAYLOR STREET FALLON, NEVADA

THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2015

6:00 P.M.

LIEUTENANT COMMANDER FRANK CARROLL,
Public Works Officer, N.A.A.S. Fallon

RALPH THOMAS, District Manager,
Carson City Bureau of Land Management

LISA ROSS, Carson City District
Public Affairs Officer

COLLEEN SIEVERS, Project Manager,
Bureau of Land Management

REPORTED BY: CAPITOL REPORTERS
BY: Nicole Alexander,
NV. CCR #446
208 N. Curry Street
Carson City, Nevada 89703

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1 FALLON, NEVADA; THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2015; 6:00 P.M.

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4

LIEUTENANT COMMANDER CARROL: Good evening.

5

My name is Lieutenant Commander Frank Carroll, the Public

6

Works Officer for N.A.A.S Fallon, and I appreciate

7

everybody's opportunity to come out tonight and

8

demonstrate their First Amendment rights for public

9

speech. I'm honored to be part of this process. At this

10

time, I'd like to introduce District Manager, Ralph

11

Thomas.

12

MR. THOMAS: Welcome, everybody. I apologize

13

for the technical difficulties we had, and it looks like

14

we're going to all have to pack in here pretty tight. We

15

can't bring any more chairs in. That will kind of derail

16

the fire code a little bit, so I apologize for not having

17

a large enough venue. Thank you again for coming to

18

express your opinions on the plan and give us your

19

comments, and we appreciate that. That's what this is

20

all about.

21

Carson City BLM is in the process of updating

22

our Resource Management Plan. Our current plan is a

23

couple decades old, and according to FLPMA, we have to

24

update these every once in a while. Twenty years is a

25

long time. This may have needed to be updated prior to

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1 that. What triggers an update is change of conditions,
2 change of economics, change of public opinion a lot of
3 times, but it's primarily change of conditions out on the
4 landscape.

5 So we take this opportunity to update our
6 plan, and part of the update process involves public
7 outreach. That's why folks are here tonight. We put out
8 a draft management plan that covers from existing
9 conditions, that's Alternative A, to conditions that have
10 a heavy resource or recreation use, heavy conservation
11 use. Then part of NEPA requires us, National
12 Environmental Policy Act, requires us to post a preferred
13 alternative, and the preferred is what you see as
14 Alternative E.

15 There's no decision at this point in time on
16 anything. This is a range of alternatives from kind of
17 soup to nuts, and that's what we have to do according to
18 law. But we do that to give you an opportunity to look
19 at what we've come up with and make comments on that. If
20 you think we should go more towards Alternative A, the
21 current alternative, we consider that. If you like more
22 of a conservation approach, Alternative C, we take a look
23 at all of that, and it's a large document. It's over
24 2,000 pages, and it takes a little bit of time to wade
25 through that. And so if you've got specific areas or
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1 specific concerns, whether it's wild horse and burro,
2 minerals extraction, recreation, travel management,
3 things like that, focus on those particular areas.
4 There's a lot to the document. It takes a lot to wade
5 through.

6 Our comment period is open until April 27th.
7 We've asked for an extension, and we're going to get a
8 30-day extension. It was originally going to close on
9 March 27th, but because of enough interest from the
10 public, you all, we've opened it up for an additional 30
11 days because we know it's complicated, and that's what
12 was expressed to us. And so we opened it up for an
13 additional 30 days to give people time to look at this,
14 to digest it and make some additional comments on it.
15 And so we do have a little bit more time.

16 Some of the things we have to consider is new
17 uses across the landscape, new technologies, things like
18 that. And so I appreciate you coming tonight. This is
19 an opportunity to actually speak. In prior meetings,
20 those have been primarily just informational sharing with
21 the staff and the managers, and we seek comments, written
22 comments, whether it was on the website or the cards that
23 folks send in or letters. This is the opportunity we
24 open up for people to actually come in and speak, and
25 we've got well over 100 cards tonight where people are
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1 wishing to speak.

2 We're only going to be taking those comments
3 until about 8:30, so try to be succinct and stay with
4 your three minutes. We've got a person timing up here,
5 Lisa, and so try to be succinct and give your comments to
6 us. We're going to record the comments. Those will all
7 be incorporated in the Resource Management Plan, the
8 final EIS, Environmental Impact Statement. And you can
9 look through that, look for your comments, and it will
10 actually show your comments, and it will show where we've
11 addressed it in the final EIS. And so with that, I'll
12 turn it back over to Lieutenant Commander Carroll.

13 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER CARROLL: Thank you very
14 much. Hey, I'd just like to take a moment and us stand
15 and say the Pledge of Allegiance, please.

16 Just a couple of administrative issues. Most
17 of you are probably aware the fire marshal does not allow
18 for any more seats in the room. If an emergency occurs,
19 we do have two fire exits, two exits to leave by, four
20 and a half, that hatch and that hatch. If you have to go
21 to the head, they're across the hallway. Sorry.
22 Twenty-seven years. It's kind of stuck in there.

23 Again, going back to what Ralph said, this is
24 a draft document. No decision has been made, and that's
25 why your opinion is very important. Your opinion

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1 matters, and it matters that we do it in a professional
2 and courteous way to each other. This is what I defend
3 every day is our right to have freedom of speech, so I'm
4 looking forward to your comments. I'm looking forward to
5 getting educated on what the public finds important here.

6 Again, we'll stop here at 19:00, 7:00 p.m.,
7 make sure we have covered your comments. Some of these
8 may be duplicates. If you don't feel like someone has
9 covered them, we'll keep you in cue, but if you feel like
10 someone has already stated your comment, feel free to
11 pass on a comment. It doesn't mean you concede your
12 minute to somebody else. It just means that hey, they've
13 said enough of what I was going to say. We'll also do
14 that again at 8:00 o'clock, just kind of break it up,
15 make sure we're not calling you to say the same thing,
16 which is fine. That's your right. If you all want to
17 keep hammering away, mention the same things that are
18 important to you, please do.

19 We'll be calling a couple of speakers at a
20 time. What I'll do is have the first speaker up at the
21 podium, have the next couple of speakers cued up in the
22 chairs to make the most of use of your time. The BLM is
23 very appreciative of the fact you've taken time out of
24 your day, out of your personal life because they know
25 this is important to you.

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1 When you begin, please state and spell your
2 name for the record. That's one of the ways they can
3 make sure that your comments get recorded accurately, and
4 when the final document comes out, like Ralph said,
5 you'll be able to look in there and see how they
6 responded to your comment and how they did so.

7 If you do not feel comfortable standing and
8 speaking in front of the public and you would like to
9 speak to the court reporter after the session, she'll be
10 available for you, so she's right here. When we're all
11 said and done, if you still feel like hey, we didn't
12 cover what I want to say, by all means, get yourself on
13 the record so that they can help form a decision that the
14 BLM will make.

15 Just a couple of stances, comments. You
16 know, the importance of these hearings are to make
17 comments that can help shape the process. You know, what
18 we want and what we're looking for and not looking for is
19 professionalism in how we conduct ourselves and how we
20 provide the process so we can help get what you want out
21 of this document. And with that being said, let me take
22 the first couple of people. And I apologize for my
23 eyesight. Terri Farley. Art Daniels. Richard Fisk.
24 Hunt Healy. Take one of those seats over there, please.

25 MS. FARLEY: Thank you. A lot of you have
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1 probably been to a lot of BLM meetings, and this is more
2 diverse proof than usual, so I'm going to do some really
3 basic science that I want to talk about. The title, if I
4 were titling this, is, "Cow Tongues, Horse Poop, and
5 Restoring the Range." Although livestock growers and BLM
6 blame wild horses for damaging the range, it's no secret
7 that cattle greatly outnumber equines. This not only
8 means forage must be shared, it means the rangeland
9 suffers. How?

10 Fact number one. Cattle have no top teeth in
11 front. I grew up in a dairy town, and it took me until I
12 was an adult to realize this, but to eat grass, cattle
13 wrap their tongues around clumps, sling their heads to
14 the side, and tear the grass off. Often, it's uprooted,
15 although we haven't had that problem as much since we've
16 had no rain, and it no longer provides food for other
17 herbivores.

18 Fact two. Horses have teeth on top and
19 bottom. To eat grass, horses snip with their top and
20 bottom teeth. The grass continues to grow and supply
21 food for other species of wildlife and cows.

22 Fact three. Cattle have very efficient
23 digestive systems. As ruminants, they have several
24 processing chambers in their stomachs. You know this.

25 This is good -- almost nothing that a cow eats goes to
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1 waste. We've bred them to be that way, and that is good
2 news if you are raising cattle for beef. It's not so
3 good if you care about range health.

4 Four. Horses have inefficient digestive
5 systems. Their single-chamber stomach doesn't digest
6 seeds, which means they need more forage in order to be
7 nourished, and that's why wild horses are nomads, but
8 they are also inadvertent farmers. They replant the
9 seeds for their own food. There's one exception:
10 Cheatgrass. They eat it early before it sets seeds, and
11 that should help in many places where there are wild
12 horses to have less tinder for brush-fires.

13 In Patagonia, these facts are being put to
14 good use. The Nature Conservancy is working with sheep
15 ranchers to restore their land. This is not public
16 land -- these are their own ranches -- by re-introducing
17 wildlife including wild horses, and the grasslands which
18 had been declared deserts have come back. They're once
19 more producing grass.

20 Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell often
21 tells audiences that she's in the forever business, but
22 not all stakeholders are heard equally, and those who are
23 listened to most are livestock and mining, and they are
24 doing the most to assure we won't have wildlands for
25 another generation, let alone forever. Thank you.

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1 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER CARROLL: Thank you for
2 the comments.

3 Please spell and state your name before you
4 start speaking. The clock is there just for your
5 reference.

6 MR. DANIELS: Art Daniels. Is that loud
7 enough?

8 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER CARROLL: It's good.

9 MR. DANIELS: This is not my first time with
10 dealing with the BLM and the Forest Service. When I was
11 just a young guy up in the Warner Mountains of
12 Cedarville, California, we had a cattle ranch. It was
13 small. We only had a hundred head per met. Back then,
14 that was okay. When I was about 14 years old, 13 or 14,
15 the BLM, they took our range. They just took it. We got
16 no compensation. We got nothing. They just took it.
17 Well, that's kind of hard to swallow.

18 My family went in there in 1873 and had that
19 ranch and the range for all of that time until about '48,
20 and the government took it. Some of these people that
21 were in here tonight wondered why I was a little upset
22 about they didn't have name tags on. They're trying to
23 be secret. And I want to know who I'm dealing with after
24 this. I don't think there's anything we can do about it
25 because although there's a great number of people here,
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1 there's not enough to fight the small group of eight or
2 nine that's here, but we can do the best we can.

3 Government -- just like the former speaker.
4 I'm not discounting her to say that cows destroy the
5 range. That's not true. Long ways from the truth. The
6 cattle are good for the forage. If they don't eat the
7 grass off, the fires come like they did up there, and
8 they'll burn sometimes for weeks way up in Oregon for
9 months, so you've got to have cattle on the range. And
10 what few hunters is out there and where they're
11 scattered, it's not going to hurt the range any. They'll
12 tell you it is, but most of these people don't understand
13 what it is to a cow. Most of these people, I'll bet you,
14 have a hard time telling you what end the hay goes in and
15 where it comes out, but they're going to tell you all
16 about they're all experts.

17 I had a guy back here in the corner tell me
18 that, you know, it's -- we have to watch over the land.
19 And this is not written in stone, it says, but it's going
20 to have to be. Why are we having this if it isn't
21 written in this big booklet? How many in here is going
22 to read this big book and digest it all? One guy raised
23 his hand.

24 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER CARROLL: Thank you for
25 the comments.

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1 MR. DANIELS: I'll bet you I can ask him
2 questions and go through the book, and he won't know
3 either. I appreciate you listening to me bitch a little,
4 but that's the way I feel.

5 MR. FISK: My name is Richard Fisk. I'd like
6 to thank you for letting us say the Pledge of Allegiance.
7 Thank you.

8 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER CARROLL: My pleasure.

9 MR. FISK: Now, will the BLM answer questions
10 tonight?

11 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER CARROLL: No, sir.

12 MR. FISK: Okay. My first question is in
13 your 1,800 and some-page book, I could not find anything
14 at all on where the BLM has indexed any roads whatsoever.
15 Now, are we going to get to find out which roads are
16 going to stay open and which are going to be closed? Can
17 I get an answer?

18 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER CARROLL: They're taking
19 questions tonight, sir, and --

20 MR. FISK: Oh, you're not going to answer
21 any?

22 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER CARROLL: Correct.

23 MR. FISK: Oh, okay. Well, I'm wasting my
24 time then. Thank you.

25 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER CARROLL: Your concerns
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1 should be aired out so they can be made part of the
2 public record.

