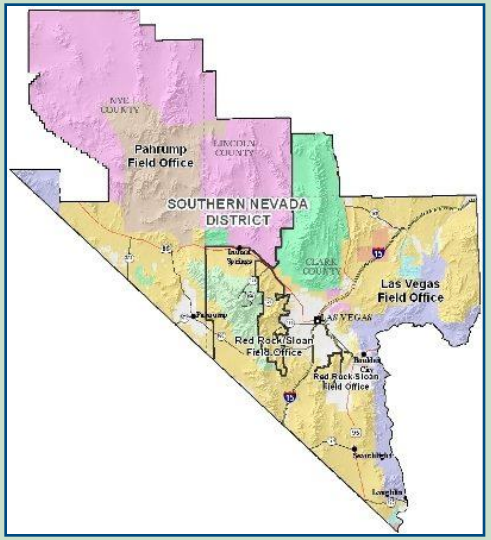
Resource Management Plan (RMP) Revision for the Las Vegas and Pahrump Field Offices

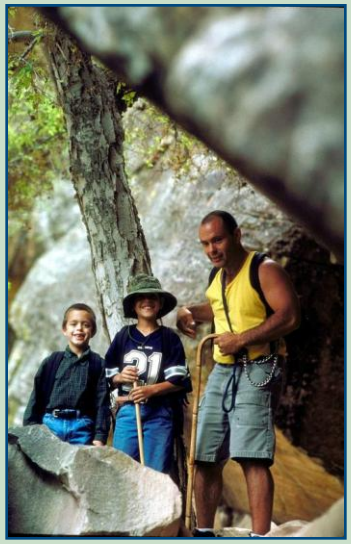
Muddy Mountains

Southern Nevada RMP Setting

- Southern Nevada
  - Includes Las Vegas and Pahrump Field Offices
  - Dynamically changing environment



BLM Southern Nevada District


Visitors to public lands

- Las Vegas Valley
  - Rapid population growth since last RMP approved
    - Challenging BLM's ability to:
      - Protect valuable resources
      - Meet public needs

Las Vegas RMP

- Existing Resource Management Plan (RMP)
  - New public needs not fully considered
  - Current decisions & management directions
    - Need clarification
    - Need adjustment
- Las Vegas RMP Revision will be:
  - Focused,
  - Issue-driven,
  - Efficient, and
  - Timely (3 years).

Las Vegas and Pahrump RMP
Resource Issues

- Renewables Wind, solar and energy transmission corridors
  - Need to determine areas:
    - Appropriate for development , and/or
    - Avoided or excluded

Energy Transmission Corridors

Renewables

Las Vegas and Pahrump RMP
Resource Issues

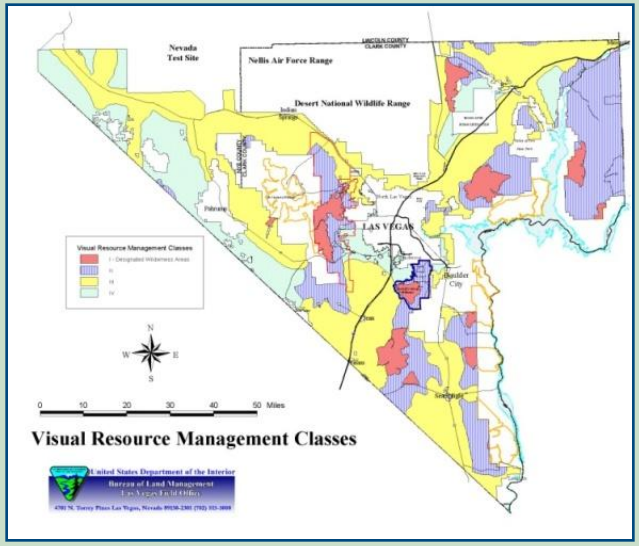
- Site-Type Rights-Of-Way in Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)
  - Need to determine areas:
    - Appropriate for development , and/or
    - Avoided or excluded

Communications Site

Anemometer Tower

Las Vegas and Pahrump RMP
Resource Issues

- Visual Resource Management (VRM)
  - Results of 2007 VRM inventory need to be:
    - Incorporated into RMP Revision analysis, and
    - Used to redefine management classes.



Current VRM management classes in southern Nevada

Table Mountains at Good Springs has multiple VRM classes

Las Vegas and Pahrump RMP

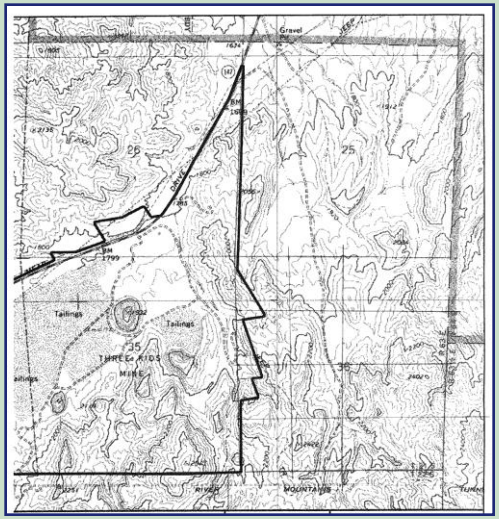
Resource Issues

- Recreation
  - Off-highway vehicle restrictions need re-evaluation and/or clarification
    - Confusing text and maps pose conflicts in existing RMP
    - High speed desert events in competition with solar energy applications and desert tortoise habitat
- Special Management Designations includes Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) & Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMAs)
  - Most existing ACECs and SRMAs need little or no boundary adjustments, but management approach needs to be clarified.

Las Vegas and Pahrump RMP
Resource Issues

- Minerals and Lands
  - Areas recently withdrawn from mineral entry may need to be considered off-limits for fluid mineral leasing.
  - Some lands may warrant opening to surface disturbing activities where sensitive resources can be protected with less restrictive management.
  - BLM split-estate mineral issues need clarification.
  - Specific lands need to be identified for disposal.
    - 3 Kids Mine
    - US Ecology Site (DOE)

Split-estate: Muddy Mountains near Valley of Fire State Park



3 Kids Mine south of Lake Las Vegas

Las Vegas and Pahrump RMP

Other Issues

Additional issues could be identified through internal and public scoping related to:

- Vegetation
- Wildland Fire Management
- Livestock Grazing
- Air Quality
- Soil and Water
- Fish and Wildlife
- Cultural Resources
- Paleontology
- Cave and Karst Resources
- Forestry
- Recreation & Visitor Services
- Wild Horse and Burro

Invasive plants such as red brome grass can displace native species and provide unnatural fuel for wildfires

Big Dunes in Nye County is both a Special Recreation Management Area and an Area of Critical Environmental Concern

Consistency Considerations with Other Planning

CFR 43 Section 1610.3-2

Guidance and resource management plans and amendments to management framework plans shall be consistent with officially approved or adopted resource related plans, and the policies and programs contained therein, of other Federal agencies, State and local governments and Indian tribes, so long as the guidance and resource management plans are also consistent with the purposes, policies and programs of Federal laws and regulations applicable to public lands.

NATIONAL SYSTEM OF PUBLIC LANDS