Other Issues the RMP Addresses

A Resource Management Plan is comprehensive in nature. While the types of decisions are limited to those associated with land-use plans rather than implementation-level, a wide variety of other issues have been raised early in the RMP Revision process for consideration. These issues include the following:

Vegetation

- Consider and analyze management to reduce the spread of noxious weeds.
- The protective buffer area around natural and artificial waters is inconsistent in the existing RMP. The RMP Revision should provide for consistency through all resources, including those that can impact riparian areas, while providing for protection of riparian areas.

Minerals

- The fluid minerals No Surface Occupancy restriction is not clear and its application needs to be reviewed for consistency with BLM policy.
- Areas recently withdrawn from mineral entry may need to be designated unavailable for fluid mineral leasing.
- Some lands may warrant opening to surface disturbing activities where sensitive resources can be protected with less restrictive management.
- Consider the identification of mineral-related lands that may need to be identified for disposal (e.g., 3 Kids Mine, Department of Energy U.S. Ecology Site).

Special Status Species

- The RMP did not go into much detail on the impacts, especially cumulatively, of the listed species. The RMP Revision should consider language to clarify BLM's management of special status species, which should be based on the premise that approved actions would not lead to a species being listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as threatened or endangered.
- The RMP Revision should consider whether a desert tortoise ACEC could be designated in the Pahrump Field Office.
- Consideration of whether an acreage threshold of disturbance in desert tortoise ACEC is appropriate to ensure the habitat is adequate for desert tortoise recovery.

Wildland Fire Management

- BLM fire management policies have been revised since completion of the existing RMP. The fire management section should be revised to be consistent with the new policy through the addition of direction on Wildland Fire Use and Appropriate Management Response.
- The RMP Revision should determine if there are areas where wildland fire could be used to meet resource objectives.

Livestock Grazing

- The RMP Revision should determine if is it appropriate to consider the use of grazing for weed control on a very limited basis.

Beyond these specific issues raised through pre-scoping, additional issues could be identified through internal and public scoping. Issues could align with those mentioned above, those identified on the other public meeting boards, or could be aligned with other resources, uses and designations identified in the BLM planning handbook (BLM-1601-1), Appendix C. These include, but are not limited to the following:

- Air Quality
- Soil and Water
- Fish and Wildlife
- Cultural Resources
- Paleontology
- Cave and Karst Resources
- Forestry
- Recreation and Visitor Services

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