3 MR. FISK: Okay. One of my other concerns is
4 the Department of Defense coordination area. It's an
5 area that takes in from the top of the Stillwater to the
6 top of the Alpines all the way from south of Highway 50
7 to North Dixie Valley Settlement is being withdrawn for
8 military maneuvers, and this area contains a lot of BLM
9 wilderness area. So how can we have a wilderness area
10 and the military having exercises in the same area? I'd
11 just like an answer. That's about all I have to say.
12 Thank you.

13 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER CARROLL: Thank you for
14 your comments.

15 MR. HEALY: Hello. Hunt Healy. I grew up on
16 a ranch in West Washoe Valley, and we had cows as a kid,
17 and then the Forest Service come in and shut down our
18 grazing rights, so it ended up being a horse ranch.

19 I kind of think we have enough protected
20 ground in Nevada already. We've got -- I mean just off
21 the top of my head, we got wilderness areas in the
22 Toquimas, the Toiyabes, the Schell Creeks, the Ruby
23 Mountains, the Sierras. We've got that National
24 Conservation area up there in North Washoe that none of
25 us wanted. I'm probably missing a dozen others. We've
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1 got military areas clear from Indian Springs up to
2 Tonopah. How much protected ground do we need?

3 I mean, I want my kid to be able to enjoy the
4 same things I grew up enjoying. I don't want to have to
5 look at a sign every time I come around a corner saying I
6 can't go there. I can't go here. I want to go wherever
7 I want to go. It's our land. So, you know, I heard a
8 gentleman from the BLM earlier say well, if there's
9 multiple roads that go to the same place, they're going
10 to shut down some of them and leave some of them open.
11 Well, why were those roads there? Those roads were there
12 for people, cowboys. Those roads were there for hunters.
13 Those roads were there for everybody.

14 A VOICE: Firebreaks.

15 MR. HEALY: Yeah. Absolutely. If it
16 concerns garbage, then we can all probably do something
17 about that. We don't need to shut it down to do
18 something about it. That's all I got.

19 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER CARROLL: The next group
20 will be Steve Ward, Neil Whitmer, Greg Etkins, and John
21 Chappellear. Steve Ward was the first name.

22 MR. WARD: I haven't got anything to say.

23 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER CARROLL: Okay. Thank
24 you.

25 MR. WHITMER: Good evening. For the record,
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1 my name is Neil Whitmer: N-e-i-l W-h-i-t-m-e-r. I'm
2 here on behalf of Goldstein Ventures. We're a junior
3 gold exploration company based out of Elko, Nevada. In
4 2010, we acquired roughly 281 unpatented lode claims and
5 three blocks of fee lands, both private and patented
6 claims that cover a total of roughly 5,300 acres. We
7 call this project the East Camp Douglas Project.

8 Now, a significant portion of this project
9 area is located within the designated NV-030-425 area,
10 otherwise known as the Excelsior area. Gold Standard
11 obtained an NOI on the area that calls for roughly 30
12 drill sites, approximately 3,200 linear feet of drill
13 roads with the total of just under five acres of
14 disturbance. Now, the NOI recently expired. We're in
15 the process of renewing the NOI, but the reclamation bond
16 remains in place.

17 Unfortunately, we're not immune, much like
18 our peers in this downturn. We just haven't been able to
19 get to all of the work right now. But through 2014, GSP
20 has paid a total of over \$110,000 in annual lease
21 payments, BLM fees and local taxes to maintain the
22 property.

23 In addition to that, Gold Standard has
24 expended about \$2 and a half million dollars in
25 additional money for 12 core holes, an induced

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1 polarization survey, gravity survey, and over 600 rock
2 samples and assays. All of the holes are located within
3 a half mile of the Excelsior area, two of them being
4 inside the portion along with a portion of the IP survey
5 and the gravity survey. While all of the holes have
6 mineralized gold in them, one of the two holes located
7 within the evaluation area had .38 feet cum. gold over 55
8 feet, including 1.25 bpm over 12 feet and near a surface.

9 In addition to our work, at least six
10 different drill campaigns have been conducted in or
11 around the East Camp Douglas property since the early
12 '80s. Some of the highlights of these: 1983 Sonneco
13 Gold with 12.94 grams per ton over 1.5 meters, mid '80s
14 Miranda Gold at 13.55 GTs over 22.86 meters, a '90s hole
15 from Techwell with 2.42 grams over 18 meters, and a 2003
16 hole with 2.88 GTs over 13.72 meters.

17 Now I know a lot of that, just no one here
18 gives a dam about, but this property has a lot of
19 potential. As a result of the favorable geologic setting
20 on Walker Lane, favorable property geology, map areas and
21 the extensive hydrothermal alteration, the presence of
22 gold nominals and mineralized gold values at surface and
23 in recent drill holes, these Camp Douglas property is
24 certainly a property that warrants further exploration.
25 You'll have just have to talk to me later.

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1 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER CARROLL: Feel free to
2 talk to the court reporter.

3 MR. EKINS: My name is Greg Ekins: G-r-e-g
4 E-k-i-n-s. I'm President, GIS Land Services. I have a
5 Master of Science in land use planning. I am familiar
6 with the planning processes.

7 My first discussion is going to go beyond NVO
8 30425 and NVO3425A, which is Excelsior North and the
9 subunit 425A, known as Camp Douglas and Silver Dyke.
10 There is a significant contradiction between the map and
11 the land with wilderness characteristic inventory. If
12 you take a good look at the map, the map clearly shows
13 all of Silver Dyke and 50 percent of Camp Douglas within
14 these suitable-for-wilderness categorization.

15 If you look at the inventory, the LWCI, which
16 is a 16-page document, it clearly says that 425A, Camp
17 Douglas and Silver Dyke, are not suitable, and I agree.
18 They are not suitable wilderness. There's at least 12
19 standing buildings in Silver Dyke Canyon. We have 132
20 drill holes in our database, approximately 3,800 rock
21 chip samples, several discoveries, as the preceding
22 gentleman discussed with you.

23 Now, I realize that BLM has to balance
24 multiple-use mandate with a sustained-yield mandate, and
25 it's getting tough because the really good sustained
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1 yield, the Rubies, the Toquemas, they're already
2 wilderness. The stuff like in mining district, that's
3 multiple use.

4 I want to also mention that on the map, I was
5 looking at the roads. We have 685 acres of private
6 property. The map shows one edge of one piece of private
7 property cherry stemmed in. It's at a cliff. It's not
8 at the road that's on the NDOT map. It's just to a
9 cliff.

10 Okay. 1601-1, NEPA Land Use Planning
11 Handbook. Quote, "Ensure all interested parties are
12 notified of upcoming planning actions. At a minimum,
13 however, the BLM must distribute two types of notices."
14 That's a quote from 1,601-1, NEPA Land Use Planning
15 Handbook, page 18, section 2.

16 I have private property up there. I have
17 mining claims. I know people with grazing leases. They
18 were not notified. My interpretation is that when you
19 say, "Ensure all interested parties are notified," that
20 that would include people with private property and
21 mining claims and grazing leases. So we didn't get a
22 two-year head start. In effect, the non-landowners who
23 do not own property are proposing laws that affect the
24 landowners who do have private property. Thank you very
25 much for your time.

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1 MR. CHAPPELEAR: Ladies and Gentlemen, my
2 name is John Chappelear: C-h-a-p-p-e-l-e-a-r. I
3 probably own too much property in Mineral County. I know
4 that if the BLM comes in and takes the Excelsiors and all
5 of that, it will have devastating effects for the economy
6 of Mineral County, which is already an extremely poor
7 county. There's a group of people out there. They call
8 themselves the Friends of Nevada. Does anybody here
9 claim to be a part of that organization, or are you a
10 secretive entity? Anybody here part of them? Please
11 raise your hand. Yeah, I didn't think so. Imagine that.

12 Well, anyway, if any of you guys would be
13 interested, I have a bunch of property for sale. Please
14 contact me after the event because when this all goes
15 through, what I have will be worthless to me, and it will
16 also affect Churchill County and I'm sure Esmeralda, but
17 consider what you're doing for the economy. That's about
18 all I have to say. Thank you.

19 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER CARROLL: Next up, we
20 have Herb "Dewey". Herb Tizen (pho.)? Herb Tizen?

21 MR. DUERR: Herb. You got the first part
22 right. I'll take it.

23 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER CARROLL: Herb Olson?

24 MR. DUERR: No, that's not right either.

25 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER CARROLL: Do you live
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1 off of Greenfield Drive?

2 MR. DUERR: Yeah, that would be me.

3 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER CARROLL: Jason Hanks.
4 I apologize, sir.

5 MR. DUERR: No problem.

6 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER CARROLL: It looks like
7 John Herrera from Fallon. Please go ahead.

8 MR. DOWNER: That was an entertaining way you
9 pronounced my name. My name is Craig Downer: C-r-a-i-g.
10 D-o-w-n-e-r, and I'm a wildlife ecologist and one that
11 appreciates the wild horses and fourth generation
12 Nevadan, so my roots, people like you, miners and
13 ranchers, future civil engineers. But I grew up
14 identifying with the natural world and grew up on a horse
15 named Cocoa and did a lot of riding out in the Desert
16 Mountains. And I just felt that these horses were such
17 magnificent animals, so that's actually one of the
18 reasons I decided to become a wildlife ecologist.

19 I have a degree from Berkeley and another
20 from Nevada in Reno. I just feel that there's too much
21 greed today and selfishness among people and they're only
22 thinking about themselves and their interests, and
23 they're not thinking about these magnificent beings that
24 share the world with us. And, you know, that's one of
25 the main reasons that Wild Free Roaming Horses and Burros
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1 Act was passed. It was the desire of people to share the
2 land and freedom with such magnificent animals. And the
3 more I studied about them, the more I learned that
4 actually, they're an extremely ancient presence, a
5 long-standing presence in North America. This is their
6 cradle of evolution.

7 And besides that, I think it's common
8 knowledge that we wouldn't be in the position we are
9 today were it not for the horse kind and cousins, burro
10 kind. So what greater tribute than to allow a relatively
11 minor portion of our public lands for these return native
12 species to be themselves. And believe me, they are a
13 restoration and a balancing in an otherwise lopsided
14 ecosystem, precisely for the reason that Terri Farley
15 mentioned, that they have a different digestive system.
16 It's called both gastric or cecal. And because they
17 don't as thoroughly digest what they ingest, they greatly
18 contribute to the humus content of soils, and that's
19 well-documented. Also, they seed a great variety of
20 seeds. Besides that, many people find them very
21 inspiring, and this is a quality-of-life issue and a
22 general public issue.

23 The public lands are not just for the
24 exploiters, and we should learn to be more generous
25 because the solution to greed and selfishness is not more
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1 greed and selfishness. It's learning to share. Thank
2 you.

3 MR. DUERR: Hi. My name is Herb Duerr:
4 D-u-e-r-r, not Olson. I appreciate it, though. I'm not
5 much of a talker, but I do have claims in several of
6 these areas that are suggested to be wilderness
7 characteristics, and I feel that these are misnamed. We
8 actually have a plan of operation in one of them with an
9 estimated 200 holes that you permitted, and yet you're
10 not even bothering to tell us about this.

11 We have never gotten anything from the BLM
12 telling us that this is going on. I think you're missing
13 some of the stakeholders, so I'm saying the same thing
14 that Greg Ekins is saying. You're, you know, you really
15 haven't followed through with the process. And I
16 definitely feel like you haven't counted the impacts to
17 the counties. I think that's a major issue that your
18 EIS, your 2,000-page report has glossed over or forgotten
19 or something. That's it.

20 MR. HANKS: My name is Jason Hanks:
21 J-a-s-o-n H-a-n-k-s. I don't have a master's degree. I
22 don't have cattle. I don't mine. I hunt. My kids hunt.
23 My family hunts. All I got to say is we go up the
24 mountains. We don't beat up land. We just drive on the
25 roads. If we want to go somewhere, we walk. I mean, we

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1 don't throw trash all over the place. Stillwater,
2 Alpine, I pack in on foot, just go deer hunting, chukar
3 hunting. And for my kids to grow up, I mean, it's right
4 here out our back door. I mean, I don't know anywhere
5 else in the state.

6 This is going to keep moving on. I know it
7 is. It's not going to stop here. It's going to keep
8 going. And I hope other communities stand up for what we
9 do as much as we are doing. I know my brother lives in
10 Elko County, and they're already, the Forest Service is
11 just wiping it out, I mean, Northern Elko County up in
12 all of that area, and I just don't think we hurt the land
13 much. I don't see anything that hurts the land. I think
14 it's more of not having water. I mean, that hurts the
15 land. I mean, I don't see people out there trashing it
16 or hurting all of the foliage and the cattle.

17 My grandpa raised cattle in Eureka County
18 down by Duckwater over in there, and they didn't hurt
19 nothing. Those cows were there for hundreds of -- two
20 hundreds of years feeding off the same land. They didn't
21 kill themselves off.

22 As far as the horses go, I'm pretty sure it's
23 illegal to mess with them anyways. I don't see anybody
24 touching the horses. I mean, they still live where we're
25 at. I go deer hunting all over the place. The horses

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1 get thicker and thicker. The reason why we have wildlife
2 management is so we manage the animals. There's nothing
3 to manage the horses. They just get thicker and thicker
4 until finally the government says oh, we got too many
5 horses. We got to go round them up. Why is it a
6 problem? I mean, we're not hurting the horses either.
7 That's all I got.

8 MR. FERREIRA: My name is John Ferreira:
9 F-e-r-r-e-i-r-a. For those that don't know me, I own
10 Cold Springs Station by Alpine. Basically, the biggest
11 factor that I have is you wanting to close off everything
12 to wilderness, and we have a recreational area out there.
13 It's not only for myself, but what we have is unique. We
14 also actually take care of the land out there.

15 I have a lot of people that come out that
16 would like to have a little bit more access to things out
17 there that can't be done, but 90 percent of -- and I
18 don't like to say this, but 90 percent of the BLM have
19 never been out there. They don't know what's going on.
20 They're sitting in the office, and that's it.

21 A VOICE: Hallelujah.

22 MR. FERREIRA: So but anyway, I do a lot only
23 for one reason. I'm a vet. I do a lot for the Wounded
24 Warriors. I do barbecues and things like this here. And
25 without that access to those properties, we cannot take

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1 them out into the wilderness. You know, they're not
2 capable of carrying a 50-pound backpack. Some of them
3 don't have legs, okay. And what you're doing is you're
4 hurting not only them, you're hurting their children and
5 families. So, you know, I can set up here and tell you a
6 bunch more stuff, but that's basically all I have. Thank
7 you.

8 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER CARROLL: Rupert Wyble.
9 Rick Williams from Fallon. Gary West. Steve Atkinson.

10 MR. WYBLE: Good evening. I'm Rupert Wyble:
11 W-y-b-l-e, and I have a couple of questions, and I have a
12 couple of comments. Now, most people that I know that I
13 deal with on a regular basis don't have any faith in the
14 BLM. They've had it. Their patience is gone.

15 I'm an eternal optimist. I think you can be
16 saved. And the way we're going to save you is we're
17 going to have coordination with our county, and we're
18 going to re-write some of this BLM stuff that you've done
19 in the areas of environmental concern, the wilderness
20 areas, closing off land, hurting the economy, badly
21 hurting this economy.

22 And my statement on the policy, policy
23 regulations to circumvent settled law on mining and
24 ranching -- now, I'm not a lawyer. Maybe I'm wrong, but
25 it sure looks like you're using your regulations to
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1 circumvent settled law, and it looks wrong to me. I've
2 made it about almost halfway through the RPM, and my eyes
3 are crossing. But what I find is pretty much
4 unacceptable the way it's written. Like I said, with the
5 coordination, we'll pull through.

6 Then the other thing is when we take
7 individual things within the RPM, some of them are good.
8 I'm not knocking them all. But when you take them
9 collectively, the areas of environmental concern, the
10 areas of wilderness, the areas of travel management, not
11 knowing what roads we're going to block off, if you take
12 those together, they begin to have a more ominous tone,
13 and they begin to look like we're going to drive the
14 people off the land. That's what it looks like.

15 And lastly, I just have hope that you will
16 sit down with us and correct some of the things that I
17 think are wrong, and maybe other people will agree with
18 me. And in closing, if you do sit down with us, and if
19 you will change some of these more onerous regulations
20 that are in there, I think we'll do all right.

21 And keep in mind as you're doing this that
22 Churchill County is a beautiful place. It's absolutely a
23 wonderful place, and I love it. I love the people. I
24 love the strong leadership we have here. But Churchill
25 County is not the Sherwood Forest, and you are not the

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1 sheriff of Nottingham. Thank you.

2 MR. ATKINSON: I'm Steve Atkinson:

3 A-t-k-i-n-s-o-n. I'm not a miner, and I'm not a rancher
4 anymore, but I've been in and out of this state for 60
5 years, I have 15 grandchildren, and as my father before
6 me, I've taken them to every mountain in the state.

7 And it appears to me from looking at the maps
8 that all of the pretty nice places that I have been taken
9 to are being taken away from me now, and I can't allow
10 that. I have a lot of children that need to see these
11 places still. I'm not going to go there to shoot their
12 animals, but it's my right as a father and a grandfather
13 and a great-grandfather to take these kids to these
14 places because something keeps bringing me back to
15 Nevada, and it's because I can drive clear around the
16 state and only cross the pavement four times, you know.

17 I'm not sure how you guys -- if you've even
18 been out there and seen it. There's a lot of beautiful
19 parts in this state, but we're getting pushed into the
20 desert where all we have is the sagebrush and the flats,
21 and that's it. Thank you.

22 MR. WILLIAMS: Hi. My name is Mike
23 Williams, and I moved up here in 1949. And hate to admit
24 it, but I'm 76 years old. Now the point that strikes me
25 has to do with politics more than anything else. We have
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1 a set of county commissioners. We have a governor. We
2 have elected senators and so forth. These people,
3 especially like our county commissioners, we can vote
4 them in or vote them out, but their job is to represent
5 us as the people. We are their bosses.

6 Now, saying that, I have no heartburn with
7 our county commissioners. They've been great. The point
8 that I'm getting to, and I'll make it short, the Bureau
9 of Land Management and other different government
10 agencies are, number one, not elected. They're
11 appointed. We can't vote them out of office. We can't
12 do a darn thing. They are dictating to us, and this does
13 not seem like our Constitution.

14 MR. WEST: My name is Gary West: W-e-s-t. I
15 live here in Fallon. I'm a transplanted hillbilly from
16 Tennessee, and I would ask the BLM to go back. I asked
17 them before this meeting started. There's a lot of
18 people outside that won't get to voice their opinions.
19 The time allotted don't allow for it. They won't even be
20 able to hear everybody's words that are speaking.

21 I'd ask that they go back and read one
22 document and incorporate that into their thinking of
23 their 2,000-page document that they've made, which a
24 number of people have already voiced the fact that
25 they've been left out, not notified and everything else.

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1 It's a document and it starts off with: "We, the
2 People." We, the People of this country that has fought
3 for it and will fight for it, and that's why all of these
4 people are here today. And we want to be in control with
5 people that we dictate just like the gentleman before me,
6 that we elect and can hold accountable.

7 I had, a previous number of years ago, a
8 run-in with BLM when they were wanting to close lands
9 that they shouldn't have. But to not notify the people
10 so that they can participate and voice their opinion,
11 there's a lot of people that won't get to do that tonight
12 because you're on a salary, and you set a time, and you
13 don't notify the people. You don't include the things
14 that should be included. But just remember, it is we,
15 the People.

16 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER CARROLL: Thank you.
17 Mr. Ms. Esla Hardy, Fallon.

18 MS. HARDY: E-s-l-a?

19 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER CARROLL: Yes, ma'am.

20 MS. HARDY: That's me.

21 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER CARROLL: Thane Gomes.

22 MR. GOMES: Actually, I'd like to pass to
23 allow some other generation to speak.

24 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER CARROLL: Thank you. It
25 looks like Chris Hedding from Williams Avenue.

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1 MR. HEDDING: I'm here. I'm going to pass,
2 too.

3 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER CARROLL: Leland Schoff
4 from Fernley. Leland Schoff?

5 MR. SCHOFF: Here.

6 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER CARROLL: Joice
7 McCauley. Please go ahead.

8 MS. HARDY: My name is Esla Hardy. It's:
9 E-s-l-a. H-a-r-d-y. I came to Nevada in 1964. I first
10 came to Beatty, Nevada, and I've enjoyed the state a lot.
11 I've done a lot of hiking. I've hiked up Mt. Whitney,
12 and I used to do a lot of hiking up the mountains and
13 everything.

14 It's sad when the BLM cuts off our public
15 lands and we can't make it up the mountains anymore.
16 When I was 55, I went up this swash, and we found a
17 tobacco can where the Boy Scouts had left it so we would
18 know that they were there. They were there in 1943, and
19 I just thought that that was pretty cool. But it was
20 down in Southern Nevada, and you aren't allowed to hike
21 that area anymore because of the BLM. I just think it's
22 sad that children won't be able to see that. Thank you.

23 MR. SCHOFF: Thank you. My name is Leland
24 Schoff: S-c-h-o-f-f, and I want to speak to you about
25 something called recreational shooting. It is a chapter
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1 that is in this monstrous document. I tried to download
2 this thing. For those of you who know how to download
3 these things, there are well over a half a dozen pdf
4 files that are hundreds and hundreds of pages long. So
5 even getting to what you want to look at is a bit of a
6 job, is a bit of a task.

7 What I want to speak to you about the
8 shooting is that the recreational shooting section on
9 that thing really is similar to what a lot of other
10 people in here have been complaining about tonight, and
11 that is probably in the long-term going to try to
12 eliminate people from using the land as it has been used
13 for decades, in particular, recreational shooters.

14 If you think about the word recreational
15 shooting, by definition, it's recreation. And yet, it's
16 not on the recreation maps in the back. I was not able
17 to find in that section in the document anything that
18 actually discussed BLM's proposed call it improvements or
19 implementation of anything that you would call implement
20 a recreational area dedicated to this particular form of
21 recreation.

22 Now, I don't want to bring anything
23 controversial or Second Amendment into this, but it is
24 legal, and it has been enjoyed by people in this state
25 for probably -- well, at least 150 years. And as far as
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1 I know, they are not wild shooters. They are not going
2 crazy out on the ranges or doing that. I think it's
3 legitimate to say that you don't want errant bullets
4 threatening livestock. I think as a shooter, I would
5 never want to do that, but I would ask that the BLM
6 basically consider adding to their maps and to what their
7 if you want to call it use, land use areas, something
8 that would be, I think, acceptable to everybody that
9 would allow people to shoot and not threaten hunters, not
10 threaten ranchers, not threaten herds. I'm certain
11 there's enough land that that could be done, and I would
12 ask the BLM to do that.

13 If BLM cannot, I would say that we do have a
14 strong military presence in this state. I think there's
15 probably some Marines in this very town that could teach
16 everybody here how to lay out a shooting area that would
17 be safe and amenable to everybody.

18 The only other comment I would say is that
19 there was some disparaging comments in this section.
20 They sort of equated garbage dumpers with shooters, and I
21 think that's unfair, and I would ask the BLM to separate
22 people that dump garbage from people that shoot for
23 recreation.

24 The other thing had to do with lead.

25 Supposedly, there's a very serious public concern about
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1 lead. I have never personally seen any signs that
2 support that. I would ask that the BLM land, if they
3 claim that and want to make that part of their proposal,
4 that they cite the sources, the scientific documents, the
5 scientific reports that say it in public so that peer
6 reviews -- it can be peer reviewed and discussed by other
7 people. Thank you.

8 MS. MCCAULEY: My name is Joice McCauley:
9 J-o-i-c-e M-c-C-a-u-l-e-y. I'm a member of the Washoe
10 Tribe, and the proposed cutting of pine nut trees has me
11 very concerned. For you BLM people, I would like you to
12 go to the University of Nevada and check out this movie.
13 It's called "Tah Gum." That's our word in Washoe for
14 pine nuts. You can find it at the University of Nevada.
15 You can check it out and watch it. It has more
16 information in it.

17 I'm a Native American, Washoe, but I
18 preferred to be called First Nation. The additional
19 issue that I'm concerned about is the way of a life of an
20 entire people and a loss of a culture. As you all know,
21 the Washoe people were in the Lake Tahoe area Pine Nut
22 Hills before you all came. And you talk about loss and
23 your rights, losing land and stuff. Try looking at Lake
24 Tahoe all the time and knowing that's your ancestry and
25 all of that, and it's been taken from you, and you are
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1 told back then when they took your land that they gave us
2 allotment lands up there in the Pine Nut Hills where they
3 propose to cut our pine nut trees now. They said, "You
4 either take an allotment land or nothing."

5 A lot has been taken from us, and I don't
6 want to lose this last cultural part that we still
7 practice today. I have taken my grandchildren out to the
8 Pine Nut Hills and shown them how we harvest pine nuts,
9 pick pine nuts, which I did as a young girl. I'm 56
10 years old, and I've been going to those hills for 50
11 years because I'm positive I was out there when I was six
12 years old or even younger. I don't want to see the loss
13 of that.

14 I also would like to have the BLM contact the
15 tribes and speak with them more. I have two uncles in
16 their 80s who know those hills and have been around a lot
17 longer than I. I would request that you speak to them.
18 They're old, they can't get out, but you can make
19 appointments with them. I think you need to speak with
20 them about what they know. I would just like to see the
21 future generations in my family still be able to do this
22 practice, and our hills are sacred to us.

23 The fires that have happened out there, we've
24 been going out there for years and years and years, and
25 we've never started a fire. We've camped out there.

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1 We've had fires, we've cooked out there, but our respect
2 for the land and how we take care of it, we were never
3 that careless to start a fire.

4 I would just ask that the BLM would do more
5 research and talk more with the three tribes in Nevada:
6 Washoe, Shoshone, and Paiute because some of the Pyramid
7 Lake people don't have pine nut trees there. They have
8 to travel to other areas to pick the pine nut, so we do
9 travel to different places because the pine nuts aren't
10 in the same area every single year. So we have to
11 migrate where they are. Thank you.

12 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER CARROLL: Thank you.
13 Fleetwood Koutz. Tony Topton. Elizabeth Stinton.
14 Michael Johnson.

15 MR. KOUTZ: My name is Fleetwood Koutz:
16 K-o-u-t-z. I'm a geologist from Reno. I've been in this
17 business for almost 50 years. From 1987 to 1993 with
18 Asarco, we drilled approximately \$2 or \$300,000 worth of
19 drilling and geology in this ranger district. And in
20 Camp Douglas, we came up with about a hundred thousand
21 ounces on the patents and adjoining unpatented ground
22 that nobody's mined yet also over in Marietta, and we
23 also drilled a total, I think, it was six Notice of
24 Intent things, which I don't see any of the Notice of
25 Intent enumerated in this document. There's apparently

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1 37 of them, but they're not put in there.

2 The ground, some of the ground we drilled in
3 Gabbs Valley, first eight holes, 23 years later became
4 Ormat's geothermal plant out there, 35 megawatts. So you
5 can understand that some of these things take very, very
6 many years to get in line.

7 One of my main complaints about this document
8 is the lands of wilderness characteristics have different
9 names on the unit descriptions and in the text. And
10 also, they seem to be almost parroted from the website of
11 Friends of Nevada Wilderness. And it doesn't make any
12 sense to me why all of a sudden these things become --
13 have wilderness characteristics. It seems extremely
14 arbitrary to me. So, you know, that's one thing.

15 Another thing is there were three mines in
16 Mineral County or close off that back in the '80s and
17 '90s produced three and a half million ounces of gold and
18 40 million ounces of silver. Paradise Peak, which is
19 just out of your area, and Rawhide, and Santa Fe. That's
20 beside Candalaria, Borealis, and number of other mines.

21 Nothing is really being produced in any big
22 way right now except for Rawhide, and I find that the
23 geologic document in there, the mineral potential
24 document just all of a sudden ends. It's very backward.

25 It's got good geology in it, good description, but it

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1 doesn't really fully evaluate the mineral potential of
2 this area which is, you know, not helpful.

3 Also, every year, the BLM collects \$155 from
4 claim owners, and I don't see any of those claims plotted
5 in there, but they're sure on the 2000, and you can look
6 them up.

7 MR. TIPTON: My name is Tony Tipton:
8 T-i-p-t-o-n. I prefer the Alternate A with minor
9 modifications. One of the things in three minutes, you
10 can't speak much. I'd like to speak a little bit on the
11 grazing and mining and mineral exploration.

12 The grazing, just a fraction of the mass of
13 the land in the Carson City District is being grazed
14 compared to what was grazed 70 years ago. The
15 deterioration is still going on. We have no monitoring
16 of Wiregrass and brush communities that are dying, but if
17 the BLM will go and review EA97013 that we issued about
18 17 years ago and look at the monitoring, this will give a
19 big insight to what's going on. We're in a dry period,
20 not a drought. There is a lot we can do to have a
21 more effective water cycle.

22 When it comes to mineral exploration, Carson
23 City District controls a large portion of the Walker Lane
24 Alignment, one of the more mineralized zones in the
25 world. The Walker Lane Alignment has just begun to be

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1 explored. Last summer, \$6 million was spent in the
2 Excelsiors in the north and south by just two drilling
3 companies. That's during a downtime. They plan on doing
4 the same this year. This is in ten square miles.

5 We cannot afford the lands with wilderness
6 characteristics and no off-road travel to come into
7 effect, as that would shut down multi-million dollar cash
8 cows to our local communities, let alone developing a
9 mine. Over a half a billion was spent in mineral
10 exploration alone in Nevada last year. Thank you.

11 MS. ZBINDEN: My name is Elizabeth Zbinden:
12 Z-b-i-n-d-e-n. I'm a geologist, and I represent the
13 Nevada Mineral Exploration Coalition. I'm going to
14 concentrate on one concern we have in the draft plan
15 about lands to be managed for wilderness characteristics
16 and areas of critical environmental concern.

17 Several places in the Resource Management
18 Plan and related documents and in agency comments, we've
19 been assured that if the lands to be managed for
20 wilderness characteristics and areas of critical
21 environmental concern are put into place, all existing
22 rights, existing rights will be preserved, that we will
23 be able to continue on, extend mineral mining claims.
24 However, we have not been assured that we will be able to
25 stake new claims and initiate new projects, and that's an

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1 important part of the whole mineral exploration process.
2 We would like to have that assurance.

3 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER CARROLL: Michael K.
4 Johnson. Lars Hansen. Robert Clifford. Go ahead,
5 please.

6 MR. HANSEN: I'm pretty well known for
7 speaking off the cuff, but since I only have three
8 minutes up here, I'd better try to plan it. My name is
9 Lars Hansen. I don't represent any group or
10 organization, but I am a lifelong horseman and concerned
11 American citizen who happens to live ten miles down a
12 dirt road from the nation's largest wild horse
13 concentration camp, and I'm reminded at least twice a
14 week of this dire situation which needs to be resolved in
15 a far better way than it has been up to now.

16 I'm a former law enforcement officer, both
17 county and federal levels. I've focused on the
18 interdiction of drugs and weapons smuggling, violators on
19 our international border, and I've been a longtime
20 investigative journalist and professional investigator,
21 primarily of financial crimes. I'm also the coauthor of
22 two books, coproducer of two full-length documentary
23 videos with the most decorated U.S. Army Special Forces
24 Commander of the Vietnam Era who the U.S. government
25 wanted to put in prison for 15 years to shut him up about
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1 federal encroachments. Some of you may know him,
2 Lieutenant Colonel Bo Gritz.

3 I come from, you know, my name is unusual,
4 and I really appreciate you pronouncing it correctly. I
5 get all kinds of variations. I come from Norweigan,
6 Spanish, Scottish and Santee Sioux heritage, and at least
7 half of my family roots spent much of their time on
8 horseback for centuries fighting for our rights, and
9 we're prepared to do it again. I'm very pleased and
10 proud to say -- I'm going to have to break down and use
11 my glasses here. Ruined my photo op.

12 I'm very pleased and proud to say that horses
13 and ranches have always been a major part of my life
14 almost since I was born. I live and work on a hobby
15 ranch today. It's only 80 acres, but we have three wild
16 horses of our own, along with another one who is 34 years
17 old, waiting for me every morning across the fence, and
18 usually about 30 to 40 at any given time grazing along
19 the boundary of our property because we have a creek that
20 flows through it.

21 I have immense respect and admiration for the
22 family ranchers of America. I can't say enough for them
23 for all of the good work they do to try to preserve the
24 freedom and so many things that we respect and great
25 values. And some of the best times of my adult life have

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1 been spent working for and with them in hay production
2 and managing large herds in the mountains on both Forest
3 Service and BLM allotments.

4 But I have to say, sadly, that while in that
5 capacity, I've also seen and actually been required to
6 catalog and document a lot of the extreme damage that
7 cattle cause to the fragile vegetation, especially in dry
8 periods and particularly in riparian areas. I had to do
9 these God-awful surveys just to keep the cattle up there.
10 When comparably, quite often, in areas that I worked in
11 this state and Montana -- I'm done? Anyway, let's
12 cooperate and not capitulate. Thank you.

13 MR. CLIFFORD: Good evening. For the record,
14 Robert Clifford: C-l-i-f-f-o-r-d, from Fallon. The
15 document references this national management strategy for
16 motorized off-highway vehicle use on public lands. It
17 says in there, "Off-road vehicle use is acceptable use
18 when compatible with the other resource management
19 objectives." It says, "The BLM is required to take
20 action when something may cause considerable adverse
21 effects."

22 Now, in this, vast areas, especially
23 Churchill County, a total of 3.8 million acres are
24 identified as limited to -- motorized vehicle use limited
25 to existing roads and trails. It's effectively the

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1 thought. And we understand the plan is that they're
2 going to, you know, as soon as this thing goes into
3 effect, if it's not on their map of existing roads and
4 trails -- and believe me, their map does not include all
5 of the existing roads and trails -- that no motorized
6 traffic will be allowed.

7 Well, I think until the BLM completes a
8 proper inventory, which is part of what this strategy
9 document says they're supposed to do, nothing should be
10 limited; that a thought should be no change until they
11 identify in a specific area that there's a specific risk
12 of considerable adverse effects and identify each and
13 every one of those adverse effects and exactly where they
14 are.

15 And I think also, I put these guys on the
16 thing. I've been saying this. Churchill County should
17 do their own inventory of the rights-of-way and the roads
18 and trails. Nye County was able to do it. Churchill
19 County should be able to do it. And with that, we can
20 hold the BLM accountable that their maps are accurate.

21 So, you know, and I think in general, no
22 existing rights should be taken away unless the BLM can
23 show compelling reasons, things like this considerable
24 adverse effects. If there's not a compelling reason, the
25 thought should be nothing changes. They have to identify

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1 exactly what it is and not default into vast areas all of
2 a sudden becoming, because of somebody's opinion, taken
3 away.

4 I'd like to comment. I compiled a list of
5 all of the grazing permit holders in the state. It took
6 me a few hours. We used it for some mailings. It's not
7 that hard to do. Do the mailings to all of the permit
8 holders, all of the mining permit holders, all of the
9 grazing permit holders, and do your job and get the
10 people properly notified as required by law. And I'd
11 just like to remind everybody, the decisions made by the
12 BLM are made by unelected, unaccountable bureaucrats
13 behind closed doors.

14 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER CARROLL: Steve Hoffman.
15 Vern Rogers. Walt Wardell. Tammy Lee.

16 MR. HOFFMANN: My name is David Hoffman:
17 H-o-f-f-m-a-n-n. And the first thing I want you to know
18 is, my plan is to exceed their plan by at least 3,000
19 pages. And mine is pure data straight off the LR 2,000
20 or 9,000, whatever you call it, and BLM records. It's
21 all mining claims and patented lands. So if you're going
22 to put out the mailers, I'll give you the books, 8,000.

23 My speech was actually going to be to the
24 county commissioners because I was going to box their
25 ears big time, and I meant it. Because if you look at
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1 this, all of that research, the first thing that comes to
2 your mind right away that the land that BLM imagines
3 they're running doesn't exist. It's clearly right there.
4 There's four volumes.

5 Three volumes identify leased mining claims,
6 8,200 mining claims, 22,000 acres, eight percent of the
7 land in Churchill County. One book in there represents
8 patented lands, 5,200 parcels. That's all off the BLM
9 database. 720,000 acres, patented lands, twenty-five
10 percent of the county. You put it altogether, 940,000
11 acres, mining claims to patented lands, it's one-third of
12 the county. I don't see that on the maps. Do you guys
13 see that? That's a lot of land.

14 Now, guess what? Records only go back to
15 '64. They quit putting them in, but we know we've had a
16 lot of minerals development in the county here since
17 then. So if you extrapolate it forward to 2015, how
18 about 1.3 million acres, 43 percent of the county, BLM
19 land that's in private hands. They don't manage it. So
20 when you put it all together, the BLM plan requirements
21 very obviously that this plan ignored its own data
22 records and made up assumptions about how much land BLM
23 manages in Churchill County when they created this plan.

24 It also makes the assumption in the plan that
25 BLM is empowered to block and restrict access to real

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1 property as defined in the court decision of U.S.A.
2 versus Shumway. Section 244 -- sorry -- 2348 of the
3 Mining Law of 1872 as amended and enacted in 1993 clearly
4 states otherwise. Access to real property, and I quote,
5 "Shall be entitled to a preference right of entry." It's
6 the law. You can't close roads, period. And rules and
7 policies supercedes the law? I don't think so. Okay.

8 So in conclusion, the only way I can possibly
9 see this can be approved is A: BLM removes all travel
10 restrictions on real property. There are no restrictions
11 to this property, all 1.3 million acres, almost half of
12 the county. Secondly, I want to see maps that illustrate
13 all of the real property and how these will be adversely
14 affected under the plan.

15 And I ran across something else the other
16 day. How many of you have seen this? Anybody? Readily
17 on the website. It's put out by the Nevada Division of
18 Minerals. You know where Nevada ranks in the world?

19 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER CARROLL: Sir, your time
20 is up.

21 A VOICE: Let him finish.

22 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER CARROLL: We have a lot
23 of comment cards left, and we want to be respectful for
24 everybody.

25 MR. HOFFMANN: Will somebody yield so I can
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1 finish this? This is important.

2 A VOICE: Let him speak.

3 A VOICE: Let him finish.

4 A VOICE: Keep talking.

5 MR. HOFFMANN: Nevada ranks as a state in the
6 top ten countries of the world in mineral production.
7 We're fourth in gold. All 49 other states times five
8 still doesn't put out what Nevada does. We are 12th
9 silver; copper, 15th; diatomite, 44th. I'm not talking
10 millions. I'm talking billions and billions of dollars
11 here. And if you look on the map, you'll see that 10 and
12 11 are the top mines in the United -- or top mines in the
13 world. Ten and 11 of them are here in Nevada. And guess
14 where they're located? The northern half.

15 So this whole thing about the BLM thing is
16 starting to stink money, big money. Whoever gets control
17 of it will be the biggest mineral producer in the world.
18 So something needs to be examined here. Thank you.

19 MR. ROGERS: Good evening. My name is
20 William Rogers. I'm a member of the Paiute Tribe, and I
21 came here tonight to make comment to BLM. I've been
22 following them around for a while trying to get their
23 attention, and it hasn't been seeming to work. And
24 they're not really listening to things that we have to
25 say.

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1 You know, our people have been here 10,000
2 plus years on this land and, you know, all of the pages
3 in those books, all of the money in the world can't
4 restore things that they destroyed. When people destroy
5 the land, they destroy part of our culture. They're
6 destroying our pine nut trees, and right now, they plan
7 to destroy more of our pine nut trees by cutting them
8 down.

9 And when you deny a group of people, a tribe,
10 a race of people food that they depend on, their future
11 generations depend on, it's a genocide. These things
12 that we've been going through years and years and years,
13 and our people are trying to stand up for the little bit
14 of what we have left, and we're kind of getting
15 stonewalled every turn.

16 And one of the things I'd like to say right
17 now, you know, a lot of the communities are running out
18 of water. Water is one of the most important things that
19 we have on earth. Water is one of the things that
20 everybody here needs. And once you use up that water,
21 you know, where are you going to go? You use up a
22 resource, where are you going to go? You've got all of
23 the money that you can make off of the land, destroy the
24 land and move on and do another part of land. Pretty
25 soon, you don't have no water, you don't have no

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1 resources. You take all of the blood out of your body,
2 you're going to die. It's the same with the earth. You
3 take all of the minerals out of the earth, take all of
4 the water out of the earth, it starts to die.

5 These are the things we're faced with day to
6 day, our future generations. A lot of times, these
7 mining companies come in, tear the land up, take all of
8 the money out of the ground, and they move on, do it
9 somewhere else in the country. It's the same with your
10 pine nut trees. They come in, destroy our land. It's an
11 act of genocide to us. We don't say this because it's
12 not true. We say these things because they're true.
13 They're happening. They're happening today, and we have
14 to stand up for our future generations.

15 There's times when we look at the Forest
16 Service, BLM, and they're there as managers of the land,
17 supposed to protect certain things, and we see them
18 destroying things, and we change our mind. They're not
19 here to help us, you know.

20 We're just a part of the land as the animals
21 are, you know. Our people have been here for a long
22 time, and we turn around and start destroying these food
23 sources that we depend on, they're destroying a race of
24 people. So with that, I'd like to say thank you.

25 MS. LEE: Tammy Lee: T-a-m-m-y L-e-e. My
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1 grandchildren are six generations of ranchers on both
2 sides of our families, and we really enjoy the land. I
3 have some questions. One of the issues is restrictions
4 on riparian stubble height. If you restrict the riparian
5 area of stubble height to 46 inches, what will you do to
6 expedite permits for water hauls so we can comply if we
7 don't have roads? If we are held to the forage levels or
8 objectives in the RMPs, what happens if the horses exceed
9 that level after we're gone?

10 I would like to see a map of the roads
11 proposed for closure and ones to remain open, and we
12 would like to see an improvement plan to manage tree
13 growth and introduce grass to lands that only grow trees
14 and take up much of the needed water.

15 And lastly, I would just like to say that I
16 enjoy my freedom. I am a rancher, a conservationist, a
17 hunter, and an environmentalist. I appreciate our public
18 lands, but please allow us to keep them so we can
19 appreciate them.

20 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER CARROLL: Thank you for
21 the comments. Ward Wardell. Pete Olson. Dave Fauk.
22 Jesse Lattin. Madelaine Durand.

23 MR. LATTIN: My name is Jesse Lattin. I'm a
24 Churchill County resident, and I also sit on the
25 Churchill County Wildlife Advisory Board.

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1 A couple of things. I know the travel
2 management plan hasn't started yet, but when it does
3 start, I'd like to be notified of when that starts so I
4 can try to bring that information to the citizens of
5 Churchill County. In regards to that, in the State of
6 Nevada, there's 1,600 guzzlers, chukar guzzlers and
7 big-game guzzlers that were bought and paid for by
8 sportsmen, the Pittman-Robertson Act, as well as people's
9 money, and they need to be able to access those guzzlers.

10 And the last thing in regards to BLM's
11 website, I was having some trouble with leaving a
12 comment. So if you went to the Carson City's BLM's
13 website and you clicked on the tab for the RMP, if you
14 went to documents and reports, the button next to that
15 which says, "Leave a comment" basically was broken, and
16 it's -- I just checked it. It is fixed, but I don't know
17 how long it's been broken, and so the issue that I have
18 with that is these people out here that are trying to
19 leave you a comment have no place to do that if they're
20 trying to do it right there. So I don't think it's quite
21 fair that their comment section was broken. Thank you.

22 MS. DURAND: My name is Madelaine Durand:
23 M-a-d-e-l-a-i-n-e. Durand: D-u-r-a-n-d. And I wanted
24 to start off by thanking you very much for your service,
25 your military service. And I'm very grateful and
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1 appreciative of all of our military, past, present, and
2 future, and their families for the great sacrifice. We
3 won World War II. And the reason why we won World War II
4 is because we had all of the minerals here in the United
5 States to build the ships, the planes, the tanks, the
6 guns and the bullets, and that's why we won.

7 Now, if anybody has been watching the news
8 lately, guess what? We need those minerals. We need
9 them now. Under the Clinton administration, the
10 Department of the Interior started wiping maps clean. If
11 any of you have an old USGS map, it will show where
12 minerals are located, that they were wiped clean. I went
13 in one time to an office. It was a contractor working
14 for the BLM. This was during the Clinton administration.
15 And I saw that what they were doing. And I asked them, I
16 said, "What are you doing?" I was thrown out of that
17 office, physically thrown out of that office because they
18 were hiding what they were doing.

19 We need those minerals today, not tomorrow,
20 today because of what's coming our way, and it's very
21 scary. We don't need any more wilderness areas. We need
22 minerals. We need the gold. We need good miners, and so
23 I'm totally against any more wilderness areas, and more
24 areas need to be opened up to save this country.

25 MR. FAULK: I'm David Faulk: F-a-u-l-k. I'm
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1 representing a local ATV club, the Oasis Desert Trail
2 Riders. We've been a club since about 2006.

3 I agree with a lot of the comments we've
4 heard from the other folks about the lands. As I think
5 it was Mr. Clifford or one of them said, I'd like to be
6 involved and have our club involved when it gets time to
7 come up with the management plan and what roads and
8 trails are going to be kept open.

9 For those of you that haven't looked at the
10 plan, it goes from about 3.84 million acres of open now
11 to 4.7 million that will be on the part of that
12 transportation plan with only about 924,000 open. That
13 doesn't, in my mind, I guess, necessarily mean it's all
14 going to become closed but if, you know, we're not paying
15 attention, it may become so. And our club would like to
16 be involved in doing routes.

17 And one thing I would say with the maps, we
18 would like to have maps, you know, that were on maybe
19 Google Earth or something that all of us can get to
20 rather than -- and I know GIS is used a lot and all of
21 that stuff, but something we can use and we can go out
22 and verify and kind of check on what you've got listed
23 and what we think should be there, and then can make a
24 check.

25 And lastly, I'm just humbled that all of the
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1 things that people are saying here, and you guys all have
2 a tough job, obviously. You've got minerals, horses,
3 cattle, shooting, Native Americans and first generation
4 people whose lands have been taken and they've been moved
5 around, not just here but all over. And trying to manage
6 all of that and come up with something that's going to
7 work for all of the people in the state or in this area
8 let alone these people is going to pretty tough. Thank
9 you.

10 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER CARROLL: Pete Olson.
11 Edwin Durand. LaVerne Roberts. Frank Grayshield. Kenny
12 Lee.

13 MR. ROBERTS: Good evening. My name is
14 LaVerne Roberts. I'm from the Yerington Paiute Tribe,
15 and I'm here regarding the pine nuts that they're
16 clear-cutting over our lands. And I'm going to, if you
17 guys don't mind, I'm going to give this over to our
18 person that can speak more eloquently than I am, Marvin
19 Dewey. Marvin?

20 MR. DEWEY: She's a little modest. She's a
21 tribal leader of the Paiute Tribe, which is Paiute Nation
22 equal to the United States Government in how they
23 recognize the sovereign nations of this land, indigenous
24 people all the way across here.

25 Hearing all of your concerns from the horses,
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1 it was our relatives who brought those horses down, the
2 Comanche people, predating western contact before anybody
3 was here. These stories up on these mountains that you
4 guys all talk about, these are our stories that we have
5 names, traditional names that are not acknowledged, which
6 you should be ashamed of yourself for not acknowledging
7 the indigenous people of this land first.

8 I'm speaking on behalf of the seven
9 generations that are going to come after this that will
10 have nothing. We live here. We stay here. We monitor
11 these lands. These foods here, these traditional foods
12 are our way of life, and what you're witnessing is that
13 loss. You older people, you're witnessing that loss.
14 We're witnessing because we cannot harvest our
15 traditional foods and medicines anymore.

16 The sage-grouse was one of our traditional
17 foods. You're putting them in places they didn't belong.
18 Because we were so connected to nature and this way of
19 life and the land, we saw how these plants grew in
20 certain places and how it was monitored. And the way we
21 monitored them was we took care of them. We had
22 ceremonies. And some of you who go out there, you see
23 and witness those ceremonies still being done today.

24 We have given up the most in resources. When
25 you talk about minerals and gold, those are on our back
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1 and not compensated back to the tribe, loss of land, loss
2 of language. Every time you think about that, we have to
3 sit and witness this historical trauma every day every
4 time on the news.

5 So with that, I just want to share with you
6 that we deeply know and feel what you're feeling on the
7 highest level because we know that we're still going to
8 be here, but you have the choice to move to Washington,
9 New York, another country. We know that the land you're
10 on is our sacred sites where our ancestors were buried,
11 and we continue to go and honor them in a good way.

12 So I want to thank everyone here from the
13 doorway in to the doorway out that you're blessed in a
14 good way and keep us Indian people in mind that we
15 continue to fight when you're not there for these lands.
16 Even though these lands have been encroached on, we
17 continue to stand in DC and fight on your behalf. We
18 have many people who are fighting in the military who are
19 not recognized as U.S. citizens. So, you know, just with
20 that, they still went. My uncles went. My family went.
21 And we're going to continue to go and protect this land,
22 this country, and for the future generations. So I just
23 want to say thank you on behalf of our unborn and those
24 who can't speak for themselves, the trees and the
25 resources. Be well.

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1 MS. ROBERTS: Thank you for allowing him to
2 take my time.

3 MR. GRAYSHIELD: My name is Frank Grayshield.
4 Last name is: G-r-a-y-s-h-i-e-l-d. I'm a member of the
5 Washoe Tribe. I want to say that I'm not speaking for
6 the Washoe Tribe. I'm speaking as a tribal member. But
7 I became interested in this when the word came around to
8 tribal members and other interested Indians that they
9 were going to cut down our pine nut trees and junipers to
10 create habitat for the sage-grouse.

11 Well, on the simple level, that's how I
12 thought well, you know, there's something to say about
13 that because pine nuts have been a part of our lives in
14 Nevada for 10,000 plus years, and I'm the end result of
15 the wise choices my ancestors made in this country and
16 the foods that they ate, pine nuts being one of them. So
17 it is a real sacred supplement to our diets and our foods
18 from the past that we live with today.

19 But I did want to say what grabbed my
20 interest, and I want to use an example, the Dann Sisters,
21 and all of you in Nevada know that they fought with the
22 BLM over the treaty land that belonged to them that was
23 signed to them by the U.S. Government in an agreement
24 with the Shoshone Tribe. And the BLM took them to court,
25 and they lost eventually. They ended up losing their

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1 treaty land and with no signed papers signing it away,
2 but they lost.

3 And then soon after that, they opened a gold
4 mine, Peavine Mountain, and then we found that the
5 politics behind it who was pushing all of it. There was
6 a higher level of politics coming that made -- that was
7 the reason for all of this fight that we didn't know
8 about it. I didn't know about it. But then all of a
9 sudden, then we find out that our nation's ex-president
10 was on the corporation for the gold company, the
11 corporation that opened the gold mine, a Canadian
12 company, and his son was in the office. So there's just
13 the inference of politics involved in why this happened.

14 Now we have, on the Internet, we've learned
15 that there's other interests that are pouring in a lot of
16 money to say that the sage-grouse should not be called an
17 endangered species. And why is that, we ask ourselves.
18 Well, someone on the Internet has researched it out and
19 saying there's a lot of gas and oil money being poured
20 into that because they won't be able to come in and
21 explore if the sage-grouse is declared an endangered
22 species.

23 Well, you know, we know at the state level
24 and the level here at our BLM people that this plan to do
25 things in Nevada here, but they're being told what to do

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1 from higher up. The politics always comes downhill, and
2 these middle managers just carry it out. So we could get
3 angry and them, but it's some other interest going on.
4 And that was my point for what I wanted to say, is that
5 there's -- keep that in mind. What's the real reason for
6 why we're going and not declaring the sage-grouse
7 endangered. Thank you.

8 MR. DURAND: Good evening. My name is Edwin
9 Durand: D-u-r-a-n-d. In a past life, I was the senior
10 manufacturing engineer of the late great Hughes Aircraft
11 Company. It was put out of business by Washington D.C.
12 outsourcing equipment and NAFTA, in part, and put 84,000
13 people out of a job in the state of California.

14 Moving forward, I'm now a mine owner. I
15 spent years to develop a mineral property only to have
16 the government do everything possible to delay
17 permitting, including a two-and-a-half-year permitting
18 exercise which in the same area, a group of felons got a
19 reclamation by the BLM to mine my property, bypassing the
20 Surface Mining and Reclamation Act, SMARA, that I had to
21 follow which requires a surface mining use permit in the
22 first place.

23 I have been asked by the Jefferson Mining
24 District to speak here today. The Jefferson Mining
25 District is the largest mining district in the United
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1 States as can be seen on the Internet at www.Jefferson
2 Mining District.com. The map shows this district covers
3 Northern Nevada, California, Oregon north of -- to the
4 northern part of Portland, Oregon and to the east of
5 Boise, Idaho.

6 July 19, 1866, HR 365, the 39th Congress
7 Senate Amendment by Mr. Stewart stated, Committee on
8 Public Lands: "That the mineral lands in the public
9 domain, both surveyed and unsurveyed, are hereby declared
10 to be free and open to exploration and occupation by all
11 citizens of the United States and those who have declared
12 their intention to become such citizens."

13 I am here in opposition to the BLM's unfunded
14 and non-essential resource plan to withdraw large areas
15 of 300 to 400,000 acres of public lands. This BLM
16 management plan is defined as creating lands management
17 managed to create wilderness characteristics, LWCs, in
18 areas of 5,000 or more acres to become defined as
19 naturalness. The imprint of human activity is
20 substantially unnoticeable, offering solitude or
21 opportunity for primitive unconfined recreation. This
22 plan includes the restriction of motorized travel over
23 virtually all of the BLM land in the district and an
24 increased number of areas of critical concerns.

25 There is nothing I found in the Congressional
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1 Record that says that BLM has received a property title
2 to all of the public lands in the Western United States.
3 There is no regulation involved that empowers the BLM to
4 take away all public lands and place them into wilderness
5 categories where lands are of no use to present and
6 future generations are not allowed to develop for the
7 public good, contrary to the General Mining Act of 1872.
8 Mining claims under the law are private property, and as
9 such are taxed by the county in which they are located as
10 well as paying the BLM a fee.

11 My wife said much of what I would say. Thank
12 you, Commander.

13 MR. LEE: My name is Kenny Lee: L- double e.
14 I'm a permit holder on the Stillwater allotment. This
15 EPA is a big deal, but more important to all of us with
16 this is the sage-grouse deal. They've already pushed the
17 bistate bird by, so there ain't too much we can do about
18 that. But the public recourse on the -- greater is still
19 coming to head somewhere around June. And if they pass
20 that, they'll throw that right in on top of this, and it
21 will be -- it will change even the BLM's whole rec deal.

22 So keep your eye on this, but don't let the
23 sage-grouse deal go by without somebody saying something
24 about it either because it's going to affect this in a
25 bigger way than you think. Thank you.

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1 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER CARROLL: Amber Sanchez.
2 Ron Turner. Dona Fong. Jackie Holmgren.

3 MS. SANCHEZ: Hi. Amber Sanchez:
4 S-a-n-c-h-e-z. Before I say anything, I'd like another
5 meeting to be scheduled because there isn't enough room
6 for everybody to get in here and hear what we're doing or
7 have an opportunity to speak. I also want to make sure
8 that it's a much larger venue and that everyone is well
9 notified ahead of it so that we have an opportunity to be
10 here again, and I think that they will be here again.
11 And I want an opportunity for everybody to be able to
12 speak.

13 And the other thing I want is the meeting to
14 be structured so that the questions will be answered by
15 the BLM representatives. This making comment and then we
16 get no response doesn't work for me. I want the public
17 meeting to be made public publicly so that we all have a
18 say in this and not just a few.

19 And to my county commissioner, because I have
20 a lot of ears here that would hear this as well, I would
21 like to see a Magna Carta of sorts be written to protect
22 our rights and liberties. We need representation, we
23 need coordination, and we need jurisdiction. And unless
24 and until we get that, we're going to be rode over
25 roughshod, which is basically how I see it's been going

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1 down thus far. So I really, really am begging for some
2 representation from our county commissioners in this. I
3 just don't see it so far.

4 Anyway, also, I think the economic impact
5 needs to be publicly addressed as well. We need to hear
6 more about how this is going to affect Churchill County
7 and the other counties that would like to know. There's
8 an awful lot of economic impact that I think people don't
9 realize is coming down the pike. So I think that that is
10 something that needs to be addressed, and I haven't heard
11 anything so far. All I hear is people making wonderful
12 comments, but we need to hear from the BLM, your
13 responses to those questions and comments.

14 Also, the wilderness designations, if they
15 are -- if they come to be, are very discriminatory
16 against the handicapped and elderly. And why is this
17 okay? I don't understand why this is okay. I mean, you
18 have to be -- Look. I'm getting pretty long in the tooth
19 myself, and I am not going to be able to hike out there
20 just with a backpack on one of these days. And
21 certainly, there are an awful lot of people that would
22 like to utilize those lands and cannot get out there on
23 foot. Because as I read it and as I hear it, you can't
24 even pull a wagon, never mind motorized. You can't pull
25 something that has wheels. Anyway, thank you.

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1 MR. TURNER: My name is Ron Turner. I was
2 born and raised here in Fallon. I currently work for the
3 school district. I'm a hunter. I'm a fisherman. I
4 cowboyed on and off for different people that I know that
5 I'm friends with.

6 I just want to reiterate just I think pretty
7 much everybody in this room feels like that we're just
8 getting stuff rammed down our throats by people that
9 aren't vested in this community. You know, the BLM, it's
10 supposed to be Bureau of Land Management. I don't
11 understand what they manage. It's the damndest thing.
12 The only thing I know they manage are the horses, and we
13 all see how well they've done that.

14 Rules that don't apply to us. They don't
15 even come talk to us to find out what this community
16 needs, how it really is actually impacting, you know, the
17 hunters, who have put in hundreds of guzzlers which help
18 the wild horses, help the sage hen. The ranchers
19 maintain springs and water troughs all of these wildlife
20 use too, and nobody even -- I shouldn't say nobody. The
21 BLM doesn't seem like they care about that.

22 I've known many ranchers that had leases that
23 the BLM fenced them off their wells. Not only can the
24 cattle not water there anymore, but neither can the wild
25 horses, the other wildlife that's in the area. The BLM

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1 really needs to talk to the locals and find out what
2 needs to be done if they're going to try to manage things
3 to see what's the best way to do it. This thing of just
4 making rules and blanketing everything just needs to
5 stop, and I think the people are just about fed up with
6 it.

7 MS. FONG: Good evening. My name is Dona
8 Fong: D-o-n-a F-o-n-g, and I'm here to speak out for the
9 wild horses. I'm privileged to live where the wild
10 horses roam, and over the years, I have observed the wild
11 ones and am constantly amazed by their family unit, their
12 caring for each other, and the pure pleasure of their
13 presence.

14 I was recently fortunate enough to have my
15 regular horseman visit my property with their new
16 property (sic) with their, excuse me, with their new
17 baby. The beauty of this experience is priceless. But
18 if the BLM has their way with our wild horses, this
19 experience will be a thing of the past.

20 Unfortunately, as I read more material put
21 out by the BLM, there is one term that is prevalent in
22 all of their material regarding the wild horses, and that
23 term is, "Zero out." The term makes me ask myself, is
24 the BLM here to help our horses, or is their long-term
25 goal extinction?

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1 At a recent BLM meeting held in Carson City,
2 I asked a BLM representative if the BLM was aware of the
3 millions of people who have signed petitions and called
4 their government representative asking them to save our
5 wild horses, and I was told, and I quote, "No one ever
6 sees those petitions. They are just thrown away." And
7 this is not the first time I've been told this. Really?
8 So America speaks up, and the BLM deliberately ignores
9 the will and the voice of the people.

10 The BLM does, however, listen and cater to
11 the desires of other entities who would benefit from the
12 demise of our wild horses. Our government and all of its
13 departments are supposed to exist to do the will of the
14 American people not to bend to the will of special
15 interests. They want the land that has been set aside
16 for the horses, and I say if they need more land, let
17 them purchase their own land there like any of the rest
18 of us would and leave our horses, wildlife and public
19 spaces alone so the public can enjoy it.

20 In closing, I would like to say to BLM open
21 your eyes and your ears. The people of America are
22 speaking out, and they are loudly saying leave our wild
23 horses alone. I implore you to listen to the people that
24 you are supposed to represent because the people are fed
25 up with the kind of betrayal of trust that is being

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1 shown.

2 I do think the BLM does have some wonderful
3 dedicated people and employees, but their hands are tied
4 by the corruptness that has infected the BLM. To these
5 employees, I say go back. Tell your superiors what
6 you've heard here today. America loves our wild horses.
7 We must keep them safe, wild, and free. And for the
8 record, I personally am against rounding up, PZPing, or
9 slaughtering our horses because there aren't too many
10 horses just too many greedy people. Thank you.

11 MS. HOLMGREN: Hi. My name is Jackie
12 Holmgren. This is my grandson. I guess he's coming up
13 with me. My name is Jackie Holmgren, and I'm from
14 Rawhide Ranch, and we are representing our own interests
15 here.

16 We have some substantive comments. Number
17 one is we have a waterbase standing with vested rights
18 and accrued water rights including access and use thereto
19 and including but not limited to unfettered access, use
20 and maintenance. Any of the provisions within the BLM
21 revision that is contrary to BLM's duty to abide by the
22 waterbase allotment and its inherent property rights
23 should be addressed prior to any alternative being
24 approved that affect the Rawhide Ranch Pilot Table
25 Mountain Allotment.

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1 Holmgrens filed an affidavit in 2006 in
2 Mineral County, which is our mineral -- which Mineral
3 County is where we reside entirely, and the map with all
4 of the roads and everything on it is in this and plus our
5 affidavit claiming such, and the use of which we did not
6 see most of these roads on the maps that were provided to
7 us. So we're providing you a copy of what we believe
8 cannot be interfered with with any revisions that you're
9 having or thinking of having at this time.

10 Also, we cannot accept nor should BLM
11 themselves, any alternatives that would impair their
12 established rights in any form or their ability to act
13 under 43CFR4170.1 through 2 and other CFRs that are --
14 that could be infringed upon by the very plans that you
15 have put forth. BLM has never substantiated its claim
16 either of the wild horse numbers upon the Pilot Mountain
17 HMA. All known facts point to, at the most, 50 head, and
18 I believe that this should be addressed before you just
19 add more layers on top of what is there right now.

20 The facts are actually in the BLM's own
21 records, and they need to address this. And also,
22 Congress, I know, has already went ahead and made this
23 HMA, but Congress cannot supercede the Wild Free Roaming
24 Horse and Burro Act.

25 The wilderness study area also, from our
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1 knowledge, it does not comply with any of the federal
2 standards, the one on the Rawhide Ranch, and it needs to
3 be taken out, and those expansions to the north and south
4 are without merit. The BLM Carson City office is also
5 aware of a settlement agreement between the Holmgrens'
6 Rawhide Ranch and the United States of America, and I
7 have a copy for you.

8 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER CARROLL: Mike Olson.
9 Peter Dilles. Steve Hiskett and Kelvin Buchanan.

10 MR. OLSON: When the BLM first got up here to
11 speak, they said the people have asked for this mixup of
12 ideas and proposals of what's happened. However, I
13 believe this action is all unsolicited by Churchill
14 County residents and other residents of Nevada.

15 I can't believe any resident of Churchill
16 County here would like to go from 80 percent open access
17 of Churchill County to 90 percent closed access. I would
18 ask you individuals of BLM not to go any further with any
19 proposal any further until you have written approval from
20 each and every county commissioner from every county that
21 you are imposing upon. Until you have that, no further
22 action.

23 I also sit on an -- I'm guilty of being a
24 government employee. I'm sorry, but I'm employed
25 part-time, my \$60 bucks a month from Farm Service Agency,
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1 where I operate as a County Oversight Committee Chairman.
2 And part of my duty is to decipher who needs water
3 hauling and access to -- who needs to be approved for
4 funding, which is funded by the government for these
5 people to get water to their cattle in extreme drought
6 measures.

7 And with that, people need access to haul
8 this water, and they need it all the time. And I will
9 take any measure, whether it be from any measure further
10 than A is an act of animal welfare problem that you guys
11 are denying access for ranchers to care for their cattle.
12 And until that is fixed and you show me that you can deny
13 year-around access for people with their cattle, stray
14 cattle, and able to bring them water, care, medicine when
15 they need it, total access, no further action should be
16 warranted. Thank you.

17 MR. DILLES: My name is Peter Dilles.
18 That's: D-i-l-l-e-s. I'm a consulting geologist based
19 in Reno, Nevada, and I'm really pleased to be here
20 tonight, and I've really enjoyed this forum. I wanted to
21 make a couple of comments here about the management of
22 wilderness lands.

23 I'm strongly in favor of Alternative A
24 because it takes us right back to where the best data
25 is, and I'm going to address this issue of data tonight
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1 because people have brought up this point about
2 inventories that are correct and current and accurate
3 maps, and there seems to be some failings in these areas.

4 So I also want to add that when we go to
5 classify public lands, we should do so with great
6 certainty and the best data available, and that should be
7 presented clearly to all available parties concerned.
8 And there needs to be a compelling reason to do this, not
9 just an arbitrary one, not just a political one, which I
10 don't have the evidence for, but it could be happening.
11 I'm going to take on tonight a little briefly here, and
12 I'll, if you'll excuse me, I am a geologist. I'm going
13 to get a little technical here.

14 The basis of my comments tonight are the fact
15 that in the Excelsior North area, the managed wilderness
16 area is a well-established mining district. And I asked
17 myself well, how is this happening? Why is this
18 happening? So I went back to the root document, which is
19 the Mineral Potential Assessment Report, and I took a
20 hard look at this thing. It's a bit arcane. It's old
21 language, describes the geology, but there's a lot of
22 things that got factually wrong.

23 And I point out here that the author cited
24 that the crust in the Great Basin, we live in here,
25 occurred through the Paleo years, which is in 63 to 23

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1 this who described in this report the molybdenum
2 porphyries went from copper and molybdenum gold; the
3 point here being that well, number one, they didn't seem
4 to acknowledge that these exist. Molybdenum, they talk
5 about it being a mineral. It's not a mineral. It's a
6 metal. And those are substantially factually incorrect
7 things.

8 I went to the gold and silver portion part of
9 the section. I found there's a description of the gold
10 occurrences and where they came from. There was nothing
11 about silver. Somehow, the Comstock Lode and Candelaria
12 Mine were omitted. I would go on in great detail here,
13 but if we're getting the facts right to make these
14 decisions, your base materials in your EIS needs to be
15 factually correct. I don't know who wrote this thing,
16 but somebody needs to be held accountable. Thank you
17 very much.

18 MR. HISKETT: Hi, guys. I'm Steve Hiskett,
19 Hiskett and Sons Ready-Mix. We're a provider of roughly
20 to the tune of 40 to 50,000 tons of concrete and other
21 types of aggregates to this area, Churchill County, and
22 sometimes farther.

23 Probably the biggest thing for me is how did
24 you come to the conclusion or your boundary, rather, of
25 the Pony Express Trail along the Desert Mountains and the
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1 White Throne Mountains? This valley -- you're probably
2 aware of this, but this valley doesn't have aggregates.
3 It's a lakebed. It's dirt. So we have to have access to
4 these foothills. If we don't, then we have to travel
5 farther. You're looking at lots of different problems.
6 Again, reading my writing, I feel like I'm addressing
7 Flint Lee too. So you got farther distances. You got
8 more dirt roads.

9 Another question is would we have access
10 through the constricted areas that the BLM or, excuse me,
11 the Pony Express Station or Trail? Would we be able to
12 build a new road to get in if we find gravel farther
13 back?

14 Another problem I got is -- and I didn't read
15 your book. I can't read that much. You're talking about
16 raptors, and I think it's a half-mile radius of where a
17 raptor is nesting, whether it be an eagle or a hawk, you
18 can't mine. So you're eliminating a bunch to begin with,
19 but then you're going to eliminate even more. We've had
20 eagles nest, move in and nest at our gravel pit while
21 we're running. They're in and out, in and out. They
22 don't even care, guys. I don't know where it's coming
23 from.

24 Why can't we reduce, say, the boundary on the
25 trail, reduce it a little bit, maybe protect the actual
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1 sites where the stations, the Pony Express Stations. I
2 agree with that. That's historical. But the trail?
3 Guys, it's a dirt road. I mean, I don't know whether
4 it's for visual effects or what, but we got to have
5 aggregates. We got to have them. And just to give you
6 an idea, well, some of the things -- Emissions, guys.
7 Think about emissions because you're going to have --
8 you're going to double or emissions of diesel, diesel
9 trucks, stuff like that.

10 MR. BUCHANAN: My name is Kelvin Buchanan.
11 I'm with HP Engineering in Reno, Nevada. Our company's
12 clients have mining claims in the LWC Charter Ridge, and
13 Mineral County, Nevada. Most of these claims have been
14 valid for 30 years or more.

15 When my clients purchased these claims as
16 part of a corporate merger in 2004, the Texas-based
17 companies spent considerable time on the property. They
18 reviewed the property position with respect to other
19 claimants; were made aware that an insignificant number
20 of their claims are encroaching or adjacent to the Gas
21 Valley Wilderness study area, and that there were no
22 restrictions on their property pursuant to the 1872
23 Mining Law and current BLM regulations. It was necessary
24 to explain to them that although it was determined that a
25 located mining claim is real property, the actual

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1 situation is more analogous to a landlord-tenant lease.
2 That's the easiest way I had to explaining it to my
3 clients.

4 So imagine my embarrassment when four years
5 later, February of 2008, I was forced to inform my
6 clients that what I told my clients four years previously
7 was not true. Canadian Mining Company Centerra, while
8 doing a mineral survey on our claims in the Wild Horse
9 Canyon area, became aware of a prosed wilderness proposal
10 that included the area where our claims are located.
11 First, I didn't believe them. I had already reviewed the
12 1980 BLM intensive wilderness inventory, and there was no
13 mention of chukar or wild horse. I thought they were
14 mistaken until the Mineral County Development Commission
15 provided me with several maps dated June 30th, 2008
16 created by the Friends of Nevada Wilderness. One map was
17 the proposed Chukar Ridge WSA. That began four months of
18 intensive work, meetings with staffers and elected
19 representatives to find out more about the proposed
20 withdrawal, etcetera.

21 The proposed bill, through the ire of both
22 Mineral and Lyon Counties, the maps of the Friends of
23 Nevada Wilderness website were moved from their website
24 shortly after they appeared, and by July, the proposed
25 wilderness bill itself disappeared. What I couldn't do
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1 was answer my client's questions about landlord/tenant
2 relationships, to wit: Having paid the government these
3 yearly claim maintenance fees since 1991, how was it that
4 that tenant, in this case, my client, was given no notice
5 of possible changes of terms of the lease. It cost my
6 client over a hundred thousand dollars to keep the status
7 quo, at least that's what we thought.

8 A BLM internal memorandum was created in
9 2012. It would have appeared in the Federal Register,
10 but we missed it. At one time, our client actually had
11 an employee doing keyword searches of the Federal
12 Register, but if anybody has seen the Federal Register,
13 it's pretty tough. Now I must inform my client that it
14 seems the meaning of some terms have changed and that a
15 2014 inventory re-exam re-examined such words as
16 solitude. The word "outstanding" in 1980 probably
17 required --

18 (Brief interruption.)

19 MR. BUCHANAN: -- wilderness consideration is
20 no longer emphasized. But the BLM did provide me with
21 120 pages of Friends of Nevada Wilderness, which photos
22 were taken in 2013. I'll be sending the BLM a more
23 lengthy document before April the 27th or whatever this
24 is extended to. Thank you very much.

25 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER CARROLL: Ron Dewey. Ed
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1 Rybold. Helen Fillmore and Laura Fillmore.

2 MR. RYBOLD: Good evening. Ed Rybold:
3 R-y-b-o-l-d, CC Communications. We appreciate your time
4 and attention in hearing the community's concerns
5 regarding the Draft BLM Range Management Plan.

6 CC Communications' interests in the plan is
7 to maintain an open, unabated access into our
8 communications sites at remote locations throughout
9 Churchill County. We use existing and established routes
10 to access those sites to perform scheduled and
11 unscheduled maintenance on our equipment and facilities,
12 for most sites located at Eagle Ridge, Desert Fairview,
13 and Jobe Peaks, provide telephony, emergency and
14 broadband services to business and a few residents via
15 radio communications.

16 Maintaining those sites facilitates Churchill
17 County economic development and access to emergency
18 services and providing communication channels for a few
19 geothermal plants, such Brady Hot Springs, NL, Terragen,
20 and Western States. Those geothermal plants transmit
21 production telemetry into their respective home offices
22 globally. Additionally, those sites provide connectivity
23 in supporting retail sales and emergency services in
24 areas such as Millgate and Cold Springs.

25 In reviewing the alternatives, we perceive
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1 that some of the alternatives will close access to our
2 sites. By closing access, we cannot provide the
3 communications support as well as emergency services to
4 remote areas. Therefore, we request support into viable
5 options to assure access into our communications sites.
6 CC Communications is obligated to provide the most
7 economic feasible measures in extending telephony, 911,
8 and broadband services to residents and businesses.
9 Thank you very much.

10 MS. FILLMORE: My name is Helen Fillmore:
11 F-i-l-l-m-o-r-e. I'm a 10,000-plus generation Nevadan.
12 I'm 23 years old, and I just want to say that I love this
13 place, and that's something that a lot of out-of-staters
14 will never understand because they've never experienced
15 what Nevada really is.

16 Today I just want to talk because I'm worried
17 and resource preservation, and in particular, water
18 availability and also the mastication of the pinion
19 trees. Sorry. I'd like to ask the BLM to practice less
20 devastating management practices when it comes to
21 managing the pinion forests.

22 I'm part Washoe. My dad is Washoe and
23 Nishinam. He also grew up here in Fallon. Because and
24 to look at more traditional routes, in the mid 1850s,
25 it's always kind of talked back to those years is when
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1 the encroachment of the pinion started going into the
2 sagebrush areas. At the same time, that's when Native
3 people of these lands were taken, forced removal, out of
4 those mountains to open them up for mineral extraction,
5 and that's when we started seeing more of these problems.
6 So if we go back to more traditional practices with
7 managing the land, we can see more healthier landscapes,
8 more deer, more available for hunting, for those that are
9 concerned about that.

10 I'm also worried about water. California is
11 in a devastating drought right now, and they're always
12 kind of citing back to the water availability in the
13 Sierras, and that's something that affects us here in
14 Nevada. Someone mentioned earlier that there's plenty of
15 mining going on here already. I don't think we need to
16 open up our public lands for private interests to extract
17 more minerals because it's going to affect our water in
18 the future generations.

19 I plan to live here my entire life. When
20 these mining companies come in, they extract the
21 minerals, they devastate our water resources, and then
22 they'll leave, and it will be me, my children, your
23 grandchildren, great-grandchildren here to clean it up
24 instead of being out in the land enjoying it, hiking,
25 hunting, even cattle grazing, for those of you that are
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1 concerned about that.

2 So I guess with that said, I'm very fearful
3 of what might occur here, and I really would ask the BLM
4 to be more preservation minded so that we can continue to
5 use our resources and be on our land and drink our water.
6 I mean, there's no better smell out there or sight or
7 smell than the rain coming down on the sagebrush, and I
8 want to keep that going for thousands of generations.
9 Thank you.

10 MS. FILLMORE: I'm Laura Fillmore, and she
11 has a degree in environmental science.

12 Lived among the Washoe people in
13 Dresslerville for 25 years, and one of the things that
14 our Great Uncle Herman Holbert taught us was, "Amash"
15 (pho.), my faith; and, "De-ku-mash" (pho.), my pine nut
16 lands. So those are two terms that I want read into the
17 public record because that's a land-identity connection
18 that few people still remember and still hold for the
19 future.

20 I'm worried about, as she stated, the water.
21 We don't have a statewide water plan. Fifty percent of
22 our potable water in the state will be tied up in mining
23 pits in 50 years if we don't do something differently
24 than what we're doing right now. So we can live for
25 those immediate extractions and for that mining, and I
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1 see the miners smiling because they don't think about
2 this systematic, long-term existence of our children
3 seven generations ahead. And I'm thinking long-term
4 here. And I want the ranchers to have the water that
5 they need to produce and no extra. And I want the land
6 to have the water that it needs as well, but we need to
7 think about the cultural resources.

8 I asked the gentleman from the BLM in a
9 meeting last weekend if masticating the trees, the pine
10 nut trees, affects the ability of the land to harbor
11 water for the future. Does taking out great root systems
12 from the land mean that it's going to dry faster?
13 Because I don't care what you call it. If you call it
14 global climate change or global warming, or just a bad
15 drought, we're in one.

16 California is one year away. When California
17 goes, if you don't think those people are coming over the
18 hill, let's think in systematic ways, okay, because they
19 are going to come where we are and beyond. But as a
20 gentleman said, Martin Dewey earlier, there isn't
21 anywhere for indigenous people to go. They're from this
22 land, and I bet you there's ranchers in this room that
23 feel same way. I know my great -- my husband's father,
24 Donald Fillmore Senior, felt that way strongly.

25 The future with the sage-grouse is tied up
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1 with the future of whether or not we put some more holes
2 into the ground for fracking. If you're not paying
3 attention to what fracking is doing elsewhere in the
4 United States, it's causing a lot of unnatural water
5 pollution, and it's causing earthquakes. So it's already
6 being said that what's going on here with the sage-grouse
7 is not listing the sage-grouse as an endangered species
8 means that mineral resources and extraction can move this
9 way. And I think we need to be thinking about that as
10 well.

11 So there's another endangered species, and
12 that's the indigenous people on this planet. The
13 languages are endangered, the people are endangered, the
14 life ways are endangered. The Forest Service made a big
15 mistake, but BLM has a responsibility to the cultural
16 resources for the future and to the preservation of the
17 land. Thank you.

18 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER CARROLL: Thank you for
19 those comments. Marvin Dewey. Numa Gracie. Kim
20 Richards. Mike Stremmer and Floyd Rathburn.

21 MS. GRACIE: (Speaking Paiute.) That means,
22 "Hi, how are you all?" in Paiute. I'm Paiute, and I'm
23 also representing our Tagape Nimha, our pine nut people.
24 I will be also submitting, for the record, I will be
25 submitting a written public comment also as well. And I

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1 wasn't going to speak tonight anyway because I just came
2 here to listen to what the people had to say. And it
3 seems like everybody has a lot of concerns, you know, on
4 behalf of all of the public lands. But I will be
5 speaking on behalf of our Paiute elders and our future
6 generations, our children, our grandchildren, and also
7 for our plant life, our tree life, you know, the water,
8 our environment and our pinion and our juniper trees.

9 They're not encroaching upon the land that
10 the sage-grouse is at right now because they cannot move,
11 you know. They can't wander around, you know. And
12 that's the way it makes it sound when you're using the
13 term, "encroachment". So I just wanted to make that
14 clear too.

15 And then also, there's some words like
16 "expansion," you know, like when you guys have like your
17 meetings and stuff, like the pinion-juniper expansion
18 meetings. It makes it sound like you're going to expand
19 the trees, you know, in those areas. And I know I've
20 talked to some people. They said their tribal planners
21 have come to the meetings to see where are they going to
22 expand with the pinion junipers. And they said they were
23 dismayed because they said that no, it was just the
24 opposite, you know, of what their wording was. So I
25 wanted to bring that out there, too.

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1 And then also, with the consultation process,
2 too, you know, with the tribes, the tribes have not
3 really been consulted. They come to the meetings for 15
4 minutes. They call to be put on the agenda, and they
5 talk for 15 minutes, and they consider that consultation.
6 But I like the idea of, you know, them coming to the
7 tribes and coming in there for like four hours or more to
8 explain what those books are all about, those big huge
9 books, volumes that you have.

10 And that was another thing I wanted to ask
11 too, if you guys could summarize those, you know,
12 whatever is in those books because that's a lot of
13 reading to do. So but anyway, that's what I wanted to
14 say. And then so but I would like to say, you know, that
15 we would like to work with the BLM, the Forest Service,
16 and the Department of Fish and Wildlife, you know, and
17 work together on this because we really do need to do
18 that from a tribal standpoint. Okay. Thank you.

19 MR. RICHARDS: Jim Richards:
20 R-i-c-h-a-r-d-s. I'm with the Comstock Gold Prospectors
21 out of Reno, Nevada. We have about 400 members, and the
22 400 members enjoy prospecting out in the Nevada areas,
23 and we maintain about ten claims which helps bring in
24 revenues to the places we go, and we also have a
25 leave-no-trace philosophy, so we go out to our claims, we
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1 make sure they're cleaned up and taken care of.

2 And I'd like to also say that most of our
3 group were pretty much in the dark of what's happening,
4 and I'm trying to make it aware to these people, our
5 members, that this could affect everybody not only in
6 prospecting, but all aspects, ATVing and everything else.
7 But as I say, most of our members are, shall we say,
8 retired or a little elderly. The last thing they want to
9 do is get involved, but as you can see here, people are
10 getting involved from all aspects. And I think we all
11 need to pay attention to what's going on.

12 And just in closing, I'd like to say that the
13 so-called Friends of Nevada Wilderness has a budget of
14 about \$500,000 a year, of which \$250,000 comes from --
15 I'll let you guess.

16 MR. STREMLER: I'm Mike Stremler. I'm a
17 rancher in Churchill County, Pershing County, Lander
18 County, and the Natural Resource Chairman for Pershing
19 County. Pershing County has a Natural Resource Plan, so
20 this will be our formal invitation for you guys to look
21 at our Natural Resource Plan, follow the regulations
22 under Title 43, 1,610, I believe, talks about
23 coordination, so I'd ask that you'd coordinate with us on
24 our natural resource plan.

25 I want to talk a little bit about valid
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1 existing rights. Valid existing rights are defined in
2 the Natural Resource Plan in Pershing County. Those
3 include water rights, so the split of State of Nevada is
4 the water is separate from the land. BLM may control the
5 land, but they don't control the water. The problem that
6 we're seeing in all of Nevada is we're having a
7 regulatory takings occur where the BLM says, "Hey, we
8 need your water worse than you need your water," but
9 we're not getting the just compensation that the
10 Constitution demands, which is the 5th Amendment.

11 So if you do need our water, legally, you can
12 take it. I don't deny that. But legally, you must pay
13 for it. Casey is one of my neighbors. I sell him water.
14 I buy water from him. I'll do the same with you guys,
15 with the BLM. Just bring your checkbook.

16 So with the horses, I'm pro wild horses, but
17 I'm pro management. And a lot of times, those two
18 collide. Right now, according to your own regulations,
19 you're supposed to do an evaluation of these HMAs. Do
20 you have water rights to sustain the HMA? I can
21 guarantee you that in our HMA, you don't because I own
22 all of the water rights, and they've all been
23 appropriated and adjudicated in most cases so there is no
24 water rights. That's a trigger that you're supposed to
25 zero out that HMA, which you guys are not adhering to.

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1 So the RMP process is a time to evaluate that. So I'd
2 say look at all of your water rights, which you have very
3 few of, and evaluate whether you can sustain these HMAs
4 or do you need to give the rancher the just compensation
5 or whoever owns the water rights the just compensation.

6 Access is also a valid existing right. Same
7 access that the BLM enjoys to go check our riparian areas
8 when the BLM drives through the road and drives through
9 the creek, they're destroying the riparian area, but they
10 deny access to the cattle because they're destroying the
11 riparian area. It's kind of calling the pot -- calling
12 the kettle black or whatever. So I'd just say, you know,
13 what's good for the goose is good for the gander, and
14 that's it.

15 MR. GRANTMAN: This three-minute deal is
16 really amazing. I'm Clay Grantman. I'm a ranch
17 consultant. I work for ranches around different parts of
18 the state and especially around this area. I live here
19 in Fallon. My background is in both range management and
20 wildlife biology, so mostly I'm a technician.

21 Mr. Stremmler just took several things I had on my list.
22 I will be submitting written comments after we finish
23 this program tonight.

24 The issue of existing rights has a
25 continuation to it. One of the things ruled in federal
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1 district court in Reno those rights cannot be impaired.
2 They can be held under reasonable regulation, but the
3 reasonable regulation is defined as they cannot be
4 non-occurring as existing rights. So the water rights he
5 talked about as well as rights-of-way under existing law,
6 which is RS 2477233932340, each of those are still a
7 matter of the valid existing rights, but they're not
8 specified in the current texts of your plan.

9 Best management practices are referred to
10 quite often but not defined. Several weeks ago, I asked
11 for a copy of the text of the description of whatever is
12 being called a best management practice. I still have
13 not received that. I can't really make an honest
14 evaluation of what your practices are without knowing
15 what they are. The best management practice term came
16 from, in my experience, came up in the regulations
17 involving non-point source solution -- pollution under
18 the Clean Water Act. That's when best management
19 practices first came to light, in my experience, and
20 those best management practices were all written out and
21 very specific. I would like to see what the best
22 management practices are specified so we know what it is
23 that's being described.

24 There's several wildlife-related issues that
25 I read about. I haven't read the entire document yet.
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1 One is sage-grouse, and I hope that the author of this
2 book realizes that right now, there are two lawsuits in
3 federal court dealing with sage-grouse and sage-grouse
4 habitat. One of them deals with the settlement agreement
5 Fish and Wildlife Service arrived at, and the other deals
6 with a data quality act challenge of sage-grouse related
7 -- related not really facts, sage-grouse related
8 conclusions that have been built into all of your
9 planning documents.

10 The second thing deals with Bighorn sheep.
11 Several of the clients I work for are sheep producers,
12 and they've been impacted by regulations involving
13 Bighorn sheep on the basis that Bighorns get disease from
14 domestic sheep. There is no scientific basis for that.
15 That's pure regulatory speculation, as far as we can
16 tell. That issue is also in federal court at this time,
17 and that's not being addressed in your plan.

18 I hope that one of the outcomes of this plan
19 is to eliminate all of the wilderness study areas.
20 Wilderness areas by themselves are something that many of
21 us are opposed to. And Mr. Stremler talked about
22 coordination to resolve inconsistencies. That's a matter
23 of law. We expect that to be followed to the detail.
24 Thank you.

25 LIEUTENANT COMMANDER CARROLL: Okay. That's
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1 the last person who submitted for comment. I have a
2 couple of administrative issues. If you have written
3 comments that you'd like to submit that you brought with
4 you and you make sure they're properly recorded, feel
5 free to turn them in before you leave.

6 Also, the court reporter will still be
7 available for a little while longer if you don't feel
8 comfortable speaking in public. So if you stop up here
9 and continue on with the dialogue and make your concerns
10 are addressed in the final document, please do so. And
11 currently, the closing date for comments is April 27th,
12 2015.

13 I want to personally thank you for the
14 opportunity for the expression of the First Amendment. I
15 think valuable comments were made here. I'm looking
16 forward to them being addressed in the final. Thank you
17 for coming.

18 (The meeting concluded at 8:45 p.m.)

19 MS. FAIRBANKS: So my name is Chris or
20 Christine Fairbanks: C-h-r-i-s F-a-i-r-b-a-n-k-s. Hi.
21 I rescue horses from going to slaughter. I have 20 at
22 this time. I've sold quite a few. I live in Yerington,
23 Nevada.

24 Now my main concern is for the wild horses
25 and burros. I feel there is plenty of acreage for the
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1 horses. I don't want to see any of their HMAs zeroed
2 out. Rather, the AML numbers should be increased along
3 with their acreage. I oppose the horrors of helicopter
4 roundups and imprisonment of our wild horses and burros.
5 Thank you.

6 I also would like to say that I own a number
7 of underground water rights in Churchill County, and I
8 would be happy to sell them for the BLM for the horses if
9 it would be appropriate.

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1 STATE OF NEVADA,)

2)

3 CARSON CITY.)

4

5

6

7 I, NICOLE ALEXANDER, Official Court Reporter for the
8 State of Nevada, Bureau of Land Management, do hereby
9 Certify:

10 That on the 19th day of March, 2015, I was
11 present at said meeting for the purpose of reporting in
12 verbatim stenotype notes the within-entitled public
13 meeting;

14 That the foregoing transcript, consisting of pages 1
15 through 91, inclusive, includes a full, true and correct
16 transcription of my stenotype notes of said public
17 meeting.

18

19

20 Dated at Carson City, Nevada, this 27th day of
21 March, 2015.

22

23

24

NICOLE ALEXANDER, NV CCR #446

25

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